

**Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting**

**February 21, 2023 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 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, 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.
- III. **Board Recognition**

Marley Atkin, a member of the HS Speech and Debate team was in attendance. The Speech and Debate team had an excellent season with two state champions and a team 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at Divisionals and State. Board members congratulated Ms. Atkin and asked questions about the trip to the State competition and future participation. Ms. Atkin is looking forward to next season.

The Board also recognized the Writ 101 program, a dual credit class at the HS. A current project was to pick something within the community and write about what they would like to see changed from their perspective. Board members read the documents and discussed their impressions of them. Trustee Jami Wright read all documents, was impressed with the topics and was amazed at the students' intelligence. The students were able to identify the importance of the community and these papers related the topics very well to the needs of the District. Trustee Rainier Batt also complimented the papers and appreciated their ability to identify what they wanted to see changed while addressing costs to the community.
- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board**

Student Council Sophomore Representatives Lauren Magnuson and Haley Helena addressed the Board. They discussed the winter sports pep rally, the FFA “Kiss the Goat” fundraiser, the “Best Buddy” lunch program and upcoming Prom. Questions were asked of the representatives regarding their presentation and upcoming basketball playoffs. The representatives were tasked with recognizing and teaching the school song.

Frenchtown Community Coalition representative Reagan Mecham presented a slide show on the CADCA National Leadership Forum recently attended with eleven students and three chaperones in Washington D.C. The group attended meetings regarding drug use and suicide prevention, toured the Capital, met with members of Congress and was able to tour the city. FCC Representative Mecham distributed to the Board copies of papers written by the students regarding their trip and what they learned. Student and CADCA attendee Makenzie Rasmussen thanked the Board for approving the trip and discussed what she learned in the forum sessions. SRO Scott Rasmussen appreciated the opportunity to attend this trip and learn from both the law enforcement perspective and as a parent. Questions were asked about future conferences and favorite presentations. Ms. Rasmussen discussed early intervention programs and how she would like to see these being utilized in Frenchtown.
- 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 the numerous service contracts that will need to be reviewed soon. Also discussed was snow removal and the

loss of the South Campus contractor. In addition, the District has recently participated in a state funded program to receive air purifiers for every classroom, office and common area. These purifiers will recycle air in each area every 30 minutes and the District is fortunate to have received them. Three years of filters are also provided by the state. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider discussed the reduction of the District's risk score. 3) Administrative Reports: Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons discussed life skills field trips to SpectrUM, ice skating and Missoula College. Paraprofessional Debbie Wine was acknowledged for her work organizing and distributing accommodation sheets to teachers. Elementary Principal Jodi Hall discussed the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, MAPS testing and the culmination of the "Almost Super" reading program this week and invited Trustees to attend. Principal Riley Devins thanked the librarians and the PTA for supporting the "One Book One Community" program featuring the book "Almost Super" by Marion Jensen. Also discussed was youth camps, the Adventure Club cross-country ski program, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band participating with the HS Pep Band, MCT and the upcoming talent show. Teachers who are participating in the ELA curriculum adoption were thanked for their time supporting our students. MS Principal Aaron Griffin discussed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade visit to the MS, upcoming parent/teacher conferences, Honor Society, Math Counts success and the first spelling bee held live in four years. HS Principal Jake Haynes acknowledged the Tamarack Grief Resource Center as well as the school counselors and SRO Rasmussen. HS Assistant Principal Beth Terzo presented pictures of the suicide prevention training activities and discussed Tamarack's community training and upcoming presentation to the juniors and seniors. Activities Director Eli Field discussed basketball divisionals and acknowledged State Champions Josie Martinez and Scarlett Aaseng (Speech and Debate), Isaac Stewart (Wrestling) and Addy and Ellyn Lewis (Swimming). This will be the first team trophy for swimming in FHS history. He also acknowledged the wrestling program for their sixth straight top five finish at State.

4) Superintendent Les Meyer congratulated Activities Director and Softball Coach Eli Field for being a national finalist for Coach of the Year. The recent facilities committee meeting regarding the greenhouse at the elementary may result in the structure donated to the District. In addition, the District is awaiting a quote and/or additional information and options regarding the failing heating systems at the South Campus.

## IX. **Business**

### A. Old Business

#### 1) Information/Discussion: Operational Mill Levy

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the survey available on the website and the Facebook page regarding the operational mill levy. The Finance Committee will meet to discuss the results. The most supported areas on the survey so far are with staffing needs and academic programming. Comments were discussed and will be analyzed. The mill levy's main focal point needs to be what is best for the students of FTSD. Currently the District is operating at a budget of 90.41% of the state allowed budget limit and is trending down towards the state mandated minimum budget amount allowed. Enrollment primarily determines these budget limits.

### B. New Business

#### 1) Information/Discussion: FY23 Budget Information

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed impacts to the District 2023-2024 budget such as increasing insurance costs, increasing costs for utilities, services, supplies and equipment, upcoming FEA negotiations and amounts remaining in the 2022-2023 budget.

#### 2) Information/Discussion: Legislative Update

HB 321, revising laws relating to the coal trust, and HB 562 and HB 549 regarding charter schools were discussed with their potential impact to the District. Also discussed was HB 352 regarding early-targeted intervention. A list of bills potentially affecting the District were included in the Board packet.

#### 3) Information/Discussion: Certified Negotiations

The FEA has formally requested to open negotiations.

#### 4) Review/Action: Approval of the 2023-2024 School Calendar

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the Calendar Committee and how they represented all areas of the District and worked very well together. Two calendars were proposed and a survey was sent

to all staff. Calendar Option 2 received 67.8% of the survey votes. Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approval of calendar option 2 for the 2023-2024 school year. Jami Wright made a motion to approve Option 2 as the school calendar for 2023-2024. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the difference between the calendars, which is fewer PIR days and a longer spring break in Option 2. Committee participation was also discussed. Unanimous.

5) Review/Action: Bus Route Changes

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended bus route changes to 6A (suspension of route), 8 to 8A and 9B to 9C due to staffing shortages and route consolidation. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the bus route changes as recommended. Jami Wright seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

6) Review/Action: Hiring Staff

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following for hire: Substitute Playground Aide Lydia Bighouse, MS Track Coaches Seth Mason and Ryann Rugg, Activities Worker Tres Cunningham, Substitute Kitchen Heather Richardson, Paraprofessional Lisa Bainter and Special Education Teacher 2023-2024 Brady Coffman. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the hires as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

7) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations of MS Girls Basketball Coach Robyn Richardson, Paraprofessional Sara Evitts, Shipping/Receiving/Playground Caitlin Switzer and Special Education Teacher Emily Gasaway were discussed.

8) Review/Action: Approval of Purchases

Amended agenda item from Review/Discussion to Review/Action due to clerical error.

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following purchases:

Bargreen Ellingson - \$24,413.00 for a Traulsen Pass-Thru Hot Food Heated Holding Cabinet

DSG - \$24,763.95 for a Lochinvar PBL 1501-M9 PWR-FIN Boiler

Systems Northwest, LLC - \$36,681.30 for a Security Camera System Service Contract

Jami Wright made a motion to approve the purchases as listed. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion.

Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding aging equipment at the District. Unanimous.

9) Review/Action: Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the sale of obsolete equipment from the prior meeting via auction. Superintendent Meyer then recommended the disposal of sewing machines, Dell Optiplex computers and Chromebooks no longer suitable for school purposes. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve Resolution #2212023-1 for Disposal of Public Property as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

X. **Policy Review – none.**

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed policies needing review at the next committee meeting.

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

Jami Wright made a motion to approve the warrants and financial reports as presented. Shiloh Lucier 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 Curriculum committee met early this evening. Discussion was held regarding ELA curriculum books to be used as instructional resources in the classroom that board members can read and review. Policy and Finance/Negotiations committees will be scheduled; Transportation committee meets February 22, 2023.

**XIII. Adjournment**

ADJOURNED 8:49 p.m.

Approved: March 21, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald  
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson  
District Clerk