

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD DECEMBER 13, 2010

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held at District Offices Building at 1100 4th Street South in the Aspen Conference Room on the 13th day of December, 2010.

ROLL CALL: Bob Odermann took roll call and Trustee Alicia Thompson was absent

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

Trustee Absent: Alicia Thompson - excused

Others Present: Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12 acting in place of Superintendent, Robert Odermann, Executive Director for Business; 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 Mike Picking, GFEA President. Student Representatives present were Nicole Brubaker and Danielle Dillon from PGEC; David Cerotzke and Sara Graybill from GFHS; and Jessie Hardin from CMR. Also present was Major Daryl Nuutinen liaison from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

At 7:00 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.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. **Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 22, 2010** – The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 22, 2010 as presented.

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

C. **Approve Request and Authorization for Records Disposal** – The Board approved the Request and Authorization for Records Disposal for Individual Special Ed. Records that meet the approval description and date-time lines based up the Retention Schedule.

D. **Approve Incoming Student Attendance Agreement** – The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreement for a student from outside of the Great Falls District to attend school in Great Falls for the 2010-2011 school year and tuition to be paid for by the State.

E. **Approve Facility Usage Fee Waiver Request – Great Falls Volleyball Club** – The Board approve the Facility Usage Fee Waiver Request for the Great Falls Volleyball Club to use the gym at East Middle

School on March 5 & 6, 2011 and the old gym and fieldhouse at Great Falls High School on April 16 & 17, 2011 and any custodian overtime fees will be paid for by the club.

F. Notices of Summer Travel –

1. United Kingdom – This item is for information only. No action is requested. A trip to the United Kingdom is being offered to middle and high school age kids in June 2011. This trip is not part of the GFPS Curriculum and is not sponsored nor approved by the Great Falls Public School District. There are not financial obligations of the district and the cost of the trip is \$3,400 per student. The trip is arranged with EF Tours.

2. Orange, California – The Board approved the North Middle School Yearbook Club Student Trip and Workshop in California in July 2011.

G. Good Apple Awards - The Board recognized and honored the following individuals for receiving the “Good Apple Award” Willow Loney, Seth Flaten, Greg LaRoche, Mike Lathrop, Russ Jones, Raine Wegner, Jeff Patterson, Jerry Horton, Tim Schneibel, Brian Maki, Dan Wiltrout, Mark Robinson, Andy Bubnash, Terry Litostansky, Terry Schott, Dan Sibert, Rick Bubnash, Dexter Hartmann, Kim Krattiger, David Myles, Vickie Donisthorpe, Michelle Nadeau, Katie Hurin, and Judy Scharhag.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Cyndi Baker of 500 Montana Ave NW, Great Falls reported that there is a new program that the Great Falls Police Department has implemented that might be beneficial to GFPS. With the recent tragedies that have occurred in this community there are pastors that are available as a resource not just to the families affect but to anyone involved. This service is at no cost and encourage the district to please consider using this resource.

Nano McCluskey with the Great Falls Development Authority and Steve L’Heureux of L’Heureux Page Werner Architects spoke to the Board about a new Strategic Plan to focus our resources on a few key efforts that could have the biggest impact on the Great Falls economy. One of the strategic priorities that grew out of this process is to develop a brand promise for Great Falls, one that can be used to attract meetings and visitors, new business investment and key employees, as well as improve community perceptions that drive everything from property values to investment decisions. They are hoping that Great Falls Public Schools will jump on board with the Community Brand Development that they will be implementing.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A. Accept Gift from First Interstate Bank Sports CD Campaign – Diane Bodner of 1st Interstate Bank presented Great Falls High School and CMR with checks for their sporting programs. She stated that every sports CD that was renewed this year a \$5 donation was made to that person’s school of choice. She presented Great Falls High School with a check in the amount of \$440 and CMR with a check in the amount of \$320.

B. Report of the Superintendent

Tom Moore presented the Superintendent Report on behalf of Cheryl Crawley.

Culbertson named Montana Assistant Principal of the Year

Paul Culbertson, Associate Principal of Great Falls High School was recently named the 2011 Montana Assistant Principal of the Year by the Montana Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP). Virco Inc. and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), sponsor the award, honoring leadership in the state based on collaborative leadership, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and personalization.

Paul is a Great Falls native and has worked as a teacher and administrator throughout Montana and Idaho for twenty-five years. He has been the Assistant Principal at Great Falls High School since 2004.

Mr. Culbertson will join honorees from the other 49 states for a recognition program that will take place March 30-April 2, 2011 in Washington D.C.! The state honor entitles Mr. Culbertson to be considered for the 2011 NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year.

Two Great Falls Students are Finalists for the United States Senate Youth Program

Seniors **Bronte Wigen**, Great Falls High School and **Eamon Ormseth**, CMR High School were tested with 217 students throughout Montana and now they make up 20% of the finalists. Bronte and Eamon went through an interview process as they competed for the final two delegate spots in the state. This is a tribute to these fine students and the Great Falls education system.

The United States Senate Youth Program was established in 1962 by the US Senate to promote education, leadership, and public service. It allows the two student leaders from Montana, and every other state, to spend a week in Washington DC experiencing their national government in action. The delegates hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, Department of State and Defense officials, federal agencies directors and participate in a meeting with a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

I am pleased to report that Eamon has been selected for the scholarship and Bronte is an alternate, which means these Great Falls students are in the top four of the 217 students who competed statewide for this opportunity.

In 2009 **Tim Seery**, currently a senior at CMR, won the United States Senate Youth Program scholarship. Tim participated in the training and received his award in Washington D.C. last spring.

School District Music Program is Producing Excellent Christmas Concerts

Beautiful Christmas music has been presented at the elementary, middle, and high schools since December 2 and will continue until the 17. **Ed Varner**, Music and Arts Director; our schools' choir and band directors; and our students have done a great job with these concerts. Also, our choirs and bands are presenting Christmas music to many service clubs throughout Great Falls.

Report from Malmstrom Representative - Major Daryl Nuutinen reported that he arrived about 4 months ago and that the District has a great partnership with Malmstrom. The District has great leaders and support kids in many ways. He also commented that he would like everyone to think about the kids whose parents are deployed and how this Holiday Season affects them. Also if anyone has questions at any time to please contact him.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jesse Hardin, Student Representative from CMR reported that the money received from 1st Interstate will be put towards a new sound system in the auditorium. This past week they have been working on the four Cs which are Creativity, Connectivity, Critical Thinking and Communication. These are things that students need to leave high school knowing and being able to do. These are also goals that each department needs to teach that goes beyond the curriculum. The idea behind this is the question to students of "What is the world and what is my place in it?". Students and department leaders strategized this statement and reached common goals for students and teachers and will be an ongoing process. CMR has also established a Food Bank and Giving Tree in their building to help their own students who are in need.

Danielle Dillon, Student Representative from PGEC reported that every week 4-6 new students are enrolling at Paris. When they come in they are given a tour of the school and then are immediately mixed in with the other students and classes. There are 40 some students who qualify for WIN Program which

tests students in their understandability in Math and Reading. There are 36 other states that use this test. Paris Gibson Alternative High School will hold their 1st graduation on January 25, 2011 and somewhere between 25-30 students will be graduating. Paris will be holding an open house the week of January 24, 2011. Also the Drug Dog visited the school and found 1 can of beer in a student vehicle which was left by a parent.

Nicole Brubaker, Student Representative from PGEC also reported that attendance at Paris is up 15% with 200 credits being earned. For December production units are up compared to last year. Gap plans are working great. This is where the student works with their advisor on what they need to complete for graduation and beyond. Making plans for the future. The Drum Brothers will be attending Paris on December 14, 2010 from 12 noon to 2pm. There have also been monthly mini concerts put on by the music department. Paris will be holding their Student Council election in February, 2011. Also Paris will not be holding a Prom this year but will be having a Shing Ding on February 25, 2011.

Sara Graybill, Student Representative from GFHS reported that there is a lot going on at GFHS. The Journalism Club has collected 500 items of clothing for students in need and there is also a Bison Giving Tree. Student Council is also collecting clothing items. GFHS was visited by 5 judges from Russia and commented on how clean the school was. They also visited JDC to get information on how create a rehabilitation culture.

David Cerotzke, Student Representative from GFHS reported that Prom was successful and this year there was Royalty for all classes which included more students. The event was well managed and attended. GFHS had several winter concerts that were scheduled around other events in town. GFHS National Honor Society induction took place. Music department had a fund raiser selling fruit which allows them more extra circular events. Also the library is raising food for the food bank by anyone with outstanding fines can donate a can of food to pay for those fines.

E. Introduction of Food Services Interns

Jennifer Spellman introduced two Diatec Interns that have been working in her department for the last few months. Katie Borgen from Kalispel and Kori Laliberty from Great Falls. Both are attending Utah State University.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. Second Reading and Adoption of New Independent Study Courses for Career Technical Education Curriculum

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of the New Independent Study Courses for Career Technical Education Curriculum. Chris Olszewski and Tom Kotynski reported that this curriculum is different from independent study in that this new curriculum is focused on the 3-Rs, Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Jeff Gray commented that in the long term this type of education is relevant to kids in finding a connection and keeping them involved. This is a step in the right direction.

FUNDING, FINANCE AND FACILITIES

A. Approve 2009-2010 Financial Statements and Audit Report from Hamilton Misfeldt

Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Jeff Gray, passed unanimously to the General Purpose Financial Statements with Auditors Report for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2010 as presented. Rick Reisig from Hamilton Misfeldt reported to the Board that the District had an Unqualified Audit Report and that they work for the Board and the public. He reported that there were no internal control issues. On page 108 of the audit there were 3 deficiencies rose from last year but have been implemented to date. Also on pages 5-16 is the management discussion which tells the financial story and the Elementary Financials and High School Financials are reported separately. Steve Erwin commented that he is pleased that the

audit was delivered without any comments and is nice to see that past comments have been taken care of. Jeff Gray commented that the audit does point out the difficulties the district has with reserves spent down. The district is trying to maintain current program status but choices are going to have to be made in the future.

B. First Reading of Resolutions on Energy Financing

Bob Odermann reported that they met with Bill Upthegrove, Tim Tolman and Patrick Farley from McKinstry prior to the board meeting and went over the guaranteed energy savings and the \$8.5 million bonds that are at no cost to the taxpayers. To have this upgrade over a 15 year period it will require a change in state law, which now only allows us to finance over a 10 year period. At the Board meeting Dan Semmens, Bond Counsel with Dorsey-Whitney was also present via phone. They presented to the Board the first reading of a resolution calling for the sale of bonds to finance the energy upgrades across the district. The district is seeking about \$8.5 million in Quality School Construction Bonds. Bill Upthegrove, project director for McKinstry, the energy services contractor for the school district stated that the Board of Investments is set to approve the sale of the bonds at its meeting the first two weeks in February and that we have to meet that first quarter deadline. If not the district could lose its place in line with the Quality Schools Construction Bond (QSCB) authority.. Bill Upthegrove and other McKinstry representatives also told trustees that by stretching the loan out over 15 years, it will allow them to finance most of the work the district hopes to accomplish. If it is a 10 year loan, they may get only 50% of the work done. Patrick Farley, McKinstry Capital Manager told trustees that they have approximately six to eight local and regional banks willing to finance the project with an interest rate of less than 1 percent. State Rep. Elect Cleve Loney said he and Sen. Mitch Tropila would both introduce legislation early on to help fix the problem of a 10 year loan. The loan whether it's 15 or 10 years will not cost any additional taxpayer dollars. It will be financed through savings as the result of energy upgrades. The resolution is set to be voted on at the Jan 10 meeting, but could possibly be delayed until the January 24 meeting.

ACTION OTHER

None

REPORTS, DISCUSSION AND POLICIES

A. Discussion, Committee Reports and Comments

1. Report from MTSBA President, Jan Cahill on the Governor's Education Budget – Jan Cahill, Trustee of GFPS Board but also President of MTSBA spoke to the Board on the Governor's Education Budget. (A print out of his discussion is included with the minutes.) He stated that the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) has recommended that all government spending be scaled back to an amount 5% below FY10 levels as a starting point for funding discussions in the 2011 Legislative Session. The LFD has provided 18 budget cut options for K-12 public education to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) that would nearly double local property taxes and cut over 10% out of school district budgets. MTSBA and others have opposed the budget cut options. The state has chosen to take \$30.7 million in federal Education Jobs Fund appropriations away from K-12 public education to increase the ending fund balance for the state general fund in the current biennium. Governor's Funding Proposal – Key Elements; Inflationary increase in Basic, Per ANB Entitlements, and Special Education of 1.9 (FY12) and 1.53 (FY13) percent. (Inflation based on a 1% and 3% base from previous biennium when most districts budgets on 3% and 3%. As a result, schools will start 2% in the hole and the Governor's FY12 increase will bring them to with 0.1% of FY11 funding levels in these entitlements. Problems in the Funding Proposal – Cuts state general fund support of Quality Educator Payment and propose to recoup the \$38 million per year by taking non-levy revenues away from school districts with oil and gas revenues. Even if taking this money was the right thing to do, which it is not, it only generated \$33 million in FY10 with projections for it to go lower in the coming two years. MTSBA is opposed to the Governor's proposal of using gas and oil dollars instead of General fund dollars for education. Districts have seen a reduction in funding by 19% since 1991 and taxpayers have to come up with this lost revenue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Erwin announced that the next Board Meeting will be on January 10, 2011; there will be a Board Work Session on December 16, 2010 and an Agenda Planning Meeting on January 3, 2011.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Greg Oswood, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:53 p.m.

Steve Erwin, Chairman

Robert V. Odermann, Clerk