

# March Agenda

## Regular Meeting of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 has been scheduled for **Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm** at the Gallatin Gateway School Multipurpose Room. (All policies mentioned in the agenda can be found at [www.gallatingatewayschool.com](http://www.gallatingatewayschool.com).)

### Call to Order

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Presiding Trustee's Explanation of Procedures (GGS Policy #1441 & 1420F)

### Public Comment- Non Agenda Items (GGS Policy #1441 & #1420F)

### Guest(s)

Molly Stenberg – Montana Team Nutrition

Ms. Bridget Ekstrom- D.A. Davidson & Company – Refinance School Bond

### Consent Agenda

Minutes –February 7, 2011-regular meeting (GGS Policy #1420 & #1401); Finance - Warrants (GGS Policy #7310 & #7326), Budget vs. Expenditure Report (GGS Policy #7310 & #7326), Cash Reconciliation (GGS Policy # 7410), Extra-Curricular Recap and Reconciliation (GGS Policy #7425), Food Service Program Reports (GGS Policy #8200)

### Old Business

Environmental Checklist- Quality Schools Grant Program (GGS Policy #7110 & #7210)

Guests: Shawn Murray and Alan Anseth

### New Business

Estimated Budget presentation – Ken Mosby, GGS Business Manager

2011-2012 Budget Discussions (GGS Policy #1111)

Band (pilot year 2), Art, Library update, RTI, Kindergarten, Custodial Services, Aide Salary, Tech Levy, Building Reserve, Textbook, Maintenance, Insurance, Negotiations, Newsletter, Food Service, and other budget items as needed

Fire Department Proposal for Bus Fuel

Out-of-District Athletic Participation Request

School Board Annual Review of Policy- 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, & 9000 Series (GGS Policy #1310)

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

### Superintendent's Report

### Adjournment

\*Note: 2011-2012 Continued Budget Meetings: March 28, April 4

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

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Open Session

**DATE:** March 7, 2011

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Gallatin Gateway School Multipurpose Room

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Celia O'Connor, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Arnaud  
Wayne Thiem

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Erik Yager, Board Chair  
Cheryl Deats

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Kim DeBruycker, Superintendent; Carrie Fisher, District Clerk; Ambure Thorn, Teacher; and Mike Coon, Teacher.

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Jamie Massey, David Cohenour, Lain Kay, Molly Stenberg, Bridget Ekstrom, Alan Anseth, Shawn Murray, and Kim Allerton

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Vice Chair Celia O'Connor explained the public comment process to be followed for addressing the Board in accordance with Gallatin Gateway School Policy #1441. She 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**

Molly Stenberg, Dietitian from the Montana Team Nutrition Program, presented the Board with information about the Healthier US School Challenge which focuses on a three-component approach to enhancing school environments: 1) healthy school lunches and competitive foods, 2) nutrition education, and 3) physical education and activity. She explained that Superintendent DeBruycker and Chef Moore have been working with her to apply for the award which would provide Gallatin Gateway School with state and national recognition along with a small monetary award. Mrs. Stenberg complimented Gallatin Gateway School Board and staff on their support and dedication to ensuring students are provided opportunities for physical activity and healthy meals.

Bridget Ekstrom from D.A. Davidson & Company discussed refinancing the District's Building Bonds. She explained that interest rates are currently fairly low and the District could have a net saving of \$74,848.58 over ten years, which she felt is a conservative estimate and noted that the growth of Gallatin Gateway has a big impact on the final net savings. She presented options for refinancing the school building bonds for 7

years, 8 years, 9 years and 10 years. Ms. Ekstrom provided the Board with a preliminary timeline for refinancing the school building bonds, but noted the Board could begin the process at anytime they wish.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Arnaud to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2011-regular meeting; approve warrants (#30611-#30667 and direct deposit payroll. Voids-none); Expenditure vs. Budget Reports dated March 4, 2011; Cash Reconciliation as of January 31, 2011 dated March 4, 2011; and Extra-Curricular Expenditure and Reconciliation Report as of March 4, 2011 with a balance of \$24,115.48, and February 2011 food service reports and inventory. Trustee Wayne Thiem seconded the motion. For: Arnaud, O'Connor, and Thiem. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Alan Anseth of Yellowstone Electric, Shawn Murray of CTA, and Kim Allerton of ETS presented information to the Board regarding the Quality Schools Grant Program. They noted that they assist schools with the application process for the grant. They explained to the Board that they coordinate with OPI to ensure the schools applying for the grant maximize the funding they can obtain to assist with energy efficiency projects in their buildings. They also noted that the legislative session has currently put the funding on hold until 2013, so the District's application does not need to be completed in June 2011 as they had originally thought. It was recommended that the District continue to complete the process so when funding does become available the District will be ready to submit their application. Applications require community input and for the District to set priorities of their needs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Business Manager, Ken Mosby presented the Board with preliminary budget information for the 2011-2012 school year. First, Mr. Mosby discussed the expected General Fund information for the 2011-2012 year which included the following information:

OPI's FY12 General Fund Budget Preliminary Worksheets:	
Maximum Budget (a)	\$1,100,405.09
Highest Budget without a Vote (b)	\$1,035,589.28
Highest Voted Amount (c) (a minus b)	\$ 64,815.81
Taxable Value (d)	\$4,617,312.00
Value of One Mill (e) (d times .001) (calculated)	\$ 4,617.31
Approximate Mills (c divided by e) (calculated)	14.04
Highest Budget without a Vote - Comparison:	
FY11 (f) (note: Adopted)	\$1,087,249.24
FY12 (g) (see b above)	\$1,035,589.28
Difference (h) (f minus g) (calculated) (Budget Reduction)	\$ 51,659.96
Approximate Mills (h divided by e) (calculated)	11.19
Budget Increase Isolation:	
Maximum Budget FY12 (i)	\$1,100,405.09
FY11 (j) (note: Adopted)	\$1,087,249.24
Difference (k) (i - j) (calculated) (Increase FY11 to FY12)	\$ 13,155.85
Approximate Mills (k divided by e) (calculated)	2.85
Direct Local Tax Portion of Funding FY11	\$ 342,050.32

*Public Comment:* Lain Kay recommended the Board provide the community with as much information as possible if they decide to run a general fund mill levy and suggested that they break down the increase in levied taxes on a monthly dollar amount, rather than just the yearly amount stated on the ballot.

Mr. Mosby then explained the District's options for running a technology levy during the May 3, 2011 election. The discussion included the following information:

The purpose of the Technology Fund is to finance the purchase, maintenance and training concerning technology equipment. The approved levy may be up to 20% per year of the original cost, but not to exceed 150% of the original cost. Gallatin Gateway School Board requested and was approved for a levy in the amount of \$18,000.00 per year. Once a levy is established the school may continue to levy the approved amount within the approved parameters. The levy may be increased, but would require another approval by voters.

Technology Fund Information:

Technology Equipment Inventory as of March 5, 2011 (a)	\$130,458.63
Per Year 20% ceiling (b) (a times .20) (calculated)	\$ 26,091.73
Maximum 150% ceiling (c) (a times 1.50) (calculated)	\$195,687.95

*Public Comment:* Jamie Massey noted the importance of technology in the educational process and felt that the district could not go wrong by asking for increased funding in the area of technology. Ambure Thorn stressed the importance of technology as it relates to teachers and noted that the teachers rely heavily on the use of technology each day.

The Building Reserve levy was discussed. Mr. Mosby provided the Board with the following information:

The purpose of the Building Reserve Fund is to finance voter approved building or construction projects. Funds can only be used for the purpose stated on the ballot. The approved amount will be raised, in equal, annual installments. Gallatin Gateway School Board requested and received approval of a levy in the amount of \$125,000.00 over 5 years.

Building Reserve Fund Information:

Total approved amount (a) (5/8/2007 election)	\$125,000.00
Levied through FY2011 (b)	\$100,000.00
Balance to be levied 2012 (c) (a minus b)	\$ 25,000.00

Mr. Mosby noted that the District has the option to run another Building reserve or wait until next year when the current building reserve expires before they ask voters to approve another Building Reserve levy.

After Business Manager Ken Mosby reviewed the preliminary budget options the Board discussed the following budget areas for the 2011-2012 year: 1) Custodial services vs. hiring a custodian for the district; 2) Band; 3) Hiring an art teacher or continue with current arrangement for teaching art; 4) Library; 5) Response to Intervention (RTI); 6) Kindergarten schedule; 7) Salaries for paraprofessionals/teacher aides; 8) Textbook replacement in Social Studies and/or Grammar; 9) Insurance increases; 10) Negotiations in progress; 11) School newsletter; 12) Food service program; and 13) Aide/Paraprofessional Salary.

*Public Comment:* Lain Kay expressed disapproval of the amount of money the District has chosen to budget towards the library program during the 2010-2011 year because she felt the money would have been better utilized in the band and art programs. She noted that she currently donates funds to pay for band and swimming lessons transportation cost, but stated that she was less inclined to want to help the district when they put money into an area such as the library that doesn't need it. She also told the Board that she cannot continue to pay for band next year, but would like to see the Board add band back into their budget. She recommended that the Board increase enrollment and interest in band by introducing it to the fourth graders this year in preparation for next year. Ambure Thorn urged the Board to increase aide/paraprofessional salaries because they are a valued member of the Gallatin Gateway School staff and

truly deserve the money that they earn. She explained what their jobs entailed and how difficult it can be for the District to find qualified individuals that work well with the students.

David Cohenour from the Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire Department informed the Board that the Fire Department is installing a 1000 gallon double-walled fuel tank. He noted that the fire department had developed a proposal for the Board to include the District in the installation process, which would allow the district access to the fuel for the school buses. He explained that the installation of the fuel tank would provide a constant and convenient access to a fuel supply for both the District and Fire Department, which will also provide for a more efficient use of time and energy by both parties. Mr. Cohenour also noted that the Fire Department will retain ownership of the fuel tank which is in accordance with their emergency plan and would also alleviate the District to any responsibility in the event of a leak. He stated that the district would be asked to pay for the installation of necessary accessories to pump the fuel, such as the pumps with meters. He explained that Story Distributing will bill each organization separately and that the district does not need to make a decision immediately as the offer is open until District feels it is appropriate because the Fire Department is likely to install the tank within the next 45 days and will leave an open slot on the tank for the pump to be installed at anytime convenient for the District. The Board expressed interest, but would like to discuss it further at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Arnaud to allow one out-of-District student to participate in the wrestling program. Trustee Wayne Thiem seconded the motion. For: Arnaud, O'Connor, and Thiem. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed policies in the 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, and 9000 series.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Arnaud to revise GGS Policy #5314- Substitutes to accurately reflect the current substitute pay of \$75 for a full day and \$37.50 for a half day. Trustee Wayne Thiem seconded the motion. For: Arnaud, O'Connor, and Thiem. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.


A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Arnaud to review GGS Policy #5420 at a future meeting and adopt all remaining policies in the 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, and 9000 series with no changes. Trustee Wayne Thiem seconded the motion. For: Arnaud, O'Connor, and Thiem. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

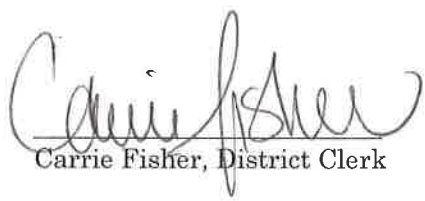
A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Arnaud to hire the following certified/classified substitutes pending and adequate fingerprint/background check: Virginia Mohr, Gretchen Burlingame, and Marlee Witbrod. Trustee Wayne Thiem seconded the motion. For: Arnaud, O'Connor, and Thiem. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Arnaud to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wayne Thiem seconded the motion. For: Arnaud, O'Connor, and Thiem. Opposed: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

  
Erik Yager, Board Chair

  
Carrie Fisher, District Clerk