

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting

September 20, 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, Jami Wright, Noah Peters and Amanda Hansen were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer, Principals Jake Haynes, Aaron Griffin and Riley Devins, Assistant HS Principal Beth Terzo, Activities Director Eli Field, Technology Coordinator James Forrider and District Clerk Shauna Anderson.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting opened with the pledge at 7:00 p.m.
- III. **Board Recognition:**
Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald welcomed Assistant HS Principal Beth Terzo.
- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**

Trustee Rainier Batt arrived at 7:02 p.m.
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board:**
Principal Jake Haynes discussed Homecoming week and all the events and activities that occurred.
- VI. **Staff Presentation**
Kyla Andres, High School Agriculture Teacher and Ag Science Extra-Curricular Advisor, discussed recent activities with the Ag program including the recent District Leadership Seminar which brought 11 chapters and over 200 FFA members to Frenchtown. Sophomore Alysa Lloyd and Junior Kara Lloyd, members of Frenchtown FFA and both taking ag science classes addressed the board regarding the seminar and upcoming events and activities, including livestock judging and evaluation. Trustees asked questions about the program including housing livestock for classroom lessons at the high school. Superintendent Meyer acknowledged the preparation by Ms. Andres for this event and the new ag science program. Board members thanked Ms. Andres and the students for their presentation.
- VII. **Approval of Minutes**
Jami Wright made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.
- VIII. **Administrative Reports**
Highlights of the administrative reports were 1) The maintenance report item regarding lead testing was discussed by Superintendent Les Meyer which is significantly more involved due to new federal regulations. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider discussed the new cloud based IT ticket system, replacement of damaged equipment due to the recent flood at the high school, and answered questions regarding student interns. 3) Administrative Reports: Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons (attending electronically) discussed new staff and the additional training days prior to the school year as critical to the successful start to the school year for the special education department. HS Principal Jake Haynes announced the recent rankings by US News and World Report with Frenchtown High School as #1 among area high schools and ranked #5 in the state. Principal Haynes and Assistant Principal Beth Terzo spoke about new staff members and building climate and culture among their staff, using an exercise for Board Trustees on getting to know one another with a team building exercise. Principal Aaron Griffin thanked all of the Middle School staff and answered questions regarding enrollment. Activities Director Eli Field discussed the officials' shortage in Montana and its impact to FHS activities. Principal Riley Devins discussed the recent professional development speaking event by Joe Sanfelippo, the new Clever app management program, new teacher training as well as curriculum training and the upcoming "We Are Family" theme rally. Guidance Counselors Amy Griffin and Sadie Forte were commended for this program

and the message it conveys. Also discussed was the yellow vest program for staff members to be more visible in the district outdoor spaces. 4) Superintendent Les Meyer discussed enrollment numbers, the fiscal impact of Frenchtown events to Missoula and the potential help from the Destination Missoula organization, cyber security underwriting requirements, performance based instruction and upcoming meetings. Ag Science Teacher Kyla Andres was congratulated for a \$7,500 grant award from the Office of Public Instruction – Advancing Agricultural Education program. Adult meal prices were also discussed, with a USDA required increase to adult meal prices to \$4.64 for adult lunches and \$2.26 for adult breakfasts effective immediately.

IX. Business

A. Old Business – none.

B. New Business

1) Review/Action: Approve out of state travel for Spanish Club

Spanish Teacher Michelle Petersen and Guidance Counselor Robyn Richardson presented the opportunity for an education trip to Peru in the summer of 2024. The trip is sponsored by EF Education Tours and will be open to all high school students. A parent meeting regarding this 11-day trip is set for November 2nd and will cover registration, cost, fundraising and trip specifics. The cost of the trip will be \$4,500 per student and there will be a six to one ratio of adults to students. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the out of state travel for the Spanish Club as presented. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – retiree and substitute teacher Lane Long expressed support for the trip and indicated EF Education is a great company and this is a terrific opportunity for students. Board discussion – regarding the length of the trip and the potential for a great experience for FHS students. Unanimous. Ms. Petersen and Ms. Richardson were thanked for their presentation and group leadership.

2) Information/Discussion: PIR Day – September 23rd.

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the schedule for the upcoming PIR day on September 23rd. There will be an all-staff photo taken to start the day, followed by trauma informed and required suicide prevention training.

3) Review/Action: Bonus Pay

The Negotiations Committee met over the summer and recommended bonus pay for select non bargaining unit members. Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of a \$1,000 bonus for Food Services Director Mike Spencer, Transportation Director Jime Benitez, Mechanic Jon Peterson, Deputy Clerk Stacie Methers, Administrative Secretary/AP Angie Gibbs, Administrative Payroll Assistant Sarah Niegel and School Nurse Kathy Weishaar. The reason for this recommendation was discussed for each recipient. Also discussed was School Resource Officer Scott Rasmussen and his positive impact to the District. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the bonus pay as recommended by the negotiations committee. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

4) Review/Action: Substitute Pay

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed recent meetings of the Negotiations Committee regarding substitute pay, and the difficulties in hiring both teacher and classified substitutes. The recommendation is to increase certified substitute teacher pay from \$92/day to \$105/day, non-certified substitute teacher pay from \$84/day to \$95/day, and classified substitute pay from \$11.88/hour to \$13.01/hour. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the substitute pay as recommended by the Negotiations Committee. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – in support of the increases. Board discussion – regarding the substitute rates paid by Missoula area schools, the cost of administration having to cover for absent teaching and classified staff and the difficulty in hiring substitutes. Trustee Wright was asked to amend the motion to include an effective date of the pay increase. Trustee Wright made an amended motion to approve the substitute pay as recommended effective September 1, 2022. Trustee Lucier seconded the amended motion. Additional discussion was held regarding in-house covering of classrooms, and current FEA CBA language allowing for teachers to be paid at the certified substitute rate for classroom coverage. Principal Jake Haynes would like this addressed in negotiations so more

teachers would be willing to cover other classrooms. Additional public comment was heard regarding the reason for a different rate between certified and non-certified substitute teachers. FCA president Quincy Green asked why substitutes are being hired yet permanent positions are not being filled. Unanimous.

5) Review/Action: Hiring

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following for hire: Ag Science Extra Curricular Advisor Kyla Andres, Head Girls Wrestling Coach Mark Hausknecht, MS Ticket Takers Jenna Nile and Emily Gasaway, HS Head Track Coach Louis Faust, Non-certified Substitute Teacher Shelby Miotke, Certified Substitute Teachers Sandra Drollman and Elizabeth Delaney, Substitute Teacher and Substitute Classified Jennifer Kruschke, Weight Room Supervisors Brandon Robbins (Mondays and Tuesdays) and Louis Faust (Wednesdays and Thursdays), Student Store Worker Destiny Stolle, MS Soccer Referee Dylan Barnard, Certified Paraprofessional Stephanie Hellekson, Instructional Aide Matthew Sallee and Kitchen Worker Kristine Staton-Santiago. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the hires as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the weight room monitors and Friday coverage. Unanimous.

6) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations of Permanent Substitute Nina Walden, Paraprofessional Kim Lovrien and Assistant HS Basketball Coach Louis Faust were discussed, and well as the December retirement of High School Art Teacher Susan Dansie.

7) Review/Action: Approve Discretionary Non Resident Students

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed nonresident student approval inadvertently left off of the last month board meeting listing. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the list of non-resident students as presented. Amanda Hansen seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

8) Review/Action: Approve Sale/Disposal of Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approval of obsolete equipment including computers, Chromebooks, printers and monitors. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve Resolution #092022-1 for disposal of public property as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

9) Review/Action: Purchases

- a. Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the American Rescue Plan grant awarded last year of \$19,376 for a vehicle which can be used to transport homeless students. Superintendent Meyer recommended approval of this purchase at this time in the event a vehicle is located that meets district needs. Questions were asked regarding the estimated cost of the vehicle over the grant award. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the purchase of a vehicle with the flexibility to go above the grant award not to exceed \$30,000 without additional board approval. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the potential to trade in an existing district vehicle. Unanimous.
- b. Superintendent Les Meyer discussed carpet damage to the HS/MS library. Insurance will replace up to \$60,000 for the carpet. Carpet tiles will be an additional \$21,000 not covered by insurance proceeds. Superintendent Meyer recommended approval of the additional \$21,000 for carpet tile similar to what is in the hallway immediately adjacent. The bid received was discussed and another bid is pending for the work. The benefits of carpet tile as opposed to carpet were discussed. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the additional cost of carpet tile not to exceed the \$21,000 initial bid. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – regarding other bids. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

10) Review/Action: Bus Route Change

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended numerous bus route changes as presented in the board packet. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the route changes as recommended. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Superintendent Meyer discussed the possibility of moving the bus stop up Houle Creek from the Rawhide area to

possibly Brittany lane due to safety concerns. This will be addressed at a future meeting. Unanimous.

X. Policy Review

A. Review/Action: Policy 2335

The Policy Committee met this evening to discuss BP2335. In response to Senate Bill 99, a required revision to this now required policy was reviewed regarding notification of parents/guardians when sensitive curriculum is presented during class. Jami Wright made a motion to adopt revised BP2335 as required and recommended by the Policy Committee. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

XI. 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 – none. Unanimous.

XII. 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 Negotiations Committee is meeting next Tuesday to discuss the FEA salary matrix. A Facilities Committee meeting may be called at the end of October to discuss the Demographer report if available.

XIII. Adjournment

ADJOURNED 8:43 p.m.

Approved: October 18, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk