

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

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3 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
4 Awards for: Shianne Currey, Associate Principal, Great Falls High School; Erin Bucher,
5 Student Services Coordinator; Carie Magers, Counselor, Great Falls High School;
6 Melissa Flaten, Psychologist, Great Falls High School; Rosie Rossberg, Counselor,
7 Great Falls High School; Cherie Stordahl, Student Services Specialist, Great Falls High
8 School; Holly Johnson, Resource 2 Teacher, Valley View Elementary School; Sanna
9 Beerman, Occupational Therapist Associate Coordinator TK-12; and Katie Afflack,
10 Haliegh Bjorkman, and Makia Edwards, all Occupational Therapists, Paris Gibson
11 Education Center.

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13 **D. Montana School Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
14 Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35s for the individuals listed in the
15 agenda.

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17 **E. Great Falls High School Chamber Orchestra and Symphonic Band Travel**
18 **Request to Spokane, WA** – The Board approved Great Falls High School Chamber
19 Orchestra and Symphonic Band travel to Spokane, WA April 13-15, 2025.

20
21 **F. Great Falls High School Student Government Travel Request to Billings, MT** –
22 The Board approved Great Falls High School Student Government travel to Billings, MT
23 November 17-19, 2024.

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25 **G. Cross-Country Running Club trip to Meridian, Idaho** – The Board approved
26 Cross Country Running Club travel to Meridian, Idaho November 15-17, 2024.

27 28 29 **COMMUNICATION**

30 31 **A. Report of the Student Representatives**

32 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School student representatives Lilli Skaer, Emerson Hamma,
33 and Lydia Comstock highlighted popular lessons in AP Biology, AP Physics, Spanish,
34 Biology, Honors Chemistry, Sophomore English, and Accounting. They shared
35 community projects, including a successful HOSA Blood Drive and Key Club's Trunk or
36 Treat. Student organizations were also active: BPA opened Rustler Roast, a student-run
37 business; Speech and Debate welcomed new members and competed in their first
38 tournament; Performing Arts collected 3,000 pounds of food for the school pantry and
39 began rehearsals for "Pirates of Penzance"; CMR Art has several artists' work displayed
40 at the Ergon Show and kicked off the Raise 365 Fundraiser to support equipment,
41 scholarships, travel, and project materials; and Student Government expressed
42 appreciation to janitorial staff with messages and donuts. Fall sports concluded, with
43 several students earning top-ten finishes and all-state or all-conference honors. "Rustler
44 Pride" highlighted Earth and Space Science teacher, Mrs. Dobrow.

45
46 Great Falls High School (GFHS) student representatives Brooklyn Griffin, Seth Royer,
47 and Kaitlynn Fulbright shared recent lessons focused on senior scholarships and
48 college applications, the impact of screen time on social interactions, Spanish class's
49 "Day of the Dead" activities, weight training safety emphasizing proper form, and an

1 Indigenous Education lesson on how plants were used by the tribes. Community
2 involvement included HOSA's Blood Drive and campus and neighborhood clean-ups led
3 by Key Club and Student Council. Student organization highlights included Drama's
4 performances of *Guys and Dolls* and preparations for the Winter Formal on December
5 7th. Fall sports concluded with celebrations for the Crosstown football win and a third
6 consecutive Crosstown Clash victory. Congratulations were extended to a volleyball
7 player who signed a letter of intent with the University of Providence.

8
9 Chairperson Johnson stated Paris Gibson Education Center student representatives
10 were unavailable for reporting tonight due to prior commitments.

11 12 13 **B. Superintendent's Report –**

14 Superintendent Hoyer recognized Veteran's Day. She highlighted cultural celebrations,
15 including the teepee display at North Middle School honoring Indigenous histories. She
16 thanked Rachel Cutler and Jackie Mainwaring for presenting the CORE School report at
17 Montana Conference of Education Leadership (MCEL), Mike Henneberg and Paula
18 Byrd for their organizing and facilitation of athletic events, employees participating in the
19 United Way Day of Caring, and students' participation in community events like the
20 Harvest Howl and *Guys and Dolls* radio interview and production. She congratulated the
21 Speech and Debate participants who placed in their first tournament in Butte.

22 Superintendent Hoyer explained the timeline of the truck raffle process and
23 acknowledged Stephanie Becker, GFPS Foundation Executive Director, for another
24 successful truck raffle this year. She congratulated Jody Grundhouser, who was the
25 winner of the new 2025 Toyota Tacoma donated by City Motors. All For Him Ministries
26 donated 160 Thanksgiving boxes to GFPS families. Fall Measure of academic Progress
27 (MAP) data was reviewed, with a focus on grades 3, 5, and 7 due to curriculum changes
28 and reading independence in grade 2. The strategic goal is for every student to achieve
29 at least one year's growth by the end of the year. Listening Sessions with Diane Groves
30 concluded with twenty-two (22) Listeners and fifty-four (54) community members
31 participating. Reports will be reviewed at the next Board meeting. Facebook Live
32 events honored school psychologists November 11-15 and Substitute Teachers will be
33 honored November 18-22.

34
35 Executive Director Jackie Mainwaring recognized Superintendent Hoyer for being
36 awarded the Montana Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)
37 Administrator of the Year.

38 39 **C. Audience Communication –**

40 Community member Judy Mortenson voiced concerns about the passage of the House
41 Bill encouraging the use of electric buses. She has a presentation that explains views
42 and is looking for a path forward on how to present the information. A meeting with
43 Superintendent Hoyer and Chairperson Johnson will be arranged prior to the next Board
44 meeting.

45 46 **ACTION ITEMS**

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49 **A. Advertise for Bids for a Sixteen Foot Lawnmower – Director of Business**

1 Operations Brian Patrick discussed the need for a new lawnmower due to the current
2 one being worn out and the inability to buy parts. The timeline for purchase was
3 discussed. Request for bids will be advertised for two weeks due to the purchase price
4 exceeding \$80,000.

5
6 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
7 the advertising of bids for a sixteen foot lawnmower for the Grounds Department of
8 Great Falls Public Schools.

9
10 Trustee Finnicum asked how the lawnmower would be funded and Mr. Patrick replied
11 that purchase would come from both elementary and high school General Fund
12 budgets.

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15 **ACTION: OTHER**

16 There were no items pulled from the Consent Agenda to discuss.

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19 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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21 **A. 2024 Technology Summer Work Report** – Director of Information Technology, Jeff
22 Williams, provided a presentation of major accomplishments and projects completed
23 during the summer that were directly related to the long-term technology plan. Projects
24 included, but were not limited to, security camera additions and installations in ten
25 schools and Main Distribution Frame (MDF) and Intermediate Distribution Frame (IDF)
26 network locations moved or modified in seven district buildings. Technicians also
27 organized, inventoried, and evaluated 5,136 chromebooks to ready them for checkout at
28 the secondary schools at the beginning of the school year.

29 Mr. Williams gave special recognition to GFPS Core Technician Dave Myles, who will
30 be retiring on December 21st after 27 years with Great Falls Public School.

31
32 Trustee Finnicum thanked the team and stated the extreme cost that would be inflicted
33 on the school district if we did not have our own technicians to do the work.

34
35 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –

36 Trustee Sunchild praised the listening sessions as a significant community-building
37 effort and shared a personal story about her daughter's experience substitute teaching.
38 Trustee Bronson echoed appreciation for the listening sessions and the work of
39 facilitator Diane Groves. He highlighted student accomplishments, including
40 participation in a Veterans memorial and the success of the speech teams from both
41 Great Falls High and Charles M. Russell High Schools. He also expressed hopes for
42 positive district outcomes in the next legislative session.

43 Trustee Thompson attended three listening sessions and appreciated the insights
44 gained from the discussions, especially with students and teachers. She congratulated
45 Superintendent Hoyer on her award and thanked Dave Myles for his 27 years of
46 service. Thompson also shared her experience with active shooter training, noting the
47 value of a classroom perspective.

48 Trustee Finnicum acknowledged the extensive efforts of staff across the district and
49 wished for broader community engagement at the Board meetings. He thanked

1 Superintendent Hoyer and Jackie Mainwaring for their roles in the listening sessions,
2 and Jeff Williams and his team for their roles in the technology work over the summer.
3 Trustee Turoski observed summer progress on camera installation at Valley View
4 Elementary and shared updates from a baseball committee meeting regarding field
5 maintenance responsibilities and Title IX compliance.
6 Chairperson Johnson attended a KEY meeting focused on the upcoming legislative
7 session, emphasizing the urgency of school funding and the importance of community
8 advocacy.

9

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11 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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13 Chairperson Johnson stated the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for
14 Monday, November 25, 2024 and Monday, December 16, 2024.

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17 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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19 With no further comments or items to be discussed, Chairperson Johnson adjourned the
20 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:35 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk

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