AGENDA

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2025

Great Falls Public Schools

1100 Fourth Street South, Great Falls, Montana

Welcome to the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees meeting!

Is this your first meeting?

If this is your first time attending a meeting, let us extend our special welcome! These meetings are designed to give everyone the opportunity to participate in seeing how the Great Falls Public Schools Trustees facilitate school business.

What is the purpose of these meetings?

The meetings of the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees are open to the public, are recorded, and may be accessed on our website for up to one year. These meetings are held to officially conduct the business of the school district, as governed by Montana law. Trustees are responsible for key decisions, some of which include hiring employees, reviewing negotiated agreements, approving new curriculum or changes to existing curricula, facility usage requests, and paying of monthly expenses.

How can I address the Trustees?

If you would like to address the Board of Trustees on any matter, please fill out a "Request to Speak" card available from the Clerk of the Board at each meeting. Return this card to the Clerk of the Board or the Board Chairperson. This will allow the Chairperson to recognize you at the appropriate time in the meeting and to guarantee you the opportunity to address the Board. There are federal and state laws that must be followed when addressing the Board to protect the privacy of individuals and to conduct business in an orderly manner. Details can be found on the "Request to Speak" card.

Again – thank you for participating in this democratic process – we appreciate your presence!

– The Great Falls Public Schools Trustees

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Great Falls, MT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gordon Johnson	Chairperson
Kim Skornogoski	Vice Chairperson
Bill Bronson	Trustee
Mark Finnicum	Trustee
Marlee Sunchild	Trustee
Amie Thompson	Trustee
Paige Turoski	Trustee

SUPERINTENDENT'S CABINET

Heather Hoyer	Superintendent of Schools
Brian Patrick	Director of Business Operations
Lance Boyd	Executive Director for Student Achievement
Jackie Mainwaring	Executive Director for Student Achievement
Luke Diekhans	Director of Human Resources
Jeff Williams	Director of Information Technology
Stephanie Becker	Director of the GFPS Foundation

Great Falls Public Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting

AGENDA

April 28, 2025
5:30 p.m.
Aspen Meeting Room – District Office Building
1100 4th Street South, Great Falls, Montana

We Successfully Educate Students to Navigate the Future

			Page
I.	**CALL TO ORDER – PUBLIC DECLARATION OF RECORDED MEETING**	Chairperson Johnson	
II.	**ROLL CALL**	Brian Patrick	
III.	**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**	Chairperson Johnson	
IV.	**ADOPT AGENDA**	Chairperson Johnson	
V.	**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**	Chairperson Johnson	

The Consent Agenda consists of routine business items related to the operation of the District. Any trustee may remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Items so removed will be discussed and acted upon separately under ACTION: OTHER

A.	Minutes of April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting	Brian Patrick	7
B.	Personnel Actions	Luke Diekhans	15
C.	Good Apple Awards	Luke Diekhans	18
D.	Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35	Brian Patrick	20
E.	Student Activity Monthly Report for March 2025	Brian Patrick	21
F.	Request for Records Disposal – Human Resources	Brian Patrick	28

VI. COMMUNICATION

A.	Character Strong – Chief Joseph Elementary School	Jackie Mainwaring
B.	MAFB Communication	Lisa Sapp
C.	Superintendent Report	Heather Hoyer
D.	Audience Communication	

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A.	Financial Report and Check Register for March 2025	Brian Patrick	29
B.	Second Reading of Revised Board Policies **2105** – *Grade Organization;* **2130** – *Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests;* **2132** – *Research Studies;* **2163** – *Traffic Education;* and **2166** – *Gifted Program.*	Heather Hoyer	34

VIII. ACTION: OTHER

Chairperson Johnson

IX. REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A.	First Reading of New Mathematics KUDs and Technology/Computer Science KUDs (KUD: Know-Understand-Do)	Jackie Mainwaring	40
B.	First Reading of New Elementary Mathematics Curriculum Resource - Amplify Desmos Math (ADM)	Jackie Mainwaring	41
C.	First Reading of the Technology Strategic Plan	Jeff Williams	42
D.	First Reading of Revised Board Policies **2333** – *Participation in Commencement Exercises*; **2413** – *Credit Transfer/Assessment for Placement from Non-Accredited and/or Nonpublic Schools;* **2420** – *Grading and Progress Reports; and* **2520** – *Animals/Pets in School.*	Heather Hoyer	82
E.	Superintendent Evaluation Process	Chairperson Johnson	90
F.	Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments	Chairperson Johnson	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson

Wednesday, April 30, 2025	5:30 p.m.	GFPS Foundation Scholarship Celebration	C.M. Russell High School Fieldhouse
Tuesday, May 6, 2025		GFPS Trustee Election	
Monday, May 12, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting	District Office Building
Wednesday, May 14, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Excellence in Education	Great Falls High School Fieldhouse
Wednesday, May 21, 2025	7:00 p.m.	GFPS Retirement/Longevity Reception	Paris Gibson Education Center Cafeteria
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	2:00 p.m.	Secondary Life Skills Graduation	Paris Gibson Education Center
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Reorganization / Regular Meeting	District Office Building

Thursday, May 29, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Eagle Feather Ceremony	Great Falls High School
Friday, May 30, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Career and College Readiness Center Graduation Ceremony	MT Expo Park - Pacific Steel and Recycling Four Seasons Arena
Friday, May 30, 2025	6:30 p.m.	Paris Gibson Education Center Graduation Ceremony	MT Expo Park - Pacific Steel and Recycling Four Seasons Arena
Saturday, May 31, 2025	2:00 p.m.	Great Falls High School Graduation Ceremony	MT Expo Park - Pacific Steel and Recycling Four Seasons Arena
Saturday, May 31, 2025	6:00 p.m.	C.M. Russell High School Graduation Ceremony	MT Expo Park - Pacific Steel and Recycling Four Seasons Arena
Monday, June 9, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting	District Office Building
ACTION TO ADJOURN			Chairperson Johnson

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. A.

CABINET MEMBER: Brian Patrick

TOPIC

Minutes of the April 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Board is required to approve the minutes of each Board meeting. The minutes of the April 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting are presented for approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025 regular Board meeting as presented.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD APRIL 14, 2025

A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South, on the 14th day of April 2025.

ROLL CALL: Brian Patrick took roll call.

Trustees Present: Gordon Johnson – Chairperson
Kim Skornogoski – Vice Chairperson
Bill Bronson
Mark Finnicum
Marlee Sunchild
Amie Thompson
Paige Turoski

Others Present: Heather Hoyer, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations; Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Director for Student Achievement; Luke Diekhans, Director of Human Resources; Jeff Williams, Director of Information Technology; and Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation.

Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association President.

At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees and informed the participants and audience that the meeting was being recorded per Board Policy 1420. He asked student representative Lilli Skaer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. **Minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

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

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C. **Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple Awards for Jon Seekins, Resource 1 Teacher, Great Falls High School; Tahlia Murillo, Student, Great Falls High School; Dazlynn Campbell, Tobin Grubb, Jordan Henry, Donovin Olson, Alex Phares, Xaidia Thibert, Elijah Vaile, Harrison Burgess, Brodie Accord, Kayden Pettis, and Marcus St. Goddard, Students, Paris Gibson Education Center; and Mende Kloppel and Kathryn Lewis, Community Members, Great Falls, Montana.

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

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

F. **Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2025-2026 School Year** – The Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2025-2026 school year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of Residence.

G. **Establish Student Activity Account for Great Falls High School** – The Board approved the request to open the "Class of 2028" student activity fund at Great Falls High School.

H. **Charles M. Russell (CMR) High School Business Professionals of America (BPA) Travel Request to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida May 6-11, 2025 –** The Board approved the CMR High School BPA travel to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida from May 6-11, 2025.

I. **Great Falls High School High School Business Professionals of America (BPA) Travel Request to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida May 6-11, 2025 –** The Board approved the Great Falls High School BPA travel to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida from May 6-11, 2025.

J. **GFPS Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Travel Request to Montana State University and Yellowstone National Park** – The Board approved the Great Falls Public Schools JROTC travel request to Montana State University and Yellowstone National Park from April 29 – May 1, 2025.

K. **GFPS Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Travel Request to the Western National Archery Tournament in Sandy, Utah** – The Board approved the Great Falls Public Schools JROTC Archery Team travel request to Sandy, Utah from April 23-26, 2025 for the Western National Archery Tournament.

L. **Indigenous Education Travel Request to the Western National Archery Tournament in Sandy, Utah** – The Board approved the Paris Gibson Education Center

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Big Foot Archery Club travel request to Sandy, Utah from April 24-27, 2025 for the Western National Archery Tournament.

M. **Return of the Donation of a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado** – The Board approved the return of a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado to the original donor, Alice Sutherland. The donation was originally accepted at the February 24, 2025 regular Board meeting.

COMMUNICATION

A. **Student Representatives Report**

Charles M. Russell (CMR) High School student representatives Lilli Skaer, Emmerson Hamma, and Lydia Comstock reported that Key Club students participated in the "Cantastic" competition, building a can sculpture of a rubber duck and donating the cans to the Food Bank. Students shared enthusiasm for lessons in chemistry, calculus, and macroeconomics, as well as a unique lab experience involving bioluminescent jellyfish cells. In the arts, musicians performed at the district festival, and the drama department is preparing for “12 Angry Jurors.” National Honor Society welcomed 71 new members, with Judge Grubich as keynote speaker and Mrs. Birkett was honored with the Doctor of Service Award. Leadership High students completed their program with presentations on creating change. In athletics, CMR boys’ tennis remains undefeated, several track athletes have already qualified for the state track meet in their respective events, and softball is underway. Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) students educated peers on medical topics. Special recognitions included multiple scholarship recipients, Prom royalty, and the Principal’s Cup team advancing to state. Bosses Night celebrated student employment success and community partnerships with local businesses.

Paris Gibson Education Center Student Representative Conner Reisinger reported they explored sound waves and their connection to music, conducted a hands-on chicken lab integrating the scientific method and animal care, and studied succulents to understand adaptation. Field trips during Western Art Week allowed students to interact with local artists and participate in collaborative artmaking. A special Medicine Bag lesson combined cultural teachings with geology, symbolizing personal empowerment. Public speaking skills were developed through group presentations in chemistry. Prom was successfully student-led, providing a fun and safe evening. The multi-school archery team won the state championship for the third year in a row and is headed to Nationals, with Paris Gibson Education students helping fundraise through concessions at the state competition.

Great Falls High School (GFHS) student representatives Seth Royer and Kaitlynn Fulbright reported Government classes at Great Falls High recently hosted the City of Great Falls Planning and Community Development Department, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement. Students also engaged in cultural learning through traditional indigenous games in Montana Government classes. Honors chemistry students are studying titrations, and English classes have begun junior research projects. Celebrations included the Heisey Awards recognizing 58 students with $200 checks, Angel Davis receiving the Val Knight Award, and the Bigfoot Archery Club

DRAFT

winning its third consecutive state title. Over 300 students were honored at the Academic Dinner for maintaining a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Ms. Anitra Hall received the YWCA Salute to Women Award. GFH's Skills USA team earned multiple medals at the state competition, with Lochlin Kinyon becoming a State Officer. Peer Mentors hosted a Mental Health Spirit Week, and Student Council, cheer, and dance teams welcomed future Bison at East Middle School. Other highlights include Math Day on Pi Day, Junior Prom with a beach theme, the start of spring sports, and ongoing student council elections.

B. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Hoyer celebrated Lydia Comstock's appointment to the Montana Board of Public Education and asked Lydia to explain the application process. Lydia stated she was selected for the appointment out of six candidates who applied. The district celebrated three staff groups throughout the first week of April, recognizing associate principals; paraprofessionals, aides, and tutors; and school librarians. Congratulations were extended to Colette Getten, recipient of the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award for Early Childhood Education from the University of Montana. Superintendent Hoyer reviewed current legislative updates from Helena, including bills related to education funding, teacher mentoring, and student credit for volunteer service. Great Falls hosted the State SkillsUSA competition, welcoming over 300 students from across the state, with strong community support and several local winners, including new State Officer Lochlin Kinyon. Additional highlights included $1,200 raised by the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) during the simulated Bataan Death March for Project Healing Waters, recognition of East Middle School First Engineer, Lee Haynes and his custodial staff for their outstanding service and organizational efforts during a recent ninety (90) team volleyball tournament, and progress from the Montana Reads program with 1,400 volunteer hours logged. Beckie Frisbee shared ACT results showing district-wide score increases, including three perfect scores and 29 students in the top performance range. Other announcements included the April 23rd School Board Candidate Forum, recognition events, and continued progress on preschool data initiatives.

C. **Audience Communication**

Community members Nena Horner and Lauryn Horner addressed the Board with concerns about recess supervision on the playgrounds, bullying, and Special Education and Individual Education Plan (IEP) protocols. Chairperson Johnson stated the Board would research and review their concerns and provide them feedback.

ACTION ITEMS

A**. Second Reading of New Family and Consumer Science (FCS) and Business District Standards (KUDs: Know-Understand-Do)** – Secondary Curriculum Director, Beckie Frisbee, reviewed the FCS and Business KUDs updates. The first reading of the KUDs was at the March 24, 2025 regular Board meeting. No public concern or comments were submitted.

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Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the new KUDs for Family and Consumer Science and Business.

B. **Multidistrict Agreement Between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls School District A** – Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, explained the Multidistrict Agreement allows the District the ability to adjust funding between the elementary and high school districts. He stated the current agreement expires on June 30, 2025 and an extension of the agreement would allow the district to better balance the funding for our students.

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the extension of the Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls School District A as presented.

C. **Technology Multidistrict Agreement** – Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, reviewed the existing multidistrict technology agreement between Great Falls, Belt, and Vaughn Public Schools, originally established in 2012 under Montana law 20-3-363. The current agreement, set to expire on June 30, 2025, includes provisions for district withdrawal, a three-year term, and funding guidelines, with a continued use of a Memorandum of Understanding to outline cooperative activities and purchases.

Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve the continued participation in the Technology Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls Public Schools 1 and A, Belt Public Schools, and Vaughn Public Schools, as presented in the agreement.

D. **Great Falls High School Roofing Project Bid Award** – Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, stated in 2022, a district-wide roof assessment conducted by Cushing Terrell identified critical roof issues at Great Falls High School, specifically at the Fieldhouse, where persistent leaks were found to originate from exposed Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) walls. The District solicited bids for the 2025 Great Falls High School Fieldhouse Wall Repair and Partial Roof Replacement Project. The bid process followed all legal and policy requirements, and four bids were received, two of which were disqualified due to one bid being late and another being incomplete. A & R Construction LLC submitted the lowest qualified bid at $975,031.00, which includes repairs to roof sections G, I, and J, wall finish installations over designated areas, and storefront window replacements. Funding for the project will be provided through a combination of the Building Fund, High School General Fund, and Interlocal Fund.

Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve the Wall Repair and Partial Great Falls High School Roof Replacement Project with the understanding that the lowest qualified bidder, A & R Construction LLC, will complete the revised project that includes the Base Bid along with Alternate Bids #2, #3, and Alternate Bid #4 which replaces the drains for roof sections E,G,I, and J. Work will be scheduled for the summer of 2025. The total bid amount recommended for approval is $549,734.00.

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E. Non-Renewal Temporary, Non-Tenured Teachers with Positions Expiring June 6, 2025 – Director of Human Resources, Luke Diekhans, stated the non-renewal of the non-tenured teachers listed in the agenda is required because they were hired for one-year-only positions late in the school year. The employees may apply for other available positions for with they qualify through the in-district transfer process.

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to non-renew the teachers listed in the agenda as they are one-year-only temporary positions that expire June 6, 2025.

ACTION: OTHER

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

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. **First Reading of New High School and Middle School Theatre and High School Health Science District Standards (KUDs: Know-Understand-Do)** – Secondary Curriculum Director, Beckie Frisbee, reviewed the updates on the revised Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards, which reflect the 2021 changes adopted by the Office of Public Instruction. Great Falls Public Schools has updated its "Know, Understand, Do" (KUD) documents to align with these standards and meet current industry expectations. The Health Science department utilized national standards to guide their revisions, while the Theatre department aligned its updates with the Montana State Standards for Theatre. The updated KUDs will be posted online and made available in the curriculum office for public review prior to the second reading scheduled for the May 12, 2025, regular Board meeting.

B. **First Reading of Revised Board Policies 2105 – *Grade Organization;* 2130 – *Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests;* 2132 – *Research Studies;* 2163 – *Traffic Education;* and 2166 – *Gifted Program*** – Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the recommended language revisions from the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) and the Policy Committee to each of the Board policies listed. She asked if anyone had questions or concerns about any of the policies to contact her prior to the next regular Board meeting.

C. **Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

Trustee Thompson reminded the community that the Superintendent evaluation link is available online, with comments due by April 23 or may be submitted in person at the April 28, 2025 regular board meeting. She acknowledged the significance of former students returning to teach at GFPS, noting the presence of multiple generations of educators in the district. A congratulatory shout-out was given to Colette for her well-deserved award.

Trustee Bronson noted that the insurance committee is meeting tomorrow and encouraged fellow trustees and school district employees to share any comments with him or Luke Diekhans to help move forward with the program. He shared appreciation

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for attending the Purple Up ceremony with Trustee Finnicum, expressing that Trustee Finnicum will be greatly missed following his retirement from the Board.
Trustee Turoski expressed appreciation for the peer mentor group and the recent health week activities at Great Falls High School. She shared that Valley View Elementary School hosts an annual fundraiser for Special Olympics, highlighting a popular ice bucket challenge involving a teacher and the Principal. Trustee Turoski noted student enthusiasm for secret staff dress-up days at Valley View, including one student who noticed all staff wore black on the same day. She closed by wishing everyone a Happy Easter.
Trustee Skornogoski reported that peer mentors recently visited the Great Falls Public Library to speak with 6th graders about transitioning to high school. She mentioned the importance of discussing the upcoming mental health fair and noted a financial literacy volunteer opportunity. Trustee Skornogoski also shared plans to supervise a field trip with 7th and 8th graders tomorrow.
Trustee Finnicum reflected on six years of service on the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees and extended thanks to Brian Patrick for his years of dedication. He commended Conner from Paris Gibson Education Center for his enthusiasm and energy.
Trustee Sunchild commented on the many positive updates shared during the meeting and expressed appreciation for the speed and efficiency with which Superintendent Hoyer and executive directors communicate with the Board and parents. Trustee Sunchild also shared reflections on mental health, referencing her daughter's internship experience in sports psychology and its insights into the "athlete brain."
Chairperson Johnson encouraged everyone to view the upcoming Thursday Think Tank sessions and the noon Key Meetings. He highlighted the importance of District presence at these meetings and the focus on long-term District visioning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson stated the next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, April 24th, the Scholarship Celebration will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, and May mayhem is coming!

ACTION TO ADJOURN

With no further comments or items to be discussed, Chairperson Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:47 p.m.

_____
Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

_____
Brian Patrick, Clerk

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gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. B.

CABINET MEMBER: Luke Diekhans

TOPIC

Personnel Actions

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

As per MCA 20-3-324 – *Powers and Duties* – the trustees of each district shall employ or dismiss…personnel considered necessary to carry out the various services of the district.

DISCUSSION

See attached Personnel Action Report to the Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Noted on report.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to employ, dismiss, or accept the resignations, of those noted on the Personnel Action Report.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans at (406) 268-6010.

Return to Agenda

New Employee

Position: TEACHER

Name: GROVER, MARIE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $32.01	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: 1ST GRADE TEACHER		Amount: $44,900.00		Effective Date: 08/25/2025
Name: PASCHEN, VALERIE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $32.01	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: RESOURCE 1 TEACHER		Amount: $44,900.00		Effective Date: 08/25/2025
Name: BURNS, BECKY	Pay: Salary	Rate: $32.13	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: RESOURCE 3 TEACHER		Amount: $45,058.00		Effective Date: 08/25/2025
Name: PERATER, JUVY	Pay: Salary	Rate: $31.09	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:WEST ELEMENTARY
Position: RESOURCE 1 TEACHER		Amount: $43,606.00		Effective Date: 08/25/2025
Name: GRAY, MASON ELIZABETH	Pay: Salary	Rate: $29.02	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:WEST ELEMENTARY
Position: 6TH GRADE TEACHER		Amount: $40,701.00		Effective Date: 08/25/2025
Name: FLAMAND, AMELIA	Pay: Salary	Rate: $29.02	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: 5TH GRADE TEACHER		Amount: $40,701.00		Effective Date: 08/25/2025

Position: SUPPLEMENTAL

Name: SWANSON, KEVIN JOSEPH JR	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $217.65	Hrs: 1.00	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: LT SUB TEACHER (HEALTH ENHANCEMENT) (06/0		Amount: $4,135.35		Effective Date: 05/12/2025
Name: PAUL, TIMOTHY E	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 3.31	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: AP TEST PROCTOR (06/01/2025)		Amount: $2,500.02		Effective Date: 04/17/2025
Name: CARLSON, MARILYN	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 3.31	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: AP TEST PROCTOR (06/01/2025)		Amount: $2,500.02		Effective Date: 04/17/2025
Name: MOULLET, KAREN RAE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 3.31	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: AP TEST PROCTOR (06/01/2025)		Amount: $2,500.02		Effective Date: 04/17/2025
Name: BALAGUERA, MARIA	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $105.00	Hrs: 0.00	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: SUB TEACHER		Amount: $0.00		Effective Date: 04/17/2025
Name: OLSON, SUSAN L	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:WHITTIER ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: OLSON, SUSAN L	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:CHIEF JOSEPH ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: NORRIS, KELLY LAVERNE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: MILTON, HALEY RENEE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:LEWIS & CLARK ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: MUELLER, JOSHUA WAYNE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:LINCOLN ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: SILK, KELLY M	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: DAVIDSON, ASHLEY FERN	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:LOY ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: THORNTON, TROY LANE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:MEADOW LARK ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: KLOSTERMAN, TEAYRE CHRISTINE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:MORNINGSIDE ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: BRADY, DANIEL F	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: HAGEL, SCOTT T	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: HAYWORTH, ERYN ROSE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: THORNTON, RALEE LYNN	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: TROVATTEN, LAUREN KAE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: CUCHINE, BRYCE PATRICK	Pay: Salary	Rate: $25.00	Hrs: 1.22	DAC:WEST ELEMENTARY
Position: HEAD TRACK COACH (ELEMENTARY)		Amount: $946.00		Effective Date: 04/23/2025
Name: BLAIR, AMANDA MELISSA	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 1.00	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: HOMEBOUND TEACHER (CP) (06/05/2025)		Amount: $2,106.00		Effective Date: 04/14/2025

Position: ADMINISTRATIVE

Name: DOUGHTY, BARBARA RUTH	Pay: Salary	Rate: $66.61	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:EARLY LEARNING FAMILY CENTE
Position: STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR		Amount: $99,654.00		Effective Date: 07/01/2025

Position: ENGINEERS

Name: FLYING, JESSE BRANDON	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $20.08	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:C M RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
Position: CUSTODIAN		Amount: $7,228.80		Effective Date: 04/21/2025

Position: LIBRARY/TEACHER AIDES

Name: MAD PLUME, ANTHONY QUINTON	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $12.35	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY
Position: CORE TEACHER AIDE		Amount: $3,612.38		Effective Date: 04/10/2025

Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)

Name: JOHNSON, JUSTIN DEAN	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $16.13	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $3,871.20		Effective Date: 04/24/2025
Name: MCBEE, MERCEDES DAWN	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $16.13	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:MORNINGSIDE ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $4,234.13		Effective Date: 04/16/2025
Name: RAINS, CHRISTOPHER W	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $16.13	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:C M RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $3,266.33		Effective Date: 05/01/2025

Resignation

Position: SUPPLEMENTAL

Name: HOWARD, ROBERT N	Pay: Salary	Rate: $19.50	Hrs: 5.48	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: BOYS BB HEAD COACH (03/15/2025)		Amount: $8,010.00		Effective Date: 03/15/2025
Name: DERR, REX E	Pay: Salary	Rate: $19.50	Hrs: 0.95	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: TENNIS ASST COACH (04/25/2025)		Amount: $627.00		Effective Date: 04/25/2025
Name: DERR, MARIANNE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $19.50	Hrs: 0.95	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: TENNIS ASST COACH (04/25/2025)		Amount: $627.00		Effective Date: 04/25/2025

Position: ENGINEERS

Name: WOODALL, CONNER LEE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $20.08	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
Position: CUSTODIAN (04/17/2025)		Amount: $2,730.88		Effective Date: 04/17/2025

Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)

Name: VANDEGRIFT, MARK	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $16.13	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED) (06/06/2025)		Amount: $15,726.75		Effective Date: 06/06/2025

Retirement

Position: LIBRARY/TEACHER AIDES

Name: COPP, LYNETTE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $14.21	Hrs: 5.75	DAC:C M RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
Position: CORE TEACHER AIDE (06/06/2025)		Amount: $15,115.89		Effective Date: 06/06/2025

Position: SUPERVISORS (PERS)

Name: PATRICK, BRIAN KELLY	Pay: Salary	Rate: $68.43	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:BUSINESS OFFICE
Position: DIR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS (06/30/2025)		Amount: $142,878.00		Effective Date: 06/30/2025

Termination

Position: LIBRARY/TEACHER AIDES

Name: MOSS, GAGE EVAN	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $12.35	Hrs: 5.00	DAC:WHITTIER ELEMENTARY
Position: CORE TEACHER AIDE (04/14/2025)		Amount: $9,200.75		Effective Date: 04/14/2025

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. C.

CABINET MEMBER: Luke Diekhans

TOPIC

Good Apple Awards

STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy, Safe, and Secure Schools

BACKGROUND

Individual letters of appreciation and our "Good Apple" pin have been forwarded to each of the individuals whose achievements are summarized in this notice. This award is an expression of appreciation and affection, and we ask all who have received it to wear the "Good Apple" with pride! If the person is a district employee, a copy of our letter has been placed in their personnel file. What follows are nominations for "Good Apple" awards.

DISCUSSION

Tandee Doran, 2nd Grade Teacher, Sacajawea Elementary School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by the Pancich Family, Parents, Sacajawea Elementary School, because of the following: Mrs. Doran is the very definition of a primary teacher—she adores her littles and nurtures their love for learning in the most genuine, heartfelt way. Her classroom is a place full of joy, curiosity, and care, where learning is both fun and engaging. Mrs. Doran goes above and beyond for her students in every way. My daughter has celiac disease, and Mrs. Doran makes sure she is always included, never left out or made to feel different. That takes extra time, effort, and planning, and she does it with so much grace and love. It means the world to our family.
Whether she's teaching math, diving into ELA, or creating special moments like candlelight lunches, Mrs. Doran pours her whole heart into her work. Her students feel it, and so do we as parents. Sacajawea is incredibly lucky to have her.

Scott Mayer, 5th Grade Teacher, Sacajawea Elementary School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by the Pancich Family, Parents, Sacajawea Elementary School, because of the following: He is an exceptional educator who brings energy, humor, and heart into the classroom every single day. He makes learning fun and engaging, creating a space where kids feel excited to come to school. What really sets him apart is the way he connects with his students. He builds a classroom environment that is both safe and nurturing, where every child feels seen, valued, and supported. He shares parts of himself with his students, and in return, takes the time to really get to know them. He also sets high academic expectations and challenges his students to grow—and when they rise to meet those goals, he's right there celebrating with them. His belief in his students, combined with his fun and approachable teaching style, makes a lasting impact. Sacajawea is lucky to have such a dedicated and inspiring teacher!

Theresa Busch, Counselor, Sacajawea Elementary School, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Emmerson and Dylan Pancich, Student and Parent, Sacajawea Elementary School, because of the following: Mrs. Busch consistently goes above and beyond her role—not just teaching counseling lessons in the classroom but genuinely connecting with students on an individual level. She meets each child where they are, offering support, understanding, and guidance tailored to their needs. Her presence in the school is more than just professional, it's personal. She creates a safe and welcoming space where students feel seen, heard, and valued. Whether it's helping a child through a tough moment, celebrating a success, or simply being a constant source of calm and kindness, she embodies everything a school counselor should be. Sacajawea is so lucky to have her. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering support make a lasting impact on students, families, and staff alike.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to accept the recommendations of the above individuals for the Great Falls Public Schools Good Apple Award.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Human Resources, Luke Diekhans at 268-6010.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. D.

CABINET MEMBER: Brian Patrick

TOPIC

Montana School Bus Driver Certificates – OPI TR-35

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

School bus drivers are required to comply with qualifications set forth in Section 20-10-103, MCA, and 10.7.111 ARM, and file a certificate of compliance with the County Superintendent of Schools.

DISCUSSION

The following individuals meet the qualifications as school bus drivers: Richard Sedar, Ronald Thornton, and Doug Miller

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the Montana School Bus Driver Certificates TR-35s for the individuals listed above.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. E.

CABINET MEMBER: Brian Patrick

TOPIC

Student Activity Accounts for March 2025

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

The authority to establish an extracurricular fund is found in MCA 20-9-504 *Extracurricular Fund for Pupil Functions*. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the establishment and management of student extracurricular funds. The purpose of student extracurricular funds shall be to account for revenues and disbursements of those funds raised by students through recognized student body organizations and activities. Students shall be involved in the decision-making process related to the use of the funds.

DISCUSSION

In this section, you will find the student activity accounts for the District. The Student Activity Fund Report will be submitted to the Board on a monthly basis for review and approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate fiscal implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The District Board is requested to accept the Student Activity Monthly Report for March 2025.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ACTIVITY MONTHLY REPORT
March 2025

Account	Beginning	Revenue	Expense	Ending
CHIEF JOSEPH SCHOOL				
Total for CHIEF JOSEPH SCHOOL	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
GIANT SPRINGS SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$2,756.50	$0.92	$0.00	$2,757.42
Total for GIANT SPRINGS SCHOOL	$2,756.50	$0.92	$0.00	$2,757.42
LINCOLN SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$371.20	$0.12	$0.00	$371.32
Total for LINCOLN SCHOOL	$371.20	$0.12	$0.00	$371.32
LONGFELLOW SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$61.01	$0.02	$0.00	$61.03
Total for LONGFELLOW SCHOOL	$61.01	$0.02	$0.00	$61.03
LOY SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$2,233.43	$0.74	$0.00	$2,234.17
Total for LOY SCHOOL	$2,233.43	$0.74	$0.00	$2,234.17
MEADOW LARK SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$4,843.57	$1.60	($35.98)	$4,809.19
Total for MEADOW LARK SCHOOL	$4,843.57	$1.60	($35.98)	$4,809.19
MORNINGSIDE SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$2,738.09	$0.91	$0.00	$2,739.00
Total for MORNINGSIDE SCHOOL	$2,738.09	$0.91	$0.00	$2,739.00
SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$494.68	$0.16	$0.00	$494.84
Total for SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL	$494.68	$0.16	$0.00	$494.84
VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$622.14	$0.17	($120.00)	$502.31
Total for VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL	$622.14	$0.17	($120.00)	$502.31
WHITTIER SCHOOL				
ACTIVITY MISC	$588.35	$0.20	$0.00	$588.55
Total for WHITTIER SCHOOL	$588.35	$0.20	$0.00	$588.55
ELEMENTARY TOTAL	**$14,708.97**	**$4.84**	**($155.98)**	**$14,557.83**

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ACTIVITY MONTHLY REPORT
March 2025

Account	Beginning	Revenue	Expense	Ending
EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL				
8TH GRADE CLASS	$205.83	$0.07	$0.00	$205.90
ART DEPARTMENT	$273.69	$0.09	$0.00	$273.78
ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS	$573.83	$0.19	$0.00	$574.02
DYNAMOS	$5.89	$0.00	$0.00	$5.89
EMMA STRONG	$3,587.37	$1.19	$0.00	$3,588.56
FISHING CLUB	$16.41	$0.01	$0.00	$16.42
IMPACT	$346.58	$0.12	$0.00	$346.70
INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES	$1,108.98	$0.37	$0.00	$1,109.35
KIDS FIRST	$111.86	$0.04	$0.00	$111.90
MT ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES ACT	$16,937.71	$5.53	($280.25)	$16,662.99
RAM SPIRIT	$40.40	$0.01	$0.00	$40.41
ROBOTICS	$135.50	$0.04	$0.00	$135.54
STUDENT COUNCIL/GOVERNMENT	$1,118.28	$0.37	$0.00	$1,118.65
STUDENT STORE	$814.81	$0.27	$0.00	$815.08
SUPERSONICS	$213.30	$0.07	$0.00	$213.37
VIP MATH-SCIENCE	$867.47	$0.29	$0.00	$867.76
XTREME TEAM	$1,773.60	$0.59	$0.00	$1,774.19
YOUTH ALIVE	$5.27	$0.00	$0.00	$5.27
Total for EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL	$28,136.78	$9.25	($280.25)	$27,865.78
NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL				
ARCHERY CLUB	$2,685.72	$0.89	$0.00	$2,686.61
EMMA STRONG	$3,574.10	$1.19	$0.00	$3,575.29
EXTREME TEAM	$397.43	$0.08	($170.06)	$227.45
FISHING CLUB	$71.78	$0.02	$0.00	$71.80
GRIZ SPIRIT	$3.71	$0.00	$0.00	$3.71
HOSA	$0.10	$0.00	$0.00	$0.10
MT ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES ACT	$13,544.40	$4.13	($1,098.13)	$12,450.40
NATIONAL JR HONOR SOCIETY	$852.50	$0.25	($85.00)	$767.75
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB	$12.58	$0.00	$0.00	$12.58
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD	$368.69	$0.12	$0.00	$368.81
SENSATIONAL SEVEN'S	$749.37	$0.17	($251.04)	$498.50
SHOP	$172.07	$0.06	$0.00	$172.13
STUDENT COUNCIL/GOVERNMENT	$5,003.23	$1.66	$0.00	$5,004.89
STUDENT POP	$220.51	$0.05	($79.92)	$140.64
TAG TEAM	$3,966.84	$301.32	($293.28)	$3,974.88
THE BUSINESS	$1,397.73	$544.64	$0.00	$1,942.37
TNT TEAM	$1,678.30	$250.36	($856.00)	$1,072.66
URSIDAE TEAM	$97.41	$0.03	$0.00	$97.44
VIKINGS/GLADI8ORS TEAM	$200.17	$0.07	$0.00	$200.24
YEARBOOK	$1,946.69	$0.61	($95.76)	$1,851.54
YOUTH ALIVE	$299.21	$0.10	$0.00	$299.31
Total for NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	$37,242.54	$1,105.75	($2,929.19)	$35,419.10
MIDDLE SCHOOLS TOTAL	**$65,379.32**	**$1,115.00**	**($3,209.44)**	**$63,284.88**

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ACTIVITY MONTHLY REPORT
March 2025

Account	Beginning	Revenue	Expense	Ending
GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL				
FOOTBALL	$10,240.19	$0.00	$0.00	$10,240.19
BOYS BASKETBALL	($10,743.09)	$4,054.00	($2,138.94)	($8,828.03)
GIRLS BASKETBALL	$3,455.19	$800.00	($1,520.00)	$2,735.19
WRESTLING	$15.27	$350.00	($1,590.20)	($1,224.93)
TRACK B&G	$0.00	$0.00	($198.00)	($198.00)
SOCCER B&G	($3,541.00)	$0.00	$0.00	($3,541.00)
X COUNTRY B&G	($2,484.63)	$0.00	$0.00	($2,484.63)
GOLF B&G	($6,604.97)	$0.00	$0.00	($6,604.97)
TENNIS B&G	$72.00	$0.00	($144.00)	($72.00)
SOFTBALL	$0.00	$0.00	($296.00)	($296.00)
SWIMMING B&G	$28.37	$0.00	($280.86)	($252.49)
VOLLEYBALL	($7,154.19)	$0.00	$0.00	($7,154.19)
1:1 TECHNOLOGY FINES	$1,629.93	($177.30)	$0.00	$1,452.63
AP HISTORY BOOKS	$1,869.35	$0.62	$0.00	$1,869.97
B AND G TRACK FUND	$7,218.55	$3,623.10	($1,488.26)	$9,353.39
BAND ACTIVITY	$49,925.77	$579.27	($6,602.19)	$43,902.85
BISON BARISTAS	$3,244.28	$0.72	($1,088.59)	$2,156.41
BISON BUSINESS	$5,429.06	$2,325.25	($974.37)	$6,779.94
BISON DANCE TEAM	$2,379.23	$958.33	($199.77)	$3,137.79
BISON DIGITAL VIDEO	$228.89	$0.08	$0.00	$228.97
BISON LIFE SKILLS	$121.70	$15.03	($35.50)	$101.23
BISON WEAR	$9,409.79	$1,136.65	($5,570.66)	$4,975.78
BOYS & GIRLS P.E. POP FUND	$443.60	$24.16	$0.00	$467.76
BOYS BASKETBALL	$8,931.09	$2,518.30	($5,487.83)	$5,961.56
BOYS SOCCER	$8,875.61	$2.95	$0.00	$8,878.56
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMER	$10,323.68	$941.99	($1,493.75)	$9,771.92
CHEERLEADERS	$10,563.34	$3.19	($946.80)	$9,619.73
CHOIR/DELPHIAN	$52,216.21	$574.65	($8,656.22)	$44,134.64
CLASS OF 2024	$6.75	$0.00	($6.75)	$0.00
CLASS OF 2025	$6,508.99	$17.29	($15.13)	$6,511.15
CLASS OF 2026	$1,915.33	$30.64	($15.13)	$1,930.84
CLASS OF 2027	$1,584.83	$0.53	$0.00	$1,585.36
CROCHET CLUB	$294.83	$0.10	$0.00	$294.93
CROSS COUNTRY	($557.26)	$1,103.67	$0.00	$546.41
DECA CLUB	$12,390.22	$4.11	$0.00	$12,394.33
ELECTRICAL IT CLASSES	$6,622.77	$2,753.11	$0.00	$9,375.88
EMMA STRONG	$3,599.89	$1.20	$0.00	$3,601.09
ENGLISH NOVELS	$3,886.35	$1.29	$0.00	$3,887.64
FCCLA	$1,927.02	$0.64	$0.00	$1,927.66
FOOTBALL FUND	$55,891.66	$17.24	($3,977.89)	$51,931.01
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUB	$229.13	$0.06	($54.96)	$174.23
FRENCH CLUB	$8.73	$0.00	$0.00	$8.73
GEOLOGY CLUB	$2,423.66	$0.79	($51.59)	$2,372.86
GERMAN CLUB	$657.15	$0.09	($400.32)	$256.92
GFHS CLOTHING CLOSET	$1,151.46	$0.38	$0.00	$1,151.84
GFHS ROBOTICS CLUB	$4,589.66	$1.52	$0.00	$4,591.18
GIRLS BASKETBALL	$16,180.53	$1,801.57	($2,690.31)	$15,291.79
GIRLS SOCCER	$14,067.04	$4.67	$0.00	$14,071.71
GOLF TEAM	$3,793.67	$1.26	$0.00	$3,794.93
GREAT FALLS MUSICALS	$7,463.35	$2.23	($753.41)	$6,712.17
GREEN CLUB	$138.23	$0.05	$0.00	$138.28
HOSA	$7,198.56	$72.28	($406.97)	$6,863.87
ICE RAGE	$4,352.16	$1.37	($220.00)	$4,133.53
INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY CLUB	$1,772.80	$0.59	$0.00	$1,773.39
INIWA NEWSPAPER	$811.47	$0.27	$0.00	$811.74
JROTC	$9,979.34	$910.96	($1,227.00)	$9,663.30
KEY CLUB	$1,369.80	$0.45	$0.00	$1,370.25
LIFE SKILLS STUDENTS 110	$83.82	$0.03	$0.00	$83.85
MathXL Dual Fees	$4,908.67	$1.63	$0.00	$4,910.30
MOTOR SPORTS CLUB	$4,392.74	$2,602.32	$0.00	$6,995.06
MT ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES ACT	$55,076.21	$13.49	($14,445.00)	$40,644.70

Account	Beginning	Revenue	Expense	Ending
MUSIC FRUIT	$0.02	$0.00	$0.00	$0.02
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	$748.53	$0.24	($11.33)	$737.44
ORCHESTRA	$23,306.67	$91.14	($4,906.55)	$18,491.26
PHOTOGRAPHY ART	$632.08	$35.17	($155.92)	$511.33
POP FUND	$10,058.54	$258.55	$0.00	$10,317.09
POWDER PUFF FOOTBALL	$593.87	$0.20	$0.00	$594.07
ROCKETRY CLUB	$1,231.29	$0.00	$0.00	$1,231.29
ROUNDUP ANNUAL	$34,855.35	$1,415.04	$0.00	$36,270.39
SELECT	$233.66	$0.05	($80.15)	$153.56
SOFTBALL	$16,718.84	$15.99	($4,702.89)	$12,031.94
SPANISH CLUB	$1,372.25	$0.46	$0.00	$1,372.71
SPIRIT SHIRTS	$3,363.06	$1.06	($167.00)	$3,197.12
STUDENT COUNCIL/GOVERNMENT	$28,934.44	$2,585.06	($1,200.71)	$30,318.79
STUDENT LANDSCAPE PROJECT FUND	$26,006.05	$34.93	($1,406.00)	$24,634.98
SWIM TEAM	$3,925.49	$3,696.63	($1,218.18)	$6,403.94
TENNIS	$7,082.31	$6,835.83	($2,389.75)	$11,528.39
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS	$2,590.83	$0.82	($126.98)	$2,464.67
VOLLEYBALL	$29,794.63	$8.10	($5,386.06)	$24,416.67
WRESTLING	$10,699.17	$2.35	($3,626.76)	$7,074.76
YELLOWSTONE FIELD TRIP	$1,977.44	$0.66	$0.00	$1,978.10
Total for GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL	$594,937.30	$42,059.10	($88,354.68)	$548,641.72
ATLERNATIVE EDUCATION				
COFFEE SHOP	$18,869.45	$6.16	($324.49)	$18,551.12
LYNX GRAFIX	$27,328.89	$8.78	($886.93)	$26,450.74
PARIS GIBSON AUTOMOTIVE CLUB	$1,002.25	$3,372.02	($688.08)	$3,686.19
PARIS GIBSON DESIGNS	$10,864.71	$3.61	$0.00	$10,868.32
PARIS SCIENCE CLUB	$1,724.00	$0.57	$0.00	$1,724.57
STUDENT COUNCIL/GOVERNMENT	$9,326.63	$3.10	$0.00	$9,329.73
YEAR BOOK	$14,673.94	$4.87	$0.00	$14,678.81
Total for ATLERNATIVE EDUCATION	$83,789.87	$3,399.11	($1,899.50)	$85,289.48
CM RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL				
FOOTBALL	$21,528.99	$0.00	$0.00	$21,528.99
BOYS BASKETBALL	($4,471.47)	$568.00	($5,438.70)	($9,342.17)
GIRLS BASKETBALL	$2,794.99	$3,291.00	($3,416.45)	$2,669.54
WRESTLING	($15,543.02)	$0.00	($500.64)	($16,043.66)
TRACK B&G	($652.81)	$0.00	($216.00)	($868.81)
SOCCER B&G	($3,951.06)	$0.00	$0.00	($3,951.06)
X COUNTRY B&G	($1,298.63)	$0.00	$0.00	($1,298.63)
GOLF B&G	($6,546.98)	$0.00	$0.00	($6,546.98)
TENNIS B&G	$0.00	$0.00	($108.00)	($108.00)
SOFTBALL	($1,807.46)	$0.00	($206.00)	($2,013.46)
VOLLEYBALL	($4,444.67)	$0.00	$0.00	($4,444.67)
ACADEMIC BOWL	$506.20	$0.17	$0.00	$506.37
ANNUAL	$87,224.10	$2,279.54	($500.17)	$89,003.47
AP CHEMISTRY	$1,286.53	$0.43	$0.00	$1,286.96
ART CLUB	$4,582.87	$4,007.17	($2,065.93)	$6,524.11
BAND	$69,389.81	$1,354.52	($2,904.49)	$67,839.84
BIOLOGY 3-4	$1,959.40	$0.65	$0.00	$1,960.05
BOYS SOCCER	$12,738.15	$4.23	$0.00	$12,742.38
BOYS TRACK	$6,741.38	$22.06	($572.21)	$6,191.23
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMER	$23,850.04	$7.88	($122.48)	$23,735.44
CHEERLEADERS	$5,312.15	$268.73	($365.48)	$5,215.40
CLASS OF 2025	$5,678.82	$18,707.13	($3,056.43)	$21,329.52
CLASS OF 2026	$4,066.29	$1.35	$0.00	$4,067.64
CLASS OF 2027	$136.70	$0.05	$0.00	$136.75
CLASS OF 2028	$464.72	$0.15	$0.00	$464.87
CMR COFFEE CART	$9,146.28	$10,164.46	($6,641.19)	$12,669.55
CMR DRAFTING	$801.49	$0.27	$0.00	$801.76
CMR ELECTRONICS	$12,115.07	$2,042.20	$0.00	$14,157.27
CROSS COUNTRY	$8,503.83	$2.82	$0.00	$8,506.65
DECA CLUB	$2,639.79	$1,250.44	($2,562.59)	$1,327.64
DRAMATICS CLUB	$28,667.34	$9.21	($930.98)	$27,745.57

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ACTIVITY MONTHLY REPORT
March 2025

Account	Beginning	Revenue	Expense	Ending
ENGLISH NOVELS	$1,394.27	$0.46	$0.00	$1,394.73
FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE	$39,021.10	$1,002.12	($3,519.84)	$36,503.38
FOOTBALL PROGRAMS	$40,154.54	$13.19	($427.99)	$39,739.74
FRENCH CLUB	$1,387.67	$0.46	$0.00	$1,388.13
GIRLS BASKETBALL	$16,942.25	$1,004.00	($5,881.02)	$12,065.23
GIRLS SOCCER	$28,688.56	$9.53	$0.00	$28,698.09
GOLF TEAM	$13,754.25	$4.57	$0.00	$13,758.82
HOSA	$28,692.96	$5,636.13	($809.00)	$33,520.09
KEY CLUB	$2,491.55	$0.83	($3.71)	$2,488.67
MT ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES ACT	$4,690.51	$22,248.77	($509.70)	$26,429.58
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	$347.17	$0.12	$0.00	$347.29
NATIVE AMERICAN CLUB	$112.95	$0.04	$0.00	$112.99
NEWSPAPER	$2,015.66	$0.67	$0.00	$2,016.33
ORCHESTRA	$46,160.07	$785.68	($6,329.76)	$40,615.99
PHYSICS FIELD TRIP	$1,343.00	$0.45	$0.00	$1,343.45
ROBOTICS	$913.36	$0.30	$0.00	$913.66
RUSTLER GEAR	$3,705.67	$1.23	$0.00	$3,706.90
RUSTLER PRIDE	$32,443.82	$48.24	($14,869.90)	$17,622.16
RUSTLERS INC	$2,365.22	$65.31	$0.00	$2,430.53
SCHOOL STORE	$39,255.15	$6,367.61	($6,878.55)	$38,744.21
SCIENCE RESEARCH CLUB	$300.64	$0.10	$0.00	$300.74
SOFTBALL	$6,361.68	$2,831.90	($6,044.29)	$3,149.29
SPANISH CLUB	$1,094.56	$0.36	$0.00	$1,094.92
SPEECH & DEBATE	$7,495.96	$2,514.25	($226.84)	$9,783.37
STUDENT COUNCIL/GOVERNMENT	$2,205.50	$0.62	($331.00)	$1,875.12
SWIMMING CLUB	$5,230.55	$1.69	($151.00)	$5,081.24
T.A.P.E. CLUB	$4,308.85	$1.43	$0.00	$4,310.28
TENNIS	$4,759.20	$13,345.96	($149.56)	$17,955.60
VICA	$119.37	$0.03	($25.00)	$94.40
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS	$152.53	$0.05	$0.00	$152.58
VOCAL MUSIC	$49,369.68	$14.51	($5,684.23)	$43,699.96
VOCATIONAL RESOURCE	$5,973.33	$158.01	($67.11)	$6,064.23
VOLLEYBALL	$28,903.25	$9.60	$0.00	$28,912.85
WRANGLERS	$5,421.41	$1.80	$0.00	$5,423.21
WRESTLING	$15,418.03	$3.87	($3,768.28)	$11,653.62
Total for CM RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL	$714,413.11	$100,056.35	($85,284.52)	$729,184.94
HIGH SCHOOLS TOTAL	**$1,393,140.28**	**$145,514.56**	**($175,538.70)**	**$1,363,116.14**

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT ACTIVITY MONTHLY REPORT
March 2025

Account	Beginning	Revenue	Expense	Ending
INDIAN EDUCATION				
INDIAN EDUCATION DRUM GROUP	$465.31	$0.15	$0.00	$465.46
POW WOW'S	$2,629.70	$0.87	$0.00	$2,630.57
Total for INDIAN EDUCATION	$3,095.01	$1.02	$0.00	$3,096.03
INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS TOTAL	**$3,095.01**	**$1.02**	**$0.00**	**$3,096.03**
DISTRICT TOTAL	**$1,476,323.58**	**$146,635.42**	**($178,904.12)**	**$1,444,054.88**

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. F.

CABINET MEMBER: Brian Patrick

TOPIC

Request for Records Disposal – Human Resources

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 20.1.212, requires that the disposal of any records be approved by the Board of Trustees and be in compliance with the Approved State, Local Government Records Committee Retention Schedule.

DISCUSSION

Listed are the records to be disposed of that meet the approval description and date-time lines based on the retention schedule. All of the items to destroy are as follows:

2011-2013
Certified Personnel Files
Classified Personnel Files

2010-2013
Substitute Teacher Personnel Files

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the request for disposal of records that are in compliance with the approved State, Local Government Records Committee Retention Schedule.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Action

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: VII. A.

CABINET MEMBER: Brian Patrick

TOPIC

Financial Report and Check Register for March 2025

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

The check register and bank reconciliation are available in the Business Office. Trustees Bronson, Finnicum and Turoski act as the Board's liaisons and review the financial data.

DISCUSSION

This monthly update on the fiscal business of the District is designed to provide Trustees and the public with up-to-date and timely information on revenue and expenditures, fiscal operations, and the overall financial position of the Great Falls Public Schools.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

See attached reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The District Board is requested to accept the monthly financial report and approve the register of payments for March 2025.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

Great Falls Public Schools
Fund Budget Report
March 2025

Account		Budget	MTD	YTD	Balance	% Budget Remaining
101	**ELEMENTARY GENERAL**					
REVENUE						
1XXX Local		($14,368,566.11)	($93,251.99)	($8,640,117.75)	($5,728,448.36)	39.87
3XXX State		($40,013,935.95)	($2,659,523.41)	($25,351,558.27)	($14,662,377.68)	36.64
5XXX Other		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
6XXX Adjustments		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
7XXX CARES		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
9XXX Transfers		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
	Subtotal:	($54,382,502.06)	($2,752,775.40)	($33,991,676.02)	($20,390,826.04)	37.50
EXPENDITURE						
1XX Salaries		$41,823,696.58	$3,494,058.29	$25,763,637.57	$16,060,059.01	38.40
2XX Benefits		$4,620,780.50	$389,227.58	$2,874,943.16	$1,745,837.34	37.78
3XX Contracted		$831,968.07	$98,519.55	$513,619.55	$318,348.52	38.26
4XX Utilities/Repair		$2,049,250.00	$176,537.72	$1,656,602.28	$392,647.72	19.16
5XX Other Services		$1,303,964.51	$23,648.81	$238,876.81	$1,065,087.70	81.68
61X Supplies		$1,385,306.40	$64,869.68	$650,617.61	$734,688.79	53.03
62X Energy Supplies		$56,750.00	$4,880.62	$33,402.31	$23,347.69	41.14
64X Books		$326,668.40	$7,339.68	$55,411.02	$271,257.38	83.04
66X Minor Equipment		$229,539.00	$1,105.50	$25,938.14	$203,600.86	88.70
68X Software		$543,169.60	$796.09	$242,017.04	$301,152.56	55.44
7XX Capital Outlay		$222,500.00	$0.00	$151,123.36	$71,376.64	32.08
8XX Misc		$882,375.00	$90.45	$207,970.24	$674,404.76	76.43
9XX Transfers		$106,534.00	$0.00	$0.00	$106,534.00	100.00
Others						
	Subtotal:	$54,382,502.06	$4,261,073.97	$32,414,159.09	$21,968,342.97	40.40
201	**HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL**					
REVENUE						
1XXX Local		($6,900,191.79)	($47,209.60)	($4,147,426.40)	($2,752,765.39)	39.89
3XXX State		($19,812,585.78)	($1,313,104.48)	($12,547,968.37)	($7,264,617.41)	36.67
5XXX Other		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
6XXX Adjustments		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
7XXX CARES		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
9XXX Transfers		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00
	Subtotal:	($26,712,777.57)	($1,360,314.08)	($16,695,394.77)	($10,017,382.80)	37.50
EXPENDITURE						
1XX Salaries		$19,200,416.17	$1,589,475.03	$11,790,598.17	$7,409,818.00	38.59
2XX Benefits		$2,567,558.70	$193,876.61	$1,464,576.06	$1,102,982.64	42.96
3XX Contracted		$605,116.18	$83,376.37	$397,669.72	$207,446.46	34.28
4XX Utilities/Repair		$1,277,750.00	$131,986.42	$846,323.64	$431,426.36	33.76
5XX Other Services		$1,149,349.89	$91,754.81	$505,780.17	$643,569.72	55.99
61X Supplies		$812,414.00	$98,472.58	$577,706.79	$234,707.21	28.89
62X Energy Supplies		$30,500.00	$2,273.36	$16,927.96	$13,572.04	44.50
64X Books		$212,557.00	$0.00	$52,055.97	$160,501.03	75.51
66X Minor Equipment		$138,724.00	$16,071.47	$35,439.03	$103,284.97	74.45
68X Software		$284,243.04	$0.00	$118,229.89	$166,013.15	58.41
7XX Capital Outlay		$153,720.59	$10,104.71	$65,260.84	$88,459.75	57.55
8XX Misc		$280,428.00	$44.55	$66,448.69	$213,979.31	76.30
9XX Transfers		$0.00	$1,621.04	$6,484.22	($6,484.22)	0.00
	Subtotal:	$26,712,777.57	$2,219,056.95	$15,943,501.15	$10,769,276.42	40.32
110	**ELEMENTARY TRANSPORTATION**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($3,945,075.00)	($151,842.56)	($1,662,470.90)	($2,282,604.10)	57.86
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$3,945,075.00	$276,560.37	$1,674,397.70	$2,270,677.30	57.56

Great Falls Public Schools
Fund Budget Report
March 2025

Account		Budget	MTD	YTD	Balance	% Budget Remaining
210	**HIGH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($1,868,682.10)	($55,712.13)	($884,926.45)	($983,755.65)	52.64
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$1,868,682.10	$146,048.49	$874,205.96	$994,476.14	53.22
112	**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($5,195,815.00)	($522,193.22)	($3,448,032.68)	($1,747,782.32)	33.64
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$5,195,815.00	$464,386.56	$3,429,937.88	$1,765,877.12	33.99
114	**ELEMENTARY RETIREMENT**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($8,000,000.00)	($17,412.41)	($4,171,868.73)	($3,828,131.27)	47.85
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$8,000,000.00	$666,752.37	$5,033,322.92	$2,966,677.08	37.08
214	**HIGH SCHOOL RETIREMENT**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($4,500,000.00)	($6,883.19)	($630,775.44)	($3,869,224.56)	85.98
EXPENDITURE						
Others						
	Subtotal:	$4,500,000.00	$284,320.45	$2,139,107.75	$2,360,892.25	52.46
117	**ELEMENTARY ADULT EDUCATION**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($551,272.00)	($2,872.00)	($267,370.17)	($283,901.83)	51.50
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$551,272.00	$30,041.51	$251,567.35	$299,704.65	54.37
217	**HIGH SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($558,874.00)	($1,972.30)	($176,221.35)	($382,652.65)	68.47
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$558,874.00	$23,745.34	$173,246.01	$385,627.99	69.00
128	**ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($521,648.87)	$1,301.50	($129,778.03)	($391,870.84)	75.12
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$521,648.87	($8,136.80)	$270,095.49	$251,553.38	48.22
228	**HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($127,896.43)	($437.56)	($65,114.23)	($62,782.20)	49.09
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$127,896.43	$2,401.33	$134,861.94	($6,965.51)	-5.45
129	**ELEMENTARY FLEX**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($864,081.58)	($670.37)	($104,284.73)	($759,796.85)	87.93
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$864,081.58	$20,171.00	$22,371.78	$841,709.80	97.41

Great Falls Public Schools
Fund Budget Report
March 2025

Account		Budget	MTD	YTD	Balance	% Budget Remaining
229	**HIGH SCHOOL FLEX**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($466,383.58)	($162.78)	($249,977.87)	($216,405.71)	46.40
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$466,383.58	$40,083.26	$165,962.03	$300,421.55	64.42
160	**ELEMENTARY BUILDING**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($752,129.27)	($7,824.05)	($72,195.59)	($679,933.68)	90.40
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$752,129.27	$3,714.87	$108,835.85	$643,293.42	85.53
260	**HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($123,334.59)	$2.34	($781.11)	($122,553.48)	99.37
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$123,334.59	$0.00	$289,982.05	($166,647.46)	-135.12
161	**ELEMENTARY BUILDING RESERVE**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($3,494,884.14)	($3,620.49)	($222,274.07)	($3,272,610.07)	93.64
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$3,494,884.14	$2,940.00	$373,866.40	$3,121,017.74	89.30
261	**HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING RESERVE**					
REVENUE						
	Subtotal:	($1,451,466.52)	($1,796.73)	($117,233.80)	($1,334,232.72)	91.92
EXPENDITURE						
	Subtotal:	$1,451,466.52	$8,576.00	$12,611.68	$1,438,854.84	99.13

Printed:
4/23/2025

Great Falls Public Schools
Check Register
March 2025
Action Item

Accounts Payable

Starting Check No: 138352
Ending Check No: 138792

Total: $1,818,947.62

Payroll

Starting Check No: 83458
Ending Check No: 83683

Total: $535,287.12

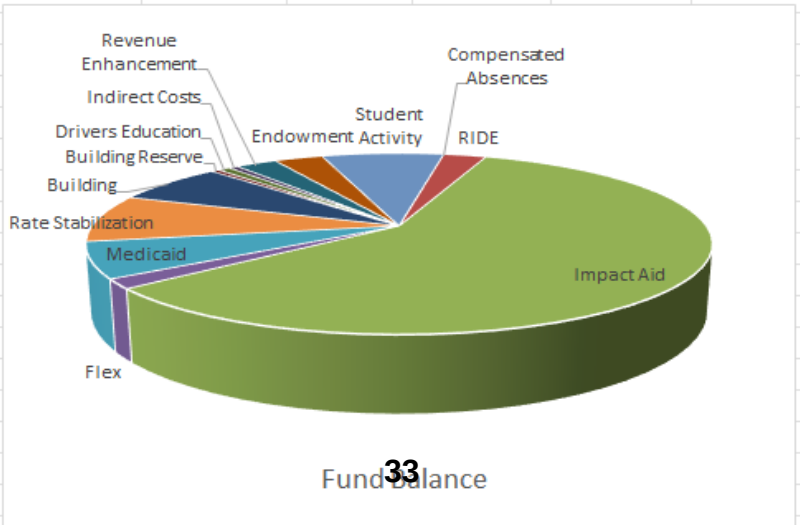
Direct Deposit

Total: $4,014,005.59

Payroll ACH Payments

Total: $4,423,922.20

Great Falls Public Schools					
Investment Balances					
March 2025					
	Account Balance		**Amount**	**Impact**	**Date**
Compensated Absences	$0				
RIDE	$350,000				
Impact Aid	$7,725,000				
Flex	$225,000				
Medicaid	$844,000		$ 130,000	Reduction	20-Mar-25
Rate Stabilization	$1,114,000		$ 225,000	Reduction	30-Jul-24
Building	$930,000				
Building Reserve	$65,000				
Drivers Education	$100,000				
Indirect Costs	$75,000				
Revenue Enhancement	$340,000				
Endowment	$400,000				
Student Activity	$1,000,000				
Total	**$13,168,000**		**$ 355,000**		



gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Action

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: VII. B.

CABINET MEMBER: Heather Hoyer

TOPIC

Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 2105 – *Grade Organization;* 2130 – *Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests;* 2132 – *Research Studies;* 2163 – *Traffic Education;* and 2166 – *Gifted Program.*

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

A committee consisting of Superintendent Heather Hoyer, Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick, Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans, Executive Directors of Student Achievement Lance Boyd and Jackie Mainwaring, Business Office Lead Aly Konecny, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Sherri Clark, Administrative Assistant Jerri Rollins, and Trustees Bill Bronson and Paige Turoski, have been meeting to discuss and make changes where necessary on the policies mentioned above.

DISCUSSION

Policy 2105	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2130	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2132	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2163	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2166	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee

The first reading of the revised Board policies listed above was at the April 14, 2025 regular Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve revised Board policies 2105 – *Grade Organization;* 2130 – *Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests;* 2132 – *Research Studies;* 2163 – *Traffic Education;* and 2166 – *Gifted Program .*

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Hoyer at (406) 268-6001.

Return to Agenda

~~2105~~ INSTRUCTION *2105*

Grade Organization

The District ~~has~~ *maintains* instructional levels for grades kindergarten *(K)* through twelve *(12)*. The grouping and housing of instructional levels in school facilities ~~shall be~~ *will be* according to plans developed by the Superintendent *or designee* and approved by the Board.

Instructional programs shall be coordinated between each grade and between levels of schools.

A student will be assigned to an instructional group or *to* a classroom which will best serve the needs of that individual while still considering the rights and needs of other students. Factors to be considered in classroom assignments are: student age, class size, peer relations, student/teacher relations, instructional style of individual teachers, and any other variables that will affect the performance of the student.

~~The~~ Criteria for grouping ~~should be~~ *will be* based ~~upon~~ *on* the learning goals and objectives ~~being~~ addressed and the student's ability to achieve those purposes.

Legal Reference:
§ 20-6-501, MCA Definitions of Various Schools

Policy History:
Adopted on: July 1, 2000
Revised on:

~~2130~~ INSTRUCTION *2130*

Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests

The Board strives ~~to achieve~~ *for* efficiency and effectiveness in all facets of its operations. ~~In order~~ To achieve this goal, the Board ~~shall strive to~~ *will* set forth:

1. A clear statement of expectations and purposes for the District's instructional program;
2. A provision for staff, resources and support to achieve the stated expectations and purposes; *and*
3. A plan for evaluating instructional programs and services to determine how well expectations and purposes are being met.

Parents who wish to examine any assessment materials may do so by contacting the Superintendent *or designee*. Parental approval is necessary before administering an individual intelligence test or a diagnostic personality test. No tests or measurement devices which include questions about a student's or the student's family's personal beliefs and practices in family life, morality, and religion will be administered, unless the parent gives written permission for the student to take such test, questionnaire, or examination.

Cross Reference:

Policy 2131	*Student and Family Privacy Rights*

Legal Reference:

20 U.S.C § 1232h	Protection of Pupil Rights
10.55.603, ARM	Curriculum Development and Assessment
10.56.101, ARM	Student Assessment

Policy History:

Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
Revised on:	November 10, 2014
Revised on:	

~~2132~~ INSTRUCTION *2132*

Research Studies

The District recognizes the value of participation in educational research. Studies using observation, surveys, and experimentation can aid in the improvement of the instructional program in the school system as well as growth in the profession and growth for individual teachers and researchers.

Simultaneously, the District recognizes that the amount of time available for student learning is limited and must be handled carefully. It is, therefore, important that only those research studies which are of the greatest value to the District should be allowed to be conducted in the school system.

All research proposals from outside sources will be submitted in prospective form, with the instruments attached, to the Superintendent at least three (3) weeks prior to the date on which the research study is to be conducted. The prospectus will include the researcher's name, address and phone number, as well as a description of the purpose of the study, the procedures to be used, the treatment of the data and the distribution of the study. The Superintendent will approve or disapprove all research studies. Approval will be based on educational significance, project design, and disruption to the regular school process. The primary criteria in approving research studies will be the value to the District. A final copy of the study will be provided free of charge to the District.

No test, questionnaire, survey, or enumeration containing questions about a ~~pupil's~~ *student's* or a parent's personal beliefs, practices in sex, family life, morality ~~and~~ *or* religion will be administered without *parent consent and* Board approval.

Cross Re*ference*:
Policy 2131 Student and Family Privacy Rights

Policy History:
Adopted on: July 1, 2000
Revised on: June 8, 2015
Revised on:

~~2163~~ INSTRUCTION *2163*

Traffic Education

The purpose of the Traffic Education program is to introduce students to a course of study that leads to eventual development of skills appropriate for a licensed driver. There is no academic credit offered for this class. The traffic education program is designed to meet the criteria established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. These criteria include requirements for instructional time, instructor certification, recommendations for course of study and reimbursement procedures. A fee for this program is payable upon registration.

Students fourteen years- six months of age on or before the first day of class of any scheduled session *and have not yet reached nineteen (19) years of age on or before September 10th of the school year* are eligible to enroll in the Traffic Education program. Students are scheduled by grade, with senior students having first priority, then juniors, sophomores, and freshman. Middle school students are allowed to enroll for the spring and summer sessions in their eighth (8th) grade year prior to their ninth (9th) grade year if there is room available. Great Falls Public Schools does not accept transfers into our program from another program during the middle of a session.

Legal Reference:

§ 20-7-502, MCA	~~Montana Traffic Education Law~~ *Duties of Superintendent of Public Instruction*
§ 20-7-503, MCA	District Establishment of Traffic Education Program
§ 20-7-507, MCA	District Traffic Education Fund
10.13.307, ARM	Program ~~Standards and Course~~ Requirements ~~for Traffic Education~~
10.13.312, ARM	*Student Enrollment*

Policy History:

Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
Revised on:	May 14, 2012

Great Falls School District

~~2166~~ INSTRUCTION *2166*

Gifted Program

To the extent possible within the resources available, all gifted and talented students shall have the opportunity to participate in appropriate educational programs. The term "gifted and talented" means students in grades K-12 who are exceptional by virtue of markedly greater than average potential or demonstrated abilities ~~in specific academic areas, visual/performing arts, leadership, general intellectual abilities, or creative thinking and whose exceptionality requires special educational programming to supplement the regular core curriculum~~ *determined through the District lead evaluation process.*

~~**The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide a gifted program, which:**~~

~~1. Provides identified gifted students with flexible pacing options and opportunities designed to encourage their individual progress.~~
~~2. Provides support for the social/emotional needs of identified gifted students.~~
~~3. Identifies, utilizes and involves parent and community resources to expand opportunities for gifted students.~~
~~4. Provides services and materials, which will serve as a resource for teachers and parents of identified gifted students.~~

The District shall:

- *Provide educational services to gifted and talented students that are commensurate to their needs and foster a positive self-image.*
- *Comply with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding addressing gifted education.*
- *Provide structured support and assistance to teachers in identifying and meeting the diverse student needs of gifted and talented students, and shall provide a framework for considering a full range of alternatives for addressing student needs.*

The Superintendent *or designee* shall establish procedures consistent with state guidelines for nominating, assessing and selecting children of demonstrated achievement, or potential ability in terms of general intellectual ability and academic aptitude.

Legal References:

§§ 20-7-901 - 904, MCA	Gifted and Talented Children
10.55.804, ARM	Gifted and Talented

Policy History:

Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
Revised on:	

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: IX. A.

CABINET MEMBER: Jackie Mainwaring

TOPIC

First Reading of New Mathematics KUDs and Technology/Computer Science KUDs, (KUDs: Know-Understand-Do)

STRATEGIC PLAN

Student Achievement

BACKGROUND

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) worked with committees of educators to create new Montana Mathematics Standards and new Montana Technology/Computer Science Standards. These have been approved by the Montana Board of Public Education.

DISCUSSION

Great Falls Public Schools teachers and community members worked as collaborative teams to study the new State Standards and create the KUDs that will be used by teachers in the classroom.

The KUDs will be posted online and copies will be available in the curriculum office for teachers and community members to view for the next two weeks until the May 12, 2025 regular Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only. No action is requested at this time.

For more information about this item, please contact Executive Directors Jackie Mainwaring at (406) 268-6006 or Lance Boyd (406) 268-6008, or Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: IX. B.

CABINET MEMBER: Jackie Mainwaring

TOPIC

First Reading of New Elementary Mathematics Curriculum Resource-Amplify Desmos Math (ADM)

STRATEGIC PLAN

Student Achievement

BACKGROUND

The K-12 Math Committee met multiple times in the 2024-2025 school year for the purpose of evaluating curriculum resources from different vendors. The full committee created a comprehensive scoring rubric with a list of necessary criteria and evaluated all materials against this rubric.

DISCUSSION

Members of the K-12 Math Committee scored eleven potential programs and narrowed the list of options to two programs to explore in depth. Samples of McGraw Hill-Reveal and Amplify Desmos Math were placed at the District Office Building and publicized for all community members and Great Falls Public Schools staff to review. Physical and digital resources were shared with committee members, and both vendors held resource presentations. Committee members held collaborative conversations around the two resources in all fifteen (15) elementary schools and collected feedback. The committee members completed a voting form on April 11, 2025 and selected Amplify Desmos Math. The Amplify Desmos Math resources are placed at the District Office Building for teachers and community members to view for the next two weeks until the May 12, 2025 regular Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This purchase will have fiscal implications, and the cost is currently being negotiated. The purchase of these materials will come from the Interlocal Fund (182) or General Fund (x01).

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only. No action is requested at this time.

For more information about this item, please contact Executive Directors Jackie Mainwaring at (406) 268-6006 or Lance Boyd (406) 268-6008, or Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: IX. C.

CABINET MEMBER: Jeff Williams

TOPIC

First Reading of the Technology Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy, Safe and Secure Schools and Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

Every three years, Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) undertakes a comprehensive update of its Technology Strategic Plan to ensure alignment with the district's evolving educational goals and operational needs. This plan serves as a roadmap for integrating technology into teaching, learning, and administrative functions, supporting the District's mission to provide high-quality, equitable education. The updated plan reflects input from educators, administrators, Information Technology (IT) staff, and community stakeholders, ensuring that technology initiatives are responsive to the needs of all users.

Discussion

The Technology Department engaged in a comprehensive and inclusive process to update the Great Falls Public School Technology Strategic Plan. This process involved conducting listening sessions with staff across various departments and schools, as well as soliciting feedback from the Technology Department team. The goal was a collaborative effort to develop a new, long-range Information Technology Plan for GFPS. The resulting three-year plan serves as a strategic blueprint for integrating technology into the curriculum, ensuring equitable access to reliable infrastructure and equipment, providing comprehensive training and support for staff to effectively utilize technological resources, and anticipating and preparing for the District's future technological needs and advancements. Due to the current uncertainty surrounding federal and state funding allocations, this plan will be reviewed and updated as funding information becomes available.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Technology Strategic Plan outlines several initiatives with financial impacts over the next three years. Funding for these initiatives will come from a combination of General Funds, the Technology Budget, grants, donations, and federal funding. Given the current uncertainty of federal and state funding, the plan will be reviewed and adjusted as more information becomes available. This approach ensures that the District can adapt to changing financial circumstances while continuing to support its technological goals.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes only. No action is required at this time. Action on this item will be requested at a future Board meeting.

For more information about this item, please contact Director of Information Technology Jeff Williams at (406) 268-6068 or Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001.

Return to Agenda

Great Falls Public Schools

All kids engaged in learning today....for life tomorrow

Information Technology Plan

2025 – 2028

Great Falls Public Schools
1100 4th Street South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

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Introduction

Technology is a tool that supports our overall mission to successfully educate students to navigate their future. For students today, technology is an extension of their life, so it is essential that GFPS transform how students learn and provide enriching opportunities to enhance learning in a fair and equitable manner. Technology that engages students and promotes collaboration, critical thinking skills, and multi-dimensional problem solving, leads to greater academic success and achievement. To support that vision, teachers and staff must also be engaged in technology. Providing professional development coupled with onsite support and efficient and effective resources that are “always on” and fully available are paramount to making student achievement a realization. At GFPS, our primary objective is to prepare our students to be citizenship ready and prepared for a career and/or college in adapting and using technology for life.

This three-year technology plan encompasses key components to make integration of technology within the classroom a reality and success.

This plan was unanimously approved by the GFPS School Board on , 2025.

Evaluation

This plan will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis. Accomplishments and revisions will be reported to the School Board in an annual Technology Report.

Stakeholders

Who will be impacted by the plan?

- Students
- Teachers, Administrators, and Staff
- Parents
- Community
- Local Businesses, Higher Education, and Military

GFPS Technology Mission & Vision Statements

Vision: “Engaging, collaborative, transformative technology for all students.”

Mission: “We strategically use technology to promote greater academic success and achievement.”

Belief statements:

- Technology is a tool that supports our mission to successfully educate students to navigate their future.
- Technology is an extension of students’ current reality.
- Technology engages students and promotes collaboration.
- Technology facilitates critical thinking skills and multi-dimensional problem solving.
- Effective, efficient use of technology is a partnership with students, staff, teachers, and resources to augment learning in a fair and equitable manner.
- Effective, efficient use of technology prepares our students to be citizenship ready and equipped for further education and/or a career.

Acronyms

AI – Artificial Intelligence
ANB – Average Number Belonging
AT – Assistive Technology
ATT – Assistive Technology Team
CIPA – Children's Internet Protection Act
COPS SVPP – Community Oriented Policing Services School Violence Prevention Program
CTE – Career Technical Education
DPA – Data Privacy Agreement
ECF – Emergency Connectivity Fund
ELA – English Language Arts
ESSER – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
FCC – Federal Communications Commission
Gbps – Gigabit per second
GFC MSU – Great Falls College Montana State University
GFPS – Great Falls Public Schools
IEP – Individualized Education Plan
IT – Information Technology
LEA – Local Education Agency
Mbps – Megabit per second
MTSBA – Montana School Board Association
OPI – Office of Public Instruction
OS – Operating Systems
PD – Professional Development
PIR – Pupil Instruction Related
PLC – Professional Learning Community
PTA – Parent Teacher Association
RFP – Request for Proposal
SSO – Single Sign On
TBD – To Be Determined
USAC – Universal Service Administrative Company
WAN – Wide Area Network

Goals-Objectives Summary

Goals	Objectives
1. Technology Curriculum	1.1 Digital Responsibility at All Levels 1.2 Review of Online Content for New and/or Updated Curriculum 1.3 Evaluate Virtual/Online Courses and Textbooks 1.4 Emerging Technology for Future-Ready Learning 1.5 Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) 1.6 Technology Industry Pathways Development
2. Technology Professional Learning	2.1 Customized Individual Learning 2.2 Use of Video-Based Learning 2.3 Online Training through the KnowBe4 Platform 2.4 Technology-Focused PIRs 2.5 New Hire Training 2.6 Professional Learning Opportunities
3. Hardware & Software Selection, Approval, and Use	3.1 All Hardware and Software Purchasing Coordinated through Information Technology 3.2 New vs Refurbished Equipment 3.3 Google vs Microsoft Applications 3.4 Implement Integrated Communication Tools 3.5 Evaluation, Selection, and Implementation of Single Sign On 3.6 Evaluation, Support, and Maintenance of Classroom Management Application 3.7 Active Directory Password Management 3.8 Providing Current Operating Systems for Endpoint Devices
4. Infrastructure Upgrades for Performance, Reliability, Redundancy, Security, and Safety	4.1 Provide Access and Improvements to Current Private WAN Fiber and Internet Services 4.2 Network Switch Replacement and Standardization 4.3 Wireless Access Increase and Refresh Cycle 4.4 Continued Internet and WAN Bandwidth Monitoring and Evaluation 4.5 Utilize E-Rate Funding for Network 4.6 Digital Classroom and Virtual Offices 4.7 Transition from VMWare to an Alternative Hypervisor 4.8 Complete Replacement of Video Surveillance System
5. Ubiquitous Access	5.1 Maintain 1:1 in Grades 2–6 and 2:1 for Grades K-1 5.2 Maintain 1:1 Program for Grades 7-12 5.3 Support Access with Assistive Technology (AT) 5.4 Equitable Level of Technology Across the District

	5.5 Equitable Access from Home
6. Hardware Maintenance to Enable Reliable and Sustainable Fleet of Equipment	6.1 Refresh Schedule – Minimum Specs, Age, and Warranty 6.2 Achieve 5-year Hardware Replacement Cycle 6.3 Sustainability Model for Grants and Foundation Awards
7. Support Structure to Facilitate Consistent & Uninterrupted Processes and Operations	7.1 IT Support Structure and Processes 7.2 Technology Coaches Support Structure and Processes
8. Security/Privacy to Protect Student and Employee Data	8.1 Annual Security/Privacy Staff Awareness Training 8.2 Security Assessment and Remediation Process 8.3 Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act 8.4 Evaluate Strategies for Password Management 8.5 Evaluation, Selection, Implementation of Laptop Encryption 8.6 Use of Raptor Visitor Management System 8.7 Provide Data Retention Techniques for Staff Use 8.8 Develop and Regularly Evaluate and Revise, as Needed, Plans for the Incident Response Plan, Disaster Recovery, and Provide Change Management
9. Budget Funding to Support Technology Plan	9.1 Technology Levy Increase 9.2 Grants, Donations and Foundation Awards 9.3 E-Rate Opportunities and Federal Assistance

Goal 1. Technology Curriculum

Objective 1.1 Digital Responsibility at All Levels

Digital literacy, digital citizenship, and cybersecurity have a focus on the safe, legal, and ethical use of both information and technology, by addressing the issues of safety when navigating on the Internet, protecting personally identifying information, preventing cyberbullying, and using intellectual property. This objective is integrated across all technology standards, as well as providing opportunities for explicit direct instruction.

Objective 1.2 Review of Online Content for New and/or Updated Curriculum

As the Curriculum department evaluates new and updated curriculum, they will also evaluate the feasibility of purchasing digital/online content. In addition, Student Services also adds new and updated curriculum for the Special Education classrooms and will comply with the same standards of review and evaluation as the general education Curriculum department. However, they will also consider assistive technology (AT) on an as needed basis and follow the prescribed guidelines as outlined in Objective 5.3.

Evaluation will mirror the District's philosophy of prioritizing the educational value of online content and platforms in support of curriculum standards and a blended learning style which focuses on face-to-face instruction backed with technology exercises as appropriate. Montana's schedule for reviewing the general education curriculum for the next 3 years is:

- 2025-26 – Math, World Languages, English Language Arts & Literacy
- 2026-28 – Based on Montana's OPI curricular review schedule

Objective 1.3 Evaluate Virtual/Online Courses and Textbooks

Virtual and online courses provide the flexibility of being able to take them anytime from anywhere and to fill in gaps when students require specialized transformational learning. GFPS utilizes the Montana Digital Academy platform and students are approved and assigned by building administration. In addition, an Online Grades 7-12 Academy is being developed by GFPS to expand access for both credit recovery and credit accrual. The Curriculum department and District leadership will continue to evaluate these platforms as well as other options available. Further, the Curriculum department will evaluate the feasibility of online textbooks and student digital licenses as compared to the annual consumable textbooks and resource replacement cost. The primary advantage is having the content continually updated. A hardcopy set for each classroom should also be purchased as a backup in case the internet or website is down.

Objective 1.4 Emerging Technology for Future-Ready Learning

GFPS will use a structured process for vetting, piloting, and evaluating new and emerging technology devices, platforms, and educational opportunities to ensure they align with instructional goals, equip students to navigate their futures, and provide a secure and accessible environment. The vetting process will involve collaboration between educators, technology staff, and administrators to assess potential tools based on educational value, data privacy compliance, ease of integration, available professional learning, and cost-effectiveness. Approved technologies will undergo a pilot phase in

select classrooms or schools, during which participants will engage in professional learning before and during implementation. All stakeholders will provide regular feedback on usability, effectiveness, and impact on learning outcomes throughout the pilot phase. A final review will determine whether the technology should be approved for use in the district as is, modified for better implementation, or discontinued. This process ensures the District is able to adequately support, implement, and provide opportunity for advancement with high quality, emerging technology.

Objective 1.5 Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

GFPS has established clear guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching and learning while ensuring student safety, data privacy, and academic integrity. AI-powered tools and platforms will be carefully vetted to align with educational goals, comply with data security regulations, and support equitable access for all students. The District will provide school-friendly AI platforms that are designed for educational environments, ensuring they promote critical thinking, creativity, and personalized learning while safeguarding against misinformation and bias. Educators and students will receive training on appropriate AI use, including understanding its capabilities and limitations, fostering digital literacy, and maintaining academic honesty. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will ensure AI tools remain effective, relevant, and aligned with best practices in education. Through these measures, the District will leverage AI as a supportive resource while maintaining a secure and student-centered learning environment.

Objective 1.6 Technology Industry Pathways Development

The demand for a skilled, qualified workforce in the technology industry continues to evolve. GFPS will foster partnerships with higher education institutions for dual credit programs in various technology-based fields. This educational focus will provide the building blocks for our students to seek a career in a growing and desirable industry.

Current Assessment:

- These objectives are ongoing processes and will be reevaluated and/or modified as needed annually.

Accountability:

- Teachers are accountable for implementing the curriculum and technology standards with students and following procedures for technology use in the classroom.
- The Curriculum department is responsible for reviewing new standards and selecting resources for curriculum.
- The Student Services department is responsible for reviewing and selecting resources for Special Education classrooms.

Support:

- Executive Directors, Curriculum Coordinators, Director of Information Technology, Student Services Coordinators, Principals, and Instructional/Technology Coaches will provide support to teachers.

Measure:

- Completion of training
- Curriculum reviewed and approved
- Programs operational

Funding:

- Instructional Technology Coaches
    - Information Technology General Fund
- New curriculum with online platforms
    - Curriculum General Fund
    - Student Services General Fund

Timeline:

2025-2026	Support ongoing objectives Prepare materials and Information for Technology Levy increase Evaluate running a Technology Levy to support budget - Pending Board Authorization
2026-2027	Support ongoing objectives
2027-2028	Support ongoing objectives

Goal 2. Technology Professional Learning

Objective 2.1 Customized Individual Learning

Instruction on the specific device/application along with integration of curriculum and classroom activity is essential. Our Technology and Instructional Coaches continue to be an integral piece of making technology functional in the classroom. Teachers can make individual appointments with coaches and customize training for their specific needs. GFPS will continue to require professional learning as a condition of use.

Objective 2.2 Use of Video-Based Learning

Video-based learning offers the benefits of being accessed from anywhere at any time, easily shared, engaging, and time-efficient. There are recording platforms, like ScreenCastify and YouTube, that have been approved by GFPS and are available for use. The use of video for both training and instruction in appropriate and beneficial scenarios will continue to be supported.

Objective 2.3 Online Training through the KnowBe4 Platform

GFPS has purchased the KnowBe4 platform for required Human Resources (HR) and Cybersecurity staff training. While KnowBe4 is primarily a training tool for phishing and security awareness training, it also contains modules for regulatory (e.g., FERPA, HIPPA, etc.) and HR (e.g., discrimination, harassment, ethics, etc.) requirements. In addition, custom content can be uploaded for online training specific to GFPS needs. The benefit of this training is that authorized staff can easily push out new training to all or a group of individuals, and it tracks compliance with completing the training.

Objective 2.4 Technology-Focused PIRs

Mastery of technology literacy is an important element of building a foundationally sound, sustainable model of pedagogy in the 21st century. Staff can earn PIR credits by participating in technology-focused courses. These PIR courses will be offered by GFPS annually; aligned with current instructional technology, curriculum, and standards; and intended to maximize the impact technology can have on academic success and achievement.

Objective 2.5 New Hire Training

GFPS will provide at least one full day of new certified staff training in support of setting up login credentials, ensuring correct access, and learning the navigation and case use for the core applications used by GFPS. Ongoing support for access and navigating these applications will be provided by technology and instructional coaches, as needed.

Objective 2.6 Professional Learning Opportunities

In an effort to stay abreast of evolving and emerging educational technology, GFPS will support professional learning opportunities. Each Wednesday, time is dedicated for Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Principals are encouraged to reserve at least one session per year for technology-related training. GFPS will budget annually for

training opportunities such as bringing in speakers, hosting webinars, and sending teams to conferences.

Current Assessment:

- Technology coaching is instrumental in elevating the confidence our staff has in using the technology at their disposal, thereby raising the expectations for their students in its use as well.
- Video-based learning leverages our 1:1 programs in addition to the technology professional learning staff receive each year.
- Continued and increased use of online training to instruct staff in the common Cybersecurity styles will increase our ability to prevent malicious attacks on the District. This resource will also be a considerable training resource for additional GFPS processes.
- As technology continually changes, our PIR training must be continually evaluated and modified to provide the best support for our staff in its use.

Accountability:

- Executive Directors, Principals, Teachers, Technology/Instructional Coaches

Support:

- Information Technology, Human Resources, Principals, and Technology/Instructional Coaches will provide support to teachers.

Measure:

- Completion of training and certifications.
- Renew subscriptions for training tools.
- Progress towards meeting identified needs/skills.
- Training budget established.

Funding:

- PIR and PLC
    - Elementary and Secondary General Funds
    - Curriculum General Funds
    - Building PD Funds
- Technology Coaches
    - Information Technology General Fund

Timeline:

2025-2026	Support ongoing objectives Prepare materials and Information for Technology Levy increase Evaluate running a Technology Levy to support training budget - Pending Board Authorization
2026-2027	Support ongoing objectives Evaluate PIR content
2027-2028	Support ongoing objectives Evaluate PIR Content

Goal 3. Hardware & Software Selection, Approval, and Use

Objective 3.1 All Hardware and Software Purchasing Coordinated through Information Technology

In order to standardize, reduce duplication and costs, and provide adequate support, all hardware and software purchasing should continue to be coordinated through Information Technology to make sure it meets defined specifications and is in alignment with District objectives. In addition, purchases involving new items should be reviewed and approved by a team representing the requestor, Principal, Executive Director, Director of Information Technology, and Technology Coach. All major software and hardware should be centralized and run through the budgets governed by Information Technology. See Appendix A for approved software and hardware. Using the established process for submitting requests for Web 2.0 tools, Information Technology will evaluate requests for Web 2.0, Chromebook, and iPad applications in an efficient and time-sensitive manner. Applications will be reviewed for content, relevance, duplicity, privacy/security concerns, and/or securing data privacy agreements.

Objective 3.2 New vs Refurbished Equipment

In the past, GFPS purchased refurbished equipment based on the economics and cost as compared to purchasing new equipment. Due to hardware failure issues with the refurbished equipment, the department has moved away from this process. With ESSER funding, the District was able to replace all refurbished equipment. The goal remains to purchase new equipment with a minimum of 3 years manufacturer warranty when economically feasible as currently the cost of Chromebooks are becoming substantially more expensive than in the past. Due to this increase in price, in 2025, the Board allowed a one-time purchase for new Chromebooks without the extended warranty. Any continued purchasing of new equipment, with the additional cost of the extended warranty, will require additional funding, such as a Technology Levy, to sustain.

Objective 3.3 Google vs Microsoft Applications

Both Google for Education and Microsoft's suite of applications provide a very rich and robust learning environment. While each has their strengths and weaknesses, they both play a prominent part in the set of tools used at GFPS. It is the recommendation that GFPS remain in a hybrid model and support both platforms. The simplicity of Google delivers an ideal setting for the classroom, while our community business leaders continue to express that prospective candidates should know Microsoft products to be productive in their environment.

Objective 3.4 Implement Integrated Communication Tools

GFPS's 2024-27 Strategic Plan goal for Stewardship and Accountability is to develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan to improve communication between the district, staff, parents, students, and the community. The District will work to provide a suite of communication products that include website hosting, mass notifications,

teacher-parent communication, and a mobile app to produce a cohesive and as homogenous communication platform as possible.

Objective 3.5 Evaluation, Selection, and Implementation of Single Sign On

A recent study done by NordPass indicated the average person has 100 passwords to remember. Security best practices specify that individuals should not reuse passwords and have a unique one per application. Password management is often a complaint with over 200 applications approved for use, to include required curriculum platforms, within the GFPS inventory of applications. Single Sign On (SSO) technology allows a user to sign on once with a single password and then have access to all applications for which the person is approved for without requiring additional login credentials for each one. The main benefit is only having to remember one password with immediate access to the most commonly used platforms. However, the caution is if the password is compromised, it is compromised across many applications. The Information Technology department is currently in the process of implementing SSO for the District that will simplify most of the current application logins. We will continue to work to make this process unilateral for all remaining applications and evaluate the implementation and security of this password management approach.

Objective 3.6 Evaluation, Support, and Maintenance of Classroom Management Application

Management technology allows classroom teachers the ability to monitor a student's use of computers to ensure that they stay on-task. This technology continues to evolve, requiring GFPS to now shift from implementation to continual evaluation of the current product and its ability to provide this capability with newer equipment and operating systems. The Technology Department will continue to periodically evaluate how well our current Classroom Management solution works in our environment and its ability to provide classroom teachers this functionality.

Objective 3.7 Active Directory Password Management

In the past, managing passwords, especially at the beginning of the school year, was time-consuming and frustrating to staff and students. In addition, trying to change a password off the GFPS network was not possible. Due to this, the District implemented an application to allow staff and students the ability to change their passwords from the GFPS Bookmarks page. This allows the changing of passwords from a web browser even when not on the District network. Having the capability for staff and students to change their password from anywhere using any device, along with a self-administered password reset utility, has helped reduce calls to the help desk and instructional time lost waiting for resets to happen.

Password management is one of the primary cybersecurity defenses the District employs to safeguard our network, staff, and students against loss of private information. We are not alone in this as the current Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) password suggestions are: 1) password lengths of at least 16 characters; 2) mixed characters including numbers, uppercase letters and special characters; and 3) mandate password changes every 90 days without reuse of the last 8 previous passwords.

Because of working with a student population who is learning how to manage passwords, GFPS has opted to use the following password protocols: 1) password length must be at least 8 characters; 2) include at least three of the four character combination of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters; and 3) password changes must happen annually or whenever compromised without reuse of the last 3 previous passwords. Staff are set to automatically require Active Directory (AD) password resets annually, while student AD passwords are manually reset at the beginning of each school year.

Objective 3.8 Providing Current Operating Systems for Endpoint Devices

As technology progresses, the most fluid and fast-changing aspect is the Operating System (OS) on the devices we use. GFPS, with ESSER Funds, updated all staff laptops, provided a District-wide 1:1 program for students grades 2-12, and a 2:1 program for students K-1st grades. These hardware purchases came with the most recent operating systems at the time. As time progressed, the provided OS aged and became a "past version" to newer versions (e.g., Windows 10 moved to Windows 11, etc.). The Technology Department will continually evaluate newer versions of OS and how they will interact with the District software applications across all departments. As the newer OS is vetted, it will be installed on all capable devices. This will be an ongoing process to ensure that our programs interact reliably and provide security enhancements that come with updated operating systems.

Current Assessment:

- The established process for evaluating hardware and software applications will continue to be evaluated for speed and accuracy.
- Purchasing new equipment in lieu of refurbished equipment will continue to be the standard for future technology purchases.
- Information Technology will continue to support curriculum efforts to expand both Google and Microsoft applications as they are evaluated to be beneficial to the District.
- In the summer of 2025, the implementation of an integrated communication tool will be completed after the pilot has been evaluated and proven in performance.
- Single Sign On (SSO) will be implemented in the summer of 2025 with yearly evaluation of additional applications to the SSO as deemed necessary by the District.
- Our current Classroom Management Technology platform will be evaluated for any beneficial upgrade as well as any newer technology that may benefit GFPS.
- Ongoing staff familiarization with District Active Directory password management, as well as continuation of new staff training, will benefit staff use.
- As newer Operating Systems (OS) become available, they will be vetted against our current environment and implemented, if advantageous.

Accountability:

- Executive Directors, Principals, Administrative Assistants, Information Technology, Technology/Instructional Coaches

Support:

- Information Technology, Principals, Administrative Assistants, Technology/Instructional Coaches

Measure:

- Policy and procedure for hardware and software purchases
- Standardize and streamline communication using an integrated solution
- Teachers able to monitor students' work and prevent misuse
- Improved and simplified management of passwords

Funding:

- Infrastructure and Endpoint Refresh
  - Technology Levy Budget
  - Building Technology Funds
  - Information Technology General Fund
- Instructional Technology Coaches
  - Information Technology General Fund
- Microsoft Licensing
  - Technology Fund
  - Technology Levy

Timeline:

2025-2026	Implement SSO Implement Integrated Communications Application Refresh endpoint devices as able with current funding Evaluate the current Classroom Management Application Prepare materials and Information for Technology Levy increase Renew subscriptions to PowerSchool, Frontline Leverage E-Rate funding for refresh of any Network Infrastructure hardware purchase Evaluate running a Technology Levy to sustainability of objectives - Pending Board Authorization
2026-2027	Support ongoing objectives Refresh endpoint devices as able with current funding Leverage E-Rate funding for refresh of any Network Infrastructure hardware purchase
2027-2028	Support ongoing objectives Refresh endpoint devices as able with current funding Leverage E-Rate funding for refresh of any Network Infrastructure hardware purchase

Goal 4. Infrastructure Upgrades for Performance, Reliability, Redundancy, Security, and Safety

Objective 4.1 Provide Access and Improvements to Current Private WAN Fiber and Internet Services

The installed dedicated dark fiber system provides GFPS with its network between sites as well as to the outside world. This fiber network has the capability to expand and provide foreseeable increases in the District's network speed requirements. Although the fiber network is dedicated to the District, the actual connections are not District-owned. The District leases, by agreement and funded by the federal E-Rate program, the use of the fiber network. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) that provides the District with internet services is also funded using the E-Rate program. These agreements allow the District to not only continue to provide quality and dependable network services between sites but also provides the capability to expand those services as future demands may dictate, based on periodic evaluation by the Technology Department.

Objective 4.2 Network Switch Replacement and Standardization

While desktop computers and laptops generally follow a five-year industry standard replacement schedule, network components typically do not. By and large, network components are replaced due to end of support by vendors, equipment failures, lack of functionality needed for new technology, or inability to integrate with other network components. It is best practice to standardize with a single manufacturer to simplify management and replacement, ensure compatibility and performance, and reduce training and vendor relationships. GFPS currently employs Brocade ICX series switches as our standard model. Portable network switches, used when wiring is not available, should be avoided if possible and only employed if approved and installed by the Technology Department. In 2025, the current inventory of network switches will be two years old.

Objective 4.3 Wireless Access Increase and Refresh Cycle

Trends continue to indicate that school districts are adopting more mobile technology to allow greater flexibility within and between classrooms; GFPS is no different. Wireless technology continues to advance and has become a stable, reliable, and efficient form of data communication, reaching speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second (Gbps). There are multiple factors, however, that can influence performance and present challenges. The District currently has Ruckus R750 wireless access points which were refreshed in 2024. Although these access points are currently providing adequate coverage, we continue to grow our inventory of wireless devices past even our 1:1 and 2:1 programs. GFPS will continue to refine the implementation by conducting post wireless surveys and tweaking configurations to achieve maximum performance. The goal will be to provide complete building coverage for each school, which may require additional access points and an upgrade at some point in the future.

Objective 4.4 Continued Internet and WAN Bandwidth Monitoring and Evaluation

For the 2025-2026 school year, the FCC recommended the target of at least 1 Mbps internet service for each student. That estimate has not changed since 2022 when the previous Technology Plan was written. GFPS currently provides a 10 Gbps internet service via our dark fiber WAN network. Currently our monitoring shows we are only using 20% of that capacity. We will continue to monitor and make recommendations on any needed increases in our service bandwidth, but there is no foreseeable need at this time to consider this. Some exploration of an auxiliary or failsafe network provider to ensure connectivity in the event of failure of service by the primary provider has been conducted. Unfortunately, that would not be possible with our current dark fiber provider per contract. Any such failsafe network would also require complete funding by the District, making the expense exorbitant.

Objective 4.5 Utilize E-Rate Funding for Network

The federal E-Rate program continues to be an integral part of keeping our infrastructure up to date. Eligible schools and libraries can submit RFPs for broadband equipment and services, through a competitive bidding process. Instruction on digital citizenship is not only an educational obligation but a requirement for the E-Rate federal program, which provides the District with affordable broadband equipment and services. GFPS must comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA, see Appendix B) in order to participate in E-Rate. Awards must be approved by Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), and reimbursement percentage is based on the free and reduced lunch rate of the school district. As of 2025, GFPS's reimbursement rate is 80%. This program allows us to purchase network switches, wireless access points, Cat 6 wire, fiber optic cable, and internet and WAN services for an affordable amount. We would not be able to afford it without this program. As of the writing of this plan, the current expectation is that the FCC-controlled E-Rate program will continue in the current political climate.

Objective 4.6 Digital Classroom and Virtual Offices

The Covid pandemic taught us that we need to be prepared to support remote learning. GFPS believes there will always be some form of remote learning, including homebound students. Due to this belief, the District will retain the functionality to support remote learning through various virtual meeting applications and digital classroom hardware for both instruction and administrative use. These technologies, along with our 1:1 program, will allow teachers to be prepared to implement remote learning should it be needed again.

Objective 4.7 Transition from VMWare to an Alternative Hypervisor

GFPS's virtual environment consists of multiple virtual servers (e.g., PowerSchool, our Student Information System) that sustain and provide electronic files and network processes for the District. These servers exist on a virtual hypervisor provided by a virtualization software called VMWare, which requires licensing. In 2024, VMWare was purchased by a company called BroadCom. This acquisition allowed BroadCom to significantly increase licensing charges, up to 300% of the original costs, for customers who were current VMWare customers. This created an untenable financial situation for GFPS to maintain and continue to use VMWare as our virtualization product. At this

point, plans have been made to transition the District's virtual environment to an alternative hypervisor that is economically feasible to maintain. This plan was created in three phases: 1) maintain VMWare licensing for an additional year (2026); 2) purchase parallel server infrastructure and alternative hypervisor software platform; 3) and, once a new hypervisor environment is established, implement transition of all GFPS servers to the new hypervisor environment.

Objective 4.8 Complete Replacement of Video Surveillance System

GFPS currently has over 1,000 cameras installed, and every building is covered with a basic campus-wide system. Due to the District's old video surveillance system being placed on the FTC ban list as a threat because of security vulnerabilities in the software, GFPS applied for a grant through the COPS School Violence Prevention Program to replace all old cameras and recorders in the middle and high schools. The old elementary school cameras and recorders were replaced with ESSER funding. Currently only the District Office Building (DOB), the Annex, and the Little Russell Maintenance/Technology building are left to be replaced. The District will evaluate the budget to replace these remaining cameras and recorders in 2025.

Current Assessment:

- The current E-Rate contract for our dark fiber network will end in 2028 with the option for two 1-year extensions. This will allow us to be budgetarily stable for this service.
- The current network infrastructure switches have lifetime warranties and are fully capable of increased bandwidth should GFPS require it.
- Wireless access in all schools is adequate for current needs, and those WAP units are new technology with current wireless standards.
- Bandwidth requirements for GFPS fall well below 50% of our current capacity.
- The E-Rate program will continue to be used to fund high-cost network infrastructure components and services.
- The continued benefit of virtual classroom and office capabilities will require this functionality to remain and be updated as needed.
- Our current virtualization environment will become financially untenable requiring a transition to a new virtualization environment.

Accountability:

- Information Technology

Measure:

- Video Surveillance system replaced at DOB, the Annex, and Little Russell complexes
- Continue with upgrades to virtual classroom and office applications as they become necessary
- Refresh cycle for network infrastructure continued with E-Rate 5-year funding cycle
- Successful virtualization environment transition

Funding:

- Dark Fiber Network Lease
    - E-Rate Program

    - Technology Fund
- Category 1 Network Access / Dark Fiber Lease and Category 2 Network Infrastructure components (Switches, Routers, Firewall, Access Points)
    - E-Rate Program funding at 80% of cost
    - Technology Fund
- Remaining video security replacements
    - Security Grant
    - Facilities Fund
- Virtual classroom upgrades
    - School Technology Fund
- Virtual office technology
    - Technology Fund
- Virtualization environment transition
    - Technology Fund
    - TBD - Technology Levy

Timeline:

2025-2026	Replace existing firewall with a current device using E-Rate Program Secure 3-year lease on dark fiber network Monitor WAN/Internet bandwidth File annual E-Rate RFPs as needed Completion of video surveillance system at DOB, the Annex, and Little Russell Complexes Transition from VMWare to alternative Hypervisor Environment Evaluate running a Technology Levy to sustainability of objectives - Pending Board Authorization
2026-2027	Monitor WAN/Internet bandwidth File annual E-Rate RFPs as needed for network refresh Evaluate any virtual classroom and office technology needs
2027-2028	Monitor WAN/Internet bandwidth Make plans to upgrade WAN/Internet bandwidth if required File annual E-Rate RFPs as needed for network refresh

Goal 5. Ubiquitous Access

Objective 5.1 Maintain 1:1 in Grades 2–6 and 2:1 for Grades K-1

GFPS currently maintains a 1:1 student to device ratio in elementary grades 2-6. Chromebooks are assigned to students, but they remain in the building; only if a remote learning situation warrants it will Chromebooks be taken home. The 1:1 ratio has been accomplished using one-time only funding. To maintain this proportion into the future, an increase in Technology Levy funding will be necessary. Kindergarten and First Grade share one set of Chromebooks between two classrooms (2:1). Their time on Chromebooks is minimal and approved applications are fewer, so a shared environment is appropriate for this group. If time on devices needs to increase due to additional learning platforms, GFPS will consider moving grades K-1 to a 1:1 student to device ratio. This will also need to be factored into a request for an increase in Technology Levy funding.

Objective 5.2 Maintain 1:1 Program for Grades 7-12

At the secondary level, grades 7-12, GFPS adopted a model that provides a device to each student. At the high school level, grades 9-12, devices are assigned to students when they are a freshman or as a new incoming student. The student will care for and use this device throughout the remainder of their high school careers. At the middle schools, students are assigned devices by the school. All students, grades 7-12, are able to take devices home but are responsible for the care and condition of their devices. Devices are checked out every fall and then checked in at the end of each school year to account for inventory and assess for damages to ensure all devices are maintained in good working condition. This checkout and check-in process is managed at the building level with the support of GFPS technicians. Students will be assessed fines for damaged, lost, or unrepairable devices. Student families have the option to annually purchase a device insurance policy for a nominal fee as damage protection.

Objective 5.3 Support Access with Assistive Technology (AT)

Assistive Technology (AT) must be considered for all students with disabilities who have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and/or 504 plans. Individualized plan teams must consider if a student's functional capabilities could be increased, maintained, or improved through the use of AT devices or services. The purpose of AT is to remove barriers, improve access to curriculum and educational materials, and help students reach their educational goals. GFPS is dedicated to supporting students with disabilities and uses District-specific AT guidelines to support education teams with the AT decision-making process. The District employs an Assistive Technology Team (ATT) that also includes the Director of Information Technology, one Technology Coach, and at least one of the following: Student Services Coordinator, Special Education Teacher, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and/or Speech Language Pathologist. The ATT will identify potential AT (e.g., devices, extensions, apps, software, alternative access) for students with disabilities to help ensure that all students have the technology required for educational participation and benefit, conduct a trial of a selected AT with students with disabilities, and evaluate each tool's effectiveness. Following the trial and evaluation period, the team will determine if the AT will be pursued for purchase by the District as is,

modified for better implementation, or discontinued. The team will also develop a plan for professional learning to support staff's ability to implement any purchased AT.

Objective 5.4 Equitable Level of Technology Across the District

Both the Belief Statements of the District and this Technology Plan contain language pertaining to equity in instruction and equity in access to tools to achieve academic success. Technology equity will be maintained in three ways:

- A consistent level of funding for technology per student per school.
- Maintaining a 1:1 student to device ratio in grades 2-12 and 2:1 student to device ratio in grades K-1.
- Maintaining an inventory of similar device types and models for every school.

Supplemental funding sources (e.g., grants, Title funding, etc.) will challenge equity at times, but continued, careful oversight and planning, and a balance of building, District, and Technology funding will keep the system in check.

Objective 5.5 Equitable Access from Home

The number of applications GFPS uses to educate our students increases each year. Access to these applications for our 9th-12th grade students through the 1:1 program depends on internet access inside as well as outside of our schools. In years past, this was a concern as internet access from those households that were without an Internet Service Provider (ISP) did not give the access required for the students to use their device. Current cell technology has resolved the majority of these instances by allowing all cell phones to have a hotspot connection to the cellular network for internet access. Additional access considerations have been made by retaining a small number of the Verizon hotspots the District used during Covid.

Current Assessment:

- Currently Assistive Technology has become more centralized in management, allowing quicker response to changes needed.
- Continued assessment of newer AT that can benefit GFPS will ensure that students' needs continue to be met.
- New technological advances make mobile hotspots less critical, but reserves will be kept for unforeseen needs.

Accountability:

- Information Technology, Executive Directors, Principals, Student Services

Measure:

- Additional 2000 mobile devices purchased in 2025 to support students
- Establish and maintain 20% refresh of endpoint devices annually
- Annual technology plan review for each school
- Annual Assistive Technology needs review

Funding:

- Assistive Technology
    - Student Services General Fund

- Devices
    - Technology General Fund
    - Building Funds
    - Technology Levy

Timeline:

2025-2026	Revaluate and implement any Assistive Technology needs Prepare materials and Information for Technology Levy Evaluate running a Technology Levy to support training budget - Pending Board Authorization Annual technology plan with each school – maintain equity Maintain 1:1 and 2:1 programs
2026-2027	Revaluate and implement any Assistive Technology needs Annual technology plan with each school – maintain equity Maintain 1:1 and 2:1 programs
2027-2028	Revaluate and implement any Assistive Technology needs Annual technology plan with each school – maintain equity Maintain 1:1 and 2:1 programs

Goal 6. Hardware Maintenance to Enable Reliable and Sustainable Fleet of Equipment

Objective 6.1 Refresh Schedule – Minimum Specs, Age, and Warranty

It is understood that over time, computer equipment will need to be replaced due to lack of performance and/or failure, end of support by vendors, end of warranty, specifications that no longer meet software requirements, and/or lack of functionality needed for new technology. On an annual basis, the Technology Department will identify the minimum and preferred specifications needed to keep equipment at a level that achieves a reliable and acceptable level of performance. Equipment that falls below this level will be tagged and renamed to indicate it is not to be replaced. The Director of Information Technology, one instructional coach, and one IT core tech will meet with the Principal and the teacher tech representative at each school to review the current inventory of equipment and develop a building technology plan that melds needs and goals with replacement of aging equipment. See Appendix C for a list of current minimum and preferred specifications and equipment that is on the “To Be Replaced” list.

Objective 6.2 Achieve 5-year Hardware Replacement Cycle

In conjunction with Objective 6.1, Information Technology will strive to maintain an industry standard five-year hardware replacement cycle for staff and student computers. Driving factors to accomplish this initiative are funding in the form of Technology Building Funds for each school as well as additional funding sources such as a possible Technology Levy, grants, and other options that become available. Currently our goal is to replace approximately 2,500 computers a year, once the plan is fully operational.

Objective 6.3 Sustainability Model for Grants and Foundation Awards

It is understood that GFPS as a district, individual schools, and its staff members will apply for and receive grants that involve technology components from various sources, such as the GFPS Foundation, school PTAs, and other outside sources. While grants can be an asset, they also present a challenge on how to sustain the technology after the grant ends or the technology reaches end of life. As part of the grant application process, the requestor is expected to develop an equipment sustainability model that is reviewed by a district grant review team in conjunction with the grantor itself. The District does not automatically inherit the burden of sustainability using Technology Budget funds. The sustainability model may vary widely with each grant and can range from full replacement indefinitely to no replacement, which would lead to the technology being discontinued after its usable life.

Current Assessment:

- Older equipment is replaced pending available funding along the 5-year refresh cycle goal.
- Funding is the primary factor as equipment purchased with ESSER funds are of the same age making a complete refresh unrealistic. In-house support and repair capabilities are key to sustaining current devices.
- Existing budgets for schools are insufficient to replace aged units.

Accountability:

- Information Technology, Principals, Technology Coaches

Measure:

- All computers on 5-year refresh cycle

Funding:

- Devices
    - Technology General Fund
    - Technology Levy
    - Grants
    - Foundation Awards

Timeline:

2025-2026	Annual technology plan with each school – needs and replacement Review Grant/Foundation Sustainability Models as needed Replace equipment based on 5-yr schedule and specifications Evaluate running a Technology Levy to sustainability of objectives - Pending Board Authorization
2026-2027	Annual technology plan with each school – needs and replacement Review Grant/Foundation Sustainability Models as needed Replace equipment based on 5-yr schedule and specifications
2027-2028	Annual technology plan with each school – needs and replacement Review Grant/Foundation Sustainability Models as needed Replace equipment based on 5-yr schedule and specifications

Goal 7. Support Structure to Facilitate Consistent & Uninterrupted Processes and Operations

Objective 7.1 IT Support Structure and Processes

IT Support is implemented by a structured response from the three divisions of the Technology Department:

- Field and Core Technicians handle all Help Desk requests submitted by the District staff. These tickets are prioritized by the Lead Technician and scheduled for resolution. Processes such as remote assistance, phone support, and physical visits to the staff who submitted the ticket are used to resolve the issues.
- Data Center staff handle issues that pertain to applications, data retrieval, networking or connectivity issues, and infrastructure configuration problems that affect the District Network.
- Technology Coaches in the elementary and secondary schools assist staff with the use and optimization of the District applications and devices used in the classrooms and the school administration. These coaches also are involved in the annual new staff onboarding process and guest teacher orientation/trainings, teaching district processes and applications.

Ongoing efforts to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of IT support include the following actions:

- Regular evaluations of the Incident Management Process
  - Help Desk response and evaluation process keyed on prioritization, time to resolution, and frequency of events. These will be primarily evaluated by Help Desk reports.
  - Data Center response to requests based on completion times and achieving scheduled reports. Upcoming deadlines will be placed on the Data Center calendar by District administration or the Director of Technology. Weekly Data Center meetings will keep these projects on track and on time.
  - Technology coaching requests by staff for instructional practices using applications and hardware used in the classrooms. Common requests will be added to staff professional learning and new staff onboarding as needed.
  - Monthly department meetings, including all three of the divisions, are held to optimize responses each division sees in the schools. This enables all three divisions to collaboratively resolve issues by pooling resources and skill sets.

- Employ a Change Management Process for the Department
  - Evaluate system changes for benefits/risks
  - Prioritize changes for greatest benefits
  - Thoroughly test changes
  - Back out plan if change fails
  - Proper communication of changes
  - Process for emergency changes

Objective 7.2 Technology Coaches Support Structure and Processes

Technology instructional coaches provide timely, tailored support by providing orientation, guidance, and troubleshooting on the navigation of relevant hardware and platforms; collaborating with teachers to design engaging, tech-rich lessons; modeling or co-teaching strategies; and fostering reflective practices for continuous improvement. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this support, GFPS emphasizes customized training (aligned with Goal 2), requires training as a condition of use, and encourages the development of technology-focused professional learning opportunities during technology-focused PLCs, PIRs, and cafes. Technology coaches are accessible to staff via email and/or phone.

Current Assessment:

- Staff are not always consistent in their individual use of Help Desk.
- Continued education of staff as to which Technology Division can resolve a problem.
- Help Desk reporting can be used more to evaluate response, resolution, and give insight to Coaches for possible professional learning opportunities.
- Technology Department meetings can provide interdepartmental resources for issues facing each group.
- The time to train teachers is limited and substitutes are not available to fill in.
- Technology is not a priority at PLCs.

Accountability:

- Information Technology, Principals, Staff

Measure:

- Incident and Change Management processes in place
- Help Desk reporting used to evaluate response, resolution, and common requests
- Help Desk ticket system used for 80% of reporting requests
- Flowchart for support resources identification
- Customized training for individuals; Video training
- Technology professional learning conducted in at least 1 PLC annually

Funding:

- Information Technology Field and Core Technicians, Data Center staff, Instructional Coaches
  - Information Technology General Fund
- Technology Levy
- Professional Learning Funds

Timeline:

2025-2026	Evaluate and make changes by Change Management System Monthly Technology Department meetings during school year Weekly Data Center meeting on projects and timelines Monthly evaluation and reporting of Help Desk ticket response and resolution Monthly meetings with Department Leads and Director
2026-2027	Evaluate and make changes by Change Management System Monthly Technology Department meetings during school year Weekly Data Center meeting on projects and timelines Monthly evaluation and reporting of Help Desk ticket response and resolution Monthly meetings with Department Leads and Director
2027-2028	Evaluate and make changes by Change Management System Monthly Technology Department meetings during school year Weekly Data Center meeting on projects and timelines Monthly evaluation and reporting of Help Desk ticket response and resolution Monthly meetings with Department Leads and Director

Goal 8. Security/Privacy to Protect Student and Employee Data

Objective 8.1 Annual Security/Privacy Staff Awareness Training

It has been chronicled repeatedly that humans are the weakest link in an organization's cybersecurity line of defense. This is why the primary method of attack for a bad actor is exploiting human behavior using social engineering tactics, phishing, and malicious websites as examples. It is very important that staff are aware of these types of campaigns and know how to identify and report them. GFPS will continue to use the KnowBe4 training platform to conduct annual, required security awareness training to help mitigate cybersecurity threats.

Objective 8.2 Security Assessment and Remediation Process

GFPS employs a Security Specialist whose primary responsibility is monitoring, evaluating and strengthening our Cybersecurity capabilities and defenses. This process includes continual penetration tests from outside of the District to evaluate cyber threat footprints (i.e., exposure to attacks). Any weaknesses found are strengthened or removed to prevent malicious access from that point. In addition to this ongoing threat assessment, modern equipment to prevent access to our users from malicious websites, such as the District firewall and content filtering, is in place and continually updated. Finally, our endpoints are monitored by software that identifies and prevents attacks that somehow evade the other security measures.

While this mesh of preventative measures is proving adequate, the process of securing the network and ensuring the protection of personal information is an ongoing and continuous effort, requiring diligence to evaluate and add additional or different security measures as they become necessary.

Objective 8.3 Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act

In 2019, the Montana State Legislature passed HB745 which enacts student online personal information protection. As a Local Education Agency (LEA), schools and online software vendors are obligated to protect personal student information located in the cloud. MTSBA has developed a Montana Data Privacy Agreement which encompasses the requirements of HB745. Staff are required to submit a request for the use of software, apps, and websites before using and if found to house personal student information, will be required to execute a data privacy agreement (DPA) between GFPS and the software vendor. The DPA is a legally binding contract holding the online software vendor responsible for any breach or misuse of student data.

Objective 8.4 Evaluate Strategies for Password Management

A security protocol requiring all Active Directory (AD) passwords to be reset annually has been implemented District-wide. All student AD passwords are reset at the beginning of every school year, and staff are required to change their AD password 364 days from the last password reset. The Change Password website is available online securely from

anywhere on any internet-accessible device, which allows both staff and students to reset their passwords without IT helpdesk support. In addition to AD passwords, all other GFPS and curriculum platforms requiring passwords for access will be managed with Single-Sign-On starting in the school year 2025-26 (see Objective 3.8).

Objective 8.5 Evaluation, Selection, Implementation of Laptop Encryption

District-wide activation of endpoint encryption must be centrally managed by the Technology Department. Control of this allows the Data Center the ability to access the devices as needed for security and backing up of information. Currently the District laptops are all backed up centrally in case of loss or damage. This process complicates the concept of endpoint encryption as the backup process must access the drives to back them up.

The Technology Department will continue to investigate the possible options to not only continue the backups of endpoints but to also increase security of the information on the endpoints against theft or malicious cyber-attacks.

Objective 8.6 Use of Raptor Visitor Management System

While the Raptor Visitor Management system provides an option for both security and accountability in times of emergency, the cost of the system has been a mitigating factor for all schools to fully implement. With the current funding outlook for the District, the program possibly will be on hold until either additional funding is available to complete it or another application/product is found that can give comparable functionality to the remaining schools.

Objective 8.7 Provide Data Retention Techniques for Staff Use

Currently the District has enabled Google Vault to retain indefinitely all staff Google Drive content. Microsoft OneDrive is available for staff to use regarding Microsoft application content and is also available for indefinite retention, in addition to the in-place backup of staff laptops via the Data Center.

Objective 8.8 Develop and Regularly Evaluate and Revise, as Needed, Plans for the Incident Response Plan, Disaster Recovery, and Provide Change Management

GFPS will continue to develop and modify, as needed, critical management plans. As new technologies, new equipment with new capabilities, and other technological advancements that GFPS incorporates into our network these plans will be modified to reflect the most current best practices.

- District Incident Response Plan
    - Incident Response Team - roles and responsibilities
    - Detection and Analysis
    - Containment
    - Eradication
    - Recovery
    - Communication

- District Technology Change Management Process
  - Evaluate system changes for benefits/risks
  - Prioritize changes for greatest benefits
  - Thoroughly test changes
  - Back out plan if change fails
  - Proper communication of changes
  - Process for emergency changes
- District Disaster Recovery Plan
  - Disaster Recovery Team – roles and responsibilities
  - Scope of plan
  - Identify and assess disaster risks
  - Critical applications and resources
  - Priority for restoration
  - Backup and off-site storage
  - Test DRP

Current Assessment:

- Staff are doing well but need continued phishing testing.
- Regular risks change, and reassessment of critical processes is needed.
- The Cybersecurity Specialist does regular pen testing and evaluation.
- Online applications are being vetted for student data privacy regulations.
- Password reset is available, but the staff need more instruction on use.
- There is no encryption on mobile devices, but they are backed up remotely.
- The Raptor system is in some schools, but not all, and alternative technology needs to be evaluated for schools that do not have this system.
- Cloud-based document storage backup is enabled, but staff need more instruction on use.
- Incident Response and Disaster Recovery plans need to be reevaluated and updated using Change Management.

Accountability:

- District Leadership, Executive Directors, Information Technology, Principals, Staff

Support:

- Information Technology, Technology Coaches, Executive Directors, Principals, Staff

Measure:

- Phishing Tests with notable growth in recognition
- Identified risks and security from regular testing are resolved
- Maintain compliance with Montana HB745
- Staff education in goal objectives evident from Help Desk reporting
- Resolve encryption/remote backup issue
- Cost and functionality of alternative visitor management system for schools found
- Incident Response and Disaster Recovery plan revised and tested

Funding:

- Information Technology General Fund
- Technology Levy
- E-Rate Program

Timeline:

2025-2026	Install and configure new firewall – evaluate capabilities and use Change Management to proceed with additional cybersecurity planning Use E-Rate to secure updated content filtering solution Purchase Splunk and Nexuss for pen testing and logging of network attack surface and event logging Evaluate any additional needs for centralized cybersecurity response Evaluate and incorporate additional staff instruction resources for password and online storage access Set timeline for Incident Response and Disaster Recovery plan achievement – evaluate in summer 2026
2026-2027	Evaluate and use Change Management to resolve any identified cybersecurity points of concern Evaluate staff cybersecurity awareness with KnowB4 testing
2027-2028	Evaluate and use Change Management to resolve any identified Cybersecurity points of concern Evaluate staff cybersecurity awareness with KnowB4 testing

Goal 9. Budget Funding to Support Technology Plan

Objective 9.1 Technology Levy Increase

GFPS introduced a Technology Levy in 2003 to cover computer-related expenses. As of the writing of this plan, this levy has not been adjusted for changes in ANB, cost of equipment, development of technology curriculum, or modern technological improvements. The current funding for technology is woefully below the average for AA Districts in the state and inadequate to meet current needs. It is the recommendation that the Budget Committee consider endorsing a revised Technology Levy that provides adequate funding for annual infrastructure and network wiring requirements, new and replacement computer equipment, training, support, and professional development to the full School Board. The School Board must consider that a new levy would replace the existing perpetual levy and sunset after 10 years.

Objective 9.2 Grants, Donations and Foundation Awards

GFPS will continue to investigate prospects for technology grants and foundation awards. Per Objective 6.3, all applications for technology grants and awards will need to include a sustainability plan.

Objective 9.3 E-Rate Opportunities and Federal Assistance

While in the past, the FCC and USAC have occasionally considered other funding opportunities to assist qualifying LEAs in special circumstances. As a reference, in July, 2021, the FCC authorized $7.17 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) which funded technology tools and services to support remote learning during the Covid emergency period. In addition, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund provided emergency relief funds to address the impact of Covid. GFPS will evaluate any future opportunities as they become available and determine if any are viable and feasible for the District.

Current Assessment:

- The current budget is not adequate to meet current needs.

Accountability:

- School Board Budget Committee, Superintendent, Director of Business Operations, Director of Information Technology, Principals

Measure:

- Annual revenue stream that supports objectives of the Technology Plan

Funding:

- Technology levy
- Technology grants, donations, and foundation awards
- Special circumstance grants through federal and local agencies

- Dark Fiber Network Lease
    - E-Rate
    - Information Technology General Fund
- E-Rate Program

Timeline:

2025-2026	Work with Principals for PTA and other donations Continue to leverage E-Rate funding where applicable Investigate technology grants and foundation awards Prepare School Board Budget Committee with Technology Levy info Evaluate running a revised Technology Levy - pending Board acceptance
2026-2027	Work with Principals for PTA and other donations Continue to leverage E-Rate funding where applicable Investigate technology grants and foundation awards
2027-2028	Work with Principals for PTA and other donations Continue to leverage E-Rate funding where applicable Investigate technology grants and foundation awards

Appendix A. Approved Software and Hardware

Software

GFPS Web 2.0 Tools

Hardware

Computers

CHROMEBOOK 11 3100-IN STOCK
Dell Optiplex 7040-STAFF USE-IN STOCK
Dell Optiplex 7050-Student Use-IN STOCK
DELL OPTIPLEX 7090-NEW-IN STOCK
Dell Latitude 3310 Laptop
Dell Latitude 5420 Laptop 14 inch-NEW-IN STOCK
Dell Latitude E5470 Laptop-IN STOCK

Computer Carts

EarthWalk VC32.3 for Chromebook 3100/3400 w/univer
EarthWalk VC32 for Chromebk 3180/3189 w/bin
EarthWalk VC32 for Latitude E6440 w/bin
Luxor Charging Cart - 30U

Computer Monitors

Dell 17in LCD Computer Monitor - IN STOCK
17in Flat Panel Computer Monitor - NO CHARGE
Dell 19in LCD Computer Monitor
19in Flat Panel Computer Monitor - NO CHARGE
Dell 20in LCD Computer Monitor
Dell 22in LCD Computer Monitor
Dell 24in LCD Computer Monitor

Document Cameras

AVer 8MP 60fps Document Camera
AVer M17-13 13MP 60fps Document Camera
AVer Power Adapter for Document Camera
HoverCam Solo8 Plus Document Camera
AVer F17-8M Flex Arm Document Camera
AVer F50-8M Flex Arm Document Camera
AVer Microscope Adapter for Document Camera
AVer M70W Document Camera
AVer U70+ 13MP USB Powered Doccam

Printers/Scanners

Canon imageFormula DR-M160II Scanner
HP LaserJet Pro M227fdw
HP LaserJet Pro M404n
HP LaserJet Pro M454dn Color Printer
HP LaserJet Enterprise M607n Printer
HP LaserJet Enterprise M612dn Printer
HP LaserJet Enterprise M652dn Color Printer

Projectors / Interactive Panels

Promethean ActivPanel V6 70in Display
Promethean ActivPanel Touch Mobile Stand for 70in
Promethean ActivPanel V6 75in 4K Display w/Mount
Epson BrightLink 695WI Projector - NO Mount
Epso BrightLink 725Wi Projector-No Mount
Epson Ultra-Short Throw Wall Mount
Epson PowerLite 118 Desktop Projector
Epson PowerLite 720 3 LCD Projector. NO MOUNT
Epson PowerLite 982W-3LCD PROJECTOR

Appendix B. CIPA

CIPA Explained

Appendix C. Hardware Guidelines

Minimal Specifications

Hardware Type	Manufacture/Model	Op Sysetem	CPU	RAM	Hard Drive	Wireless Adapter	Battery	Screen Size	Warranty
Desktop	Dell OptiPlex Small Form Factor (Plus 7020)	Windows 11 64-bit	Intel Core i7 processor	16GB	256GB	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 yr
Laptop	DELL LATITUDE 5450	Windows 11 64-bit	Intel Core Ultra 5	16GB	256GB	Intel Wi-Fi 6E	3-cell, 54 Wh	14 inch	1 yr
Chromebook	Dell Chromebook 3110	Chrome OS	Intel Celeron	4GB	64GB	Intel Dual Band Wi-Fi 6	3 Cell 42Whr Longlife Battery	11.6 inch	1 yr

Preferred Specifications

Prefered Specs									
Hardware Type	Manufacture/Model	Op Sysetem	CPU	RAM	Hard Drive	Wireless Adapter	Battery	Screen Size	Warranty
Desktop	Dell OptiPlex Small Form Factor (Plus 7020)	Windows 11 64-bit	Intel Core i7 processor	32GB	512GB SSD	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 yr
Laptop	Dell Lattitude	Windows 11 64-bit	Intel Core Ultra 7	32GB	256GB SSD	Intel Wi-Fi 6E	3-cell, 54 Wh	14 inch	3 yr
Chromebook	Dell Chromebook 3110	Chrome OS	Intel Celeron	4GB	64GB	Intel Dual Band Wi-Fi 6	3 Cell 42Whr Longlife Battery	11.6 inch	3 yr

Makes/Models to Be Replaced

Immediate Need	Near Term
80QL	Latitude 3380
HP Compaq Pro 6305 SFF	Latitude 5490
HP Z210 Workstation	Latitude 5580
Latitude 3310	OptiPlex 3000
Latitude E5440	OptiPlex 3060
Latitude E5450	OptiPlex 3080
Latitude E5470	OptiPlex 7040
Latitude E5570	OptiPlex 7050
Latitude E6420	
Latitude E6440	
Latitude E6540	
Latitude E7440	
OptiPlex 3020	
OptiPlex 7010	
OptiPlex 7020	
OptiPlex 7020200532021K/	
OptiPlex 780	
OptiPlex 790	
OptiPlex 9020	
OptiPlex 990	
HP Chromebook 11A	
Dell Chromebook 3100	
Acer Chromebook Tab 10	
Dell Chromebook 3100 2-in-1	
Samsung Chromebook 4	
Acer Chromebook Tab 10	
Dell Chromebook 13 (3380)	

Appendix D. Aggregate Timeline

Goal	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
1. Technology Curriculum	• Support ongoing objectives • Prepare materials and Information for Technology Levy increase • Evaluate running a Technology Levy to support budget- pending Board Authorization	• Support ongoing objectives	• Support ongoing objectives
2. Technology Professional Development	• Support ongoing objectives • Prepare materials and Information for Technology Levy increase • Evaluate running a Technology Levy to support training budget - Pending Board Authorization	• Support ongoing objectives • Evaluate PIR Content	• Support ongoing objectives • Evaluate PIR Content
3. Hardware & Software selection, approval, and use	• Refresh endpoint devices as able with current funding • Implement Single Sign on system • Select District Messaging Application from Piloted options • Review of Microsoft Applications usage • Review Classroom Management Application • Evaluate running a Technology Levy to sustainability of objectives - Pending Board Authorization	• Support ongoing objectives • Refresh endpoint devices as able with current funding • Leverage E-Rate funding for refreshing Network Infrastructure hardware	• Support ongoing objectives • Refresh endpoint devices as able with current funding • Evaluate possible OS upgrades and plans to implement • Leverage E-Rate funding for refreshing Network Infrastructure hardware
4. Infrastructure upgrades for performance, reliability, redundancy, security, and safety	• Replace Firewall using E-Rate Funding • Renew Dark Fiber Lease using E-Rate Funding • File Annual E-Rate RFP's as needed • Evaluate upgrades to Cybersecurity capabilities from the new Firewall and add any needed additional aspects. • Complete Video Surveillance upgrades at DOB/Annex and Little Russell • Transition from VMWare to alternative Hypervisor Environment • Evaluate running a Technology Levy to sustainability of objectives - Pending Board Authorization	• Monitor WAN/Internet bandwidth • File annual E-Rate RFP • Plan on increasing or replacing network switches and access points as needed using E-Rate Funding • Cybersecurity evaluation with changes to resolve any deficiencies • Evaluate any virtual classroom and office technology needs •	• Monitor WAN/Internet bandwidth • File annual E-Rate RFP • Plan on increasing or replacing network switches and access points as needed using E-Rate Funding • Cybersecurity evaluation with changes to resolve any deficiencies • File annual E-Rate RFPs as needed for network refresh •
5. Ubiquitous access	• Maintain 1:1 and 2:1 program as able with current funding • Annual technology plan with each school – maintain equity • Evaluate any AT technology needs • Evaluate and Implement GFPS Online Academy Technology guidelines and resources – maintain equity	• Maintain 1:1 and 2:1 program as able with current funding • Annual technology plan with each school – maintain equity • Evaluate Online Academy Technology and resolve any deficiencies – maintain equity •	• Maintain 1:1 and 2:1 program as able with current funding • Annual technology plan with each school – maintain equity • Evaluate Online Academy Technology and resolve any deficiencies – maintain equity •
6. Hardware maintenance to enable reliable and sustainable fleet of equipment	• Annual technology plan with each school – needs and replacement • Review Grant/Foundation Sustainability Models as needed • Replace equipment based on 5 yr schedule and specifications as able	• Annual technology plan with each school – needs and replacement • Review Grant/Foundation Sustainability Models as needed • Replace equipment based on 5 yr schedule and specifications as able	• Annual technology plan with each school – needs and replacement • Review Grant/Foundation Sustainability Models as needed • Replace equipment based on 5 yr schedule and specifications as able
7. Support structure to facilitate consistent and uninterrupted processes and operations	• Evaluate and make changes by Change Management System • Monthly Technology Department Meetings during school year • Weekly Data Center meeting on projects and timelines • Monthly evaluation and reporting of Help Desk Ticket response and resolution • Monthly meetings with Data and Technician Lead and Director • Work with Principals to incorporate more Technology at PLCs	• Evaluate and make changes by Change Management System • Monthly Technology Department Meetings during school year • Weekly Data Center meeting on projects and timelines • Monthly evaluation and reporting of Help Desk Ticket response and resolution • Monthly meetings with Data and Technician Lead and Director • Work with Principals to incorporate more Technology at PLCs	• Evaluate and make changes by Change Management System • Monthly Technology Department Meetings during school year • Weekly Data Center meeting on projects and timelines • Monthly evaluation and reporting of Help Desk Ticket response and resolution • Monthly meetings with Data and Technician Lead and Director • Work with Principals to incorporate more Technology at PLCs
8. Security/Privacy to protect student and employee data	• Annual Cybersecurity training for all staff with KnowB4 testing • Perform regular internal security assessment and remediate deficiencies • Install and configure new Firewall – Evaluate capabilities and use • Change Management to proceed with additional Cybersecurity planning • Use E-Rate to secure updated Content Filtering solution • Purchase Splunk and Nexuss for Pen Testing and Logging of network attack surface and event logging • Evaluate and incorporate additional staff instruction resources for Password and online storage access • Set timeline for Incident Response and Disaster Recovery plan achievement – Evaluate in Summer 2026 • Execute Data Privacy Agreements for staff requests	• Annual Cybersecurity training for all staff with KnowB4 testing • Perform regular internal security assessment and remediate deficiencies • Annual evaluation of Disaster Recovery and Incident Response plans • Execute Data Privacy Agreements for staff requests •	• Annual Cybersecurity training for all staff with KnowB4 testing • Perform regular internal security assessment and remediate deficiencies • Annual evaluation of Disaster Recovery and Incident Response plans • Execute Data Privacy Agreements for staff requests •
9. Budget funding to support technology plan	• Prepare School Board Budget Committee with Technology Levy info • Work with Principals for PTA and other donations • Investigate technology grants and foundation awards • Continue to search for, evaluate and use available grants and donations.	• Work with Principals for PTA and other donations • Investigate technology grants and foundation awards • Continue to search for, evaluate and use available grants and donations.	• Work with Principals for PTA and other donations • Investigate technology grants and foundation awards • Continue to search for, evaluate and use available grants and donations.

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Skornogoski	Sunchild	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: IX. D.

CABINET MEMBER: Heather Hoyer

TOPIC

First Reading of Revised Board Policies 2333 – *Participation in Commencement Exercises;* 2413 – *Credit Transfer/Assessment for Placement from Non-Accredited and/or Nonpublic Schools;* 2420 – *Grading and Progress Reports; and* 2520 – *Animals/Pets in School.*

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

A committee consisting of Superintendent Heather Hoyer, Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick, Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans, Executive Directors of Student Achievement Jackie Mainwaring and Lance Boyd, Business Office Lead Aly Konecny, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Sherri Clark, Administrative Assistant Jerri Rollins and Trustees Bill Bronson and Paige Turoski, have been meeting to discuss and make changes where necessary on the policies mentioned above.

DISCUSSION

Policy 2333	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2413	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2420	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee
Policy 2520	Language Changes as recommended by MTSBA and the Committee

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only. No action is required at this time. The request will be brought before the Board for action at a future Board meeting.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Hoyer at (406) 268-6001.

Return to Agenda

Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's right to participate in a commencement exercise of the High School graduating class is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation and are in good standing before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at the time of completion. Students who violate the District's discipline policy may be prohibited from participating in commencement exercises.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The school district will permit students to honor their ~~American Indian~~ *Indigenous* heritage through the display of culturally significant tribal regalia at commencement ceremonies. Any item that promotes drug use, weapon use, threats of violence, sexual harassment, bullying, or other intimidation, or violates another district policy, state, or federal law may not be worn during graduation.

The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

Students may participate in the graduation exercises of the High School they are enrolled in during the last semester preceding graduation.

The school administrators will review presentations and specific content, and may advise participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

The printed program for a commencement exercise will include the following paragraphs:

- Any presentation by participants of graduation exercises is the private expression of an individual participant and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the District, its Board, administration, or employees, nor does it necessarily indicate the views of any other graduates.
- The Board recognizes that at graduation time and throughout the course of the educational process, there will be instances when religious values, religious practices, and religious persons will have some interaction with the public schools and students. The

Board, while not endorsing any religion, recognizes the rights of individuals to have the freedom to express their individual political, social, or religious views.

Cross Reference:

Policy 2410	High School Graduation Requirements
Policy 2410R	Publication of Graduation Requirements

Legal Reference:

Art. II, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution	Freedom of Religion
Art. X, Sec. 1(2), Montana Constitution	Educational Goals and Duties
Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution	Nondiscrimination in Education
§ 20-5-201(3), MCA	Duties and Sanctions
§ 20-1-308, MCA	Religious Instruction Released Time Program
§ 20-7-112, MCA	Sectarian Publications Prohibited and Prayer Permitted
§ 2-1-315, MCA	Tribal Regalia and Objects of Cultural Significance-Allowed at Public Events

Policy History:

Adopted on:	November 27, 2017
Revised on:	

~~2413~~ INSTRUCTION *2413*

Credit Transfer/Assessment for Placement from Non-Accredited and/*or* Nonpublic Schools

Grades 9-12

Requests for transfer of credit and/or grade placement from any non-accredited *and/or* nonpublic school shall be subject to examination and approval before being accepted by the District. This shall be done by the school counselor and/or principal or, in the case of home schools, by a credit evaluation committee consisting of a counselor, a staff member from each subject area in which credit is being requested, and the school principal.

The credit evaluation committee will:

1. Document that the student has spent approximately the same number of classroom hours in the home school as would have been spent in a regular class in the District;
2. Document that the student followed a curriculum essentially similar to that of a course for which credit is requested;
3. Document that in the event of a credit request in a lab, industrial arts or music course, the equipment and facilities were sufficient to meet the required learning activities of the course;
4. Require that the student has satisfactorily passed, in all courses where a final exam is normally given, a final exam ~~which was~~ *prepared and* administered by a staff member in the District.

The District will give credit only for home schools which have met all requirements as specified in Montana law. Credit from home schools will only be accepted when a like course is offered in the District.

The school transcripts will record courses taken in home schools or non-accredited schools by indicating the title of the course, the school where the course was taken, and the grade.

For purposes of calculation of class rank:

1. only those courses taken in an accredited school will be used; and
2. a student must have at least 10 credits from an accredited school.

Grades 1-8

Requests from parents of students in non-accredited, nonpublic schools for placement in the District school system will be evaluated by an assessment-for-placement team. That team will ~~consist of~~ *include*:

1. The school principal;

2. One (1) teacher of the grade in which the student is being considered for enrollment; *and*
3. One (1) counselor (grades 7-8 only).

The assessment-for-placement team will cause the District-adopted norm-referenced test and/or end-of-the-year subject-matter tests to be administered and scored. An assessment-for-placement team will take into account the following in its recommendation for grade placement:

1. Documentation that the non-accredited, nonpublic school has provided a comparable number of hours as the child would have attended in a public or private school;
2. That the child followed a similar curriculum as would have been provided in an accredited public or private school;
3. That the result of the end of the year test indicates the student has mastered most prerequisite skills; *and*
4. Scores received on individual diagnostic/basic achievement tests used to assist in placement decisions.

Parents of students in home schools are encouraged to maintain a log ~~which documents~~ *documenting* dates of instruction, content of instruction, amount of time spent on that instruction, scores on tests, and the grades in all activities.

The District is not obligated to provide instructional materials for other public, private, or home schools.

If ~~a~~ *the* parent or guardian ~~of a child~~ is not in agreement with the placement of the child, he/she may request a hearing before the Board.

Legal Reference:

§20-5-110, MCA	School District Assessment for Placement of a Child Who Enrolls From a Non-Accredited, Nonpublic School

Policy History:

Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
Revised on:	August 22, 2005
Revised on:	November 24, 2014

~~2420~~ INSTRUCTION *2420*

Grading and Progress Reports

The Board believes that the cooperation of school and home is a vital ~~ingredient~~ *component* in the growth and education of the student and recognizes the responsibility to keep parents informed of student welfare and progress in school.

The issuance of grades and progress reports on a regular basis serves as ~~the~~ *a* basis for continuous evaluation of the student's performance and *for* determining changes that should be made to effect improvement. These reports ~~shall~~ *will* be designed to provide information that will be helpful to the student, teacher, counselor and parent.

The Board directs the Superintendent *or designee* to establish a system of reporting student progress and ~~shall~~ *will* require all staff members to comply with such a system as part of their teaching responsibility. Staff members, parents and teachers ~~shall *will* be involved~~ *are valued participants in this process.*

Policy History:
Adopted on: July 1, 2000
Revised on:

Great Falls School District

~~2520~~ INSTRUCTION 2520

Animals/Pets in School

The District recognized that there are medical and physical dangers associated with animals, both wild and domesticated, in the classroom and/or on school property. The District also recognizes that under proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. The following guidelines are adopted regarding all animals (mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, fish, insects, etc..) in the classroom or on school property.

- Animals will be allowed to be housed in classrooms only for specified and appropriate educational purpose for the time necessary to achieve the educational goal. The District will permit the use of service animals by an individual with a disability according to federal regulations and GFPS Board Policy 8425—Service Animals.
- Under no circumstances are animals to be transported on school buses.
- All requests to have animals in the classroom or on school property must have prior approval from the supervising teacher and building principal. The request must identify type of animal/pet, educational purpose, length of activity, and plan for the care of the animal. The principal has the discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals.
- Students and teachers with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are brought into the school. Prior to any exposure to animals in school, the teacher shall research to ensure that any condition such as allergies will not be exacerbated by exposure to animals. See Policy 8302R regarding animals in the Classroom and Indoor Air Quality for more information.
- All requests to take field trips involving animals must be submitted to the principal in writing. The principal shall be guided by the district policy on field trips (Board Policy 2320) and shall also take into consideration any known allergies among the students. (Board Policy 2320)
- Domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, primates, or livestock, may be allowed in schools for educational purposes, but only with proof of all appropriate vaccinations and/or current rabies vaccination. Any domesticated mammal that is too young to be immunized for rabies will not be allowed.
- Wild animals (e.g., skunks, raccoons, badgers, lynx, bobcats, bats, ~~elpha~~, coyotes, or fox) shall not be allowed unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the animals (e.g., zookeepers, docents, veterinarians, etc.)
- All animals brought for exhibit must be restrained by the owner/handler.
- Poisonous animals are not allowed.
- Each teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students under his/her direction whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals in the school.
- It is the responsibility of the teacher to provide a plan of care for classroom-housed animals including care on weekends, holidays, and during emergency closure.
- No animals will be allowed free range in district facilities or on district property.

- The principal must be notified as soon as possible if an individual is bitten by an animal, or any incident occurs which could have an adverse effect on physical or emotional health.
- The principal must notify parents/guardians of involved students. The principal must also contact their immediate supervisor.

Cross References:

Policy 2320 Field Trips, Excursions and Outdoor Education
Policy 2320R Field Trips
Policy 8302 Indoor Air Quality
Policy 8302R Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality
Policy 8425 Service Animals
Policy 8425F Service Animals ~~Form Policy History~~ *Inquiries*
Policy 8426 Therapy Animals

Policy History:

Adopted on: November 9, 2015
Revised on: November 14, 2016
Revised on:

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Turoski	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Finnicum	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025

CATEGORY: Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: IX. E.

BOARD MEMBER: Evaluation Committee Chairperson Amie Thompson

TOPIC

Superintendent Evaluation Process

BACKGROUND

As per Board Policy 6110 *Administration-Superintendent*, the Board will evaluate, at least annually, the performance of the Superintendent, using standards and objectives developed by the Superintendent and Board, which are consistent with the District's mission and goal statements. A specific time shall be designated for a formal evaluation session. The evaluation should include a discussion of professional strengths, as well as performance areas needing improvement.

The adopted evaluation process and instrument are attached.

DISCUSSION

The Board has received no community input.

Next steps are:

- May 1, 2025 – Trustees' individual assessments of the Superintendent's performance are due to the Board Superintendent Evaluation Committee Chairperson Amie Thompson. The Committee Chairperson compiles all scores and comments into a single document.
- May 12, 2025 – The District Board completes its evaluation of the Superintendent's performance. The first phase of this final step of the evaluation process provides individual Board members with the opportunity to discuss their scores and comments with the Superintendent. The Board Chairperson may determine that the Superintendent's right to privacy in this discussion-and-query phase supersedes the public's right to know, so this portion of the evaluation process may be conducted in closed session.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes. No action is required at this time.

For more information about this item, please contact School Board Chairperson Gordon Johnson at (406) 788-4395 or Board Superintendent Evaluation Committee Chairperson Amie Thompson at (406) 750-0901.

Return to Agenda

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS
2024 - 2025

Deadline	Task
March 13	Board discusses process and instrument with the superintendent before placing these items on the board agenda for March 24.
March 24	Board action on evaluation process and instrument. The committee chair announces and encourages public input, either in writing to the committee chair by April 23 or as public comment to the board at the April 28th regular board meeting. An evaluation survey link will be available to the public on the GFPS District website on March 28, 2025.
April 23	Written comments from the public are due to the committee chairperson. To be considered in the evaluation process, written comments must include the author's name and address.
April 28	As an agenda report, the committee chairperson provides a summary of submitted written comments from the public and disseminates the evaluation instrument to trustees for individual completion. Public comment relevant to the superintendent's evaluation will be taken in conjunction with the agenda item.
May 1	Trustees' individual assessments of the superintendent's performance are due to the committee chairperson. The committee chairperson compiles all scores and comments into a single document.
May 12	Board completes its evaluation of the superintendent's performance. The first phase of this final step of the evaluation process provides individual board members with the opportunity to discuss their scores and comments with the superintendent and to discuss the public's comments with the superintendent. The board chair will determine if the Superintendent's right to privacy in this discussion-and-query phase supersedes the public's right to know, so this portion of the evaluation process may be conducted in closed session. The board will take formal action on the superintendent's performance in the open public board meeting.
May 16	The compiled summary of the evaluation will be made available to the public.

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

The following statements describe various aspects of a superintendent and their work.
For each item, there are six choices: 5 Performance is excellent
4 Performance is above average
3 Performance is average
2 Performance needs improvement
1 Performance is unacceptable
U Unable to assess

Please mark one choice that most accurately describes your observations as a board member.
If you mark either a "1" or "5" you will need to provide reason(s) under "*Comments.*"
If you fill this form out on a computer, you can expand the comments section as you type.

I. PERSONAL QUALITIES

		1	2	3	4	5	U	Comments
A	Defends principles and convictions in the face of pressure and partisan influence while keeping an open mind.							
B	Maintains high standards of ethics, honesty, and integrity in all personal and professional matters.							
C	Earns respect and standing among professional colleagues.							
D	Allocates time and energy effectively to the job.							
E	Works well with individuals and groups.							
F	Establishes herself as a well-known, visible, and respected community leader.							
G	Exercises good judgment.							
H	Strives to be responsive and transparent when questioned by trustees, media, and the public.							
I	Possesses and maintains the health necessary to meet the responsibilities of the position.							
J	Maintains poise and emotional stability in the full range of professional activities.							
K	Is suitably attired and well-groomed.							
L	Communicates effectively with staff members, the Board, and the public, in writing, in formal presentations, and in interpersonal contexts.							
M	Displays a positive attitude toward her responsibilities.							

II. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BOARD

		1	2	3	4	5	U	Comments
A	Keeps the Board informed on issues, needs, and operation of the school system.							
B	Offers professional advice to the Board on matters requiring Board action, with recommendations based on appropriate study and analysis.							
C	Skillfully interprets and executes the intent of Board policy.							
D	Supports Board policy and actions to the public and staff.							
E	Has a harmonious working relationship with the Board.							
F	Effectively serves as liaison between the Board and personnel, working toward a high degree of understanding and respect between the Board and staff.							
G	Remains impartial toward the Board, treating all Board members alike and refraining from criticism of a Board member or members.							
H	Makes active and sustained efforts to know and make effective use of each Board member's assets and interests.							
I	Goes immediately and directly to the Board, in an earnest effort to resolve any differences of opinion between herself and a Board member or members.							
J	Bases position on matters discussed by the Board upon principle, until an official position has been reached, after which she supports the decision of the Board.							

Reserved for the Board

III. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

		1	2	3	4	5	U	Comments
A	Acts as educational leader of the schools by supervising administrative staff, overseeing curriculum development and instruction, and promoting staff development.							
B	Oversees personnel management by planning staffing needs, ensuring that personnel policies and the evaluation of all staff are in place, and encouraging staff participation in planning and decision-making.							
C	Displays skill in gathering, analyzing, and using data for decision-making; framing problems; and posing alternative solutions.							
D	Oversees financial management by proposing a balanced district budget, managing expenditures within the approved budget, ensuring adequate controls, and anticipating future financial needs.							
E	Stresses executive leadership and vision in shaping school culture and climate, empowering others, and emphasizing multicultural and ethnic understanding.							
F	Centers on developing procedures for working with the Board; formulating district policy, standards, and regulations; and describing public school governance.							
G	Models professional engagement by participating in professional activities and associations, attending conferences, and contributing to the work of government and professional educational committees.							
H	Anticipates and implements strategies to explain educational challenges to the public and engage them in solutions.							

IV. DISTRICT GOALS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2024-2025

		1	2	3	4	5	U	Comments
1	Shows progress toward increased student achievement for all students, focusing on at least one year's growth in literacy and math.							
2	Ensures the preparation of students for college, career and citizenship readiness with a specific emphasis this evaluation period on the continued implementation of career pathways and Profile of a Learner.							
3	Provides prudent stewardship of public resources, through inclusive, transparent, and long-term budget-related processes.							
4	Demonstrates accountability and encourages the engagement of key partners: parents, staff, businesses, social services, and post-secondary options.							
5	Provides for the safety and welfare of all students by implementing the District Safety Plan.							
6	Provides the data, analysis, public input, and engagement necessary to ensure the health, safety, and quality of the educational experience in all of the school facilities of the Great Falls Public Schools District.							

Quick Reference – see page 4 of Great Falls Public School 3-Year Strategic Action Plan for the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan; Year at a Glance

Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Submissions must be received by April 23, 2025. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

Submit to: Amie Thompson, Superintendent Evaluation Committee Chairperson
PO Box 2429
Great Falls, MT 59403

Or: amie_thompson@gfps.k12.mt.us