

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD MAY 26, 2026**

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 26th day of May 2026.

At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Chairperson Johnson reported that, per Board Policy 1420, all Board meetings are recorded and posted on the District website for one (1) year.

ROLL CALL: Luke Diekhans took roll call.

Trustees Present: Gordon Johnson - Chairperson
Kim Skornogoski – Vice-Chairperson – excused at 6:10 P.M.
Bill Bronson – excused until 6:25 P.M.
Craig Duff
Paige Henning
Marlee Sunchild

Trustee Excused: Amie Thompson

Others Present: Heather Hoyer, Superintendent; Luke Diekhans, Director of Business Operations; Jackie Mainwaring and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors of Student Achievement; Jeff Williams, Director of Information Technology; Heather Spurzem, Director of Human Resources; and Katelyn Marsik, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association President.

Chairperson Johnson asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

1 Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the
2 Consent Agenda, with a special recognition to the donation toward outstanding lunch
3 balances, as presented.

4
5 **A. Minutes of the May 11, 2026, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting** – The
6 Board approved the minutes of the May 11, 2026, Reorganization/Regular Board
7 Meeting as presented.

8
9 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

10
11 **C. Good Apple Award** – The Board approved the nomination for a Good Apple Award
12 to Mike Martyn, Citizen of Great Falls.

13
14 **D. Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus Driver Certificate**
15 – The Board approved the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus
16 Driver Certificate for the individual listed in the agenda.

17
18 **E. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for 2025-26 Second Semester** - The
19 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 2025-2026 school
21 year.

22
23 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2026-2027 School Year** – The
24 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2026-2027 school
25 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuitions will be paid for by the District of
26 Residence.

27
28 **G. Student Activity Monthly Report for April 2026** – The Board approved the Student
29 Activity Accounts for April 2026 as presented.

30
31 **H. Award Bids for Instructional and Office Paper Supply Order** – The Board
32 approved the following bids for the instructional and office paper supplies for the 2026-
33 2027 school year: Contract Paper Group - \$49,375.20, Warden Paper - \$46,226.09,
34 Pyramid Products - \$19,290.56, Cascade School Supplies - \$1,316.70, S&S Worldwide
35 - \$399.75, and School Specialty - \$128.00.

36
37 **I. Montana High School Association (MHSA) Annual Dues, Catastrophic Liability,**
38 **and Concussion Insurance for 2026-2027** - The Board approved the MHSA annual
39 dues of \$250.00 per activity, per school for a total of \$6,250 per school, the Catastrophic
40 Liability Plan coverage cost of \$1,339 per school and the Concussion Insurance
41 premium of \$226.00 per school.

42
43 **J. Donation of Funds for Lunch Charges** - The Board approved the donation of
44 \$6,670 from Leadership Great Falls and Leadership High School to Great Falls Public
45 Schools with thanks.

COMMUNICATION

A. **Character Strong – Sunnyside Elementary School** – Durbin Thomsen, Sunnyside Elementary School Principal and four (4) student representatives reported on what creativity, the *Character Strong* word of the month, means to Sunnyside Elementary School. They reviewed how they implement *Character Strong* within their school.

B. **Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)** - Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Career Pathway Advisor, Derik Senger, introduced advisors and student leaders from Business Professionals of America (BPA), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), SkillsUSA and the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC). The students highlighted achievements, honors, awards, and new incoming officers for their respective student organizations.

C. **Superintendent Report** –

Superintendent Hoyer reported on the events happening throughout the District. She then introduced Great Falls High School senior Cecelia Tronson, who reported on her internship experience in the Emergency Room (ER). She reviewed the goals she established at the beginning of the course and reflected on her progress and accomplishments by the end of the internship. She also described a patient case she observed at the start of a shift, outlining the steps medical staff took to assess the patient's condition and determine an appropriate course of care.

D. **Audience Communication** – None

ACTION ITEMS

A. **Financial Report and Check Register for April 2026** – Director of Business Operations, Luke Diekhans, reviewed the financial report and check register for April 2026.

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the April 2026 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #143979 - #144495 in the amount of \$2,626,566.85 and Payroll checks #85946 - #86116 in the amount of \$641,445.05 as presented.

B. **Great Falls Public Schools Contract for Natural Gas** – Director of Business Operations, Luke Diekhans, explained that the District has historically contracted with a natural gas company directly, with the assistance of Jim Moran, PowerGas Corporation. Using a long-term contract to purchase natural gas for the operations of our facilities allows the District to limit changes in the budget due to current market fluctuations while minimizing costs. Luke stated that the current natural gas contract is set to expire on June 30, 2026. The Board previously approved the Request for Proposal (RFP) at the Board meeting on April 27, 2026 and the RFP was posted in the Great Falls Tribune on

1 April 28, 2026 and May 3, 2026. Bids were due to the District by noon on May 26,
2 2026. Mr. Diekhans reviewed the submitted bids.

3
4 Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve
5 Summit Energy’s Index Bid for the contract as the District’s natural gas supplier for the
6 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29 school years, as presented.
7

8 **C. Second Reading of the 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar** – Director of
9 Business Operations, Luke Diekhans, reviewed the 2026-2027 Board meeting calendar
10 and stated that he has had no questions or concerns since the first reading at the May
11 11, 2026 Board meeting.
12

13 Motion – Marlee Sunchild, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the
14 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar as presented.
15

16 **D. Second Reading of Board Policies 3310 (Revised) – Student Discipline; 5240**
17 **(Revised) – Resolution of Staff Complaints; 7332 (Revised) – Advertising in**
18 **School-Revenue Enhancement; and 7332F (New) – Sports Activities-Revenue**
19 **Enhancement Program Form** - Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the recommended
20 changes in the policies. She stated that there was only one edit on policy 5240 since the
21 first reading on May 11, 2026. That recommendation came from the Great Falls
22 Education Association (GFEA).
23

24 Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Bill Bronson, to revise Board Policies 3310 –
25 *Student Discipline*; 5240 – *Resolution of Staff Complaints*; and 7332 – *Advertising in*
26 *School-Revenue Enhancement*; and new Board Policy 7332F – *Sports Activities-*
27 *Revenue Enhancement Program Form*, as presented.
28

29 Alternative Motion – Craig Duff, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to split
30 the motion into two motions. One motion for Board Policies 3310 and 5240, and another
31 motion for Board Policies for 7332 and 7332F.
32

33 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Henning, passed unanimously to approve
34 revised Board Policies 3310 – *Student Discipline* and 5240 – *Resolution to Staff*
35 *Complaints*, as presented.
36

37 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Henning, passed four to one to approve
38 revived Board policy 7332 – *Advertising in School-Revenue Enhancement* and new
39 Board Policy 7332F – *Sports Activities-Revenue Enhancement Program Form*, as
40 presented.
41

42 Trustee Duff expressed his concerns regarding putting the District and its school-
43 sponsored activities first. He believes that there are not enough constraints in place
44 within the policy to move forward.
45

1 **ACTION: OTHER**

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3 There were no items extracted from the Consent Agenda to discuss.
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5

6 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
7

8 **A. Annual Review of Board Policies 3300 – *Suspension and Expulsion* and 3311 –**
9 ***Firearms and Weapons*** – Director of Business Operations, Luke Diekhans, explained
10 that Board Policies 3300, Suspension and Expulsion, and 3311, Firearms and
11 Weapons, are required to be reviewed annually in accordance with state law. These
12 policies were reviewed by the Board Policy Committee on May 6, 2026, and May 14,
13 2026. He explained the changes that have been made and asked if anyone had
14 questions or concerns regarding any of the new policies or revisions to contact him prior
15 to the next regular Board meeting
16

17 **B. First Reading of Board Policies 5120 (Revised) – *Hiring Process and Criteria*;**
18 **5120F (Deleted) – *Determination of Eligibility for Hire Form*; 7625 (Revised) – *Use***
19 ***of Enhanced Tax Credit Receipts*; and 8301 (Revised) – *District Safety***
20 Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the recommended language revisions from the Board
21 Policy Committee to each of the Board policies listed. Language proposed brings
22 policies into alignment with legislative directives and/or cleans up confusing language.
23 She asked if anyone had questions or concerns regarding any of the new policies or
24 revisions to contact her prior to the next regular Board meeting.
25

26 **C. Board Sub-Committee Assignments** - Chairperson Johnson explained that an
27 important role as a Trustee is to serve on District committees. He reviewed how
28 Trustees are selected to sit on the varying committees. After receiving input from the
29 Trustees, Chairperson Johnson said he made the sub-committee assignments as listed
30 in the agenda.
31

32 **D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

33 Trustees Sunchild and Bronson thanked everyone that helped with the
34 retirement/longevity celebration event.

35 Trustee Duff thanked all the students who spoke tonight. He also thanked District
36 employees for their work.

37 Trustee Henning thanked Trustee Duff for his comments regarding District policies 7332
38 and 7332F and agrees that they need to be watched closely to keep the integrity of the
39 District. She reviewed the events that she has been attending and appreciates the
40 opportunities to do so.

41 Trustee Bronson apologized for his tardiness. He also stated that he is excited for the
42 graduation ceremonies scheduled for this coming weekend.

43 Chairperson Johnson reported that he attended the Life Skills graduation ceremony at
44 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC). He stated that he is so proud of those students
45 and the District for having this program.
46

1 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

2
3 Chairperson Johnson said the next Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday, June 8,
4 2026, and Monday, June 22, 2026.
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7 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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9 Chairperson Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:06
10 p.m.
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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Luke Diekhans, Clerk
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