

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD FEBRUARY 27, 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 27th day
7 of February 2023.

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

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11 **Trustees Present:** Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum
14 Marlee Sunchild
15 Amie Thompson
16 Paige Turoski
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18 **Trustee Absent:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
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20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
21 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Jackie Mainwaring and
22 Heather Hoyer, Executive Directors for Student Achievement; and Stephanie Schnider,
23 Executive Director of the GFPS Foundation.
24

25 Also present were Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President
26 and Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth Education
27 Services-School Liaison.
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30 At 5:30 pm, Vice Chairperson Skornogoski called to order the Regular Meeting of the
31 Board of Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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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 – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
43 Consent Agenda as presented. Special thanks was given to Mark Wetstein for his
44 donation of a vehicle to the C.M. Russell Auto Technology Department and to Better
45 Built Homes Inc. for their donation of construction materials to the High School House.
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47 **A. Minutes of the February 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
48 the minutes of the February 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

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

C. Good Apple Awards – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple Awards: Chris Mee, Data Center Lead, Patrick Douglas, Lead Technology Technician, Christopher Disalvatore, Orié Fischer, Jordon Falkenhagen, Kim Krattiger, David Myles, Michael Ward, all Technology Core Technicians and Jacob Bily, Ryan Kyle and Layne Sundry, Technology Support Technicians, Brittany Blower, Administrative Assistant at Chief Joseph Elementary School, Haendel Zepeda, Spanish teacher at Great Falls High School, Hillary Pulaski, Attendance Secretary at Paris Gibson Education Center, and Carla Arnott, teacher and Volleyball Coach at East Middle School.

D. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35’s – The Board approved the Montana Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the agenda.

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

F. C.M. Russell (CMR) High School and Great Falls High School (GFHS) HOSA Student Travel Request to the State Leadership Conference in Billings, MT - The Board approved the travel and time away from school for the CMR and GFHS HOSA students to travel to Billings, MT to attend the State Leadership Conference April 4-5, 2023.

G. C.M. Russell (CMR) High School and Great Falls High School (GFHS) DECA Student Travel Request to the National DECA Conference in Orlando, FL- The Board approved travel and time away from school for CMR and GFHS DECA students to travel to Orlando, FL to attend the National DECA Conference April 21-26, 2023.

H. Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Curriculum in Action/Fairchild AFB Travel Request to Spokane, WA - The Board approved the JROTC Curriculum in Action/Fairchild AFB trip to Spokane, WA March 12-14, 2023.

I. C. M. Russell (CMR) High School Skills USA Chapter Travel Request to the State Skills USA Competition in Helena, MT - The Board approved the CMR Skills USA Chapter to attend the State Skills USA Competition in Helena, MT March 30 – April 1, 2023.

J. Student Activity Account at Great Falls High School (GFHS) – The Board approved the request for GFHS to open the “GFHS Clothing Closet” Student Activity Fund. Funds collected will be used to purchase clothing for students in need.

K. Donation of a 1991 Ford Ranger Super Cab to the C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Auto Technology Department– The Board approved the donation of a 1991

1 Ford Ranger Super Cab from Mark Wetstein to the CMR Auto Technology Department
2 with thanks.

3
4 **L. Donation of Construction Items to the High School House**– The Board approved
5 the donation of multiple construction items (listed in the agenda) from William Banas
6 with Better Built Homes to the High School House with thanks.
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9 **COMMUNICATION**

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11 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air
12 Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth Education Services-School Liaison reported that
13 twenty-two military students were screened at the Child Find on February 10, 2023 at
14 MAFB. She thanked GFPS for their help with this free developmental and health
15 screening event. She said that an American College Test (ACT) workshop is scheduled
16 at MAFB for February 28th and that a K9 Veteran’s Day Assembly will be held at Chief
17 Joseph Elementary School on March 3rd. Lisa reported that Specialized Training of
18 Military Parents (STOMP) workshops will begin on March 21st. Four virtual workshops
19 on March 21st and 28th and April 4th and 11th will be held to support military connected
20 parents with children who have special needs. She announced that *Purple Up Day* for
21 the State of Montana has been set for April 27th. GFPS has four schools receiving
22 Purple Star Recognition for their support of military students. A luncheon is scheduled
23 for April 27th at the Early Learning Family Center to celebrate.
24

25 **B. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Moore introduced Collette Getten,
26 Coordinator at the Early Learning Family Center (ELFC) who explained she and her
27 staff and been incorporating the Character Strong Program in the daily routine with their
28 students. The program has many opportunities for young children along with
29 newsletters that are sent home to families. ELFC teacher Cortnee Doll and her
30 students sang along with a video of *Honesty*, the Character trait for February.
31 Superintendent Moore announced that Morningside Elementary School Principal Kim
32 Marzolf has been awarded the National Distinguished Principal of the Year Award by
33 School Administrators of Montana (SAM). He showed an KRTV interview of Mrs.
34 Marzolf and explained that during her time as principal at Loy Elementary School, she
35 introduced the Character Strong Program to the District. She was then congratulated
36 by Superintendent Moore and the Board members.
37 Superintendent Moore thanked the Executive Directors and school administrators for
38 working through the events from last week during the shooting of a Great Falls High
39 School student. Executive Director Heather Hoyer thanked the Great Falls Police
40 Department (GFPD) for what they do on a daily basis working to keep our community
41 safe. She gave a report on the events that took place on Tuesday, February 21, 2023
42 and said the student who was shot has been released from the hospital and is expected
43 to make a full recovery. Sergeant Katie Cunningham reviewed the chain of events from
44 February 21st and said the suspect has been charged with assault with a weapon. She
45 thanked parents for their flexibility while dropping children off at school that day as
46 things were unfolding during time school was about to begin. Trustee Finnicum asked if
47 the shooting was gang related. Sergeant Cunningham said GFPD has not be able to

1 confirm that it was gang related. Vice Chairperson Skornogoski thanked Sergeant
2 Cunningham for her report.
3 Superintendent Moore invited the community to attend the upcoming Legislative
4 Transmittal Update Meeting on March 7 and the Townhall Community Budget Meeting
5 on March 9. Both meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office Building.
6

7 **C. Proclamation of Youth Art Month (March)** – Superintendent Moore explained that
8 March is Youth Art Month, Music in our Schools Month and Drama and Theatre in Our
9 Schools Month. Mayor Bob Kelly will be reading a Youth Art Month Proclamation at the
10 Public Library on March 3, 2023. A list of upcoming music, art and drama events was
11 included in the agenda. Superintendent Moore said student art will be on display at the
12 Public Library March 1 – April 26, 2023.
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14 **D. Audience Communication** – None
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17 **ACTION ITEMS**

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19 **A. Indefinite Demand, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Architectural Services** – Director of
20 Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Board approved to advertise for a
21 variety of IDIQ professional services at the January 9, 2023 Board meeting. This
22 process allows the District to have a prequalified list of professionals for upcoming
23 projects for the next five years. On February 15, 2023, a committee comprised of
24 Gordon Johnson, Brian Patrick, Jackie Mainwaring, Brent Cutler and Jack Norris
25 reviewed the materials submitted as outlined in the Request for Qualifications (RFQs)
26 for professional Architects that will be hired on an IDIQ basis. Mr. Patrick reviewed the
27 committee review data of the three firms that submitted materials.
28

29 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
30 committee recommendation to approve Cushing Terrell Architects, Nelson Architects,
31 and LPW as the IDIQ Architects for the District for the next five years.
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33 **B. Riverview Elementary School Playground Asphalt Project** – Director of Business
34 Operations Brian Patrick explained that half of the Riverview Elementary School
35 playground asphalt was replaced last year and the other half is scheduled to be
36 replaced during the summer of the 202-2023 school year. One bid of \$121,500 was
37 received by Great Falls Sand Gravel who installed the first half of the asphalt last year.
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39 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
40 the lowest qualified bidder, Great Falls Sand and Gravel, Inc. for \$121,500 for the
41 Riverview Elementary School playground (asphalt) project.
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43 **C. Sunnyside Elementary School Window Project** – Director of Business Operations
44 Brian Patrick explained that the Sunnyside Elementary School project originally was
45 designed to replace windows and portions of the heating and ventilation (HVAC)
46 system. The project was bid last spring and the bids came back too high to complete
47 the projected as designed. The project was rebid this year and included only the
48 window portion of the original design. Three bids were received and were all over

1 budget. He said the recommendation is to not accept the bids at this time. The window
2 project will be redesigned again containing a base bid along with three add alternate bid
3 options. This will allow the District the option of accepting the base bid along with a
4 combination of alternate bids that meet the Federal funds approved for the project.

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6 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to reject all
7 bids submitted for the Sunnyside Elementary School window project.

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9 **D. C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Partial Roof Replacement Project** – Director of
10 Business Operations explained the CMR roof project was bid last year and only half the
11 roof project (over the auditorium) was completed due to escalating prices of material
12 costs. The remaining roof project was rebid this year and one bid was received. The
13 bid was from Centimark Corporation from Billings and was over the budgeted amount
14 allowed for the project. The recommendation is not accept the bid at this time and rebid
15 at a later date. Trustee Finnicum asked if the roof will be okay waiting another year. Mr.
16 Patrick said with a few minor repairs, the roof will be fine.

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18 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to reject
19 the bid submitted by Centimark Corporation for \$628,848.00 for the CMR partial roof
20 replacement project.

21 22 23 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

24 25 **A. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

26 Trustee Thompson reported that she volunteered in a Kindergarten classroom at
27 Morningside Elementary School on Valentine’s Day and had a great time. She said it is
28 very important to be aware of employee well-being and to work on positive
29 relationships.

30 Trustee Turoski said she enjoyed the Early Learning Family Center (ELFC) students
31 and is happy to hear the GFHS student who was shot last week is recovering.

32 Trustee Bronson said he appreciates all the Montana School Boards Association
33 (MTSBA) does, especially during the legislative session. He said he plans to attend the
34 next Day of Advocacy on March 13, 2023, in Helena.

35 Trustee Sunchild said she subbed for English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher
36 Irina Mills and was surprised by her travel schedule and challenges working with
37 students who do not speak English.

38 Trustee Finnicum said he enjoyed hearing from the ELFC students. He thanked the
39 Executive Team for their work last week during the student shooting situation. He said
40 he appreciates the daily notes from MTSBA on the legislative bills.

41 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski explained that a Board Work Session has been
42 rescheduled two times because the school district is awaiting Graduation Dropout data
43 from the Office of Public Instruction. She said the annual Brain Building Expo will be
44 held on Saturday, March 4 at Paris Gibson Education Center. Vice Chairperson
45 Skornogoski said she is very concerned with the social emotional learning conversation
46 taking place in the Legislature.

1 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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3 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski said the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for
4 March 13, 2023.

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7 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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9 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adjourn
10 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:27 p.m.

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17 Brian Patrick, Clerk

Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson