

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2024**
4

5 A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public
6 Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South, on the 26th day
7 of February 2024.
8

9 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.
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11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum – via Phone Conference
14 Amie Thompson
15 Paige Turoski
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17 **Trustees Absent:** Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson - Excused
18 Marlee Sunchild - Excused
19

20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
21 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Luke Diekhans, Director of
22 Human Resources; Jackie Mainwaring, Heather Hoyer, and Lance Boyd, Executive
23 Directors for Student Achievement; and Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls
24 Public Schools Foundation. Also present was Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education
25 Association president.
26

27 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
28 Trustees.
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31 **ADOPT AGENDA**
32

33 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adopt the
34 agenda as presented.
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37 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
38

39 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
40 Consent Agenda as presented.
41

42 **A. Minutes of the February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
43 the minutes of the February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
44

45 **B. Minutes of the February 15, 2024, Board Interviews with Superintendent**
46 **Finalists** – The Board approved the minutes of the February 15, 2024, Board Interviews
47 with Superintendent Finalists as presented.

48 **C. Minutes of the February 20, 2024, Special Board Meeting** – The Board approved
49 the minutes of the February 20, 2024, Special Board Meeting as presented.
50

1 D. **Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

2
3 E. **Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
4 Awards: Christi Virts, Health Enhancement teacher at C.M. Russell High School and
5 Deb Thomas, 6th grade teacher at Whittier Elementary School.

6
7 F. **Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35's** – The Board approved the
8 Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the
9 agenda.

10
11 G. **Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2023-2024 School Year** – The
12 Board approved the Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2023-2024
13 school year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District
14 of Residence.

15
16 H. **Donation of \$1,000 Toward the Purchase of Two New Slides at Chief Joseph
17 Elementary School** - The Board approved the donation of \$1,000 toward the purchase
18 of two new slides at Chief Joseph Elementary School with thanks.

19
20 Special thanks to the anonymous donor was given by Trustee Turoski for this donation.

21 **COMMUNICATION**

22 **A. Superintendent's Report** –

23
24 Morningside Elementary School Principal Kim Marzolf introduced two (2) students who
25 spoke as well as presented videos on how Morningside Elementary School has been
26 implementing the *Character Strong* program within their school.

27
28 Superintendent Moore introduced Dusty Molyneaux, Director of Music and Arts who
29 stated that March is Youth Art Month, Music in Our Schools Month, and Theater in our
30 Schools Month. He reviewed the music schedule for Great Falls Public Schools for
31 February through April. He read the official Proclamation that is signed by Great Falls
32 City Mayor Cory Reeves and will be read on Friday, March 1, 2024, at the Great Falls
33 Public Library.

34
35 Greg Holt presented Superintendent Moore with an article from a 1901 Great Falls
36 Tribune. It promoted a potential bond levy to build a new school which at the time would
37 cost an estimated \$30,000. In 1929, a bond was passed to build Great Falls High
38 School at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000. Mr. Holt spoke on how his mother and fellow
39 students petitioned the School Board to extend their high school education by one (1)
40 year and become postgraduate students so they could attend the newly built high
41 school.

42
43 *Live the Dream*, a student led event, was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, in the
44 Great Falls High School Auditorium. Diversity Groups from both High Schools planned
45 the evening with guest speakers, music and food. A generous community donor
46 covered all expenses, including t-shirts, food, and stickers.

47
48 *International Women's Day with the Next Generation* event is scheduled for March 19,
49 2024, at the Great Falls Public Library. Female students from both high schools will
50 speak about their experiences today and their hopes for the future.

51
52 Superintendent Moore thanked Career and Technical Education instructor Joe Wilkins
53 for his work with *Build Montana*. Twelve (12) students are enrolled in this pilot program.
54 Child centered, age-appropriate educational activities will be offered at a free Brain
55 Building Expo event scheduled for March 2, 2024, at Paris Gibson Education Center.

1 Superintendent Moore updated the Board on several upcoming meetings that will
2 involve community involvement opportunities.
3 Parent information meetings will be held at the District Office Building for families
4 interested in enrolling their student(s) in the new Morningside CORE Elementary
5 School. Superintendent Moore also spoke on the current draft contract with the
6 Montana Board of Public Education.
7 Congratulations to Heather Hoyer for being selected as the new Great Falls Public
8 Schools Superintendent starting July 1, 2024.

9
10 **B. Audience Communication – None**
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13 **ACTION ITEMS**

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15 **A. 2022-2023 Financial Statements and Audit Report** - Director of Business
16 Operations Brian Patrick reported that prior to the Board meeting, a Board Work
17 Session was held to review the Audit Report. He introduced Brian Stavenger of Eide
18 Bailly, LLP who explained that he reviewed, in detail, the 2022-2023 General Purpose
19 Financial Statements and Audit Report with the Board during a Work Session that took
20 place prior to the Board meeting. He reviewed the highlights of the Audit Report stating
21 that Great Falls Public Schools received a clean opinion Audit report for the fiscal year
22 ending in 2023. He explained important components of the Audit that include the Letter
23 of Transmittal and the Management’s Discussion and Analysis. Mr. Stavenger thanked
24 the Business Office staff for their help during the Audit.
25

26 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the
27 General-Purpose Financial Statement with Auditors Report for Fiscal Year ending June
28 30, 2023 as presented.
29

30 Trustee Turoski thanked Brian Stavenger as well as Brian Patrick and his team for their
31 work.
32

33 **B. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 2320, 2320R, 8132 and**
34 **8132R** – Superintendent Moore stated that he has not received any major changes to
35 Board Policies 2320, 2320R, 8132 and 8132R since the first reading at the February 12,
36 2024, Board Meeting.
37

38 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
39 revised Board Policies 2320, 2320R, 8132, and 8132R as presented.

40 **C. Non-Renew Temporary, Non-Tenured Teachers with Positions Expiring June 6,**
41 **2024** - Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans explained the non-renewal of the
42 non-tenured teachers listed in the agenda is required because the teachers were hired,
43 for a variety of reasons, for positions on a temporary basis with contracts that expire on
44 June 6, 2024. He explained the teachers have the opportunity to apply for jobs next
45 year for which they are qualified to teach.
46

47 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
48 the non-renewal of the teachers listed in the agenda as their positions are temporary
49 and will expire June 6, 2024.
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51 **D. Declare Reduction in Force (RIF) Process and Criteria to be Used in the Event**

1 **RIF Becomes Necessary** – Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans explained
2 the Budget Committee will be developing budget recommendations for the next school
3 year. It is necessary to have the Reduction in Force Process in place should reductions
4 in programs, non-essential activities, and/or staff be necessary.

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6 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to declare the
7 possibility of a Reduction in Force and to adopt the process and criteria as presented.

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9 **E. Meadow Lark Elementary School Roof Replacement** - Director of Business
10 Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Meadow Lark Elementary School Roof
11 Replacement Project was approved by the School Board on November 27, 2023. Three
12 (3) bids were opened on February 13, 2024, where Empire Roofing was selected as the
13 lowest qualified bidder for the Roof Replacement Project at Meadow Lark Elementary
14 School in the amount of \$1,052,393.

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16 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
17 the lowest qualified bidder, Empire Roofing, for the Roof Replacement Project at
18 Meadow Lark Elementary School in the amount of \$1,052,393 as presented.

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21 **ACTION: OTHER**

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

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25 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

26
27 **A. First Reading Revised Board Policies 1240, 1610, 3210, and 3310P** –

28 Superintendent Moore reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policies 1240 –
29 *Duties of Individual Trustees*, 1610 – *Goals and Objectives*, 3210 – *Equal Education*,
30 *Nondiscrimination and Sex Equity*, and 3310P – *Student Threat Assessment* in detail.
31 He asked if anyone has comments or concerns about the policies to contact him before
32 the next Board meeting.

33
34 Trustee Bronson noted a spelling error on Policy 3310P to be corrected.

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

37 Trustee Finnicum stated that he was appreciative of the reports and presentations at the
38 Board meeting.

39 Trustees Thompson, Turoski, and Bronson thanked Mr. Holt for the Great Falls Tribune
40 article and for reporting on District history.

41 Trustees Thompson and Bronson attended the *Live the Dream* event and were
42 impressed with all the students involved. Trustee Bronson stated C.M. Russell and
43 Great Falls High Jazz Orchestra students performed before the event.

44 Trustee Thompson thanked Brian Patrick for his work with the audit as well as the
45 budget book.

46 Trustee Turoski thanked local business partners for their continued support for our
47 students, especially regarding Career and Technical Education.

48 Chairperson Johnson congratulated Heather Hoyer for being selected as the new
49 Superintendent. He also stated that the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA) is
50 negotiating her contract, and it will be completed for review and approval soon.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024, and Monday, March 25, 2024.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:52 p.m.

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk