

July 11, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on July 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Middle School Building with the following in attendance:

School District #4 & Forsyth High School District

Jennifer Anderson, Chairman	“	“
Doug Roberts, Trustee	“	“
Ethan Bell, Trustee	“	“
Kyle Fulton, Trustee	“	“
Donald John Cameron, Trustee		“

Absent:

David Sorenson, Vice Chair	“	“
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Also Present:

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

Guests present: Jan Banks, Wendy Killebrew, Karen Harms, Karilea Hutchins, Erica Bidwell, and Noah Taylor

Guests present via ZOOM meeting:

Kelsey Bird, Tina Zent, and Amy Fulton

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: none

Consent Agenda

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

1. July bills in the amount of \$347,516.48 including warrants #49145 through #49204
2. Minutes for the: June 6, 2023 Regular Meeting
3. Warrant lists from 06/01/2023 through 06/30/2023 including the following:
 - Claims 49110-49172 \$ 337,791.35*
 - Payroll 313582-313605 \$ 33,916.96
 - [*Includes direct deposit check 49151 \$ 36,841.70]
4. Activity Cash Report

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.

- Finished up scheduling
- Cleaning crew is finished in the Elementary building
- New doors have been installed

7-12 Principal -nothing

Activities Director -

Chris Hess

- Worked with Yellowstone Pharmacy to get Schedule posters and pocket schedules out to the community.
- I was elected as the new South Eastern Football Division President – mostly just entails running division meeting, working with MHSA on division schedules, running all conference meetings, enforcing the division FB constitution as needed.
- Master schedules and athletic calendars were sent to all enrolled District families. Will be changes but hopefully will help parents get planned out for extra curriculums this year.

District Clerk/Business Manager

Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager’s report

- Attended MASBO summer conference in June
- Year-end balancing
- Preparing for the TFS and budget

Superintendent

Chris Hess presented the Superintendent’s report

- Mrs. Seleg and I spent a lot of time working on handbooks and making suggested changes. Have had ongoing meetings with the Sheriff’s department on our Active Shooter protocols. They have conducted walkthroughs and have a scheduled soft drill at the HS on August 2 nd . September 18 th will be our full-on drill – is a PIR day so will only involve some volunteer students. Will over communicate to the community that a drill will be taking place.
- Mrs. Seleg and Mr. Morgenstern and I will attend the School Administrators of Montana conference in Helena July 24th -26th. This year’s theme is how school leaders can cultivate a culture of resilience, build relationships, maintain positive communication, and implement effective collaborative practices. This conference uses focus groups to simulate real school issues as well as nationally renowned educational leaders and speakers.
- I will be attending a school safety summit in Helena August 8th and 9th. The 8th is the date of our regular August meeting so I will have to ZOOM in for that meeting.
- Our Board training has been scheduled for the September board meeting date – 9/12/23 – with School Attorney Jeff Weldon. Training will go from 3-5pm, then a quick dinner, with the board meeting following at 6pm. I will send out reminders.
- The Montana Community Foundation opened a Community Investment Program which is a grant program to support communities in Rosebud, Custer, and Fallon Counties. We were awarded a grant to fund a privacy fence project at the elementary school. Currently, there is only a wire fence to separate the school with residential. The elementary has had numerous incidents of non-personnel interacting or watching our students. This will create clear boundaries as well as provide more protection and privacy for our students and staff.

- The HS weight room has been closed this summer as there was a mix up in some of the equipment sent by BSN. They have sent the new equipment, once received the revamped weight room will be ready for use.
- The school will have a booth in the small pavilion during the fair. Booster club will help work the booth along with Mrs. Seleg, Mr. Morgenstern, and myself. Booster club will be raffling off Dogie Cups and a chair as well as offer some free Dogie items for visiting the Booth. We will be unrolling our new Activities Sponsorship opportunities which will allow for people options to buy sponsorships in the HS gym, MS Gym, and Football field fence. We are working with FM creations in Colstrip to create the banners which will alleviate people having to purchase their own banner for display.
- The elementary main doors have been replaced as well as the East Entrance of the MS. The elementary was still operating with the original doors installed in 1978. The East door to the middle school was not operation and thus was a fire hazard. The east door will eventually be the access point for community and staff use of the MS weight room.

Student - none

Personnel

New Business

Consider Hiring Summer Crew

Staff members are hired to assist with the cleaning, repairs, maintenance, and grounds upkeep throughout the District. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring Amanda Fisher for the summer crew.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to hire Amanda Fisher for the summer crew. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Hiring JH/HS Special Ed Director

It is necessary to have a JH/HS Special Education Director for the district. Dixie Seleg was recommended for the position for the 2023-24 school year.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Dixie Seleg as Special Education Director for the 2023-24 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Extending the Counseling Contract

A two-day extension in the 2023-24 contracts is being recommended for Susan Treible to help with the registration of students at the start of the school year.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to add a two-day extension to the 2023-24 contract of Susan Treible to assist with registration at the start of the school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Hiring Paraprofessional

After the retirement of the JH/HS paraprofessional, Noah Taylor is being recommended to fill the position for the 2023-24 school year.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Noah Taylor as a paraprofessional for the 2023-24 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Hiring Athletic Director

It is the time of year that the Board of Trustees hire the Activities Director for the 2023-24 school year. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees hire Chris Hess as Activities Director for the 2023-24 school year.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Chris Hess as Activities Director for the 2023-24 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Hiring JH Football Coaches

After having met with Chris Hess the following coaches were recommended for the 2023-24 season

JH Football Head Coach – Luke Weber

JH Asst Football Coach - Pete Fritz

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire the coaches as presented. All trustees voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Hiring Custodian

When Keryx Ferrer was recommended for hire in May, the contract was through the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Ferrer was then recommended for hire for the 2023-24 school year.

Donald John Cameron moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Keryx Ferrer as custodian for the 2023-24 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

District

Old Business

Assign Board Committee Positions

A list of Board Committees' assignments were presented at the May board meeting. The trustees reviewed and determined which committees they would like to serve.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve the additions/deletions to the committee assignments. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Uniform Colors and School Logo

Uniform colors and a school logo were discussed at the May and June board meetings. Mr. Hess brought to the meeting uniform color options.

Donald John Cameron moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve the 2020 Dogie logo without the steam as the school logo. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to allow incorporation of grey and black added to the color of the uniforms by the discretion of the AD and committee, but not forsaking the purple and white as the primary school color. Jennifer Anderson, Kyle Fulton and Doug Roberts voted for, Ethan Bell opposed, Donald John Cameron abstained. Motion carried.

Donald John Cameron moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to use the purple color number from the 2020 logo. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Donald John Cameron moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to allow the AD to decide the grey and black color number. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

Consider Teacher Housing Plans

Discussed plans going forward with the Coal Board Grant

Provided for informational purposes

Strategic Planning Update

Community survey received from MTSBA. Will move forward with this

Provided for informational purposes

New Business

Consider Approving Camera System Update

The camera system in the JH/HS building needed to be updated. A quote from Verkada was attached. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Verkada camera system update as presented. The windfarm funds would be used for funding

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to approve the purchase of the Verkada camera system. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Accounting Software Upgrade

The District's accounting software needed updating. The software is currently on the server and it was recommended by the software company to have them host the program. Funding for the upgrade would be from the General fund and Interlocal Fund. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Accounting Software upgrade.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve the accounting software upgrade as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Agriculture Science Curriculum – First Reading

The revised Agriculture Science curriculum was presented. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the revised Agriculture Science curriculum on first reading

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve the Agriculture Science curriculum on first reading. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Business Curriculum – First Reading

The revised Business curriculum was presented. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the revised Business curriculum on first reading.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve the Business curriculum on first reading. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Handbooks

The following 2023-24 handbooks were presented for approval on first reading

- K-6 Student/Parent Handbook
- 7-12 Student/Parent Handbook
- Faculty and Staff Handbook
- Coaches & Sponsors Handbook
- Activities Handbook
- Non-Certified Staff Handbook.

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the handbooks as presented on first reading

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve the handbooks as presented on first reading. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

Consider Approving Out of District Attendance Agreements

A list of Out of District students with attendance agreements wishing to attend Forsyth Schools was presented to the board. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the agreements as presented

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to approve the out of district attendance agreements as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, August 8, 2023. 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 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Montgomery
District Clerk/Business Manager

Jennifer Anderson
Chairman of the Board