

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD JUNE 10, 2024**  
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 10<sup>th</sup> day  
7 of June 2024.

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

10  
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson  
12 Mark Finnicum  
13 Marlee Sunchild  
14 Paige Turoski  
15

16 **Trustees Absent:** Bill Bronson, Kim Skornogoski, and Amie Thompson - excused  
17

18 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business  
19 Operations; Heather Hoyer, Jackie Mainwaring and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for  
20 Student Achievement; Luke Diekhans, Director of Human Resources; and Stephanie  
21 Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation.  
22

23 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.  
24

25 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
26 Trustees and asked Trustee Turoski to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.  
27

28  
29 **ADOPT AGENDA**  
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31 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adopt the  
32 agenda as presented.  
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35 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**  
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37 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to approve  
38 the Consent Agenda as presented with a special note of thanks for the donation of track  
39 shirts to Valley View Elementary School.  
40

41 **A. Minutes of the May 28, 2024, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting** – The  
42 Board approved the minutes of the May 28, 2024, Reorganization/Regular Board  
43 Meetings as presented.  
44

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

1  
2 **D. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The  
3 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2024-2025 school  
4 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of  
5 Residence.

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7 **E. Donation of Twenty-Seven (27) Track Shirts to Valley View Elementary School** –  
8 The Board approved the donation of twenty-seven track shirts to Valley View  
9 Elementary School from Mike Waldenberg with thanks.

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12 **COMMUNICATION**

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14 **A. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Moore extended special thanks to all  
15 teachers, staff, administrators, trustees, and students for successful graduation  
16 ceremonies. He gave special recognition and a “You Make a Difference” coin to Susan  
17 Shannon, Cascade County Fairgrounds Coordinator, for her work and collaboration with  
18 GFPS staff to make sure all accommodations for each ceremony were met. Also  
19 receiving coins and a special thank you from Superintendent Moore were GFPS School  
20 Resource Officers (SROs) Jesse Rostick, Clint Huston (former SRO), Katie  
21 Cunningham, Kristi Kinsey, Shane Stadel, Brett Munkres, and Frank Torres  
22 CORE School teachers for the 2024-2025 school year were recognized. Family Night  
23 at the new CORE school will take place on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

24 Superintendent Moore reported on the Summer Food Service Program / Get Fit Great  
25 Falls Park Pals Program that takes place from June 12<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup>. Donations  
26 of games and craft items are requested to be dropped off at a collection box at  
27 Independence Bank.

28 GFPS families and staff are invited to march with the band in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.  
29 Participants are asked to assemble at 10:45 in Whittier Park at the Civic Center.

30 The District’s annual Book Giveaway will be held June 19-20, 2024 at Paris Gibson  
31 Education Center. This event is open to the public. Superintendent Moore thanked the  
32 staff who prepare and facilitate this event during a very busy time.

33 Lincoln Elementary School students created and assembled care packages and  
34 presented them to staff at the Sletten Cancer Institute. Principal Yates was commended  
35 for his community service work with his students.

36 Superintendent Moore extended a special thank you to the community and staff for the  
37 support and encouragement he has received during his time in the district and for the  
38 retirement celebrations in both his and Tom Hering’s honors.

39  
40 **B. Audience Communication** – None

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43 **ACTION ITEMS**

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45 **A. Authority for the Director of Business Operations to Make End-of-Year Budget**  
46 **Transfers** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Business  
47 Department is very busy the month of June taking steps to close out the fiscal year on  
48 June 30<sup>th</sup>. By allowing the Director of Business Operations the authority to make end-

1 of-year budget transfers, it alleviates the need for a Special Board meeting at the end of  
2 June to approve transfers. All transfers made will follow the guidelines established by  
3 law and will be reviewed at the regularly scheduled July Board meeting or at the budget  
4 adoption meeting held in August. Mr. Patrick said this is an annual request to the Board.

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6 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve  
7 the Director of Business Operations the authority to make end-of-year budget transfers.

8  
9 **B. Charles M. Russell (CMR) High School Auditorium Upgrade** – Director of  
10 Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that an anonymous donation of one million  
11 dollars was received for improvements to the CMR Auditorium. Designed by CTA  
12 Architects, the opening bid was held on May 16, 2024. There was one bid submitted for  
13 the project. Because the bid exceeded the funding available for the project, Mr. Patrick  
14 recommended the bid be rejected and plans be redesigned and bid again in December.

15  
16 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to reject the  
17 submitted bid because it exceeded the funding for the project.

18  
19 Chairperson Johnson requested the District get word out to the public as to why the  
20 project has been delayed.

21  
22 **C. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 2131** – Student and Family Privacy  
23 *Rights*; **3121** – Enrollment and Attendance Records; **5325** – Breastfeeding in the School  
24 and Workplace; **8110** – Bus Routes and Schedules; **8121** – District Owned Vehicles;  
25 and **8502** - Construction and Repairs – Superintendent Moore explained that Policy  
26 2131 was removed from the agenda at the last Board meeting so Trustee Bronson and  
27 the Policy Committee could review it again. Content and wording were clarified and  
28 legal references were added. Superintendent Moore reviewed the remainder of the  
29 policies in detail and stated there were no comments or recommendations for changes  
30 received since the first reading of the policies on May 28, 2024.

31  
32 Chairperson Johnson advised that Policy 2131 be submitted to Montana School Boards  
33 Association to convey the language clarification.

34  
35 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve  
36 revised Board policies 2131, 3121, 5325, 8110, 8121, and 8502 as presented.

37  
38 Chairperson Johnson and Trustee Finnicum thanked the Policy Committee for their  
39 diligence in reviewing the polices and stated the process is essential to the operation of  
40 the District.

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43 **ACTION: OTHER**

44 There were no items extracted from the Consent Agenda to discuss.

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47 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

1 **A. Annual Review of Board Policy 3311, Firearms and Weapons** – Director of  
2 Business Operations Brian Patrick explained Board Policy 3311, Firearms and  
3 Weapons, is required to be reviewed annually in accordance with state law. The policy  
4 was reviewed, updated, and approved on second reading by the Board on May 13,  
5 2024.

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7 **B. First Reading of New, Revised, and Deleted Board Policies – 1420** – School  
8 Board Meeting Procedure; **3100 (Delete)** – Early Childhood Education Enrollment  
9 Exceptional Circumstances; **3100P (Delete)** – Student Enrollment, Exceptional  
10 Circumstances Meriting Waiver of Age Requirements for Students; **8125** – School Bus  
11 Emergencies; **2165 (Delete)** – Homebound, Hospital, and Home Instruction; and **2165**  
12 **(New)** – Early Literacy Targeted Interventions – Superintendent Moore thanked Rodney  
13 Meyers for reading through the policies and submitting corrections. He reviewed the  
14 recommended changes on each policy and asked that questions or corrections be  
15 submitted for review prior to the next Board meeting.

16  
17 **C. Board Sub-Committee Assignments** – Chairperson Johnson explained that an  
18 important role as a Trustee is to serve on District committees. He reviewed how  
19 Trustees are selected to sit on the varying committees. After receiving input from the  
20 Trustees, Chairperson Johnson said he made the sub-committee assignments as listed  
21 in the agenda.

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23 **D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –  
24 Trustee Turoski said she attended the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)  
25 training last week and wanted to remind everyone that most policy changes come from  
26 state law, not from Policy Committee recommendations. Collective bargaining was  
27 discussed at the training. Graduations were great – with great testimonials from guest  
28 speakers.  
29 Trustee Sunchild thanked Chairperson Johnson for the committee assignments and  
30 Executive Director Heather Hoyer for her help during non-duty hours at a function at  
31 Great Falls High School.  
32 Trustee Finnicum stated GFPS had really great students graduating, and he enjoys  
33 being part of the ceremonial process.  
34 Chairperson Johnson appreciates how Scholarship Night, Excellence in Education, and  
35 the graduation ceremonies are so natural and well presented to the public. He  
36 applauded staff and administrators for the behind-the-scenes efforts to make all of the  
37 ceremonies seamless to the public.

## 38 39 40 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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42 Chairperson Johnson said the next Board meetings are scheduled for June 24, 2024  
43 and July 15, 2024.

## 44 45 46 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

1 Motion – Chairperson Johnson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to  
2 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:32 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk