

**MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD MAY 9, 2011**

A duly called Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held in the Aspen Conference Room of the District Offices Building on the 19th day of May, 2011.

ROLL CALL – Ernie Jean took roll call and all Trustees were present

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

Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Ernie Jean, Interim Business Manager; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Tom Moore Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Sharon Lindstrom, Director of Special Ed; Tammy Lacey, Human Resource Director; Sally Mathers, Supervisor Federal Programs and Jeff Patterson, Director of Info Technology. Also in attendance was Mike Picking, GFEA President, Jamie Bailey, Cascade County Treasurer and Dawn Beal, representative from MAFB.

At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Steve Erwin called to order the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Great Falls Public Schools and asked everyone to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2011 – Motion – Greg Oswood, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 25, 2011 as presented.

APPROVE THE MAY 3, 2011 SCHOOL ELECTIONS RESULTS

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Alicia Thompson, passed unanimously to approve the May 3, 2011 School Election Results as presented. Clerk Ernie Jean reported on canvass of the elections results was held on May 5, 2011. Those attending the canvas were Ernie Jean, Trustee Steve Erwin and Trustee Ann Janikula.

RATIFICATION OF ALL ACTIONS OF PRESENT BOARD

Motion – Jeff Gray, Seconded – Greg Oswood, passed unanimously to ratify all actions of the present Board.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW BOARD

A. Swear-in Duly Elected New Trustees (Sign Oaths of Office) Mary Sheehy Moe, Jan Cahill, Johnny Walker and Bob Moretti – Jamie Bailey, Cascade County Treasurer swore in the duly elected by acclamation Trustees Mary Sheehy Moe, Jan Cahill, and Bob Moretti for a 3 year term and Johnny Walker for a one year term.

Greg Oswood and Steve Erwin commented that it has been a pleasure serving on the Board. Superintendent Crawley presented a Mahoney Print to Greg Oswood, Alicia Thompson and Steve Erwin who also received a plaque thanking him for his service as Board Chair. Superintendent Crawley also presented each of them a letter of thanks from the district commemorating their significant contributions during their terms of office.

B. Election of Temporary Board Chair – Motion – Ann Janikula, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, passed unanimously to appoint Laura Vukasin as Temporary Board Chair.

C. Elect Vice-Chairperson – Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Jan Cahill, passed unanimously to appoint Ann Janikula as Vice-Chairperson.

D. Elect Chairperson – Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to appoint Jeff Gray as Board Chairman.

Jeff Gray thanked the out-going Board members for all their time and hard work.

E. Designate Clerk of Board, Ernie Jean, Interim Business Manager – Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to appoint Ernie Jean Clerk of the Board.

F. APPROVE COMMON RESOURCES OF THE BOARD – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to approve the common resources of the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees.

ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:21 pm. The Board then took a 10 minute break.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD MAY 9, 2011

Chairman Jeff Gray called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL – Ernie Jean took roll call and all Trustees were present

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

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion – Ann Janikula, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to move Item A, Second Report on Common Day/Dismissal Time under Reports, Discussion and Policies, after Item A, under communication & Collaboration, Report of Superintendent and to move HR Resources Item A & B after Reports and Discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

B. **Good Apple Awards** - The Board recognized and honored the following individuals for receiving the “Good Apple Award”: Heidi Dickey, Cristal Lehnerz, Alicia Lowery, Lindsey McWilliams, Abigail McCormick Hinojosa, Charlene Kitto, Sherry Morin, Diane Muich, Nadine Singels, Mary Rearden, Jon Konen, Shelly Kelly, Chris Olszewski, Kim Kellogg, Ruth Uecker, Tom Moore, Tom Kotynski, Karen Spencer, Jean Jones, Luke Diekhans, Beth Thomas, Jan Mader, Lindsey Johnson, Lainie Grady, Jeff Rieger, Jeff Agamenoni, Kelly Silva, Katie Kotynski, Beth Britton, Theresa Jacobs, Jacie Schoenen, Lee Houle, Sterling Burch, Jo Nulliner, Rose Anne Mares, Mae Fifield, Tammy Nader, Holly Chambers, Lorrie Mayer, Sandra Van Tighem, Linsey Carter, Terry Snodgrass, Kandi Stone, Jessica Conley, Craig Nichols, Randy Bickel, Kelly Krantwashl, Mark Robinson, Michelle Preston, Judy Rowe, and Samantha Bergan.

C. **Accept Gift of Library Books to Whittier Elementary School** – The Board approved to accept the gift of library books from the Masonic Temple Euclid Lodge #58 to the library at Whittier Elementary School with thanks.

D. **Accept Gift of New Playground** – The Board approved to accept the gift of a new playground structure from Whittier PTA to Whittier Elementary School with thanks.

E. **Accept Gift of Flip Cameras to Whittier Elementary School** – The Board approved to accept the gift of a Flip-camera for each classroom at Whittier Elementary School from Lewis, Slovak and Kovacich PC with thanks.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Eva Davidson, Kelly Maki, Michelle Meredith, Betsy Cornell and Jill Baker all of Great Falls commented to the Board on their support of the Common Arrival/Dismissal Time. Cyndi Baker of Great Falls commented to the Board on the results of the levy election. Students Hadley Jackson and Sam Wingerter of Great Falls requested that the Board reconsider their decision in reference to Brent Volf, choir director at GFHS. Don Ryan of Great Falls spoke to the Board in reference to the budget and the levy election. Dennis Granlie of Great Falls commented on his concerns about the stability of the music program at GFPS.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A. **Report of the Superintendent**

THE LEVY ELECTION

I believe I speak for the vast majority of us in the Great Falls Public Schools when I say that while we were disappointed with the levy election results, we understand the economic concerns that led to this decision. I want to reassure the community—especially the parents—that the District will do everything possible to continue to provide the highest quality education possible to the children of Great Falls.

District staff appreciated the efforts of Kids Education Yes! in support of the schools programs. KEY delivered a positive message of maintaining excellent learning opportunities for every student in Great

Falls. Also, they talked about the importance of supporting education and how vital quality education is to the strength of the community. Thank you to all of the KEY volunteers for giving of their time and their talents.

The results of the Montana Legislature's actions and how that will impact education funding is not yet fully known which makes it difficult to arrive at concrete local decisions. District leadership has been working since early Wednesday morning on a plan to deliver the best education possible with fewer dollars. I cannot give you specifics at this time because we are meeting with personnel as tough, and complex, decisions are made; but I can tell you there will be significant job losses and program cuts.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Great Falls High School senior **Will Strauss** was named one of two U.S. Presidential Scholars in Montana this year. Will Strauss nominated Great Falls High School Advanced Placement Biology instructor **Brian Sullivan** for the teacher recognition award, which Brian Sullivan also won.

C.M. Russell junior **Dalton Albers** and senior **Michelle Beckenhauer** both received top honors on the Montana University System Writing Assessment. These two scholars were recognized for scores in the top 5% of students taking this test statewide.

Great Falls High and C.M. Russell drama students have added a new dimension to their acting skills. Last week they participated in the community's emergency preparedness exercises conducted under the leadership of out-going board member Alicia Thompson working together with other Great Falls leaders. The drama students, true to form, played the roles of injured and displaced people in the emergency exercise with substantial conviction.

We have been notified by the White House that principal elect **Jon Konen** was selected to receive the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. This award goes annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators. Winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the awards ceremony and visits with members of Congress and the Administration. Jon will also receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to use as he sees fit to further science education. Jon currently works as an instructional coach for the District and will be the new principal at Lincoln Elementary School in the fall.

I would like to introduce **Brian Patrick**. Brian has been selected as the new Director of Business Operations for the Great Falls Public Schools replacing Bob Odermann who retired in January and Dr. Ernie Jean who has been serving as interim business manager. Brian will be coming to the district on July 1st from Townsend, Montana where he has been serving as that district's superintendent for the last 15 years.

Finally, it is my pleasure to present Good Apple Awards to three members of the Superintendent's Cabinet, **Ruth Uecker**, **Tom Moore**, and **Chris Olszewski**, for their hard work and the leadership to bring the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Expo to fruition for the students of Great Falls.

B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – None

C. Report of the Student Representatives – None – Tom Moore stated that the students had functions going on at the schools and that they will be attending the last meeting in May with their presentations.

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Second Report on Common Day/Dismissal Time – Ruth Uecker gave a second report to the Board on the Common Arrival/Dismissal Time since there are four new Board Members. All schools K-6 start time would be 8:25 am and dismissed at 3:20pm. This would add a 40 minute lunch which gives the students more time to eat and play and promotes student wellness. She also explained that this would be a savings of \$210,000 per year in the transportation budget. Areas of concern which are being addressed are the amount of traffic at dismissal time, concerns about the longer student day and the longer lunch schedule.

B. Board Participation in Graduation Ceremonies – Superintendent Crawley commented to the Board that the graduation ceremonies are coming up and the Board is invited to hand out diplomas at these ceremonies. Great Falls High School – May 29, CMR – May 30, PGEC – May 31, and PGEC LIFE Skills – May 19, 2011. She requested that the Board let Kim or Stephanie know as soon as possible as to which one or ones they will be attending.

C. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments

Jan Cahill welcomed all of the new Board members.

HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Action to Establish the 2012-2013 School Calendar – Motion – Bob Moretti, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adopt the 2012-2013 Calendar with one change under Notes; Last Day is Thursday, June 6 and not Wednesday, June 5, 2013. Tammy Lacey also stated that the following

dates will be for graduations: CMR – Friday, May 31, 2013, GFHS, Saturday, June 1, 2013 and PGEC, June 4, 2013.

B. Action to Non-Renew Two Non-Tenured Teachers

Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the request to non-renew two non-tenured teachers. Tammy Lacey reported that the non-tenured teachers on the non-renew list are being recommended for contract non-renewal at the end of the current school fiscal year. The District is exercising its right to non-renew non-tenured teachers with or without cause as provided for by MCA 20-4-206.

FUNDING, FINANCE AND FACILITIES

A. Call for Bids for ARRA-funded Playground Equipment at Skyline – Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula passed unanimously to approve the call for bids on playground equipment for the Early Learning Family Center at Skyline. The playground equipment is to be paid for with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Stimulus, Federal dollars. This funding will expire September 30, 2011.

ACTION: OTHER

None

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next Board meeting will be held on May 23, 2011 and the graduation ceremonies are listed in the agenda.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:00 pm.

Jeff Gray, Chairman

Ernie Jean, Clerk