

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD JULY 18, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day  
7 of July, 2022.  
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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  
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19

20 **Others Present:** Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations; Tom Hering, Director  
21 of Information Technology; Jackie Mainwaring and Heather Hoyer, Executive Directors  
22 for Student Achievement; Kerry Dattilo, Director of Human Resources; and Stephanie  
23 Schnider, GFPS Foundation Director. Also present was Tom Cubbage, GFEA  
24 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.  
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30 **ADOPT AGENDA**  
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32 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the  
33 agenda as presented.  
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36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**  
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38 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve  
39 the Consent Agenda as presented.  
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41 **A. Minutes of the June 27, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the  
42 minutes of the June 27, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.  
43

44 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.  
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46 **C. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35's** – The Board approved  
47 the Montana Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the  
48 agenda.

1 **D. Centerville Public School District’s Request Regarding Bus Routes Entering**  
2 **the Great Falls Public School District Boundaries** – The Board approved the request  
3 to allow Centerville Public Schools to enter the District with two bus routes, allowing one  
4 to stop within the Great Falls Public School District boundaries for the 2022-2023 school  
5 year.

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7 **E. Sun River Valley District #55F Bus Stop Request within Great Falls Public**  
8 **School District Boundaries** – The Board approved the request to allow the Sun River  
9 School District a bus stop in the Great Falls Public School District boundaries for the  
10 2022-2023 school year.

11  
12 **F. Vaughn School District Bus Stop Requests within Great Falls Public School**  
13 **District Boundaries** – The Board approved the request to allow the Vaughn School  
14 District three bus stops within the Great Falls Public School District boundaries for the  
15 2022-2023 school year.

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17 **G. Belt Public School District Bus Stop Request Within the Great Falls Public**  
18 **School District Boundaries** – The Board approved the request to allow Belt Public  
19 Schools to enter the District with a route to pick up students at the Foothills Ranch  
20 subdivision within the Great Falls Public School District boundaries for the 2022-2023  
21 school year.

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23 **H. Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants** - The Board approved the cancellation of the  
24 outstanding warrants (checks) listed on the attachment in the agenda in accordance  
25 with MCA 20-9-223.

26  
27 **I. Class of 2026 Student Activity Account at C.M. Russell High School** – The Board  
28 approved the opening of Student Activity Account *Class of 2026* at C.M. Russell High  
29 School. The purpose of this account would be for depositing funds earned by the class  
30 from various fundraisers. The class funds will be used to finance class projects.

31  
32 **J. Student Activity Accounts at C.M. Russell High School** - The Board approved the  
33 closure of the Student Activity Accounts at C.M. Russell High School for the Class of  
34 2022, Cinderella’s Closet, Doug and Dave Hunter Memorial and Welding/Construction  
35 Tech Dual Credit as the accounts are no longer being used and the balances have been  
36 cleared.

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39 **COMMUNICATION**

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41 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – Trustee Finnicum stated  
42 that the Flight Over the Falls is scheduled for July 23-24, 2022, and encouraged people  
43 to attend.

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45 **B. Superintendent’s Report** – Executive Director for Student Achievement Jackie  
46 Mainwaring introduced Shanda Brown as the new Principal at Loy Elementary School.

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48 **C. Audience Communication** – None

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. 2022-2023 Student Handbook** – Executive Director of Student Achievement Heather Hoyer explained that the Student Handbook is intentionally designed to be aligned with and reflect the Great Falls Public School Board policies. Handbook changes are in line with new Board policies that the Board had approved the past year. Mrs. Hoyer reviewed the changes and thanked her Administrative Assistant Heather Huston and Business Office Lead Aly Hauer on their work updating the handbook that includes the policy changes. She explained a committee will meet in the upcoming year to review the handbook in its entirety for additional updates.

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum passed unanimously to approve the 2022-2023 Student Handbook as presented.

**B. Health Insurance Committee Recommendation 2022-2023** - Director of Human Resources Kerry Dattilo explained the District Health Insurance Committee met several times during the year to analyze usage, benefit changes and cost increases in order to maintain a quality insurance program. Mrs. Dattilo explained that the District is currently utilizing an Administrative Services Only (ASO) model with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana. The committee requested Alliant to seek proposals from Third Party Administrator’s (TPAs) to administer the District’s self-insured health plan. In addition, Alliant solicited proposals for stop loss (reinsurance) coverage and the health plan’s Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM). The goal was to find the most cost-effective model to help the District control costs for both the plan and the plan members. The District Insurance Committee reviewed several options for the health plan’s vendors for the 2022-2023 plan year. Vendors were evaluated based on their fixed expenses, ability to deploy cost control programs, and their integration with other vendors who provide other essential services to the plan. Kerry stated that the Health Insurance Committee recommends moving the health plan administration to Lucent Health (TPA), SmithRx (PBM) and Tokio Marine HCC (stop loss, via the Pareto Health captive) for the 2022-2023 school year. These vendors were selected because they lower the fixed expenses the plan pays, allow for greater cost control opportunities, and have integrations in place that maximize data exchange and ultimately add value to the plan and plan members.

Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee to move to a Third Party Administrator (TPA) insurance model for district-wide health insurance, with Lucent as the medical TPA, Tokio Marine HCC as the stop loss carrier, and SmithRx as the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) for the 2022-2023 plan year as presented.

**C. Consideration of Contact Agreement with Big Sky Bus Lines for School Transportation** – Director of Business Operations Bran Patrick explained that the existing District Contract Agreement with Big Sky Bus Lines to provide student bus transportation is set to expire at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. A new five-year contract has been negotiated. Big Sky Bus Lines has been the school bus contractor for the Great Falls Public School District since 1982. Brian explained that the contract

1 provides for an annual per route base increase of 3% in each year of the contract. In  
2 addition, the contract language includes funds that are directly tied to increasing bus  
3 driver’s wages. The bus company has been facing a shortage of drivers that impacts the  
4 service to the District. At the current number of bus routes (67), the estimated increase  
5 cost to the combined high school and elementary district transportation funds for the flat  
6 bus rate of \$257.82 per bus equates to approximately \$90,571 in the first year of the  
7 contract. In the second year of the contract with the same number of routes, the  
8 increase would be an additional \$82,852. Increases directed to the drivers and support  
9 staff including bus aides amount to approximately \$138,605 in the first year of the  
10 contract. The mandated salary increases will cost an additional \$23,557 per year  
11 thereafter.

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13 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to accept the  
14 new five (5) year contract agreement between the District and Big Sky Bus Lines as  
15 presented.

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17 **D. Electronic Vote on Montana School Boards Association Business** – Trustee  
18 Bronson explained Great Falls Public Schools is a member of the Montana School  
19 Boards Association and is required to vote on Association issues. This generally takes  
20 place at the annual meeting, however, this year the Montana School Boards Association  
21 (MTSBA) did not meet the quorum requirements to conduct the business of the  
22 Association. Trustee Finnicum stated that the items listed for vote were discussed in  
23 detail at the annual meeting.

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25 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, to passed unanimously to  
26 approve the resolutions listed in the agenda as presented.

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29 **ACTION: OTHER**

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32 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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34 **A. Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Report** –Foundation Chair Drew Blewett  
35 read the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation’s Mission Statement and explained that  
36 the Foundation’s main pillars to enhance education are: Excellence in Education,  
37 Scholarships, and Grants and Building Enhancements. He reported on the Excellence  
38 in Education event that was held on May 12, 2022, in the C.M. Russell Auxiliary Gym  
39 where distinguished students honored two teachers who were instrumental to their  
40 success. Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) 2022 Teachers of the Year  
41 were announced at the event. The teachers selected were Lisa Frank from Great Falls  
42 High School and Stacie Skawinski from Meadow Lark Elementary School.  
43 Mr. Blewett announced that eleven projects were funded through the Innovation Grants  
44 Program last year with a total of \$94,714 being awarded. The Discovery Grant Program  
45 funded thirteen projects totaling \$28,289. He said a few of the projects funded were the  
46 purchasing of Video Production Equipment for C.M. Russell High School, Physics Lab  
47 Equipment at Great Falls High School and Wishtree Book Study at Giant Springs  
48 Elementary School.

1 Past Chair Andrew Davidson reported that over \$4 Million in total building enhancement  
2 donations have been pledged or received since 2016. Some enhancement projects for  
3 the 2021-2022 school year included the Meadow Lark Playground, Chief Joseph  
4 Library, Whittier Library, and Riverview Playground.

5 Vice Chair Joanie Agamenoni reported that the Foundation manages 100 student  
6 scholarships. In 2022, \$360,000 in new scholarships were awarded to graduating  
7 seniors. Twenty-Five Dual Credit and Virtual Academy awards were also disbursed  
8 totaling \$6,550. In addition, the Heisey Foundation provides funding for scholarships to  
9 teachers working to further their education. Twenty \$1,000 scholarships were awarded  
10 to Great Falls Public School teachers.

11 Treasurer Emily Morrison said in order to maintain excellent donor relations, the  
12 Foundation must have sound financial management. The Finance Committee, which  
13 includes two ex-officio board members, has excellent oversight. Annual audits are  
14 conducted, and annual meetings are held with investment advisors.

15 Public Relations Committee Chair Ashley Whitney explained the Foundation uses many  
16 social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn. She  
17 stated that over 44,000 people were reached on Facebook through 52 posts in 2021-  
18 2022.

19 Executive Director Stephanie Schnider explained the ways the Foundation helps  
20 disadvantaged students. The Foundation's goal is to assist in any way that helps keep  
21 students in school. She reported that Gold Stars, Honor Gifts, Memorial Donations, and  
22 the Truck Raffle are other examples of giving.

23  
24 **B. First Reading of the New Social Studies Standards** – Curriculum Coordinators  
25 Beckie Frisbee and Rachel Cutler explained that the Great Falls Public Schools Social  
26 Studies standards were last reviewed in 2014 and the state standards have been  
27 updated. They reported that a committee was formed, and the members reviewed the  
28 "Social Studies for the Next Generation" book. Recommendations for new Social  
29 Studies standards are provided on the Great Falls Public School website and feedback  
30 is appreciated.

### 31 32 **C. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –

33 All Trustees thanked the Foundation for their work and dedication to supporting Great  
34 Falls Public Schools.

35 Trustee Skornogoski encouraged everyone to help with the Stuff the Bus and Back to  
36 School Blast events to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

37 Trustee Finnicum reported that he attended a State School Board conference in  
38 Washington DC where school funding was discussed.

### 39 40 41 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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43 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,  
44 August 8, 2022, and Monday, August 22, 2022.

### 45 46 47 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

1 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to  
2 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:45 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk

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