

**October 10, 2023
REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on October 10, 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	“	“
David Sorenson, Vice Chair	“	
Doug Roberts, Trustee	“	“
Kyle Fulton, Trustee	“	“
Donald John Cameron, Trustee		“

Absent:

Ethan Bell, Trustee	“	“
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Also Present:

Chris Hess, Superintendent – Via Zoom
 Stacy Montgomery, District Clerk/Business Manager
 Dixie Seleg, K-6 Principal
 Aaron Morgenstern, 7-12 Principal

Guests present: Kelsey Bird, Beth Hall, Mindy Macioroski, and Tina Zent

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: none

Consent Agenda

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

1. October bills in the amount of \$435,014.17 including warrants #49295 through #49354
2. Minutes for the: September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting
3. Warrant lists from 09/01/2023 through 09/30/2023 including the following:
 - Claims 49261 - 49318 \$ 432,792.35*
 - Payroll 313624-313644 \$ 29,652.44
 - [*Includes direct deposit check 49300 \$ 125,045.76]
4. Activity Cash Report
5. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you card - Robert Engle
 - b. Thank you letter – Felt Martin PC

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.

- ❖ The school improvement Teams have set goals for the year
 - Professional Learning
 - Whole school Activities
 - Coordinate with Dogie rewards and HS invitations
 - Student of the Month
 - Chose different traits to recognize and will look for new items for rewards
 - Curriculum
 - P.E. will be updated
 - Cross-grade level and curriculum meetings will be held 4 times a year
 - Will look for workshops/training opportunities to enhance our reading program
 - MTSS
 - Continue to align non-negotiables
 - Continue to assure the information in the RTI Binder is consistent
 - Behavior
 - Encourage staff to bring behavior issues to the MTSS team
 - Continue to find resources to support staff with behavioral issues
 - Leadership
 - Continue to refine Active Shooter protocols
 - New Teacher stations or laptops
 - Teacher stations are targeted for replacement in 2024
 - Explore Steve Covey’s Seven Habits of Effective People
 - Mr. Morgenstern is currently exploring this for the JH/HS
- ❖ Teachers set goals for the year
 - Each teacher met with Mrs. Seleg to discuss their goals and how the year is going so far
 - Student concerns were addressed and plans to address any issues were made
- ❖ Safety
 - BNSF gave a safety presentation to the K-6 students
 - An evacuation drill was held
 - The student body exits the building and walks to the Baptist Church as a reunification location
 - Walk to School Day was observed on Oct. 4
 - SRO Logan Dutton coordinated the event with Rosebud Co. Sheriff and local emergency services
 - After the walk, Deputy Jones, Deputy Dutton and Sheriff Fulton presented on safety topics to the students
- ❖ Donuts for Dads was held on September 27 - was well attended
 - Shout to Jo Fulton for giving up some of her Sunday to ice the donuts
- ❖ Attended a training with Aaron, Chris and Stacy to learn about the new State reporting program

7-12 Principal

Aaron Morgenstern presented the 7-12 Principal's Report

Had a joint PIR active shooter training with Rosebud and the Billings Police Department.

We've volunteered to run the new state-testing model, The Montana Alternative Student Testing or MAST. This is a series of smaller tests rather than one large one to show growth and proficiency over the course of the whole year, rather than in one test.

Looking at implementing an in-school HI-SET program to help provide an alternative course for students who are not on track to graduate with their class, giving them a viable option to graduate on time.

The MTSS committee is hard at work redefining values and goals for the school to help improve attitude, behavior, and school culture. More to come on this topic. Will be rolling out a new positive behavior initiative at the end of the month. Student council to help with this process and project.

Teacher PLC groups are all working on projects designed around creating projects or programs to increase student achievement and legacy within the school. PLC group developed a form to help each group maintain minutes of their meetings and track progress

Activities Director -

Chris Hess

AD Report – JH Fall sports wrapped up last night with a Junior High Football game at Lame Deer. Junior High Volleyball wrapped up this past Friday and Saturday with a 2C tournament at Miles City.

Junior High Boys and Girls Basketball practice starts today with games this weekend. Junior High Wrestling practice will start this coming Monday 10/16. Confirming events this week and will have the schedule out with weekly activities for next week.

I attended the Southern C Divisional Meeting on September 27th in Custer.

The main topic of discussion was the realignment of divisions, so they are the same in VB, BB, and Track. We are currently in the 2C for Volleyball and the 5C for Basketball and Track. This is not uncommon in C. The new divisional proposal would put us in the Southern Division for All 3 VB, BB, and Track. This will be voted on at the MHSa meeting in January.

The HS Volleyball team has its Pink Out night this Thursday. The HS team is currently 5-4 in conference and 12-6 overall with 2 weeks left of the regular season. The 2C District tournament will take place October 26th - 28th in Glendive. 4 teams from the 2C advance to Divisionals in Sidney the following week. 2 of those teams advance to the State Tournament in Bozeman Nov 9 – 11th.

The HS FB team captured the Divisional championship this past weekend with a win over Lodge Grass, which was pink night for the football team. Thanks to Joelle Newman and the booster club for making that a meaningful event.

The team finished the regular season 5-0 in the division and 5-2 overall. Forsyth is the #1 seed of the Southeastern Division and will host the 1st round of the playoffs vs the 4 Seed of the Western Division, which is still to be determined, on October 28th.

District Clerk/Business Manager

Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager's report

- Attended a workshop regarding TEAMS and TOES
- Attended a Veterans Clerk workshop
 - Discussion about the 95-mill issue
 - Tuition fund for next fiscal year

- Quarterly Reports finished
- Budgets are set and uploaded into financial software
- Financial System up and running in the cloud

Superintendent-

Chris Hess presented the Superintendent's report

I am happy to report that I received my full superintendent endorsement this past week. I am no longer on my internship license, so nice to have that wrapped up.

This past month I completed our Egrants application for OPI. This is all of our Title funds.

On September 29th the admin team and Mrs. Montgomery attended AIM training in Hardin. OPI has moved its accreditation and terms of employment reporting system over to Infinite Campus. In addition, a new accreditation rubric will be used to score schools moving forward.

On September 18th, the Billings SWAT team provided professional development for our staff, along with Rosebud School's staff. They focused on active shooter response strategies, first aid, and lockdown methods. They were excellent to work with and provided this service free of charge.

In the afternoon of the 18th, the Rosebud County Sheriff's Department held a full-scale active shooter drill led by Josh Jonas. Josh has been working on this plan for a year's time and did an outstanding job organizing a running a realistic drill. We had around 20 students and teacher volunteers who role-played as victims. The drill included 3 separate scenarios all happening at the same time, so the sheriff's department and emergency response team were able to simulate different situations.

On September 20th – Rusty Hagadone and the BNSF railway presented Operation Lifesaver to both our Elem and HS buildings. An informative presentation for our students about the safety around our railroad tracks and crossings.

Student - none

Personnel

Old Business - none

New Business

Consider Hiring Kitchen Substitute

It is necessary to hire substitutes for certified and non-certified positions. It was recommended that The Board of Trustees approve the hiring of Dave Hutchinson as a substitute for the 23-24 school year.

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to hire Dave Hutchinson as a substitute for the 23-24 school year, subject to the results of a background check. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Hiring Zero Hour Weight Trainings/Sports Performance Teacher

A zero hour weight training/sports performance course (Early Bird Weight Lifting) was previously offered to high school students. The course is being offered again during the 2023-24 school year and Chris Hess was recommended to be the teacher of this course.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by David Sorenson to hire Chris Hess as the Zero-Hour Weight Training/Sports Performance course. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried

Consider Hiring Cheerleading Coach

After completing her 2022-23 season, Morgan Hubbard needs to be hired as the HS Cheerleading coach for the 2023-24 season. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring Morgan Hubbard as High School Cheerleading Coach for the 2023-24 season.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to hire Morgan Hubbard as High School Cheerleading Coach for the 2023-24 season. Four trustees present voted in favor. Jennifer Anderson abstained. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Volunteer Coaches

Based on a recommendation from the head coach the following were being recommended as volunteer coaches for the 2023-24 season:

HS Cheerleading – Sydney Mohr
JH Basketball – Pat Nelson

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to appoint Sydney Mohr and Pat Nelson as volunteer coaches for the 2023-24 season. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried

Consider Approving Speech and Drama Chaperones

The Speech and Drama team, having two female coaches, needed a male chaperone when attending overnight trips. Pat Zent and Dylan Plympton were recommended as chaperones for the overnight trips for the 2023-24 season.

Donald John Cameron moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to appoint Pat Zent and Dylan Plympton as Speech and Drama chaperones for the 2023-24 season. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried.

District

Old Business

Strategic Planning Update

Now that the Parent/Community surveys have been completed, we are now in the process of collecting survey data from the Forsyth District Staff and Students. On Oct 3rd there was a strategic planning meeting in which the Student and Staff surveys were created. Mrs. Killebrew has created the surveys and both building principals will decide on the time and process for these surveys to be completed. Once completed, data will be shared back with MTSBA and then a new meeting date can be set.

Presented for informational purposes.

Consider Approving Teacher Housing Option

On September 14th, Board Chair Anderson and Mr. Hess attended the Montana Coal Board meeting in Billings to present the proposal for a teacher housing grant. Our application was denied, even though we had the full support of the Montana Department of Commerce.

One option that was discussed in previous meetings is the possibility of taking out an Intercap Loan. An Intercap loan would require taxpayers' approval. Payments would come out of the general fund. The loan term can go up to 15 years. Variable rate – right now is 5.75 – changes every February.

Mr. Hess recommended not applying for an Intercap loan at this time. Mr. Hess will continue to look for funding opportunities. Julie Emmons of SEMDC is going to start help look for funding opportunities as well, she is currently busy working with Hysham on their water issues but will shift focus to us once she is done.

New Business

Fall Enrollment

The Business Manager presented the results of the Fall Enrollment Count that was held Monday, October 2, 2023. The enrollment was as follows:

K – 6	143
7 – 8	44
9 – 12	<u>100</u>
Total	287

Presented for informational purposes only.

MCEL 2023

Information regarding MCEL 2023 was provided to the Board of Trustees. Board was informed to contact the Admin Office if they were interested in attending.

Presented for informational purposes.

Consider Re-naming and Approving Auditorium Project

Booster Club proposed a fundraiser to update the HS Auditorium. In addition, they requested the auditorium be officially named “Dwayne Albertson Auditorium”.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to officially name the HS Auditorium the “Dwayne Albertson Auditorium”. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Technology Coordinator Salary

After the retirement of Steffani Grogan, the technology coordinator position is being shared between Tina Zent and Mindy Macioroski. We were looking to determine the non-school hourly rate for these tech positions when non-school hours are required. A rate of 34.76 an hour was recommended to the Board of Trustees as the non-school hour rate of pay.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to approve the non-school hour rate of pay for the Technology Coordinator to be \$34.76. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Board of Trustees agreed to revisit this item.

Consider Approving Handbook Knife Policy Change

Mr. Hess presented new language for the handbook under the Weapon-Free School. The following changes were presented:

Students will not carry weapons or any item that resembles or can be construed to be a weapon, at any time while on school grounds or in the school building. The possession, carrying or storing of a weapon in a school building is a criminal offense and shall be referred to law enforcement for immediate prosecution, as well as face disciplinary action by the District. ~~Carrying a basic pocket knife with a folding blade no longer than 2 inches long by ¾ inch wide is not considered a weapon in the state of Montana unless the student wields it in a threatening manner.~~

Addition: Pocket knives will no longer be allowed on campus. Students using or possessing a pocketknife in a non-threatening manner with a blade not longer than 2 inches long by ¾ inches wide will have the pocketknife confiscated and returned to the parent upon request. Students using a pocketknife in a threatening manner will be subject to a criminal investigation and Forsyth Schools’ Discipline procedures.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to approve the language as presented. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Consider Approving MTSBA Policies – First Reading

The following required MTSBA policies were presented on first reading

1005FE, 1006FE, 1007FE, 1009FE, 1010FE, 1110, 1400, 1650, 1700, 2050, 2132, 2140, 2158, 2167, 2168, 2170/2170P, 2332, 2450, 2600, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3121/3121P, 3141, 3150, 3226, 3233, 3235, 3310, 3413, 3510, 3550, 4410, and 8301.

Mr. Hess handed out a summary of the changes being made for the Board of Trustees to review. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the policy changes on first reading.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve the policy changes as presented on first reading. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Purchase and Replacement of High School Main Entrance Doors

The High School main entrance doors need replacement. A quote was received from Dale and Jax at a cost of \$49,960.00. It was recommended to the Board of Trustees to accept the quote and approve the HS door replacement.

Donald John Cameron moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to replace the HS main entrance doors at the cost of \$49,960.00. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, November 7, 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 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Montgomery
District Clerk/Business Manager

Jennifer Anderson
Chairman of the Board