

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD FEBRUARY 13, 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 13th day
7 of February 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 Amie Thompson
17 Paige Turoski
18

19 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
20 Operations; Jackie Mainwaring, Heather Hoyer and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for
21 Student Achievement; Luke Diekhans, Director of Human Resources; Stephanie
22 Schnider, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation; and Becky Nelson,
23 Community Connections and Workforce Manager. Also present was Tom Cabbage,
24 Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.

25
26 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
27 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
28

29
30 **ADOPT AGENDA**

31
32 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt
33 the agenda as presented.
34

35
36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

37
38 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
39 approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
40

41 **A. Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
42 the minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
43

44 **B. Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Closed Session Board Meeting** – The Board
45 approved the minutes of the January 23, 2023 Closed Session Board Meeting as
46 presented.
47

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

2
3 **D. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
4 Awards: Kay Nash, Food Service Employee at the District Offices; Stephanie Major,
5 Administrative Assistant at East Middle School; Trace Hart, 3rd Grade Teacher at
6 Sunnyside Elementary School; Athena Hall, Student Advocate Para Education
7 Professional at Longfellow Elementary School; Stacy Dolderer, Business Teacher at
8 Great Falls High School; Jessa Holt and Anetta Bowman, Core Teacher Aides, Carla
9 McCarthy, Student Advocate Para Education Professional all at Sunnyside Elementary
10 School; Carla Hinojosa, Gloria Reeves, Tina Thome, Sheli Beck, and Debbie Skinner,
11 Food Service Employees all at North Middle School; Jennifer Duda, English Teacher at
12 East Middle School; Brenda Iverson, Core Teacher Aide, Lexi Bremer, Kindergarten
13 Teacher and Kevin Lappe, 1st Engineer all at Longfellow Elementary School; Jack
14 Shultz and Kassandra Dixon, Science Teachers at Great Falls High School; Becky
15 Nelson, Community Connections and Work Force Development Manager at the District
16 Offices; Erin Townsend, Volunteer; Chad Euerle, 1st Engineer at Riverview Elementary
17 School; Heather Wright, Student Advocate Para Education Professional at Riverview
18 Elementary School; and Harrison Faulk, Athletic Trainer at C.M. Russell High School.

19
20 **E. Montana School Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
21 Montana Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the agenda.

22
23 **F. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2022-2023 First Semester** - The
24 Board approved the TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2022-2023 first
25 semester.

26
27 **G. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance at the Early Learning Center for**
28 **the 2022-2023 School Year** – The Board approved the students listed in the agenda to
29 attend the Early Learning Center for the 2022-2023 school year due to exceptional
30 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

31
32 **H. Student Activity Report for December 2022** – The Board approved the Student
33 Activity Accounts for December 2022.

34
35 **I. C.M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School Business Professional of**
36 **America (BPA) Students Travel Request**– The Board approved travel for Business
37 Professional of America (BPA) students, chaperones, and their teachers to travel to
38 Billings Montana, March 12-14, 2023, for the State Leadership Conference.

39
40 **J. C.M. Russell High School Orchestra Travel Request** – The Board approved travel
41 for 29 orchestra students and their teachers to travel to several Montana towns, March
42 8-9, 2023, for music performances and a team-building ski day at Showdown.

43
44 **K. C.M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School Distributive Education**
45 **Clubs of America (DECA) Students Travel Request** – The Board approved travel for
46 Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) students and their teachers to travel to
47 Fairmont, Montana, February 5-7, 2023, for the State DECA Conference.

1 **L. North Middle School Student Activity Accounts** – The Board approved the new
2 Student Activity Account *Archery Club* at North Middle School. Funds earned will be
3 available for tournaments, supplies and student events.
4

5 6 **COMMUNICATION**

7 8 **A. Reports of the Student Representatives**

9 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) Student Representatives Miah LeDeau and
10 Taelar Severson reported that the science classes learned about mushrooms and
11 electromagnetic radiation as well as making medicine bags with American Indian
12 Studies students. Students displayed their artwork at the Dark Horse Business After
13 Hours event held on February 9, 2023. Paris Gibson Education Center is currently
14 prepping for the Out West Young Masters juried art show. Students are finishing up
15 making gear for the Great Falls Bigfoot Archery team. Lynx Graphix produced a
16 thousand stickers for a wellness activity during the Healthy Native Hearts event
17 scheduled for February 14, 2023. They stated that over sixty students and fifteen staff
18 members attended a three-day wellness retreat at the Ursuline Center. Student Voice
19 leadership students are currently working on a *Welcome Video* for new student
20 orientations. Paris Gibson Education Center accepts new students every two weeks.
21

22 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Luke Banks, Caroline
23 Hermiller, and Allison Marr explained that students and staff are revising the core values
24 to *Relationships, Learning and Accountability*. They congratulated fifteen seniors who
25 were selected as distinguished scholars based on their Grade Point Averages (GPAs)
26 and rigorous coursework. CMR invites healthcare workers to speak about their careers
27 with students each month. CMR drama students performed at the Montana Thespian
28 Festival in Missoula and received scholarships and the Outstanding Drama Award.
29 CMR girls' swimming team took 2nd place at the State swimming competition. Five
30 wrestling competitors placed in the top four at the State wrestling tournament held in
31 Billings. General physics students completed a "flying pig" lab where they needed to
32 calculate various physics components using technology and critical thinking skills.
33 Student Government students have been planning spring activities such as Prom,
34 senior brunch and the senior gift. They stated that CMR band and choir groups have
35 been invited to perform at the Northwest Music Educators conference in Seattle. Health
36 students have been learning about healthy lifestyle choices and created a Public
37 Service Announcement (PSA) regarding harmful effects of vaping and tobacco.
38 Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) students have competed at the State
39 level and will be sending ten students to nationals this spring. They stated that art
40 students are hosting two shows in the month of February. The first is a painting exhibit
41 in the O.C. Seltzer Gallery and the second was a community show at the Dark Horse.
42 Speech and Debate students had a great experience at their national qualifications
43 meet. Eleven students placed and one student will be heading to nationals in June.
44 CMR student mentors have been focusing on *Pass It On* messages of kindness and
45 positive affirmations. They are also hosting a hygiene drive to help support their peers'
46 basic needs. These hygiene items will be available in the food pantry and small baskets
47 in each bathroom for students to take as needed. A 2019 CMR graduate, Molly
48 Christiaens, will return next school year as an English teacher.

1
2 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representatives Ryan Harrington, Hayley
3 Bouchard and MacKenna Medina reported that swimming and wrestling sport seasons
4 have now ended with the Bison earning State Championships in girls' swimming. They
5 congratulated the boys' wrestling team for placing 3rd at the State competition. Mr.
6 McNamee and Mr. Carranza were given recognition for their outstanding work with
7 students. They reported that *Computer Coding* is a highly appreciated class option for
8 students. GFHS Thespian students performed a 3-night showing of *Cabaret* which was
9 successful. They will be performing *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Other* at the State
10 Thespian Competition. GFHS Drama club received various awards at State Drama and
11 will be going to nationals this summer. Principal Habel presented students with
12 recognition awards and breakfast for their work during the 1st Semester. *I Am Bison*
13 students visited with Helena Mayor Wilmot Collins, who immigrated to Montana from
14 Liberia in 1984, to gain an understanding of inclusion which is being implemented at
15 Great Falls High School. They reported that students participated in the Unreserved
16 Project which focuses on transforming students through connection, creativity, and
17 culture. Flowers have been sold by the Freshman class for \$2 for Valentine's Day.
18 Anatomy students used brains in a lab to learn more about the human body and brain
19 functions and structures. Mrs. Ciulei was recognized for her work in the female weight
20 training classes. The students wished her luck in her new adventure as a mother-to-be.
21 Benefis Emergency Room Physician Dr. Friend spoke to health science students about
22 careers in medicine. GFH music students have attended State band and orchestra
23 events and All-Northwest.

24
25 **B. Superintendent's Report –**
26 Superintendent Moore stated that the *High Voltage Weekend* event was a success and
27 thanked staff and sponsors who participated.
28 Mr. Moore presented Erin Townsend and Becky Nelson with Good Apple Awards for
29 their work raising over \$10,000 for Great Falls Public Schools food pantries during the
30 holidays.
31 He congratulated Great Falls High School and C.M. Russell High School girl swimmers
32 for their performances at the State competition.
33 Superintendent Moore reviewed the results of the wrestling tournament where GFH had
34 eight wrestlers place and CMR had six wrestlers place.
35 Great Falls Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (GF JROTC) presented the colors
36 at the Casey Cup High School Memorial hockey tournament.
37 Great Falls City Commissioner, Dr. Susan Wolff proclaimed February as Career and
38 Technical Education (CTE) month. Several student leaders spoke at this event.
39 C.M. Russell High School Principal Jamie McGraw congratulated AJ Wells, a CMR
40 student, for receiving the United States Senate Scholarship. AJ will travel to Washington
41 D.C.
42 Superintendent Moore stated that Kok Bour delegation from Kyrgyzstan was in Great
43 Falls as part of a *Cultural Exchange*. Mr. Askar Bekov Kuvv Atbek discussed traditional
44 games as well as many other topics. He thanked Dugan Coburn and Paris Gibson
45 Education Center staff for hosting this delegation.

46
47 **C. Audience Communication - None**
48

1
2 **ACTION ITEMS**
3

4 **A. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for December 2022** – Motion – Bill
5 Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the December
6 2022 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #125400 - #125981 in the amount
7 of \$3,129,106.22 and Payroll checks #77064 - #77316 in the amount of \$557,894.90 as
8 presented.
9

10 **B. Request to Advertise for Morningside Elementary School Roof Replacement–**
11 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Morningside
12 Elementary School roof needs to be replaced and the project was not included in the
13 bond language. He stated that the project was advertised on January 29, 2023, and
14 February 5, 2023.
15

16 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogski, passed unanimously to approve
17 advertising the Morningside Elementary School Roof Project with the bid opening to be
18 held on February 14, 2023, as presented.
19

20 **C. Request to Advertise for a Partial C.M Russell High School Roof Replacement -**
21 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that a portion of C.M. Russell
22 High School’s roof needs to be replaced and the project was not included in the bond
23 language. He stated that the project was advertised on January 29, 2023, and February
24 5, 2023.
25

26 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
27 advertising the C.M. Russell High School Roof Project with the bid opening to be held
28 on February 14, 2023, as presented.
29

30 **D. Lowest Qualified Bidder for the Meadow Lark Elementary School - Four**
31 **Classroom Addition** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the
32 Meadow Lark Elementary School four classroom addition project was approved by the
33 School Board on October 25, 2021 and approved by the Office of Public Instruction in
34 December of 2021. The project was bid in the spring of 2022 with only one bidder and
35 with the bid being higher than the amount allocated for the project, it was decided to
36 rebid the project at a future date. Brian stated that bids were opened on February 1,
37 2023 where WVH Enterprises, LLC was selected as the lowest qualified bidder for four
38 classroom addition at Meadow Lark Elementary School in the amount of \$1,480,000.
39

40 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
41 the lowest qualified bidder, WVH Enterprises, for the Four Classroom Addition Project at
42 Meadow Lark Elementary School in the amount of \$1,480,000 as presented.
43

44 **E. Declare Reduction in Force (RIF) Process and Criteria to be Used in the Event**
45 **RIF Becomes Necessary** – Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans explained
46 the Budget Committee will be developing budget recommendations for the next school
47 year. It is necessary to have the Reduction in Force Process in place should reductions
48 in programs, non-essential activities, and/or staff be necessary.

1
2 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to declare the
3 possibility of a Reduction in Force and to adopt the process and criteria as presented.
4

5 **F. Non-Renew Temporary, Non-Tenured Teachers with Positions Expiring June 2,**
6 **2023** – Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans explained the non-renewal of the
7 non-tenured teachers listed in the agenda is required because the teachers were hired,
8 for a variety of reasons, for positions on a temporary basis with contracts that expire on
9 June 2, 2023. He explained the teachers have the opportunity to apply for jobs next
10 year for which they are qualified to teach.
11

12 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to
13 approve the non-renewal of the teachers listed in the agenda as their positions are
14 temporary and will expire June 2, 2023.
15

16
17 **ACTION: OTHER**
18

19 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
20

21 **A. Universal Screening for 6th Grade Students** – Executive Director of Student
22 Achievement Jackie Mainwaring and Student Mental Health Coordinator Andrea
23 Savage explained that students are struggling with mental health at an increased rate.
24 Rural Behavior Health Institute (RBHI) in conjunction with the Office of Public Instruction
25 (OPI) is offering an electronic screening tool to screen 6-12 grade students for anxiety,
26 depression, and suicidal thoughts. Great Falls Public Schools would like to start at the
27 6th grade level with a pilot of the screening process in the spring of 2023 and start at
28 Sacajawea Elementary School and Sunnyside Elementary School. Jackie stated that 6th
29 grade students represent the largest percentage of students presenting to the
30 Emergency Room, when disaggregated by grade level.
31

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

33 Trustee Turoski stated that she was impressed with the Student Wellness forum and the
34 participation from the community.

35 Trustees Finnicum said he is excited to hear the presentations from the student
36 representatives about what is going on in the schools. He was also impressed with the
37 High Voltage weekend events and participation.

38 Trustees Skornogoski and Thompson are supportive of extracurricular activities and
39 believe that they are a critical component to high school success.

40 Trustee Thompson and Bronson thanked the Dark Horse for allowing students to
41 display and sell their artwork at the Business After Hours event on February 9, 2023.

42 Trustee Bronson and Chairperson Johnson were impressed with the Kok-Boru
43 presentation. Trustee Bronson also stated that he attended a presentation regarding
44 Great Falls Public Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes and is happy
45 that the community is getting involved.

46 Trustee Sunchild and Thompson congratulated Great Falls Public Schools swimmers
47 for their placements in the State competition.
48

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2023, and Monday, March 13, 2023.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:59 p.m.

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk