

**October 11 2022**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on October 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Middle School Building with the following in attendance:

Jennifer Anderson, Chairman	School District #4 & Forsyth High School District
David Sorenson, Vice Chair	“ “
Doug Roberts, Trustee	“ “
Ethan Bell, Trustee	“ “
George Simmons, Trustee	“ “

**Also Present:**

Chris Hess, Superintendent  
Stacy Montgomery, District Clerk/Business Manager  
Dixie Seleg, K-6 Principal  
Shelley Weight, 7-12 Principal

**Guests Present:**

Kelsey Bird, Matt Radue, Karen Harms, and Wendy Killebrew

**Guests present via ZOOM meeting:**

Jayne Nelson

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
The Chairman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Participation:** none

**Revise/Review Agenda:**

**Consent Agenda**

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by George Simmons, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

- October bills in the amount of \$464,433.01 including warrants #48682 through #48745
- Minutes for the: September 7, 2022 Regular Meeting
- Warrant lists from 09/01/2022 through 09/30/2022 including the following:
  - Claims 48648-48695 \$ 392,464.50\*
  - Payroll 313387-313400 \$ 19,339.03
  - [\*Includes direct deposit check 48645 \$ 121,460.70]
- Activity Cash Report
- Resignation – Tenisha Hoptowit – HS Cheerleading Coach

Upon call for a vote, all trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

## Administrative Team Reports

### K-6 Principal

#### Dixie Seleg presented the K – 6 Principal’s report.

- School Improvement Team Goals
  - Professional Learning
    - Get reading samples - choose a program by Feb/March so teachers have the materials over the summer
    - Continue with Student of the Month and use the same character traits as last year. Find a story to share in the classrooms for each character. Continue with the 6th grade skits.
    - Remind staff about the Professional Development Shared Drive
    - Hold whole school activities – quarterly
  - MTSS
    - Make a checklist of materials to be placed in the RTI binders
    - Revisit the non-negotiables
      - Continue to refine them
      - Hold cross grade level meetings to discuss end of one year to beginning of the following year to assure consistency
    - Revisit current MTSS students
      - Use WIN time meetings and PLC time
    - Behavior issues that require a MTSS referral
      - 2 office referrals for 6 incident tracker notations
  - Leadership
    - Set up Lanschool for grades 4-6
    - Help find a solution to our tech needs with Steffani’s retirement
    - Privacy fence - discuss with admin and maintenance - possible grant
    - Mentor program - begin outlining resources and expectations
    - Safety
      - Clarification on communication protocol for emergencies
        - Communication with Sheriff’s office about protocol
        - Evacuation pathway when intruder is dangerous
          - Gathering points
        - How do we communicate with Lil Buds Daycare?
- Professional Development for Paraprofessionals
  - Purchased online training for them to access throughout the year
- September Student of the Month
  - Mr. Hess talked about manners and being respectful
    - Also handed out the certificates to the students
- Attended a Special Education audit compliancy training at the JH/HS
- Held Donuts for Dads – very well attended
- Sent out an open invitation for parents to join their students for lunch
  - Requests must be made 1 day in advance with a limit of 2 guests per visit
- Preschool Developmental screening was held Oct. 4th
  - 1 child was screened
- Walk to School day was held on Oct. 5
  - PTSA organized
  - Rosebud County Sheriff’s Office and Emergency service assisted and then gave a presentation to the student body
  - FCCLA students walked with the students as well

- Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Keefer held a bake sale as a benefit event for Erica White
  - Ben and Ethan White are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
  - Many students, staff and community members donated baked goods
  - Parents volunteered to assist students with sales throughout the day
  - Over \$1000 was raised
- Standards Report Card – Kindergarten
  - Purchased “Report Creator” as a plugin for PowerSchool
  - Thanks to Mrs. Nelson, Ms. Stahl, Mrs. Ayers and Mrs. Macioroski for all their efforts in developing this report card
  - We will continue this process each year until possibly 4<sup>th</sup> grade when we may continue with the traditional

## **7-12 Principal**

### **Shelly Weight presented the 7 -12 Principal’s report**

- New Teacher Orientation, which included Ms. Ferrer online.
- Registered all students for the start of school.
- Revised the schedule to better balance schedules.
- PowerTeacher Pro setup directions created for all teachers to include how to setup weighted grades and grading periods setup. Also, how to copy information from one course to the next.
- Get online science book resources setup for Ms. Ferrer.
- Using math standardized scores and teacher referrals, created spreadsheet to determine junior high students ready for Geometry at the high school level.
- Junior High parent orientation held August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade orientation held August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Ordered World Language books per teacher request to teach French as an added foreign language.
- Environmental Science Standards & Spanish standards added to Chalk.
- Opening Day orientation completed.
- SPED caseloads spread between 3 teachers this year. Each have 8 on their load. This has been very helpful during the SPED monitoring that is taking place with corrective action plans. A huge time commitment to meet the expectations of OPI.
- First day went very well with motivational kick-off, handbook Kahoot and class meetings.
- Locker room coverage has been more difficult this year, with our male teachers providing this while paras cover their classes, unless it is their prep.
- Connections choices included 3-D printing & design, Academic Olympics, Art Club, Audio/Visual Group, Book Club, Dungeons & Dragons role playing, Game Group, Service Club, Student Council and Study Hall when not in Guidance.
- Students needing Title, SPED or Academic Assistance were enrolled in EdReady Montana for skill development.
- Speech scheduled with providers in Miles City.
- Carl Perkins Grant completed and awarded.
- Idzel Ferrer found she couldn’t teach online prior to IEP. Shelly and Jan Banks took over writing lessons for the classes, tests, and correcting. Steve Roll was in the class. Idzel arrived last week!
- Transcript evaluations completed for new students to put in historical grades.
- Weekly discipline and technology issues.
- Drug testing took place this fall, no reports, so that must be a good sign.
- Homecoming week went well – Buff Ball (sophomores won), Powder Puff (juniors and seniors won a close one). King Cooper Anderson Queen Jaeleigh Hlad. Very rainy football game and coronation.
- IEP’s (4)
- Drug Dog visited last Friday with 4 alerts.

## Activities Director

### Jill Dana

Fall sports are in full swing. JHVB finished up last week, JHFB finished up Monday. We have been having a difficult time filling our open HSFB weeks with games, as was expected, but the football team has been using the time to get healthy and prepare for our division games. We had a cancellation of our senior night game, so we have moved it to our Pink Night vs. Broadus on 10/15. HSVB is on the downhill slide with District Tournaments coming on October 27-28th in Baker. HSSD practice started on 10/3, we currently have 9 participants. Jill attended the Southern C Divisional Meeting on 9/28. Other than the conference realignment, not much else pertained to us.

What they have done is reestablished the 5C, to make three conferences in the Southern C Division (4C, 5C, 6C) There are currently 6 teams in each conference (for basketball and track).

4C- Broadus (121 mi), Ekalaka (159 mi), Jordan (127 mi), Terry (83 mi), Wibaux (148 mi), Plevna (111 mi)

5C- Melstone (69 mi), Custer (48 mi)/Hysham (30 mi), Harlowton (193 mi)/Ryegate (163 mi), Reed Point (159 mi)/Rapelje (169 mi), Broadview (132 mi)/Lavina (146 mi), Northern Cheyenne (72 mi)

6C-Absarokee, Bridger, Fromberg, Park City, Plenty Coup, Roberts

### **Round trip mileage for 4C = 1498 miles, 5C (from the farthest co-op) = 1394 miles**

What they are running into with the addition of us is that the 6C is most likely going to lose Park City to Class B. Side note: Not by their choice. their enrollment is 105, so MHSAs is denying their petition to stay class C because they are over the 100 limit. So, something we may have to deal with after the next couple years. Anyways, losing Park City and the addition of us to the 4C (where MHSAs recommended) puts the divisions at 4C-7, 5C-6, 6C-5. So, then they will be running into the issue of does one district receive more divisional seeds than the others because it has more teams. In order to alleviate this, they are having some of the 5C teams (Custer/Hysham, Reed Point/Rapelje, Broadview/Lavina, Northern Cheyenne) ask their boards if one of them could move to 6C, and would like us to be in the 5C, thus making it 6,6,6 again.

Volleyball is another story. The conferencing is different because when volleyball first started not many schools had it and so they made different conferences in order to accommodate. MHSAs put us in the 2C for volleyball (which is the same as the 4C for basketball and track with the addition of Circle). So, if we played in the 4C for basketball and track then we would match up to the same teams as we do in volleyball. If not, they would be completely different.

My main concern was the amount of schools that have JV squads in each conference. From what I understand the 5C usually carries JVs for most of their sports, this would cover basketball. I am not sure if the 2C has as many JV squads for volleyball, but it would be easier to schedule extra JV games for volleyball than it would to find JV games for both basketball teams. I think having a lot of co-op teams in the 5C helps with this. The travel time between the two conferences is pretty close to the same with the 5C being less. It would also appease most of the Southern C, so we wouldn't come in looking like the bad guy. It also could be said that, for girls sports at least, we would get to see more of the athletes they have for both volleyball, basketball, and track by being in two different conferences. And as a coach

for two of the three I would say this is an advantage. ❖❖

In my opinion, I think it would be just fine to start in the 5C for basketball and track and the 2C in volleyball. That would be my recommendation, my deciding factors are the number of JV squads, as we should be able to fill them consistently with the help of 8th graders, and the travel time.

I hope this all makes sense, if you have any questions feel free to shoot me an email.

### **District Clerk/Business Manager**

Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager's report

- TOES report completed
- Expenditure report updated with new budget amounts
- Working on ESSER I Final report
- Timeclock up and running
- All coal board grant money requested, just waiting to receive the final \$14,000.00.

### **Superintendent**

Chris Hess

-Mariska Fulton FCCLA project – First Responders Appreciation – Mariska first contacted all the student organization advisors and administrators to organize. Then she contacted Keith Raymond for phone numbers for all first responders. She personally called all of them and Mr. Raymond advertised the event on Facebook to invite all first responders to the HS Volleyball game on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She also issued thank you cards and recognized and thanked all of them for their service and support at the game.

11 out of the 34 responders attended which she was very pleased about. An excellent project that was well organized and executed by Mariska.

The Fall MS/HS choir/modern rock band concert conducted by Mr. Radue was excellent. I appreciated how he organized the concert, students were interactive throughout the whole concert and the whole show was very well done from start to finish and had some outstanding student performances, plus my daughter didn't cry at all during the show. Great work and definitely got me in the fall groove.

Mrs. Killebrew worked on a Teacher Housing project assignment in her technical math class. The project was for the students to develop some type of housing for new teachers in the Forsyth area. This included the design and plan of the entire housing project and deciding whether they would use an apartment complex, duplexes, trailer homes, tiny homes, or any other structure they felt would best suit this project. The end goal is to provide affordable housing for young teachers who may or may not have families. Students also had to conduct research on local land available, building contractors, and rental prices.

Mrs. Seleg invited me to the September Student of the Month Assembly. They had been working on good manners for the month and I was beyond impressed with the whole student body during the assembly as well as the students selected from each class. I tried to do a fake sneeze joke at the beginning of my speech, took a few times but eventually, all the littles were telling me bless you.

The last highlight I wanted to share was the elementary donuts for dads. When I showed up a little before 8 am the middle school and elementary parking lots were completely full and the event was extremely well attended. Always a great event getting parents into the school and wonderful seeing the parents with their students together in that atmosphere.

### **Student - None**

### **Personnel**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

#### **Consider Hiring Full Time Substitute/Special Education Paraprofessional**

Serena Derricks has applied for the position of Full Time Substitute/Special Education Paraprofessional. All background and fingerprint checks have been completed.

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the hiring of Serena Derricks as Full Time Substitute/Special Education Paraprofessional for the 2022-23 school year.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to hire Serena Derricks as Full Time Substitute/Special Education Paraprofessional for the 2022-23 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Hiring Substitute Teachers**

It is necessary to hire substitutes for certified and non-certified positions. The following list indicates individuals who are willing to serve in various substitute positions and have completed all necessary paperwork and requirements.

Tanele Schultz-Stephens  
Alan Wetherelt

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees hire the listed substitutes for the 2022 -23 school year.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to hire Tanele Schutz-Stephens and Alan Wetherelt as substitutes for the 2022-23 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Hiring Junior High Coaches**

The following coaches need to be hired for the 2022-23 season:

Ben Reilly – JH Head Wrestling  
Camron Reilly – JH Assistant Wrestling

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring the coaches as listed.

George Simmons moved, seconded by David Sorenson to hire the Junior High coaches as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Appointing Volunteer Coaches**

Based on a recommendation from the head coach and letters of interest from the applicants, the following are being recommended as volunteer coaches for the 2022-23 season

Ruby Kallenbach – HS Volleyball  
Steve Pulver – HS Football  
Damian Metcalf – JH Wrestling

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the volunteer coaches as presented for the 2022-23 season.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by George Simmons to approve the volunteer coaches as presented for the 2022-23 season. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Hiring Assistant Speech and Drama Coach**

After conducting an interview, Eleanor Ferrone is being recommended as the Assistant Speech and Drama Coach for the 2022-23 season

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring Eleanor Ferrone as the Assistant Speech and Drama Coach for the 2022-23 season.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve hiring Eleanor Ferrone as the Assistant Speech and Drama Coach for the 2022-23 season. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**District  
Old Business**

**Outlying Trustee Vacancy Update**

The vacant Trustee position is being advertised during the months of September and October with an application deadline of Friday, October 28, 2022. Candidates that apply will be interviewed at a special board meeting on Tuesday, November 1. Provided for informational purposes

**Football Field Water Reel Update**

The football field water reel is up and running. The pump is pumping approximately 35 gallons per minute.

**Consider Hiring MTSBA for Strategic Planning Services**

Information regarding the MTSBA Strategic Planning Services were presented and discussed at the regular September Board meeting. The estimated cost will be between \$5,100.00 and \$6,000.00.

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring MTSBA for Strategic Planning Services

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire MTSBA for Strategic Planning Services. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**New Business  
District**

**Fall Enrollment**

The Business Manager presented the results of the Fall Enrollment Count that was held Monday, October 3, 2022. The enrollment was as follows:

K – 6	149
7 – 8	53
9 – 12	<u>100</u>
Total	302

Presented for informational purposes only.

**Consider Approving Individual Transportation Contract**

A transportation contract for the 2022-23 school year was received from Lilly Schenk. The funds to pay for the transportation contracts come from the state and county transportation reimbursements.

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the requested Individual Transportation Contract.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve the requested Individual Transportation Contract as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving Out of State Travel Request for Honors Band**

Mr. Radue requested permission to travel out state June 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> to Denver CO to attend various clinics at the Wyoming and Colorado Universities. He presented the board with an itinerary and trip expectations. Forsyth would be traveling with other bands from Colstrip, Broadus and St. Labre.

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Out of State Travel for Honors Band.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve the out of state travel for Honors Band. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving Purchase and Replacement of Exterior Doors**

Tabled – waiting for a second estimate

**Consider Approving Policies 2335, 2335F1, and 2335F2 on First Reading**

MTSBA has prepared new Model policies to assist the school district in complying with Section 20-7-120, MCA. Senate Bill 99 was a legislation enacted in 2021 outlining how parents and guardians can review instructional materials related to human sexuality and opt out of instruction or events on human sexuality.

MTSBA also created a Human Sexuality annual notice as well as a Human Sexuality 48-hour notice. The law states if the school is implementing or maintaining a curriculum, providing materials, or holding an event or assembly at which the district provides human sexuality instruction, whether introduced by school educators, administrators, or officials or by guests invited at the request of the school, the school shall provide parental or guardian notification no less than 48 hours prior to holding an event or assembly or introducing materials for instructional use.

The following required MTSBA policies are presented on first reading.

- 2335 Health Enhancement
- 2335F1 Human Sexuality Instruction Annual Notice
- 2335F2 Human Sexuality Instruction 48 Hour Notice

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the policies on first reading

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve policies 2335, 2335F1, and 2335F2 on first reading. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**Consider Approving Amendment to Handbook Procedure**

Mr. Hess requested that the Coaches & Sponsors Handbook be amended by striking the language requiring “at least two months prior to the start of the season for approval” & “prior to the start of the season”. Forsyth Public Schools Coaches’ & Sponsors’ Handbook: Working with the Coaching staff and the school – item K pg. 8.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve the amendment to the Coaches & Sponsors Handbook as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving Change in Admission Prices**

With the increase in official’s fees and keeping consistent with the admission prices of the other schools within our district/division, it was recommended that the admission prices for Forsyth Schools be increased.



	Adult	Student/Senior	Sport
Current Ticket Price:	\$5.00	\$4.00	FB, VB, JHBB
	\$7.00	\$5.00	HSBB and Matador
Proposed Ticket Price:	\$7.00	\$5.00	HSFB, VB, JHBB
	\$10.00	\$7.00	HSBB and Matador

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the increase in admission prices as presented.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve the increase in admission prices as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving Junior High Athletic Schedule**

The 2022-23 JH Athletic schedules were presented for approval. All schedules are subject to change.

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the JH Athletic Schedules for the 2022-23 school year.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve the JH Athletic Schedules for the 2022-23 school year as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Applying for Coal Board Grant**

Mr. Hess presented information to the Board about possibly applying for a Coal Board Grant. After discussion it was decided to possibly apply for other grants for this year to aide in projects such as the tennis court resurfacing.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The meeting will be held in Room 9 of the Middle School Building at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Montgomery  
District Clerk/Business Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Anderson  
Chairman of the Board