

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD JUNE 24, 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 24<sup>th</sup> day  
7 of June 2024.

8  
9 Chairperson Johnson reported that, due to legislative changes that become law on July  
10 1, 2024, all Board meetings will now be recorded and posted on the District website for  
11 one (1) year. He informed everyone in attendance that this meeting was being recorded  
12 as a test.

13  
14 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.

15  
16 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson - Chairperson  
17 Kim Skornogoski – Vice Chairperson  
18 Bill Bronson  
19 Mark Finnicum  
20 Marlee Sunchild  
21 Amie Thompson  
22 Paige Turoski  
23

24 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business  
25 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Jackie Mainwaring,  
26 Heather Hoyer, and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for Student Achievement; and  
27 Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Also present  
28 were Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison  
29 and Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association President.  
30

31 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
32 Trustees.  
33

34  
35 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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37 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt the  
38 agenda as presented.  
39

40  
41 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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43 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the  
44 Consent Agenda as presented.  
45

46 **A. Minutes of the June 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the  
47 minutes of the June 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as presented.  
48

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

2  
3 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple  
4 Awards: Teri Mahaffey, Paraprofessional and Jordan Lee, Music Teacher and Chanteur  
5 Choir Director all at Charles. M. Russell High School.

6  
7 **D. Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35’s** – The Board approved the  
8 Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the  
9 agenda.

10  
11 **E. Kindergarten Early Entrance for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The Board  
12 approved the students listed in the agenda to enroll in kindergarten for the 2024-2025  
13 school year due to exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3110R.

14  
15 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The  
16 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2024-2025 school  
17 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of  
18 Residence.

19  
20 **G. Special Education Records Disposal** - The Board approved the disposal of the  
21 2016-2017 Special Education records that have not been requested by the parents or  
22 students.

23  
24 **H. 2024-2025 School Calendar Amendment** – The Board approved the amendments  
25 to the 2024-2025 School Calendar as listed in the agenda.

26  
27 **I. Donation to the Great Falls High School Jack Fisher Memorial Garden** – The  
28 Board approved the one-hundred-dollar donation from Kathy Van Tighem to the Great  
29 Falls High School Jack Fisher Jr. Memorial Garden.

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31  
32 **COMMUNICATION**

33  
34 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Malmstrom Air Force Base  
35 (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison, Lisa Sapp, presented Superintendent Moore  
36 with the Commander’s Public Service Award for his dedication to working with Malstrom  
37 Air Force Base and their military families during his tenure as Superintendent.

38  
39 **B. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Moore thanked Zac Griffin, Great Falls  
40 Realtors Association, Kids Education Yes! (KEY), Jamie and Robert Marshall, Sheila  
41 and Bob Kelley, and Jim and Linda Morin for their continued support for education in  
42 Great Falls Public Schools. He also thanked the Board members for their dedication to  
43 the students and their service to the District. Superintendent Moore invited students,  
44 staff and community members to participate in the Fourth of July parade.

45  
46 **C. Special Report – Baseball** – Athletics Director, Mike Henneberg, reported on the  
47 current status of high school baseball amongst Montana High School Association  
48 (MHSA) member schools. He also spoke on where Great Falls Public Schools stands

1 towards potentially adding baseball as a high school extra-curricular activity option.  
2 Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, presented budget information regarding  
3 allocated funds to the Athletic Department. He stated that the largest concern is the  
4 financial aspect for sustainability.

5  
6 **D. Audience Communication** – Multiple community members made persuasive  
7 comments for why adding baseball as an extra-curricular option at both high schools  
8 would be beneficial to students. A common theme with all speakers was that regardless  
9 of which Legion Team the students play on, the baseball community is a family, and  
10 they support each other.

11  
12 Chairperson Johnson adjourned the Board meeting at 6:45 p.m. for a short break.

13  
14 Chairperson Johnson reconvened the Board Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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17 **ACTION ITEMS**

18  
19 **A. District Wide Safety Plan** - Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick,  
20 explained that school districts are required to adopt an annual comprehensive Safety  
21 Plan. As part of the plan, Board Policies 3300, Suspension and Expulsion and 3311,  
22 Firearms and Weapons must also be reviewed annually. The policies were reviewed by  
23 the Board Policy Committee and presented to the full Board at the June 10, 2024, Board  
24 meeting. Mr. Patrick said the Safety Plan includes protocols, practices and monitoring  
25 to address the safety and security of students, staff and the facilities. The pandemic  
26 provided the District the opportunity to improve and adjust many operational safety  
27 protocols. Mr. Patrick reviewed each section of the Safety Plan in detail and said the  
28 goal of the District is to always be looking for improved ways to keep the students and  
29 staff safe.

30  
31 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve  
32 the Great Falls Public Schools District-wide Safety Plan as presented.

33  
34 **B. Classified and Hourly Staff Compensation for 2024-2025: Support Staff,  
35 Paraprofessionals, Teachers’ Aides, Hourly Classified Staff and Part-Time Nurses**  
36 – Director of Business Office, Brian Patrick, stated that Non-Union employee  
37 compensation is to be established by the Board under Board Policy 5140. He said that  
38 there are 373 employees in the five compensation units, and they serve a variety of  
39 functions in the District. They support the goals and objectives of the District and  
40 provide support to students, employees, and programs. Brian reported that the 4%  
41 increase on the base salary schedules for these five budget groups in the 2024-2025  
42 school year will result in an approximate salary budget of \$6,870,546. The cost of the  
43 base increase is estimated to be approximately \$277,906. The four percent raise is  
44 important in the recruitment and retention of staff.

45  
46 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve  
47 the classified and hourly staff compensation for the 2024-2025 school year as  
48 presented.

1  
2 **C. 2024-2025 Great Falls Public Schools Teacher Retirement System (TRS) /**  
3 **Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) Administrators and Supervisors**

4 **Compensation** - Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, stated that the 2024-  
5 2025 Administrator and Supervisor Compensation Budget unit is comprised of 47  
6 employees who are critical to the mission of the District. They set the climate,  
7 implement the Board’s goals, provide instructional leadership, and maintain the safety  
8 and discipline that allows Great Falls Public Schools to continually perform at high  
9 levels. A 4% increase in base salaries will result in an approximate salary budget for this  
10 group of \$5,050,883 for 2024-2025. This is an estimated \$247,596 net decrease. This  
11 decrease is a result of retirements and the reduction of two (2) ESSER positions and  
12 one (1) Executive Director position.

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14 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve  
15 the Great Falls Public Schools Administrators and Supervisors Compensation for 2024-  
16 2025 as presented.

17  
18 **D. Professional Development Plan for 2024-2025** –Secondary Curriculum  
19 Coordinator, Beckie Frisbee, explained that each year teachers are required to  
20 complete eighteen (18) hours of Pupil Instruction Related (PIR) Professional  
21 Development (PD). Teachers may complete their hours on the designated days  
22 throughout the school year or outside of their regularly scheduled workday in the  
23 summer and/or in the evenings. The PIR Steering Committee, in conjunction with the  
24 Executive Directors, decided to forego District Directed (DD) PIR for the 2024-2025  
25 school year. She reviewed the PIR offerings and explained that there are 85 PIR  
26 options for teachers. Mrs. Frisbee reported that the PIR budget is supported through  
27 Student Services, Indian Education, and the majority of budget comes from the  
28 Curriculum Department. The total budget for the 2024-2025 year is \$23,733.

29  
30 Community member Judy Mortenson asked how the PIR plan supports the  
31 implementation of the social studies curriculum that was adopted two years ago.

32  
33 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve  
34 the Professional Development Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

35  
36 **E. Second Reading of New, Revised, and Deleted Board Policies 1420, 2165, 3100,**  
37 **3100P, and 8125** - Superintendent Moore stated that he has not received any  
38 comments or suggestions to Board Policies 1420, 2165, 3100, 3100P, and 8125 since  
39 the first reading at the June 10, 2024, Board meeting.

40  
41 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the  
42 deletion of Board Policies 3100, 3100P, and 2165, the addition of Board Policy 2165,  
43 and the revision of Board Policies 1420 and 8125 as presented.

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46 **ACTION: OTHER**

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

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2 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**  
3

4 **A. First Reading of New and Deleted Board Policies 2309, 2310, 2310F1, 2310F2,**  
5 **2310F3, 2310R, 2311, 2311F1, 2311R, 2314, 2314F1, 2314F2, and 2250F -**

6 Superintendent Moore reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policies **2309**  
7 **(Delete)** – *Library Materials* – **2310 (Delete)** – *Selection of Library Materials* – **2310F1**  
8 **(Delete)** – *Citizens Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials* – **2310F2 (Delete)**  
9 – *Checklist for Library Materials Selection Committee* – **2310F3 (Delete)** – *Library*  
10 *Materials Review Committee Application* – **2310R (Delete)** – *Library Media Collection*  
11 *Development* – **2311 (Delete)** – *Instructional Materials* – **2311F1 (Delete)** – *Learning*  
12 *Materials Review Committee Application* – **2311R (Delete)** – *Selection, Adoption, and*  
13 *Removal of Textbooks and Instructional Materials* – **2314 (Delete)** – *Learning Materials*  
14 *Review* – **2314F1 (Delete)** – *Citizens Request for Reconsideration of Learning Materials*  
15 – **2314F2 (Delete)** – *Checklist for Learning Materials Selection Committee* – **2250F**  
16 **(New)** – *Adult Education Activity Acknowledgement of Risk* – **2309 (New)** – *School*  
17 *Library Program* – **2311 (New)** – *Instructional Materials* – **2314 (New)** – *Instructional or*  
18 *Library Material Review*. in detail. He asked if anyone has comments or concerns about  
19 the policies to contact the Superintendent before the next Board meeting.  
20

21 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

22 Trustees Turoski, Finnicum, and Bronson thanked the community members that talked  
23 on behalf of high school baseball. They also stated that they look forward to having in-  
24 depth conversations regarding the possible implementation of high school baseball.  
25 All Trustees thanked Superintendent Moore and Tom Hering for their excellent work and  
26 leadership during their employment with Great Falls Public Schools.  
27 Trustee Thompson thanked Cabinet members for their foresight into addressing future  
28 budget shortfalls, the intentional cutting of administrators, and evaluating programs.  
29 Trustee Finnicum stated that conversations need to be had with legislators regarding  
30 school district funding.  
31 Trustee Bronson reported that *I Am Bison* students attended Juneteenth activities at  
32 Gibson Park.  
33 Trustee Skornogoski stated that changes need to be made at the legislative level with  
34 school funding in order to address implementing new opportunities for students.  
35  
36

37 **UPCOMING EVENTS**  
38

39 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday,  
40 July 15, 2024.  
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43 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**  
44

45 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adjourn  
46 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:45 p.m.  
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Brian Patrick, Clerk

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson