

January Agenda Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for Monday, January 14, 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)

Guest

Tom Vanderbeck- 8th Grade Teacher, Washington DC Presentation

Minutes

December 10, 2007 (regular meeting) (GGs Policy #1420 & #1401)

January 8, 2008 (special committee 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 and Reconciliation (GGs Policy #7425)

Personnel

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

Classified-Vacation Pay Request (GGs Policy #5334P)

Set date for Superintendent's Evaluation (GGs Policy #6110P)

Safety Incentive Program- Worker's Compensation Program Agreement

Superintendent's Report

Old Business

Board Teamwork Self-Assessment (GGs Policy #1620P)

New Business

***Academics**

Full-time kindergarten discussion and state requirements

Instructional Materials- GGs Policy #2311P- Revision

***Community & Public Relations**

Growth Committee Update

Homeschool and Nonschool Athletes- Participation in Wrestling

School law and practice workshop registration

March 2008 meeting date

Adjournment

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

Open Session

DATE: January 14, 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; Ken Mosby, Business Manager; and Mike Coon, Teacher

OTHERS

PRESENT: Steve Fisher

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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. Vanderbeck and the eighth grade will present information to the Board about the proposed class trip to Washington D.C. in May 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to approve the minutes for December 10, 2007. Trustee Celia O'Connor seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Nikki Robbins to approve the minutes for January 8, 2008- special committee meeting. Trustee Celia O'Connor seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve warrants (#27797-#27900- Void-none). 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 Expenditure vs. Budget Report as of January 11, 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 Celia O'Connor to approve the Cash Reconciliation Report as of January 11, 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 Vice Chair Jess Holloway to approve the Extra-Curricular Report as of January 14, 2008 with a balance of \$18,862.07. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Trustee Nikki Robbins to hire Lindsay Burrington, Bryanna Brown, Lauren Kamps and Hailey Nadeau as classified/certified substitutes for the 2007-2008 school year contingent on the completion of a satisfactory reference/background check. Vice Chair Jess Holloway seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Celia O'Connor to approve Mr. Ken Mosby's request for cash compensation for 87.21 hours over the maximum accrual of vacation hours for classified employees allowed by law. Trustee Nikki Robbins seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board will conduct the Superintendent Kim DeBruycker's evaluation on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Nikki Robbins to approve the participation of Gallatin Gateway School in the MSGIA Safety Rewards Program as an addendum to Workers' Compensation Program Agreement. Trustee Cheryl Thiem seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Kim DeBruycker discussed the following information with the Board: 1) Ballot issue CI-99; 2) Community Letters from students; 3) MSU presentations by Ms. DeBruycker and Mrs. Fisher to Paraeducators and student teachers; 4) State funding updates; 5) School consolidation editorial by Lynne Scalia; 6) Holiday program; 7) Robotics; 8) Simple machine science fair; 9) School growth committee meeting- JGA Architects at 6:30pm January 15th; 10) Tobacco prevention presentation- Rick Gale; 11) Relationship building training- Cindy Leavitt; 12) Girls' basketball; 13) Student Council- hot chocolate at recess; 14) DARE program; 15) District ownership of documents and information created in the scope of employee's duties; 16) AYP report; 17) Attendance rate; 18) Governor's comments on school efficiency; 19) District audit- Feb. 18 and 19; 20) Wrestling practice; 21) Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser- 6th grade; 22) BHS mentor program; 23) National Geography Bee- class and school competition; 24) End of 2nd quarter- Friday, January 18th; and 25) GYG meeting- January 21st @ 6:30 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board Teamwork Self-Assessment will be reviewed and presented at the February 11, 2008 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ACADEMICS

The Board discussed its intent to offer full-time kindergarten before July 1, 2012. Business Manager, Ken Mosby noted that the state has asked districts to complete a PAA-3 form to declare their intent to offer full-time kindergarten before July 1, 2012 and that it was due to the Montana Office of Public Instruction by February 1, 2008. If the district did not declare their intent by February 1, 2008 the District would not receive the one-time-only start up payment based on current enrollment numbers, but rather those reported in October 2006.

Ms. DeBruycker noted that Gallatin Gateway School has a highly successful kindergarten program and parents have reported a high rate of satisfaction with the school offering kindergarten three full-days each week. She also explained that the District is currently offering more hours than the district needs for accreditation, but is provided funding for half-time enrollment in regards to ANB calculations. She continued to explain to the Board that there are many options for them to consider including: staying with the current kindergarten schedule, watching what other kindergarten programs do around the area or eventually increase kindergarten to full-time. She recommended that the district observe other programs and determine if there is an academic advantage to offering full-time kindergarten to Gallatin Gateway School students. Mr. Mosby noted that the district would increase its general fund budget by approximately \$50,200 with the addition of full-time kindergarten. He also noted that payroll costs would increase for the district by about \$12,200. He explained that from a budgetary stand point the district would benefit financially from offering a full-time kindergarten program.

Ms. DeBruycker cautioned the Board about offering full-time kindergarten based on monetary gains and encouraged them to research the academic benefits prior to making any final decision or schedule changes. Board Chair Erik Yager agreed and stated that the district must focus on what is best for kids. Trustee Celia O'Connor stated that that the district must make the best decision for the students and families of Gallatin Gateway School for academic reasons. Trustee Nikki Robbins stated that she loves the three day a week option and feels that five days a week would be too much for kindergartners. She recommended that the Board remain at three full days a week. Ms. DeBruycker agreed with Trustee Robbins and noted that at the beginning of the year it is tough for students to adjust to full days, but she noted that Three Forks offers part-time kindergarten the fall semester and then transitions students to full-time kindergarten spring semester. She noted that there isn't a lot of information about the academic benefits available at this time, but she would be happy to research it for the Board. Trustee Jess Holloway asked Ms. DeBruycker if there was a benefit to Gallatin Gateway School offering full-time kindergarten all year. Ms. DeBruycker explained that research goes both ways and that she personally felt that the benefits depend more on the kids and class overall.

Currently the district is offering Title I services to kindergartners on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide at-risk students with the extra help they need, but Ms. DeBruycker stated that the district has lots of options to explore prior to committing to a full-time kindergarten program. Trustee Cheryl Thiem stated that she felt there was a benefit to the students to have a regular schedule and to be in the school each day. Trustee Celia O'Connor stated that she would like the Board and administration to explore the idea of offering three days a week first semester and then five days a week second semester. Ms. DeBruycker noted that the Board must make a decision on the matter that considers both budgetary and the academic aspects of offering full-time kindergarten in the future. She also noted that the trend seems to be that most schools will be offering full-time kindergarten in the future, but at this time the district must only declare intent to offer full-time kindergarten before July 1, 2012. She recommended that the board submit the form to OPI declaring their intent so that OPI can budget for the future and if the District does not offer full-time kindergarten by 2012 the funds will be returned to OPI.

A motion was made by Trustee Celia O'Connor to declare the District's intent to offer a possibility of full-time kindergarten before July 1, 2012. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cheryl Thiem. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve revisions to GGS Policy #2311P-Instructional Materials. The motion was seconded by Trustee Celia O'Connor. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Trustee Nikki Robbins provided information to the Board about the growth committee. She explained that the committee is "picking up speed" and that the committee would be doing a school needs assessment in March or April to address what the school is lacking and how increased enrollment because of future development would impact the district. She explained that the community growth committee would like this assessment completed prior to the April County Commissioner meeting so that they can include the findings in their report to the County Commissioners.

The Board was presented with several requests for participation of home school and nonschool students in the 2008 wrestling program. The Board expressed concern about drawing students from other districts. Coach Mike Coon explained that the wrestling program benefits from more student participation, but agreed with the Board that he does not want to attract students from other school districts. Coach Coon noted that many of the home school and nonschool requests were by families with older siblings or with parents that were willing to help with coaching. Board Chair Erik Yager noted that it was hard for the Board to say yes to some, but no to others and encouraged Coach Coon to meet with Ms. DeBruycker to establish formal guidelines and procedures for next year.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to approve one second grade non-district student to participate in wrestling for 2008 season. 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 one preschool non-district child to participate in wrestling for 2008 season. 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 one second grade in-district home school student to participate in wrestling for 2008 season. 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 one preschool in-district child to participate in wrestling for 2008 season. 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 one preschool in-district child to participate in wrestling for 2008 season. 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 not approve the request for one second grade non-district student, one third grade non-district student and one preschool non-district child to participate in wrestling for 2008 season. The motion was seconded by Trustee Celia O'Connor. For: O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: Holloway. Motion passed 4-1.

The Board discussed the School Law and Practice Workshop presented by Ms. Elizabeth Kaleva, but there were no members of the Board able to attend the training in Great Falls on January 22, 2008. Ms. DeBruycker is planning on attending.

The Board will hold its regular March meeting on March 5, 2008 at 7 pm because the regular meeting falls over Spring Break.

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 8:46 p.m.

Erik Yager, Board Chairman

Carrie Fisher, District Clerk