

1                   **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
2   **HELD FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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4 A duly called Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools  
5 was held at the District Office Building, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of  
6 February 2024.

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8 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.

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10 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson  
11   Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson  
12   Bill Bronson  
13   Mark Finnicum  
14   Marlee Sunchild  
15   Amie Thompson  
16   Paige Turoski

17  
18 **Others Present:** Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations, Lance Boyd and  
19 Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Directors for Student Achievement, Tom Hering, Director  
20 of Information Technology, and Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public  
21 Schools Foundation.

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23 Also present were: Andrew Vigeland, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA),  
24 and Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.

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26 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of  
27 Trustees and asked Trustee Finnicum to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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29 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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31 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adopt the  
32 agenda as presented.

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35 **AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION** – Chairperson Johnson asked for audience  
36 communication for any item not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

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39 **ACTION ITEM**

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41 **A. Board Discussion and Selection of New Superintendent**

42 Chairperson Johnson introduced Andrew Vigeland from MTSBA. Mr. Vigeland  
43 reminded the Board of the Montana Code of Government Fair Practices regarding  
44 discussion and comments made pertaining to candidates. He also explained how to  
45 make a motion to extend a contract offer to the candidate of choice.

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47 Discussion was then opened to the Board for their comments regarding the candidates.

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2 Trustee Skornogoski opened the discussion by encouraging fellow Trustees to share  
3 their opinions of both candidates in order to make the best-informed decision for the  
4 District. She highlighted Mrs. Hoyer's active participation in great innovations occurring  
5 throughout the District including the CORE School, Build MT, and Dual Enrollment  
6 opportunities. She stated she was impressed with Mr. Mayhue's work ethic and the  
7 passion he has for all students and the communities he has served.

8  
9 The consensus of all Trustees throughout the discussion was both candidates  
10 presented very strong interviews and had a passion for students, education, and  
11 community. Trustees Bronson and Finnicum commented on the progression of  
12 positions within Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) that allows anyone in the District the  
13 opportunity to advance should they have the desire to do so. Both Trustees were  
14 impressed by the ability of both candidates to step into more advanced roles through  
15 their experience and insightfulness.

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17 Trustees Thompson and Turoski commented that Mrs. Hoyer has been in her  
18 leadership role with the District and has the knowledge of innovative practices that have  
19 been successful. She is fully aware of the District's vision and goals and is committed  
20 to continuing the strong leadership of the current Administrative team. Both trustees  
21 commended Mr. Mayhue on his passion for education.

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23 Trustee Sunchild reiterated the comments made by fellow Trustees regarding both  
24 candidates. She respected Mr. Mayhue for coming to interview with Great Falls Public  
25 Schools. Trustee Sunchild stated Mrs. Hoyer makes you want to work with her, not for  
26 her.

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28 Chairperson Johnson said he appreciated the comments from the Trustees. He  
29 encouraged the Board to make a motion on a candidate of choice.

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31 Motion – Trustee Bronson made a motion to extend the job offer of Superintendent for  
32 Great Falls Public Schools to Heather Hoyer. The motion recommended a three (3)  
33 year contract at a salary of \$175,000 per year with personal days to mirror the current  
34 Superintendent's contract and vacation and sick day accumulation per Montana Law.  
35 Motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Skornogoski.

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37 Chairperson Johnson asked for public comment before the final vote was taken.

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39 Public comment – none.

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41 Chairperson Johnson asked Clerk, Brian Patrick, to take a roll call vote on the motion:  
42 Chairperson Johnson – Yes  
43 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski – Yes  
44 Trustee Bronson – Yes  
45 Trustee Finnicum – Yes  
46 Trustee Sunchild – Yes  
47 Trustee Thompson – Yes

1 Trustee Turoski – Yes  
2 Motion passed unanimously.

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4 **B. Superintendent Contract Negotiations**

5 Trustee Bronson motioned to give Chairperson Johnson the authority to work with  
6 MTSBA to negotiate the parameters of the Superintendent contract. The motion was  
7 seconded by Vice Chairperson Skornogoski. The motion passed unanimously with all  
8 Trustees voting in favor.

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11 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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13 Motion – Chairperson Johnson, Second – Trustee Bronson, passed unanimously to  
14 adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:00 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk

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