

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting
December 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, Noah Peters, Rainier Batt and Amanda Hansen were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer, Principals Jake Haynes, Aaron Griffin, Riley Devins and Jodi Hall, 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 7:03 p.m.
- III. **Board Recognition**
The meeting began with a moment of silence for teacher Justine Leubke and student Waylon Scheffer. Board members discussed their attendance at various holiday music programs.
- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board**
 - A. Student Council Report: Student Council Representatives Sadie Smith, Cara Evans and Lauren Magnuson discussed recent student council activities. Snowball was very successful, the council recently cleaned and reorganized the trophy cases and there is a winter pep assembly coming up.
- VI. **Staff Presentation – none.**
- VII. **Approval of Minutes**
Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Rainier Batt 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 snow removal and heating issues at both campuses. Water sensors from MSGIA are being installed for flood prevention. Questions were asked about the sensors and placement locations. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider discussed IT tickets, replacement Chromebooks and the repair and use of televisions and the marquee signs on both campuses. 3) Administrative Reports: Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons board report discussed the recent hiring of student and early graduates as paraprofessionals. Concerns were raised over continued turnover and efforts to support the special education department. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming early graduate program and its positive impact on the department. Financial concerns were discussed, as well as training opportunities and possible opportunities for student teachers. HS Principal Jake Haynes acknowledged Art Teacher Sue Dansie, who is retiring from FHS. Pictures were shown to the board of various art courses and projects. Ms. Dansie was thanked for her time and service to the District. Also acknowledged was the recent donation to Industrial Technology Teacher Cody Allison, who received a generous donation from family members to support his classroom. Activities Director Eli Field's board report included a list of all-state and all-conference honors for fall sports. Recent events were discussed, including the Speech and Debate competition and the Tip-Off tournament, both very successful events to start the winter seasons. The custodians, clock workers and ticket takers were commended for their work and help with these events. Principal Aaron Griffin indicated that no middle school students have left the District this year. Also discussed were activity fees and gate charges for Middle School sports, which has helped towards offsetting the costs of the activities. Questions were asked regarding participation. Principal Griffin also thanked Ms. Dansie for her service to the Middle School students. Principal Riley Devins highlighted the recent concerts and thanked all the music teachers. There are many fun events and projects in the classroom this time of year and many creative art projects

will be going home with students. Adventure Club cross country skiing at King Ranch Golf Course is a continued success and has become a community activity. Math Carols, an event started by former teacher Bette Paskey, was enjoyed by all. Principal Jodi Hall acknowledged the music teachers for their excellent holiday programs which were attended by many families. Also discussed were the K-5 Counselors Amy Griffin and Sadie Forte and their efforts to make sure Frenchtown families get what they need this time of year. Questions were asked regarding early Kindergarten and the number of children enrolled

4) Superintendent Les Meyer made a special announcement to the Board. The Laughing Grizzly restaurant contacted the school and made an amazing and generous donation to erase any student lunch negative balances, which impacted 318 Frenchtown students from grades K – 12. Board members and administrators thanked and acknowledged Laughing Grizzly for this tremendous gift. Superintendent Meyer discussed the legislative session and several bills in draft form that will impact the District, and has reached out to area representatives with invitations to visit FTSD.

Trustee Noah Peters left at 7:55 p.m.

IX. **Business**

A. Old Business – none.

B. New Business

1) Review/Action: Hiring Staff

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following for hire: Non-Certified Substitute Teachers Katie Clute-Morgan (also Office), Anna Torres and Demi Smith (also Para); Certified Substitute Teacher Alain Goris, Assistant HS Wrestling Coaches Mel Blanchard and Walker Dyer; Student Activities Workers Brady Schmill and Braden Rate; MS Girls Basketball Coaches Jordan Quinn and Michaela Delaney; Student Paraprofessionals Elizabeth Martello, Kailee Scott, Megan Simmons, Gabrielle Wine, Rachel Hall, and Kielee Stoker; Playground/Instructional Aide David Fortner; Custodian Lee LeDuc; and Paraprofessionals Stephanie Perkins, Kielee Stoker and Cassandra Lindseth. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the hires as recommended. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

2) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations of Custodian Quincy Green, Paraprofessionals Angie Sohm and Jamie Volinkaty, Grounds Worker Peggy Duncan, Secretary Billie Warner and NHS Advisor Beth Terzo were discussed. The District is sad to see them go but wish them the best.

