

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HELD AUGUST 8, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011.

**ROLL CALL** – Brian Patrick took roll call and all Board Members were present.

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

**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, Jeff Patterson, Director of Technology and Sally Mathers, Supervisor Federal Programs. Also in attendance was Dawn Beal, representative from MAFB, Bob Vogel from MTSBA 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 – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed to approve the Consent Agenda with Johnny Walker abstaining from the Personnel Actions.

A. **Minutes of July 25, 2011 Regular Meeting** – The Board approved the Minutes of the July 25, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

C. **Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants (Checks)** – The Board approved the request to cancel the outstanding warrants (checks) listed in the agenda in accordance with Section 20-9-223, MCA, 1971, which states, “The Trustees of any school district shall be authorized to cancel any warrant (check) that has been issued for at least one year.

D. **Accept Donation of 500 Copies of a Children’s Book by Local Authors D. Betty Neff Balch and Jean Hill Poythress** – The Board approved to accept with gratitude the donation of 500 books titled Tales of the Cinnamon Dragon Book 1 to the Great Falls Public Schools. Trustee Vukasin personally thanked the authors of the book for their donation of these books to the district.

E. **Good Apple Awards** - The Board recognized and honored the following individuals for receiving the “Good Apple Award”: Leslie Whiteman, Dusty Molyneaux, Hal Hugg, Wen Xi, Tracey Hughes, Jay Luchsinger, Jeff Reed, Tim Doughty, Brad Anderson, Steve Olszewski, Jesse Hilbig, Dan Harthun, Dave

Kupferschmidt, Bruce Hilbig, Tim Heisler, Allen Ulstad, Tony Gazzo, Rod Schlecht, John Downham, Terry Brian, and Tammy Howendobler.

F. **Incoming 2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements** - The Board approved the Student Attendance Agreements for three students from outside the Great Falls area to attend school in Great Falls for the 2011-2012 school year and tuition to be paid for by the parent/state.

## **QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Student from North Middle School, Hannah Weatherwax spoke to the Board about the cutting of the Middle School Foreign Language classes and the Hip Hop Program and how these cuts affect kids.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION**

### **A. Report of the Superintendent**

**North Middle School Associate Principal Tara Rosipal** has been hired as the interim Associate Principal for North Middle School. Ms. Rosipal was serving as the Student Advocate at North Middle School since August, 2002. She has a Masters of Science in Education degree and an endorsement in School Administration from the Montana State University-Northern. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Great Falls.

Mrs. Rosipal replaces **Sharon Patton-Griffin** who retired on July 31, 2011. Ms. Patton-Griffin had served as an Associate Principal with Great Falls Public Schools since 1994.

### **Energy Savings Project Update**

**Terri J. Ruthruff**, construction manager on the comprehensive energy project throughout the district, reports that eleven local contractors are working on the District's energy savings. These contractors include: AT Klemens, Cascade Electric, Central Plumbing & Heating, Combustion Services, D&S Mechanical Insulation, Facilities Improvement Corporation, Johnson Electric, Liberty Electric, Trane Armacost, Tri-Country Mechanical and United Electric.

The lighting project is 50% complete and the work is resulting in twice the lumens at one-half to one-third the power usage. The ventilation and heating systems are being improved through design, construction, and/or installation of controls, ducts, and vents in all schools. Ventilation improvements this week are being installed at Roosevelt and Loy Elementary Schools and East Middle School.

In addition to the installation contractors, three local design firms being utilized on this project are CTA Architects and Engineers; GPD Consulting Engineers; and L'Heureux Page Werner.

### **Great Falls High School Master Plan Study**

Another recommendation ensuing from the District's Facilities Advisory Committee is making progress. The committee recommended conducting an appropriate engineering and architectural study of Great Falls High School prior to undertaking these same energy measures in that iconic school building in this community to prevent doing anything that might conceivably detract from its historic beauty. The District is in the process of selecting the firm to conduct such a study for the Great Falls High School campus. Seven firms participated in a walk-through at Great Falls High School on June 30 and presented their proposals of how to conduct the planning study. The firms have offices in Great Falls or partners in Montana and could be expected to provide exceptional service to our community.

### **Kudos to Tim Seery – National Speech and Debate Meet**

**Tim Seery**, CMR graduate and Student Representative to this Board of Trustees, placed 16 out of 480 competitors in Impromptu Speech at the National Speech and Debate meet in Dallas, Texas last week.

**Kandi Stone**, North Middle School English teacher and CMR Speech and Debate Assistant Coach, accompanied Tim to the meet. Tim and Kandi raised the funds needed to participate in this meet.

**B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative** – Dawn Beal commented that families are still coming in from overseas and that there will be a change in the base commander for MAFB in the near future.

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**A. Report on No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress** – Sally Mathers, Director of Federal Programs reported on the adequate yearly progress of Great Falls students under No Child Left Behind. The goal is to have all students proficient by 2014. Grades that are tested are 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A school must achieve the annual target in reading and math as a whole school as well as in each of the eight or more subgroups that have 30 or more students. NLCB was due for Reauthorization in 2007. Congress has yet to act on Reauthorization. This has led State Superintendent Denise Juneau to apply for a waiver to allow Montana to continue to use last year's annual targets. The information that Sally Mathers presented is based on this waiver request. Sally Mathers handed out an Amendment to No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress Report which was received after the Agenda Item was submitted. The final determinations yielded the following: The following made AYP (three more than last year): Lewis & Clark, Lincoln, Loy, Meadow Lark, Morningside, Mountain View, Riverview, Roosevelt, Sacajawea, Sunnyside, Valley View, West and North Middle School. Schools classified as "In Improvement" are: Chief Joseph, Whittier and CMR. "In Improvement" means a school has missed annual targets for two years. Schools classified "Corrective Actions" are: Longfellow elementary. "Corrective Actions" means a school has missed annual targets in at least one subgroup for three years. Schools classified as "Schools in Restructuring" are East Middle and Great Falls High School. "Schools in Restructuring" means missing targets for more than four years. Trustee Vukasin asked what we are doing with the schools in "Restructuring". Sally Mathers replied that we sit down with the leaders of that school and take a look at their 5 year plan, look at the data to see what is working in that school, take a look at the curriculum, teacher assignments, programs, etc. We take a look at what can we do to make our children more successful in that school. Trustee Moretti asked if there is a test that students are taking at the end of the year so that we know if they are proficient or not. Sally Mathers replied that we do not have a test that tells us whether or not children will be proficient on the CRT, which is the state test. But we do have a lot of tests that tell us if they are progressing.

**B. Adopt Information Literacy/Library Media Curriculum, K-6** – Motion – Bob Moretti, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adopt the revised Information Literacy/Library Media Curriculum, K-6. The revision from Chris Olszewski, based on comments from Trustee Sheehy Moe, included for grades K-6 S4B8#1 – Legally obtain, store and disseminate text, data images or sounds and S4B8 #2 – Identify the owner of ideas and information appropriately credit ideas and works of others. (This handout is included with the minutes). Other suggestions will be addressed at the implementation training. Chris also reported that they are still working on this curriculum for grades 9-12 and 7-8, which will be brought back to the Board in the future. He stated that there are no financial implications of this curricular adoption related to staffing as the K-6 Library Teachers will cover this material in their current schedules.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**A. Report on Non-Union Classified Personnel Compensation for 2011-2012** – Tammy Lacey, HR Director reported that there are 172 employees within this group. These employees serve a variety of functions in the District. The 2011-2012 budget reflects base salaries for these employees of this unit adjusted by zero percent (0%), consistent with all other employee groups. The zero percent increase will result in an approximate salary budget for this group of \$1,872,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. This is within the budget allotted for such salaries.

**B. Report on Teacher Aide Compensation for 2011-2012** – Tammy Lacey, Hr Director reported that this group is comprised of 88 employees with the base salary for these employees adjusted by zero percent (0%), consistent with all other employee groups. The zero percent increase will result in an

approximate salary budget for this group of \$642,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. This is within the budget allotted for salaries.

