

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD MARCH 9, 2026**  
4

5 A duly called Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public Schools  
6 was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Day of March  
7 2026.

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9 At 5:00 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of  
10 Trustees and informed the participants and audience that the meeting was being  
11 recorded per Board Policy 1420.

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13 **ROLL CALL:** Luke Diekhans took roll call.

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15 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson  
16 Kim Skornogoski  
17 Bill Bronson  
18 Craig Duff  
19 Paige Henning  
20 Marlee Sunchild  
21 Amie Thompson  
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23 **Others Present:** Heather Hoyer, Superintendent; Luke Diekhans, Director of Business  
24 Operations; Lance Boyd and Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Directors of Student  
25 Achievement; Jeff Williams, Director of Information Technology; Heather Spurzem,  
26 Director of Human Resources; and Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public  
27 Schools Foundation.

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

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31 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jackie Mainwaring  
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34 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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36 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the  
37 agenda as presented.  
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40 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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42 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to  
43 approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
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46 **COMMUNICATION**

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48 **A. Audience Communication - None**

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Lincoln Elementary School Emergency Closure** – Superintendent Heather Hoyer and Executive Director Lance Boyd provided an update on the Lincoln Elementary School emergency closure following a severe wind event that caused a significant portion of the school’s roof to be blown off. A neighbor had alerted Lincoln Elementary School Principal Steve Yates of the event during its occurrence. District staff and community partners – including transportation, food services, technology, teachers, leadership, insurance representatives, and local fire and police departments – worked together over the previous 24 hours to respond. Safety evaluations by the fire department resulted in partial occupancy approval, with confirmation that the roof materials installed in the mid to late 1990s did not contain asbestos. Temporary relocation plans were established, with kindergarten through third grade and special education students to be housed at Lincoln, fourth grade students at Lewis and Clark Elementary School, and fifth and sixth grade students at Paris Gibson Education Center (PGECC). Fire alarm systems have been tested, and a fire watch will be maintained while the building remains partially occupied. The District continues to assess water and structural damage, with insurance and state officials involved in the process. District leaders emphasized clear communication with families through ParentSquare and scheduled parent meetings to discuss next steps, with the goal of resuming instruction for younger students Wednesday and upper grades Thursday at alternative locations.

Trustees discussed building damage beyond the roof, student communication, and maintaining school traditions during the transition. Executive Director Boyd stated that the majority of Lincoln’s population is centered around four blocks of the school; many of the students saw the damage. He encouraged students to share their story as they now have a BIG memory to last a lifetime.

Superintendent Hoyer expressed appreciation to all staff and community responders who assisted in the response.

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the emergency closure of Lincoln Elementary School on March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**ACTION: OTHER**

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

**REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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

Trustees expressed heartfelt appreciation and thanks to District Administration, staff, and community responders who helped in the clean-up efforts.

Trustee Henning noted positive comments from parents on Facebook on how the situation was handled by the District.

1 Chairperson Johnson stated he was present with administrators, teachers and staff at  
2 the Lincoln Elementary School site during clean-up and was inspired to be in a room  
3 filled with so many “can-do” people.  
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6 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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8 Upcoming events include a regular Board Meeting directly following this special  
9 meeting.  
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12 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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14 With no further comments or items to be discussed, motion by Chairperson Johnson  
15 and seconded by Trustee Skornogoski to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of  
16 Trustees at 5:26 p.m.  
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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Luke Diekhans, Clerk

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