

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD JUNE 9, 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 4th Street South, on the 9th day of
7 June 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 Marlee Sunchild
15 Amie Thompson
16 Paige Turoski
17

18 **Trustee Absent:** Craig Duff – Excused
19

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

25 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
30

31 Director of Information Technology, Jeff Williams, informed the Board and audience that
32 he inadvertently failed to restart the recording of the May 27, 2025 Regular Board
33 meeting after the brief recess from the Reorganization Meeting; therefore, a recording of
34 the second half of the May 27th meeting is unavailable.
35

36
37 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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39 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to adopt
40 the agenda as presented.
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42
43 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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45 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
46 the Consent Agenda as presented.
47

1 **A. Minutes of the May 27, 2025, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting** – The
2 Board approved the minutes of the May 27, 2025, Reorganization/Regular Board
3 Meetings as presented.

4
5 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

6
7 **C. Good Apple Award** – The Board approved the nomination of a Good Apple Award
8 for Andrew Kilpatrick, Band Teacher at North Middle School.

9
10 **D. Kindergarten Early Entrance for the 2025-2026 School Year** – The Board
11 approved the students listed in the agenda to enroll in kindergarten for the 2025-2026
12 school year due to exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3110R.

13
14 **E. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2025-2026 School Year** – The
15 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2025-2026 school
16 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of
17 Residence.

18
19 **F. Establishing and Renaming Student Activity Accounts at C.M. Russell High
20 School** – The Board approved C.M. Russell High School to open new Student Activity
21 accounts “Class of 2029” and “Weight Room” and to rename Student Activity account
22 “Coffee Cart” to “Rustler Roast”.

23
24 **G. Correction of Canvass – Trustee Election Vote Totals** – The Board approved the
25 corrected trustee election vote totals as presented (Craig Duff 7123, Gordon Johnson
26 7611, tony Rosales 4732, and Paige Turoski 8341), formally updating the official record
27 and confirming that the revisions do not change the results of the election and the
28 candidates who were elected to the Board.

29
30 **H. C.M. Russell High School HOSA International Conference Travel Request to
31 Nashville, Tennessee** – The Board approved the C.M. Russell High School Health
32 Occupation Students of America (HOSA) travel request to the National Leadership
33 conference in Nashville, Tennessee on June 18-21, 2025.

34
35 **I. Great Falls High School Skills USA Travel Request to the National Conference
36 in Atlanta, Georgia** – The Board approved Great Falls High School’s Skills USA travel
37 to Atlanta, Georgia on June 22-28, 2025 for the National Skills USA competitions.

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39
40 **COMMUNICATION**

41
42 **A. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Hoyer
43 Superintendent Hoyer recognized Trustees Sunchild and Skornogoski for their birthdays
44 and provided an update on the twenty-nine (29) current job openings in the District.
45 End-of-year celebrations included congratulations to the GFPS Air Force Junior
46 Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) Unit for earning the Distinguished Unit Award
47 with Merit—recognizing cadet growth and instructor mentorship—and the Silver Star for
48 ranking in the top 5% nationwide for community service. Highlights also included Jordon

1 Lankford-Forester being honored as Montana’s first National Lowell Milken Center
2 Fellow and also the first Indigenous Person to receive the honor, Trustee Bronson for
3 being recognized as the 2025 Sherman Fellow Award Winner, and the C.M. Russell
4 Tennis teams being named the Montana High School Association (MHSA)
5 Sportsmanship Team of the Month for May 2025. Superintendent Hoyer reminded
6 everyone of the many summer events for students and families, invited everyone to the
7 Annual Book Giveaway, and extended an invitation to join the District at the Fourth of
8 July parade, where the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation debuts the truck donated
9 by City Motors for the annual truck raffle fundraiser. The ReStart program data was
10 shared, with special thanks to facilitator Cory Reeves for making a significant impact on
11 students’ lives. The District celebrated 794 graduates this year, with the *Data for the*
12 *Day* summarizing the hypothetical monetary investment that goes into each graduate
13 throughout their school career with Great Falls Public Schools. Appreciation was
14 extended to Chris Mee, Shannon McKiernan, Brian Patrick and Luke Diekhans for their
15 work on the data presentations.

16
17 **B. Audience Communication – None**
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20 **ACTION ITEMS**
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22 **A. Authority for the Director of Business Operations to Make End-of-Year Budget**
23 **Transfers** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Business
24 Department is very busy the month of June taking steps to close out the fiscal year on
25 June 30th. By allowing the Director of Business Operations the authority to make end-
26 of-year budget transfers, it alleviates the need for a Special Board meeting at the end of
27 June to approve transfers. All transfers made will follow the guidelines established by
28 law and will be reviewed at the regularly scheduled July Board meeting or at the budget
29 adoption meeting held in August. Mr. Patrick stated this is a standard annual request to
30 the Board.

31
32 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to approve
33 the Director of Business Operations the authority to make end-of-year budget transfers.
34

35 **B. Second Reading of the Annual Review of Board Policies 3300 - *Suspension***
36 ***and Expulsion* and 3311 - *Firearms and Weapons*** – Director of Business Operations
37 Brian Patrick explained that both Board Policies referenced above are required to be
38 reviewed annually in accordance with state law. The first reading of the policies was at
39 May 27, 2025 regular Board meeting.
40

41 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
42 the recommended minor change to Board Policies 3300 – *Suspension and Expulsion*
43 and 3311 – *Firearms and Weapons* as presented.
44

45 **C. District Wide Safety Plan** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained
46 that school districts are required to adopt and review an annual comprehensive Safety
47 Plan. As part of the plan, Board Policies 3300-*Suspension and Expulsion* and 3311-
48 *Firearms and Weapons* must also be reviewed annually. The policies were reviewed by

1 the Policy Committee and presented to the full Board at the May 27, 2025 Board
2 meeting. Mr. Patrick said the Safety Plan includes protocols, practices and monitoring
3 to address the safety and security of students, staff and the facilities. He highlighted fire
4 alarm system upgrades, the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) School Violence
5 Prevention Program (SVPP) grant, and Armed Intruder training for every school in the
6 District. One area of concern was the increase up to 67% for Worker’s Compensation
7 claims involving being struck or injured by something or someone. He commended
8 Nurse Supervisor Erica Harp and Food Services Supervisor Jessa Youngers for their
9 response and supervision during the salmonella-related health issue and preparation for
10 the measles outbreak during the school year.

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12 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
13 the District-wide Safety Plan as presented.

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15 **D. Second Reading of Deleted, New, and Revised Board Policies 1000 (Delete) –**
16 *Legal Status and Operations; 1100 (Delete) – Organization; 1000 (New) – Legal*
17 *Status, Operations, and Organizations; 1130 – Committees; and 1531 – Trustee*
18 *Expenses* – Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the policies above and stated that the new
19 Policy 1000 was the result of Policies 1000 and 1100 being combined. Other than a few
20 grammatical editorial changes recommended by Trustee Bronson, no comments or
21 recommendations for changes were received since the first reading of the policies at the
22 May 27, 2025 Board Meeting.

23
24 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
25 Deleted, New, and Revised Board Policies **1000 (Delete) – Legal Status and**
26 *Operations; 1100 (Delete) – Organization; 1000 (New) – Legal Status, Operations, and*
27 *Organizations; 1130 – Committees; and 1531 – Trustee Expenses* as presented.

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30 **ACTION: OTHER**

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

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34 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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36 **A. Board Sub-Committee Assignments** – Chairperson Johnson explained that an
37 important role as a Trustee is to serve on District committees. He reviewed how
38 Trustees are selected to sit on the varying committees. After receiving input from the
39 Trustees, Chairperson Johnson said he made the sub-committee assignments as listed
40 in the agenda.

41
42 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**
43 Trustee Turoski extended congratulations to the ReStart program, noting its positive
44 impact on students, and wished everyone a happy start to summer.
45 Trustee Sunchild commended Superintendent Hoyer for presenting data that reinforced
46 education as the cornerstone of the community.
47 Trustee Thompson praised the Data of the Day presentation, celebrated ReStart’s
48 success in graduating students, and highlighted the excellence of recent graduations.

1 She attended the Spark the Arts event, where many students showcased their talents.
2 Trustee Bronson reported on attending his first Montana School Boards Education
3 Finance Committee meeting in Helena, replacing Trustee Finnicum, and provided
4 materials to trustees. The committee is beginning to study school funding for the 2027–
5 2028 legislative session. He also noted the District would continue to move forward with
6 its own insurance plan while leaving open the possibility of future participation in the
7 statewide health insurance trust, emphasizing the high performance of the current
8 program.

9 Trustee Skornogoski thanked all staff for managing a hectic end of the year and
10 thanked Superintendent Hoyer for addressing important staffing needs and graduation
11 data. Chairperson Johnson echoed appreciation for the graduation events, recognizing
12 the extensive staff effort behind the seamless experience for families.

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15 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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17 The next Board meetings are scheduled for June 23, 2025 and July 21, 2025.
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20 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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22 With no further comments or items to be discussed, motion by Chairperson Johnson
23 and seconded by Trustee Skornogoski to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of
24 Trustees at 6:09 p.m.
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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk
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