

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting

August 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Middle School Shared Common Area

- I. **Call to Order:** The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald. Trustees Shiloh Lucier, Bryce Simpson, Noah Peters, Rainier Batt and Amanda Hansen were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer, Principals Jake Haynes, Aaron Griffin and Riley Devins, Activities Director Eli Field, Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons, Technology Coordinator James Forrider and Deputy Clerk Stacie Mether.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting opened with the pledge at 7:01 p.m.
- III. **Board Recognition:**
Superintendent Les Meyer acknowledged School Resource Officer Scott Rasmussen's recent award as the SRO of the year. Governor Bullock's recognition and comments submitted were discussed. Trustee Shiloh Lucier discussed recent MTSBA training on Student Activities, impact to the school regarding donations and Title IX considerations. Trustee Lucier encouraged board members to attend these informative trainings.
- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board:**
Frenchtown Community Coalition representative Reagan Mecham discussed the Frenchtown Youth Summit. The event was a tremendous success with many participants and positive feedback from attendees. Questions were asked and discussion was held on future coalition events.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes**
Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.
- VII. **Administrative Reports**
Highlights of the administrative reports were 1) Maintenance Supervisor Sean Mecham thanked the summer staff for their hard work and acknowledged those employees who came to work consistently during a difficult summer. Also discussed was the MEC power phase event and subsequent insurance payment, as well as the recommendation to improve our system to prevent damage from another single-phase incident. Other topics discussed were the flood update in the High School, the commons floor and continuing outdoor water challenges. The upper playground improvements are complete, inspected and received an excellent grade. Questions were asked regarding fire suppression, and the cost of a redundancy system. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider discussed installation of new Promethean boards and updates to the website. 3) Superintendent Les Meyer again thanked SRO Scott Rasmussen and the approval of the SRO contract for three more years. Also discussed was the Crossroads program, which is on hold at this time, facilities concerns and due to the extent of the work the possibility of additional supervisory help. Hiring was discussed and there are only a few open positions at this time. Questions were asked about snow plowing bids for this winter.
- VIII. **Business**
 - A. Old Business – none.
 - B. New Business
 - 1) Review/Action: Hiring
Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following staff for hire: Bus Drivers Todd Klietz, Emily Copeland, Anna Feusner (also Playground Aide), Tyler Arlint and Natalie Grubbs; Lego Robotics Advisors Amanda Straw, Whitney Peters and Dalene Normand; Gifted Consultant and Destination Imagination Advisor Dalene Normand; Elementary Music Elaina Blass and Karolei

Petroff; Full Time Track Throwing Coach Sean Mecham; Certified Substitute Teachers Wendy Arlint and Sage Bryden; Non-Certified Substitute Teachers Maja Holmquist and Emily Weishaar; Substitute Playground Aide/Substitute Paraprofessional Emily Weishaar; Substitute Playground Aide Tricia Wilkerson; Middle School Football Coaches Archie Petritz and Jason Forthofer; Fall and Winter Cheer Coach Avery Spacek; Middle School Soccer Referees McKenzie Luth and Sadie Forte; Middle School Volleyball Referees Judy Everett and Jenna Nile; Kitchen Worker Charlene Barnhart; Part Time Custodian Robert Wikum; Part Time Kitchen Todd Kletz; Paraprofessional Jason Miller; Special Education Teacher Archie Petritz; HS Health Enhancement Teacher Jerad Reinhardt; and First Grade Teacher Lindsay Hartze.

Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the hires as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Trustee Noah Peters abstained. Unanimous.

2) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations Coaches Tony Davis, Jesse Mecham, Jenna Pitts, Kitchen Workers Robin Cottrell and Cheryl Covey, Paraprofessionals Cynthia Baker, Joel Bergen, Olga Denisovich, Elizabeth Bagnell, Permanent Sub Dana Young, Instructional Aides Tricia Wilkerson and Robert Wikum, HS HPE Teacher Ryne Nelson and First Grade Teacher Tiffany Reed were discussed.

3) Review/Action: MOA

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Frenchtown Education Association to add stipend positions for Agricultural Science and HS Baseball Coaches. Discussion was held regarding the stipend percentages, and the difference between extra-curricular clubs typically meeting during the school year with coaching extending beyond. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the MOA as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous. Additional discussion was held regarding hiring and staff shortages. Superintendent Meyer discussed transformational learning and the potential for students to be hired in positions to gain experience as well as school credit.

4) Review/Action: Transportation Negotiations

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed recent meetings of the Transportation Committee and the recommendation for increasing bus driver pay. The matrix was increased significantly in the previous year, and it is recommended to increase the matrix again by \$.75 for beginning drivers, \$1.00 for all others and a longevity increase for drivers over 10 years with FTSD. Bryce Simpson made a motion to approve transportation pay increases as recommended by the Transportation Committee. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the committee meetings and the proposals and changes benefiting the transportation department, as well as the number of drivers with over 10 years with the District. Unanimous.

5) Review/Action: Superintendent Contract

It was recommended by the Negotiations Committee to amend the Superintendent Contract to include a 2.25% increase in salary and change contract days from 250 to 248. Bryce Simpson made a motion to approve the contract changes. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

6) Review/Action: Bonuses for Merit Pay

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended \$2,000 bonuses for merit pay for the following administrative personnel: HS Principal Jake Haynes, MS Principal Aaron Griffin, Intermediate Principal Riley Devins, Elementary Principal Jodi Hall, Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons, District Clerk/Business Manager Shauna Anderson and Maintenance Supervisor Sean Mecham. Discussion was held on the reasons for the recommendation. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the bonuses for merit pay as recommended. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

7) Review/Action: Bus Route Changes

None at this time. No action taken.

8) Review/Action: Approve Discretionary Non Resident Students

Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the list of non-resident students as presented. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

9) Review/Action: Approve List of Obsolete Equipment for Sale/Disposal

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approval of obsolete equipment including damaged computers and Chromebooks. Noah Peters made a motion to approve Resolution#08162022-1 for Disposal of Public Property as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the damaged computers from the recent flood. Unanimous.

10) Review/Action: Purchases

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following purchases: STS Education - \$24,774.00 for replacement desktops and Impero Solutions - \$22,500.02 for software to remotely monitor computer systems within the school. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the purchases as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

IX. **Policy Review – none.**

X. **Approval of Warrants/Approval of Financial Report**

Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the warrants and financial reports as presented. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald discussed the Trustees Financial Summary and Budget meeting held the previous night and acknowledged Business Manager Shauna Anderson. Unanimous.

XI. **Committee Reports – Updated Committees**

- A. Policy (Shiloh Lucier, Jami Wright, Noah Peters)
- B. Insurance (Bryce Simpson, Amanda Hansen & Jami Wright)
- C. Negotiations/Labor Relations (Jami Romney FitzGerald, Bryce Simpson & Jami Wright)
- D. Transportation (Bryce Simpson & Rainier Batt)
- E. Safety (Bryce Simpson & Rainier Batt)
- F. School Improvement/Goals Committee (Jami Romney FitzGerald, Bryce Simpson & Noah Peters)
- G. Ad Hoc Committees – IT (Jami Romney FitzGerald & Amanda Hansen), Facilities – (Jami Romney FitzGerald, Bryce Simpson & Rainier Batt), Curriculum/Professional Development (Noah Peters & Amanda Hansen), Academic Achievement – (Shiloh Lucier, Noah Peters & Jami Wright), Wellness (Jami Romney FitzGerald & Shiloh Lucier).

The Facility Committee is meeting Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:00 p.m. including a presentation regarding building/expanding the facility. Principal Riley Devins discussed the upcoming professional development led by speaker Joe Sanfelippo on August 18th and 19th. Superintendent Meyer encouraged board members to attend. The first day for staff is August 22nd and begins with welcomes and introductions. Board members were encouraged to attend.

XIII. **Adjournment**

ADJOURNED 8:25 p.m.

Approved: September 20, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk