

May Agenda

Special Meeting of Trustees

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 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:

County Planning Department and Gateway Planning and Steering Committee
Mrs. Matthews and the 6th Grade Class- Expedition Yellowstone!

Recognition of Trustee Nisbet & Swear in Trustees- County Superintendent Mary Ellen Fitzgerald

Reorganization of the Board

Clerk Appointment

Finance

Warrants (GGS Policy # 7310 & #7326)
ERATE Funding Commitment

Personnel

Extended Maternity Leave Request (Master Agreement Article 15)
2007-2008 Renewal and/or nonrenewal without cause of Certified Staff (GGS Policy #5350, MCA 20-4-205 and 20-4-206)
Art Certified Position- half-time
Hire- Substitutes- classified/certified (GGS Policy #5120)

Superintendent's Report

Old Business

New Business

***Academics**

2007-2008 Kindergarten Calendar (GGS Policy #2100 # 2100P)- new

***Community & Public Relations**

Homeschool student request to participate in Track & Field
GGS Policy #3141- Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance- revision

Adjournment

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

Open Session

DATE: May 9, 2007

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Gallatin Gateway School Library

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Erik Yager, Board Chair
Jess Holloway, Vice Chair
Alec Nisbet (outgoing Trustee)
Celia O'Connor (newly elected Trustee)
Nikki Robbins
Cheryl Thiem

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Kim DeBruycker, Superintendent; Carrie Fisher, Clerk; Mike Coon, Teacher; Scott Vollmer, Teacher; and Elizabeth Matthews, Teacher

OTHERS

PRESENT: Lain Kay, Carrie Mikkelson, RJ Mikkelson, Kate Nisbet, Steven Nisbet, Shawna Brenner, Tyler Brenner, Devyn Brenner, Madison Brenner, Grant Estey, Haylee Estey, Wayne Thiem, Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, County Superintendent; and Cheyenne Mortenson.

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

Warren Vaughn from the County Planning Department and Gateway Planning and Steering Committee will attend the May 30, 2007 meeting.

Mrs. Matthews and sixth grade students presented information about their Yellowstone trip to the Board and community and thanked Mr. Wayne Thiem for organizing the Outdoor Game Feed fundraiser which provided the majority of their funds.

RECOGNITION OF TRUSTEE NISBET

The Board recognized and presented a plaque to Trustee Nisbet. Board Chair Erik Yager noted that Trustee Nisbet has been a great asset to the Board and will be greatly missed. County Superintendent Fitzgerald thanked Trustee Nisbet "for a job very well done."

SWEAR IN TRUSTEES

Board Chair Erik Yager introduced County Superintendent Mary Ellen Fitzgerald who then swore in Jess Holloway and Celia O'Connor as the newly elected Board Trustees.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

A motion was made by Trustee Jess Holloway to appoint Erik Yager as Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Trustee Celia O'Connor. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, and Thiem. Opposed: Yager. Motion passed 4-1.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to appoint Jess Holloway as Board Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Board Chair Erik Yager. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to appoint Carrie Fisher as District Clerk. The motion was seconded by Trustee Celia O'Connor. 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 (#27031-#27122- Void-none). 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 Vice Chair Jess Holloway to approve the ERATE funding commitment for the 2007-2008 school year totaling \$4,812.7 to be used towards telephone, long distance, cell phone and internet charges. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cheryl Thiem. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Trustee Nikki Robbins to approve an extended Maternity Leave Request by Mrs. Cathy Hoffman until May 29, 2007. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair Erik Yager requested a recommendation from Superintendent Kim DeBruycker in accordance with Gallatin Gateway School Policy #5250 and MCA 20-4-205 and MCA 20-4-206 for the renewal and/or nonrenewal without cause of certified staff contracts for the 2007-2008 school year.

Trustee Celia O'Connor made a motion to approve the renewal of:

Deb Clark	1 FTE
Mike Coon	1 FTE
Susan DeVries	1 FTE
Kelly Haskins	1 FTE
Joanne Heusel	.635 FTE
Cathy Hoffman	1 FTE
Nora Martin	.6 FTE
Elizabeth Matthews	1 FTE
Liz McGoff	.6 FTE
Joe Mohr	1 FTE
Rena Myers	1 FTE
Abbey Steffl	1 FTE

Tom Vanderbeck 1 FTE

Scott Vollmer 1 FTE

Trustee Nikki Robbins seconded the motion. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair Erik Yager stated that the Board had been provided with letters of resignation for certified staff for the 2007-2008 school year, which included Susan DeVries, Liz McGoff, Abbey Steffl, and Scott Vollmer.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway to accept the resignation of Susan DeVries, Liz McGoff, Abbey Steffl, and Scott Vollmer. The motion was seconded by Board Chair Erik Yager. Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Scott Vollmer thanked the Board for the opportunity to work for the Gallatin Gateway School District and informed them that he was leaving for personal reasons and stated that pay was a determining factor, but noted that pay in Montana is a reflection on the state, rather than the school. Mr. Vollmer stated "I enjoyed my time here and I love being here."

Ms. DeBruycker recommended that the Board hire Lorri Brenneman to teach art for the 2007-2008 school year. Ms. DeBruycker recommended at .5 FTE contract be offered for the art instructor.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Thiem to hire Lorri Brenneman as a .5 art instructor for the 2007-2008 school year. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Lain Kay stated that she would love to see Gallatin Gateway School have an art program as it gives students the opportunities for creation and inventiveness. In addition, Ms. Kay stated that adding the art program to the curriculum will help make Gallatin Gateway School a "full" experience. Mike Coon stated that he taught with Ms. Brenneman during this year and she has a real talent for incorporating art into all areas of instruction. Lain Kay also noted that art is not something you just do today, but rather a lifetime skill.

Trustee Nikki Robbins made a motion to hire the following individuals as substitutes for the designated positions- pending acceptable background checks:

Classified and Certified Staff Substitutes: Susan Taylor, Becky True and John Edwards
Vice Chair 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) Election results; 2) Legislative updates; 3) Teacher certification summary; 4) Writing Samples- AYP and 5-year plan; 5) Evacuation- bomb threat update; 6) Community Student Appreciation Day- May 25th; 7) Swimming Donations- Lain Kay; 8) Boardmanship training with Elizabeth Kaleva- May 30th- 4-7 pm; 9) Maintenance and Repair; 10) Math Workshop- Deb Clark and Mike Coon; 11) mentoring Program- Recognize Nora Martin; 12) 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip- students leave May 13th; 13) Expedition Yellowstone; 14) Adult Education; 15) Track Meets in May; 16) 4th Grade Farm Fair- May 10th; 17) Child Find; 18) Go the Distance Day- May 8th- Susan DeVries; 19) Kindergarten Graduation- June 5th; 20) Talent Show & Art Auction- May 12th; Maturation Classes- 5th and 6th Grade; Immunizations- 5th and 6th Grade; 21) BHS Mentor Garden Day; 22) 8th Grade Graduation- June 5th; and 23) 2nd/3rd Grade Field Trip to Little Bear Museum

NEW BUSINESS

ACADEMICS

A motion was made by Vice Chair Jess Holloway adopt the 2007-2008 Kindergarten calendar. The motion was seconded by Trustee Celia O'Connor. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Alec Nisbet wondered if the number of students for next year would warrant a change in the calendar to accommodate two classes. He also encouraged the Board to look long term and consider the need for full ANB funding for kindergarten and he hoped the Board would make its best effort to accommodate as many out-of-district students as possible.

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl to approve the participation of one homeschool student in the track and field program for the 2007 season. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jess Holloway. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board held a discussion regarding out-of-district attendance and how it affects not only class sizes, but the District's budget. Ms. DeBruycker stated that the class size limits of 18 student in kindergarten 19 students in first grade and 19 students in second grade in the current policy, does not leave flexibility for in-district students that arrive during the summer or during the school year. Therefore, her recommendation was to lower the class limit size in GGS Policy #3141 to 17 students for kindergarten, first grade and second grade in an effort to alleviate overcrowding and the hiring of teacher assistants for those classes. In addition, Ms. DeBruycker requested guidance on procedures for admission of out-of-district students. The Board consensus was that preference should be given to students with siblings already attending Gallatin Gateway School, however, class size will still be considered when making the final decision.

A motion to approve revisions to GGS Policy #3141 to lower class sizes limits in grades kindergarten, first and second to 17 students was made by Trustee Celia O'Connor and seconded by Trustee Cheryl Thiem. For: Holloway, O'Connor, Robbins, Thiem, and Yager. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Erik Yager, Board Chairman

Carrie Fisher, District Clerk