

**MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

A duly called closed meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held in the Birch/Cedar Conference Room of the District Offices Building on the 14th day of February, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Trustees Absent: Alicia Thompson and Steve Erwin

Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Ernie Jean, Interim Business Manager; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Sharon Lindstrom, Director Special Ed.; Tammy Lacey, HR Director; Kerry Parsons, Associate Principal CMR; Susan Quinn, Associate Principal, CMR; Dick Kloppel, Principal CMR; Jean Faure, GFPS Attorney; student G. M.; and parents of student G. M..

HEARING

Expulsion Hearing: G. M.

At 5:30 p.m. Acting Chairman Jan Cahill called to order the closed meeting of the Board of Trustees and determined the individual's right to privacy exceeded the public's right to participate and closed the meeting to the public.

At 6:55 pm Acting Chairman Jan Cahill adjourned the closed meeting of the Board of Trustees.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2011

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 14th day of February, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Ernie Jean took roll call and Trustees Alicia Thompson and Steve Erwin were absent

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

Trustee Absent: Alicia Thompson and Steve Erwin - excused

Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Ernie Jean, Interim Business Manager; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Chris Olszewski, Curriculum Director; Tammy Lacey, Director of Human Resources; 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 Tim Seery from CMR. Also present was Dawn Beal and Daryl Nuutinen, liaisons from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

At 7:00 p.m., Acting Chairman Jan Cahill 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 – Greg Oswood, passed unanimously to pull Item A, Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 24, 2011, and to approve the rest of the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. **Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 24, 2011** – pulled for later discussion in meeting

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

C. **Approve GFHS symphonic Band and Chamber Orchestra Travel to Seattle in March 2011** – The Board approved the request for GFHS Symphonic Band and Chamber Orchestra to travel to Seattle, WA March 31 to April 2, 2011 to attend clinics and master classes at Central WA and attend a Symphony concert. The cost of the trip is funded from proceeds of the music departments' fruit sales fundraiser.

D. **Accept Gift of Reader Board to Lewis & Clark Elementary School** – The Board approved to accept the gift of a Reader Board to Lewis and Clark Elementary School from Lewis & Clark PTA. The Reader Board is valued at \$15,500.00.

E. **Accept Gift of Playground Equipment to Riverview Elementary School** – The Board approved to accept the gift of playground equipment to Riverview Elementary School from Riverview PTA. The playground equipment is valued at \$14,266.68.

F. **Approve Facility Usage Fee Waiver Request – Great Falls Gladiators Football Team** – The Board approved the facility usage fee waiver request for the Great Falls Gladiators Football Team for the use of Memorial Stadium at GFHS on April 9 & 30, May 7 and June 4, 2011 and any custodian and grounds man time will not be waived.

G. **Approve Facility Usage Fee Waiver Request –North Montana Wrestling Club** – The Board approved the facility usage fee waiver request for the North Montana Wrestling Club for use of the fieldhouse at GFHS on Marcy 11-13, 2011 and any custodian overtime fees will be paid for.

H. **Establish Student Activity Account for Paris Gibson Alternative High School** – The Board approved the request to establish a student activity account called "Paris Gibson Automotive Club". The purpose of this account would be for depositing funds earned through operation of the Automotive Class student-run business.

ACTION ON THE DISCIPLINE OF G.M. – Motion – Jeff Gray, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to accept the expulsion of G.M. and the recommendations as set by the Administrative Hearing panel. Jeff Gray commented that the general public needs to know that the Board has zero tolerance on weapons anywhere on school property and wants this clear to all students.

