

December 12, 2023
REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on December 12, 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	“	
Kyle Fulton, Trustee	“	“
Donald John Cameron, Trustee		“
Ethan Bell, Trustee	“	“
Absent		
Doug Roberts, Trustee	“	“

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: Chad Potts, Jan Banks, Cort Fraker, Bree McCaffree, Olivia Cookman, and Samantha Cookman

Guests present via ZOOM meeting:
Wendy Killebrew and Kelsey Bird

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

Public Participation: FFA handed out cookies and a summary of the National FFA Leadership Convention

Revise/Review Agenda: none

Consent Agenda

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

1. December bills in the amount of \$414,111.20 including warrants #49395 through #49451
2. Minutes for the: November 7, 2023 Regular Meeting
3. Warrant lists from 11/01/2023 through 11/30/2023 including the following:
 - Claims 49369 - 49411 \$ 387,496.67*
 - Payroll 313658 - 313670 \$ 21,241.28
 - [*Includes direct deposit check 49300 \$ 131,926.36]
4. Activity Cash Report
5. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you letter
 - b. Thank you card
 - c. Thank you card

d. Keryx Ferrer Resignation - Custodian

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.

- Parent/teacher conferences
 - 98% attendance
- Community Service Project
 - Held the Cat/Griz food drive
 - 825 items were donated to the Samaritan’s Pantry
 - Super Fans
 - Mrs. Engle and Mrs. Grogan
- Huntley Lions Club
 - Vision check
 - Donated service
 - Referrals are sent to parents
 - Know of one student that got glasses due to the referral
 - She expressed a noted difference in her vision
- Student of the Month was held on November 29
 - Character traits of being a listener and being personable were highlighted
 - Mr. Hess was the guest speaker
- Native American assembly was held
 - Supaman
 - Very engaging and a good message for the students
- Safety
 - Clear the playground drill was held
 - Developed this drill due to an injury that led to emergency personnel coming on to the playground
 - Mrs. Knoche and her students completed the door draft blockers for the elementary classrooms
 - These were made to use in the instance of a train derailment and subsequent lockdown in the classrooms
 - Trauma kits were purchased
 - Kits are available at each recess door
 - Staff were asked to look through the kits and familiarize themselves with the contents
- Upcoming events
 - Elementary Christmas program is Thursday, December 14
 - Swim Day - Dec. 20
 - Student of the Month - Dec. 21
- Evaluations
 - 3 have been completed
 - 2 more will be completed before Christmas break

7-12 Principal

Aaron Morgenstern presented the 7-12 Principal's Report

JH/45

HS/100

Total/145

Put out new PBIS rewards system into effect

New banners have been installed

We hosted the District 10 Band and Choir music festival

Mrs. Knoche and the FCCLA put on the HEE-HAW show which went very well.

I have completed all non-tenured teachers first reviews, second review and the tenured teachers will be reviewed in the Spring

We had Supaman come and perform for the JH and HS students, the performance and presentation were very well received.

We are showing an movie, and having a v-ball and lip-sync contest on the last day of school before we get out for Christmas break.

Activities Director -

Chris Hess

High School Basketball and HS Wrestling and HS Cheerleading are in full swing.

HS Boys BB – has 18 participants.

HS Girls BB – has 13 participants

HS Cheerleading – has 17 participants out. We are traveling 8 varsity cheerleaders to most regular season events and it has been a positive addition thus far.

HS Wrestling has 7 participants out.

Speech and Drama – hosted a home event this past Saturday – Coach Zent did an outstanding job organizing and running the event and our participants continue to score very well.

On November 20th I attended the MHSAA executive board meeting to speak on behalf of the 8-man football committee. The MHSAA board approved realigning 8-man football divisions from 5 divisions to 4 divisions starting in the 2024 season. The new division places us in the east for 8-man football. It is a 10-team division so will have a 9-game regular season.

The MHSAA annual meeting is coming up – I will present the MHSAA proposals at the January Board Meeting. This year, the MHSAA annual meeting is on January 15th and 16th in Bozeman.

District Clerk/Business Manager

Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager's report

- Attended a Facilities and Bond Elections webinar
- Verification report sent to School Nutrition
- Working with Kristi Smith on receiving Category 2 funds to cover portion of the cost of the new firewall
- Preparing for year-end reporting for W-2, 1099, 1095, etc.

Superintendent-

Chris Hess presented the Superintendent's report

Reader Board – As I previously mentioned, Shelly Schnitzmeier of Rosebud County Public Health has secured a grant to help purchase a digital reader board for the school. We are still waiting for the approved amount of funding. I met with Dave Picchioni at the IGA as a possible location for the reader board. Once we have more

information about what size the reader board will be I will meet with him again to see if we can make it work at that location.

Law Conference – On November 17th I attended the Kaleva Law Office School Law Workshop in Livingston. She covered topics ranging from public employment laws to special education laws and regulations.

FAFSA Night – On December 11th, School Counselor Mrs. Treible held a FAFSA information night at the HS library. She prepared a presentation to help parents fill out the FAFSA form and deadlines. She will also present the information to the senior class.

Elementary Traffic Safety – Principal Seleg had identified the safety issue of speeding traffic at the Elem school. The Sheriff's department has been consistently monitoring the area and issuing speeding tickets as well as placing the radar monitor at the Elementary. A big thanks to our SRO Logan Dutton and the department for their continued support to help keep our schools safe.

Elementary Student of the Month – I had the privilege to speak at the Elementary's Student of the Month assembly on November 29th. I cannot applaud the administration, staff, and teachers enough for the culture they have built and continue to grow at the elementary. The traits were listening and being personable and those are traits I see displayed consistently every time I visit that building.

Supaman- On December 5th – The HS and Elem students and staff attended a Native American assembly. Was an outstanding presentation and applaud Mr. Morgenstern and Mrs. Trieble for bringing him in. Our students did an outstanding job being respectful and engaging throughout the assembly.

Student - none

Personnel

Old Business - none

New Business

Consider Hiring Substitute

It is necessary to hire substitutes for certified and non-certified position. Marion Jackman is being recommended as a substitute for the district.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to hire Marion Jackman substitute for the 2023-24 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. 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 Girls Basketball – Dennis Johnson
Roxy Wilson

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to appoint Dennis Johnson and Roxy Wilson as volunteer coaches for the 2023-24 season. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried

District

Old Business

Strategic Planning Update

Next meeting is scheduled for January 17th. Mr. Hess will contact MTSBA for the executive summary of the survey, a plan of action, and the facilitation of the meeting.

Presented for informational purposes.

Consider Approving Obsolete Equipment

This will be placed on the January agenda as the newspaper did not run the article.

Superintendent Evaluation

Chairman, Jennifer Anderson reminded the Board that the evaluations are due to her by Tuesday, December 12th, 2023. A compiled review of the evaluations will be presented to the Superintendent at the regular January 2024 meeting.

New Business

Consider Approving MTSBA Required Policies – First and Final reading

According to Policy 1310 – “New or revised policies that are required or have required language changes based on State or Federal law, or are required changes by administrative rule, may be adopted after the 1st reading if sufficient notice has been given”

The following policies were present on first and final readings:

1400, 1420, 1511, 1610, 2151F, 2320, 3141, 3305, 3310P, 3410, 3410F, 3413F2, 3431, 3600F1, 3600F2, 3600P, 5121, 5223, 5330, 7320, 8110, 8125, 8132, and 8210

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to approve the policies as presented on first and final reading. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried

Consider Approving MTSBA Model Policies with Recommended Updates – First Reading

The following policies with recommended updates were presented for first reading:

1240, 1520, 3310P2, and 5231

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to approve the presented policies on first reading. All trustees voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Purchase of HVAC System in Elementary Kitchen

Chad Potts from Ohana Heating and Cooling presented a quote for \$16968.18 for the HVAC system in the kitchen.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to purchase the HVAC system for the elementary kitchen. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024. 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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Montgomery
District Clerk/Business Manager

Jennifer Anderson
Chairman of the Board