

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting

October 18, 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, Jami Wright, Rainier Batt, 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, Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons, Technology Coordinator James Forrider and District Clerk Shauna Anderson.

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting opened with the pledge at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Paul Deschamps. After the moment of silence, Superintendent Les Meyer said a few words about Mr. Deschamps regarding his contributions to Frenchtown School District and the community of Frenchtown.

- III. **Board Recognition – none.**

- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**

- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board**

- A. Student Council Report: Vice President Connor Michaud discussed school service projects for the school and community, possibly a river clean-up as well as areas around the school. The October 25th blood drive was discussed as well as the winter pep assembly. Sophomore representative Haley Helena discussed the upcoming Snow Ball on November 22nd and the cost per person and couple.
- B. Frenchtown Community Coalition: Reagan Mecham discussed the opioid reversal plan, staff training and Naloxone kits provided by the FCC around the school. Next week during Red Ribbon Week there will be student and parent presentations regarding how drugs affect the body.

- VI. **Staff Presentation**

Ryann Rugg and Ariel Linton, Frenchtown Librarians, gave a presentation to the Board regarding “Makerspace”, a self-directed hands-on approach to learning. A video presentation was made and the cohort through SpectrUM was discussed. The community support through donations has been tremendous, and Frenchtown is lucky to have this available and accessible to all students. In addition, the Witte family recently donated eight Kindles to the library. Also discussed was the recent success of the MS Volleyball program and future supplies needs for Makerspace projects.

- VII. **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.

- VIII. **Administrative Reports**

Highlights of the administrative reports were 1) Maintenance Supervisor Sean Mecham discussed the recommendation for the open maintenance position. Questions were asked about the newly installed bathroom partitions. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider discussed response to IT tickets, tech inventory and replacement plans. 3) Administrative Reports: Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons discussed the recent media report highlighting Maddie Schiedermayer, a visually impaired student who recently qualified for State Cross Country. Also discussed was current special education student numbers supplied to the OPI. HS Assistant Principal Beth Terzo discussed all of the clubs available to FHS students and their advisors, noting the importance of being involved, and acknowledging staff for their willingness to sponsor clubs for all student interests. Principal Riley Devins discussed the recent “Day of Awesomeness” PTA fundraiser, Red Ribbon Week and upcoming field trips. Also discussed was the vest safety initiative with staff and its’ success. Principal Aaron Griffin acknowledged substitute Molly

Blowers for her help during a long term leave of a staff member and the high participation levels of MS students in athletics. Also discussed was academic success this year in the MS, and the “Caught Being a Champ” award initiated by SRO Scott Rasmussen. 4) Superintendent Les Meyer discussed enrollment numbers and the demographer report regarding community growth expected later this month. Principal Jodi Hall was acknowledged for her recent Early Childhood Excellence in Program and Administration award. Frenchtown’s Niche ranking of #11 best school district in the state of Montana was also discussed and how this was a team effort by all staff and the community. Recent meetings and upcoming trainings were reviewed as well as district staffing needs.

IX. **Business**

A. Old Business – none.

B. New Business

1) Review/Action: Approval of TR-1’s for Bus Routes and Changes to Bus Routes

TR-1’s must be approved once per year before November 1st to receive route reimbursement from the state. Superintendent Les Meyer discussed Houle Creek bus stops and potential changes. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the TR-1’s and Bus Route Changes as presented. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

2) Review/Action: Data Breach Incident Response Plan

Superintendent Les Meyer presented the MSGIA recommended incident response plan, required by insurers for cyber security coverage. Board approval of this plan is required as well. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the Data Breach Incident Response Plan as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the recommended plan sent by the district insurer. Unanimous.

3) Information/Discussion: GEMS System – Revenues/Expenditures Report

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the per pupil expenditure report available to the public on the GEMS database. Comparison charts were presented, with Frenchtown school district the third lowest in terms of per pupil expenditures amongst class A and area schools. The burden on the taxpayer is high in Frenchtown and although the District has limited resources it is performing very well as noted in the recent Niche ratings.

4) Review/Action: Approval of out of state travel – MS Ski Trip

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of out of state travel to Lookout Pass Ski Area. Other areas are not able to accommodate the MS number of students. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the MS out of state travel to Lookout Pass Ski Area. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion - regarding the dates of the field trip. Unanimous.

5) Review/Action: Outstanding Warrants

Business Manager Shauna Anderson discussed Montana Code regarding cancelling outstanding warrants and presented a list recommended for cancellation. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve cancelling the outstanding warrants as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

6) Review/Action: Hiring

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following for hire: Classified Substitute Jennifer Richardson, HS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach Mark Quinn, Substitute Teacher Sara Jiminian, Throws Track Coach Sean Mecham, Sprints Track Coach McKenzie Luth, Distance Track Coach Shanelle Shirey, Hurdles Track Coach Allen McCarty, Pole Vault Track Coach Dan Moe, MS Wrestling Coach Mark Hausknecht, Certified Substitute Teacher David Sheerin, and Maintenance Zackkory Palmer. Rainier Batt made a motion to approve the hires as recommended. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding appreciating David Sheerin returning to substitute. Unanimous.

7) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations of Paraprofessionals Stephanie Hellekson and Amy Sarani, Shipping/Receiving and Classroom Aide Maddelyn Eslinger and MS Basketball Coach Morgan Job were discussed.

8) Information/Discussion: Montana Alternative Assessment Testing (MAST)

The Office of Public Instruction approached Superintendent Les Meyer asking for FTSD to commit to the MAST pilot testing program. This program will potential replace SBAC testing and will pilot with the 5th grade. Principal Riley Devins discussed the testing and its impact on the students.

9) Information/Discussion: Flood and Refrigeration Mitigation Report

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the upcoming pilot program for a small group of schools within the MSGIA property and liability pool. This program will install sensors in areas of the school which will detect changes in temperature and moisture levels. If even just one school prevents a flood event with this sensor the program will pay for itself within the pool.

10) Information/Discussion: Continuity of Services Plan and ARP ESSER Plan

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the update to the District Continuity of Services Plan and ARP ESSER Plan completed in June. The updated plan will be placed on the website and community/stakeholder input will be solicited on the website and through Infinite Campus.

X. **Policy Review – none.**

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).

XIII. **Adjournment**

ADJOURNED 8:29 p.m.

Approved: November 15, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk