

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**HELD JANUARY 24, 2011**

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held at Valley View Elementary School at 900 Ave A NW in the gym on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

Chairman Erwin commented that prior to the Board Meeting; the Board had a chance to do a walkthrough of the building and enjoyed it very much.

**ROLL CALL:** Bob Odermann took roll call and all Trustees were present.

Chairman Erwin commented that this will be the last meeting Bob Odermann will be taking Roll Call. He is retiring at the end of the month and we are all appreciative of what Bob has done for this district.

**Trustees Present:** Steve Erwin, Chairman  
Ann Janikula  
Jan Cahill  
Jeff Gray  
Greg Oswood  
Alicia Thompson  
Laura Vukasin

**Others Present:** Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Robert Odermann, Executive Director for Business; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Chris Olszewski, Curriculum Director; Tammy Lacey, Director of Human Resources; Jeff Patterson, Director of Technology; Sally Mathers, Supervisor Federal Programs, and Sharon Lindstrom, Director of Student Services. Also present was Dawn Beal, liaison from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

At 7:04 p.m., Chairman Steve Erwin called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Great Falls Public Schools and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Flag presentation was done by Kindergarteners from Valley View.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Jeff Gray, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

**SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6 introduced Rhonda McCarty, Principal at Valley View Elementary School. Rhonda McCarty welcomed everyone to Valley View. She then introduced five 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Valley View who was the Master of Ceremonies. They were Chaz Chinery, Magie Lee, Korena Franzich, Kayla Underwood, and Chloe Geary.

These students introduced the 4th graders who then presented the Joke of the day... At Valley View, We laugh while we learn, starting each day with positive attitudes!

Rhonda McCarty then spoke about Family Engagement. All families and communities have something great to offer – we do whatever it takes to work closely together to make sure every child succeeds. Chris Varner with Valley View PTA then commented on the National PTA Standards. They deal with communicating, parenting, student learning, volunteering, school decision making and advocacy and collaborating with community. Next Elizabeth Parks commented about Family Advocate. How they are working with families and the family center that has been established. Parent Holly Harris commented about how the community at Valley View Elementary School has helped her family. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Valley View then performed a Reader's Theater called Wopper Cake.

At 7:35 the Board of Trustees took a 10 minute break to allow parents and students to leave.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion – Jeff Gray, Seconded – Jan Cahill, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. **Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 10, 2011** – The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 10, 2011 as presented.

B. **Approve Personnel Action** – The Board approved the Personnel Action report as presented.

C. **Incoming Student Attendance Agreement** – The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreement for a student coming from Cascade to attend school at Paris Gibson Education Center and tuition will not be waived – to be paid for by the parent.

D. **Advertise for Bids on the GFHS Bleacher Replacement Project No. GFPS 01-11** – The Board approved the request to advertise for bids for the Great Falls high School Bleacher replacement. The project will advertise on January 26, 2011 and February 2, 2011, with a bid opening on February 9, 2011.

E. **Notice of Summer Travel to Europe in June 2011** – There was no action needed for this item as it is not sponsored nor approved by the Great Falls Public School District. Seventeen students from GFHS will be taking an education trip to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Hungary. This trip is through EF Tours Travel Group and they will be traveling June 8 to June 19, 2011.

F. **Accept Gift of 15 Laptops to Riverview Elementary School** – The Board approved to accept the gift of 15 laptops valued at \$9,000 from Riverview Elementary PTA to Riverview Elementary School with thanks.

## **QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

## **COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION**

A. **Report of the Superintendent** –

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE**

Today's update on the \$8.5 million energy conservation project—designed to improve the learning environment for district students and teachers, provide jobs in our community, and not add costs to local taxpayers—is a good one! In order to size the project to include all schools, the District has been working with the legislative delegation to enact legislation to extend the payback period from 10 to 15 years. House Bill 182 just passed out of the House Education Committee today with a unanimous vote! And we are feeling confident it will get passed and signed by the Governor.

The project was proposed by a Facilities Task Force comprised of citizens and community experts working with district staff after they studied the issues of aging and inefficient mechanical, electrical, and water systems in the Great Falls schools facilities. Capital for the project will be acquired through the Montana Board of Investments to sell \$8.5 million in bonds which will be repaid with the energy savings in utility expenditures by the school district—further guaranteed by the “energy services company” that writes the check if they miss the mark on the savings to be achieved.

## DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

**Bob Odermann** ends his distinguished career in school business management at the end of this month. Bob has served the Great Falls Public Schools for 13 years, and will be greatly missed. The District is currently conducting the search for Bob's replacement. The closing date for applications is February 25, 2011 and we anticipate there will be many qualified candidates.

Retired superintendent and business manager, **Dr. Ernie Jean**, will act as interim business manager until Bob's replacement comes on board. Ernie taught school finance at the University of Montana for several years and wrote a dissertation on the subject in 1988. He is a Carroll College and University of Montana graduate.

## KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Kudos were recently received—in the form of long, thoughtful letters—from several patrons of the District commending Principal Carol McKittrick for her leadership throughout the crisis-management in the loss of a teacher at Mountain View Elementary School. One parent said, "It was heartening to have an educator display such confidence and control, while she balanced the interests of students and staff, the intrusion of media glare, and the rigors that attend the regular challenges of the administration of Mountain View school." Well deserved compliments for Carol McKittrick.

Kudos to **Colette Getten**, the *Early Reading First* coach in the Great Falls Public School's preschool, for her statewide leadership. Colette will represent the District on the Montana State Literacy Planning Committee being led by the Montana Office of Public Instruction to produce a statewide literacy framework.

The Roosevelt Elementary School Reading Challenge program for students grades 4 – 6 is benefiting from a group of dedicated volunteers. Kudos to **Nichol LaFond-Rooney** and **Marilyn Brasch**, who do not have family members at Roosevelt school—along with parent **Laura Bason** and grandparent **Cindy George** who do. They are helping students become fluent and engaged readers. These volunteers read each of the 30 books the students must read, and then conduct one on one conference with the students to discuss the books, and finally, plan celebrations to reward students. Hats off for the work these volunteers undertake for the sake of students.

The District received a letter of appreciation from the Salvation Army. Great Falls Public Schools students and employees donated over 14,000 pounds of food valued at \$16,662 to help people in our community over the holiday season.

**B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – None**

**C. Appoint Interim Business Manager and District Clerk – Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Jeff Gray**, passed unanimously to appoint Ernie Jean as Interim Business Manager and District Clerk, effective February 1, 2011.

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

**A. Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Amendments to Board Policy 2320 and 2320R – Field Trips, Excursions and Outdoor Education**

Motion – Jeff Gray, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adopt the proposed amendments to Board Policy 2320 and 2320R – Field Trips, Excursions, and Outdoor Education as presented.

## **FUNDING, FINANCE, AND FACILITIES**

### **A. Accept Financial Report and Approve Check Registers for November 2010 and December 2010**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Jeff Gray, passed unanimously to approve November's Accounts Payable checks #38861-39470 in the amount of \$1,384,762.60 and Payroll checks #31245-31803 in the amount of \$939,500.69 and to approve December's Accounts Payable checks #39471-40189 in the amount of \$1,653,162.06 and Payroll checks #31804-32329 in the amount of \$900,409.00.

**B. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Bond Sale for Great Falls Elementary School District 1 Energy Project** – Motion – Greg Oswood, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the Resolution relating to up to \$6,600,000 limited obligation school building bonds, Series 2011 Qualified School Construction Bonds authorizing the issuance and sale thereof, prescribing the forma and details thereof, making covenants with respect thereto, and authorizing the execution and delivery thereof; and authorizing the execution and delivery of certain documents in connection therewith. Laura Vukasin commented that she was pleased with the meeting that was held at 4:30pm prior to the Board Meeting. It now gives her a better understanding of this process. Steve Erwin also thought was a good meeting. Others present at the meeting was Bond Counsel and McKinstry and they all explained how the bond sale will work. Jeff Gray commented that this is a great opportunity for GFPS to get a better learning environment for our students and will have a long term return on investments. Steve Erwin also mentioned that there are a number of items pending because the bonds will not actually be sold until March or April, 2011. The resolution is structured in such a way that there are restraints on the Superintendent and Chairman not only on the amount but on interest rate and term.

**C. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Bond Sale for Great Falls High School District A Energy Project -** Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Jeff Gray, passed unanimously to adopt the Resolution authorizing Bond Sale for Great Falls High School District Energy Project for the amount not to exceed \$1,900,000. Jan Cahill thanked the individual legislators who drafted the bill and got the bill through in which amounts to a very quick speedy time. These individuals include Representative Cleve Loney, Senator Mitch Tropila and Elsie Arntzen.

### **ACTION: OTHER**

None

## **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

**A. Report on Energy Bond Sale Registrar Agreement and Purchase Agreement** – Bob presented to the Board a draft agreement regarding purchase and sale of Bonds. These documents are referenced in the respective bond sale resolutions for the elementary and the high school district. This is the first reading of these documents and will be brought back to the February 14, 2011 Board Meeting. They are presented here for inspection although certain elements will be determined in the appropriate sequence of events. The Board of Trustees will appoint certain officers of the District to negotiate and finalize the terms. Steve Erwin commented that the Board is to review these documents between now and February 14, 2011 and ask any questions that they may have on these before that time.

**B. First Reading of Tax Compliance Policy and Procedures** – The Tax Compliance Policy and Procedures are necessary for the purchase of Quality School Construction Bonds. The Board is requested to discuss the new Tax Compliance Policy. This is the first reading and the second reading will be presented at the February 14, 2011 Board Meeting for adoption.

**C. Report from School Energy Summit III** – Trustee Oswood reported that it was a very interesting meeting. This was his first time to attend and give his perspective of the process that was involved with the district Task Force and all of us went through our plans to maximize our savings in our energy project and implementation here in the Great Falls District. He was joined by Mr. Odermann, Mr. Moore, Jerry Horton, Tim Schneible, Dave Zahler, Joan-Nell Macfadden, and Dawn Willey. The Summit went very well

and was very positive. We encouraged others to move forward on energy savings plans in their districts. This is something that will pay itself back over and over again.

**D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments – None**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairman Erwin announced that on February 7, 2011 will be the Full Board Agenda Planning meeting and the next Board Meeting will be on February 14, 2011 of which he and Alicia Thompson will not be present. Jan Cahill will fill in as chairman for this meeting.

**ACTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Greg Oswood, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:15 pm.

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Steve Erwin, Chairman

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Robert V. Odermann, Clerk