

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting

November 15, 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, Rainier Batt and Amanda Hansen were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer, Principals Aaron Griffin and Riley Devins, Assistant HS Principal Beth Terzo, Activities Director Eli Field, 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 7:01 p.m.
- III. **Board Recognition**
Third Grade Teacher Joe DiFulgentis presented to the Board on the Adventure Club, an after school program teaching students outdoor skills, tools required to live a healthy lifestyle and all activities available in the Frenchtown area. Currently, the Adventure Club offers after school sessions with the climbing wall, and now cross country skiing. Through generous donations from the Bronc Stampede and assistance from Scheels sporting goods store, the club has skis, boots and poles available for this activity. The Adventure Club will be partnering with King Ranch Golf Course to use groomed trails on the course. The Adventure Club has also offered classes in trail running, music and writing and will also be offering a course in avalanche education. Board members thanked Mr. DiFulgentis for this terrific program.
- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board**
 - A. Student Council Report: Senior Class President Joshua Lucier discussed recent student council activities. The October 25th blood drive was a success with all units completed. The council recently cleaned the trophy cases and are planning a painting project for the speed bumps at the north campus and horseshoes at the south campus, weather permitting. Upcoming events are the Snow Ball on November 22nd, and Prom at the Wilma on March 18th.
 - B. Frenchtown Community Coalition: Reagan Mecham discussed opioid reversal plan training and the recent parent presentation during Red Ribbon Week. The presentation was a success with 58 attendees. Naloxone kits will soon be available for coaches, and a Middle School Youth Leadership committee has been formed. Trustee Shiloh Lucier acknowledged Ms. Mecham's presentation as excellent and would like to see even more participation for future events. Ms. Mecham was recently recognized by a federal office in charge of this region as the Frenchtown Community Coalition is the first group in the country to address opioid reversal in the community.
- VI. **Staff Presentation – see III. above.**
- VII. **Approval of Minutes**
Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jami Wright 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 recent snowfall and the vendors being used for snow removal this year, as well as winterization of the buildings. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider discussed deployment of devices throughout the District. 3) Administrative Reports: Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons presented information on recent Mandt training for paraprofessionals, covering de-escalation strategies, student and staff safety. Special Education Teacher Jenna Nile was thanked for providing child care for the attendees as this training occurred when school was not in session. HS Assistant Principal Beth Terzo highlighted the Academic

Team and their sponsor Jim Stanicar. The first competition was held today with 11 schools and 28 teams participating. Ms. Terzo led an activity for board members and administrators, asking similar questions as asked in competition.

Principal Jodi Hall arrived at 7:36 p.m.

Activities Director Eli Field highlighted winter competitions hosted by Frenchtown for Speech and Debate on December 3rd, and the Western A Tip-Off for basketball debuting the new shot clocks. Girls' wrestling will have their first ever Divisional tournament, as well as girls' softball, which will be hosting their first Divisional tournament in Frenchtown. Also noted was the academic success of fall activities, where every fall team had a first quarter GPA over 3.0 and 56 student athletes earned Academic All-State honors. Principal Aaron Griffin discussed the "Iron Bronc" award program to generate school pride and encourage community service. Principal Riley Devins discussed parent-teacher conferences and acknowledged guidance counselors Amy Griffin and Sadie Forte for their work during Red Ribbon Week. Principal Devins discussed potential professional development speakers for staff training days next summer. Other schools will be invited to participate and the speakers chosen are highly recommended. Principal Devins was commended for the Veteran's Day assembly and presentation. It was an excellent event and a very moving ceremony. Acknowledgement was given to Associate Technology Coordinator Benton Farquhar, who spoke at the event, as well as Shelbie Croy for organizing the flag march, the music department for the program and student speakers Sara Chinikaylo and Landon Grout. Principal Jodi Hall discussed the collaboration between all grade levels at the south campus this year, and the excellent 97-98% turnout at parent teacher conferences. Principal Hall also announced the upcoming after school program sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club. Sign-ups will begin November 28th for after school care beginning in January each day from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. This is exciting news and will undoubtedly be appreciated by families in the Frenchtown community. 4) Superintendent Les Meyer congratulated Principal Jodi Hall as the recipient of the "Early Childhood Excellence in Program and Administration Award". The goals of the program are to improve early education, professional development and leadership in early care and education. The nomination letter sent on Ms. Hall's behalf was read. Congratulations, Principal Jodi Hall! Superintendent Meyer also read a thank you note from retired teacher and veteran Merle Johnston for the Veteran's Day event. Also discussed were attendance percentages by school, a potential technology device replacement schedule, recent meetings and upcoming events district-wide allowing for continued community involvement in Frenchtown schools.

IX. Business

A. Old Business – none.

B. New Business

1) Review/Action: Approval out of state travel – CADCA – Washington, D.C.

Frenchtown Community Coalition representative Reagan Mecham discussed the opportunity for students to attend a national leadership forum in Washington D.C. from January 29th – February 3rd. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the out of state travel for CADCA to Washington, D.C. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the all-expenses paid funding by the county grant, and number of students and chaperones attending. Unanimous.

2) Review/Action: Approval of bus route change

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of bus route change 9 to 9A. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the bus route change as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

3) Review/Action: MTSBA Dues Estimate

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the MTSBA dues estimate and asked the Board to give the authority to the District Clerk to vote on the board's behalf through electronic ballot. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to authorize Shauna Anderson, District Clerk, to vote on the Board's behalf regarding the MTSBA dues revenue estimate. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the cost of the estimate. Unanimous.

4) Review/Action: Approve Agreements with Independent Contractors

Approval of snow removal contracts is needed in the event costs exceed \$15,000. Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of contracts for Undem Contracting for south campus and Mike Field from Garden City Tree Service for the north campus. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the contracts as recommended. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – regarding the excellent work the south campus contractor provided in the recent snowfall. Board discussion – regarding responsiveness of these contractors already this season. Unanimous.

5) Information/Discussion: Demographer Report

Frenchtown School District recently received a demographer report regarding potential population growth in the District. The demographer presented the report and answered questions at a recent Facilities Committee meeting. The report focused on birth rates, in and out migration to and from the district, and housing predictions. It was a very interesting report and presentation.

6) Information/Discussion: Access Control Upgrades

Superintendent Les Meyer presented a quote received to upgrade all north campus doors for added safety and security. Discussion was held regarding existing security and possible upgrades for the future.

7) Review/Action: Permanent Substitute Rate

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of \$135.00/day for certified permanent substitutes teachers for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the certified permanent substitute teacher rate of \$135.00/day for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year as recommended. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the previous rate of \$100.00/day. Unanimous.

8) Review/Action: Hiring

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following for hire: Scorekeeper Mariah Harvey, Trip Driver Joe DiFulgentis, Substitute Para and Teacher Montana Holmes, Activity Workers Seth Mason and Archie Petritz, Student Custodian Blake McMullan, .5 Track Coach Archie Petritz, Winter/Spring Activities Coordinator Josh Criner, .5 Baseball Coach Whit Gill, MS Boys Basketball Coach Conor Dwyer, Permanent Substitute Teachers Melody Lindorf and Mackenzie Stickel, HS/MS Art Teacher Brooklyn Little, Custodian Joseph Gourdine and Shipping & Receiving Clerk Anna Feusner. Rainier Batt made a motion to approve the hires as listed. Jami Wright seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding MS basketball coach and participation numbers in the program. Unanimous.

9) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations of Playground Aide Mark Richardson, Paraprofessional Montana Holmes, Special Education Teacher Lezlie Hepburn, MS Track Coach Allen McCarty, Kitchen Worker Amy Albertson and MS Girls Basketball and Track Coach Josh Criner were discussed.

10) Review/Action: Approve Purchases

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approving the invoice from Infinite Campus for student database software with several add-ons for \$21,253.70. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the purchase as recommended. Jami Wright seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

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

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the recent stakeholder input survey sent to the community through Infinite Campus. The results were presented regarding questions asked about the school district plan, priorities and use of funds. The feedback from the community was very thoughtful and overwhelmingly positive.

12) Information/Discussion: Distribution of the Superintendent's Evaluation Form to the Trustees

District Clerk Shauna Anderson distributed the Superintendent evaluation form blank. Discussion was held regarding the evaluation date and procedure changes to the document.

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 9:11 p.m.

Approved: December 20, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk