

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD NOVEMBER 28, 2011**

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held at Montana State University-Great Falls at 2100 16th Ave South in Heritage Hall on the 28th day of November, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Brian Patrick took roll call, and Trustee Jan Cahill and Trustee Laura Vukasin were absent.

Trustees Present: Jeff Gray, Chairman
Robert Moretti
Johnny Walker
Ann Janikula
Mary Sheehy Moe – present via phone

Trustees Absent: Laura Vukasin – excused
Jan Cahill - excused

Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Tammy Lacey, Director of Human Resources; Sharon Lindstrom, Director Special Education; Sally Mathers, Director Federal Programs; and Jeff Patterson, Director of Information Technology. Also in attendance were Dawn Beal, Representative from Malmstrom; and Cathy Kuntz, Representing GFEA.

At 7:10 pm Chairman, Jeff Gray called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Great Falls Public Schools and announced that prior to the Board Meeting the Board was given a tour of the ABLE Program which is now located at MSU-Great Falls. He then asked everyone to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA – Motion – Bob Moretti, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Johnny Walker, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chairman Gray asked the audience if there were any questions or concerns that they had on the Consent Agenda items. Cyndi Baker of Great Falls asked why the October 24, 2011, Minutes were amended. Chairman Gray stated that there were some comments in the “Questions from Audience” section that had been omitted and are now in the minutes so that there is a better record of what was said.

A. Amendment to Minutes of October 24, 2011 – The Board approved the amendment to the October 24, 2011, minutes as presented.

B. Minutes of November 14, 2011, Regular Meeting – The Board approved the minutes of the November 14, 2011, Regular Meeting as presented.

C. Personnel Actions – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

D. Outgoing Student Attendance Agreement – The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreement for a student living in Great Falls to attend school in Simms, Montana, for the 2011-2012 school year with tuition being waived.

E. **Accept Donation from Bennett Motors of \$2,500 to C. M. Russell High School** – The Board approved the donation of \$2,500 from Bennett Motors of Great Falls to C. M. Russell High School with thanks. This donation will be used in the Auto Tech Department at CMR.

COMMUNICATION

A. Report of the Superintendent –

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Earlier this month Great Falls hosted the Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Tournament for 700 participant athletes from throughout the state. Bob Kelly, a local parent and organizer for the tournament, said, "This first-year tournament in Great Falls was a smashing success." He indicated there were over 250 volunteers from among the Great Falls Public Schools student body. Bob thanked the District for the use of the gyms at Great Falls High School, C.M. Russell High School, East Middle School, North Middle School, and Paris Gibson Education Center. He recognized **Athletic Director Gary DeGooyer**, the school principals, coaches, and custodial staff for their outstanding work, indicating our staff members were professional, friendly, and worked to get things done in an effective and efficient manner. Kudos to the entire team!

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Great Falls High School just received a Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Sportsmanship from the Montana High School Association. The recognition was awarded for excellent sportsmanship demonstrated by athletes, cheerleaders, coaches, administrators, and spectators alike during the 2010 - 2011 school year. The Montana High School Association has sought to develop better crowd control at Montana athletic events through distribution of a seven-page set of guidelines and awards to schools with exemplary behavior. Congratulations to Great Falls High School!

The new Montana Art Educator of the Year is **Elizabeth Rogstad**, art teacher at Great Falls High School. This award is given to an individual who displays creativity and passion, along with confidence in her students. Congratulations to Elizabeth Rogstad on this great honor!

On November 15, 2011 Great Falls High School inducted 65 senior students into the **National Honor Society**. C.M. Russell will conduct its induction exercises later in the year. These Great Falls High School inductees have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or above.

**Travis Aline
Emily Boes
Samuel Bonilla
Brianna Bowen
Jessica Bracha
Bryar Brandvold
Holly Capp
Michael Carey
Aaron Carpenter
Katherine Cerotzke
Morgan Clapshaw
Kristina Clarke
Alekses Clifton
Jaydon Conder
Anna Cottrill
Donovan Dennis
Katherine Dolan
Elizabeth Gilligan
Sara Graybill**

**Samual McCormick
Brianna McCracken
Brianna McLean
Jared Meyer
Elisabeth Miller
Jessica Moltzan
Schuyler Moulton
Adam Murphy
Cayden Napierala
Caleigh Oliver
Todd Pate
Sarah Pelley
Demi Roady
Emily Robinson
Julie Ryan
Hayley Savage
Katie Schermele
Margery Schlimgen
Brittney Scott**

**Hali Gruntowicz
Jiahui He
Scott Held
Tamara Hoover
Hadley Jackson
Ashley Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Karissa Justice
Dannielle Kuntz
Savannah Kynett
Katherine Leonard
Paige Luetzen
Edward Mackiel
Megan McCarty**

**Meghan Semmens
Alex Sherman
Joshua Smart
Lauren Smith
Rachel Stewart
Jacob Strauss
Rachel Strauss
Darcey Swanson
Taylor Sykes
Alexandra Wahl
Kathryn Whitt
Samuel Wingerter
Brittani Yoder**

IN THE NEWS

Recently, a few Great Falls High School people have been in the news with regard to behavior that does not draw accolades. There has been an incident that may violate Great Falls School District Policy number 3226 that addresses hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and menacing.

Please remember, we do not know the entire story. There are many excellent professionals working in this school district who are presented with tough situations on a regular basis. We also have good policies and good procedures for dealing with such circumstances. In this case, the District has appointed a third party outside investigator to help us determine if there were any miss-steps on the part of staff. When we have finished our investigation processes, we will let you know.

Some have likened this incident to the events at Penn State. To my knowledge there is no comparison. We are investigating allegations of student-to-student harassment—that a student may have gone too far in a hazing incident; but there are no allegations of any adult perpetrator.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, GREAT FALLS and GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

I would like to thank **Dr. Joe Schaffer** and Montana State University, Great Falls staff for hosting this meeting of the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees. The District and the College collaborate on many programs that improve education for high school students and develop a highly trained workforce for our community's businesses. Some examples include the Adult Basic Education program located on campus which helps students transition seamlessly to post-secondary education, the dual enrollment program for high school students, the counseling program to help students prepare for college, and the career and technical education projects that respond directly to workforce needs.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Joe on his new position as President of Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. There is voluminous evidence that Joe will do a great job for Cheyenne, Wyoming; but their gain is our loss. We shall very much miss Joe's dedication to education and his strong leadership throughout the community of Great Falls.

B. Montana State University – Great Falls President Welcome – Dr. Joe Schaffer welcomed everyone to the campus and commented on their great partnership with the district that benefits everyone. His presentation on "Creating A College – growing Culture Through Collaboration". (a copy of this is included with the minutes.) included the following: Goals of the education/workforce collaborative – 1) Align and coordinate education resources to build the region's workforce and create a vision for community's economic health; 2) Increase the number of Great Falls area high school students participating in post-secondary education; 3) Reduce the number of recent high school students needing remedial coursework; 4) Increase the number of students successfully earning credentials leading toward rewarding careers; 5) Improve employer satisfaction with the availability and quality of the community's

workforce; and 6) Establish mechanism for frequent communication and collaboration between business, K-12 and higher education in Great Falls. He also reported on the Adult Basic Education/GED. Since moving the location to MSU-Great Falls, participation has increased 54% in the ABLE Program and 145% in GED Graduates. He also talked about curriculum alignment in regard to CMR and GFHS in their developmental in writing and math programs. Both math and writing rates are dropping and the need to concentrate on teacher/faculty math and writing focus groups. Dr. Schaffer commented that the total dual credit enrollment shows CMR decreasing and GFHS increasing. Other highlights were that 20 GFPS teachers taught their colleagues last year at the Annual Montana Institute for Ed Tech; since 2010, all GFPS 7th graders have experienced college campus tours; Trades Rodeo/Constructions Trades Fair exposes 9th graders to career opportunities in the trades and through apprenticeships; and the transition to college has improved through Pathways Advisors which are now at the high schools.

C. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – Dawn Beal reported that 93 people are currently deployed from the base and six from the guard. This is the transfer season so there will be many new faces at the base. Chairman Gray asked Dawn how care packages could be sent to the deployed for the holidays. Dawn stated that people could contact her and she would provide them with the information.

D. Report on School District – College Collaboration – Tom Moore introduced Christine Perkins and Bridgette Pence who are Pathways Advisors shared by MSU-Great Falls and Great Falls Public Schools. Their major focus as Pathways Advisors is to assist students associated with their assigned high school populations and GED-seekers in the process for preparing for college and successfully making the transition to post-secondary education. They work with students who have not completed a diploma or GED and the high school counselors to assist students in the development of career pathways and academic plans. They attend and participate in Bridging Opportunities meetings and initiatives including the 7th grade tours; assist with efforts to reduce the local remediation rate for GFPS students going on to college; and work to increase the use of Compass as a tool to identify remediation needs early enough to address before students exit high school or complete their GED. These two advisors assist in training of high school counselors and other staff on the Montana Career Information System and ensure clear and accurate communication from MSU-Great Falls regarding dual enrollment and manage the dual enrollment of students in the GFPS district with MSU-Great Falls.

Tom Moore also introduced Tom Kotynski, Work Force Development Facilitator, who is a major player in this partnership with GFPS and MSU-Great Falls. Tom Kotynski reported that the Workforce Development Initiative began in 2007. Some of the items that are part of this partnership are Annual Health Career Day at MSU-Great Falls; dual credit courses in EMT Basic, Welding Qualifications, and Human Biology; Collaboration on Big Sky Pathways program that will produce other credits in construction technology, business education, interior design and medical occupations courses; cooperative agreements for two Big Sky Pathways advisors who assist students in transition from high school to college and career; and sharing of facilities in times of need. When the GFHS welding shop was closed for repairs, MSU-Great Falls made its welding facilities available to the public schools for those classes. He also reported that many School District CTE teachers sit on MSU-Great Falls department advisory boards and have helped design MSU curricula, such as wind energy. These are just a few of the areas on which our partnership with MSU-Great Falls works together.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Rudolf Tankink from Great Falls spoke to the Board about the hazing incident at Great Falls High School and how he feels the school district did not help the parents with this situation. He felt that the district assumes that they do not have to answer to parents. These incidents are weakening our public schools. He wonders whatever happened to traditional education along with common sense.

Cyndi Baker of Great Falls commented on the Superintendent's report. She asked the District who the district hired as third party outside investigator. Superintendent Crawley reported that we cannot give out any information regarding the investigation. Cyndi Baker then asked about the qualifications of this investigator. Again Superintendent Crawley reported that no information regarding the investigation can be released at this time, but it will be in the future. Baker feels that somewhere the ball was dropped on

reporting this incident. She also reported that in Saturday's view point in the paper, there was a column by Governor Schweitzer stating that after negotiating of funds over several days one of the things that they accomplished is full funding of education.

Representative Cleve Loney reported that he attended a conference dealing with Children Welfare and feels that he and the District need to sit down and come up with a policy to keep children protected.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Financial Report and Check Register for September and October, 2011

Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed unanimously to approve the Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #45381-46375 in the amount of \$2,941,430.56 and Payroll checks #35933-36376 in the amount of \$656,618.68 for September, 2011 and Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #46376-47039 in the amount of \$2,223,910.08 and Payroll checks #36377-36823 in the amount of \$921,252.73 for October, 2011 as presented.

Chairman Gray asked the audience if there were any questions or concerns that they had on the Financial Reports and Check Registers. There were none.

ACTION: OTHER

None

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Report on Holiday Music Program – Ed Varner, Music Supervisor provided an updated list of all the Holiday Concerts that will be held throughout the district during the month of December.

B. Second Reading of Proposed New Board Policy 5460 Personnel – Electronic Resources and Social Networking

Jeff Patterson presented changes that were made to Policy 5460 after input received on from the First Reading. He indicated it will be brought back for a third reading and then adoption. A couple of things that are in the policy that will be changed for the next meeting are in the first paragraph the word amazing either needs to be changed or eliminated and in the third paragraph line 9 the word advised be changed to expected. Trustee Sheehy Moe commented that she appreciated the changes and is particularly comforted by the fact that we have other policies in place that make it clear that when district resources are used. There is an understanding that those are district resources and there are no expectations of privacy.

C. First Reading of Amendment to Board Policy 9200 Facilities – Naming of Buildings and Grounds

Brian Patrick commented that the proposed language change to Policy 9200 – Naming of Buildings and Grounds will allow the Board of Trustees to revoke a previously approved naming designation. This is information only and will be brought back for action.

D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments – Bob Moretti encouraged all Board Members attend the Home Visitation Training that will be held on December 1, 2011.

Mary Sheehy Moe reported that the Freedom Riders presentation was excellent. The interaction with students and their testimony of their experiences was really moving. Also attended the Indian Education for All Training and found it to be very valuable.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Gray announced that there will be a Board Work Session on December 12 before the Board Meeting and on January 9 and 23 Board Meetings at the District Offices.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Ann Janikula, Seconded – Johnny Walker, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:17 pm.

Jeff Gray, Chairman

Brian Patrick, Clerk