3) Review/Action: Approve Discretionary Non Resident Students

Amanda Hansen made a motion to approve the non-resident students as listed. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

4) Review/Action: School Election Resolution

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approval the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election. This resolution is required in Montana Code for trustee elections, and also includes language asking for approval of additional levies to operate the General fund for FY24. Discussion was held regarding the requirements of election resolutions. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election as presented. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

5) Information/Discussion: Set School Calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year

The calendar committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the 2023-2024 calendar. The committee will be presenting a calendar for board approval in the January or February meeting.

Trustee Noah Peters returned at 8:10 p.m.

6) Review/Action: Purchases

Superintendent Les Meyer received a quote from Johnson Controls to replace a North Campus boiler. The quote is for \$40,000 for the boiler, \$2,000 for labor and \$1,500 for the ventilation system. Discussion was held regarding the failed heat exchangers in the old boiler and issues with the water chemistry in the system. It will take approximately 10 weeks to receive a replacement boiler. Bryce Simpson made a motion to approve the purchase of a boiler for the North Campus up to \$45,000. Noah Peters seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

- 7) Review/Action: Obsolete/Surplus Equipment
Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approval to obsolete tech devices, shop equipment and sale of a 2002 Dodge Intrepid with 140,000 miles. A minimum bid of \$800 will be asked for the Intrepid. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve Resolution #12202022-1 for disposal of public property as listed. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.
- 8) Review/Action: Professional Development Speakers
Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the approval of \$30,000 for professional development speakers Kim Strobel and Devin Siebold through Premier Speaker Bureau. This will be a big event with many schools attending, focusing on self-value and increasing happiness, supporting recruitment and retention of teaching staff. Rainier Batt made a motion to approve the professional development speakers. Kim Strobel and Devin Siebold. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.
- 9) Review/Action: Systems Northwest upgrade and security system installation
The Safety Committee met December 9th to discuss the upgrade of North Campus security system door controller software and intercom/cameras. The safety committee recommended the approval of the Systems Northwest proposal of \$63,210.00 to improve safety and security systems and upgrades. Bryce Simpson made a motion to approve the purchase with Systems Northwest as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding security concerns and the effectiveness of security systems. This system will allow for instantaneous lock down if needed and security controls on multiple doors in the facility as students enter and exit to exterior buildings. Unanimous.
- 10) Review/Action: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Lab Fees
Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the costs of offering CTE courses, as well as the Advanced Opportunities Grant recently received that is used for offsetting parent costs for the program. Lab fees would help the District offset the costs of the program, and the grant will be used to relieve parent costs this year. Superintendent Meyer recommended to approval of a \$50.00 lab fee for each student taking CTE courses starting in the second semester of this school year. Reporting requirements of the grant was discussed and the Board will be provided copies of the report. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the Career and Technical Education lab fee of \$50.00. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.
- 11) Information/Discussion: Financial Information Booklet
Superintendent Les Meyer discussed a financial information booklet prepared by Business Manager Shauna Anderson. Budget communication was discussed at the recent MCEL meetings and this document was developed to be able to communicate financial information to the public. It is a working document and will be updated annually. This document will be posted to the website and available for public review.
- 12) Review/Action: Proposal – Building, Mind & Body
Superintendent Les Meyer discussed a proposal prepared by Dan McGee from Building, Mind & Body (BMB) to assist the District with marketing a General fund levy request as a component of the FTSD master plan for growth. This master plan includes facilities, staffing, class sizes, recruitment and retention, course selections, food services and many other components impacted by growth and District needs. Discussion was held on the proposal and services BMB will offer. Bryce Simpson made a motion to approve hiring of BMB to assist with marketing the mill levy as quoted for \$4,320.00. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the need to disseminate a unified message to the community. Unanimous.
- 13) Information/Discussion: Superintendent's Evaluation
Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald sent an electronic copy of the evaluation instrument to the trustees. They are to be returned prior to the next regular board meeting. A special board meeting will be held for the Superintendent's evaluation.

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. Bryce Simpson 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 8:58 p.m.

Approved: January 17, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk