

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **HELD APRIL 11, 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 11th day
6 of April, 2022.

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

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

17
18 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
19 Operations; Ruth Uecker, K-6 Assistant Superintendent; Heather Hoyer, 7-12 Assistant
20 Superintendent; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Lance Boyd, Director
21 of Student Services and Stephanie Schnider, GFPS Foundation Director.
22 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.

23
24 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Gray called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
25 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

26
27
28 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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30 Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt
31 the agenda as presented.

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33
34 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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36 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to approve
37 the Consent Agenda as presented. Special thanks was given to Lewis and Clark PTA
38 for their \$1,000 donation to Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

39
40 **A. Minutes of the March 28, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
41 minutes of the March 28, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

42
43 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

44
45 **C. Good Apple Awards** - The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
46 Awards: Becky Nelson, Community Connections Manager, Kerry Dattilo, Human
47 Resources Director, Jennifer Martin, Shannon Guilfoyle and Brian Miller, Elementary
48 Principals, Tara Rosial, NMS Middle School Principal, Geff Habel, GF High School

1 Principal, Lance Boyd, Student Services Director, Ruth Uecker, K-6 Assistant
2 Superintendent, Heather Hoyer, 7-12 Assistant Superintendent, Stephanie Schnider,
3 GFPS Foundation Director, Marni Napierala, K-6 Teacher on Special Assignment,
4 Charlene Ammons, Technology Integration Coach, Daneen Pate, K-6 Assistant
5 Superintendent Administrative Assistant, Sandy Bennett, HR Administrative Assistant,
6 Kelly Wiles, Tracy Milton and Bridger Lutz, Teachers at GFH, and Tom Cubbage, Great
7 Falls Education Association President.

8
9 **D. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreement at the Early Learning**
10 **Center for the 2021-2022 School Year** – The Board approved student A.C. to attend
11 the Early Learning Center for the 2021-2022 school year due to exceptional
12 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

13
14 **E. Video Surveillance COPS School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) Grant**
15 **Bid** – The Board approved Total Education Solutions in Technology Inc. (T.E.S.T.) as
16 the most qualified bidder for the replacement of the video surveillance systems at C.M.
17 Russell High School, Great Falls High School, Paris Gibson Education Center and
18 North and East Middle Schools.

19
20 **F. Request for Records Disposal – Human Resources** – The Board approved the
21 request for disposal of Human Resources records listed in the agenda that are in
22 compliance with the approved State, Local Government Records Committee Retention
23 Schedule.

24
25 **G. Donation of \$1,000 Cash from the Lewis and Clark PTA to Lewis and Clark**
26 **Elementary School** – The Board approved the \$1,000 cash donation from the Lewis
27 and Clark PTA to Lewis and Clark Elementary School with thanks. The donation is
28 intended to support updating classroom furniture.

31 **COMMUNICATION**

32 **A. Student Representatives' Reports**

34 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representatives Hayley Bouchard, Ryan
35 Harrington and Valon Haslem gave reports on State competitions for the Business
36 Professionals of America (BPA) and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
37 students. The National Honor Society chapter spent every weekend in March assisting
38 the Rescue Mission with cleaning, cooking and serving. The students announced spring
39 sports are underway and gave updates on the Tennis, Softball and Track teams. March
40 is Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM). The students reported on the events of the
41 orchestra, band and choir programs during the past month. The GFH Theatre
42 Department will be presenting *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare April 28-May 7, 2022.
43 The Junior Prom was held with a *Dancing Through the Decades* theme. Many students
44 from each of the student bodies attended the fundraiser for the Junior Class.
45 Congratulations was extended to Macie Vinaras who was awarded the Young Women's
46 Christian Association's (YWCA) Young Woman of Tomorrow Award.

47
48 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School's Student Representative Ashton Blake gave reports

1 on the BPA, HOSA, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Skills USA and
2 KEY Club students' State conferences. Many of the students who competed in the
3 State competitions will advance to the National Conferences. Music in Our Schools
4 Month was filled with a variety of concerts and the District Music Festival. The CMR
5 Drama Department concluded their performance of *TRAP* with it having the largest box
6 office numbers in 12 years for a non-musical play. Ashton reported that Student
7 Government asked students to pause social media for 5 days in order to reflect and
8 improve mental health. Students who completed the challenge were entered into a
9 drawing for AirPods. Tennis, Softball and Track are in full swing. Updates were given
10 for each sport. Rustler Pride was demonstrated by students who cleaned the CMR
11 campus for three days last week. Ashton announced that CMR will be recognizing
12 Purple Up Day on April 21 instead of April 12 as students will be on remote learning on
13 April 12 for ACT and PreACT testing. Two CMR teams took both first and second place
14 at the Principals Cup Competition held in Simms against sixteen other regional teams.
15 These teams will now advance to the State competition in Missoula.
16 CMR Principal Jamie McGraw announced that Ashton Blake and Jackson Crook have
17 been chosen as National Merit Finalists. She explained the criteria for this recognition
18 and said Ashton has been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from the National Merit
19 Scholarship Corporation and will go on to compete for future scholarships.
20 Ashton shared Graduation activities and dates in May.

21
22 Paris Gibson Education Center's (PGEC) Student Representative Kaylee Stremcha
23 announced that fifty-six seniors have completed their high school requirements to date
24 and that bell ringings are once again taking place. She reported the PGEC window
25 project is 100% complete along with the addition of shades in most rooms. Jobs for
26 Montana Graduates (JMG) students are preparing for the annual IGNITE State JMG
27 Leadership Conference. The JMG students will be volunteering at the 2022 Great Falls
28 Jobs Jamboree. Kaylee said Science classes have been busy hatching duck eggs,
29 training chickens and dissecting pearls from oysters. Two PGEC young artists were
30 finalists at the Youth Art Fair during Russell Art week. She reported a variety of
31 mushrooms along with other vegetables that are used in culinary class are grown in the
32 aquaponics room at PGEC. Kaylee reported that Hanna Davis created a design with
33 the phrase *Gonna Be Okay* that was so popular with the students and staff that over
34 100 shirts were sold with her design and that all proceeds will go to the Sletten Cancer
35 Center. Secondary Life Skills student Hannah Reeves was Principal for Day on April 1.
36 She worked alongside Principal Drew Uecker.

37
38 **B. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication - None**

39
40 **C. Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Moore introduced Great Falls Rescue
41 Mission's Executive Director Jim McCormick and thanked him and the Rescue Mission
42 for providing lunches to all employees throughout Great Falls Public Schools and said
43 he is very appreciative of Mr. McCormick's leadership. Mr. McCormick said school staff
44 take care of students every day and as a way to say "thank you" the Rescue Mission is
45 providing them with a meal.
46 Superintendent Moore congratulated the North Middle School (NMS) Science Bowl
47 student winners and teacher Mary Somerfeld. Mrs. Somerfeld explained the Science
48 Bowl was held virtually and that the NMS took 1st Place while competing against

1 students from across the United States. The students will be participating in the
2 National Competition virtually in May. Mrs. Somerfeld thanked the parents for their
3 support and commitment to the program. Superintendent Moore presented the students
4 with their awards and the students and Mrs. Somerfeld were congratulated by the
5 Board.

6 Superintendent Moore announced that April is the month of the Military Child and that
7 April 12 has been designated as Purple Up Day. All staff is encouraged to wear purple
8 to show support of military families. He explained an Education Summit will be held at
9 Malmstrom Air Force Base at which time Purple Star Awards will be presented to Great
10 Falls schools and employees by State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

11 Superintendent Moore congratulated the Career and Technical Student Organizations
12 for their success in State and Regional competitions and said many students will be
13 advancing to national competitions. He recognized the District's twenty-four Librarians
14 for their roles in supporting students and staff in each of their buildings.

15 Superintendent Moore said GFPS continues its recruitment efforts by attending two
16 Tribal College Career Fairs last week and hosting the GF Job Jamboree at PGEC on
17 May 4. He thanked Community Connections Manager Becky Nelson for her work on
18 these events.

19 Superintendent Moore announced that the last Citizens Academy Meeting will be held
20 on April 12 with a tour of the Buildings and Grounds Shop and a Celebration of
21 Completion at CMR's STEM Center. He thanked community partners Malmstrom Air
22 Force Base and Montana Air National Guard for hosting events involving GFPS and
23 Jenn Rowell with the Electric for hosting a forum with the candidates for the GFPS
24 Board of Trustees.

25 26 **D. Audience Communication – None**

27 28 **ACTION ITEMS**

29 **A. Second Reading of Revised Board Policy 3310 and New Board Policy 3310P –**
30
31 Superintendent Moore reviewed the suggested changes to Board Policies 3310 and
32 3310P and said he has not received any comments or concerns on the revised and new
33 policies since the first reading on March 28, 2022.

34 Community member Brian Cayko asked why line 11 on page 59 of the agenda was
35 crossed out and if the legal references reflected the definition of corporal punishment.
36 Trustee Bronson said corporal punishment is clearly defined in State law. Line 11 in
37 Policy 3310 was to be deleted as the District follows this already and if the conduct is
38 not criminal, it does not need to be reported to law enforcement. Superintendent Moore
39 said the proposed deletion of line 11 in Board Policy 3310 was discussed at length
40 during Board Policy Committee meetings. He said district personnel is trained on
41 mandatory reporting.
42

43
44 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to approve
45 revised Board Policy 3310 and new Board Policy 3310P as presented.
46

47 **B. Multidistrict Agreement Between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls**
48 **School District A** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained this is a

1 renewal of a three-year agreement between the Elementary and High School Districts.
2 He said it has been a very valuable financial tool because it allows the District the ability
3 to adjust funding between the elementary and high school districts when there are
4 funding fluctuations due to enrollment shifting.

5
6 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum passed unanimously to approve
7 the extension of the Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls School District 1 and
8 Great Falls School District A as presented.

9
10 **C. Technology Multidistrict Agreement** – Director of Business Operations Brian
11 Patrick explained this is a renewal of a three-year agreement between Great Falls
12 School District 1 & A, Belt, and Vaughn School Districts. He said the agreement
13 encourages collaboration and collective purchasing between the school districts for
14 school supplies, equipment, software, etc. Great Falls School District is designated as
15 the prime agency to establish a non-budgeted interlocal cooperative fund for the
16 purpose of the financial administration of the agreement. Mr. Patrick said there is an
17 appendix to the agreement that outlines the responsibilities of the districts if work is to
18 be performed.

19
20 Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to
21 approve the continued participation in the Technology Multidistrict Agreement between
22 Great Falls Public Schools Districts 1 & A and Vaughn Elementary School and Belt
23 Elementary School as presented.

24
25 **D. Consideration of Roosevelt Elementary School Sale** – Director of Business
26 Operations Brian Patrick provided the Board members with a brief history of Roosevelt
27 Elementary School that explained the school was built in 1927 with additions added to
28 the school in 1930s and 1950s and the cost of each. He explained that Roosevelt
29 Elementary was used as a temporary school while both Giant Springs and Longfellow
30 Elementary Schools were being built. Mr. Patrick said Catalyst Commercial was
31 selected as the Real Estate Agent for the sale of Roosevelt after the Board had
32 approved it to be surplus. Following a market data analysis including comparable
33 properties was completed, the sale price of \$899,000 was established. On April 1,
34 2022, a full-price offer was made by Alluvion Health. Mr. Patrick said if the sale is
35 approved, the money will be deposited in the Building Fund account.
36 Trustee Finnicum asked what Alluvion’s intentions were for the building. Mr. Patrick
37 said possible office space, clinic space or possible leasing of space for specialists.
38 Trustee Bronson explained that depending on the intent use of the building, it may
39 require a zone change from the city and that in some cases the buyer requires the seller
40 to help facilitate the zone change. This provision was not included in the Buy-Sell
41 Agreement. Vice Chairperson Johnson asked what will be done with the cell tower. Mr.
42 Patrick said it will be included in the sale price for the building. Chairperson Gray said
43 he attended 6th grade at Roosevelt due to overcrowding at Lowell Elementary. He said
44 the school has served the students and community well.

45
46 Motion – Nathan Reiff, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
47 the offer to purchase Roosevelt Elementary School for the sale price of \$899,000 as

1 listed. The Board also approved Brian Patrick, District Clerk, to act as the agent of the
2 Great Falls Public School Board to sign all documents on behalf of the District.
3

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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 5223, 5610, 7251 and 7252 –**
11 Superintendent Moore reviewed in detail new and revised Board Policies 5223, 5610,
12 7251, and 7252. He explained that several years ago, Assistant Superintendent Ruth
13 Uecker formed a Task Force to help create Board Policy 5610, *Intellectual Property*
14 *Rights*. At that time, there was no consensus on the policy, so it was tabled. The Board
15 Policy Committee, along with GFEA President Tom Cabbage, recently reviewed and
16 revised the policy. Mr. Moore asked if anyone had comments or concerns on the
17 proposed policy changes presented to contact him before the next Board meeting.
18 Community member Rodney Meyers asked about revised Board Policy 5223 that was
19 presented to the Board on February 14, 2022. He said the version of the policy
20 presented now does not reflect a new sentence that proposed in February. Trustee
21 Reiff said after discussion of Board Policy 5223 in February, it was decided to table the
22 policy after the first reading, therefore, was not approved by the Board at that time.
23

24 **B. Report on the Proposal of Baseball as a Montana High School Association**
25 **(MHSA) Sanctioned Sport for the 2024 High School Spring Sport Season – Athletic**
26 Director Mike Henneberg explained that at the MHSA Annual Meeting in January 2022,
27 membership voted to add Baseball as a MHSA sanctioned activity. All districts have the
28 opportunity to add and sponsor Baseball as a MHSA sanctioned activity with Board
29 approval, but that districts are not required to do so. Montana is one of three states that
30 does not offer Baseball as a high school sponsored sport. Since January, district
31 personnel have met with various stakeholders to discuss the possibility and potential for
32 adding Baseball to our athletic offerings. Mr. Henneberg reported that the Local Legion,
33 Babe Ruth leagues and Great Falls Voyagers have expressed support for the program
34 and that he has received numerous e-mails from the general public supporting the
35 proposal. He reviewed the start-up and on-going estimated expenses that adding
36 Baseball would require. Mr. Henneberg gave options for potential playing fields that
37 included Don Olson Field, Little League Fields and Centene Stadium. He reviewed the
38 estimated timeline, that if the plan was approved, would have the sport begin in the
39 Spring of 2024.

40 Trustee Sunchild asked if there would be enough indoor space for practice. Mr.
41 Henneberg said at the moment there is not. There is a batting cage at each school that
42 would have to be shared with Softball. Scott Reasoner with the Great Falls Voyagers
43 explained that Centene Stadium is in the process of finishing two indoor batting cages
44 and would be willing to allow GF athletes to use them.

45 Trustee Bronson thanked Mr. Henneberg for bringing forth the facts and concerns of the
46 proposal. Trustee Reiff asked if there are other funding sources to help the program.
47 Mr. Henneberg explained all sports have participation fees that are a low cost to families
48 to allow more students to participate in athletics. Fundraising is done for each sport

1 program, however, all sports with the exemption of Football usually end the season in
2 the red. Trustee Skornogoski had questions about the field rentals, hiring of coaches
3 prior to the start of the season and, with the number of other spring sports, if the
4 program would have enough students to participate. Mr. Henneberg responded that the
5 field rental is an annual rate, not per game. His intent would be to hire the coaching
6 staff prior to the start of the program to allow them to assist with all areas of the
7 program's set-up. Mr. Henneberg believes there would not be a problem with the
8 number of students who would be interested in Baseball. Scott Reasoner stated the
9 Voyagers support this proposal and are willing to help in any way they can.

10
11 **C. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

12 Trustee Sunchild thanked Athletic Director Mike Henneberg for all he does for the
13 District's Athletic Program.

14 Trustee Skornogoski said the school trustee election ballots will be mailed this week.
15 She acknowledged the Trustee candidates in the audience and encouraged everyone to
16 vote.

17 Trustee Reiff said a forum for the Trustee candidates will be held on Thursday, April 14.
18 He enjoyed hearing from the student representatives and appreciates all the
19 opportunities the students are offered through the school district.

20 Trustee Finnicum encouraged everyone to participate in the many spring activities
21 available.

22 Trustee Bronson reported that he judged the Uptown Optimist Speech Club last week.
23 He said students from North Middle School participated and what a great opportunity for
24 students to improve their speaking skills and learn about scholarship possibilities.

25 Vice Chairperson Johnson reminded everyone that tomorrow, April 12, is Purple Up
26 Day. He said he is looking forward to attending the Education Forum at Malmstrom Air
27 Force Base. Mr. Johnson explained he has been a participant in the GFPS Citizens
28 Academy and thanked Superintendent Moore for the opportunity and for the information
29 provided at each of the meetings.

30
31 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

32
33 Chairperson Gray said the next Board Meetings are scheduled for April 25 and May 9,
34 2022. He thanked the Cabinet members and GFEA President Tom Cubbage for
35 attending the Board meetings.

36
37 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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39 Motion – Nathan Reiff, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to adjourn
40 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:37 p.m.

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44

Jeff Gray, Chairperson

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46

Brian Patrick, Clerk