

1 Lاپierre - Paraprofessional, Early Learning Family Center; Julie Cisler - Resource I
2 Teacher, and Tara Hageman - PTA Treasurer, both at North Middle School; Laura Auvil
3 - Core Teacher Aide, Lauryn Hart - Sub Teacher Aide, Heaven Mullins - Core Teacher
4 Aide, and Bobbie Clum - Para Educator, all at Chief Joseph Elementary School;
5 Meaghan Rattlingtail - Attendance Secretary, Great Falls High School; Lauren Trovatten
6 - Health Enhancement Teacher, Steve Yates - Principal, Ashlie Clark - Administrative
7 Assistant, and Jill Christensen - Kindergarten Teacher, all at Lincoln Elementary School.
8

9 **D. Montana School Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
10 Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35s for the individuals listed in the
11 agenda.
12

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

18 **F. Student Activity Accounts for November 2024** – The Board approved the Student
19 Activity Accounts Monthly Report for November 2024.
20

21 **G. Electric City Track Club Travel Request to Spokane, WA** – The Board approved
22 the Electric City Track Club travel to Spokane, Washington February 20–24, 2025.
23
24

25 **COMMUNICATION**

26 **A. Superintendent’s Report** –

27 Superintendent Hoyer reported that Student Representatives were absent tonight due to
28 finals preparation.
29

30 She informed the Board that the 2025 Legislature is in session, with approximately 278
31 education related bills being tracked, accessible via a bill tracker link.

32 She highlighted the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corporation (JROTC) wreath-laying
33 at Highland Cemetery, four GFPS student groups ranking in the Salvation Army's Top
34 Ten bell ringers, and Danelle Dyke’s (Principal at Valley View Elementary School)
35 discussion of the generous community gift from Sletten Construction that provided each
36 of her students and staff with gifts during the holiday season, including backpacks and
37 essentials for students.

38 Upcoming events include the Great Falls High drama production *Cabaret* on January
39 16-18.

40 January celebrates the Board of Trustees, with highlights of each Trustee on Facebook
41 and reminders about candidacy for three open positions coming up on the Great Falls
42 Public Schools Board of Trustees.

43 The University of Providence’s Direct Admission program was detailed, offering juniors
44 non-binding free admission offers and scholarship packets.

45 Superintendent Hoyer discussed GFPS athletic events including the Holiday Classic
46 Wrestling Tournament and the Swim Team Memorial Relay and the economic impact
47 they had on the local economy.

1 She highlighted end-of-quarter Professional Development opportunities for teachers and
2 how the extended lunch allows time for collaboration and discussions with fellow
3 teachers.
4 Social media data showed increased engagement, with 12,591 followers, 36,900 views
5 on key posts, and plans to increase Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) viewership.
6

7 **B. Audience Communication** – None
8
9

10 **ACTION ITEMS**
11

12 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for November 2024** – Director of Business
13 Operations, Brian Patrick, highlighted the total revenues and expenses to-date for the
14 elementary and high schools general fund budgets. He noted that November is a key
15 month to observe the necessity of reserve funds that have to be utilized until local tax
16 funds become available.
17

18 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the
19 November 2024 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #136704 - #137096 in
20 the amount of \$1,606,755.92 and Payroll checks #82535 - #82802 in the amount of
21 \$657,873.14 as presented.
22

23 **B. Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election on May 6, 2025** – Director of Business
24 Operations, Brian Patrick, explained the laws surrounding the annual school election
25 process and noted that Trustees are required to pass a resolution stating the date,
26 purpose, whether the election will be by mail or poll, voting locations, and times polls will
27 be open. No levy amount needs to be set at this time; however, the request for a levy
28 must be set by April 4, 2025 to be certified on the ballot.
29

30 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
31 the resolution calling for an election on May 6, 2025 per the documents presented that
32 set forth the date, purpose, ballot deposit sites, and the times the ballot deposit sites will
33 be open.
34

35 **C. Conduct the 2025 School Election by Mail Ballot** – Director of Business
36 Operations, Brian Patrick, explained that a request must be sent from the Trustees to
37 the Election Department of Cascade County, requesting the school election be held by
38 mail ballot.
39

40 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
41 approve the request to the Election Department of Cascade County that the 2025
42 school election be conducted by mail ballot.
43

44 **D. Cascade County Elections Department to Conduct 2025-2026 School Elections**
45 Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, stated the school district is required by
46 law to officially request that the Cascade County Elections Department run the elections
47 for the school district. The contract provided encompasses the request to have the
48 Cascade County Elections Department run the election for the school district for the

1 2025-2026 school year. The contract is currently being reviewed by the County
2 Attorney.

3
4 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to officially
5 request that the Cascade County Elections Department run the elections for the Great
6 Falls Public School Districts 1 & A during the 2025-2026 school year.

7
8 **E. Request to Advertise for Warehouse Freezer Replacement** – Director of Business
9 Operations, Brian Patrick stated the importance of replacing one deteriorating freezer
10 that has been in operation since the warehouse first opened. In accordance with
11 Montana Law and Board Policy 7320, the purchase must go through a competitive
12 bidding process due to an estimated purchase price exceeding \$80,000.00. Nelson
13 Architects, LLC will oversee the design and construction administration of the project.
14 The purchase will be funded through the Food Services budget.

15
16 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve
17 the design and advertisement of the warehouse freezer replacement project, with the
18 understanding that the project will be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder.

19
20 **F. Great Falls High School Partial Roof Replacement Project** – Director of Business
21 Operations, Brian Patrick discussed a comprehensive roof assessment completed by
22 Cushing Terrell Architects. The Great Falls High School roof, specifically the fieldhouse
23 area, was determined to be in poor condition, requiring immediate attention. This
24 project will focus on a partial roof replacement to address critical issues and prevent
25 further structural damage. The project will be bid with add alternate bids that will allow
26 the District to complete part of the project if the bids come in too high. The project is
27 estimated to cost \$1,111,376.

28
29 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to
30 approve advertising for bids on the Great Falls High School Partial Roof Replacement
31 Project.

32
33 **G. Purchase of Chromebooks for the Schools and Technology Warehouse**
34 Director of Information Technology, Jeff Williams, discussed that schools face an
35 impending challenge to refresh existing Chromebook inventory as replacement devices
36 will be needed at each school on an on-going basis. The cost of newer model
37 Chromebooks has risen significantly; however, the Information Technology (IT)
38 Department secured a quote to purchase approximately 1,877 of the current model
39 devices at a significantly reduced rate of \$222.90 per device. Schools will purchase
40 their needed inventories from their individual general fund budgets and 1000
41 Chromebooks will be purchased for warehouse inventory to allow schools to purchase
42 directly from our warehouse on as as-needed basis. This will keep the district in supply
43 of replacement Chromebooks for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year as well as
44 the 2025-2026 school year.

45
46 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
47 purchase of 1,877 Chromebooks, without the additional three-year warranty, including a
48 reserve warehouse inventory using the Technology Department budget and Title

1 Funding to supply the district with devices for the schools to purchase using their 2025-
2 2026 Technology budgets at \$222.90 per device.

3
4 **H. Public Notice of Bids Being Accepted for E-Rate Category 1 (Network Access /**
5 **Wide Area Network (WAN) and Category 2 (Network Infrastructure – Firewall)**

6 Director of Information Technology, Jeff Williams, discussed the government-funded
7 Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Program, commonly known as the E-
8 rate program, that helps ensure schools and libraries can obtain telecommunications
9 and internet access at affordable rates to meet the needs of today's world of interactive,
10 individualized digital learning. Currently, the District qualifies for an 80% discount on
11 eligible equipment and services purchased upon application approval and availability of
12 funding. The discount is calculated each year and is dependent on the number of
13 students eligible for free or reduced lunch through the National School Lunch Program
14 (NSLP). The District will request bids and secure funding for the renegotiation of fiber
15 network services (Category 1) and replacement of the Firewall (Category 2 - which has
16 been classified as End of Life (EOL) by the manufacturer). The E-rate program requires
17 applicants to follow a formal process that creates open and fair competitive bidding.

18
19 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
20 the submittal of E-Rate bids for Category 1 and Category 2, to include the replacement
21 of Firewall services and the renegotiating of our current fiber services.

22
23 **I. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 1111 – Elections; 2410P**
24 **(New) – Profile of a Learner; 2410P2 (New) – Profile of a Learner-Commitments and**
25 **Intentions; and 2510 – School Wellness** – Superintendent Hoyer stated the above
26 policies were reviewed on first reading at the December 16, 2024 Board meeting. She
27 received no input from the community requesting changes; however, did discuss minor
28 grammatical and formatting changes brought forward by Trustee Bronson that did not
29 change the intent of the policies.

30
31 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve new
32 and revised Board Policies **1111 – Elections; 2410P (New) – Profile of a Learner;**
33 **2410P2 (New) – Profile of a Learner-Commitments and Intentions; and 2510 – School**
34 **Wellness.**

35
36
37 **ACTION: OTHER**

38 There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda to discuss.

39
40
41 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

42
43 **A. Baseball Program Update 2026** – Executive Director Lance Boyd provided an
44 update on the Baseball Committee's progress toward the goal of adding Baseball in the
45 Great Falls School District in 2026. He discussed information gathered from the
46 committee, and provided a PowerPoint presentation, regarding the four major
47 categories of consideration: Facilities, Budget, Transportation, and Title IX Implications.

