

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD MARCH 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 March, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Ernie Jean took roll call and Trustees Ann Janikula, Jan Cahill and Jeff Gray were absent

Trustees Present: Steve Erwin, Chairman
Alicia Thompson
Greg Oswood
Laura Vukasin

Trustee Absent: Ann Janikula, Jan Cahill, Jeff Gray – all were 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 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 – Alicia Thompson, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda with the exception of pulling Item B under Funding, Finance, and Facilities only the levy resolution per Cheryl Crawley. She stated that she would like this resolution pulled until the Budget Committee has finished meeting and can make their proposal. She commented that we have until March 28, 2011 to decide about the levy resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Greg Oswood, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed with Steve Erwin abstaining from Item B, Personnel Action and the rest of the Board in favor of motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Laura Vukasin also wanted to make a special note to thank the PTAs for the playground equipment gifted to our schools.

A. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 28, 2011 – The Board approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 28, 2011 as presented.

B. Approve Personnel Action – The Board approved the Personnel Action as presented with Steve Erwin abstaining.

C. Accept Gift of Playground Equipment to Sacajawea Elementary School – The Board approved to accept the gift of playground equipment valued at \$16,079.80 from Sacajawea Elementary PTA to Sacajawea Elementary School with thanks.

D. Good Apple Awards - The Board recognized and honored the following individuals for receiving the "Good Apple Award": Treve Brinkman, Scott Gray, Steve Cagle, Marilyn Grimes, Cindy George, Dan Sibert, Rick Bubnash, Dexter Hartmann, Kim Krattiger, Dave Myles, Ron Lorang, Carl Thrasher, Billie

Cotton, Glen Kimball, Darrell Lasneski, John Mathis, Mike Ward, Mary Breuer, Sylvia Schug, Hazel Schultz, Bob Shipek.

E. Request to Call for Bids: 2011-2012 Instructional and Office Paper Supply Order – The Board approved the request to call for bids on the annual paper supply order. The advertising required by law will cost the District approximately \$200.00. The total cost to District funds will be provided upon completion of the bids and prior to bid award.

F. Approve Travel for Great Falls High School DECA Students to the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April, 2011 – The Board approved the travel request for GFHS DECA students to participate in the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April 2011.

G. Approve Incoming Student Attendance Agreement – The Board approve the Student Attendance Agreement for a student who lives in Highwood and wants to attend school in Great Falls for the remainder of the 2010-2011 School year. Tuition will not be waived – to be paid for by the parent.

H. Approve Facility Usage Fee Waiver Request – Great Falls Central Catholic High School – The Board approved the request for a rental usage fee waiver for the use of the track at East Middle School March 14, 2011 to May 12, 2011 for Central Catholic High School.

I. Accept Gift of Playground Equipment and Rock Wall to Valley View Elementary School – The Board approved to accept the gift of Playground Equipment valued at \$6,500 and a Rock Wall valued at \$6,125 from Valley View PTA to Valley View Elementary School with thanks.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Ave NW, Great Falls commented that she felt that the District was in violation of Montana Open Meeting Law in that when she was looking for the agenda for the community budget committee session Thursday, she did not find one. She felt that the District violated Montana Code Annotated section 2-3-203 by failing to post the agenda of a subcommittee appointed by the board 48 hours in advance. Steve Erwin and Cheryl Crawley acknowledge her concerns and will take them under advisement.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A. Report of the Superintendent

SCHOOLS ENERGY CONSERVATION LEGISLATION PASSES SENATE AND HOUSE

House Bill 182, legislation that will facilitate our energy conservation project has passed both the Senate and House by very nice margins! It is now on its way to Governor Schweitzer for his signature. The Cascade County Legislative Delegation working with sponsor, Elsie Arntzen (R) Billings, did an outstanding job getting this bill through both houses! We look forward to the Governor's signature—hopefully this week. Once the bill is signed we can get the bonds sold and close on financing, so that we can work on bidding and get started on the energy conservation projects. This legislation allows the District to complete its \$8 million energy project at no extra cost to tax payers, while improving the learning environment for teachers and students.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY AT MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL

The Sunday, March 6, shooting of 5th grader Shelby McCorkle at the Aspen Apartment Complex is having a devastating impact on Mountain View Elementary School students and teachers. Assistant superintendent **Ruth Uecker**, principal **Carol McKittrick**, counselor Phyllis Schaefer, and Crisis Team Coordinator **Mickie Messman** worked seamlessly to make preparations to inform and counsel the students and teachers when they arrived at school on the morning of March 7. The entire team—which

includes counselors from other schools—did an excellent job of telling the students and teachers about the tragedy, assuring the students they were in a safe place, and counseling teachers and students. Members of the Crisis Team have continued to support the school throughout the week, and will continue next week, adding debriefing sessions with parents. Our thanks go out to Benefis Hospice counselors who have also lent a hand.

BUDGET COMMITTEE CONTINUES

The Budget Committee held its third meeting this past Thursday. They are doing a great job of grappling with understanding the revenues and expenses of the school district, as well as the potential impact to District schools and students if budget cuts must be made. In the upcoming meetings the Committee will focus on developing recommendations they will make to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees. The Committee is having a difficult time because the legislature has not determined the amount of funding it will provide for education in the upcoming biennium.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

C. M. Russell students **Adam Cordeiro** and **Katie Noland** were featured presenters in a general session at the Montana Environmental Student Alliance Conference in Helena on March 5. Adam presented information on the CMR wind and solar energy, electric van conversion, and composting/greenhouse projects. Katie delivered information on the CMR paper and aluminum recycling programs. Conference attendees included Senator Jon Tester, several state senators and representatives, and students and staff from University of Montana, Montana State University, Carroll College.

Great Falls High School advanced French students, **Aaron Carpenter** and **Hadley Jackson**, participated in March concerts with the Cascade Quartet. The Quartet played French impressionist music and the students read poems by Paul Verlaine, a poet from the same time period. It was a unique and wonderful collaboration.

Great Falls High School juniors **Clay Kellogg**, **Sam Bonilla**, **Brookes Pennell** and Senior **Max Johnson** were chosen for the National Music Educator Conference National Honor Band (Kellogg and Bonilla) and Orchestra (Pennell and Johnson). These ensembles will perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. this June.

Great Falls High School Student Council conducted a Red Cross Blood Drive with that raised 51 productive units. This means that GFHS students will have helped save 153 lives.

Big kudos to **Roosevelt** and **Sunnyside** Elementary. District Federal Programs Director Sally Mathers returned from the National Title I Conference last week with the news that these two Great Falls schools were announced as Title I schools that have never missed making Adequate Year Progress (AYP) since the inception of No Child Left Behind. Tremendous record with national recognition!

INVITATION

Great Falls High School invites everyone to attend the Student/Faculty basketball game, “Rebounds for the Rescue Mission”, which is a fundraiser for the Great Falls Rescue Mission. The game will be held on March 23 at 4:30 p.m. in the Old Gym. Admission is \$1 and a can of food or \$2 with all proceeds going to the Mission.

B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – Dawn Beal reported that there is nothing to report at this time.

C. Report of the Student Representatives – Sara Graybill, Student Representative from GFHS reported that GFHS will be holding their Student/Faculty basketball game, “Rebounds for the Rescue Mission”, which is a fundraiser for the Great Falls Rescue Mission. Student Brooke Hansen has been awarded the My Journalism of the Year and the Crosstown Academic Bowl will be held at GFHS and

Prom will be held at GFHS this coming Saturday. David Cerotzke, Student Representative from GFHS, reported that this month has been March Music in our School Month. The Orchestra will be performing on March 15 at 7pm and the Band on March 17, 2011 at 7pm. They also had the AA Band Festival with guest directors and the band will be traveling to Seattle. David also reported that in one of their classrooms their electric needs have been totally run from solar panels. They have been studying the reading from the previous 90 days and working on what kind of cost savings these panels will have. Tim Seery from CMR reported that it is time for the US Senate Youth Program in Washington DC; the CMR Drama department will be performing the play called American Roulette with discussion feedback from the audience. There has also been Listening Session at CMR with Tom Moore and some discussion about the sophomore field being converted into a softball field.

Nicole Brubaker, Student Representative from Paris, reported they have completed 4 listening session at Paris with two more to go. There are about 10-15 students in each of these groups. They also had their Shin Dig Dance and it was well attended. They are also working on their yearbook with the deadline coming up and all students who are graduating are working on their Gap plane – This is a plan showing what they are going to do after graduation. Danielle Dillon, Student Representative from Paris also reported that the Native American Flags are up; there is a 20% increase in productivity and that Graduation will be on May 31st. They expect 50-60 students to graduate.

FUNDING, FINANCE, AND FACILITIES

A. Review of Request by City of Great Falls to take Ownership of District Property – Dave Dobbs, City Engineer requested that Great Falls Public Schools take a look at selling the City the 3 acres in the NE Corner of School District land. The land which consists of 20 acres was donated in 1969 to GFPS from John Buchanan. The land is North of Great Falls and was donated with no restrictions. At the time of the donation it was valued at \$1,500 per acre. The city would like to buy or trade 3 of those acres for a proposed Regional Detention Pond and Storm Drain. Greg Oswood asked what kind of time line the City is looking at. They indicated that they would like to work through this construction year and that there are 4 other property owners involved in this area. The long range goal would be to acquire all 20 acres of land that the District owns. The Board also suggested that maybe the District could do some trading of land. It was mentioned that the City is looking at the park across from GFHS and maybe this could be traded to be used as additional parking for GFHS. The Administration will work with the City and will bring back recommendations on this item to the Board

B. Resolutions Calling for School Election

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Greg Oswood, passed unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Resolution Calling for a Trustee Election, while leaving the Levy Election out of the resolution.

ACTION OTHER

None

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Report on Martin Luther King Day PIR – Chris Olszewski, Curriculum Director reported that on January 17, 2011 Martin Luther King Day GFPS dedicated the day towards offering staff development focused on the GFPS Long Range Goal of Cultural Proficiency. The training event was held at the Heritage Inn and was attended by over 170 teachers and administrators. The training was coordinated by Indian Education Director, Sandra Boham, Indian Education Achievement Coach Chris Provance; Indian Education for All Instructional Coaches, March Cobell-Gilbert and JoLena Hinchman; and supported by Stacy Dolderer and Amanda McNee from the Assessment Office. They presented a power point, which is included with the minutes, and outlines the agenda for that day and what will be discussed. They also presented to the Board a report which outlines CRT Data by Ethnicity and SES for years 2007-2010. (This is also included with the minutes.) Chairman Erwin asked if over time our cultural experience has

improved. Chris Olszewski stated that they have heard in listening sessions great stories where we have improved but also have heard not so good experiences at GFPS. We have room to grow and this is a process that needs to be done as a team.

B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments

Chairman Erwin commented that he along with Cheryl Crawley attended the Senate Hearing discussing SB403, School Funding Bill and visited with legislatures about school funding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Erwin announced that the next Budget Committee Meeting will be March 17 with an optional meeting on March 24, 2011. The next Board Meeting will be held on March 28, 2011 at Whittier Elementary School.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Alicia Thompson, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:18 pm.

Steve Erwin, Chairman

Ernie Jean, Clerk