

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **HELD AUGUST 16, 2011**
3

4 A duly called Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held at the
5 District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South in the Aspen Conference Room on the 16th day of August
6 2011.
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8 **Trustees Present:** Jeff Gray, Chairman
9 Ann Janikula
10 Mary Sheehy Moe
11 Bob Moretti
12 Johnny Walker
13 Laura Vukasin
14 Jan Cahill
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16 Others Present: Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director for Business Operations; Ruth
17 Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Tom Moore Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Chris Olszewski,
18 Director of Curriculum; Tammy Lacey, Human Resource Director; Sally Mathers, Supervisor Federal
19 Programs; and Jeff Patterson, Director of Info Technology.. Also in attendance was Mike Picking, GFEA
20 President.
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22 Chairman Jeff Gray called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00 pm.
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24 **ROLL CALL**

25 Brian Patrick took roll call and all Trustees were present.
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27 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** –Chairman Jeff Gray asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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29 **ADOPT AGENDA**

30 Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.
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33 **ADOPT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICT BUDGETS FOR 2011-2012**

34 Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, motion being that the Board approve the Elementary and
35 High School Budgets for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 accessing the amount of tax levies with
36 compromise Option 3 which is a High School General Fund Budget in the amount of \$22,005,500 and the
37 Elementary General Fund Budget in the amount of \$40,550,000 being a total General Fund Budget of
38 \$62,555,500. Those voting in favor of the motion were Laura Vukasin, Jan Cahill, Jeff Gray, Bob Moretti,
39 and Ann Janikula. Voting against motion were Johnny Walker and Mary Sheehy Moe.
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42 Superintendent Crawley stated that her recommendation is based on her number one responsibility as
43 Superintendent of GFPS and that is to serve the children of Great Falls and our schools. So with that she
44 recommends Option 3 which is the option that holds taxes level to this community and allows the district
45 to take the remaining budget authority in the second year of the biennium and keep our district as strong
46 as possible as long as we possibly can.
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48 Jan Cahill commented that his personal opinion is that we also let the community know that we will not go
49 out for a levy next spring should this motion pass.
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51 Brian Patrick commented that Option 3 is at a zero mill increase and zero dollar increase to Taxpayers.
52 The total General Fund Budget for this option is \$62,555,500. The total taxes on a \$100,000 home will be
53 the same as it was for last year. The total impact to the budget with SB329 is \$1.4 million. Bob Moretti
54 asked if we don't take the SB329 levy this year could we take it next year. Brian Patrick replied that yes
55 we could. Jan Cahill stated that if we do not use SB329 this year and want to use it next year, we go
56 back 5 years which would be 2007 which is where the levy was passed. Brian Patrick commented from
57 his perspective that he would like to put SB329 to bed and to go through this again next year would not
58 be very positive. He recommends that we make a decision on SB329 and put this behind us. Laura

1 Vukasin stated that it is important to note that several of us were going to vote no, no matter how this
2 turns out, several of us last week were opposed to what was going on with SB329. The reason we were
3 is that we felt we had an obligation to the taxpayers. Superintendent Crawley made the exact statement
4 that she should of. Her first obligation is to educate children in our District and our first obligation is to
5 listen to the people that elected us. What matters is what the public has charged us with doing. The
6 public made it very clear to us that they were not in favor of increased taxes. Last week when she voted
7 against extending the meeting, she would have voted against SB329. With Option 3 we have a happy
8 medium and no increase in taxes to the public so is in full support of Option 3. Johnny Walker stated that
9 he believes in the will of the people, even if it is against his own personal wishes and voters spoke this
10 spring about not wanting to support any additional funding for public schools when they voted down a \$1
11 million levy. He is concerned about the credibility of this district and this board with this decision. I want
12 to support education but I don't want to blindly support it.

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14 Brian Patrick also explained to the Trustees that they have to adopt all of the budgets for the budgeted
15 funds. He recommends that the Elementary Transportation Budget be at 9.07 mills, Adult Education at
16 1.85 mills and the Technology Fund at 1.34 mills. The High School Transportation he recommends 5.84
17 mills, Adult Ed at 2.17 mills and the Technology .66 mills.

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19 Motion – Jan Cahill, Seconded – Laura Vukasin, passed unanimously to adopt the Elementary
20 Transportation Budget at 9.07 mills, Adult Ed Budget at 1.85 mills, and the Technology Budget at 1.34
21 mills and in the High School – Transportation Budget mills at 5.84 mills, Adult Ed at 2.17 mills and
22 Technology at .66 mills.

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24 Trustee Sheehy Moe asked if these budgeted funds also deal with SB329. Brian Patrick stated that no
25 these funds are not affected by SB329. Only the General Funds. The Board also had questions about
26 the transportation budget and as to why the budget in elementary was not \$200,000 less than the budget
27 amount from last year because of the common dismissal times and the savings in the number of buses
28 running. Brian explained that the budget is slightly increased from last year because of the unknown and
29 fuel pricing and the bus routes themselves.

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31 Jeff Gray suggested that the board recess for a few minutes so that Brain Patrick could recheck the
32 numbers behind this budget. Motion – Johnny Walker, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to
33 recess at 7:40 pm.

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35 The Board was back in session to further discuss the other budgeted funds. Brian Patrick explained that
36 in the transportation budgets there are increasing costs from one contract year to the next for the buses
37 that serve our district as well as a clause in which the district pays for increases in fuel prices. The
38 elementary transportation budget was reduced. If something happens and a route needs to be added,
39 there is a 10% amount that the district can use to pay those expenses. In reviewing the reserves in both
40 the Elementary and High School there was not as much reserve in High School as there was in
41 Elementary. The transportation budget for elementary district is the same as last year with the reserve
42 amount reduced. The High School budget went up slightly because there is not the \$185,000 savings
43 with the common dismissal times. There was not as much left in reserves at the end of the year, and if
44 either fund was over budgeted any money that was collected will go back to reduce next year's tax. The
45 High School that budget will increase by \$58,000. Trustee Moe thanked Brian for his time in this process.

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47 **ADJOURN**

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49 Motion – Laura Vukasin, Seconded – Ann Janikula, passed unanimously to adjourn the Special Meeting
50 of the Board of Trustees at 7:50 pm.

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56 Jeff Gray, Chairman

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58 Brian Patrick, Clerk

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