

April Agenda Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallatin Gateway School multipurpose room.

(All policies mentioned in the agenda can be found at www.gallatingatewayschool.com.)

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Presiding Trustee's explanation of procedures to be followed for addressing the Board – (GGS Policy #1441)

Public Comment- Non Agenda Items- Public Comment- Sign in sheet- (GGS Policy #1441)

Guests:

Broadcasting & Public Communication Class- Mr. Coon and GBS News Team

Darla Fitzpatrick- MUST Representative

Recognition of Superintendent Ms. DeBruycker- MSRC Administrator in Reading Award

Board of Trustee Candidates for May 8, 2007 Trustee Election- Jess Holloway, Celia O'Connor & Jason Walker

Minutes

March 7, 2007-regular meeting (GGS Policy #1420 & #1401)

Finance

Warrants and Expenditure vs. Budget Report (GGS Policy # 7310 & #7326)

Cash Reconciliation (GGS Policy #7410)

Extra-Curricular Recap and Reconciliation (GGS Policy #7425)

MUST Renewal Rates (GGS Policy #5331 & Certified Master Agreement)

Montana Department of Administration Audit Acceptance- FY ending June 30, 2005 (MCA 2-7-515)

Building Reserve Fund- (MCA 20-9-502)

Technology Fund- (MCA 20-9-533)

Budget Discussion

Personnel

Contract Negotiation- School Board- Gallatin Gateway Education Association- MEA/MFT

Athletic Director- Job Description- Clas-015- revision

Superintendent's Report

Old Business

School Growth Plan (GGS Policy# 9210) from November 13, 2006 meeting

New Business

*** Public Relations**

Gateway Village Minor Subdivision Proposal

Ballot Approval- May 8, 2007 election (MCA 13-12-201, 20-20-401, & 15-10-425)

Purchasing- GGS Policy #7320- revision

Hire Auditor for 2006-2007

2006-2007 Non-Resident Student Tuition Rates

Board Meeting Date for May 21st or 29th

***Academics**

Art Instruction

Adjournment

Regular Meeting, Board of Trustees, Gallatin Gateway School District #35

Open Session

DATE: April 9, 2007

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Gallatin Gateway School Library

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Erik Yager, Board Chair
Jess Holloway, Vice Chair
Alec Nisbet
Nikki Robbins
Cheryl Thiem

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Kim DeBruycker, Superintendent; Carrie Fisher, Clerk; Ken Mosby, Business Manager; Mike Coon, Teacher; and Deb Clark, Teacher

OTHERS

PRESENT: Darla Fitzpatrick, MUST Representative; Jason Walker, Celia O'Connor, Tom O'Connor, Shawna Brenner, Terry Threlkhold, Kathy Umbaugh

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Board Chair Erik Yager.

Board Chair Erik Yager explained the public comment process to be followed for addressing the Board in accordance with Gallatin Gateway School Policy #1441. He stated that prior to a vote the public may comment on agenda items. There will be time for public comment on non-agenda items. Public comment periods are not intended to be a question and answer session and may not include discussions of performance, evaluations or anything that may infringe on any person's right to privacy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

GUESTS

Mr. Coon presented information about the progress and accomplishments of the Broadcasting and Public Communications class. Mr. Coon explained the students' process of producing the school news aired on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Darla Fitzpatrick, MUST representative provided the Board with information on the 2007-2008 insurance rates and options. In addition, she explained the policy updates and enhancements for the coming year.

The Board recognized Ms. DeBruycker as the recipient of the MSRC Administrator in Reading Award.

The 2007 Board of Trustee candidates were introduced and each provided background about themselves and a statement as to why they were running for the Board. First, Celia O'Connor introduced herself and explained that she grew up in Bozeman and has lived in Gallatin Gateway for about ten years. She noted that she loves public schools and would like to help Gallatin Gateway achieve great things. Jason Walker then explained

that he had lived in Gallatin Gateway since 1989 and that he never had the opportunity to attend Gallatin Gateway School himself, but that he wished that he had. He noted that he believes in public schools and would like to help Gallatin Gateway School succeed. Finally, Jess Holloway, Vice Chair addressed the community and stated that he would be the incumbent for the seat that he has held for three years and that he was very interested in continuing to help Gallatin Gateway School and its students.

The Board asked that the candidates provide Ms. DeBruycker with a short paragraph about themselves to include in the May newsletter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Alec Nisbet to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2007 regular meeting. Trustee Cheryl Thiem seconded the motion. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE

A motion was made by Trustee Alec Nisbet to approve warrants (#26931-#27030- Void-none). The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditure vs. Budget Report was tabled until the May 30, 2007 meeting.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to approve the cash reconciliation report as of March 27, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cheryl Thiem. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve the Extra-Curricular recap and reconciliation report as of April 9, 2007 with a balance of \$14,553.43. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Nikki Robbins to approve the 2007-2008 MUST insurance rates as presented by Darla Fitzpatrick with the cost of single medical coverage being \$295/month, dental \$29/month and vision \$8/month. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board recognized a letter from Heather Voeller of the Montana Department of Administration stating that the actions taken by the School Board regarding the findings and recommendations for the audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2005 were acceptable.

The Board discussed running a building reserve levy on the May 8, 2007 ballot for voter approval. The amount to ask for was discussed and the Board's consensus was to ask for \$25,000 for five years totaling \$125,000, which equates to 6.35 mills; an increase of 2.41 mills over the current 3.94 mills.

Public Comment: Shawna Brenner clarified what the building reserve funds could be used for. Kathy Umbaugh asked if the Board would also be asking for a general fund increase on the May ballot or if it would just include the building reserve levy. She noted that there is a fine line for approval when the ballot includes several levy propositions. Shawna Brenner recommended the Board explain the building reserve proposition well in the May newsletter and provide a list of things that it will be used for and noted that the more people that are informed regarding the district's need the better chance pass.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to set the building reserve levy amount on the May 8, 2007 ballot at \$25,000 for five years. The motion was seconded by Board Chair Erik Yager. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, and Yager. Opposed: Thiem. Motion passed 4-1.

The Board discussed running a technology fund levy on the May 8, 2007 ballot for voter approval. The Board's consensus was to wait until the district had acquired a year or two additional inventory to raise the value of its current property to a level that warrants asking voters for approval. The Board discussed the costs associated with running a levy and the risk of the Building reserve levy not passing if the technology levy was run at this time. The Board agreed that the building reserve levy was more vital to the well being of the district at this time.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to not include a technology levy proposition on the May 8, 2007 ballot. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cheryl Thiem. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem. and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Business Manager Ken Mosby provided the Board with information regarding the anticipated 2007-2008 general fund budget. He noted that with the legislature entering a special session it is unknown at this time how their decisions will affect the 2007-2008 general fund budget.

PERSONNEL

The Board tabled appointing a negotiation team until after the May 8, 2007 election could be held to ensure that any new members of the Board would have an opportunity to participate and to ensure that the Board was represented by current Board members during the process.

A motion was made by Trustee Alec Nisbet to approve revisions to the Athletic Director job description- Clas-015. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem. and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Shawna Brenner inquired as to the duties and responsibilities of an athletic director. Kathy Umbaugh stated "I'm sure it is much needed."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Kim DeBruycker discussed the following information with the Board: 1)Wrestling assembly- April 5th; 2) Swimming lessons- Donation from Lain Kay; 3) Mother-Daughter basketball game; 4) Maturation Classes for 5th-8th graders; 5) Gator Tater Feed- Benefit for Gossett Family; 6) State Technology Test- 8th graders only; 7) Adult Education Courses; 8) 8th Grade Shadow Day at BHS- April 17th; 9) Track Meet Schedule; 10) DARE Graduation- April 20th; 11) Firemen's Pancake Breakfast and WWLA Community Cleanup- April 21st; 12) District Writing Sample Assessments; 13) Kindergarten Roundup- April 26th; 14) All Girls Wrestling Tournament; 15) Expedition Yellowstone! Students leave April 30th; 16) Grant Update; 17) FLMA Letter from Elizabeth Kaleva; 18) Gymnasium- Heating and Sound; 19) Roofing Bids; 19) Legislative Updates; and 20) Letter from Dick Shockley- growth impact and truck traffic.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Kim DeBruycker encouraged the Board to establish a growth plan committee to anticipate future growth of the school. She noted that the district has reached maximum capacity for its sewage system and its playground space and that she was concerned about the future of Gallatin Gateway School if any community growth occurred. Nikki Robbins stated that the Board should expect that growth in Gallatin Gateway will eventually happen and they should be prepared. Board Chair Erik Yager agreed with Trustee Robbins assessment and stated that there is a need for a committee to start looking at future growth of the school. Jess Holloway stated that he'd like to see the Board receive updates from the community planning committee at their meetings and noted that the next planning committee meeting will be held April 18th from 6-9 pm at the Community Center. Trustee Nikki Robbins stated that she would be willing to establish a growth plan committee for the Board and attend the community planning meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Terry Threlkhold provided the Board with updated information regarding the new proposal for the Gateway Village Subdivision and he noted that the community was very apprehensive to the original proposal. Therefore, the new proposal includes only five lots that are about ten acres each, but Mr. Threlkhold noted that these lots could be commercial or residential and his hopes are that growth that impacts the school, would be spread overtime. The Board's consensus on the matter is that the Gateway Village Minor Subdivision could still have a substantial impact on the district.

A motion was made by Trustee Alec Nisbet to approve the May 8, 2007 ballot wording to include the following:

SCHOOL TRUSTEE-for a 3 Year Term

Jess Holloway, Celia L. O'Connor, and Jason Walker

BUILDING RESERVE LEVY PROPOSITION

Shall the district be authorized to impose a building reserve in the amount of \$25,000 dollars per year for 5 years and being approximately 6.35 mills for the purpose of properly maintaining, equipping, furnishing, remodeling and retro-fitting building and grounds for the District? Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on a home with a market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$14.38 and on a home with a market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$28.77.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Nikki Robbins. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Nikki Robbins to approve revisions to GGS Policy #7320- Purchasing, leaving the requirement for board approval of purchases greater than \$25,000 and raising the required bid amount to \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Alec Nisbet to hire Ross R. Stalcup to conduct the District's audit for fiscal years 2007, 2008 and 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to set the 2006-2007 out-of-district tuition at the estimated state rates of \$457.90 for kindergarten, \$915.80 for grades 1-6 and \$1,172.20 for grades 7-8, waiving all but \$150.00 per family per year or have the district of residence pay the full state rate amount per student was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway and seconded by Trustee Alec Nisbet. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to hold a special board meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9th and hold the regular May Board meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, May 30th was made by Trustee Alec Nisbet and seconded by Trustee Nikki Robbins. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

ACADEMICS

Ms. DeBruycker briefed the Board on art instruction and future plans of integrating art with other subject areas next school year. She noted that she would like the Board to consider adding a part-time art instructor into their upcoming budget.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Jess Holloway to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Nikki Robbins. For: Holloway, Nisbet, Robbins, Thiem and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Erik Yager, Board Chairman

Carrie Fisher, District Clerk