

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **HELD MAY 9, 2022**

3
4 A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public
5 Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South, on the 9th day of
6 May 2022.

7
8 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.

9
10 **Trustees Present:** Jeff Gray, Chairperson
11 Gordon Johnson, Vice Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum
14 Nathan Reiff
15 Marlee Sunchild
16 Kim Skornogoski

17
18 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
19 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Ruth Uecker, Assistant
20 Superintendent K-6; Heather Hoyer, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Kerry Dattilo,
21 Director of Human Resources; Lance Boyd, Director of Student Services and Stephanie
22 Schnider, GFPS Foundation Executive Director. Also present were Lisa Sapp,
23 Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth Education Services-School Liaison
24 and Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.

25
26 At 5:34 pm, Chairperson Gray 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 – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to adopt
33 the agenda as presented.

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36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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38 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to
39 approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Skornogoski congratulated
40 Chairperson Gray for being nominated for a Good Apple Award by Trustee Finnicum.
41 Chairperson Gray recognized the C.M. Russell High School Key Club students traveling
42 to Washington, D.C.

43
44 **A. Minutes of the April 25, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
45 minutes of the April 25, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

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

1 **C. Good Apple Awards** - The Board approved the nomination for a Good Apple
2 Awards: Madeleine Saenz, Para Educator at Great Falls High School, Pam Hawk,
3 teacher at Longfellow Elementary School, Jeri Beck, and Sharon Fox, teachers at North
4 Middle School, Mike West, 2nd Engineer at North Middle School, Trixie Smith, Health
5 Prevention Services Manager at Alluvion Health, and Jeff Gray, Board of Trustees
6 Chairperson.

7
8 **D. Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
9 Montana Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35 for the individuals listed in the agenda.

10
11 **E. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the Second Semester of the 2021-**
12 **2022 School Year.** The Board approved the TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims
13 for both high school and elementary school districts for the second semester of the
14 2021-2022 school year.

15
16 **F. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreement at the Early**
17 **Learning Family Center for the 2021-2022 School Year.** The Board approved the
18 Transitional Kindergarten Student Agreement for student R.W. for the 2021-2022 school
19 year due to exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

20
21 **G. Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the 2021-2022 School Year.** The
22 Board approved the Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the student listed in
23 the agenda with tuition to be paid for by the district of residence and/or the state.

24
25 **H. Kindergarten Early Entrance for the 2022-2023 School Year.** The Board
26 approved early entry for student C.U. in Kindergarten by special permission of the
27 Board for the 2022-2023 school year.

28
29 **I. C.M. Russell High School Key Club Student Travel** – The Board approved travel
30 for three CMR Key Club students to Washington, D.C. July 5-12, 2022 to attend the Key
31 Club International Convention.

32
33 **J. Paris Gibson Education Center’s Immersion Program Travel to Yellowstone**
34 **National Park.** The Board approved twelve students and three chaperones from the
35 Paris Gibson Education Center’s Immersion Program to travel to West Yellowstone from
36 May 17-19, 2022.

37
38
39 **COMMUNICATION**

40
41 **A. Student Representatives’ Reports** – Assistant Superintendent Heather Hoyer
42 thanked the Student Representatives for reporting to the Board throughout the year.
43 She shared that seniors Valon Haslem will be attending Gonzaga University in the fall,
44 Kendal Mickealson will be working for DA Davidson Companies, Kaylee Stremcha will
45 be attending Montana State University, Ashton Blake will be conducting a 2-year
46 mission in Argentina and Paige LePard will be attending Montana State University and
47 wished them all the best.

48 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representatives Valon Haslem, Hayley

1 Bouchard and Ryan Harrington reported that the GFH Drama Department recently
2 presented *Macbeth* and that it was a wonderful way to end the year for the department.
3 Spring sports are going strong for softball, tennis and track and field. The students
4 reported on the Business Professionals of America (BPA) and Distributive Education
5 Clubs of America (DECA) student successes at the recent National Leadership
6 Conferences. On Wednesday, May 4, 2022 Leap Up Night was held for incoming
7 freshmen next year. The GFH Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) recently
8 held their awards dinner. Many awards were given to the members who are excited to
9 prepare for potential careers in the military. The students reported that the annual
10 student-staff basketball game was held last month with the staff being victorious and
11 that at the Spring Pep Assembly, the staff also won a student-staff tug of war. The girls'
12 swim team released their state championship banner at the assembly and placed their
13 mark on Bison and state history. The students congratulated the recent scholarship
14 recipients who were recognized at the Senior Scholarship Night event.

15
16 Paris Gibson Education Center's (PGEC) Student Representatives Kendal Mickealson
17 and Kaylee Stremcha reported that approximately 115 students will be graduating from
18 PGEC in May. Most new students for the fall will transition to PGEC during the summer
19 program in June. PGEC just completed its third blood drive of the year and met the goal
20 for the number of units donated. The students explained that a few years ago, PGEC
21 was gifted a number of quilted blankets and that each year one of those blankets is
22 given to a someone who embodies the spirit of PGEC. The blanket will surround the
23 person with warmth and comfort for many years. Kendal and Kaylee reported that five
24 staff members from PGEC, two from GFH and the two Assistant Superintendents flew
25 on a Blackhawk helicopter to visit the Montana Youth Challenge program in Dillon, MT
26 last week. Great Falls Public Schools has an average of three to ten students attend
27 the Montana Youth Challenge each year. PGEC students recently added 16 yards of
28 bark to the Native American Garden to help the growth of traditional plants and herbs.
29 The PGEC honeybees have arrived and 40-50 gallons of honey is expected to be
30 extracted in September. The students gave an update on the success of the PGEC
31 students who attended the Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) State competition in
32 Helena. Mr. Uecker received an award for his many years of service to the JMG
33 program.

34
35 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Luke Banks and Ashton
36 Blake reported that CMR DECA students recently attended the National Leadership
37 Conference and that students who participated in the Leadership High School Program
38 graduated on April 27, 2022. CMR hosted Scholarship Night at which many seniors
39 were awarded scholarships through donations of local supporters. The students
40 congratulated the new Rustler inductees to the National Honor Society. Spring sports
41 will continue through the month of May and the students wished all teams good luck as
42 they start competing at divisional and state meets and tournaments. Luke and Ashton
43 reported that the Academic Bowl team went to State in Missoula and placed 3rd in the
44 team competition. For the 11th year in a row, Great Falls has been named one of the
45 2022 Best Communities for Music Education. The students reported on upcoming
46 events that included the Advanced Placement Art Show on May 12, Community
47 Powwow on May 14, Leap Up Day on May 18, High School House Open House on May
48 19 and the many Graduation events and celebrations starting May 25, 2022.

1
2 **B. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air
3 Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth Education Services-School Liaison reported that
4 last week she helped with the preschool registration of military students who will be
5 attending Skyline next year and that on June 6, 2022, GFPS teachers will be invited to
6 tour Malmstrom Air Force Base and to discuss the Adopt a School initiative. The
7 initiative is focused on ways members of MAFB can be of support in the schools
8

9 **C. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Moore introduced General Brad
10 Livingston and Starbase Director Retired Colonel Mike Stone. Retired Colonel Stone
11 gave background on the implementation of Starbase in Montana stating the first location
12 was Helena’s Fort Harrison in 2006. In the summer of 2011, the State was awarded the
13 opportunity for a 2nd Starbase. Retired Colonel Stone contacted Assistant
14 Superintendent Ruth Uecker who then worked to build a team to be able to support the
15 opportunity. In January of 2012, Great Falls started its Starbase program at the
16 Montana Air National Guard. Since then, thousands of 5th grade students have been a
17 part of the 5-day program that focuses on real-world applications of math and science
18 through experiential learning, simulations and experiments in aviation and space-related
19 fields. Retired Colonel Stone and General Livingston presented Mrs. Uecker with *The*
20 *Adjutant General’s Distinguished Patriot Award* and medal for her determination and
21 vision of the program with Great Falls Public Schools. Mrs. Uecker said the program
22 became a reality within GFPS due to the passion of many people who saw the
23 opportunity and importance to teach Science, Technology, Engineering and
24 Mathematics (STEM) to students. She explained the only cost of the program to GFPS
25 is the transportation for the students to attend.
26

27 Superintendent Moore introduced Career Pathway Advisor Mark Yaeger who reported
28 to the Board the importance of the Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)
29 within Great Falls Public Schools. He introduced advisors Ken Vanlieshout and Pete
30 Pace from Skills USA, Jessica Goosen and Stacy Dolderer from BPA, and Amber Lloyd
31 and Christi Virts from Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). The advisors
32 introduced students that were in attendance and spoke of their programs and activities
33 associated with the program. Each advisor and the students were thanked by the
34 Board members.
35

36 Superintendent Moore announced upcoming events on May 19 that included the High
37 School House Open House, the 2022 Shark Tank and the Advance Placement Studio
38 and Art Design show.
39

40 **D. Audience Communication** – None
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42

43 **ACTION ITEMS**
44

45 **A. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for March 2022** - Motion – Gordon
46 Johnson, Seconded – Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to approve the March 2022
47 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #120548 - #121146 in the amount of
48 \$2,557,888.87 and Payroll checks #73653 - #73904 in the amount of \$553,214.25 as

1 presented.

2
3 **B. Student Activity Report for March 2022** – Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded –
4 Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to approve the Student Activity Monthly Report for
5 March 2022 as presented.

6
7 **C. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 1520 – Board/Staff**
8 **Communications, 7625 (new) – Use of Enhanced Tax Credit Receipts, 8300 – Risk**
9 **Management and 8502 – Construction and Repairs** – Superintendent Moore said he
10 has not received any comments or concerns regarding policies 1520, 7625, 8300 and
11 8502 since the first reading at the April 25, 2022 Board meeting.

12
13 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approved
14 new and revised Board policies 1520, 7625, 8300 and 8502 as presented.

15
16 **D. Transfer of Budgeted Funds – High School Tuition Fund to the elementary**
17 **Tuition Fund and the Interlocal Agreement Fund** – Director of Business Operations
18 Brian Patrick explained the requested fund transfers are due to payment from the
19 Interlocal Agreement Fund and the Elementary Tuition Fund last year for a student to
20 attend a specialized school out of state. State law has a provision allowing taxes to be
21 levied to recover the funds paid during the next fiscal year when they are able to be
22 budgeted. He said this year the taxes were levied in the Tuition Fund allowing the High
23 School Tuition Fund to return the money that was borrowed from the Interlocal
24 Agreement and Elementary Tuition Funds.

25
26 Motion – Nathan Reiff, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
27 the transfer of \$321,838.28 from the High School Tuition Fund (213) to the Interlocal
28 Agreement Fund (182) for \$220,551.31 and the Elementary Tuition Fund (113) for
29 \$101,286.97.

30
31 **E. Essential Worker Stipend for Great Falls Public School Employees in the 2021-**
32 **2022 School Year.** Director of Human Resources Kerry Dattilo explained the past
33 school year has provided unique challenges for every level of employees at the District
34 between the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the staff shortages. Staff have
35 continuously stepped up to make the school year successful. The District recognizes
36 the good work of the staff and is recommending an essential worker stipend for the
37 amount of \$750 for district staff who are regularly scheduled to work 21 hours or more
38 per week and \$375 for district staff that are scheduled 10-20 hours per week. Mrs.
39 Dattilo said eligible employees must have been employed by the District since at least
40 January 3, 2022 and be currently employed on May 16, 2022. The stipends are the
41 gross amount and appropriate taxes and retirement deductions will be withheld. The
42 stipends will be paid out of the ESSER funding provided to the District. She explained
43 substitute positions are not included to receive the stipend as additional compensation
44 has already been provided this group. GFEA President Tom Cabbage said he hoped
45 this year would be more normal, but it proved to be a difficult year with staff working
46 extra hours to help students who were behind or struggling. He said this is a way to say
47 thank you for the hard work of staff members. Trustee Skornogoski said by approving

1 the stipend, it is a way for the Board to thank every staff member who are truly essential
2 workers.

3
4 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to approve
5 an essential worker stipend for the amount of \$750.00 for staff who are regularly
6 scheduled to work 21 hours or more per week. For employees who are regularly
7 scheduled to work 10-20 hours per week, they will receive half of this amount for their
8 stipend, for a payment of \$375.00. These stipends will be paid out on May 16, 2022 as
9 a separate check.

10
11 **F. 2022/2023 Strategic Plan Draft and Revised Great Falls Public Schools**

12 **Mission, Vision and Belief Statement.** Superintendent Moore thanked the Board
13 members for their time spent at the Board Work Session on April 21, 2022 at which the
14 draft 2022-2023 Strategic Plan was discussed and revised. He thanked the District
15 leaders for their input in creating the draft plan. Superintendent Moore said the focus in
16 the 2022-2023 school year is student achievement. He reviewed the changes to the
17 District’s Vision, Mission and Belief Statement and the draft 2022-2023 Strategic Plan.
18 Trustee Skornogoski said the Strategic Plan is the most important work of the School
19 Board. She said she is excited to see the plan implemented and hopes the needle can
20 be moved on student achievement. Chairperson Gray thanked the District leaders for
21 their innovative thinking and actions.

22
23 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
24 the 2022/2023 Strategic Plan and the revised Great Falls Public Schools Mission Vision
25 and Belief Statement as presented.

26
27 **ACTION: OTHER**

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30 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

31
32 **A. First Reading Revised Board Policies 2161R – Special Education, 2312 –**
33 **Copyright, 3121 – Enrollment and Attendance Records and 3416 – Administering**
34 **Medicines to Students** - Superintendent Moore reviewed, in detail, the changes to
35 revised Board Policies 2161R, 2312, 3121 and 3416 and asked if anyone has
36 comments, concerns or questions to contact him before the next Board meeting.

37
38 **B. First Reading of the 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar** – Superintendent Moore
39 reviewed the 2022-2023 draft Board Meeting Calendar and explained all meetings
40 listed, with the exception of one work session, are regular Board meetings. He said not
41 listed on the calendar are additional work sessions and possible Special Board
42 meetings that may need be scheduled as the school year moves forward.
43 Superintendent Moore asked if anyone has comments, concerns or questions, to
44 contact him before the next Board meeting.

45
46 **C. Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) Annual Meeting in Helena** –
47 Superintendent Moore explained the MTSBA Annual Meeting will take place in Helena
48 on June 9, 2022 and virtually. Four proposed resolutions from the Delegate Assembly

1 will be discussed and voted upon. He reviewed each of the four resolutions in detail.
2 Superintendent Moore said MTSBA School Board Leadership Training is scheduled for
3 June 10, 2022 in Helena and virtually. He asked Board members to contact Cindy
4 Gordon if they are planning to attend either or both meetings. Chairperson Gray said he
5 highly recommends attending in person if possible as it is an opportunity to network with
6 other trustees from other school districts. Trustee Finnicum, the MTSBA Municipal
7 Director for Great Falls, encouraged the other Board members to attend in person, but if
8 that is not possible, to try to attend virtually.

9
10 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

11 Trustee Sunchild said she enjoyed all the students who gave reports and were
12 highlighted at the meeting. She said she is glad staff members will be receiving a
13 stipend.

14 Trustee Finnicum said there are many events/celebrations in May for people to be
15 involved with.

16 Trustee Reiff said he has enjoyed his experience on the Board and will miss working
17 with the Cabinet and Board members.

18 Trustee Skornogoski thanked Trustee Reiff for serving on Board committees this past
19 year. She also thanked Chairperson Gray for his steady leadership and for being the
20 District's cheerleader for student and staff success. She congratulated Amie Thompson
21 and Paige Turoski for being elected as the new Trustees.

22 Trustee Bronson said he will miss Trustee Reiff on the Board Policy Committee. He
23 said he attended the Great Falls High Drama production of *Macbeth* and said it was a
24 stellar performance.

25 Trustee Johnson reported that he chaperoned a middle school field trip to the
26 Interpretive Center and was impressed with the teachers' knowledge of topics
27 presented and the students' willingness to learn.

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30 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

31
32 Chairperson Gray said a Powwow is scheduled for May 14, 2022 at C.M. Russell High
33 School, Excellence in Education is scheduled for May 11, 2022, a Special Board
34 Meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2022, the Longevity/Retirement Reception is
35 scheduled for May 18, 2022 and the next Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting is
36 scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2022.

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39 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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41 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to
42 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:52 p.m.

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45
46 _____
47 Jeff Gray, Chairperson

47 _____
48 Brian Patrick, Clerk