

**February 6, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on February 6, 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

Jennifer Anderson, Chairman	“	“
David Sorenson, Vice Chair	“	“
Doug Roberts, Trustee	“	“
Kyle Fulton, Trustee	“	“
Ethan Bell, Trustee	“	“
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: Wendy Killebrew and Beth Hall

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:** none

**Revise/Review Agenda:** none

**Consent Agenda**

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by David Sorenson, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

1. February bills in the amount of \$371,527.06 including warrants #49492 through #49533
2. Minutes for the: January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting  
January 30, 2024 Special Meeting
3. Warrant lists from 01/01/2024 through 01/31/2024 including the following:
 

-Claims	49463-49501	\$ 362,691.83*
-Payroll	313680 - 313697	\$ 25,402.77
[*Includes direct deposit check 49454 \$ 128,913.21]		
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.**

- Beef to School Program
  - Received a donation of 200# of burger from Billy and Sheena Schiffer
- 2nd quarter Academic Awards data
  - High Honors = 24% of the students received all A’s
  - Honors = 39% of the students received A’s and B’s
    - Total = 63% of our students receiving A’s and B’s
  - HAY - High Achieving Youth = 46% of the students improved or maintained their grades
- Kindergarten held their ABC fashion show
  - Parents were invited in to watch the show and read with their children
- Special Education - all semester progress reports were completed and sent to parents
  - Completed a mid-year review of all special education files and sent teachers emails for making corrections or updates
  - At this point in the year, we have held approximately 50 special education meetings which I have attended to assure compliance
- Student of the Month assembly was held on January 31
  - Our character trait was “good sport”
  - High school students participating in winter sports were invited to talk to the students about being a “good sport” in their activity
  - The students addressed the elementary students with poise and maturity. They made real life connections with how their actions of good sportsmanship lead to positive outcomes in their lives.

### **7-12 Principal**

#### **Aaron Morgenstern presented the 7-12 Principal’s Report**

JH/45

HS/99

Total/144

I attended the SAM principal convention in Butte. Got to do some good networking and listened to several really good keynote speakers who spoke on subjects ranging from human-compatible learning environments to self-care, to easy ways to build school improvement through clear vision statements.

We’ve begun the process of developing next year’s schedule so that students can enroll for classes for next fall before the end of the year.

Getting geared up for state testing sessions as well as the ACT and P-ACT tests.

We had a pep rally for our Speech & Drama, and wrestling teams. Next week we’ll be having a pep-rally for our basketball teams before tournaments start.

**Activities Director -**

**Chris Hess**

Speech and Drama-

Divisional – took 3<sup>rd</sup> as a team.

STATE – At the State competition, Evan Weber, Jacob Fay, and Ryleigh Seleg all advanced to the Semi-Finals. Jacob and Ryleigh moved on to the final round, and both placed in their events!

Ryleigh placed 5th in Humorous Interpretation

Jacob placed 6th in Humorous Solo

HS Basketball – Both teams are currently sitting 4<sup>th</sup> in the conference. Districts are coming up in Lockwood next week – 3 teams qualify for Divisionals in Miles City from Feb 29<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

HS Wrestling -

Divisional - This weekend, the Dogie Wrestlers traveled to Wolf Point for the Eastern B/C Tournament We had seven wrestlers competing, with six qualifying for State!!!!

103 lb Landon Maciorski 9th place

113 lb Trey Starcher 2nd place

113 lb Ryan Wiggins 3rd place

120 lb Creighton Teeters 5th place

132 lb Payne Reilly 2nd place

182 lb Rylee Wiggins 6th

HWT Gabe Vasquez's injury defaulted his first match, and he was unable to finish the tournament.

State is this Friday and Saturday at the Billings Metra.

Spring Sports – I am working on schedules now and will have spring schedules for you in the next few weeks.

**District Clerk/Business Manager**

**Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager's report**

- Spring count was completed and submitted
- Mail ballot plans have been submitted to and approved by Secretary of State
- ACA reporting completed and submitted to IRS
- Received \$2000.00 tax education credit donation – money will be used for children with disabilities and technology

**Superintendent-**

**Chris Hess presented the Superintendent's report**

Teacher Housing – I met with Julie Emmons and Jim Atkinson again over Zoom to discuss the project. They believe, and I agree, that if we are going to convince the coal board to give us the grant, we need to find some additional funding. At this point, I don't have a source for additional funding. I would like to get through strategic planning before we revisit this item.

Admin meetings/Staffing – Mrs. Seleg, Mr. Morgenstern, and I have been working on staffing organizations for the coming year. Right now, we are looking at our in-house assignments. Once that is done, we will know what staffing is needed and can start advertising for those positions. I will go into more depth during the agenda item.

Accreditation- Our Accreditation plan is Due March 29<sup>th</sup>. OPI is implementing a new process this year, and as I've mentioned before, part of accreditation is strategic planning, so we are in a good position to complete our accreditation plan easily. The basic requirements for the accreditation plan are a comprehensive needs

assessment (this was accomplished by the surveying we completed), an Integrated Strategic Action Plan (2-3 goals set from the survey data), a process to create a graduate profile (we are assembling a working group to complete this) and our future plans to incorporate family and community engagement, professional development, and academic programming as related to cultural heritages of American Indians.

## **Student**

### **Consider Student Expulsion**

Executive Session – 6:20 pm. Reconvened at 6:41 pm.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by David Sorenson to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel Student #1. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

## **Personnel**

### **Old Business - none**

### **New Business**

#### **Consider Approving Substitute Teacher**

It is necessary to hire substitutes for certified and non-certified positions. Austin Brewer was recommended as a substitute for the district.

David Sorenson moved seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Austin Brewer as a substitute teacher for the district. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

#### **Consider Hiring JH Assistant Track Coach**

After having met with Chris Hess, Rachel Santos is being recommended as a JH Assistant Track Coach for the 2023-24 season

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to hire Rachel Santos as JH Assistant Track Coach for the 2023-24 season. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

## **District**

### **Old Business**

#### **Strategic Planning Update**

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, a Strategic planning meeting was held at the Elementary Cafeteria. We had 21 attendees. The goal of the meeting was to brainstorm the district's core purpose and core values. Forsyth teachers met on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and went through the same process to share the results with MTSBA.

Our next meeting will take place on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.

Presented for informational purposes.

#### **MHSA Proposals and Votes - update**

There was a discussion on homeschool eligibility. The right for homeschooled students to participate in Activities in the District they live in was passed 3 years ago by MHSA due to pressure from state legislation. Schools do not have a choice whether they allow homeschool participation or not. Homeschool students must

register with the county superintendent and have their grades verified by the school they are competing at. New MHSAs rules now allow homeschool students to transfer to other schools outside of their district and serve the same penalty as non-homeschool students by sitting ½ of the school days of the district they are transferring to.

Proposal 1: The MHSAs eligibility by-laws were amended to allow homeschool/non-public students to transfer to school districts with multiple schools. The MHSAs transfer rule will apply.

Proposal 2: MHSAs Eligibility By-Laws were amended to allow an exception to the bricks and mortar rule. This exception will allow a school district-approved personalized learning program as an exception to the required twenty hours per week and regular attendance of ten hours per week at the school where the student participates. This exception requires that the student enrolled in and completing the personalized learning program must participate in the district in which they are enrolled.

Proposal 3: MHSAs General Penalty by-laws were amended to allow the MHSAs Executive Board to assess a higher fine for member schools violating the MHSAs postseason streaming policy.

Proposal 4: MHSAs administration by-laws were amended to add an American Indian executive board member. This board member will be elected as an American Indian superintendent, high school principal, or high school activities director from an American Indian member school. The election for this position will occur at the MHSAs annual meeting in 2025, and the first term will begin in the 2025-26 school year.

Proposal 5: MHSAs Eligibility by-laws were amended to allow participation eligibility for students attending a state-approved Charter school approved by the Montana Board of Public Education. Charter School students must participate in the district in which the student's family resides.

Proposal 6: MHSAs General Rules and Regulations for adding a new sport or activity were amended. New sports or activities will be added as emerging sports/activities in the future. Must have at least ten member schools, or 25% of the schools in a classification participating in the sport/activity, and/or written indication from schools willing to offer the sport/activity on a provisional basis.

Proposal 7: MHSAs Executive Board by-laws were amended to state that rules and regulation changes, appeals, or any other requests for action at a board meeting must be submitted in writing to the executive director seven days prior to a scheduled executive board meeting.

Proposal 8: The MHSAs Executive Board by-laws for expedited hearings were amended. The appellant will be assessed a fee for these hearings in the future.

Presented for informational purposes.

### **Board of Trustees School Walk Through**

It is a requirement of Montana Law to provide the opportunity for Trustees to tour the buildings and grounds. A Trustee School Walk Through is set for Thursday, February 8 at 1:00 pm starting at the Elementary school.

Presented for informational purposes.

**New Business**  
**Spring Enrollment**

The Spring Enrollment count date was Monday February 5, 2024. Listed are the numbers submitted to OPI.

Elementary K6 - 145  
Junior High 7-8 - 45  
High School 9-12 - 99

Presented for informational purposes.

**Staffing Update**

Mr. Hess reported to the Board that there are currently 2 positions open.

Elementary  
JH/HS Special Education

These positions will continue to be posted and open until filled.

**Consider approving Classified Salary Matrix**

Given the certified staff has ratified a contract with an approximate 2.5% increase for the 2024-25 fiscal year, it would be reasonable to recommend an increase for the classified base pay as well.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to approve a 2.5% increase to the base on the Classified Matrix. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Adopting Trustee and Levy Elections**

The date for the general school election is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. This year, that date will be May 7, 2024. The trustee positions up for election this year are those held by Doug Roberts for a three-year term, and Donald John Cameron from Ingomar, MT representing the High School District only for a three-year term. It may be necessary to run a mill levy election in both the Elementary and High School Districts. The preliminary data sheets are not expected until March 1, therefore, the amount of the voted levies and mills required is not known at this time.

The following actions were taken by the trustees:

**RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR ELEMENTARY GENERAL FUND ELECTION  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, ROSEBUD COUNTY**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, a School Election is called.

Trustee Kyle Fulton introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

WHEREAS, this school board has determined that an election of the registered electors for School District No. 4 will be done by a mail ballot only for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board of Trustees of School District No. 4, shall be authorized to make the following additional levy for the purpose:

Of providing funds to support the General Fund for the proper maintenance and operation of the school programs for the 2024-2025 school year beginning July 1, 2024.

The following voting location will be used for the election. Ballots may be deposited at this location only until 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

**Voting Location and Address:** Forsyth Public Schools Administration office,  
425 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Forsyth, MT 59327

The following electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are appointed to act as judges at the election.

Name	Address
Lanell Kaup	Box 912; Forsyth, MT
Pat Brunner	Box 612; Forsyth, MT
Kay Davis Berdahl	Box 182, Forsyth, MT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify said election judges of their appointment not less than 30 days before the election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this school district is hereby directed to prepare ballots to be used in the election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify the Rosebud County Clerk & Recorder of this election, the date of holding said election, and request her to close registration, and prepare poll books.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required; the Board of Trustees authorizes the Clerk of this school district to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, MCA.

Trustee Ethan Bell seconded the motion for the adoption of the resolution. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR ELEMENTARY BUILDING RESERVE ELECTION  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, ROSEBUD COUNTY**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, a School Election is called.

Trustee Kyle Fulton introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

WHEREAS, this school board has determined that an election of the registered electors for School District No. 4 will be done by a mail ballot only for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board of Trustees of School District No. 4, shall be authorized to make the following additional levy for the purpose:

Of providing funds to support the Building Reserve Fund for school and student safety for the 2024-2025 school year beginning July 1, 2024.

The following voting location will be used for the election. Ballots may be deposited at this location only until 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

**Voting Location and Address:** Forsyth Public Schools Administration office,  
425 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Forsyth, MT 59327

The following electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are appointed to act as judges at the election.

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Pat Brunner	Box 612; Forsyth, MT
Kay Davis Berdahl	Box 182, Forsyth, MT

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required; the Board of Trustees authorizes the Clerk of this school district to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, MCA.

Trustee Ethan Bell seconded the motion for the adoption of the resolution. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried



**RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL FUND ELECTION  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, ROSEBUD COUNTY**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that on Tuesday May 7, 2024, a School Election is called.

Trustee Donald John Cameron introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

WHEREAS, this school board has determined that an election of the registered electors for Forsyth High School District No. 4 will be done by a mail ballot only for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board of Trustees of Forsyth High School District No. 4, shall be authorized to make the following additional levy for the purpose:

Of providing funds to support the General Fund for the proper maintenance and operation of the school programs for the 2024-2025 school year beginning July 1, 2024.

The following voting location will be used for the election. Ballots may be deposited at this location only until 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

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Lanell Kaup	Box 912; Forsyth, MT
Pat Brunner	Box 612; Forsyth, MT
Kay Davis Berdahl	Box 182; Forsyth, MT
LaDawna Erickson	Ingomar, MT
Johnna Newman	Ingomar, MT
Susan Webber	Ingomar, MT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify said election judges of their appointment not less than 30 days before the election.

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Trustee David Sorenson seconded the motion for the adoption of the resolution. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING RESERVE ELECTION  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, ROSEBUD COUNTY**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, a School Election is called.

Trustee Doug Roberts introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

WHEREAS, this school board has determined that an election of the registered electors for School District No. 4 will be done by a mail ballot only for the purpose of voting on the question of whether the Board of Trustees of School District No. 4, shall be authorized to make the following additional levy for the purpose:

Of providing funds to support the Building Reserve Fund for school and student safety for the 2024-2025 school year beginning July 1, 2024.

The following voting location will be used for the election. Ballots may be deposited at this location only until 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required; the Board of Trustees authorizes the Clerk of this school district to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, MCA.

Trustee David Sorenson seconded the motion for the adoption of the resolution. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR TRUSTEE ELECTION  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, ROSEBUD COUNTY**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, a School Election is called.

Trustee Doug Roberts introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

WHEREAS, this school board has determined that an election of the registered electors for School District No. 4, Rosebud County will be done by a mail ballot only for the purpose of electing one (1) trustees, for a three (3) year term.

The following voting location will be used for the election. Ballots may be deposited at this location only until 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

**Voting Location and Address:** Forsyth Public Schools Administration office,  
425 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Forsyth, MT 59327

The following electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are appointed to act as judges at the election.

Name	Address
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Kay Davis Berdahl	Box 182; Forsyth, MT

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required; the Board of Trustees authorizes the Clerk of this school district to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, MCA.

Trustee David Sorenson seconded the motion for the adoption of the resolution. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR TRUSTEE ELECTION  
FOR HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4, ROSEBUD COUNTY**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, a School Election is called.

Trustee Doug Roberts introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

WHEREAS, this school board has determined that an election of the registered electors for High School District No. 4, Rosebud County will be done by a mail ballot only for the purpose of electing one (1) trustee, for a three (3) year term.

The following voting location will be used for the election. Ballots may be deposited at this location until 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

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Trustee David Sorenson seconded the motion for the adoption of the resolution. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 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 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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