1 Trustees Bronson and Sunchild inquired about having enough umpires and indoor
2 space (for practices during inclement weather) to accommodate a new sport being
3 added.

4 Mr. Boyd replied that umpires are always needed but at this time, there are currently
5 enough local umpires to support it. He stated internal practice areas would have to be
6 rotated and organized by the coaching staff when inclement weather occurs.

7 Trustee Bronson also inquired about other AA schools adding Baseball or if Title IX
8 implications already presented issues at other schools who have already approved
9 adding the sport.

10 Mr. Boyd stated that he and Athletic Director, Mike Henneberg, have discussed with the
11 committee the threshold of staying within legal compliance of Title IX proportionalities
12 and discussed the challenges that other AA schools are facing.

13 Mr. Boyd discussed the start up costs of the program as well as continuing annual costs
14 and noted that the funds must physically in the bank, not just pledges, in order to ask for
15 Board approval of adding the sport. He asked for feedback regarding fundraising and
16 timelines and said the committee is committed to moving forward.

17 Chairperson Johnson requested that each Board member reflect on all of the
18 information provided and give feedback directly to Mr. Boyd. The Board will take action
19 at a future Board meeting on whether to proceed with the fundraising effort.

20 Trustee Turoski extended thanks to the committee for their continued hard work and
21 appreciates that Great Falls Public Schools is providing an example to other districts on
22 how to effectively look at all aspects of the proposal to make sure adding Baseball will
23 be a sustainable option for the District.

24 Trustee Finnicum inquired about having enough bus drivers and transportation; to which
25 Mr. Henneberg noted that it will definitely be more difficult, along with facilities, umpires,
26 and other logistical issues, but the approach that has already been taken will prepare
27 the District to be proactive rather than reactive.

28
29 **B. Review of the 2025 Montana High School Association (MHSA) Proposals to be**
30 **Voted on at the Annual Meeting** – Great Falls Public Schools Athletic Director, Mike
31 Henneberg, reviewed six different proposals that will be voted upon at the Montana
32 High School Association (MHSA) annual meeting taking place on January 20, 2025, in
33 Billings, MT. Mr. Henneberg explained how he and voting members Geoffry Habel,
34 Principal at Great Falls High School, and Jamie McGraw, Principal at Charles M.
35 Russell High School intend to vote on each of the proposals as they represent Great
36 Falls Public Schools at the meeting. Mr. Henneberg will provide an update to the Board
37 upon his return on the voting outcome of each of the proposals.

38
39 **C. First Reading of Deleted and Revised Board Policies 1113P – Vacancies; 1310 –**
40 **District Policy and Procedures; 1312 (Delete) – Administrative Regulations; and 1332 –**
41 **Authorization of Signatures** – Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the recommended
42 changes to the above four Board Policies. She noted that some of our policies are over
43 ten years old, so they are being reviewed and updated with current language
44 suggestions recommended by the Montana School Boards Association and the Policy
45 Committee. She asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about these policies to
46 contact her before the next scheduled Board meeting.

47
48 **D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

1 Board members expressed gratitude for various contributions and provided updates on
2 key topics.

3 Trustee Thompson acknowledged the work by Jeff Williams relating to the Information
4 Technology department, emphasized the importance of the *Data for the Day*, and
5 commended community engagement efforts in baseball.

6 Trustee Bronson supported baseball fundraising, stressing the importance of secured
7 funds and commended the committee's diligence.

8 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski expressed optimism about meeting the baseball
9 fundraising goals, highlighted community support for PIR opportunities, and reported on
10 the Financial Literacy Fair involving over 200 students and 80 volunteers.

11 Trustee Turoski thanked Sletten Construction for student gifts and noted positive
12 feedback on the two-week holiday break.

13 Trustee Finnicum echoed prior comments from other Trustees and mentioned the
14 discussion of the 278 bills being addressed during the 2025 Legislative Session.

15 Trustee Sunchild praised the University of Providence partnership for removing barriers
16 to college applications and emphasized the role of athletics in the community.

17 Chairperson Johnson noted receiving cards for Board Appreciation Month and
18 expressed his honor in serving on the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees.

21 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

23 Chairperson Johnson stated upcoming Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for
24 Monday, January 27, 2025 and Monday, February 10, 2025.

27 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

29 With no further comments or items to be discussed, Chairperson Johnson adjourned the
30 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:20 p.m.

34 _____
35 Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

36 _____
37 Brian Patrick, Clerk