

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HELD JANUARY 9, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street South in the Aspen Conference Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> 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; Sally Mathers, Director Federal Programs; and Jeff Patterson, Director of Information Technology. Also in attendance was Student Representatives Sara Graybill, Justine James, Darby Lacey, Garrett Lankford, Callee Remsen, Mike Picking, President of GFEA and 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 – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mary Sheehy Moe also wanted to make a special note for the incredible work that Tom Maurer is doing by stepping in from retirement to help CMR out with their program.

**A. Minutes of December 12, 2011, Regular Meeting** – The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2011 as presented.

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

**C. Approve Individual Transportation Application for 2011-2012 School Year** – The Board approved the Individual Transportation Application for student A. R. Parents of A.R. will be reimbursed for transportation of their student to and from the school bus stop closest to them during the 2011-2012 school year.

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

**E. Authorization for Records Disposal** – The Board approved the Request for Records Disposal for Individual Special Education Records that meet the approval description and date-time lines based upon the State, Local Government Records Committee Retention Schedule.

**F. Accept Gift of Surgeon’s Gloves from Mr. Tom Blomker and Mr. Carl Gruner Employees of Benefis Health system to C. M. Russell High School** – The Board approved to accept the gift of \$3,478 worth of surgical gloves from Benefits Health system on behalf of employees Tom Blomker and Carl Gruner to C. M. Russell High School with thanks. These gloves will be used by students throughout the CMR High School Science, Health Science, and Industrial Technology Departments whenever hand protection is required or desirable.

**G. Good Apple Awards** - The Board recognized and honored the following individuals for receiving the “Good Apple Award”: Vanessa Fitzgerald, Christine Baroch, Kathy Jackson, Andrew Finch, Rachel Bohannon, Dr. Jack Allaire, Robin Allaire, Rosanne Davis, Judy Peach, Jane Snowberger, Jean Day, Jim Day, and Lacey Gallagher.

**COMMUNICATION**

**A. Report of the Superintendent**

**GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLANNING**

The Great Falls High School Master Planning Task Force will reconvene on January 24 and 25. In November excellent meetings were conducted with community members, faculty and students, parents and neighbors. Ideas and concerns about upgrading Great Falls High School were widely solicited. The input received has begun to fall into some consistent categories that include:

maintaining the architectural beauty, improving thermal comfort and ventilation, opening windows and improving lighting, adjusting some instructional spaces, adding cafeteria space and connect the campuses. Also of concern—especially to the neighbors—are the traffic and parking problems.

Over the break the architectural team was hard at work studying the mechanical systems and future options for heating and ventilating. During these upcoming January meetings Committee members will review the community input that was gathered and begin to explore options on the major systems of the building with the architects.

**GFPS FOUNDATION DISCOVERY GRANT AWARDS**

Congratulations and thanks go out to the GFPS Foundation Board. In December the Foundation awarded over \$58,000 in Discovery Grants that will promote excellence in our schools. The Foundation funded 24 projects with good distribution throughout the District. Staff was obviously excited to have this opportunity, and the Foundation Board received 71 applications totaling more than \$163,000 in requests. The Foundation was able to award more than the \$50,000 originally allocated to Discovery Grant Program because of additional generous donations. The projects funded were:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u>
Savings for All	Megan Murphy	Roosevelt
Exercise Your Brain	Ryan Beam	ELF Center
Interactive Response System	Murray Metge	CMR
Read/Write Web Project	Jeff Agamenoni	NMS
Welding Across Our Curriculum	Landon Stubbs	GFHS
Yellowstone National Park Ecology Field Trip	Christine Sundly	CMR
Whittier Parenting Partners Session	Michele Feigum	Whittier
Birthday Book Project	Sydne George	ELF Center
Grizz Biz	Pat Volkmar	NMS
Pipe Notching	Paul Hogan	CMR
Leadership School Store	Susanne Halley	Whittier
Reading Challenge Book Program	Lindy Scally	Longfellow

Math Enhancement	Alissa Kline	Roosevelt
ESL Club	Irina Payne	Paris Gibson
Hoop House	Pamela Mackiel	Roosevelt
Solar Inquiry Investigation Kits	April Senger	GFHS
Vernier Physiology Lab Interfaces	Robert Truax	GFHS
Watch Us Grow	Colette Getten	ELF Center
Lego Robotics Engineering Unit	Jeff Rieger	Lewis & Clark
Moving Forward In Math	Tara Rosipal	NMS
iTry to iLearn with iPods	Katie Kotynski & Jeff Patterson	DOB

## DISTRICT COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Superintendent Crawley indicated that the district is still looking into matters associated with the last school district levy election. It is her intent as the leader of this organization that staff members always comply with the rules—to include the administrative laws that govern election procedures.

The Great Falls School District is large and there are many people involved in fulfilling the varied responsibilities. Superintendent Crawley and her delegees, routinely remind staff of the rules; and where necessary correct the work of employees within the organization. If an error is made and it comes to her attention, it will be appropriately dealt with through progressive discipline procedures; and there is an expectation that any miss steps will not be repeated.

## KUDOS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Superintendent Crawley noted that ten more Montana teachers recently joined the ranks of the nation's top certified teachers, and three are in the Great Falls Public Schools. They are:

**Susan Crocker**, English Language Arts: Adolescence and Young Adulthood, Great Falls High School  
**Thomas Cabbage**, Science, Adolescence and Young Adulthood: CM Russell High School  
**Amy Konen**, Literacy/Reading-Language Arts: Early and Middle Childhood, Mountain View School

National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential that complements, but does not replace, a state's teacher license. It is valid for ten years and is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do.

The certification was earned through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, a nonprofit, nongovernmental, nonpartisan organization that sets and maintains national standards for teaching excellence.

This is a great accomplishment for these teachers, but perhaps even more important is the benefit to the students of Great Falls who will benefit from the increased knowledge and high quality instruction.

**B. Report of the Malmstrom Representative** - Dawn Beal, Representative from Malmstrom reported that there are 78 members from Malmstrom deployed. She will be working with Sharon Lindstrom to organize a Child Find Preschool Screening to be held on base. In the past this screening had been done on base and the goal is to bring it back. It is a great service to base families. She also reported that there is a lot of uncertainty at the base in federal reductions and unsure of the impact it will have on the community.

**C. Report of the Student Representatives** -

Callee Remsen, Student Representative from GFHS reported that during the holiday break Student Council visited Park Place and helped them with Christmas Cards and did some caroling with them. She also reported that the Food Pantry was a great success. A concert involving current GFHS students and students who are graduates was held to raise food for the Food Pantry.

Sara Graybill, Student Representative from GFHS reported that students have been working on a Hate Literature project and that the Advanced Auto Class won the Auto Restoration contest. Sports are in full swing and the National Honor Society will be working on community projects throughout the year. She also reported that finals are next week so students are busy studying.

Darby Lacey, Student Representative from CMR reported that CMR is also preparing for finals. CMR held the Jazz Festival last week which included a clinic and performances. She also reported that College Readiness workshops are being held at CMR and Tim Seery, who graduated from CMR, spoke to students about his Harvard experiences.

Garrett Lankford, Student Representative from CMR congratulated Tom Cabbage, teacher at CMR for receiving his National Board Certification. He reported that 89 students took the Work Keys Test. This test shows students their readiness for the workforce. Also the Cross Town Basketball games are this week and CMR is fundraising against Cancer.

Justine James, Student Representative from PGEC reported on an average day at Paris. School starts for them at 8:30 am and each student meets with their advisor to schedule their day. Some students go to seminars, some to the library to work on computers. There are no periods – have a schedule made up of units and these can be flexible depending on the students course study. She also reminded everyone about the coffee shop at Paris and that it is open to the public at 7am and closes at 12 noon.

**D. Introduction of National Board Certified Teachers** – Superintendent Crawley commented on these in her Superintendent Report. Tom Cabbage, Susan Crocker and Amy Konen were recognized by the Board and congratulated on being National Board Certified. Tom Cabbage and Amy Konen spoke to the Board and explained how this process was rewarding to them and will be an on ongoing reward in their everyday life at school and in their personal life.

**E. Issue Incentive Award to Sami Bergan** – Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to award the GFPS Incentive Award grant to Sami Bergan, Central Reception and Graphics Secretary at the District Offices Building. Sami Bergan submitted proposal detailing her idea to reformat the District Directory which saved the District approximately \$1,585 in printing and labor costs.

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

Cyndi Baker, 500 Montana Ave NW, thanked Mr. Kloppel and Mr. Moore for coming to a conclusion on a bullying issue that she had. She also spoke to the Board in reference to the GFHS Harassment issue and the attorney that GFPS hired to do the investigation.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approve School Meal Prices for 2012-2013 School Year** - Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to approve the following price increases: Secondary Lunches: from \$2.35 to \$2.45; Elementary Lunches: from \$2.10 to \$2.20; and K-12 Breakfast: from \$1.35 to \$1.45. Effective July 1, 2012 schools will continue to be required to increase the price of paid meals if the price charged is less than the difference between the Federal reimbursements rate for free meals and paid meals or the meals must be reimbursed by non-Federal funding to cover the difference.

**B. Approve Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls Public Schools 1 & A and Cascade public School District 3 and Cascade School District B** – Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Jan Cahill, due to lack of action motion failed. Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed unanimously to table this agenda item until the next Board Meeting.

Bob Moretti, Mary Sheehy Moe and Johnny Walker were overall in support of this idea but had concerns with some of the wording of this contract and the contract was confusing. Jeff Gray asked if we had time to address these concerns and take the agreement back to Cascade. Superintendent Crawley stated that the points made on this are valued and need to work with Cascade to get the concerns answered and changed.

**C. Adopt Resolution to Authorize Great Falls Public Schools IRS code 457 Plan Restatement** – Motion Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adopt the Resolution as presented. Tammy Lacey reported that the District established a 457 Plan in November 2002, so employees could utilize this IRS approved retirement savings mechanism as set forth for governmental employees. Contributions to this deferred compensation plan are voluntary. The District does not contribute to individual accounts. The District has been notified that the IRS is requiring a plan restatement. This restatement is necessary in order to be in accordance with recent federal tax legislation.

**D. Adopt Budget Process for 2012-2013 District Budget** – Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adopt the budget development process for the 2012-2013 Budget outlined in the agenda with the following amended motions: Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Bob Moretti, passed unanimously to make the change under Phase II – Budget Committee Membership first sentence to read – The Budget Committee is comprised of up to seventeen representatives from the following stake holder groups; Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Jan Cahill, passed unanimously to change under Phase II (Optional) Hearings to read as follows: (Optional) Hearings change to **Public Input**. And add the following sentence first - Budget Committee meetings are open meetings and will allow public comment.

**E. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 9200 Facilities – Naming of Buildings and Grounds** – Motion – Bob Moretti, Seconded – Johnny Walker, passed unanimously to approve the language change to Board Policy 9200 School facilities – Naming of Buildings and Grounds as presented.

**F. Approve Financial Reports and Accept Check Registers for November 2011** – Motion – Mary Sheehy Moe, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to accept the monthly financial report for November, 2011 and Accounts Payable checks #47040-47633 in the amount of \$2,409,030.42 and Payroll checks #36824-37285 in the amount of \$870,380.57.

**ACTION: OTHER**

None

**REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

**A. Report on Montana High School Association Rule Change Proposals** – Tom Moore reported that GFHS and CMR are members of the Montana High School Association which provides governance over all classes of extra/co-curricular Activities. There are five proposals this year for consideration. He asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns that Gary DeGooyer and Ed Varner are available for these. Mary Sheehy commented that she has questions on page 60 item #5 dealing with music. I agree with the rationale that is provided here but is the impediment for this ruling to preclude home schooled students from participating in music programs. Gary DeGooyer and Ed Varner replied that this is not the intent. They are proposing to keep #5 as it currently is for the 2011-2012 school year. She understands but this particular requirement if implemented would preclude home school students from participating in the bands of their local schools. Gary DeGooyer and Ed Varner commented that they are suggesting voting yes to rescind the proposal that is in place for 2012-2013 and keep this proposal the same as it has been.

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

Chairman Gray gave a big thanks to Show Down Ski area for the ski program last week that Meadow Lark and Mountain View participated in. It was a great effort by all. He also commended the jazz

workshop at CMR – this was the 23<sup>rd</sup> year that the University of Idaho has participated. It was a great concert. He also mentioned that GFHS held a music jamboree for the Food Pantry and had a great turnout.

Bob Moretti commented that he attended the Downtown Development Meeting which included talk about Whittier Elementary School and will share the minutes from this meeting with the Board and Superintendent.

Jan Cahill stated that he met with Senator Tester and talked about the future in education. He stated that it does not look like the reauthorization is going to occur. Also it does not look like the Senate will be approving a budget. Title I funding will not be on a competitive basis but will remain formula driven. He also indicated that Senator Tester would support increasing the minimum level for what Federal Government provides for IDEA.

Mary Sheehy Moe commented that she has been with the board for 6 months and is increasingly concerned about our public comment period becoming a forum for slander. She would like to encourage those that attend regularly to be careful about their remarks about people who are not here in the room. She has not always agreed with the attorney who has been the investigator in our case, but if it is a slam to say that she has integrity I find that hard to follow. I think there is no reason to judge her conduct on this matter on the basis of what a couple of attorneys in town have to say. That kind of remark happens to frequent in this kind of meeting and carries out of this meeting in way that is unfair to those people and that she has been silent about this too long. Mary also commented on the Superintendent Evaluation and the Board either needs to decide to adopt a new tool or stick with the one currently in place. She urges that the Board come to closure on this item soon. The evaluation of the Superintendent is one of two most important duties that we have as a Board. The other important item being that of establishing the budget.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairman Gray announced that there will be a Board Work Session on January 23 prior to the Regular Board Meeting being held in the Aspen Conference Room. The February 13 meeting will also be held at the District Offices Building and the February 27 meeting will be held at the Benefis/Sletten Cancer Center.

#### **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Mary Sheehy Moe, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:36 pm.

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Jeff Gray, Chairman

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Brian Patrick, Clerk