

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD MAY 13, 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 13th day
7 of May 2024.

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

10
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
13 Bill Bronson
14 Marlee Sunchild
15 Amie Thompson
16 Paige Turoski
17

18 **Trustee Absent:** Mark Finnicum - Excused
19

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

25
26 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.
27

28 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
29 Trustees and asked Vice Chairperson Skornogoski to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
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32 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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34 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
35 agenda as presented.
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38 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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40 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
41 the Consent Agenda as presented with special thanks given for the two generous
42 community donations.
43

44 **A. Minutes of the April 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
45 minutes of the April 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
46

47 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.
48

- 1 **C. Montana School Bus Driver’s Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
2 Montana Bus Driver’s Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the agenda.
3
- 4 **D. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2023-2024 Second Semester** –
5 The Board approved the TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement for both high school and
6 elementary school districts for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
7
- 8 **E. Kindergarten Early Entrance for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The Board
9 approved the student listed in the agenda for the 2024-2025 school year based upon
10 the requirements outlined in Board Policy 3110R.
11
- 12 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2023-2024 School Year** – The
13 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2023-2024 school
14 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the parent.
15
- 16 **G. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The
17 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2024-2025 school
18 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of
19 Residence.
20
- 21 **H. Student Activity Monthly Report for March 2024** – The Board approved the
22 Student Activity Accounts for March 2024.
23
- 24 **I. Award Bid for Milk Products** – The Board approved the Milk Bid to Meadow Gold
25 Dairy in the amount of \$167,761.50 for the 2024-2025 school year.
26
- 27 **J. Award Bid for Instructional and Office Paper Supply Order – Remaining Items** –
28 The Board approved the following bids for the instructional and office paper supply for
29 2024-2025 school year: Warden Paper - \$38,906.59, Pyramid Products - \$13,348.62,
30 and Cascade School Supplies - \$602.55.
31
- 32 **K. Montana High School Association (MHSA) Annual Dues, Liability Catastrophe
33 Insurance, and Concussion Insurance for 2024-2025** – The Board approved the
34 MHSA annual dues of \$250.00 per activity, per school for a total of \$5,750 per school,
35 the Liability Catastrophe Insurance Plan coverage cost of \$1,339 per school and the
36 Concussion Insurance premium of \$226.00 per school.
37
- 38 **L. Donation of Two Conference Tables and Chairs to Great Falls Public Schools** –
39 The Board approved the donation of two conference tables and chairs from Jayne
40 McManus to Great Falls Public Schools.
41
- 42 **M. Donation of Two Hundred Dollars to Great Falls Public Schools** – The Board
43 approved the donation of two hundred dollars from Harbor Freight to Great Falls Public
44 Schools.
45
- 46 **N. Great Falls High School Travel Request to HOSA National Leadership
47 Conference in Houston, TX June 25-30, 2024** – The Board approved Great Falls High

1 School HOSA students' travel request to Houston, TX June 25-30, 2024 for the National
2 Leadership Conference.

3
4 **O. Establish *Crochet Club* Student Activity Student Account for Great Falls High**
5 **School** – The Board approved the opening of student activity account *Crochet Club* for
6 Great Falls High School.

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9 **COMMUNICATION**

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11 **A. Report of Student Representatives**

12 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) student representative Karsynn Kidrick,
13 discussed her future plans and goals post-graduation, including attending Montana
14 State University. She discussed recent events that students participated in including the
15 Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) class participating in the *IGNITE!* conference in
16 Helena, the third annual Bison Harvest cultural ceremony, and their final Red Cross
17 Blood Drive of the school year. Seventy students are graduating with approximately
18 forty more seniors working diligently to finish credits and walk across the stage with their
19 classmates.

20
21 Great Falls High School (GFHS) student representative Brooklyn Griffin reported on the
22 orchestra concert taking place at 7:00 p.m. following the Board meeting and
23 encouraged everyone to attend. She reported on boat racing in Applied Physics class,
24 teacher appreciation week, HOSA fundraising, reading the Great Gatsby in English, and
25 IMB (I Am Bison) presentations at East Middle School.

26 Student representative Seth Royer discussed Geometry reflections, GFHS
27 Baccalaureate coming up for the seniors, the drama production “The Journey of the
28 Donner Party”, the Senior Luncheon, freshmen band performances, Leap Up Night
29 coming for future freshmen of Great Falls High School, the Advanced Placement (AP)
30 Art and Design exhibit, Outstanding Junior Awards breakfast, and genetic testing in
31 Biology class.

32 Senior student representative Ryan Harrington discussed his plans to attend Montana
33 State University and major in computer engineering while competing on the college
34 Cross Country and Track teams. He reported on National Honor Society induction,
35 discussing World War I in history, cheering on Special Olympic athletes, the
36 Student/Staff basketball game, the Academic Honors ceremony, Scholarship Night with
37 the Great Falls Public School Foundation, and outstanding athletes looking forward to
38 competing in their respective upcoming state tournaments. Ryan highlighted Coach
39 Kilian for his passion for coaching and growing the track program tremendously over the
40 past two years. During the spring pep assembly, the state Cross Country banner was
41 raised. Ryan is looking forward to the Graduation Walks coming up and thanked the
42 community, School Board, leaders, and teachers for their tremendous support of
43 education.

44
45 Charles M. Russell (CMR) High School student representative Emerson Hamma
46 reported on the Rustler Lunch Buddy program and West Wildcat Mentorship program,
47 Art class partnering with third grade students at Mountain View Elementary School,
48 cheering on Special Olympic athletes, CTE (Career Technical Education) programs

1 preparing students for jobs outside of school, favorite lessons in Computer Design
2 class, and the culmination of spring sports.
3 Student representative Lilli Skaer discussed Business Professionals of America (BPA)
4 national competition in Chicago, Physics lessons learning about static electricity,
5 National Honor Society induction, Speech and Debate *Emerging Voices* debate with
6 current political leaders, poetry poker in English class, and the final drama performance
7 of "The End of the Word with Prom to Follow".
8 Senior student representative Caroline Hermiller discussed student government
9 planning a senior movie night, Baccalaureate and the Senior Celebration Talent Show,
10 the annual crime scene investigation in Forensics class, peer mentor groups and Mental
11 Health Awareness week, and a Haiku tournament in English class. Caroline thanked
12 the School Board and Mrs. McGraw for giving her the opportunity to serve as a student
13 representative on the Board. She discussed her plans to attend Montana State
14 University and major in Microbiology and shared some of her favorite memories of high
15 school. Caroline concluded with the update that HOSA fundraised \$11,750 to help
16 Oliver and his family with medical expenses and senior student government members
17 will be donating over \$15,000 to *The Lost Enzyme Project*.

18 19 **B. Superintendent's Report**

20 Superintendent Moore encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy one of the many
21 spring concerts or athletic events taking place in May. He also presented information
22 on opportunities for parents to enroll their students in summer camps.

23 Superintendent Moore attended his first Bison Harvest and enjoyed teaching and
24 learning with elders from the Blackfeet tribe. He thanked Dugan Coburn and his team
25 for the incredible experience. He also discussed the recent Pow Wow at CMR High
26 School and the opportunity given to Whittier Elementary fifth grade students to listen to
27 educator and recording artist Naomi M Billedeaux, a Tribal Qlispe member of
28 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and a direct descendant of the Blackfeet
29 Nation.

30 Congratulations to Great Falls High School senior Mariyah Hicks who was honored at
31 the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) *Salute to Women* event.

32 Superintendent Moore reminded everyone of the upcoming High School House Ribbon
33 Cutting and Build Montana graduation. Military Appreciation night at the crosstown
34 softball game will be Tuesday, May 14th. He congratulated all 30 members of the North
35 Middle School Archery program who competed in the State competition and thanked
36 local businesses for supporting the program.

37 Becky Nelson, Luke Diekhans, and Lyndsey Stulc attended the Montana State
38 University Teach Montana Job Fair and talked to attendees about teaching
39 opportunities available with Great Falls Public Schools.

40 Superintendent Moore and Jamie Marshall (Kid's Education Yes! (KEY) Coordinator)
41 presented the *GFPS Future Navigator Series* at Great Falls Rising and will be
42 presenting at two more locations, United Way and Great Falls Development Authority,
43 prior to the end of the school year. The *GFPS Future Navigator* video was shown and
44 special thanks were extended to Becky Nelson and Mark Yaeger for helping students
45 navigate their future.

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1 **C. Audience Communication**

2 Warren Rains addressed the Board and requested clarity on the addition of baseball
3 being added to the high school sports programs. He spoke in support of adding
4 baseball and stated current Great Falls Legion programs have more than enough
5 participants to fully support teams for both high schools.
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8 **ACTION ITEMS**
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10 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for March 2024** – Director of Business
11 Operations Brian Patrick discussed the financial report and check register for March
12 2024.
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14 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
15 March 2024 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #132896 - #133343 in the
16 amount of \$1,983,903.03 and Payroll checks #80858 - #81123 in the amount of
17 \$662,735.57 as presented.
18

19 **B. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 3311 – Firearms and Weapons,**
20 **5223 – Personal Conduct, and 5330 – Maternity and Paternity Leave –**

21 Superintendent Moore stated there were no requests of significant changes to the
22 policies from the first reading on April 22, 2024. He reviewed the policy changes again
23 in detail and explained how the Board Policy Committee reviews model policies sent by
24 the Montana School Boards Association (MTBSA), determines if the language and
25 changes suggested are pertinent to our school district, and discusses committee
26 recommended changes with legal counsel if necessary. The public is encouraged to
27 attend any Board Policy Committee meeting to view the process.
28

29 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
30 revised Board policies **3311** – Firearms and Weapons, **5223** – Personal Conduct, and
31 **5330** – Maternity and Paternity Leave as presented.
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34 **ACTION: OTHER**
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37 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
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39 **A. Chief Joseph Elementary School Playground Upgrades, Phase 1** – Executive
40 Director Heather Hoyer discussed larger fundraising projects being brought before the
41 Board that allows the community to see the needs of the schools and the process of the
42 requested upgrade.

43 Andrea Thares, Chief Joseph Elementary School Principal, shared updates of the
44 current unsafe structures on their playground and stated their PTA (Parent-Teacher
45 Association) and strong teacher leaders have fundraised enough money to replace both
46 of the structures presented. She shared the names and thanked the generous
47 community donors who contributed to their fundraising efforts.
48

1 **B. Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance Public Notice** – Director of
2 Information Technology Tom Hering discussed that the District must be in compliance
3 with CIPA to be eligible for E-Rate discounts up to 80% on internet access and all
4 internet connections and services. GFPS has purchased a subscription for LightSpeed
5 Relay, which provides a web content filter for student Chromebooks. Inappropriate
6 categories of websites are blocked and individual sites can be denied per the request of
7 a teacher or administrator. GFPS can regulate chromebook sites even when the
8 chromebooks are taken home by the student. GFPS must provide public notice of CIPA
9 compliance.

10
11 **C. First Reading of Revised Board Policies 2131, 3110, 6140, 7320, 8132, and 7008**
12 **(Delete)** – Superintendent Moore reviewed each policy listed and read through the
13 recommended revisions from MTSBA and the Committee. Policy 7008 will be deleted.
14 He stated if anyone had questions or concerns about any of the policies to contact him
15 prior to the next regular Board meeting.

16
17 **D. First Reading of the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar** – Director
18 of Business Operations Brian Patrick presented the draft 2024-2025 Board meeting
19 calendar and explained that it is outlined in Board policy 1400 – *Board of Trustees –*
20 *Board Meetings* and state statute. Mr. Patrick asked if anyone had concerns or
21 comments about the calendar, to contact him before it is approved at the upcoming
22 Board meeting on May 28, 2024.

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24 **E. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –

25 Trustee Thompson fulfilled her obligation of substitute teaching for one-half day in Mrs.
26 Schei’s third grade class at Mountain View Elementary School. She discussed how the
27 dynamics in the classroom have changed and how teachers have their hands full trying
28 to meet the individual needs of every student.

29 Trustee Bronson thanked Mr. Rains for his inquiry of adding baseball and requested an
30 update on the situation. Superintendent Moore stated Mr. Henneberg (GFPS Athletic
31 Director) would attend the next Board Agenda planning meeting and an update would
32 be provided. Trustee Bronson stated they are continuing to review whether it is in the
33 best interest of the GFPS School District to join the planned insurance trust with other
34 Montana school districts. He attended the scholarship celebration and the drama
35 production at CMR and is looking forward to graduations.

36 Trustee Sunchild thanked the CMR HOSA club for their fundraising efforts to help Oliver
37 and The Lost Enzyme Project. She is happy to be returning for another term on the
38 Board of Trustees.

39 Trustee Turoski was among the Valleyview Elementary School “Fans in the Stands” as
40 they cheered on the Special Olympic athletes. She acknowledged new playground
41 fencing and the safety it provides. She appreciates the Career Technical Education
42 (CTE) opportunities the GFPS School District provides for our students.

43 Trustee Skornogoski discussed Paris Gibson Education Center and the opportunities it
44 provides to help teens in crisis. Partnerships are crucial between community and
45 schools to help teens succeed.

46 Chairperson Johnson congratulated Marlee Sunchild for being elected to another term
47 on the GFPS Board of Trustees.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson said upcoming events include Excellence in Education on May 15th, the Retirement/Longevity Reception on May 22nd, the High School House Ribbon Cutting on May 23rd and the Board of Trustees Reorganization Meeting on May 28th, 2024.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:09 p.m.

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk