

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HELD MAY 23, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street South in the Aspen Conference Room on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2011.

**ROLL CALL** – Ernie Jean took roll call and Trustee Ann Janikula was absent

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

**Trustee Absent:** Ann Janikula – excused

**Others Present:** Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Ernie Jean, Interim Business Manager; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Tammy Lacey, Human Resource Director; Sharon Lindstrom, Director of Special Ed; and Jeff Patterson, Director of Info Technology. Also in attendance was Cathy Kuntz representing GFEA and Dawn Beal, representative from MAFB.

At 7:00 pm Chairman Jeff Gray called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Great Falls Public School and asked everyone to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Laura Vukasin also thanked the individuals for the gift of a 2005 Subaru to CMR.

A. **Approve Minutes of May 9, 2011 Regular Meeting** – The Board approved the Minutes of the Re-Organization Meeting and the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2011 as presented.

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

C. **Accept Gift of 2005 Subaru Outback Legacy to C. M. Russell Auto Tech Department** – The Board approved to accept the gift of the 2005 Subaru Outback Legacy from Facility Improvement Corporation of Great Falls to C. M. Russell Auto Tech Department with thanks.

D. **Call for Bids to Repair and Replace Asphalt at Five Schools** – The Board approved the Call for Bids for the Asphalt Package at C. M. Russell High School, North Middle School, Paris Gibson Education Center, and Lewis & Clark and West Elementary Schools. There are add-alternative additional projects at Paris Gibson Education Center and Lewis & Clark Elementary included in the request should additional funds become available. Mary Sheehy Moe asked that in the call for bid if there was a special reference to local companies. Ernie Jean replied nothing written but there is the understanding.

E. **Grant Request for Kindergarten Early Entry** – The Board approved the request to approve early entry for student N. M. in Kindergarten by special permission of the Board of Trustees for the 2011-2012 school year.

## QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

## COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

### A. Report of the Superintendent

#### PROGRAM AND STAFF CUTS

Tonight you will be hearing from Human Resources Director Tammy Lacey about the cuts in personnel and programs in response to the levy defeat. The process used was Cabinet members working with District Leadership to implement the cuts in personnel and programs as discussed and approved in the Budget Committee. These were difficult conversations because talented, enthusiastic teachers were going to be told they would not have a job next year; and programs that help students succeed in education were to be cut.

Because the District would be eliminating so many positions, it was important for district leadership to meet with each individual whose job was affected before making a public announcement. The human resources director, the assistant superintendents, and the school principals helped with these conversations. Both the school district and the teachers' association are offering assistance to the individuals for placement into a new job.

#### KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

**Outdoor Art.** Great Falls High School is enhancing the appearance of its campus with a new outdoor classroom and sculpture garden funded by the **Class of 1970** and the **Jack Fisher, Jr. Memorial Fund**. This newly designed area will serve as outdoor instructional space during fine weather and be used for displaying student art throughout the year.

**Elementary Gardens.** **Kathy McLean** and the **Sunnyside School staff** hosted **First Lady Nancy Schweitzer** last week. The First Lady was in Great Falls promoting Nancy's Garden Project, which is occurring in schools across Montana. Sunnyside students and staff did an amazing job of presenting how they were using the first lady's gardening materials in their science program – making hypotheses and preparing to measure and analyze results.

**WorkKeys Awards.** Career and Technical Education Facilitator **Tom Kotynski**, along with business education teachers **Tracy Melton**, **Jean Hanson**, and **Scott Donisthorpe** of Great Falls High School and **Yenta Jacques** and **Matt Murray** of Paris Gibson Education Center presented National Career Readiness Certificates to 160 students who took a three-hour rigorous exam to evaluate their readiness for the world of work in three areas: 1) reading for content, 2) locating information, and 3) applying mathematics.

The certificates were issued as part of the WorkKeys pilot project initiated by the District, with the blessing of the Montana Department of Commerce, as part of the quest to provide an excellent workforce for businesses in the Great Falls area. Listening to local businessmen told school district officials of local businesses' desire to be able to hire young people with more practical job readiness skills. Other members of the Workforce Development Initiative collaborative are the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, the Great Falls Development Authority, and numerous independent businesses in Cascade County.

Recognition of the year's work of the High School Student Representatives to the Board: Thank you Student Representatives for being a part of the Board of Trustees and for your input throughout the year.

## **B. Report of Malmstrom Representative**

Dawn Beal reported that she has been working with district counselors on the subject of deployment of family members and new families moving into Great Falls and other families moving out.

## **C. Report of Student Representatives**

Danielle Dillon and Nicole Brubaker from Paris Gibson Education Center reported that graduation will be on May 31. There were 29 graduates in January and there will be around 45 graduates on May 31, 2011. There will also be a Senior lunch and awards at 11 am on May 31, 2011 and all the Board Members are invited. They also commented that KRTV has been doing a 3 night special on Paris Gibson Education Center. They also reported that they are concerned with the cuts of teachers and that they will be losing their music program.

Tim Seery and Jesse Hardin, from CMR reported last week that 44 students presented their Senior Projects. Also that graduation will be on May 30th. There will also be a talent show at CMR on Wednesday at 2:00 pm and invited the Board to attend. Last week the 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited CMR to get a feel of the building when they come as freshman. May 9 was the scholarship awards and last Thursday KFBB did a story on the CMR HOSA Club. Both Tim and Jesse thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as student representatives.

Sara Graybill and David Cerotzke from GFHS reported that they will have their Senior BBQ on June 2; the Bison Sculpture project has been completed along with the sculpture garden. This summer GFHS Student Council will be hosting a Voyagers Baseball game and out of every ticket sold \$1 will be given to the GFPS Foundation. They also mentioned that they were sad to see the levy fail and glad that music programs will still be able to perform. They also spoke about the solar panel project and that they are working on grants for another 104 panel section. They are hoping this system will feed back into the grid and save energy. The GFHS welding shop has completed a new sign for the DOB and was assembled all by students. Their Senior Luncheon will be Thursday at 10 am at the airport. They too thanked the Board for the opportunity to be a voice on the Board and thanked them for listening.

**D. Adopt 2011-2012 Board Meeting Calendar** – Motion – Johnny Walker, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed unanimously to approve the Board Meeting Calendar as presented. The first meetings of the month will focus primarily on district business; second meetings will be conducted primarily as work sessions, with business as necessary and timely. Five meetings have been scheduled in locations throughout the community to facilitate communication with the public. Mary Sheehy Moe pointed out that 3 of the sites off location are within half a mile of each other. In the future we need to have our meetings geographically convenient for the community.

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**A. Approve Common Arrival/Dismissal Time for Elementary Schools** – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Jan Cahill, passed unanimously to approve the common arrival and dismissal time for all 15 elementary buildings starting school year 2011-2012. Ruth Uecker reported that a separate issue related to transportation has arisen. In recent years more and more students who live within designated walk zones have taken advantage of the option to use bus transportation for lesser distances when there are unassigned seats. As long as they are not taking the seat of an eligible rider, they have been allowed to ride the school bus. In light of fuller buses, we may need to extend the period of time in which we access available seats before allowing ineligible riders access. We will plan to hold up ineligible riders until we identify potential problems before we assign them to a bus. Trustee Moretti mentioned that people have suggested to him that students have recess first then come in to eat. Ruth Uecker replied that they are working on this and depends on where the playground is located outside to have it managed. Each building will take a look at this and work it out in their buildings. Chairman Gray thanked all the Principals for coming and for working so hard on this project. Mary Sheehy Moe commented that she appreciated

the materials on this subject and mechanisms in place. She stated that she would like to have a report brought back on how the Kindergarten students are staying focused.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

A. **Report on Re-Staffing (oral report)** – Tammy Lacey, HR Director handed out a report on the Teacher Re-staffing and the Classified Re-staffing. She went through and explained how the positions that were cut and with the staff retiring how remaining positions and programs were being staffed. (Copy of her report is attached with minutes.) Johnny Walker asked how many Intervention Coaches the district had left, Tammy replied that there is zero. He also asked if we met the accreditation standards in foreign language. Tom Moore replied yes we meet accreditation standards in High School but have some issues in Middle School. Mary Sheehy Moe commented that the staff that are on leaves – will they return. Tammy Lacey stated that maybe about half will return – some are on military leave. Mary also commented that because of all of our resignations are we less attractive in our district because of the levy failing. Middle School Language program is being eliminated and also Intervention Coaches are gone – this is programming that is gone. Tammy replied that she felt that we are not less attractive. Jan Cahill commented that he had concerns about our district. He stated that he is not sure if he would pick Great Falls because the levy did not pass. He feels we are less attractive. Next year we need to communicate better to our community. Johnny Walker asked if the Hip Hop and Tutor positions were overtime positions. Tammy replied that Hip Hop is overtime pay. Jeff Gray stated that the district is looking into other options for math tutors and is always been good working outside the box. Laura Vukasin commented that the staff again has done an amazing job. When new families are moving back one of the 1<sup>st</sup> things they ask about are our schools and how we are doing. The failing of the levy has a huge impact on the community. We need to communicate better next year about how great our district is.

## **FUNDING, FINANCING, AND FACILITIES**

A. **Accept Financial Report and Approve Check Registers** – Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, passed unanimously to approve the monthly financial report and approved Account Payable checks #42124 – 42784 in the amount of \$1,496,053.92 and Payroll checks #33900-34419 in the amount of \$1,130,719.56. Ernie Jean pointed out the new form that shows budget, month-to-date, encumbrances and budget balances.

## **ACTION OTHER**

None

## **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

### **A. Report on Food Service “Voice Your Choice” Mini Food Show for Students**

Jennifer Spellman presented a report on a Mini Food show for Students “Voice Your Choice” She explained that her and Allison Struber, Student Wellness Coordinator worked together on a Team Nutrition Grant that was received specifically for this event. The event was educational for students and provided information on new items that may be used in the food service program and sold by DECA stores under the wellness guidelines. This grants was a one item grant only. Not only were we looking for feedback on the food items from the students but used this food show as an educational tool.

### **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

Jeff Gray announced that the MTSBA Delegate Assembly will be held in Helena on June 10 & 11, 2011. He appointed Jan Cahill and Bob Moretti as the district’s delegates with Johnny Walker as alternate. Mary Sheehy Moe commended Tammy Lacey as an excellent MC for the Longevity Reception. She also commented that the Workkeys program is another shining star for Great Falls and Tom Kotynski should be commended for all the promotion he has done. Johnny Walker commented that he is very impressed with the administration and is learning more all of the time. He felt there was failure in communication on

the levy and need to do a better job. He is impressed with staff and wants to learn more. We are doing everything we can to manage our dollars and need to communicate to the community what our needs are. Jan Cahill thanked Jeff Gray for lining up Board Members for Delegate Assembly. He also commented on SB329 School Budget that it passed without the governor's approval. There are things in this bill that the Board needs to discuss and take a look at. Bob Moretti stated that he enjoyed orientation with Dr. Crawley and staff and that he will be attending all the graduations.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairman Gray announced that the Board will be attending graduations and that June 13 will be the next Board Meeting. Also that the last day of school is June 3, 2011.

#### **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion - Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:51 pm.

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Jeff Gray, Chairman

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Ernie Jean, Clerk