

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD JULY 25, 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 25th day of July, 2011.

ROLL CALL – Brian Patrick took roll call and Trustee Laura Vukasin was absent.

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

Trustee Absent: Laura Vukasin - excused

Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Chris Olszewski, Director of Curriculum, Tammy Lacey, Director of Human Resources, Sharon Lindstrom, Director of Special Education 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 School and asked everyone to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Johnny Walker, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Minutes of June 27, 2011 Regular Meeting – The Board approved the minutes of the June 27, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.

B. Personnel Actions – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented. Trustee Sheehy Moe asked how the pay for coaches was decided. Tammy Lacey, Director of HR handed out an Appendix E – Extra & Co-Curricular Compensation sheet and explained how the pay for coaches is calculated using this matrix. Trustee Walker asked if these athletic salaries were paid out of the General Fund and how is the number of coaches hired decided? Tammy Lacy and Brian Patrick replied that yes they are paid out of the General Fund and the number of coaches is decided by the number of students participating in these activities and Title 9. Cyndi Baker of Great Falls also asked what the leadership people in the middle schools were. Tom Moore explained that these people are like the Department Heads at the high schools and have added responsibility such as scheduling, trainings and other duties that may come up.

C. Request for Records Disposal or Transfer Authorization – The Board approved the Request for Records Disposal as per MCA 20-1-212 – Destruction of School Records as presented on the form in the agenda.

D. Close Student Activity Accounts – The Board approved the closure of Student Activity Accounts as listed in the agenda and are no longer being used.

E. **Establish Student Activity Accounts** – The Board approved to open the Student Activity Accounts listed in the agenda for the purpose of tracking funds raised through fundraisers.

F. **Resolution to Recycle or Dispose of Broken or Unsuitable District Property** – The Board approved the resolution to declare the items listed in the agenda as surplus property to be disposed of by way of recycling or disposing.

G. **Incoming 2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements** – The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreements for 23 students from outside of the Great Falls District to attend school in Great Falls for the 2011-2012 school year and tuition to be paid for by the parent/another district.

H. **Outgoing 2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements** – The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreements for 21 students who live in the Great Falls School District area and are requesting to attend school outside of the Great Falls area. Trustee Sheehy Moe asked if we track why students from our area go to another district outside of Great Falls. Supt. Crawley stated that two years ago she and Ruth Uecker looked into this matter to make sure that we were an inviting district. Mary asked if there was a theme of why people would not go here. Cheryl Crawley stated that this does not exist here.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A. **Report from Closed Session of June 27, 2011** – Chairman Gray read the following statement from the Board of Trustees in reference to the closed session, evaluation of the Superintendent on June 27, 2011. “The Board of Trustees conducted its annual evaluation of Superintendent Crawley at the last board meeting. The Board retains full confidence in Dr. Crawley’s leadership of the Great Falls Public Schools. She works effectively with the Board and stays focused on strategic goals, data and results for children. At the same time, she sets vision and uses community expertise to conduct long range planning in fiscal and facility arenas that save our community a great deal of money in the years to come. Dr. Crawley is a competent leader with a great grasp of multiple complex issues, is a woman of high energy, who works long hours and we feel fortunate to have her in the Great Falls Public Schools.

Trustee Cahill asked that the Board take a look at revamping the process for the Superintendent Evaluation to tie with the evaluation instrument more closely to the annual Board goals in the near future. Trustee Walker agreed with Jan Cahill and asked that the Board move on this soon, before the next evaluation process.

B. Report of the Superintendent

EXCELLENT GRANT RECEIVED BY DISTRICT

The Great Falls Public Schools has been awarded a \$675,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to provide services to children of men and women serving in the nation’s armed forces. The grant was prepared by North Middle School Principal **Jane Gregoire**, Loy Elementary School Principal **Teresa Sprague**, and Federal Programs Director **Sally Mathers**, with the assistance of **Janet Henderson**, a grant writer hired by the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation.

The District will receive \$225,000 a year for three years. The grant program is the “TROOPS Program” and will ease transitions, reduce isolation, and offer coping strategies for elementary and middle school students from military families in the Great Falls Public Schools. The high mobility and deployment rates for these families are sources of anxiety and other psycho-social-emotional problems for their children that have a negative impact on the children’s education. Some strategies planned for our schools to help

minimize the negative impact are: 1) A unified support system for students, with a mentoring program, counseling groups, and an after-school program that includes both academic and social support, 2) Programs to facilitate parent involvement, and 3) professional development for district staff to help strengthen both schools in order to sustain these programs following expiration of the grant.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY STUDENTS

Each year the local Great Falls Rotary Club awards several freshman students with scholarships to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy. This year eight students, four from C.M. Russell High School and Four from Great Falls High School, were identified as potential future community leaders and selected to attend the leadership camp conducted near Livingston. Activities include taking the Myers-Briggs personality indicator and becoming aware of the many different ways in which people may “lead”; participating in active teaming exercises and in thoughtful discussions about the meaning of leadership; and generally becoming aware of their leadership potential.

This year’s attendees were **Erika Lankford, Sage Ellefsen, Emily Sullivan, Amber Bucio, Kirsten Wills, Kendyl Freeny, Sienna Ballard,** and **Matthew Bronson.**

Great Falls is also proud to have sent two former campers back this year as counselors. The counselors were soon-to-be juniors **Tena Pate** and **Adam Altringer.** Look for good things from these students and counselors in the future.

DISTRICT CABINET LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR RETREAT

Tomorrow, July 26, the Cabinet-level administrators will conduct a planning retreat in follow-up to the work previously done collaboratively with the Board of Trustees. Despite busy mid-summer schedules, everyone—including Ernie Jean—has committed to attending. And, just for the record: the retreat will be held in the sumptuous—but *free*—facilities of the superintendent’s house.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Once again a district staff member is recognized as an outstanding leader in education in Montana. **Dale Lambert,** Special Education Coordinator for the Great Falls Public Schools—serving under Student Services Director Sharon Lindstrom—has been named President of the School Administrators of Montana for the upcoming school year. Dale served as special education director in Lewistown, Montana, before joining the Great Falls District a year ago.

New Business Manager **Brian Patrick** is making rapid progress in picking up the District budget reins left by his very competent predecessors Bob Odermann and Ernie Jean. Brian is a quick study. His hands-on experience with budget in a smaller district is serving him and the district very well as he is becoming familiar with the myriad intricacies of Great Falls School District budget

C. Report of the Malmstrom Representative – Dawn Beal reported that a lot of families are still in transition. Kids move on an average 6-9 times during their parent’s career.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. Approve Great Falls High School Solar Electricity Project – Motion – Johnny Walker, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the request for the Solar Electricity Project at Great Falls High School, including issuing a call for bids for solar panels and installation, all contingent upon grant funding.

Tom Moore reported that Great Falls High Teachers April Senger and Dan Wilkins, in the context of our district focus on energy conservation propose a solar panel system at Great Falls High School South Campus Building. GFHS South Campus Building was found to be the 2nd largest consumer amongst our educational facilities primarily due to the existence of classrooms, a large gym contained in a field house and a swimming pool. The project will be accessible to students, educators and the community through

an internet monitoring system that displays energy output, cost offsets, carbon foot print impact and current weather conditions. The total cost of the installation of the solar array is estimated to exceed \$50,000. Therefore a Request for Bids on this project must be established. A grant through Northwest Energy is available to offset the cost of materials and installation of the solar panel system. The project will be contingent upon successful grant funding. However, to apply for the grant, and approved solar systems contractor must be names. The district costs would be 10-15% matching amount of the total cost.

FUNDING, FINANCING, AND FACILITIES

A. Adopt New Board Policy 7515 – “Fund Balances,” incompliance with GASB 54 Rules – Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, passed unanimously to adopt the proposed Board policy 7515 – Fund Balances. This is the second reading of board policy 7515 – Fund Balances; there have been no changes since the first reading at the June 27, 2011, meeting.

B. Accept Financial Report and Approve Check Registers – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Johnny Walker, passed unanimously to approve the monthly financial report and approve Accounts Payable checks #43436-44571 in the amount of \$3,425,475.61 and Payroll checks #34932-35625 in the amount of \$1,909,491.29.

ACTION: OTHER

None

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. First Reading of Revised Information Literacy/Library Media Curriculum, K-6 – Chris Olszewski, Director of Curriculum presented to the Board the First Reading of Revised Information Literacy/Library Media Curriculum, K-6. The Montana Board of Public Education adopted the new state standards for Information Literacy/Library Media in the fall of 2008. The curricular review committee for GFPS decided that there were enough significant changes in the new standards that an entire revision of the district’s curriculum was in order. The attached document in the agenda for K-6 is a result of the committee’s work over the last two years. Chris Olszewski went through the documents and explained what the curriculum would look like. Time has been set aside in the K-6 curriculum to get this curriculum implemented. If there are no significant changes made by the Board, the curriculum will be presented for second reading and adoption at the August 8, 2011 Board Meeting.

B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments

Bob Moretti reported that he took a tour with Drew Uecker of Paris Gibson Education Center. He was very impressed with what PGEC has to offer students and how it is being offered. He also attended the pre-final at Great Falls High School for the bleacher installation in the fieldhouse and also visited Meadowlark Elementary for the installation of a trash compactor that will save the district money.

Jan Cahill mentioned that he ran into Andy Sever who stated that negotiations at GFPS are going great and also stated that GFPS need to make sure and hang on to Tammy Lacey. He stated that she does a great job and makes his job a lot easier. Jan Cahill also stated that he attended the Board Meeting in Billings last week. He commented that they have a board of 9 members and meet at 5:30 pm. He suggested that maybe our Board should take a look at starting a little earlier. He then reminded everyone that MCEL will be held here in Great Falls at CMR in October.

Mary Sheehy Moe wanted it mentioned in the minutes that Board has sympathy for the family and friends of CMR student Austin Wanner who died in a single-vehicle rollover.

Appoint Trustee to Facility Committee – Chairman Jeff Gray appointed Trustee Bob Moretti to the Facility Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Gray announced that the next Board Meeting will be held on August 8, 2011 at the District Offices Buildings and as well as the August 22, 2011 meeting.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

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

Jeff Gray, Chairman

Brian Patrick, Clerk