

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD JUNE 8, 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 8th day of June 2026.

At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees and informed the participants and audience that the meeting was being recorded per Board Policy 1420.

ROLL CALL: Luke Diekhans took roll call.

Trustees Present: Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
Bill Bronson
Paige Henning
Marlee Sunchild
Amie Thompson

Trustee Excused: Craig Duff

Others Present: Luke Diekhans, Director of Business Operations; Lance Boyd and Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Directors for Student Achievement; Jeff Williams, Director of Information Technology; and Katelyn Marsik, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation.

Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Johnson.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Henning, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Minutes of the May 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting – The Board approved the minutes of the May 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

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

2
3 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations of Good Apple Awards
4 for Erica LaTray, Librarian, North Middle School; and Lori Vinson, Third Grade Teacher;
5 Katelyn Lindland, Kindergarten Teacher; and Lainie Warneke, ECS Teacher – all from
6 Valley View Elementary School.

7
8 **D. Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus Driver Certificates**
9 The Board approved the Montana OPI TR-35 School Bus Driver Certificates for the
10 individuals listed in the agenda.

11
12 **E. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2026-2027 School Year** – The
13 Board approved the incoming student attendance agreements for the 2026-2027 school
14 year for the students listed in the agenda. Tuition will be paid for by the District of
15 Residence.

16
17 **F. Outstanding (More Than One Year Old) Warrants (Checks)** – The Board
18 approved the cancelation of the outstanding warrants (checks) listed in the agenda in
19 accordance with MCA 20-9-223.

20 21 22 **COMMUNICATION**

23
24 **A. Superintendent Report** – Executive Director Boyd delivered the Superintendent's
25 Report on behalf of Superintendent Hoyer, who is currently in Seattle with a contingency
26 of Great Falls Community Partners touring Janicki Industries, a family and employee-
27 owned aerospace company expanding in Great Falls. Mr. Boyd introduced Kathy
28 Wanner, who highlighted the achievements of seven (7) Special Olympians in
29 attendance at the Board meeting who won gold medals in their respective events at the
30 State Spring and Summer Special Olympics Games. He acknowledged Ms. Wanner
31 and Mary Beth Tolan for their extensive work with the Special Olympian athletes. He
32 then introduced Brittany Erdman, new Principal at Longfellow Elementary School, who
33 shared her excitement and anticipation of her new position. Mr. Boyd stated Advanced
34 Placement (AP) testing has concluded with 356 exams administered across 14 subject
35 areas over 16 days, recognizing staff and proctors for their support. Flag Day Essay
36 awards were presented at five schools, with student winners representing four
37 elementary schools. Carol Paul presented the Data for the Day – a presentation on
38 DIBELS and the Montana Reads grant, highlighting literacy interventions, teacher
39 training efforts, student assessment data, and continued investment in literacy
40 instruction over the remaining three years of the grant.

41
42 **B. Audience Communication** – None

43 44 45 **ACTION ITEMS**

46
47 **A. 2026-2027 Secondary Student Class Fees** – Executive Director of Student
48 Achievement, Lance Boyd, explained this is an annual action item to identify fees for

secondary classes that have lab/course fees associated with them. He noted that most fees remained consistent. One new course was added, Cosmetology, that has a significant fee attached due to the cost of supplies necessary for class instruction. Mr. Boyd stated, however, that Great Falls Public Schools receives support through the Montana Advanced Opportunities Act (MAOA) to help offset Career and Technical Education (CTE) associated costs. Families may inquire for assistance, if needed, to cover any of the class fees associated with the courses denoted by asterisks in the agenda, including Cosmetology, which will be added upon tonight's approval.

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve the 2026-2027 secondary class fees as presented.

B. 2026-2027 Facilities Usage Fees – Executive Director of Student Achievement, Lance Boyd, shared that GFPS administration has spent the past two (2) years evaluating the increasing use of District facilities by community groups, noting that facility rentals grew to 408 events last year, a 6.8% increase over the previous year. He reviewed the impact this level of use has on facilities, equipment, and the engineering and custodial staff who support these events. While facility rentals generated approximately \$57,500 in revenue, the fees collected do not fully cover the District's rising costs for utilities, maintenance, staffing, and equipment replacement. The proposed rental fee increase is intended to better align community use fees with the District's actual operating and maintenance expenses while continuing to provide community access to District facilities.

Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Henning, to approve the 2026-2027 facilities usage fees as presented.

Trustee Thompson initiated discussion regarding community youth groups who have a history of facility use – stating it would be a hardship for some of the groups to pay the increasing costs. Mr. Boyd stated that Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are already in place for several of the groups in question, including Heisey, that would allow increased fees to be waived. Chairperson Johnson concurred that he believes the fee increase is extremely reasonable and wants to continue to make GFPS facilities available to the public. He asked for approval of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Second Reading of Board Policies 5120 (Revised) – *Hiring Process and Criteria*; 5120F (Delete) – *Determination of Eligibility for Hire Form*; 7625 (Revised) – *Use of Enhanced Tax Credit Receipts*; and 8301 (Revised) – *District Safety*.

Executive Director Jackie Mainwaring stated that Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the above policies at the May 26, 2026 Board meeting. To date, there have been no comments received requesting changes or corrections to any of these policies.

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve Board Policies **5120 (Revised) – *Hiring Process and Criteria*; 5120F (Delete) – *Determination of Eligibility for Hire Form*; 7625 (Revised) – *Use of Enhanced Tax Credit Receipts*; and 8301 (Revised) – *District Safety*** as presented.

1 **D. Second Reading of the Annual Review of Board Policies 3300 - *Suspension***
2 ***and Expulsion* and 3311 - *Firearms and Weapons*** – Director of Business Operations
3 Luke Diekhans explained that both board policies referenced above are required to be
4 reviewed annually in accordance with state law. The first reading of the policies was at
5 the May 26, 2026 regular Board meeting and he has received no further requests for
6 additional changes.

7
8 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to
9 approve the recommended minor changes to Board Policies **3300 – *Suspension and***
10 ***Expulsion* and 3311 – *Firearms and Weapons*** as presented.

11
12 **E. District Wide Safety Plan** – Director of Business Operations Luke Diekhans
13 explained that school districts are required to adopt and review an annual
14 comprehensive Safety Plan. As part of the plan, Board Policies 3300-*Suspension and*
15 *Expulsion* and 3311-*Firearms and Weapons*, approved in the prior agenda item, are
16 reviewed annually. Mr. Diekhans said the Safety Plan includes protocols, practices and
17 monitoring to address the safety and security of students, staff and the facilities. He
18 highlighted the upcoming fire alarm system upgrade to Valley View elementary school
19 this summer and that although Armed Intruder training will not be available to all schools
20 this summer, he noted that all new employees will continue to be trained. Mr. Diekhans
21 reviewed the annual recap document in detail. He commended Nurse Supervisor, Erica
22 Harp, for her continued oversight of the health and safety needs of the District.

23
24 Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Amie Thompson, to approve the Great Falls
25 Public Schools District-wide Safety Plan as presented.

26
27 Trustee Skornogoski stated that safety upgrades are extremely expensive and inquired
28 on how the District prioritizes the influx of upgrades needed. Mr. Diekhans stated that
29 schools in the District are upgraded on a rotation basis. The District looks at all
30 available funds and moves to the next school if funds remain. Executive Director Boyd
31 commended Brent Cutler, Facilities Supervisor and Jack Norris, Facilities Assistant, for
32 researching and determining what projects are the highest priority regarding safety.

33
34 Chairperson Johnson called for the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

35
36 **F. Authority for the Director of Business Operations to Make End-of-Year Budget**
37 **Transfers** – Director of Business Operations Luke Diekhans explained that the
38 Business Department is very busy the month of June taking steps to close out the fiscal
39 year on June 30th. By allowing the Director of Business Operations the authority to
40 make end-of-year budget transfers, it alleviates the need for a Special Board meeting at
41 the end of June to approve transfers. All transfers made will follow the guidelines
42 established by law and will be reviewed at the regularly scheduled July Board meeting
43 or at the budget adoption meeting held in August. Mr. Diekhans stated this is a standard
44 annual request to the Board.

45
46 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
47 the Director of Business Operations, Luke Diekhans, the authority to make end-of-year
48 budget transfers.

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3 **ACTION: OTHER**

4 There were no items extracted from the Consent Agenda to discuss.
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7 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
8

9 **A. First Reading of the 2026-2027 Revised and Reformatted Student Handbook -**

10 Executive Director of Student Achievement, Lance Boyd, stated that after many years,
11 the Student Handbook needed a complete revision and better formatting for clarity and
12 ease of reference. He thanked Jackie Mainwaring and his Administrative Assistant,
13 Jerri Rollins, for their extensive help in getting the revision completed. The team
14 worked with Bea Kaleva of Kaleva Law Offices for guidance and to match Board Policy
15 to the handbook. Lance encouraged all Board members and all other audience
16 attendees to review the newly revised Student Handbook in depth so that approval can
17 be recommended at the next regular Board meeting on June 22, 2026.
18

19 **B. First Reading of Board Policy 2410R – *Publication of Graduation Requirements***

20 Executive Director of Student Achievement, Jackie Mainwaring, stated that minimal
21 changes were made to the policy. There was one language change of a math title, and
22 the cross references were updated. She stated if anyone had questions or concerns
23 regarding the revisions to contact her prior to the next regular Board meeting.
24

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

26 Executive Director Boyd extended birthday wishes to Trustees Sunchild and
27 Skornogoski.

28 Trustee Thompson thanked staff and students for their work throughout the school year
29 and for the successful graduation celebrations. She noted that planning and preparation
30 for the upcoming school year are already underway.

31 Trustee Bronson echoed appreciation for the graduation celebrations and year-end
32 accomplishments. He shared that he would be attending meetings in Helena related to
33 the 100th anniversary of the Montana School Boards Association and discussions
34 regarding the state funding formula. He noted he would be unable to attend the June
35 22 meeting.

36 Trustee Sunchild congratulated graduates and highlighted the Lewis and Clark PTA's
37 parachute event as one of her favorite end-of-year activities.

38 Trustee Henning also recognized the graduation celebrations and highlighted the
39 positive impact of the Lexia literacy program, noting students' enthusiasm for learning.
40 She shared a story about a Special Olympics participant who was excited by the strong
41 community support at the event and commended Music Supervisor Dusty Molyneaux
42 for his dedication to student music opportunities throughout the summer.

43 Trustee Skornogoski thanked staff for their efforts in planning and carrying out
44 graduation ceremonies and the Eagle Feather Ceremony. She also acknowledged
45 Superintendent Hoyer's engagement with community planning efforts related to the
46 arrival of Janicki Industries, emphasizing the District's commitment to preparing for
47 possible enrollment growth and supporting the community's future needs.

1 Chairperson Johnson expressed appreciation for the extensive work involved in
2 developing student handbooks and safety plans. He noted that administrators make
3 these efforts appear seamless and conveyed the Board's gratitude for the work
4 completed behind the scenes.

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7 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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9 The next Board meetings are scheduled for June 22, 2026 and July 13, 2026.
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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 Regular Meeting of the Board of
16 Trustees at 6:35 p.m.
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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Luke Diekhans, Clerk
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