

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD AUGUST 19, 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 4th Street South, on the 19th day
7 of August 2024.

8
9 Chairperson Johnson reported that, due to legislative changes that become law on July
10 1, 2024, and Board Policy 1420, all Board meetings will now be recorded and posted on
11 the District website for one (1) year.

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

13
14 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson - Chairperson
15 Kim Skornogoski – Vice Chairperson
16 Bill Bronson
17 Mark Finnicum
18 Marlee Sunchild
19 Amie Thompson
20 Paige Turoski
21

22 **Others Present:** Heather Hoyer, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
23 Operations; Jeff Williams, Director of Information Technology; Luke Diekhans, Director
24 of Human Resources; and Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools
25 Foundation. Also present were Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and
26 Youth School Liaison and Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association President.

27
28 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
29 Trustees.
30

31
32 **ADOPT AGENDA**

33
34 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt
35 the agenda as presented.
36

37
38 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

39
40 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
41 Consent Agenda as presented.
42

43 **A. Minutes of the August 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
44 minutes of the August 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
45

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

1 **C. Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35’s** – The Board approved the
2 Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the
3 agenda.

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

9
10 **E. Kindergarten Early Entrance for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The Board
11 approved the students listed in the agenda to enroll in kindergarten for the 2024-2025
12 school year by special permission per Board Policy 3110R.

13
14
15 **COMMUNICATION**

16
17 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Malmstrom Air Force Base
18 (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison, Lisa Sapp, reported on the Annual Military
19 Family Information Fair and multiple Pupil-Instruction-Related (PIR) opportunities which
20 have taken place throughout the summer. She also spoke on two (2) upcoming events
21 that will be hosted by Malmstrom Air Force Base. Lisa thanked Great Falls Public
22 Schools for allowing Malmstrom the use of District facilities.

23
24 **B. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Hoyer reported on the various faculty
25 meetings taking place throughout the District in preparation for the new school year.
26 She also discussed current positions that still need to be filled.
27 She spoke on the representation of the District throughout the community at events and
28 locations such as the McLaughlin Center, The Chamber of Commerce, Future Great
29 Falls and the Montana Youth Symphony.
30 Fall sports have begun at the high schools and participation fees were reviewed.
31 Superintendent Hoyer spoke on facility work that has been completed at various
32 schools over the summer.

33 The Great Falls Public Schools Peer Mentors group received the Youth Safety Spotlight
34 Award at the 5th Annual Jeremy Bullock Safety School Summit held in Butte on August
35 6-7, 2024.

36 As a part of *Safe and Secure Schools*, there was a collective decision by Great Falls
37 Public Schools and the Great Falls Police Department to add a School Resource Officer
38 (SRO) to Great Falls High School to address safety concerns on District property.
39 Sergeant Katie Cunningham has been selected to fill this need.

40 Superintendent Hoyer stated that the *My Best Day 5K* and *Kids Dash* is scheduled for
41 September 15, 2024. This fundraiser is to celebrate the life and memory of Jake
42 Arnston and other local children and adults who have passed.

43
44 **C. Audience Communication** – None

45
46
47 **ACTION ITEMS**

1 **A. Revised Charter School Contract with the Montana Board of Public Education –**
2 Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, reviewed the revisions to Section 6,
3 Financial Operations, and Exhibit B, Monitoring Plan, when compared to the original
4 contract that was signed last spring. The revisions allow for easier program operation
5 and reporting.

6
7 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
8 revised contract for charter between Great Falls Public Schools and the Montana Board
9 of Public Education as presented.

10
11 **B. 2023-2024 Trustees Financial Summary** - Director of Business Operations, Brian
12 Patrick, explained that the Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS) is the official document
13 that closes the books on the 2023-24 fiscal year and is required by law to be approved
14 by the Board. Mr. Patrick explained that when the District is audited each year, the
15 auditors look very closely at the TFS. He noted that the TFS is located on the District's
16 website.

17
18 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to
19 approve the 2023-2024 Trustees' Financial Report as presented.

20
21 **C. Budgets for All Budgeted Funds for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year** - Director of Business
22 Operations, Brian Patrick, explained that a Board Budget Work Session was held on
23 August 15, 2024, to review each of the budgeted funds in detail. He explained that
24 General Fund Budgets for the Elementary and High School Districts are impacted by
25 successful levies, student enrollment, and legislative actions. Brian stated that the state
26 payment for Debt Service Assistance was \$15 million this year compared to \$2.5 million
27 last year. The payments are allocated to Districts as a part of the Guaranteed Tax Base
28 (GTB) which helps equalize funding differences between wealthy and poor districts. The
29 share for Great Falls Public Schools was \$1,112,881 in the elementary district and
30 \$579,979 in the high school district. This plays a large part in the total tax reduction to
31 local taxpayers.

32
33 Motion – Paige Turoski, Second – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt
34 Elementary and High School Budgeted Funds for the 2024-2025 Fiscal year as
35 presented.

36
37 **Great Falls Elementary:**

38	General Fund	\$54,382,502.06
39	Transportation Fund	\$ 3,945,075.00
40	Bus Depreciation Fund	\$ 64,447.67
41	Tuition	\$ 2,473,943.26
42	Retirement	\$ 8,000,000.00
43	Adult Education	\$ 551,272.00
44	Technology	\$ 521,648.87
45	Flexibility	\$ 864,081.58
46	Building Reserve	\$ 3,494,884.14
47	Debt Service	\$ 3,463,143.76

1 **Great Falls High School:**

2	General Fund	\$26,712,777.57
3	Transportation Fund	\$ 1,868,682.10
4	Bus Depreciation Fund	\$ 39,524.46
5	Tuition	\$ 801,970.36
6	Retirement	\$ 4,500,000.00
7	Adult Education	\$ 558,874.00
8	Technology	\$ 127,896.43
9	Flexibility	\$ 466,383.58
10	Building Reserve	\$ 1,451,466.52
11	Debt Service	\$ 4,146,681.26

12
13 Trustee Bronson asked how Nonresident Enrollment and the CORE School will impact
14 budgets. Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, explained that the Tuition
15 budget runs a year behind, but he does not foresee a significant change. Brian also
16 stated that the CORE School will have an approximate \$100,000 budget impact on the
17 Elementary General Fund Budget.

18
19 **D. Second Reading of New, Revised and Deleted Board Policies 2309 (Delete) –**
20 **Library Materials; 2310 (Delete) – Selection of Library Materials; 2310F2 (Delete) –**
21 **Checklist for Library Materials Selection Committee; 2310F3 (Delete) – Library**
22 **Materials Review Committee Application; 2310R (Delete) – Selection of Library**
23 **Materials; 2311 (Delete) – Instructional Materials; 2311F1 (Delete) – Learning**
24 **Materials Selection Committee Application; 2311R (Delete) – Selection, Adoption,**
25 **and Removal of Textbooks and Instructional Materials; 2314 (Delete) – Learning**
26 **Materials Review; 2314F1 (Delete) – Citizens Request for Reconsideration of**
27 **Learning Materials; 2314F2 (Delete) – Checklist for Learning Materials Selection**
28 **Committee; 2309 (New) – School Library Program; 2311 (New) – Instructional**
29 **Materials; 2314 (New) – Instructional or Library Material Review; 2314F–**
30 **School/Library Request for Reconsideration of Materials Form; and 3611 – Gangs**
31 **and Gang Activity** – Superintendent Hoyer stated the policies recommended for
32 deletion were reviewed on first reading at the June 24, 2024 Board meeting, new
33 recommended policies were reviewed on first reading at the June 24, 2024 and August
34 5, 2024 Board meetings, and the recommended revised policies were reviewed on first
35 reading at the August 5, 2024 Board meeting. She stated that she has not received any
36 additional questions or concerns.

37
38 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve new,
39 deleted, and revised Board Policies – **2309 (Delete) – Library Materials; 2310 (Delete)**
40 **– Selection of Library Materials; 2310F2 (Delete) – Checklist for Library Materials**
41 **Selection Committee; 2310F3 (Delete) – Library Materials Review Committee**
42 **Application; 2310R (Delete) – Selection of Library Materials; 2311 (Delete) –**
43 **Instructional Materials; 2311F1 (Delete) – Learning Materials Selection Committee**
44 **Application; 2311R (Delete) – Selection, Adoption, and Removal of Textbooks and**
45 **Instructional Materials; 2314 (Delete) – Learning Materials Review; 2314F1 (Delete) –**
46 **Citizens Request for Reconsideration of Learning Materials; 2314F2 (Delete) –**
47 **Checklist for Learning Materials Selection Committee; 2309 (New) – School Library**
48 **Program; 2311 (New) – Instructional Materials; 2314 (New) – Instructional or Library**

1 *Material Review; 2314F – School/Library Request for Reconsideration of Materials*
2 *Form; and 3611 – Gangs and Gang Activity as presented.*

3
4
5 **ACTION: OTHER**

6
7 There were no items extracted from the Consent Agenda to discuss.
8

9
10 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

11
12 **A. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

13 Trustee Sunchild reported on the CORE School progress and is amazed at the amount
14 of work being done in a short amount of time. She stated that there are currently
15 thirteen (13) college students participating in the “Charter School” program.

16 Trustee Finnicum stated that he is excited about future events scheduled for the
17 upcoming school year. He, Trustee Thompson, and Trustee Bronson thanked Andrea
18 Savage for her work with the Peer Mentor groups and they all welcomed Sergeant
19 Cunningham as the new SRO at Great Falls High School.

20 Trustee Skornogoski recognized the growth and accomplishments of the Peer Mentor
21 groups. She and Trustee Turoski thanked Brian Patrick for his work and approach with
22 budgets.

23 Trustee Bronson thanked the volunteers who participated in the *Back-to-School Blast*.

24 Trustee Turoski recognized Great Falls Public Schools engineers and custodians for
25 their work getting schools cleaned and ready for welcoming students back to school.
26

27 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

28
29 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,
30 September 9, 2024, and Monday, September 23, 2024.
31

32
33 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

34
35 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
36 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:26 p.m.
37

38
39
40
41 _____
42 Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

43 _____
Brian Patrick, Clerk