QUESTIONS, CONCERN, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Sandra & Michael DiMauro who live at 4215 7th Ave North, Great Falls addressed the Board about the water runoff at Morningside Elementary and how it is affecting their property. They handed out pictures of damage to their property and also claimed that they had called Buildings and Grounds in the past to get this addressed. Superintendent Crawley stated that they will get with Jerry Horton on this issue and someone will be calling them back.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A. Report of the Superintendent –

SCHOOLS ENERGY PROJECT UPDATE

The District received good news on financing for the \$8.5 million energy conservation project that will improve the learning environment for our students and teachers. Last week the Montana Board of Investments approved the sale of bonds to generate the initial capital outlay. In order to do the \$8.5 million project the legislature must now pass HB 182 to extend the payback period on the bonds from 10 to 15 years. The bill has passed through the House of Representatives and was heard in the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee on February 11. The Committee will take action in a day or two, and I will keep you updated.

LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Governor Schweitzer's proposal for funding education was presented by our own Great Falls representative Trudi Schmidt to the House Education Committee on Friday, Feb 9. A primary component of this bill is distribution of oil and gas revenues currently held by some school districts in eastern Montana. This is the first funding bill for education presented to the legislature, and we know others will come forward in the upcoming weeks. You will be updated as the legislature moves ahead.

Last week trustees, superintendents, teachers, and a student from the AA school districts in Montana traveled to Helena to present information to the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee. Great Falls Public Schools was represented by Chairman Steve Erwin and Great Falls High School senior Will Strauss. They spoke on the importance of collaborating with community partners, highlighting the quality of science education achieved through the District's partnerships with institutions such as McLaughlin Research. I was unable to attend the presentations, but many people told me about the great talks by Steve and Will.

SENATOR BAUCUS' STAFF TO VISIT GREAT FALLS

Heather O'Laughlin, Education Specialist for Senator Baucus, will be visiting with District staff on February 25. Additionally, we will be inviting superintendents from throughout North Central Montana to attend this meeting. She will be collecting information on issues important to Montana educators as congress begins the overhaul of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—known for the last decade as 'No Child Left Behind'.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The 2011 Budget Committee—consisting of representatives of the, administrators, teachers, and staff—will convene on Feb 17 at 5:15 p.m. Dr. John Matt from the University of Montana will be presenting School Finance 101 to the Committee so everyone has a basic understanding of school finance before the Committee begins their work. GFPS staff and community members are invited to this presentation, but we ask you to RSVP with Stephanie at 268-6001 so we can make arrangements for room size.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

High School Seniors **Catherine Gilligan** of Great Falls High School and **Eamon Ormseth** of C.M. Russell High School have been selected as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They were selected from among 16,000 semifinalists nation-wide. The merit scholarship winners will be announced this spring.

Kathy Johnson, Principal at Lincoln Elementary School, was recognized with the Adrian Langstaff Award at the Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals (MAEMSP) State Conference. The Adrian Langstaff Award is the highest honor the principals' association bestows on one of its members.

Pat Volkmar, North Middle School teacher, won the American Fisheries Society 2010 Educator of the Year Award. Fishery biologists from throughout the Northwest reviewed numerous nominees and selected Pat for this honor. Pat, as you know, extends his positive influence with young people by introducing many to the art and science of fishing.

Late breaking news: Kudos also to District Facilities Manager **Jerry Horton** and crew who managed to intervene with a broken water main on district property at the Skyline School. They installed temporary repairs without disrupting school for the 200 or so children enrolled in the early learning programs at the school! They will have to return when the weather warms up to make permanent repairs.

B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – Dawn Beal commented that Montana Legislature is adopting an Inter-state Compact which provides consistency in all schools throughout the US for children in military families so when families have to move that the children do not lose credits when changing schools. This is to help military children with transition in keeping them in line with all schools. Daryl Nuutinen commented that if anyone has anything that they can pass on to MAFB to please let them know. They will continue passing on information from GFPS to MAFB.

C. Report of the Student Representatives

Danielle Dillon and Nicole Brubaker, student representatives from PGEC stated that there were 29 early graduates from PGEC and in January 237 ½ credits were earned. Also the Native Americans and Art Department are building a new display at the school. English writing assessments are taking place along with CRT test prepping for science and math are also going on now. The PGEC Coffee shop is being renovated and the Lynx shop has lots of new items that they are producing.

Tim Seery, student representative from CMR, reported that Noemi Ban a Holocaust survivor came back to CMR and talked with seniors about her story as a survivor. The All NW Orchestra auditioning took place and multiple students qualified to be part of this group. Tim also stated that he will be going to Helena to be on the Board of Public Education and be part of the Superintendent Day of Speech.

Sara Graybill and David Cerotzke student representatives from GFHS, commented that GFHS received good reviews from the audit that OPI performed of their building. They will be hosting Class C Basketball Tournament with concessions be run by student council. There is a new mural in the cafeteria and the Student Recognition Breakfast will be held on February 15, 2011. The 26th of February GFHS will hold its spring Prom and the Wrestling Tournament of Champions will be held on February 19, 2011. The AA Orchestra Festival was held at GFHS with CMR, Billings West & Senior participating. At the Cross-town Basketball games the pep bands also crossed with students from each band playing in the other ones band. Also this week there will be an engine building contest with GFHS having all girls participating.

HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Action to Declare Reduction in Force (RIF) Process and Criteria to be Used in the Event RIF Becomes Necessary- Motion – Greg Oswood, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to declare the possibility of a Reduction in Force and to adopt the attached process and criteria. (In the Agenda page 23 was replaced with an updated sheet that was handed out at the Board Meeting. This new sheet will be included with the minutes.) Tammy Lacey went through the Process and Criteria if a RIF would be necessary.

FUNDING, FINANCE, AND FACILITIES

A. Accept bid Award for GFHS Bleacher Replacement Project –

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to accept the bid from Montana School Supply in the amount of \$370,585.00 for the Bleacher Replacement at Great Falls High School. Montana School Supply was the only bidder for this project and bid came in under the district's estimate.

B. Action to Adopt Policy 7600 – Tax Compliance and Policy for Tax Exempt Bonds

Motion – Jeff Gray, Seconded – Greg Oswood, passed unanimously to adopt Policy 7600, Compliance and Procedures for Tax-Exempt Bonds, Qualified Zone Academy Bonds, and Qualified School Construction Bonds. Superintendent Crawley stated that we have to have this policy in place according to Federal Law in order to move forward with the energy project to sale bonds.

C. Appoint New budget Committee Members –

Motion – Greg Oswood, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously appoint Ernie Jean, Interim Business Manager, Susan Quinn, CMR Associate Principal, Debbie Holman, School Secretary for Lewis and Clark Elementary, Trustee Jeff Gray, and Trustee Alicia Thompson alternate from Board.

ACTION OTHER

Motion – Jeff Gray, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to amend the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 24, 2011 under Reports, Discussion, and Policies, Item A, Report on Energy Bond Sale Registrar Agreement and Purchase Agreement to be understood that this item does not need to be brought back to the Board for approval as stated in the January 24, 2011 minutes, because these agreements are part of the Resolution Authorizing Bond Sale for Great Falls Elementary and High School District Energy Project which were approved by the Board.

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Discussion, committee Reports, and Comments

Ann Janikula and Jeff Gray commented that they attended the OPI Assessments that were being done at East Middle School and there were only 3 recommendations. Overall report was very good. Laura Vukasin and Steve Erwin also attended the OPI Assessments at Great Falls High School and there also the report was good with 3 recommendations and OPI was excited about their progress.

Jan Cahill reported on his trip to Washington D.C. He commented that there will be reauthorization of No Child Left Behind and may be changed to Race to the Top. He also spoke about the Presidents initiatives to Title I and how it may be of Grant formation. He also stated that on March 15th in Helena will be the Day of Advocacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next Board Meeting will be held on February 28, 2011 at West Elementary and on March 7 there will be a full Board Agenda Planning.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:00 pm.

Jan Cahill, Acting Chairman

Ernie Jean, Clerk of the Board