

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

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held at the District Offices Building at 1100 4th Street South in the Aspen Conference Room on the 24th day of October, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Brian Patrick took roll call and all Trustees were present

Trustees Present: Jeff Gray, Chairman
Robert Moretti
Johnny Walker
Ann Janikula
Laura Vukasin
Mary Sheehy Moe
Jan Cahill

Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Sharon Lindstrom, Director of Special Education; Tammy Lacey, Director of Human Resources; and Sally Mathers, Supervisor Federal Programs. Also in attendance was Dawn Beal, representative from MAFB, and Mike Picking, President of GFEA.

At 7:00 pm Chairman, Jeff Gray 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.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, 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. There were none.

A. Minutes of October 10, 2011, Regular Meeting- The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 10, 2011, as presented.

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

C. Good Apple Awards - The Board recognized and honored the following individuals for receiving the “Good Apple Award”: Raine Wegner, Bison Ford Staff and Management, Bruce Hilbig, Kellie Grandone, Billie Cotton, James Krippes, Jeff Patterson, Kim Krattiger, Dave Myles, Dexter Hartmann, Rick Bubnash, Dan Sibert, Michael Ward, Carl Thrasher, Darrell Lasneski, Glen Kimball, and Ron Lorang.

D. Outgoing Student Attendance Agreements – The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreements for two students living in Great Falls to attend school in Vaughn, Montana, for the 2011-2012 school year with tuition being waived.

E. Establish Student Activity Account at East Middle School – The Board approved the Student Activity Account named “Hip Hop Dance Club” for East Middle School. The purpose of this fund is to track funds raised through fund raisers.

F. Establish Student Activity Account at C.M. Russell High School – The Board approved the Student Activity Fund, CMR FCCLA Club. The purpose of the Student Activity Fund for FCCLA Club (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) is for tracking funds raised through various fund raisers.

G. Accept Gift of Handcrafted Quilt to C.M. Russell High School from Virginia Key for Music Department Raffle – The Board approved to accept the gift of a handcrafted quilt from Virginia Key of Great Falls to the Music Department at CMR with thanks. The quilt has been donated with the condition that it is raffled off and that the proceeds go directly to that department.

COMMUNICATION

A. Report of the Superintendent

MONTANA CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Last week over 800 school board trustees, district superintendents, principals, business managers, and others attended the Montana Conference of Education Leadership held this year at C.M. Russell High School. The focus of the conference was innovation in education, and there were numerous workshops and opportunities to collaborate with peers from throughout the state. In addition to providing excellent professional development, the conference provided a nice economic boost to the community. I would like to especially recognize C.M. Russell staff, the District Business Office, and Food Services director and staff for their outstanding work on this conference.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

A new recognition is on the nation's calendars. The United States Senate recently joined in recognizing school principals for the tremendous leadership they exert in schools across the nation. The U.S. Senate passed Resolution 277 marking October 2011 as National Principals month. A quote from the resolution reads, "*the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort.*" I would like to dedicate our kudos this evening to recognizing and thanking all Great Falls Public Schools principals for their vision, dedication, and determination in preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.

HATS ON FOR BRUCE BARTA.

Students held a "*Hats on for Barta*" event for industrial technology and High School House teacher Bruce Barta who suffered severe injuries while helping family herd cattle. Last week C.M. Russell students each paid \$2 for the privilege of wearing a hat in school throughout the day and raised over \$800 for Barta and his family. Members of the community heard about the cause and stopped by to donate as well. Bruce had until this year taught at Great Falls High School, and the homecoming Powder Puff football game there also raised \$200 for Barta and his family.

Hats **off** for the students and staff at Great Falls Public Schools who keep their priorities in order and make Great Falls Public Schools the kind of place where employees choose to work. Let us keep Bruce and his family in our thoughts as he enters the recovery phase.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Teacher of the Year Finalists. Not one, but two Great Falls District teachers were finalists for Montana Teacher of the Year—a recognition which is sponsored by the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. **Beth Thomas**, Science Teacher at North Middle School, and **Amy Konen**, Literacy Teacher at Mountain View Elementary School, were recognized for their outstanding contributions in the classroom. Tim Pederson, Helena Capital Science Teacher, was the finalist and was named Montana's Teacher of the Year.

Great Falls High School staff and students recently gifted 580 pounds of food to the Great Falls Community Food Bank. The staff and students are making a difference for individuals and families from throughout the region who are dealing with painful economic struggles every day.

Leadership in Montana Music Education. The Montana Music Educators Association conference and in-service was held last week in Billings where several Great Falls music teachers had significant leadership roles. **Dusty Molyneaux**, Great Falls High band teacher and President of Montana Music Education Association, oversaw the coordination of activities for 600 teachers, 400 students, and 40 exhibitors. **Kara Bell**, East Middle School choir director, also serves as President of the Montana General Music Teachers Association. She coordinated “headliner” clinicians and presenters for the conference. **Hal Hugg**, elementary instrumental music specialist, was elected the incoming treasurer and business manager for MMEA at the conference. The District is extremely proud to have these teachers providing leadership in their professional organizations.

B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – Dawn Beal reported that there are 102 members deployed and 114 from the Guard who are deployed. She reported that she went through the Olweus training at Loy, and she then did training at the Youth Center for Staff on Base. She also handed out a copy of the Base Paper to each Board Member so that they could read the article on the Troops Grant with Loy. (Copy of the Base Paper will be included with the minutes.)

C. Report from Great Falls High Senior Donovan Dennis’ Washington D.C. Page Experience –

Donovan commented that he will bring an update on the challenge to 18 year olds to vote: the VOTE Montana Program. He also stated that the Secretary of State will be visiting Great Falls High and CMR talking with students about voting and Denise Juneau will be visiting these schools on Graduation Matters. He also gave a Power Point presentation on his experience as a U.S. Senate page. He was nominated by a U.S. Senator and served as a page during the 2010-2011 academic school year. He reported that pages have served the U.S. Senate since 1812. Students have to be a 16 or 17 year-old high school junior, maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA. The dorm he stayed in was formerly the first funeral home in the District to popularize cremation for their clients. It is called the Daniel Webster Senate Page Residence and has the capacity to host 30 pages and is located roughly two blocks from the Hart Senate Office Building. School was held in the basement of the dorm and started at 6:15 a.m. Breakfast was at 5:30 a.m. Class length was dependent upon the daily schedule of the Senate. School always ended one hour and 15 minutes before the Senate convened. The average workday began at 9 a.m., when they left school for the Capitol. Page duties consisted primarily of delivery of correspondence and legislative material within the Capitol complex, preparing the Senate Chamber for sessions, taking messages for Senators or calling them to the phone. Curfew on school nights was 9 p.m. and during the weekend was 10 p.m. Because pages had much liberty with their free time, they were able to explore Washington and the surrounding states at their leisure. (Copy of Power Point is included with the minutes.)

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

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Cyndi Baker of Great Falls thanked Sharon Lindstrom for the tour of the ELF Center and Ruth Uecker for her help in the Canine Naming Program. She also mentioned that her car signs running for City Commissioner were stolen off her car after the last Board Meeting and also when she was at CMR. She stated that she has had these signs on her car for the past three months and then were stolen on school property and that it actually had to be someone in this room attending the meeting last week. She did report this to Dick Kloppel at CMR and he indicated that there were cameras that could be checked. So when they were checked that particular camera was not working. She feels that there is a theme here, that we are going to make her pay for taking down the levy. Cyndi reminded that Administration that she had made a request for some records on September 14, 2011 and still had not received them. She stated that there should be a limit on time to get information back to a person requesting documents. Chairman Gray replied that he is saddened that you feel it necessary to attack this Board individually and the

teachers and administration of GFPS in regards to the signs on your door. He is saddened that she lost her signs but to accuse the District in doing that is wrong.

Representative Cleve Loney, of Great Falls spoke to the Board about the anonymous letters and calls he has been receiving and would like the District to set an example. He has made an effort to get to know the Board and Administration and we all need to get on the same boat. He commented that he did agree with HB182 because he thought it was good. He worked hard on getting this through. When he worked on the school budget from the State he listened and worked hard trying to find out the best thing to do. He agreed with the onetime only back on top of the 80%, he agreed with the 1.5% cost of living increase, he agreed with the increase in the ANB. What he did not agree with is the use of SB329. He has made an effort to know all of the Board and Administration and try to work with the districts to get issues figured out. This is his job. He has been involved with the Teamster Union for 30 years. Sometimes he looks at the union and thinks maybe we have lost our purpose, which is to make things better. We all need to all get on the same boat and start working on a common goal and setting an example. He also stated that he has been working on child abuse issues here in Great Falls and the common goal for all of us is to make children safe.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Ratify a One-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement with Great Falls Technology Association, MEA/MFT

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve to ratify the one-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Great Falls Technology Association, MEA/MFT.

Chairman Grey asked the audience if there were any questions or concerns pertaining to this agenda item. There were none.

Tammy Lacey explained that this is a one-year contract with a 0% increase on base salaries for the 2011-2012 school year; health insurance provisions were adopted by the Board on August 8, 2011 and included in this CBA. Tammy also stated that there were some language changes done which are included in the agenda. Trustee Walker asked if the 5 days of loss pay is after their sick leave is gone and also that this is only a one year contract? Tammy Lacey replied yes to the sick leave, that this language change is the same as other groups. She also replied yes that this is only a one year contract due to economic situation. The past contract was a 2 year contract. Trustee Sheehy Moe asked if this contract was retroactive back to last contract. Tammy replied yes, but there was no increase in wages or any individual that was out of sick leave and needed donations. Trustee Janikula asked how many techs this contract was for. Tammy replied that there are 15 techs.

ACTION OTHER

None

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Official Enrollment Report – Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations reported that there are two official count dates. The first official count date is the first Monday in October, being October 3, 2011 and the second official count date is February 1, 2012. Brian explained that in 2010-2011 there was 10,238 students enrolled and in 2011-2012 there were 10,233 a difference of 5 students less this year. He also explained that the total ANB (Average Number Belonging) for 2010-2011 was 10,130 and in 2011-2012 was 10,093. This is the number of students we receive funding for. Pre-K students and students who are 19 before September 10 we do not get any ANB Funding for. The Pre-K students are funded through a Pre-K Incentive Grant and the 19 year-olds are funded through Special Ed and IDEA. Brian also explained that there are some students who are part-time students for ANB so we only get a partial funding on these students. Trustee Sheehy Moe asked if Brian could explain why a student would be considered part-time. Brian explained that part-time student means that a student is not attending on a full-time basis. These could be students that have a child and can only attend part time; students who have to go to work part of the day; or students who may have already earned their credits for graduation.

There are different situations for students who are going part-time. Trustee Moretti asked if the February Official Count is typically lower than the October count. Brian replies yes.

B. Report on North Middle School Grizz Biz Summer Program – Pat Volkmar reported that he has overseen the student run Grizz Biz for the past four years. There are three departments comprised of student's; Production, Office, and Laser. This student lead business is operated by students in every aspect. They learn management and operations of running the business for which they get paid for their educational experience. (A Power Point presentation was to be given by the students about their summer work at the Farmer's Market and booth at the Montana State Fair. The students make various things from name plaques, awards, etc. Available Items can be viewed and orders placed at their website; www.grizzbiz.com. Power Point did not get loaded and will be presented at another Board Meeting.)

C. Report on Summer Programs – Ruth Uecker introduced the coordinators who oversaw the Elementary Summer Discovery Camp in 10 elementary buildings. They are Rachel Cutler, Debbie Clapshaw, and Ann Marie Frazer. They reported that the Summer Discovery Camp 2011 was from June 7-July 21, 2011, was in 10 Title schools, had traveling camps, and included the backpack program. This summer the traveling camps consisted of farms, space, chemistry, and pirates. The Parent Participation program was expanded from 2 schools to 9 schools; parents were invited to participate in camp activities alongside their child. Two teachers from Longfellow, Shelly Severson and Colleen Tacke, explained to the Board how they got parents involved with what their students were doing by creating an environment where learning was fun. The Backpack Program, offered by the Great Falls Food Bank through a grant from Walmart, was offered to 4 buildings: Whittier, West, Sunnyside, and Longfellow. They distributed 2912 backpacks full of child friendly foods such as cereal, milk, fruit cups, pop-top cans of pasta meals, etc. to be taken home and eaten over the weekends. Breakfast and lunch were also offered in all schools. Ruth Uecker reported that next summer all 15 Elementary Schools will be having Summer Program which will run June 11-29, 2012; 5 days per week 8:30-12:00 with students being selected through the RTI/data collection process. There will also be a funding change where we will be using the funds that were sent to schools for All-day Kindergarten and since we already had this program in place these funds were not used. Mary Sheehy Moe commented that we really do not get any kind of State Level Funding for this kind of programming and Ruth confirmed this. Mary Sheehy Moe further commented that she would like to see a change in that area that would allow us to fill in these gaps because the loss of learning is not replaceable; eventually these funds will dry up. Jeff Gray asked how long the Kindergarten money will fund the Summer Program. Ruth Uecker replied that with these funds we should be able to fund Summer School for 4 years. She is continuing to look for grants.

Tara Rosipal reported on the North Middle School Summer Program. Program highlights included thematic instruction based on the book "Holes". The Great Falls Tribune supported their outreach program. Snacks were provided by the Community Food Bank. The program served 102 students who had a daily attendance average of 85 percent. Community involvement visits included the Voyagers, water conservation, fire safety, and the Tribune. Tom Moore reported that East Middle School had 100 students register in and 82 completed a technology-based "Sumer Seminar".

Sandra Boham reported that 13 students participated in the Indian Education Department Academic Culture Camp. This is the 5th year for this six week program with a 100% commitment from students.

Drew Uecker and Kathleen Howard reported on the High School Summer Program which was held at Paris Gibson Education Center. Total enrollment was 303 with 297 total courses passed and credits recovered or earned. Sixteen students were able to graduate by attending this summer program. Students could attend from 8-10, 10-12 or 1-3. Students earned credits in English, Math, Social Studies and Health Enhancement. Social Studies and Science courses were also offered through Virtual Academy. Tom Moore reported that CMR offered the "Credit Recovery Blitz" and 50 students attended with 67.5 credits recovered.

Tom and Ruth explained that these summer programs were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the summer of 2011.

D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments

Bob Moretti offered thanks to MTSBA and Jan Cahill for the information they offer to Boards on the duties of School Board Members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Gray announced that the next Board Meeting will be held November 14, 2011 at the District Office, November 28 at MSU-Great Falls and December 12, 2011 at the District Office.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:55 pm.

Jeff Gray, Chairman

Brian Patrick, Clerk