**C. Report on Support Personnel Compensation for 2011-2012** – Tammy Lacey, HR Director reported that this group is comprised of 16 employees with the base salary for these employees adjusted by zero percent (0%), consistent with all other employee groups. The zero percent will result in an approximate base salary budget for this group of \$590,300 for the 2011-2012 school year. This is within the budget allotted for salaries.

**D. Report on Administrator and Supervisor Compensation for 2011-2012** – Tammy Lacey, HR Director reported that this group is comprised of 49 employees with the base salary for these employees adjusted by zero percent (0%), consistent with all other employee groups. The zero percent increase in base salaries will result in an approximate base salary budget for this group of \$3,789,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. This is within the budget allotted for salaries.

**E. Report on Medically Related Professionals for Schools Compensation for 2011-2012** – Tammy Lacey, HR Director reported that his group is comprised of 18 employees with the base salary for these employees adjusted by zero percent (0%), consistent with all other employee groups. The zero percent increase in base salaries will result in an approximate base salary budget for this group of \$937,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. This is within the budget allotted for salaries.

**F. Approve Renewal of Health Insurance and Flex Plan Programs for 2011-2012** – Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed with Ann Janikula abstaining, to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee in the renewal changes of the District Health Insurance Program, in the continuation of the premium buy-down of \$55, in the allowance of three months of premium exemptions for employees, in the allowance of a District \$500,000 exemption and to continue the Flexible Spending program and voluntary insurances.

Tammy Lacey, HR Director, presented the input from the GFPS Health Insurance Committee regarding the annual renewal and recommendation to set employer and employee costs of health insurance. She stated that the committee meets several times during the year to analyze usage, benefit changes and cost increases in order to retain a quality insurance program. The Committee works with a third-party consultant, Tod Zickuhr of Propel, Inc. who negotiated a new rate for the 2011-2012 school and plan year. The premium was negotiated to an 8.7% increase for the Blue Dimensions Plan and a 9.5% increase for the Catastrophic Plan for the plan year of October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. Tammy reported that the increases are primarily derived from these factors: Health care inflation; Health care reform (no cost preventative benefits, in particular); Claim/usage rates (at this point the district has spent more in claims than premium); and Change in plan design and title (from Big Sky Select to Blue Dimensions). The Committee recommended providing for two options for eligible employees – Blue Dimension and Blue Dimension Catastrophic. The Committee recommended that \$55 per employee/retiree of the premium continue to be paid out of the RSR Fund that has been established through premium rebates and other means over many years. The total premium for the 2011-2012 plan year will be Blue Dimensions at \$881.29 and Catastrophic Plan at \$620.12. (These are the correct amounts and not the ones in the agenda.) The Committee further recommended: That employees be exempted from their portion of the premiums for three months, which is to be paid for out of the RSR Fund; That the District also be exempted from paying \$500,000 in insurance premiums and that this portion be paid out of the RSR fund on a one-time only basis; That \$121,000 in Employee Wellness Expenses be funded out of the RSR fund; and to continue the Flexible Spending Program along with the voluntary products such as dental, vision, accident and cancer as pre-tax programs. The Fiscal Implications are as follows: \$481,400 approximate additional premium cost to the District; \$358,150 additional employee costs; \$730,000, \$55 of the monthly premium paid by the RSR fund for employees/retirees – This is not a new expense; \$757,000 approximate cost of employee premium exemption paid out of RSR fund (This is the correct amount and not the one in the agenda); \$500,000 recommended amount for the District premium exemption paid out of RSR; \$4,000 Wellness budget increase for grants to implement wellness programs at the building level to be paid out of the RSR; \$60,000 continuation of wellness incentive program; and \$21,000 approximate cost of on-site blood

draw/flu shots for employees. Trustee Vukasin asked if the committee considered covering the \$481,400 increase by the district to be covered by the RSR fund. Tammy Lacey replied that yes, the \$500,000 premium exemption will more than cover that increase. Trustee Cahill thanked the Insurance Committee for their time and also recognizing the hardship of the District by allotting \$500,000 to be paid to the District from the RSR fund.

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

**A. Adopt Elementary and Secondary District Budgets for 2011-2012** – Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, to table this item at this time for more discussion. Those voting in favor of the motion were Jan Cahill, Mary Sheehy Moe, Bob Moretti, Johnny Walker, and Ann Janikula and those voting against the motion were Jeff Gray and Laura Vukasin. This item will be brought back to the Board at a Special Meeting, on Monday, August 15, 2011. The place and time will be determined. Trustee Sheehy Moe commented that she is not in favor of using SB329 but still does not understand why the mills are lower and how this process works. She agrees that this item needs to be tabled and more information needs to be given to the Board and public for a better understanding of where we are going.

Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations, and Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent, presented to the Board a report on the Budget. It showed the basics of school funding with some history of the State Funding and the district's budget over the past years. The District Board has the option of utilizing new legislative language included in Senate Bill 329 which allows district to capture already approved but not collected levy amounts. The General Fund budget amounts decreased from the previous year by \$2,769,238 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The impact of utilizing the language in Senate Bill 329 reduces that total reduction to \$1,166,719. The Budget Committee at a special board meeting on March 24 recommended the following: a 2% budget cut totaling \$1.3 million in pre-emptive cuts – later augmented with another million in failed levy cuts; and \$1,000,000 in one-time-only spending from district reserves (\$500,000 from Insurance Rate Stabilization Reserve, \$500,000 from other miscellaneous reserves). The proposed budgets for the 14 budgeted funds for School District 1 & A for 2011-2012 are presented in detail in the budget books. (Copy of this is included with the minutes.) The district is requesting the Board to approve the total Budgeted Funds for 2011-2012 for School District 1 & A in the amount of \$76,521,956 which is a reduction from \$77,101,051 in 2010-2011. This number is based upon utilizing the language from Senate bill 329.

Guests that were at the meeting explaining SB329 were Senator Jones, Senator Buttrey and Representative Loney. They gave information on how this bill came about and what it was to be used for. Community members also commented on the budget and whether or not the district should use SB329 to get a higher budget amount. The following individuals from the community commented to the Board on the budget. Audree Deligdisch, community member since 1954, stated that she is in favor of the District using SB329 to levy more money for the budget; Stuart Nicholson, former Trustee, suggested that this item be tabled tonight and that the Board educate the public more on what SB329 is talking about; Steve Jonasen, stated that we need to get past all these issues and think about the kids and that there is lots of value in education; Mike Picking, President of GFEA, commented that we need to go forward with the budgets using SB329; Don Ryan, former Senator and Trustee, spoke in favor of SB329; Judy Tankink, Community Member, commented that the district was told by the failure of the levy that tax payers did not want to pay anymore so that should be the message the district goes by and not approved budget using SB329; Rudolf Tankink, Community Member, also stated that the district should not use SB329 to raise their budget. Linda Caricaburu, a parent and product of GFPS, stated that she is in support of using SB329 and that we all need to look at kids first; Steve Erwin, former Trustee; commented that Great Falls does have Great Schools and the district is fiscally responsible in its spending and needs to use what the legislature is giving through SB329; Cyndi Baker, community member, commented that the levy in 2007 won by only 31 votes and the 2011 May 3 levy failed. The district needs to accept that and not raise the taxes; Representative Loney stated that the State did increase the ANB funding to help backfill district's budgets; and Senator Buttrey commented that the intent of SB329 was for schools to give dollars back to voters.

Superintendent Crawley stated that we need to keep budget authority up following the use of formerly protested PPL taxes used in lieu of local homeowner's taxes. She also commented that the District needs to maintain a quality education and needs to maintain trust with the community.

**ACTION: OTHER**

None

**REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

Trustee Moretti reported that he attended the Architects Master Plan meetings for Great Falls High School. Seven companies presented to the committee. A decision will be coming soon on which architect the district will use for this project. He also reported that he attended an Uptown Optimist meeting and gave a presentation on GFPS.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairman Gray announced that the next Regular Board Meeting will be on August 22, 2011 at 7pm at the District Offices and the Special Meeting for the budget will be held on August 15, 2011 and will let everyone know when and where the meeting will be held. He also stated that the first day of school is August 31, 2011.

**ACTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:47 p.m.

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Jeff Gray, Chairman

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Brian Patrick, Clerk