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2 **B. Minutes of the May 12, 2025, Closed Session** – Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded
3 – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025,
4 Closed Session as presented.

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6 **C. Trustee Election Results** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained
7 that on May 14, 2025, he, Vice-Chairperson Kim Skornogoski, Trustee Bill Bronson, and
8 Sherri Clark, met with Cascade County Election Administrator Lynn DeRoche to review
9 and confirm the results the Trustee Election held on May 6, 2025.

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11 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to canvas
12 the May 6, 2025, Trustee Election results that include the election of Gordon Johnson,
13 Paige Turoski, and Craig Duff, as duly appointed Trustees each for a three-year term.

14
15 **D. Actions of the Present Board** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick
16 explained this action concludes all business and commitments of the present (outgoing)
17 Board and allows for the clear delineation of activities between the present Board and
18 the new Board. All actions are considered complete and there will be no reason for the
19 present Board to return to conclude business on unfinished items.

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21 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to ratify all
22 actions of the present Board.

23
24 **E. Swearing In and Oath of Office of Newly Elected Trustee** – Motion – Paige
25 Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to Swear in and complete the
26 Oath of Office for the newly elected Trustees, as presented. Brian Patrick, Clerk of the
27 Board, gave the Oath of Office to newly elected Trustees Gordon Johnson, Paige
28 Turoski, and Craig Duff.

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30 **F. Organization of the New Board**

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32 **1. Elect Chairperson** – Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed
33 unanimously to appoint Gordon Johnson as the Board Chairperson for the Board of
34 Trustees for a term of one year.

35
36 **2. Elect Vice-Chairperson** – Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson,
37 passed unanimously to appoint Kim Skornogoski as Board Vice-Chairperson for the
38 Board of Trustees for a term of one year.

39
40 **G. Designate and Swear In Clerk of the District/Board** – Motion – Kim Skornogoski,
41 Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to designate Brian Patrick as Clerk of
42 the Board until his position is filled. Aly Konecny gave Brian Patrick the Oath of Office.

43
44 **H. Common Resources of the Board** – Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie
45 Thompson, passed unanimously to approve the Common Resources of the Board as
46 presented. The Common Resources of the Board are the Attorney of Record – Faure
47 Holden Attorneys at Law, P.C.; Property, Liability and School Board Errors & Omissions
48 Insurance – Montana Schools Property and Liability Insurance Plan/Marsh McLennan

1 Agency; Banking and Investments – First Interstate Bank; Worker’s Compensation
2 Insurance – Montana School Group Insurance Authority (MSGIA) and Workers’
3 Compensation Risk Retention Program (WCRRP); Unemployment Insurance – Montana
4 Schools Unemployment Insurance Program (MSUIP); and Trustee Organizations –
5 Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA).
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8 **BOARD COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION**

9 All Trustees thanked Mark Finnicum for his work and time for the past six (6) years
10 spent as a Trustee on the Great Falls Public School Board. They then congratulated
11 Trustees Turoski and Johnson for their re-election and welcomed new Trustee Craig
12 Duff. Trustee Duff thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board for the
13 next three (3) years.
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16 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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18 Chairperson Johnson adjourned the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees at
19 5:52 p.m.
20

21 Chairperson Johnson announced there will be a short break before starting the Regular
22 Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
23

24
25 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
26 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
27 **HELD MAY 27, 2025**
28

29 A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public
30 Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South, on the 27th day
31 of May 2025.
32

33 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.
34

35 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
36 Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
37 Bill Bronson
38 Craig Duff
39 Marlee Sunchild
40 Amie Thompson
41 Paige Turoski
42

43 **Others Present:** Heather Hoyer, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
44 Operations; Jeff Williams, Director of Information Technology; Jackie Mainwaring,
45 Executive Director for Student Achievement; and Stephanie Becker, Director of the
46 Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls
47 Education Association President.
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1 At 5:54 p.m., Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
2 Trustees.

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5 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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

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11 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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13 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
14 the Consent Agenda as presented.

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16 **A. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

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18 **B. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2024-2025 Second Semester** –
19 The Board approved the TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for bus routes for both the
20 high school and elementary districts for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year.

21
22 **C. Kindergarten Early Entrance for the 2025-2026 School Year** – The Board
23 approved the students listed in the agenda to enroll in kindergarten for the 2025-2026
24 school year due to exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3110R.

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26 **D. Student Activity Accounts for April 2025** - The Board approved the Student
27 Activity Accounts for April 2025.

28
29 **E. Resolution to Dispose of Unsuitable District Property** – The Board approved the
30 items listed in the agenda as surplus property as they are no longer suitable for District
31 use.

32
33 **F. Outstanding (More Than One Year Old) Warrants (Checks)** – The Board
34 approved the cancellation of the outstanding warrants (checks) listed in the agenda in
35 accordance with MCA 20-9-223.

36
37 **G. Approval of C.M. Russell High School Chamber Orchestra Travel Request to**
38 **the American String Teachers Association’s (ASTA) National Orchestra Festival**
39 **in San Francisco, California** – The Board approved the travel of thirty-two (32)
40 orchestra students; Steve Olson, their director; and three (3) chaperones to San
41 Francisco, California from February 25-28, 2026 for the American String Teachers
42 Association (ASTA) National Orchestra Festival (NOF).

43
44 Trustee Skornogoski commented on the achievement of being able to participate in this
45 event.

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47 **H. Donation Toward the Purchase of a Gate at Riverview Elementary School** – The
48 Board approved the donation of \$546.54 from Riverview’s Parent Teacher Association
49 (PTA) to Riverview Elementary School with thanks.

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COMMUNICATION

A. Character Strong – Early Learning Family Center – Early Learning Family Center Coordinator, Colette Getten; teacher, Denise Kingsley; and five (5) student representatives presented a sing-along on creativity, the *Character Strong* word of the month. They also showed the Board and audience their creative projects.

B. Superintendent’s Report – Dusty Molyneaux stated that Great Falls Public Schools has, for the sixteenth (16) time, been selected as a “Best Community for Music Education”. Awardees are selected through a rigorous application and review process, which includes verified data on funding, instruction time, participation, and community engagement. Superintendent Hoyer thanked Dusty Molyneaux for his work.

Chairperson Johnson stated that he and his fellow Trustees have been invited to *Spark the Arts*. He and Dusty encouraged everyone to attend.

Superintendent Hoyer reported that Great Falls Public Schools has received a *Montana Reads* grant. She stated that we are the only District in the state that was awarded a full K-12 *Montana Reads* grant.

Superintendent Hoyer recognized the C.M. Russell High School Boys Tennis team for their third state championship win in four (4) years. Great Falls Public Schools’ Athletic Director, Mike Henneberg, coaches, and players spoke about the season and their accomplishments.

On May 15, 2025, Great Falls Public Schools Employees Shianne Currey and Megan Kambic were recognized by the Great Falls Police Department and awarded the 2025 Citizen Award of Honorable Service.

Superintendent Hoyer stated the District continued to celebrate staff members throughout the month of May for *Appreciation Days*. This month School-based Occupational Therapists (OT’s), School-based Physical Therapists (PT’s), and Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP’s) were recognized.

Friday, May 16, 2025, The Montana Contractors Association, Great Falls Public Schools, and Great Falls College Montana State University celebrated eight (8) Build Montana graduates. The college is a new addition to the program, and everyone is excited about future possibilities and opportunities.

Superintendent Hoyer congratulated the five (5) students who have been selected to read their *Flag Day* essays at the Community’s annual Flag Day celebration in June. She also thanked the Great Falls Association of Realtors for their continued support of this contest and for providing certificates/gift cards to the students and teachers who have won this competition.

Superintendent Hoyer said that with all the celebrations happening throughout May/June it is easy to overlook great opportunities. She highlighted four (4) events taking place and encouraged everyone to attend.

Kindergarten registration has opened, and an estimated four hundred one (401) students have currently been enrolled; however, the District is used to an influx of enrollment at the start of the school year. Superintendent Hoyer stated that she is optimistic to have an incoming 661-670 kindergarteners for the 2025-2026 school year.

C. Audience Communication – None

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ACTION ITEMS

A. Financial Report and Check Register for April 2025 - Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, presented the financial report and check register for April 2025.

Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the April 2025 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #138793 - #139211 in the amount of \$1,748,962.85 and Payroll checks #83684 - #83936 in the amount of \$827,807.20 as presented.

B. School Meal Price Increase for the 2025-2026 School Year - Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires that schools annually review the prices charged for student meals. The USDA provides a calculator in which prices are compared to the Federal reimbursement paid to the District for students who participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. If the District does not charge enough for meals according to the calculated amount, the District is required to increase the price of paid meals by at least ten cents per year or an amount which meets the Federal reimbursements rate for free meals. If this price increase is not implemented, paid meals must be reimbursed by non-Federal funding to cover the difference. Mr. Patrick said the recommendation is to increase the student lunch prices by the minimum amount required by law, which is ten cents. The increase will help offset the rising food supply costs.

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to approve a \$.10 per lunch and breakfast price increase for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Elementary Lunches: from \$3.00 to \$3.10
- Secondary Lunches: from \$3.10 to \$3.20
- Elementary and Secondary Breakfasts: from \$1.95 to \$2.05

C. Transfer of Budgeted Funds – High School General Fund Budget to the Elementary Interlocal Agreement Fund – Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick explained the transferring of the High School General Funds to the Interlocal Agreement Fund allows the remaining money that was budgeted in the 2024-2025 school year to be carried over to the next school year for high school curriculum materials and staff development.

Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve the transfer of \$170,037.00 from the High School District General Fund into the Interlocal Agreement Fund (182). This money was budgeted in the 2024-2025 school year for curriculum materials and staff development and will be specifically designated for curriculum materials and staff development during the 2025-2026 school year.

D. Second Reading of the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that he has not received any

1 comments or concerns since the first reading of the Board Meeting Calendar at the May
2 12, 2025 Board meeting and recommended approval of the Board Meeting Calendar.

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4 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
5 approve the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Calendar as presented.

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7 **E. Public Notice of Bids for 2025 COPS School Violence Prevention Program**

8 **(SVPP)** – Director of Information Technology, Jeff Williams, reported that in 2021 Great
9 Falls Public Schools, in conjunction with the Great Falls Police Department, applied for
10 and was awarded a Community Oriented Policing (COPS) School Violence Prevention
11 Program (SVPP) grant through the Department of Justice. This grant supplied a majority
12 of the funding for replacing the video surveillance systems at C.M. Russell High School,
13 Great Falls High School, Paris Gibson Education Center, North Middle School, and East
14 Middle School. He stated that Great Falls Public Schools will be pursuing the 2025
15 SVPP Grant with the goal of replacing the aged intercom systems.

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17 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
18 request to allow the publication of Request for Bids to replace the intercom systems for
19 designated schools as presented.

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22 **ACTION: OTHER**

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

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26 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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28 **A. First Reading of Deleted, New, and Revised Board Policies – 1000 (Delete) –**
29 ***Legal Status and Operations; 1100 (Delete) – Organization; 1000 (New) – Legal***
30 ***Status, Operations, and Organization; 1130 – Committees; 1531 – Trustee***
31 ***Expenses*** – Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the recommended language revisions
32 from the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) and the Board Policy
33 Committee to each of the Board policies listed. She also reviewed grammatical edits
34 brought to her attention by Trustee Bronson. She asked if anyone had questions or
35 concerns regarding any of the policy revisions to contact her prior to the next regular
36 Board meeting.

37
38 **B. Annual Review of Board Policies 3300 – *Suspension and Expulsion* and 3311 –**
39 ***Firearms and Weapons*** – Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, explained
40 that Board Policies 3300, Suspension and Expulsion, and 3311, Firearms and
41 Weapons, are required to be reviewed annually in accordance with state law. These
42 policies were reviewed and one wording change that acknowledged archery as an
43 educational program was made in policy 3311 by the Board Policy Committee on May
44 20, 2025.

45
46 **C. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

47 Chairperson Johnson thanked Mark Yeager for the Career and Technical Education
48 (CTE) Guide booklets provided to the Board.

1 Trustee Skornogoski thanked her fellow Trustees for their confidence in her continued
2 vice-chairperson role on the Board. She also stated that graduating seniors returned to
3 their former Elementary Schools to participate in the United Way “Graduate to Elevate”
4 initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to inspire students of all ages to stay in school
5 and make it to graduation.

6 Trustee Bronson stated that he fulfilled his half-day substitute obligation from
7 convocation; however, the role that he was selected to fill was that of a therapist, which
8 he is not qualified for. Therefore, instead of doing the therapist’s job for half of the day,
9 he shadowed. He found the experience delightful and encouraged his fellow Trustees to
10 engage in the opportunity if it ever presents itself.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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15 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,
16 June 9, 2025, and Monday, June 23, 2025.

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ACTION TO ADJOURN

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21 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
22 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:48 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk