

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**
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 11th day
7 of September 2023.

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

10
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson - Chairperson
12 Kim Skornogoski – Vice Chairperson
13 Bill Bronson
14 Mark Finnicum
15 Marlee Sunchild
16 Paige Turoski
17

18 **Trustee Absent:** Amie Thompson - Excused
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21 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
22 Operations; Lance Boyd, Heather Hoyer and Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Directors for
23 Student Achievement; Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools
24 Foundation; and Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology.
25

26 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.
27

28 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
29 Trustees. He asked everyone for a moment of silence in honor of the 3000 plus lives
30 that were lost in the Twin Towers attack on September 11, 2001. He then asked
31 everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
32

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34 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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36 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
37 agenda as presented.
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40 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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42 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
43 the Consent Agenda as presented. Special thanks were given for the donations to
44 Riverview and Lewis and Clark Elementary Schools.
45

46 **A. Minutes of the August 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
47 the minutes of the August 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
48

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

2
3 **C. Montana School Bus Driver’s Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
4 Montana Bus Drivers’ Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the agenda.

5
6 **D. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements at the Early**
7 **Learning Family Center for the 2023-2024 School Year** – The Board approved the
8 Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements at the Early Learning Family
9 Center for the 2023-2024 school year listed in the agenda.

10
11 **E. 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 parents.

14
15 **F. Donation of Funds for New Climbing Playground Equipment at Riverview**
16 **Elementary School** – The Board approved the donation of \$1,290.09 for new climber
17 playground equipment at Riverview Elementary School from the Riverview PTA with
18 thanks.

19
20 **G. Donation of Tables and Student Chairs to Lewis & Clark Elementary School** –
21 The Board approved the donation of tables and student chairs from Starbase Montana
22 to Lewis and Clark Elementary School with thanks.

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25 **COMMUNICATION**

26
27 **A. Introduction and Report of the Student Representatives and Foreign Exchange**
28 **Students for the 2023-2024 School Year -**

29 C.M.Russell (CMR) High School student representatives Caroline Hermiller and Lilli
30 Skaer introduced the foreign exchange students attending CMR this school year. They
31 also shared with the Board the teachers new to CMR this year, along with the subjects
32 they are teaching.

33 Great Falls High School (GFHS) student representatives Brooklyn Griffin, Ryan
34 Harrington, and Seth Royer introduced the foreign exchange students who are
35 attending GFHS this year.

36 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) student representatives Karsynn Kidrick, Mona
37 Marceau, and Morgan Williams reported there are no new teachers at PGEC this year.
38 They encouraged everyone to attend their blood drive being held at Paris Gibson
39 Education Center on September 27th.

40 Chairperson Johnson thanked the students for their reports and welcomed the foreign
41 exchange students to Great Falls.

42
43 **B. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Moore thanked the student
44 representatives for their reports and introductions of the foreign exchange students. He
45 said it has been an excellent start to the school year with many new teachers bringing
46 great energy to Great Falls Public Schools.

1 Superintendent Moore announced Chairperson Johnson (Maestro Johnson) will emcee
2 the artist showcases at the Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) on Saturday,
3 October 14, 2023, at the Mansfield Center.

4 Superintendent Moore visited all schools the first week of school and shared a photo of
5 a hallway at Meadow Lark Elementary School with all doors open, ready to welcome
6 students, and that he appreciated seeing the character trait signs lining the hallways.

7 Superintendent Moore reported that Representative Rosendale visited Loy Elementary
8 and read to a first-grade classroom last week. He said that Governor Gianforte will be
9 in Great Falls on September 14, 2023, to visit classrooms at Great Falls High School
10 and to participate in the High School House Groundbreaking.

11 Superintendent Moore showed photos of the District's Elementary and Secondary
12 Instructional Coaches, along with two Math Instructional Specialists. These individuals
13 serve as mentors and role models, helping teachers improve the quality of their lessons
14 and the quality of students' education using the latest techniques and technology in their
15 classrooms.

16 Superintendent Moore thanked all custodial staff and the grounds crew for their hard
17 work getting schools ready for our staff, students, and parents.

18 Superintendent Moore invited everyone to the High School House Groundbreaking on
19 September 14, 2023, at 1:00 pm at 1301 3rd Ave South.

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21 **C. Audience Communication** – None.

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24 **ACTION ITEMS**

25
26 **A. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 2050, 2168, 2450, 2600, 3110, 3120,**
27 **3121, 3121R, 3141, 3150, 3226, 3235, 3340, and 3413** – Superintendent Moore
28 reported that revised Board Policies 2050 Student Instruction, 2168 Distance, Online,
29 and Technology-Delivered Learning, 2450 Recognition of Native American Cultural
30 Heritage, 2600 Work Experience/Internship Program, 3110 Entrance, Placement, and
31 Transfer, 3120 Compulsory Attendance, 3121 Enrollment and Attendance Records,
32 3121R Enrollment and Attendance Records, 3141 Discretionary Nonresident Student
33 Attendance Policy, 3150 Part-Time Attendance, 3226
34 Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, 3235 Video Surveillance, 3340 Chemical Use
35 Policy, and 3413 Student Immunization were reviewed in detail at the August 21, 2023
36 Board meeting and no comments or concerns have been received since the first
37 reading of the policies. He received clarification from the Montana School Boards
38 Association (MTSBA) on Policy 3121R and said the policy is accurate as presented.

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40 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
41 revised Board policies 2050 Student Instruction, 2168 Distance, Online, and
42 Technology-Delivered Learning, 2450 Recognition of Native American Cultural
43 Heritage, 2600 Work Experience/Internship Program, 3110 Entrance, Placement, and
44 Transfer, 3120 Compulsory Attendance, 3121 Enrollment and Attendance Records,
45 3121R Enrollment and Attendance Records, 3141 Discretionary Nonresident Student
46 Attendance Policy, 3150 Part-Time Attendance, 3226
47 Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, 3235 Video Surveillance, 3340 Chemical Use
48 Policy, and 3413 Student Immunization as presented.

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2 **B. Proclaim Monday, September 18, 2023, as Constitution Day in the Great Falls**
3 **Public Schools** – Superintendent Moore gave background on Constitution Day and
4 explained that September 17th falls on a Sunday this year; therefore, Monday,
5 September 18, 2023, is designated as Constitution Day in the Great Falls Public
6 Schools. He explained the Curriculum Coordinators provide teachers with a list of
7 educational resources each year and that pocket constitutions, purchased with
8 curriculum funds and through previous donations, are available upon request.
9 Superintendent Moore read the Constitution Day 2023 Proclamation.

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11 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve that
12 Monday, September 18, 2023 is designated as Constitution Day in Great Falls Public
13 Schools.

14
15 **C. Trustees as Voting Delegates to the Montana School Boards Association**
16 **(MTSBA) Delegate Assembly at the Montana Conference of Education Leadership**
17 **(MCEL)** – Chairman Johnson explained that the Montana Conference of Education
18 Leadership (MCEL) is an annual conference that brings together trustees,
19 superintendents, principals, business officials and other educational leaders for
20 professional development, training, and idea sharing. As part of the conference,
21 MTSBA holds a Delegate Assembly to conduct the business of the Association. In
22 order to vote, trustees are to be appointed to serve as delegates to the Delegate
23 Assembly. Trustee Mark Finnicum is the MTSBA Municipal Director for the District. The
24 Great Falls School District is able to appoint three additional trustees to serve as voting
25 delegates at the Delegate Assembly. Additional trustees may be appointed as
26 alternates in the event the voting delegates are unable to attend. Chairperson Johnson
27 recommended that Trustees Skornogoski, Bronson, and Turoski serve as voting
28 delegates and that he, Trustee Sunchild, and Trustee Thompson serve as alternate
29 voting delegates.

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31 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to
32 approve that Trustees Skornogoski, Bronson, and Turoski serve as voting delegates
33 and that Chairperson Johnson, Trustee Sunchild, and Trustee Thompson serve as
34 alternate voting delegates at the MCEL Conference on October 18-20, 2023 in Billings,
35 Montana.

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38 **ACTION: OTHER**

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41 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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43 **A. First Reading of Revised Board Policy 3231 – Searches and Seizures** –
44 Superintendent Moore reviewed Revised Board Policy 3231 in detail, explaining that the
45 District is employing vape detectors in middle school and high school restrooms and
46 therefore the policy needed to be revised to include the use of detectors.
47 Wade Stout, Prevention Tobacco Specialist with the Cascade County Prevention
48 Services explained that he is concerned with the use of vapes in public places and he

1 feels it is becoming normalized. Studies show there has been a dramatic increase in
2 vaping among middle school and high school students. He feels vape detectors may be
3 a deterrent but will not alone fix the problem.
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5 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

6 Trustee Bronson said he is on a statewide insurance committee for the Health Trust for
7 Montana Schools Employees that was formed with the passage of HB332. The
8 committee will continue to meet to review proposals carefully and he will report back to
9 the Board with more information.

10 Trustees Bronson and Sunchild thanked Great Falls High School Principal Habel for his
11 explanation and rationale for implementing the change to one lunch period at Great
12 Falls High School.

13 Trustee Turoski said her children are enjoying the start of the school year and are
14 already talking about the Character Strong program. She is looking forward to attending
15 the High School House Groundbreaking on September 14, 2023.

16 Trustee Finnicum enjoyed having the high school student representatives present again
17 and thanked them for introducing the foreign exchange students.

18 Trustee Skornogoski reminded everyone that World of Work (WOW) will be held on
19 September 26, 2023 for all 8th and 10th grade students in Great Falls Public Schools and
20 surrounding area schools. She said many volunteers are still needed and encouraged
21 everyone to participate if available.
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24 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

25
26 Chairperson Johnson said the High School House Groundbreaking is scheduled for
27 September 14, 2023. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 25,
28 2023. A Board Work Session (Healthy, Safe, and Secure Schools) is scheduled for
29 October 2, 2023.
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32 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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34 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adjourn
35 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:40 p.m.
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42 Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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44 Brian Patrick, Clerk
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