

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD JUNE 27, 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 27th day
7 of June, 2022.

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

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11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum
14 Marlee Sunchild
15 Amie Thompson
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17 **Trustee Absent:** Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson – Excused
18 Paige Turoski - Excused
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20
21 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
22 Operations; Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent K-6; Lance Boyd, Director of
23 Student Services; and Stephanie Schnider, GFPS Foundation Director. Also present
24 was Tom Cabbage, 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.
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30 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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32 Motion – Mark Finnicum, 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 Chairperson Johnson explained that Second Reading of Board Policies and the monthly
39 Student Activity Accounts will now be included in the Consent Agenda as a way to
40 expedite the Board meetings.
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42 Motion –Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
43 Consent Agenda as presented.
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45 **A. Minutes of the June 13, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
46 minutes of the June 13, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
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1 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

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3 **C. Good Apple Awards** - The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
4 Awards: Christine Ward and Jona McNamee, district-wide Substitute Teachers.

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

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9 **E. Student Activity Monthly Report for May 2022** – The Board approved the Student
10 Activity monthly report for May 2022 as presented.

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12 **F. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 5121, 5228P, 5314 and 5321**– The
13 Board approved revised Board Policies 5121, 5228P, 5314, and 5321 as presented.
14 The policies were presented as a First Reading at the June 13, 2022 Board meeting.

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17 **COMMUNICATION**

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19 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – Chairperson Johnson
20 read a MAFB report submitted by School Liaison Specialist Lisa Sapp. Malmstrom
21 recently hosted its first Pupil Instruction Related (PIR) class for 18 teachers who were
22 briefed on several military family helping agencies and given a mission brief by Vice
23 Wing Commander Colonel Voorhies. The teachers also toured the T41 Missile Trainer
24 and participated in a practice missile launch. An invitation was extended for the
25 teachers to go out to the missile field on August 18. Also reported was the GFPS
26 Military Family Registration and Information Fair will be held at Loy Elementary School
27 on August 5, 2022 along with the Back to School Brigade Event that provides military
28 students with a free backpack filled with school supplies.

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30 **B. Audience Communication** – None

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32 **C. Superintendent’s Report**

33 Superintendent Moore reported on recent Year-End activities and events throughout the
34 District that included Flag Day, New Trustee Orientation, and Elementary Summer
35 Camps. Cabinet held their summer work retreat, the GFPS Foundation Board worked
36 on their Strategic Plan and GFPS hosted the AA Superintendent’s Summit in Great
37 Falls last week. Superintendent Moore said he and Chairperson Johnson welcomed the
38 Montana Exploration Company, comprised of approximately 30 people from around the
39 state, who visited Giant Springs Elementary, Great Falls High and C.M. Russell High
40 Schools. The visitors were impressed with all the bond projects and enhancements that
41 have taken place in the schools. Chairperson Johnson said he hopes the District
42 continues to invite the community into the schools.

43 Superintendent Moore introduced Veronica Griffith, Data Specialist and Community
44 Connections with the Great Falls Career and College Readiness Center, who reported
45 on the recent Safety Town that was held at the Early Learning Center at Skyline School.
46 She explained this was the pilot program of Safety Town which is a fun and education
47 program designed to introduce a variety of safety concepts to children entering
48 Kindergarten in the Fall. Students learned lessons about the Police and Fire

1 Departments, the bus company and emergency personnel. Instructor Ryan Beam said
2 students had the opportunity to see and learn about fire trucks, police cruisers, buses,
3 ambulances, and tractors. Safety topics included traffic, fire, strangers, buses, home
4 and more. The Uptown Optimist was recognized for creating the town on the blacktop at
5 Skyline and to the Pre-Construction classes at Great Falls High who built the buildings.
6 Early Childhood Coordinator Colette Getten thanked Mr. Beam and Mrs. Griffith for the
7 dedication in making the program a success. Mrs. Griffith said eighteen students
8 participated and another opportunity for Safety Town will be scheduled in the Fall. The
9 program was funded by a grant, but moving forward, sponsorships will be solicited to
10 continue the program.

11 Superintendent Moore reported on other summer programs including a Kids Art Camp,
12 GFPS Construction Camp, Get Fit Great Falls and the Summer Food Service Program.
13 Superintendent Moore congratulated Community Connections Manager Becky Nelson
14 and Human Resources Director Kerry Dattilo who have been awarded the 2022
15 National School Public Relations Association's Golden Achievement Award for Great
16 Falls Public Schools' High Voltage Recruiting Weekend for College Seniors.

17 Superintendent Moore reviewed upcoming events that included the dedication of
18 planting boxes for the 10th Street Bridge, a recognition of student interns/employees at
19 D.A. Davidson, and a Retirement Reception for Mrs. Ruth Uecker, all being held on
20 June 29, 2022. He invited everyone to join him to participate in the 4th of July Parade
21 starting at 11:00 a.m.

22 Superintendent Moore reported that the Whittier Elementary School playground project
23 began today. The project is due to Mrs. Uecker's vision and hard work in securing a
24 grant for the playground. Superintendent Moore thanked Mrs. Uecker for her 34 years
25 of dedication and commitment to the students and staff of Great Falls Public Schools.
26 He presented a bench that was created by Industrial Technology teacher Paul Hogan
27 and students that will be placed on the playground at Whittier Elementary School in her
28 honor. The bench was paid for by donations made to the GFPS Foundation by staff and
29 community members.

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31 At 6:12 p.m. Chairperson Johnson announced the Board will take a break from the
32 meeting to thank Assistant Superintendent Uecker for her service.

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34 The Board meeting resumed at 6:22 p.m.

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36 **ACTION ITEMS**

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38 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for May 2022** - Director of Business
39 Operations Brian Patrick explained that there will be one additional Financial Report for
40 June before the budget closes for the year. The 2022-2023 Budgeted Funds will be
41 presented to the Board for approval in August. Mr. Patrick noted that within the
42 Financial Report are revenues and expenditures of each budgeted fund and noted that
43 the majority of expenditures are salary/benefits related.

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45 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
46 the May 2022 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #121625 - #122169 in the
47 amount of \$3,416,617.95 and Payroll checks #74170 - #75805 in the amount of
48 \$1,395,741.61 as presented.

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2 **B. District-Wide Safety Plan** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained
3 that school districts are required to adopt an annual comprehensive Safety Plan. As
4 part of the plan, Board Policies 3300, Suspension and Expulsion and 3311, Firearms
5 and Weapons must also be reviewed annually. The policies were reviewed by the
6 Board Policy Committee and presented to the full Board at the June 13, 2022 Board
7 meeting. Mr. Patrick said the Safety Plan includes protocols, practices and monitoring
8 to address the safety and security of students, staff and the facilities. The pandemic
9 provided the District the opportunity to improve and adjust many operational safety
10 protocols. Mr. Patrick reviewed each section of the Safety Plan in detail and said the
11 goal of the District is to always be looking for improved ways to keep the students and
12 staff safe.

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14 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
15 the District-wide Safety Plan as presented with thanks.

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17 **C. Consideration of School Meal Price Increases for the 2022-2023 School Year** –
18 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Healthy, Hunger-Free
19 Kids Act of 2010 requires that schools annually review the prices charged for student
20 meals. The USDA provides a calculator in which, prices are compared to the Federal
21 reimbursement paid to the District for students who participate in the Free and Reduced
22 Lunch. If the District does not charge enough for meals according to the calculated
23 amount, the District is required to increase the price of paid meals by at least ten cents
24 per year or an amount which meets the Federal reimbursements rate for free meals. If
25 this price increase is not implemented, paid meals must be reimbursed by non-Federal
26 funding to cover the difference. During the pandemic, all meals for students were free
27 and the calculator was not available. The waiver has not been continued for the 2022-
28 23 school year. The last time the calculator was used was in 2019-2020. At that time
29 the target price was \$2.86. Over the past two years, food costs have increased
30 substantially due to shortages and delivery cost increases. If the proposed increases
31 are approved, the Food Service Department will start the process of relaying the
32 information out to the parents. Families will need to complete the Free and Reduced
33 Meal application this year and if they qualify for a reduced rate, waivers will be available
34 so that the meals will be free.

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36 The proposed increases are:

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38 Enrolled Students:

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40	Elementary Lunches:	From \$2.60 to \$2.80
41	Secondary Lunches:	From \$2.65 to \$2.90
42	Adult Lunches:	From \$4.50 to \$4.75
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44	Elementary Breakfasts:	From \$1.55 to \$1.75
45	Secondary Breakfasts:	From \$1.55 to \$1.75
46	Adult Breakfasts:	From \$2.50 to \$3.00

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48 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
49 the school meal price increases for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

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ACTION: OTHER

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES.

A. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –

Trustee Sunchild thanked Mrs. Uecker for all her work behind the scenes that most people are not aware and for taking good care of the staff over the years.

Trustee Finnicum said he attended the buffalo harvest on June 14 and learned so much from those that participated. He said he will be attending a County Safety Meeting on June 30 with Superintendent Moore and other trustees.

Trustee Bronson thanked the Construction Camp attendees for making planters that will be placed on the 10th Street Bridge and said the south access to the bridge will be open to the public soon. He said he has attended meetings with secondary teachers who are in the process of selecting Social Studies textbooks and is impressed with the extra work they do during the summer. Trustee Bronson said he truly appreciates all Mrs. Uecker has done for the District.

Trustee Thompson thanked all of those who have helped her transition into her Trustee role over the past month. She too said how much she appreciates all Mrs. Uecker has given to the District.

Chairperson Johnson said during his recent tour of Giant Springs, he visited with architect Dave Cantley who was very complimentary of Mrs. Uecker and her hard work and dedication during the construction of Giant Springs Elementary School.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson said a Board Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2022 and a Board Work Session and Regular Board Meeting are scheduled for Monday, Monday, July 18, 2022.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:48 p.m.

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk