

February Agenda Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2008 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

Mr. Vanderbeck- 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip

Alec Nisbet- Endowment Information

GGS Mentor Program

GGS Teachers

Minutes

January 8, 2008 (special meeting) (GGS Policy #1420 & #1401)

January 14, 2008 (regular meeting) (GGS Policy #1420 & #1401)

January 28, 2008 (special meeting) (GGS Policy #1420 & #1401)

Finance

Warrants (GGS Policy #7310 & #7326)

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

Cash Reconciliation (GGS Policy #7410)

Extra-Curricular Recap (GGS Policy #7425)

Spring Enrollment Summary (ANB Count)

Personnel

Hire- Classified/Certified Substitutes (GGS Policy #5120)

Appoint Board Negotiation Team

Superintendent's Report

Old Business

New Business

***Academics**

***Community & Public Relations**

Kitchen Inspection Report-2/8/08

Adjournment

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

Open Session

DATE: February 11, 2008

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Gallatin Gateway School Multipurpose Room

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Erik Yager, Chair
Jess Holloway, Vice Chair
Celia O'Connor
Nikki Robbins
Cheryl Thiem

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Kim DeBruycker, Superintendent; Carrie Fisher, Clerk; Crystal Hansen, Lauren Harvey, and Tom Vanderbeck, Teacher

OTHERS

PRESENT: Sherry Coffin, Steve Fisher, Kyra Fisher, Spencer Coffin, Connor Milmine, Jeff Griffith, Alec Nisbet, and Scott Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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

Sherry Coffin, a parent of an eighth grade student, explained to the Board that she will be very sad when her son leaves Gallatin Gateway School for the high school next year. She explained that her family moved to Gallatin Gateway School after attending a private school and they have been very pleased with the small environment and the exceptional staff at Gallatin Gateway School. Mrs. Coffin commended the District on offering courses such as broadcasting, technology, and geometry, as she felt that her son would not have had those opportunities available at a private school. She noted that her son has received an individualized education and the school has set specific goals for her son. She also stated that any issues that have arose during their time at Gallatin Gateway School have all been handled very well and with dignity for all parties involved. She complimented the Board for having Ms. DeBruycker on staff because she is very reactive, approachable, takes responsibility, and has always met her with warmth and openness. She continued by saying that Ms. DeBruycker has been an advocate for teachers not just students. She complimented Ms. DeBruycker for receiving the Montana Administrator in Reading Award this past fall. In addition, Mrs. Coffin recognized that the entire staff at Gallatin Gateway School is wonderful and always accessible to parents and students; giving special recognition

to Ms. DeBruycker and Mrs. Fisher. Trustee Nikki Robbins thanked Mrs. Coffin for attending and stated that school has benefited from their family attending Gallatin Gateway School.

Jeff Griffith explained to the Board that he had two children that attended Gallatin Gateway School until they had to move three years ago and that they have missed Gallatin Gateway School since their departure. Mr. Griffith explained that his children now have to attend Bozeman schools and he feels that his children are just a number and not provided the same individualized education that they received while at Gallatin Gateway School. He also noted that his children do not have the same opportunities for extra-curricular activities or to excel in the areas such as music as they once did while attending Gallatin Gateway School. Mr. Griffith stated that “Bozeman schools are okay, but kids are run through like cattle” and noted that no one knows them there. He referenced a time when he visited with Ms. DeBruycker about his child and she knew his reading level and how he was doing in class. He stated that Ms. DeBruycker knows the kids and takes time to get to know them all individually. He said that Gallatin Gateway School is great and has the ability to keep many things in check. Mr. Griffith said that he came to the meeting because he knows that the Board probably doesn’t always hear many positive things about the school and felt he should take an opportunity to discuss them openly with the Board. Board Chair Erik Yager thanked Jeff Griffith for attending the meeting and stated that the Board doesn’t get to hear many positive things and it was nice that he came and expressed them to the Board.

Eighth grade students, Spencer Coffin and Connor Milmine, presented information to the Board about the eighth graders’ plans to travel to Washington D.C. May 4th-8th, 2008. The students provided a budget, itinerary and fundraising update.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve the eighth graders trip to Washington D.C. May 4th-8th. Trustee Celia O’Connor seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O’Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Alec Nisbet introduced Scott Johnson, a Trustee from Monforton School, who presented information to the Board about endowment funds. Mr. Johnson gave the Board a copy of the by-laws from Monforton and Alec Nisbet stated that he will try and get the Board a copy of Ophir School’s for them too. Scott Johnson stated that Monforton School received much of their information about starting an endowment fund from the MSU Foundation and then they contacted a local attorney to set up generic by-laws and then they have developed and adapted them as needed since the endowments’ inception. Mr. Johnson recommended that the Board and the foundation remain separate entities as the endowment funds are not dictated by school budget. He explained that the endowment funds would be allocated and spent based on the mission set by the foundation, but would likely support the school. Mr. Johnson stated that there is one School Board member of the foundation board at Monforton School, but the meetings are separate from the School Board and they have an agenda, take minutes and there is a treasurer that tracks all of the funds. Alec Nisbet added that foundations are generally designed to support school programs, not replace them. In addition, Mr. Nisbet stated that developing a foundation is really not a Board decision, but a decision that must be made by community members willing to establish a foundation to support school programs and activities. Mr. Johnson explained that at Monforton School teachers, when the foundation is ready for that stage, will submit a request for a grant to the foundation for supplies and activities to support their classrooms. He noted that Monforton’s Foundation is still trying to find donors and has focused much of their efforts on alumni, as many of the local businesses donate to the school for other things already and they can only donate so much each year. Ms. DeBruycker stated that she has been trying to develop a list of Gallatin Gateway School alumni for several years and asked the board and community members present to help her in that task. Mr. Nisbet stated that the next step to establish a foundation for Gallatin Gateway School would be to locate individuals interested in being on the Board for the foundation. Mr. Johnson stated that if the Board or the foundation members have questions about the process to please feel free to contact him.

Ms. DeBruycker, Miss Hansen and Miss Harvey provided the Board with information about the Gallatin Gateway School Teacher Mentor Program. They explained the process of becoming a mentor and a mentee and what the program offers teachers that participate. Miss Hansen explained that she has found it very helpful to have advice from a veteran teacher and get their assistance when planning lessons and activities. Miss Harvey explained the Miss Nora and Ms. DeBruycker assist the new teachers with information about district policy and procedures, classroom management, curriculum and activity ideas. Miss Hansen noted that the sessions she attends with Ms. DeBruycker and Miss Nora are very informative and the mentors not only lead discussions, but answer questions. Miss Harvey agreed and stated that the mentor meetings have been a great help and provides the environment needed for her to get new ideas, feedback on her ideas and learn new things. Miss Hansen

stated that she felt MSU was doing a disservice to its teaching students by not offering more opportunities and training in classroom management.

Mr. Vanderbeck read a letter to the Board from the teaching staff about the accomplishments and goals for the 2007-2008 school year. (attached). Mr. Yager questioned the goals presented by the staff and wanted to know if those were things that the Board needed to be involved in. Miss Hansen stated that the staff is working with Ms. DeBruycker to define what is most important for the teachers to do and what can be eliminated from their list to limit what is expected from them. Mr. Vanderbeck noted teachers have begun accepting certain risks, "What can you not do to get other things done?" Mr. Vanderbeck stated that the staff was working with Ms. DeBruycker to establish more standardized duties across the board. Board Chair Erik Yager stated that the Board is behind teachers having a life out side of school and stated that the Board really appreciates the progress reports and stated that it was nice to see the teachers working with Ms. DeBruycker. Trustee Nikki Robbins agreed and stated that it was "nice to see the things you appreciate in Ms. DeBruycker."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Celia O'Connor to approve the minutes for January 8, 2008, January 14, 2008 with corrections- change word "survey" to "assessment"; January 28, 2008. Vice Chair Jess Holloway seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to approve warrants (#27901-#27997- Void-#27990). The motion was seconded by Trustee Celia O'Connor. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Celia O'Connor to approve the Expenditure vs. Budget Report as of February 8, 2008. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve the Cash Reconciliation Report as of February 8, 2008. The motion was seconded by Trustee Nikki Robbins. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve the Extra-Curricular Report as of February 11, 2008 with a balance of \$23,346.87. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board recognized that the District's spring enrollment summary by school was: K-6- 117 students and 7-8- 38 students. The enrollment count submitted to OPI was as of February 1, 2008.

PERSONNEL

There were no new classified/certified substitute hires submitted for approval.

The Board appointed Celia O'Connor, Cheryl Thiem and Nikki Robbins to represent the Board during contract negotiations with Gallatin Gateway School Education Association MEA-MFT.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Kim DeBruycker discussed the following information with the Board: 1)Donations- Alpine Storage and Prescott Family; 2) Letter from Gini Phillips; 3) MSU Paraeducators; 4) Sportsman's Banquet and Auction; 5) Board Teamwork Evaluation; 6) Girls' Basketball; 7) Ski Day; 8) Sweetheart Spaghetti Supper; 9) Student

Council Movie Night ; 10) Student Council- Spirit Days; 11) Wrestling Tournaments- Billings & Helena; 12) DARE; 13) GYG Meeting- February 18th @ 6:30pm; 14) DARE Program; 15) Dental Screenings- K-4- February 15th; 16) No School- February 18th; 17) School Audit Begins- February 19th; 18) March Meeting- March 5th @ 7pm; and 19)StrengthFinder- Ms. DeBruycker.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Board recognized the kitchen inspection conducted by the Department of Public Health and Human Services of its food service operations on February 8, 2008. The Board noted that no violations were found during this regular inspection and no follow-up inspection is required.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cheryl Thiem seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Erik Yager, Board Chairman

Carrie Fisher, District Clerk