

**January 9, 2024
REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on January 9, 2024, 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

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| Jennifer Anderson, Chairman | “ | “ |
| David Sorenson, Vice Chair | “ | “ |
| Doug Roberts, Trustee | “ | “ |
| Kyle Fulton, Trustee | “ | “ |
| Ethan Bell, Trustee | “ | “ |

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|------------------------------|--|---|
| Absent | | |
| Donald John Cameron, 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: Matt Radue

Guests present via ZOOM meeting:
Jayme Nelson and Jan Banks

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

Public Participation: Matt Radue visited with the Board about the band trip that was taken last summer to Denver. Showed some pictures and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Revise/Review Agenda: Remove item VIII, 2, d – Consider MHSA Proposals and votes

Consent Agenda

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

1. January bills in the amount of \$349,207.85 including warrants #49452 through #49491
2. Minutes for the: December 12, 2023 Regular Meeting
3. Warrant lists from 12/01/2023 through 12/31/2023 including the following:
 - Claims 49412-49462 \$ 360,574.04*
 - Payroll 313672 - 313679 \$ 11,307.79
 - [*Includes direct deposit check 49454 \$ 128,307.91]
4. Activity Cash Report
5. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you card

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.

★ December events

- Elementary Christmas program
 - Well attended
 - Students did an outstanding job
 - Huge “Thank you” to Mrs. Hall for all her time and commitment to making the program a success
- 3rd grade students presented Passion project to parents
- Swim day was held for all students
 - Thank you to Jason Forberg for working with the staff and scheduling this event
- Christmas Around the World was held for K-3
 - Thank you to Deputy Dutton for participating in the event
- Student of the Month was held
 - Thank you to Pastor Bill Sikes for being our community guest
 - His message and stories associated with being kind were truly heard by the students

★ January

- Busy month for IEPs and Special Education Evaluations
- Kindergarten held an ABC Fashion Show and invited parents to come

★ Safety

- Clear the room drill was held in December
- Window/door decals for numbering and lettering have been completed by Mrs. Knoche

7-12 Principal

Aaron Morgenstern presented the 7-12 Principal’s Report

Enrollment

JH/46

HS/99

Total/144

Had a busy month with lots of activities happening in the school. Multiple groups within the HS had presentations based on Christmas Themes. Each class decorated their hallways for the holidays with the 11th Grade class winning the contest. The HS and JH music ensembles had their Christmas music concert on December 20th and all of the students performed very well.

The last day before Christmas we had a fun day at the school. Half of our students went and watched ELF at the movie theatre the other half participated in a Volleyball tournament. After lunch, we hosted a lip-synch battle and had several student groups participate in that. Overall the day ran smoothly.

We finished the first semester of the school year this week with a modified schedule on Thursday and Friday to accommodate semester testing. This week we setting up students for the second semester, some class changes as we go into the third quarter

Activities Director -

Chris Hess

-MHSA Annual Meeting – I decided not to travel to Bozeman for the annual MHSA meeting this past weekend. The admin team decided we were going to go over the data from our Strategic planning surveys with all our staff members during the afternoon of our PIR day. I didn't want to miss that, and along with the bad weather, I decided to stay back. I will update you on how the proposals were voted on when I get the results.

-Wrestling – They are starting their final stretch before the postseason. They have two weekends left, loaded with tournaments before the divisional tournament over the 2nd and 3rd at Wolf Point.

State will be at the Billings Metra the following weekend, Feb 9th and 10th.

We had a very successful Matador Mixer this past Thursday. It was not nearly the same size as the previous two-day event, but it was still a good event. Most importantly, our fans got to watch our wrestlers compete, and our Seniors got to have a senior night.

-Speech and Drama – Speech and Drama travels to Culbertson for Divisionals this Friday and Choteau next weekend for State.

District Clerk/Business Manager

Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager's report

- Attended an Elections Workshop to get info regarding any legislative changes for the upcoming elections
- Finished Quarterly tax reports, W-2's, 1099's, payroll updates for new year
- Education tax credit flyer
- Trustee candidate position openings for next year

Superintendent-

Chris Hess presented the Superintendent's report

-Safety Inspections – On December 14th, Brian Walsh of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry conducted a safety compliance inspection.

A few simple items were needed in the HS Shop. Reducers were attached to a compressed air nozzle that was missing. Worm drive hose clamps were replaced with crimped clamps.

A tongue guard was adjusted to specification.

A barrier guard was ordered for an older drill press. It is unplugged and has been marked for no use until the guard is installed.

A worn extension cord was thrown away.

In the HS boiler room, we had to mark off a security tape and warning over two pumps in that room.

On 1/9/24 – Kevin Smith of Marsh McLenna did a safety walkthrough for our school insurance. We had one outdated AED pad and two first aid kits with outdated supplies. Other than that, we were in good shape. They were very pleased with our safety updates in the last year, which includes:

-Safety/Privacy fence around the Elementary playground

-New Camera system in HS and partial in Elem

-New Main door in Elem

-Plans to secure the Elem Kitchen by installing an AC unit

-New HS Doors to be installed when parts are received – should be in the next month

-Teacher Housing – On 1/5/24, I met with Jim Atkinson and Julie Emmons of SEMDC to explore the possibility of reapplying for a coal board grant to fund our teacher housing project. Some new strategies were discussed, such as polling how many rural districts in Montana have teacher housing available. I have posted a

forum on MTSBA to gather this info. We will also discuss that the Coal Board has funded housing projects before, most recently four years ago in Lane Deer.

-Tennis Courts – I have been trying to figure out a way to fund the tennis court project. I met with Charlee Prince of Prince Construction about the possibility of them helping the district with the project. John Prince and I will meet in the near future and continue the discussion.

-PIR Day – The Forsyth staff participated in a professional development day on Monday the 15th. Jennifer Anderson (Board Chair and MSU Extension Agent) facilitated a real colors personality instrument and temperament tool in the morning session. In the afternoon session, Jennifer Anderson led a Strategic planning discussion with the staff to review the executive summaries from our strategic surveys.

-Anthem – During this last home event, we had a bit of an issue with the presentation of our national anthem. We had a group of students perform the anthem, but on our end, we did not check if they were prepared to sing in front of the audience. Several students laughed during the anthem, which I do not believe was out of disrespect but instead was nervousness. However, this was offensive to many people, and the students issued a public apology over Facebook.

Student - none

Personnel

Old Business - none

New Business - none

District

Old Business

Strategic Planning Update

Next meeting is scheduled for January 17th. Andy Sever will be facilitating the meeting.

Presented for informational purposes.

Consider Approving Obsolete Equipment

At the regular November Board Meeting, the Board took action to call for a hearing on the disposition of various equipment. The appropriate legal ad was published in the local paper.

Property for disposal included

Polaris 4-Wheeler, Nordic Track Cross Country Ski Machine, RCA Stereo, 4 speakers, Bench Press x2, NordiFlex Weight Machine, Sport Craft Treadmill, Wesco Treadmill, Decline Bench x2, Preacher Bars x2, Straight Bars (not regulation) x6, DB Bars x2, Bongo Board x2, Leg Sled

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees ask for public input and adopt a resolution declaring that the pieces of equipment are of no use to the district and that they will be disposed of.

Upon no public input, Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to declare the stated items as obsolete and allow the disposal of items. All trustees voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving MTSBA Model Policies with Recommended Updates – Second and Final Reading

The following policies were presented for first reading at the regular December board meeting and are being presented for second and final reading:

1240, 1520, 3310P2, and 5231

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to approve the presented policies on second and final reading. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

Superintendent Evaluation

Chairman, Jennifer Anderson moved the meeting into executive session at 6:48 p.m. Meeting was reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

New Business

Consider Superintendent Contract Renewal

After completing the Superintendent's evaluation, the Board of Trustees offered the following contract:

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to offer an additional 2 years and to place the Mr. Hess's salary on the Principal's matrix. All trustees present voted in favor. Motion carried

Consider Approving the Blue Cross Blue Shield Wellness Credit

The insurance committee met to establish guidelines regarding the \$40,000 Wellness Credit that was offered to the District from Blue Cross Blue Shield. It was recommended that the form and guidelines be approved by Board of Trustees.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve the guidelines for the Wellness Credit as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Activating Calendar Committee

It is time to activate the Calendar Committee to develop the calendar for the 2024-25 school year.

The committee will consist of 3 members appointed by the Board and 3 members appointed by the FEA.

The committee will meet to develop potential calendars and bring a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for the March meeting.

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to appoint Chris Hess, Dixie Seleg, and Aaron Morgenstern to be on the Calendar committee. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider approving Hiring Process for Vacant Teaching Position

There are currently 2 open teaching positions in the district. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve Chris Hess, Aaron Morgenstern and Dixie Seleg to conduct interviews.

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve Chris Hess, Aaron Morgenstern and Dixie Seleg to begin conducting interviews. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Changes to Tardy Policy - Handbook – First Reading

Changes to the tardy policy were presented by Aaron Morgenstern. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the changes as presented on first reading.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve the changes to the Tardy Policy as presented on first reading. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Approving Attendance Agreements (Non-Forsyth District Students)

Attendance agreements of 4 students wishing to attend Forsyth Schools were presented to the board. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the agreements as presented

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton, to approve the out of district attendance agreement as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, 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 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Montgomery
District Clerk/Business Manager

Jennifer Anderson
Chairman of the Board