

**June 18, 2024**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Trustees of School District #4 and Forsyth High School District held a Regular Meeting on June 18, 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	“	“
Kyle Fulton, Trustee	“	“
Doug Roberts, Trustee	“	“
Ethan Bell, Trustee	“	“
Donald John Cameron, Trustee	via zoom	“

Also Present:

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

Guests present: Marty Cox

Guests present via ZOOM meeting:

Karen Harms, Kaybree Cole, Kelsey Bird, Beth Hall, and Jayme 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:**

Doug Roberts apologized for his comment at the previous meeting regarding information published in the local paper.

**Revise/Review Agenda:** nothing

**Consent Agenda**

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Doug Roberts, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following,

1. June bills in the amount of \$661858.88 including warrants #49693 through #49753
2. Minutes for the: May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting
3. Warrant lists from 05/01/2024 through 05/31/024 including the following:  
-Claims 49642 - 49707 \$ 573,366.05\*  
-Payroll 313754 - 313802 \$ 321,420.17  
[\*Includes direct deposit check 49702 \$ 133,953.71]
4. Activity Cash Report
5. Jill Lawrence resignation – HS Asst Girls Basketball coach  
Luke Weber resignation – JH Asst Football coach  
Rachel Santos resignation – JH Asst Track coach  
Fire Marshal Inspection Form

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 invites in May:
  - 4th grade - math games
  - Kindergarten - play
  - 5th/6th - band concert
  - 4th grade - recorder concert
- School picnic held May 17
  - Thank you to kitchen crew
  - Thank you to the volunteer cooks
    - Mr. Hess
    - Mr. Morgenstern
    - Mr. Knoche
    - Mrs. Montgomery
- End of the year events:
  - Play day
  - Swim day - sponsored by PTSA
  - K-3 Summer Olympics - held Olympic type games throughout the day
  - Student of the Month
    - Character trait was “polite”
    - Angie Dickinson, owner of Style Alley, was our community guest
  - Safety Carnival hosted by Public Health
- Academic Achievement Awards-4th quarter
  - High Honors - 53=38%
  - Honors - 47= 33%
    - Total-100= 71%
  - HAY - 75= 53%
- Working on schedules, curriculum and handbooks

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

Nothing

### **Activities Director -**

#### **Chris Hess**

-Bleachers – Thanks to Shelly Weight for writing the grant we were awarded \$23,130 from the Community Investment Program towards to purchase of portable bleachers. Forsyth Schools will be the owner of the new bleachers but will be shared (as was done in the past) with Rosebud County Fairgrounds. We should have them in time for the football season which they will be placed at riverside park. In November, they will be moved to the Rosebud County Fairgrounds where they will be stored and used as needed. In July, they will be used for 4H and FFA shows at the county fair, along with other offered events such as concerts and nightly entertainment. A MOU is still needed between Forsyth Public Schools and Rosebud County outlining this usage and storage.

-Football Sound System – DiA events has completed the Football field PA system. This project was funded by the Forsyth Booster club a few years ago but is finally completed. It sounds outstanding and will be full display entering the fall. Thanks to Aaron Morgenstern for spear heading this project and of course the Booster Club for the continued support of our students and school system.

-Yellowstone Pharmacy pocket calendars and posters are currently being printed by Star Printing of Miles City. A big thanks to Yellowstone pharmacy for sponsoring these calendars and their continued support of Forsyth Schools. This a great way to get schedules out to community members whom do not use social media or receive power announcements.

### **District Clerk/Business Manager**

#### **Stacy Montgomery presented the Business Manager’s report**

- Attended MASBO summer conference – sessions attended:
  - OPI – Infinite campus reporting
  - Jeff Weldon – Board meetings
  - Tuition – HB 203
  - Health Insurance Trust
  - Wipfli – How to prepare for audits
  - Presented on Student Activities

### **Superintendent-**

#### **Chris Hess presented the Superintendent’s report+**

-Well I’m wrapping up 2 full years on the job. It’s been quite a journey and learning experience. I am still very grateful and honored to be in this position.

-Year in review article – Jennifer Anderson and I wrote a year end article highlighting some of the major items covered throughout the year. This article was sent out as a power announcement and Facebook post. In addition, we placed hard copies at local businesses and post office. Moving forward we would like to do this as a quarterly newsletter. I am looking to do a weekly article during the school year to help keep people updated and the events going on at the school. Lastly, our goal is to work in a journalism/media newscast class in our HS schedule for the 25-26 year to put out a monthly school paper and newsreel.

-Lil Buds – I sit on the Lil Buds Daycare board and we recently interviewed and hired a new daycare director. Her name is Hailey Sioux Zinne and she will begin in August. She comes from an educational background and holds a masters in educational leadership. I believe she will be a great bridge for our incoming kindergarten students who attend pre-school at lil buds.

-K12 has been busy looking at all of our tech systems and Onboarding the software they use called panel. Panel allows for their techs to take over a school computer to fix any issues, update and upload software each machine needs. They have been a pleasure to work with, excellent communicators, and very efficient.

-July’s meeting – July 16<sup>th</sup> - Lastly, I would like to request we move our July meeting from July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Student - none**

**Personnel**

**Old Business- nothing**

## **New Business**

### **Consider Hiring JH/HS Vo Ag Teacher**

Chris Hess, Dixie Seleg, and Aaron Morgenstern conducted interviews for the JH/HS Vo-Ag teachers for the 2024-25 school year. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring Shelby Stump as the JH/HS Vo-Ag teacher for the 2024-25 school year

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Shelby Stump as the JH/HS Vo-Ag teacher for the 2024-25 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Hiring Early Bird Advanced Weight Training Teacher**

There are currently 25 students signed up to take the Zero Hour (Early Bird) Advanced Weight training class. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees hire Chris Hess as the Early Bird Advanced Weight training teacher for the 2024-25 school year.

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to hire Chris Hess as the Early Bird Advanced Weight training teacher for the 2024-25 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Hiring Coaches**

The returning coaches from the 2023-24 season are being recommended for rehire, unless otherwise notified, for the 2024-25 season.

#### **High School**

- Assistant Football – Shawn Hollowell
- Assistant Football – open
- Assistant Speech & Drama – Eleanor Dutton
- Assistant Boys Basketball – Steve Roll
- Assistant Girls Basketball – open
- Assistant Wrestling – Camron Reilly
- Assistant Girls Wrestling – open

- Head Tennis- Melanie Martens
- Head Track – Eric Herndon
- Assistant Track – Craig Knoche
- Assistant track – recommendations to open
- Head Golf – Gina Sorenson
- Assistant Golf – Rob Sorenson

#### **Junior High**

- Assistant Football – open
- Assistant Volleyball – Courtney Morris
- Assistant Boys Basketball – open
- Assistant Girls Basketball – open
- Assistant Wrestling – Camron Reilly
- Head Track – Lynda Montgomery
- Assistant Track – Andrea Schacht
- Assistant Track – open

It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring the coaches as presented for the 2024-25 season.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to hire Shawn Hollowell, Eleanor Dutton, Steve Roll, Camron Reilly, Melanie Martens, Eric Herndon, Craig Knoche, Courtney Morris, Lynda Montgomery, and Andrea Schacht as coaches for the 2024-25 season. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to hire Gina Sorenson and Rob Sorenson as coaches for the 2024-25 season. 5 trustees voted in favor of the motion. David Sorenson abstained. Motion carried.

### **Consider Approving Activities Director Stipend/Assistant Activities Director position**

The current Activities Director stipend is \$9000.00. It was proposed that this be increased to \$10,000. In addition, it was asked to advertise for an Assistant Activities Director. If a qualified candidate is found, the stipend would be split. The acting Activities Director would be paid the full stipend if no qualified candidate is found. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the stipend increase and to open the Assistant Activities Director position.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by to Ethan Bell to approve the stipend increase and to open the Assistant Activities Director position. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Appointing Curriculum Director for the 2024-25 school year**

Dixie Seleg is currently the appointed curriculum directors for the District. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees appoint Dixie Seleg as the Curriculum Director for the 2024-25 school year.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve Dixie Seleg as the Curriculum Director for the 2024-25 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Consider Hiring Special Education Director for the 2024-25 school year**

It is necessary to have JH/HS Special Education Director for the district. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve hiring Dixie Seleg as the JH/HS Special Education Director for the 2024-25 school year.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by David Sorenson to approve hiring Dixie Seleg as the JH/HS Special Education Director for the 2024-25 school year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

## **District**

### **Old Business**

#### **Strategic Planning**

The Strategic Planning working group met on June 5<sup>th</sup> and conducted a walkthrough of the Elem, MS, and HS building. Essentially looking at ways to make the buildings more inviting, demonstrating school pride, and probably labeled with signage. The group is meeting tomorrow (6/19) to start drafting the action plan associated with the area of “facilities”.

### **New Business**

#### **Consider Approving Out of District Attendance Agreements**

A list of attendance agreements was presented for out-of-district students who wish to attend Forsyth Schools for the 2024-25 school year. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the attendance agreements for the 2024-25 school year as presented.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve the attendance agreements for the 2024-25 school year as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving Payment for MQEC Dues**

The dues for the Montana Quality Education Coalition for the 2024-25 have been received. The price for the dues this year are \$1250.00, same as last year. It was recommended that the Board approve the payment of the MQEC dues for the 2024-25 year.

Kyle Fulton moved, seconded by Doug Roberts to approve the payment of the MQEC dues for 2024-25. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving Payment for MTSBA Dues**

The dues for the Montana School Boards Association are \$4,645.00 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which is \$188.00 higher than the current year. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize payment of the MTSBA dues.

David Sorenson moved, seconded by Ethan Bell, to pay the MTSBA dues for 2024-2025 fiscal year. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving MHSA Dues**

Mr. Hess discussed the Montana High School Association Dues for 2024-2025. The dues are \$3,750.00 for the MHSA sponsored activities, catastrophic insurance premium in the amount of \$302.00 and concussion insurance premium in the amount of \$66.00. The total amount of the dues and premiums is \$4,118.00.

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton, to authorize payment of the MHSA dues, the catastrophic insurance premium, and the concussion insurance premium as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Adopting FHS National Honor Society GPA Requirements**

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Donald John Cameron to table the item. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider Approving MHSA Emergency Action Plan for the 2024-25 school year**

MHSA requires all member schools to create an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that includes protocols for most emergencies. The EAP contains information such as emergency personnel, emergency communication, emergency equipment, the first responder roles, venue direction, and a map. This plan must be approved by the Board of Trustees and registered with MHSA. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the MHSA Emergency Action Plan as presented

Ethan Bell moved, seconded by Kyle Fulton to approve the MHSA Emergency Action Plan as presented. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

**Consider Approving Purchase of Grasshopper Lawnmower**

Marty Cox, Maintenance Supervisor presented to the Board of Trustees asking for a new Grasshopper Lawnmower with a 72” deck. The total cost for a new one with trade in is \$15,832.25. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of the new Grasshopper lawnmower.

Doug Roberts moved, seconded by Ethan Bell to approve the purchase of a new Grasshopper lawnmower with trade-in. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, July 16, 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 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stacy Montgomery  
District Clerk/Business Manager

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Jennifer Anderson  
Chairman of the Board