

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD OCTOBER 24, 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 24th day
7 of October 2022.
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 Amie Thompson
16

17 **Trustees Absent:** Marlee Sunchild
18 Paige Turoski
19

20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
21 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Jackie Mainwaring,
22 Executive Director for Student Achievement; and Stephanie Schnider, Director of the
23 Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Also present was Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air
24 Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison.
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 – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
33 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 October 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
42 the minutes of the October 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
43

44 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.
45

46 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
47 Awards: Dale Whitish, Carpenter with the Building and Grounds Department; Cody

1 Gillespie, Paint Foreman and Randy Shaffer, Painter both with the Building and
2 Grounds Department.

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

7
8 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance at the Early Learning Center for
9 the 2022-2023 School Year** – The Board approved the students listed in the agenda to
10 attend the Early Learning Center for the 2022-2023 school year due to exceptional
11 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

12
13 **G. Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the 2022-2023 School Year** - The
14 Board approved the 2022-2023 Student Attendance Agreement for the student listed in
15 the agenda.

16
17
18 **COMMUNICATION**

19
20 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – Malmstrom Air Force Base
21 (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison Lisa Sapp reported on the professional
22 development and dual credit opportunities and the student-to-student training taking
23 place in the District between Great Falls Public Schools and MAFB. Lisa also stated that
24 nominations for the *Purple Star Awards* are due October 31, 2022.

25
26 **B. Superintendent’s Report** – Andrea Thares, Associate Principal and Amber Smith-
27 Boggs, Counselor, both located at Meadow Lark Elementary School introduced three 3rd
28 grade students who talked about Respect, the *Character Strong* word for the month of
29 September.

30 Superintendent Moore stated that October 24-28, 2022, is Treasure Our Teachers
31 Week. Many community businesses have added their appreciation on their reader
32 boards.

33 He congratulated Tess Jacobs, Art teacher at C.M. Russell High School on receiving
34 the Montana Art Educator of the Year Award.

35 Superintendent Moore stated that on October 18, 2022, 8th and 10th grade students
36 participated in the *Worlds of Work* event at Great Falls College and the University of
37 Providence. Vendors set up hands on learning activities at their exhibits to engage
38 students in career paths.

39 He stated that October is School Administrators Appreciation Month and thanked Great
40 Falls Public Schools’ Administrators for their work.

41 Great Falls Chamber Businesses and Great Falls Public Schools Art Show are
42 partnering for the “After-Hours” event that is scheduled for October 27, 2022, at the
43 Great Falls College.

44 Great Falls High School’s drama production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*
45 *Dreamcoat* will begin on November 3, 2022.

46 The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Whittier Elementary playground project will take
47 place on October 26th.

1 Daily theme days will be taking place throughout the District October 24-27th for Red
2 Ribbon Week.
3 Superintendent Moore thanked Stephanie Schnider, Director of Great Falls Public
4 Schools Foundation, and her team for their work with the truck raffle. He also thanked
5 City Motors and North 40 Outfitters for their donations, which were raffled off at the
6 crosstown football game.
7 Great Falls Public Schools is hosting their last on-site Job Fair of 2022 on Wednesday,
8 October 26, 2022.

9
10 **C. Audience Communication – None**

11
12
13 **ACTION ITEMS**

14
15 **A. Electric Power Contract – Blend and Extend** – Director of Business Operations
16 Brian Patrick explained that the District has entered into agreements to purchase one
17 (1) Megawatt (MW) for each of the twenty-four (24) and two (2) MW for high load hours
18 during the day since 2011. In 2020, the District entered into a five-year contract with
19 Energy Keepers Incorporated (EKI) for electric power. The District’s rate per Kilowatt
20 Hour (KWH) was \$40.50, which at the time the market was very favorable for energy
21 purchases. Market conditions have shifted considerably and there are projected
22 significant increases. EKI proposed to extend the current contract, for an additional two
23 (2) years, at the rate of \$69.25 per hour for each of the twenty-four (24) hours in a day
24 and \$73.00 per hour during the high load hours.

25
26 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the
27 locked rate for electrical power for the next five (5) years as presented

28
29 **B. 2023-2024 Budget Development Process** – Director of Business Operations Brian
30 Patrick stated that school funding adjustments may not be finalized until the end of the
31 legislative session. He stated that District funding largely depends on student
32 enrollment. Brian presented the prior four (4) years’ enrollment data. The District is
33 experiencing a decline in enrollment which will result in less school funding. Brian
34 presented a Board Budget Committee recommended timeline for the 2023-2024 budget
35 meetings with the main Board Budget Committee Meeting scheduled in March of 2023.

36
37 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
38 2023-2024 Budget Development Process as presented

39
40
41 **ACTION: OTHER**

42
43
44 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

45
46 **A. First Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 2309, 2310, 2310R, 2310F1,**
47 **2310F2, 2310F3, 2311R, 2311F1, 2314, 2314F1, 2314F2 and 2330** - Superintendent
48 Moore reviewed in detail revised Board policies 2310, 2310R, 2311R, 2314, 2330 and

1 new Board policies 2309, 2310F1, 2310F2, 2310F3, 2311F1, 2314F1 and 2314F2. He
2 asked if anyone has questions or concerns about these policies to contact him before
3 the next Board meeting.
4

5 **B. Review of Technology 2022 Summer Projects** – Director of Information
6 Technology, Tom Hering, explained that the 2022 summer projects included the re-
7 wiring of the Paris Gibson Education Center, replacement of video surveillance at Paris
8 Gibson Education Center and C.M. Russell High School, and a new door access
9 system at C.M. Russell High School.
10

11 **C. Review of Building and Grounds 2022 Summer Projects** – Facilities Director
12 Brent Cutler and Assistant Facilities Director Jack Norris stated that more work orders
13 were completed this summer due to an increase in building space. Brent reviewed work
14 responsibilities for the Custodians, Plumbers, Painters, Carpenters, and Electricians. He
15 also reported on the status of the required water lead testing. Jack reported on the
16 summer projects completed including drainage, sprinkler, and playground projects. He
17 highlighted that East Middle School received a new transformer and showed photos of
18 the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation office remodel.
19

20 **D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –
21 All Trustees thanked Stephanie Schnider and her team for their work. They also spoke
22 about information acquired by attending MCEL.
23

24 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

25
26
27 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,
28 November 14, 2022, and Monday, November 28, 2022.
29

30 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

31
32
33 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adjourn
34 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:55 p.m.
35
36
37

38
39 _____
Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

40 _____
41 Brian Patrick, Clerk