



1  
2 **D. Montana School Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the  
3 Montana School Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35 for the individual listed in the  
4 agenda.

5  
6 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreement at the Early Learning**  
7 **Center for the 2023-2024 School Year** – The Board approved the student listed in the  
8 agenda to attend the Early Learning Center for the 2023-2024 school year due to  
9 exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

10  
11 **F. Student Activity Accounts for January 2024** – The Board approved the Student  
12 Activity Accounts Monthly Report for January 2024.

13  
14 **G. Great Falls High School (GFHS) Running Club Travel Request** – The Board  
15 approved GFHS Running Club travel to Arcadia, CA on April 5-6, 2024.

16  
17 **H. Great Falls High School (GFHS) Student Leaders Travel Request** – The Board  
18 approved four (4) GFHS Student Leaders travel to Bozeman, MT on March 24-27,  
19 2024, for the Western Native Voice Youth Conference.

20  
21  
22 **COMMUNICATION**

23  
24 **A. Report of the Student Representatives**

25 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School student representatives Caroline Hermiller and Lilli  
26 Skaer reported that both CMR and GFHS Peer Mentor and Diversity Groups partnered  
27 with United Way of Cascade County and Touro Medical School to educate medical  
28 students on the *Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)* suicide prevention technique.  
29 They also hosted the *Live the Dream* event in February in honor of Black History Month.  
30 CMR's Academic Bowl teams won the Regional Championship and will participate in  
31 the State Championship in Missoula in April.

32 Child Development students read Dr. Seuss books to peers as if they were reading to  
33 children in an early childhood education environment. They reported that the students  
34 will have the opportunity to create their own children's book that will incorporate the  
35 current *Montana Early Learning Standards*.

36 Student Government delegates from CMR and GFHS attended the District 2 Student  
37 Council conference in Conrad, MT. CMR Senior Jenna Bailly ran the business meeting  
38 as the outgoing District President.

39 They stated that the CMR dual credit welding class students at the Career and College  
40 Readiness Center (CCRC) will receive a welding certificate before they graduate high  
41 school. High School House students are completing taping, texturing, and painting and  
42 are scheduled to debut the project in May.

43 Seventeen (17) Business Professionals of America (BPA) students qualified for  
44 Nationals and twenty-one (21) received medals at the state competition.

45 Physics students at both CMR and GFHS are building egg drops. Their completed  
46 projects will be tested by dropping the eggs from a higher altitude.

47 Boys' and girls' basketball, swimming and wrestling teams concluded their seasons at  
48 state competitions this past month. Spring sports have started, and students are excited  
49 for the season.

1 Sixty-four students were nominated for the Heisey Award. This award is given based on  
2 qualities of citizenship, effort, and improvement. CMR congratulated fifteen (15)  
3 distinguished scholars who received awards based on their cumulative grade point  
4 average (GPA), number of credits earned, and number of Honors, Advanced Placement  
5 (AP), and Dual Credit courses taken. Speech and Debate also held their awards  
6 ceremony, which commenced with a talent showcase.

7 CMR Lady Rustlers and the Sophomore class recently hosted the second annual  
8 alumni game. The current Rustlers won; now their record is 1-1. The Sophomore class  
9 also hosted a dodgeball tournament and were crowned champions.

10 Montana Air National Guard (MANG), along with their Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen  
11 Unit, was on the CMR campus to discuss, with CMR Culinary students, what it is like to  
12 prepare large meals on site for military teams. They served fresh baked cookies from  
13 the mobile oven.

14 CMR and GFHS reported that Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) was filled with  
15 outstanding guest conductors and concerts. Guest Conductor Dr. Thomas LaVoy spent  
16 a day with both high school and middle school choir students. He then directed a  
17 commissioned song later in the evening.

18 They stated that Art Workshop and Graphic Design students are working on editing  
19 photographs and printmaking. Each project is a different creative display of inspiration  
20 and interpretation.

21 Senior prom, *The Roaring Twenties*, took place at the Civic Center on March 23, 2024.  
22 CMR Theatre students shared their production with all class periods before heading to  
23 Missoula for the State Thespian Festival. They were recognized for outstanding sound  
24 and several students earned scholarships.

25 Several students were honored with awards for their employment achievements at  
26 Bosses Night.

27 Riverview Elementary School students participated in the *Leap Way Up event* at CMR.  
28 These students joined HPE classes to learn about the high school curriculum.

29 They reported that the combined Great Falls Public Schools Bigfoot Archery team won  
30 the state championship and will attend the National Championship. They also reported  
31 that the JROTC students placed third in the state tournament.

32 Several classes, including female weight training students, spent an hour cleaning up  
33 the campus.

34 Lastly, they reported that Jamie Williams, CMR Librarian, was presented with the 2024  
35 Dufresne Award. They stated that Mrs. Williams exemplifies excellence in education  
36 and Rustler Pride.

37

38 Great Falls High School (GFHS) student representatives Seth Royer, Brooklyn Griffin,  
39 and Ryan Harrington reported that the Welding 2 class participated in bend tests. This  
40 project tests skills on structural welding to see how a weld will hold up under pressure.  
41 Biology classes have been researching stem cells and cell duplication using a  
42 Planarian.

43 Student council members volunteered at *A Night Without a Bed*, to bring awareness of  
44 homelessness in our community.

45 English classes dove into *Frankenstein* by using Socratic Seminar to work as a group to  
46 understand the deeper complexities behind the text.

47 The National Honor Society is hosting a hygiene drive to support GFHS students and  
48 others around Great Falls.

1 A new art exhibit by Chris Miller, *Dreamscapes & Daydreams*, will be open for viewing  
2 at Great Falls High Dahl Gallery from March 19, 2024, through May 1, 2024.  
3 They reported that The Out West Art Show and Sale event took place on March 16<sup>th</sup> at  
4 the Heritage Inn where two (2) GFHS students were awarded the Korell and Babat  
5 Scholarships. Heisey Award recipients were also congratulated.  
6 Advanced Placement (AP) Physics students made a roller coaster where a ball would  
7 successfully make it through loops and then slow down by the end of the roller coaster,  
8 demonstrating work-energy principles.  
9 JROTC cadets had the opportunity to ride on either a MH-60 Blackhawk or CH-47  
10 Chinook helicopter. They received an informative briefing from the Civil Support Team  
11 before participating in an obstacle course.  
12 The annual Academic Dinner took place where teachers served pizza to 247 of the 496  
13 outstanding students who maintained a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (GPA)  
14 throughout high school.  
15 GFHS students had the opportunity to participate in MedAchieve, a mentor program  
16 with Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine. This partnership provides invaluable  
17 experiences to future healthcare professionals.  
18 Leadership High School toured the Wilcox Egg Factory, Life in Bloom, a Hutterite  
19 Colony, Central Avenue Meats and Haute Hive to learn about agriculture around the  
20 community. GFHS Peer Mentors put on a *Mental Health Week* to promote change  
21 surrounding the stigma of mental health within the school. The students were  
22 encouraged to wear a different color each day to represent a different cause.  
23 They reported that a Mardi Gras themed Spring Prom, hosted by the Junior class, was  
24 held on March 16, 2024.  
25 Ms. Gresham's 7<sup>th</sup> period culinary class used their baking and decorating skills to make  
26 cupcakes in honor of St. Patrick's Day.  
27 Four (4) GFHS girls participated in a panel discussion at the Great Falls Public Library  
28 in honor of International Women's Day. They got to express their opinions and tell other  
29 generations their experiences of what it is like to be a woman in the modern world.  
30  
31 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) student representative Karsynn Kidrick reported  
32 that the *I am Paris* award is meant to promote and celebrate success in and out of the  
33 classroom. Student nominations are reviewed and selected by a committee. Each  
34 month two or three students are selected for this honor.  
35 The *Thrive Wellness Retreat* was hosted on March 4-6, 2024, by PGEC staff, for PGEC  
36 students at the Ursuline Center. This workshop focused on topics such as grief,  
37 addiction, healthy relationships, and mental health. During this event, multiple safe  
38 zones were provided for students for self-expression and reflection. Counseling was  
39 available for anyone, if needed.  
40 Two (2) guest speakers were welcomed to PGEC for the latest installment of *Lunch with*  
41 *a Professional*. The speakers spoke about nutrition and healthy eating habits. They also  
42 shared their respective business ventures and the challenges they face.  
43 Multiple students traveled to Missoula for an educational and cultural experience. They  
44 toured the University of Montana's theatre department, the new Museum of History and  
45 Culture, and the Missoula Art Museum. These students also watched the production of  
46 Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.  
47 Karsynn and Dugan Coburn congratulated the GFPS Bigfoot Archery team that  
48 participated in the *National Archery in Our Schools Program* State Tournament in  
49 Helena, MT. The team won state in both the 3D Target Championship and the Bullseye

1 competitions. PGEC student Rayah Bourdeau won the overall title with the highest  
2 score in the competition for both men and women.

3  
4 **B. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Malmstrom Air Force Base  
5 (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison Lisa Sapp reported that Major General Stacy  
6 Huser talked to JROTC cadets at Great Falls High School about leadership and  
7 overcoming obstacles.

8 She stated that the annual CMR Students vs. Big Sky Airmen basketball match is  
9 scheduled for April 11, 2024, at CMR High School.

10 April is *the Month of the Military Child* and Lisa reviewed events that will take place  
11 throughout the District and community.

### 12 13 **C. Superintendent's Report**

14 Superintendent Moore introduced Longfellow Elementary School's Principal Shannon  
15 Guilfoyle who presented a *Character Strong* video representing what Cooperation  
16 means to Longfellow students.

17 He congratulated the Bigfoot Archery team for their accomplishments at the State  
18 Tournament.

19 Shanell LaVallie, a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade teacher at Whittier Elementary School, will be a  
20 keynote panelist at the National Indigenous Child Welfare Association's *Protect Our*  
21 *Children* conference in Seattle, WA.

22 Superintendent Moore reported that the Annual Bosses' Day event was a success as  
23 business and students gathered at PGEC for dinner and an awards ceremony.

24 A Great Falls Public Schools Job Fair is scheduled for March 26, 2024, at Paris Gibson  
25 Education Center from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. He also invited the Trustees and  
26 community members to attend a CORE School informational meeting on March 26,  
27 2024.

28 High School House and Griz Biz students will be at the Home and Garden Show from  
29 April 5-7, 2024, to sell items made by the students as well as selling raffle tickets for the  
30 newly built shed.

31  
32 **D. Audience Communication** – Community member Troy Lane reported that Whittier  
33 Elementary School's playground is being locked during the evening and weekends for  
34 multiple reasons. He stated that closing the playground does not deter bad things from  
35 happening but makes it harder for kids and the community to utilize.

### 36 37 38 **ACTION ITEMS**

39  
40 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for January 2024** – Director of Business  
41 Operations Brian Patrick presented the financial report and check register for January  
42 2024.

43  
44 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the  
45 January 2024 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #131930 - #132389 in the  
46 amount of \$2,109,444.08 and Payroll checks #80330 - #80590 in the amount of  
47 \$646,672.14 as presented.

48

1 **B. Superintendent Contract for Heather Hoyer** – Chairperson Johnson reviewed the  
2 timeline that had taken place regarding the Superintendent Search. He then stated that  
3 Montana School Board Association (MTSBA) negotiated the contract with Heather  
4 Hoyer on behalf of the District. He reviewed the proposed Superintendent Contract for  
5 the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years.

6  
7 Trustee Finnicum thanked MTSBA and Heather Hoyer for their cooperation during this  
8 negotiation.

9  
10 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to  
11 approve the three-year contract for Heather Hoyer, effective July 1, 2024, as presented.

12  
13 **C. Board Budget Committee Recommendation Regarding an Elementary and/or  
14 High School Levy Including the Related Ballot Proposition and Resolution -**

15 Trustee Mark Finnicum explained that the Board Budget Committee held a community  
16 meeting on March 19, 2024, and deliberated after hearing administrative options and  
17 public comment. With ample federal funds being allocated to address the learning loss  
18 associated with COVID-19, as well as sufficient reserves, the Board Budget Committee  
19 recommended to forego asking for additional support of District programs via a levy for  
20 the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

21  
22 Trustee's Skornogoski, Bronson and Thompson thanked the Board Budget Committee  
23 for their work. They also thanked the District for investing and budgeting appropriately to  
24 alleviate a rapid budget reduction, like other districts around the state are currently  
25 experiencing.

26  
27 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve to  
28 not request a levy for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as presented.

29  
30 **D. Executive Director Realignment of Responsibilities** – Heather Hoyer, Executive  
31 Director of Student Achievement, reported that projected budgetary challenges are  
32 compelling leadership to look at the reduction process as natural opportunities arise.  
33 With the understanding of asking schools, staff, and community to evaluate reductions,  
34 the Executive Directors would like to strategically approach reductions by redefining the  
35 responsibilities of the existing Executive Directors and reducing one (1) Executive  
36 Director position within the footprint of district-level leadership. She then reviewed, in  
37 detail, the proposed Great Falls Public School's Organization Chart.

38  
39 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the  
40 realignment of duties associated with the position of Executive Director of Student  
41 Achievement as presented.

42  
43 **E. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 2500 (New), 3310P2 (New),  
44 3413F2, and 5121** - Superintendent Moore stated that he has not received any  
45 comments or suggestions to Board Policies 2500, 3310P2, 3413F2, and 5121 since the  
46 first reading at the March 11, 2024, Board meeting.

47  
48 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve new  
49 and revised Board policies 2500, 3110P2, 3413F2, and 5121 as presented.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49

**ACTION: OTHER**

There were no items extracted from the Consent Agenda to discuss.

**REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

**A. First Reading Revised Board Policies 3431, 3600P, 3600R** – Superintendent Moore reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policies 3431– *Duties of Individual Trustees*, 3600P and 3600R – *Student Records* in detail. He asked if anyone has comments or concerns about the policies to contact him before the next Board meeting.

**B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

All Trustees congratulated Heather Hoyer and thanked the Montana School Board Association for their work with the Superintendent’s contract. They also acknowledged Lance Boyd and Jackie Mainwaring for taking on the responsibilities of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Executive Director of Student Achievement position, in hopes of eliminating a portion of funding issues.

Trustee Turoski recognized Heather Hoyer’s initiative to understand budgets and the possibility of financial hardships.

Trustee Bronson stated that he appreciated Troy Lane’s comments and willingness to make sure the playground is cleaned for children; however, due to possible exposure risks and insurance purposes he does not know if it is appropriate. Mr. Bronson also expressed his frustration regarding the Office of Public Instruction (OPI)’s extreme involvement with the processes of the CORE School.

Trustee Finnicum stated that he enjoys listening to the Student Representatives to know what is happening within the High Schools. He also reported that he sits on the MTSBA Board, and they are currently on track with the planning schedule.

Trustee Sunchild thanked GFEA President, Tom Cabbage, for his PIR training.

Trustee Skornogoski stated that *No More Violence Week* is coming up as well as a *Statewide Child Abuse and Neglect* conference. She also reported that the *Read to Me* event just concluded with an extraordinary number of minutes read by second (2<sup>nd</sup>) graders throughout the District.

Chairperson Johnson reported that he attended the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation quarterly meeting and was impressed by the staff and the volunteers who make the organization run smoothly.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024, and Monday, April 22, 2024.

1 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

2

3 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to  
4 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:20 p.m.

5

6

7

8

9

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

10

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Patrick, Clerk

12