

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2022**
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 14th day
7 of November 2022.

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

10
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum
14 Marlee Sunchild
15 Amie Thompson
16 Paige Turoski
17

18 **Trustee Absent:** Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
19

20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
21 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Lance Boyd, Jackie
22 Mainwaring and Heather Hoyer, Executive Directors for Student Achievement and
23 Stephanie Schnider, Executive Director of the GFPS Foundation.
24

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

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

31 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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33 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
34 agenda as presented. Special thanks was given to Walmart Supercenter for the
35 donation of lunch boxes to the Food Service Department.
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38 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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40 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
41 Consent Agenda as presented.
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43 **A. Minutes of the October 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
44 the minutes of the October 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
45

46 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.
47

48 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple

1 Awards: Carie Magers, Counselor at Great Falls High School, Heidi Reiger and Mary
2 Somerfeld, teachers at North Middle School, Ashley Weaver, Para Educator at Giant
3 Springs Elementary School and Todd Ondick, teacher at Morningside Elementary
4 School.

5
6 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35’s** – The Board approved
7 the Montana Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the
8 agenda.

9
10 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance at the Early Learning Center for**
11 **the 2022-2023 School Year** – The Board approved the students listed in the agenda to
12 attend the Early Learning Center for the 2022-2023 school year due to exceptional
13 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

14
15 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the 2022-2023 School Year** - The
16 Board approved the 2022-2023 Student Attendance Agreement for the student listed in
17 the agenda.

18
19 **G. Student Activity Monthly Report for August 2022** - The Board approved the
20 Student Activity Accounts for August 2022.

21
22 **H. Student Activity Monthly Report for September 2022** - The Board approved the
23 Student Activity Accounts for September 2022.

24
25 **I. C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Symphonic Band Request to Travel to**
26 **Bellevue, WA in February 2023** – The Board approved the CMR Symphonic Band to
27 travel to the NAFME Northwest Division Conference in Bellevue, WA February 15-19,
28 2023.

29
30 **J. Donation of Lunch Boxes** – The Board approved the donation of 118 lunch boxes
31 from Walmart Supercenter (Westside) to the Great Falls Public Schools Food Service
32 Program with thanks.

33
34
35 **COMMUNICATION**

36
37 **A. Report of the Student Representatives**

38 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) Student Representatives Stratton Kiser and
39 Taelar Severson reported that Health and Physical Education (HPE) teacher Aric Hagen
40 has been teaching students to knit and crochet hats. He has a “Free Hats” board in his
41 room for anyone in need of a hat. Other student events happening at PGEC include
42 students building and decorating drums that they can gift to someone when it is
43 finished, student art work on display at Great Falls College, and science students
44 traveling to Butte to visit the Berkley Pit, Orphan Girl Mine and the Mining Museum.
45 The students explained that English and Math students participated in a joint lesson of
46 putting rubberbands around pumpkins to make them explode. This teaches the
47 importance of making predictions and measuring afterward to see if the predictions
48 were correct. Stratton and Taelar reported that PGEC students have been learning

1 about trades work from representatives of Sletten Construction and Central Plumbing
2 and Heating and military careers from Air Force and Army representatives. The
3 students announced the Character Strong word for November is *Gratitude* and told of
4 different ways PGEC will be showing their gratitude. Congratulations to former PGEC
5 Principal Drew Uecker for receiving the Montana Digital Academy's Army Meritorious
6 Public Service Award for his years of dedication to public education and supporting
7 student success.

8
9 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Caroline Hermiller and
10 Allison Marr reported that Great Falls hosted the Student Council Leadership
11 Conference which was attended by over 500 students from around the State. CMR
12 students will be asked to write appreciation notes to one or more of their teachers as a
13 way to show *Gratitude*. The students congratulated the Lady Rustler volleyball team for
14 placing 3rd at the State Tournament and said winter sports will be starting soon.
15 Caroline and Allison reported that forensics students started their fingerprint lab this
16 month and students in Mrs. Virts anatomy and physiology classes studied different
17 types of body tissue using microscopes. Intro to Education students, along with
18 students from GFH, worked on a timeline of the history of education. Fall concerts have
19 concluded and holiday programs are around the corner. The students congratulated
20 CMR teachers Jessica Goosen and Tess Jacobs who were selected as Teachers of the
21 Year by their peers.

22
23 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representatives Hayley Bouchard, Ryan
24 Harrington and MacKenna Medina reported that eight GFH students are participating in
25 Leadership High School. These students are working to build leadership skills by
26 working with a variety of workplaces around Great Falls. Last week, many student
27 council members attended the State Student Council Convention held in Great Falls
28 along with other student government members from across the State. The students
29 gave an update on the fall sports season that has come to an end. GFH's drama
30 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was a success and
31 closed last weekend. Hayley, Ryan and MacKenna reported on activities taking place in
32 Spanish, Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH), Vocabulary and Life
33 Skills classes and the different ways the teachers make the classes engaging for the
34 students. As a way to get to know more about GFH teachers, Science teacher Mr.
35 Sullivan and Math teacher Mr. Smart were asked a few questions by the students as to
36 why they chose to teach the subject they are teaching. Each answered that they had
37 teachers that had inspired them when they were students. The students congratulated
38 History teacher Mr. Chaon for being honored last week at the State Capital for being
39 named The Montana History Teacher of the Year.

40
41 **B. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – None

42
43 **C. Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Moore thanked the student
44 representatives for their outstanding reports.

45
46 Chairperson Johnson read the Great Falls Public School Proclamation stating that
47 November is National Native American Heritage Month. Indigenous Peoples Education
48 Director Dugan Coburn said tepees, or lodges, can be found throughout the district

1 including at the District Office Building (DOB). He explained the lodges at the DOB will
2 be lit different colors each week and explained the meaning of each color. He also
3 reported on the different activities taking place throughout the district for National Native
4 American Heritage Month.

5 Superintendent Moore introduced Rob Watson, Executive Director of School
6 Administrators of Montana (SAM), who announced that Great Falls High School
7 Associate Principal Tamera Faulkner has been named SAM Associate Principal of the
8 Year. Mr. Watson explained the criteria for the award and GFH Principal Geoff Habel
9 read his letter of recommendation that he submitted on Mrs. Faulkner's behalf. Mrs.
10 Faulkner will be officially presented the award at the SAM State Principal Conference in
11 January.

12 Superintendent Moore reported that GFH History Teacher Eric Chaon was recognized
13 as History Teacher of the Year in Helena last week and that CMR teachers Jessica
14 Goosen and Tess Jacobs have also been named Teachers of the Year.

15 Superintendent Moore shared examples of how elementary students are engaged in
16 activities as part of the new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. He said teachers
17 are working hard to adapt to a new way of teaching ELA.

18 Congratulations to the CMR Lady Rustler Volleyball Team who placed 3rd place at the
19 State Tournament last week and to the GFH Performing Arts students for their
20 successful run of *Joseph and the Amazing Dreamcoat*. He reported that the GFH Bison
21 Filmmakers will unveil their latest public service announcement on November 16th for
22 the Great Falls Public Library Foundation's annual Book-A-Thon. Superintendent
23 Moore reported on the Veteran's Day ceremonies and assemblies that were held in the
24 schools on November 11th thanking the students and staff for taking the time to honor
25 our Veterans.

26 Superintendent Moore said there will be presentations at CMR, GFH and PGEC on
27 Thursday, November 17th by the Voices of Awareness Foundation members who
28 promote awareness about counterfeit drugs, illicit fentanyl, and self-harm. He said if
29 anyone is interested in the schedule to please contact him.

30 Superintendent Moore explained that as a way to help students with their behavior and
31 struggles, the District implemented the Character Strong Program this year and
32 Responsibility-Centered Discipline (RCD) which empowers students to take
33 responsibility for their behavior. He said teachers have been under tremendous stress
34 this year with behavior issues and that more help is needed. The District employs six
35 Mental Health Therapists and partners with community organizations such as the Boys
36 and Girls Club, Alliance for Youth and United Way, but there needs to be more
37 accountability at home. Superintendent Moore showed a chart that had the number of
38 School Resource Officer (SRO) reports that were made from the beginning of the 2022-
39 2023 school and noted that the number is about a third of what it was the last six
40 months of school last year. He said the District's Mission and Belief Statement includes
41 having safe and secure schools for all students and staff. Superintendent Moore
42 reviewed sections of Board Policies 3200 – Students Rights and Responsibilities, 3310
43 – Student Discipline, 3300 – Suspension and Expulsion – Corrective Action and
44 Discipline, 3230 – Student Resource Officer and 6210 – Principals. He explained that
45 when a student creates a substantial disruption to the education process, they must be
46 held accountable for the behavior. Therefore, the District will be implementing an
47 Accountability Plan for Reinforcing Respect and Responsibility. He reviewed the
48 student consequences and the actions the District will take in different situations. The

1 action plan will require the parents to take a more active role as they will be required to
2 come and get the students, or the students may be brought home, or to the parents'
3 place of work, and a meeting will be required with the parent and student in some cases
4 before the student would be allowed back in school. He said the action plan may result
5 in more Administrative Hearings and/or Board Hearings.

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7 **D. Audience Communication – None**
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10 **ACTION ITEMS**
11

12 **A. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for August 2022 - Motion – Bill**
13 **Bronson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the August 2022**
14 **Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #123286 - #123681 in the amount of**
15 **\$2,195,925.16 and Payroll checks #76192 - #76314 in the amount of \$159,817.93 as**
16 **presented.**
17

18 **B. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for September 2022 - Motion –**
19 **Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the**
20 **September 2022 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #123682 - #124426 in**
21 **the amount of \$4,238,256.06 and Payroll checks #76315 - #76545 in the amount of**
22 **\$381,058.56 as presented.**
23

24 **C. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 2309, 2310, 2310R,**
25 **2310F1, 2310F2, 2310F3, 2311R, 2311F1, 2314, 2314F1, 2314F2 and 2330 –**
26 **Superintendent Moore explained these policies were presented as First Reading at the**
27 **October 24, 2022, Board meeting. Since that time, he received two suggested edits to**
28 **Board Policy 2314 from Tom Cubbage. He explained the suggested edits and asked**
29 **the Board for approval with the changes.**
30

31 **Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve new**
32 **and revised Board policies 2309, 2310, 2310R, 2310F1, 2310F2, 2310F3, 2311R,**
33 **2311F1, 2314, 2314F1, 2314F2, and 2330 with the suggested edits to policy 2314.**
34 **Trustee Bronson noted that the MCA numbers on policy 2330 were transposed and the**
35 **correct numbers should read 20-3-324, not 20-3-234. Also, the sections in MCA 20-3-**
36 **324 referenced in policy 2330 have been changed from 16 and 17 to 18 and 30.**
37

38 **D. Superintendent's Evaluation Process – Chairperson Johnson explained that he**
39 **and Trustee Thompson represent the Board on the Superintendent's Evaluation**
40 **Committee. Trustee Thompson explained that per Board policy 6110, the**
41 **Superintendent will be evaluated annually. She said the timeline and evaluation tool are**
42 **included in the agenda. She reviewed the timeline noting the evaluation process will**
43 **begin on November 28, 2022, and that public comment is encouraged by completing**
44 **the electronic evaluation tool on the District's website by January 5, 2023 or as public**
45 **comment at the January 9, 2023 Board meeting. Trustee Thompson said the Board's**
46 **evaluation will be due to Chairperson Johnson by January 12, 2023, and that the Board**
47 **will complete the Superintendent's evaluation at the January 23, 2023 Board meeting.**
48

1 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adopt
2 the Superintendent Evaluation process and instrument as presented.
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5 **ACTION: OTHER**
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8 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
9

10 **A. First Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 2135, 2158 and 2335 –**
11 Superintendent Moore reviewed in detail new and revised Board policies 2135, 2158
12 and 2335 noting that in policy 2135, the MCA 20-7-120 title is incorrect and will be
13 corrected by the 2nd reading of the policies on November 28. He asked if anyone has
14 questions or concerns about these policies to contact him before the next Board
15 meeting.
16

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

18 Trustee Bronson said he attended recent events that included Governor Gianforte’s visit
19 to Great Falls High School, a Veteran’s Day event at which Junior Reserve Officer
20 Training Corps (JROTC) participated, the Whittier Elementary School Playground
21 Ribbon Cutting and the GFH drama production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*
22 *Dreamcoat*. He congratulated the Early Learning Family Center for being recognized as
23 a Special Olympics Unified Champion School.

24 Trustee Thompson said she also went to the GFH drama production last week. She
25 said that as she listened to the reports tonight, the common theme has been building
26 relationships. She thanked GFPS staff for engaging and being creative with students to
27 have them be excited about learning.

28 Trustee Sunchild thanked Superintendent Moore for acknowledging and addressing
29 discipline in the schools. Teachers are overwhelmed with the new English Language
30 Arts (ELA) curriculum and student discipline. She reported that she recently
31 volunteered at a school book fair and that it was a lot of fun.

32 Trustee Finnicum thanked the student representatives for bringing fun to the Board
33 meetings. He agrees that the District needs to address student discipline. He said we
34 need to take care of each other and be thankful for what we have.

35 Trustee Turoski congratulated the staff members that were recognized for their
36 contributions and work with students and fellow staff members. She thanked everyone
37 who supported her and her family during a difficult time these past few months.

38 Chairperson Johnson attended a Kids Education Yes (KEY) Zoom meeting today during
39 which Montana School Boards Executive Director Lance Melton gave his insight of what
40 to expect in the upcoming legislative session.
41

42
43 **UPCOMING EVENTS**
44

45 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday,
46 November 28, 2022, and that a Board Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday,
47 November 30, 2022.
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ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:25 p.m.

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk