

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD JANUARY 23, 2012**

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 23rd day of January, 2012.

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

Trustees Present: Jeff Gray, Chairman
Ann Janikula
Robert Moretti
Johnny Walker
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; Tammy Lacey, Director of Human Resources; Sharon Lindstrom, Director Special Education; and Jeff Patterson, Director of Information Technology. Also in attendance was Dawn Beal, Representative from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

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

ADOPT AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Jan Cahill, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. **Minutes of January 9, 2012, Regular Meeting** – The Board approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2012 as presented.

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

C. **Great Falls High School Student Travel to Lethbridge and Calgary, Alberta, in March 2012** – The Board approved 90 students from the Chamber Orchestra and Symphonic Band from Great Falls High School to travel to Lethbridge and Calgary to perform for smaller community schools and attend workshops with music professors at the University of Lethbridge and at the Mount Royal Conservatory. Funds for this trip are paid for from the proceeds earned from fruit sales.

D. **Great Falls High School Student Travel To New York, New York, in April 2012** – The Board approved 13 students along with chaperones to travel to New York City. The students will attend four Broadway productions, attend workshops facilitated by Broadway professionals, and meet several former Great Falls High students who are currently working in the theatre profession. The cost of this trip is \$1,800 per person. Fundraisers are available to defer the cost; students and accompanying adults are responsible for the remaining balance.

E. **Incoming Student Attendance Agreements** – The Board approved the Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for two students who live outside of the Great Falls District to attend school in Great Falls for the 2011-2012 school year with tuition to be paid for by parent/state.

COMMUNICATION

A. **Report of the Superintendent** –

MATH CURRICULUM WORK

Over the past six months a committee consisting of teachers from across the grades has been working to revamp the math curriculum for the Great Falls Public Schools--one that aligns with the national common core standards adopted last November by the Montana Board of Public Education. This committee is focusing on meeting these rigorous new requirements in math content and math instructional practices required for 21st Century learning. The new curriculum will emphasize critical thinking and problem solving and can be expected to take students further into higher math than has traditionally been part of Montana's high school math curriculum. Trustees can look forward to hearing from members of the committee along with Assistant Superintendents Tom Moore and Ruth Uecker and Curriculum Director Chris Olszewski present the math curriculum recommendations to the Board.

CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Great Falls Public Schools celebrated Martin Luther King Day, January 16, with a special in-service opportunity. Over 70 staff members engaged in learning new strategies and skills for leadership in culturally proficient instruction with diverse populations in schools and communities. Randall and Delores Lindsey—authors, educators, and leaders in cultural proficiency—directed the training held at Paris Gibson Education Center. They discussed designing, implementing and assessing programs that facilitate access and achievement for all students.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Congratulations to the staff of Lincoln Elementary School for their huge accomplishment in being designated one of three schools in Montana to be a Finalist for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Certification. Schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools demonstrate consistent excellence, and progress in student achievement. Principal Jon Konen and his staff will submit a 20-page application along with this spring's reading and math assessment scores. They will learn next September if the school will receive the Blue Ribbon distinction. We all recognize that to be named a finalist is a result of the hard work of recently retired principal, **Kathy Johnson**; new principal, **Jon Konen**; and the **hard working staff** at Lincoln Elementary School.

B. **Report of the Malmstrom Representative** – Dawn Beal, Representative from Malmstrom reported that there are not issues or concerns at this time. She provided packets for each of the Board Members which contained Training Tool Kits for base kids and families who are coming into our community.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Ave NW, Great Falls responded to Trustee Sheehy Moe's comment from the last Board Meeting that she tends to slander people. Cyndi feels that she does not lose her right to free speech when she addresses the Board and that it is her opinion and opinion of others. She also commented on the way that the University of Montana is handling their investigation by involving the public by holding public meetings to discuss the issues. She feels the district needs to do the same with the Great Falls High School incident and get it out in front by letting the public know what is going on.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Multidistrict Agreement Between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls School District A and Cascade Public School District 3 and Cascade Public School District B –

Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, to approve the Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls School District A and Cascade Public School District 3 and Cascade Public School District B as presented. Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, to amend motion with a change to item #5 on page 2 of the agreement line 3 to read as; and/or (2) any other budgeted fund of a participating district. Vote on amendment to motion passed unanimously. Vote on original motion with amended language passed unanimously. Mary Sheehy Moe also wanted it noted that in Appendix A Item number 6, Indemnification, continues to use the capital D District which has no reference and it is not clear what the intent of this is. Superintendent Crawley explained to her that it will hold harmless all parties to this agreement. She wants this to reflect in record that this is our understanding of what this means. No amendment is necessary. She also mentioned that the revisions from last time have improved.

B. Approve Multidistrict Agreement Between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls School District A – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to approve the Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls School District A. Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations explained to the Board that there will be no increase or decrease in overall spending in the district; this agreement will allow our district the ability to adjust funding between the elementary and high school districts as we move forward with next year's budget.

C. Approve Financial Statements and Audit Report, 2010-2011 from Anderson ZurMuehlen – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the General Purpose Financial Statements with Auditors Report for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2011 as presented. Rick Reisig, auditor reported that the District had an Unqualified Audit Report. Rick Reisig commented that this is the first year using a new accounting standard which reports fund balances in a new way. It is also the first year of the District's Energy Bonds. A new addition to the audit is also the District letter of Transmittal which helps describe the audit. The Board overall was very pleased with the audit and thought that the District Letter of Transmittal was very helpful and pleased that the district had an unqualified audit.

D. Approve December 2011 Financial Report and Check Registers – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed unanimously to approve the December 2011 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #47634-48319 in the amount of \$3,037,050.51 and Payroll checks #37286-37743 in the amount of \$816,544.80.

ACTION OTHER

None

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments – Bob Moretti reported that he and Johnny Walker visited 3 elementary schools and that the schools were all excited about the new lighting and ventilation installed in their buildings.

Jan Cahill introduced Tom Glover who is a candidate running for House District 24. Jan also stated that he will be meeting with Senator Tester and Baucus next week so if there are any issues on education that need to be discussed to please let him know.

Mary Sheehy Moe stated that she did want to respond to Cyndi Baker's earlier comment with saying that the first amendment does not protect defamation and we have an obligation as Board Members to

conduct our meetings in ways that protect those who are not here. She will object to any kind of allegation about the character of a person who is not here.

Johnny Walker commented on the music department traveling to Canada reminding them to make sure that all of the students have some type of identification such as social security card, passports, copy of birth certificates etc. before they leave to go across the border. Tom Moore stated that he will follow up with Ed Varner, Music Supervisor to make sure that this matter is addressed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Gray announced that the next Board Meeting will be on February 13 at the District Offices and the February 27 meeting will be at the Benefis, Sletten Cancer Center, followed by the March 12 which will be held at the District Offices.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Johnny Walker, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:40 pm.

Jeff Gray, Chairman

Brian Patrick, Clerk