

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD APRIL 14, 2025**  
4

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

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

10  
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson – Chairperson  
12 Kim Skornogoski – Vice Chairperson  
13 Bill Bronson  
14 Mark Finnicum  
15 Marlee Sunchild  
16 Amie Thompson  
17 Paige Turoski  
18

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

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

26  
27 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
28 Trustees and informed the participants and audience that the meeting was being  
29 recorded per Board Policy 1420. He asked student representative Lilli Skaer to lead the  
30 Pledge of Allegiance.  
31

32  
33 **ADOPT AGENDA**

34  
35 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt  
36 the agenda as presented.  
37

38  
39 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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41 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve  
42 the Consent Agenda as presented.  
43

44 **A. Minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the  
45 minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting as presented.  
46

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

- 1 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple  
2 Awards for Jon Seekins, Resource 1 Teacher, Great Falls High School; Tahlia Murillo,  
3 Student, Great Falls High School; Dazlynn Campbell, Tobin Grubb, Jordan Henry,  
4 Donovan Olson, Alex Phares, Xaidia Thibert, Elijah Vaile, Harrison Burgess, Brodie  
5 Accord, Kayden Pettis, and Marcus St. Goddard, Students, Paris Gibson Education  
6 Center; and Mende Kloppel and Kathryn Lewis, Community Members, Great Falls,  
7 Montana.  
8
- 9 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificate – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the  
10 Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35s for the individuals listed in the  
11 agenda.  
12
- 13 **E. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2024-2025 School Year** – The  
14 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2024-2025 school  
15 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of  
16 Residence.  
17
- 18 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2025-2026 School Year** – The  
19 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2025-2026 school  
20 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of  
21 Residence.  
22
- 23 **G. Establish Student Activity Account for Great Falls High School** – The Board  
24 approved the request to open the “Class of 2028” student activity fund at Great Falls  
25 High School.  
26
- 27 **H. Charles M. Russell (CMR) High School Business Professionals of America**  
28 **(BPA) Travel Request to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida**  
29 **May 6-11, 2025** – The Board approved the CMR High School BPA travel to the National  
30 Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida from May 6-11, 2025.  
31
- 32 **I. Great Falls High School High School Business Professionals of America (BPA)**  
33 **Travel Request to the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida May 6-**  
34 **11, 2025** – The Board approved the Great Falls High School BPA travel to the National  
35 Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida from May 6-11, 2025.  
36
- 37 **J. GFPS Air Force Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Travel**  
38 **Request to Montana State University and Yellowstone National Park** – The Board  
39 approved the Great Falls Public Schools JROTC travel request to Montana State  
40 University and Yellowstone National Park from April 29 – May 1, 2025.  
41
- 42 **K. GFPS Air Force Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Travel**  
43 **Request to the Western National Archery Tournament in Sandy, Utah** – The Board  
44 approved the Great Falls Public Schools JROTC Archery Team travel request to Sandy,  
45 Utah from April 23-26, 2025 for the Western National Archery Tournament.  
46
- 47 **L. Indigenous Education Travel Request to the Western National Archery**  
48 **Tournament in Sandy, Utah** – The Board approved the Paris Gibson Education Center

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

3  
4 **M. Return of the Donation of a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado** – The Board approved the  
5 return of a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado to the original donor, Alice Sutherland. The  
6 donation was originally accepted at the February 24, 2025 regular Board meeting.

7  
8  
9 **COMMUNICATION**

10  
11 **A. Student Representatives Report**

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

28  
29 Paris Gibson Education Center Student Representative Conner Reisinger reported they  
30 explored sound waves and their connection to music, conducted a hands-on chicken lab  
31 integrating the scientific method and animal care, and studied succulents to understand  
32 adaptation. Field trips during Western Art Week allowed students to interact with local  
33 artists and participate in collaborative artmaking. A special Medicine Bag lesson  
34 combined cultural teachings with geology, symbolizing personal empowerment. Public  
35 speaking skills were developed through group presentations in chemistry. Prom was  
36 successfully student-led, providing a fun and safe evening. The multi-school archery  
37 team won the state championship for the third year in a row and is headed to Nationals,  
38 with Paris Gibson Education students helping fundraise through concessions at the  
39 state competition.

40  
41 Great Falls High School (GFHS) student representatives Seth Royer and Kaitlynn  
42 Fulbright reported Government classes at Great Falls High recently hosted the City of  
43 Great Falls Planning and Community Development Department, emphasizing the  
44 importance of civic engagement. Students also engaged in cultural learning through  
45 traditional indigenous games in Montana Government classes. Honors chemistry  
46 students are studying titrations, and English classes have begun junior research  
47 projects. Celebrations included the Heisey Awards recognizing 58 students with \$200  
48 checks, Angel Davis receiving the Val Knight Award, and the Bigfoot Archery Club

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

9  
10 **B. Superintendent's Report**

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

32  
33 **C. Audience Communication**

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

38  
39  
40 **ACTION ITEMS**

41  
42 **A. Second Reading of New Family and Consumer Science (FCS) and Business**  
43 **District Standards (KUDs: Know-Understand-Do) –** Secondary Curriculum Director,  
44 Beckie Frisbee, reviewed the FCS and Business KUDs updates. The first reading of the  
45 KUDs was at the March 24, 2025 regular Board meeting. No public concern or  
46 comments were submitted.

1 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the  
2 new KUDs for Family and Consumer Science and Business.  
3

4 **B. Multidistrict Agreement Between Great Falls School District 1 and Great Falls  
5 School District A** – Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, explained the  
6 Multidistrict Agreement allows the District the ability to adjust funding between the  
7 elementary and high school districts. He stated the current agreement expires on June  
8 30, 2025 and an extension of the agreement would allow the district to better balance  
9 the funding for our students.  
10

11 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to  
12 approve the extension of the Multidistrict Agreement between Great Falls School District  
13 1 and Great Falls School District A as presented.  
14

15 **C. Technology Multidistrict Agreement** – Director of Business Operations, Brian  
16 Patrick, reviewed the existing multidistrict technology agreement between Great Falls,  
17 Belt, and Vaughn Public Schools, originally established in 2012 under Montana law 20-  
18 3-363. The current agreement, set to expire on June 30, 2025, includes provisions for  
19 district withdrawal, a three-year term, and funding guidelines, with a continued use of a  
20 Memorandum of Understanding to outline cooperative activities and purchases.  
21

22 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to  
23 approve the continued participation in the Technology Multidistrict Agreement between  
24 Great Falls Public Schools 1 and A, Belt Public Schools, and Vaughn Public Schools, as  
25 presented in the agreement.  
26

27 **D. Great Falls High School Roofing Project Bid Award** – Director of Business  
28 Operations, Brian Patrick, stated in 2022, a district-wide roof assessment conducted by  
29 Cushing Terrell identified critical roof issues at Great Falls High School, specifically at  
30 the Fieldhouse, where persistent leaks were found to originate from exposed Concrete  
31 Masonry Unit (CMU) walls. The District solicited bids for the 2025 Great Falls High  
32 School Fieldhouse Wall Repair and Partial Roof Replacement Project. The bid process  
33 followed all legal and policy requirements, and four bids were received, two of which  
34 were disqualified due to one bid being late and another being incomplete. A & R  
35 Construction LLC submitted the lowest qualified bid at \$975,031.00, which includes  
36 repairs to roof sections G, I, and J, wall finish installations over designated areas, and  
37 storefront window replacements. Funding for the project will be provided through a  
38 combination of the Building Fund, High School General Fund, and Interlocal Fund.  
39

40 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve  
41 the Wall Repair and Partial Great Falls High School Roof Replacement Project with the  
42 understanding that the lowest qualified bidder, A & R Construction LLC, will complete  
43 the revised project that includes the Base Bid along with Alternate Bids #2, #3, and  
44 Alternate Bid #4 which replaces the drains for roof sections E,G,I, and J. Work will be  
45 scheduled for the summer of 2025. The total bid amount recommended for approval is  
46 \$549,734.00.  
47

1 **E. Non-Renewal Temporary, Non-Tenured Teachers with Positions Expiring June**  
2 **6, 2025** – Director of Human Resources, Luke Diekhans, stated the non-renewal of the  
3 non-tenured teachers listed in the agenda is required because they were hired for one-  
4 year-only positions late in the school year. The employees may apply for other  
5 available positions for which they qualify through the in-district transfer process.  
6

7 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to non-  
8 renew the teachers listed in the agenda as they are one-year-only temporary positions  
9 that expire June 6, 2025.  
10

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12 **ACTION: OTHER**

13 There were no items extracted from the Consent Agenda to discuss.  
14  
15

16 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**  
17

18 **A. First Reading of New High School and Middle School Theatre and High School**  
19 **Health Science District Standards (KUDs: Know-Understand-Do)** – Secondary  
20 Curriculum Director, Beckie Frisbee, reviewed the updates on the revised Career and  
21 Technical Education (CTE) standards, which reflect the 2021 changes adopted by the  
22 Office of Public Instruction. Great Falls Public Schools has updated its "Know,  
23 Understand, Do" (KUD) documents to align with these standards and meet current  
24 industry expectations. The Health Science department utilized national standards to  
25 guide their revisions, while the Theatre department aligned its updates with the Montana  
26 State Standards for Theatre. The updated KUDs will be posted online and made  
27 available in the curriculum office for public review prior to the second reading scheduled  
28 for the May 12, 2025, regular Board meeting.  
29

30 **B. First Reading of Revised Board Policies 2105 – *Grade Organization*; 2130 –**  
31 ***Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests*; 2132 – *Research Studies*; 2163 –**  
32 ***Traffic Education*; and 2166 – *Gifted Program*** – Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the  
33 recommended language revisions from the Montana School Boards Association  
34 (MTSBA) and the Policy Committee to each of the Board policies listed. She asked if  
35 anyone had questions or concerns about any of the policies to contact her prior to the  
36 next regular Board meeting.  
37

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

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

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

1 for attending the Purple Up ceremony with Trustee Finnicum, expressing that Trustee  
2 Finnicum will be greatly missed following his retirement from the Board.  
3 Trustee Turoski expressed appreciation for the peer mentor group and the recent health  
4 week activities at Great Falls High School. She shared that Valley View Elementary  
5 School hosts an annual fundraiser for Special Olympics, highlighting a popular ice  
6 bucket challenge involving a teacher and the Principal. Trustee Turoski noted student  
7 enthusiasm for secret staff dress-up days at Valley View, including one student who  
8 noticed all staff wore black on the same day. She closed by wishing everyone a Happy  
9 Easter.

10 Trustee Skornogoski reported that peer mentors recently visited the Great Falls Public  
11 Library to speak with 6th graders about transitioning to high school. She mentioned the  
12 importance of discussing the upcoming mental health fair and noted a financial literacy  
13 volunteer opportunity. Trustee Skornogoski also shared plans to supervise a field trip  
14 with 7th and 8th graders tomorrow.

15 Trustee Finnicum reflected on six years of service on the Great Falls Public Schools  
16 Board of Trustees and extended thanks to Brian Patrick for his years of dedication. He  
17 commended Conner from Paris Gibson Education Center for his enthusiasm and  
18 energy.

19 Trustee Sunchild commented on the many positive updates shared during the meeting  
20 and expressed appreciation for the speed and efficiency with which Superintendent  
21 Hoyer and executive directors communicate with the Board and parents. Trustee  
22 Sunchild also shared reflections on mental health, referencing her daughter's internship  
23 experience in sports psychology and its insights into the "athlete brain."

24 Chairperson Johnson encouraged everyone to view the upcoming Thursday Think Tank  
25 sessions and the noon Key Meetings. He highlighted the importance of District  
26 presence at these meetings and the focus on long-term District visioning.

## 27 28 29 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

30  
31 Chairperson Johnson stated the next regular Board meeting will be on Monday, April  
32 24<sup>th</sup>, the Scholarship Celebration will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, and May  
33 mayhem is coming!

## 34 35 36 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

37  
38 With no further comments or items to be discussed, Chairperson Johnson adjourned the  
39 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:47 p.m.

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41  
42  
43  
44 \_\_\_\_\_  
45 Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

46 \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Patrick, Clerk