

**FRENCHTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #40**  
**SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING & BOARD RETREAT**

**Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

I. Call to Order: The special school board meeting was called to order by Chairman Debbie Lester. Trustees: Jami FitzGerald, Peter Simonich, Bryce Simpson, Teresa Teagle, Marilyn Thorn, and Dave Weber were in attendance. Superintendent Randy Cline; Principals Aaron Griffin, Riley Devins, Jake Haynes, Jodi Hall, Elementary Assistant Principal Ashley Parks, Special Services Coordinator Jennifer Demmons, and Assistant Principal & Activities Director Kipp Lewis were present as well.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting opened at 6:15 pm

III. Business:

a. Review/Action: Purchases

Discussion regarding purchasing a nine passenger Chevy Suburban for student extra-curricular activities (example: smaller sports groups such as the golf team). This would provide alternative transportation for smaller groups of students without utilizing a larger bus and employee time for transporting smaller numbers. The suburban will be covered under the transportation department's bus insurance. Further research may need to be done regarding the cost effectiveness of this decision. The goal is that the purchase will reduce the cost of meals, wages, lodging, and other transportation expenses. CDL is not required for a driver to transport passengers in the Suburban. The Chevy Suburban has 4-wheel drive which will be safer for transportation during unfavorable road conditions. In addition further research should be done to see if this Suburban falls under the current safety guidelines with the department of transportation, because it is a used vehicle. Bryce Simpson motion to continue the discussion/research committee. Peter Simonich seconded the motion. Teresa Teagle, Dave Weber, Jami Fitzgerald in favor of motion. Marilyn Thorn and Debbie Lester opposed motion. Motion carried 5-2.

b. Review/Action: Hiring

Paraprofessional - Andrea Emmet; Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional – Steven Martin; Route Bus Driver – Jason Exe. Teresa Teagle motioned to approve the hires as listed above. Pete Simonich seconded the motion. Unanimous.

c. Review/Action: Resignations

None

IV. Board Retreat:

a. Information Only: Paraprofessional/Custodial Shortage

Currently hiring and filling open paraprofessional positions and waiting for background checks for the paraprofessionals recently hired. The number of special ed students compared to last year is very similar. Teachers and paraprofessionals are working together to relieve one another for breaks and lunches during this time.

Building principals along with Activities Coordinator Kipp Lewis are overseeing the supervision of custodians and maintenance workers while Supervisor Brian Roberts is out on leave until September 17<sup>th</sup>. Currently short one maintenance and two custodial positions.

b. Information Only: High School

Jake Haynes stated that there are approximately 6 new staff members within the high school for this 2018-2019 school year. Student enrollment is up 29 students so far.

c. Information Only: Junior High

Junior High Principal Aaron Griffin called all parents to set up meetings before school started to build relationships with parents and students. September 10<sup>th</sup> second chance breakfast starts. The Junior High School has one new Science teacher this year Kendall Patch. With 6<sup>th</sup> grades transition to the Junior High Building for 2019-2020 school year we are aiming for not using any portable classrooms to reduce expenses.

d. Information Only: Intermediate

Principal Riley Devins stated student enrollment for grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> is currently 236. There are currently five 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Teachers will be breaking up curriculum into two subjects rather than all subjects. This will allow for less prep work and more time to teach in the class room. Freedom Gardens is doing well. Riley Devins would like to collaborate with local schools next year for Professional development to save

funds and open more opportunities for our teachers to participate in workshops similar to Marcia Tate.

e. Information Only: Elementary

Principal Jodi Hall stated that elementary enrollment is up to 482 students at this time. The first week of kindergarten there were 98 students. Staff is working well together to handle the employee shortage as we wait for background checks.

f. Information Only: Freedom Gardens Greenhouse

Assistant Elementary Principal Ashley Parks stated the Freedom Gardens Greenhouse project is going well. Teachers finished developing the curriculum for the green house at the end of last school year. The grand opening is to be decided once the project is complete.

V. Strategic Planning: 4<sup>th</sup> year of 5 year Strategic Plan

- a. School Resource officer position was turned down due to Missoula counties budget. Principal Aaron Griffin believes a full time SRO office would benefit the school. Peter Simonich would like to see more discussion and planning in safety and security for the school district as a whole. Discussion to search for other options that may work as a fill in for the SRO officer such as more school counselor's present or different position such as security guards. Debbie Lester stated she would like to include students in more safety trainings such as suicide prevention and anti-bullying. It was agreed a comprehensive safety plan should be a focus for 2018-2019 strategic planning.
- b. Transition for 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the junior high should stay on the agenda and continue working towards its implementation.
- c. Principal Riley Devins would like to see more laptops incorporated for teachers to allow for more flexible work environment. Replace older devices with newer technology so students are up to date with current software and have the knowledge and tools required to be successful in College and/or the workforce. Discussion to have technology train students and staff new software programs and devices. Hire a technology consultant to help with implementing a technology advancement plan so to see if it is feasible with our current budget. Debbie Lester agrees to look into data and find facts to see if the technology advancement would be beneficial to staff and students and within the budget.

- d. Start a plan for developing the north campus to accommodate the increase of students from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition, but also the high school enrollment increase. Plan for this to be incorporated in the next strategic plan.
- e. Colts Community Learning Center grant is coming up next year. Staff is working to receive grant funding for another five years. There are 77 CCLC (Colts Community Learning Center) students registered and they are still accepting enrollment. Work on implementing funding plan to sustain CCLC for future years.

VI. Adjourned: 8:35 pm

Approved October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/ Debbie Lester

Board Chair

/S/ Sarah Niegel

Administrative Assistant