

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD JUNE 22, 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 22nd day of June 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
Craig Duff
Amie Thompson

Trustee Excused: Bill Bronson
Paige Henning
Marlee Sunchild

Others Present: Heather Hoyer, Superintendent; Luke Diekhans, Director of Business Operations; Lance Boyd, Executive Director 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 – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, with special recognition to the donations to the automotive programs at Paris Gibson Education Center and Great Falls High School, as presented.

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2 **A. Minutes of the June 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
3 minutes of the June 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

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

6
7 **C. Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus Driver Certificates**
8 – The Board approved the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus
9 Driver Certificates for the individuals listed in the agenda.

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

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16 **E. Donation from Auto Swap Meet to Paris Gibson Education Center Automotive**
17 **Program** - The Board approved the donation of \$1,000 from Auto Swap Meet to Paris
18 Gibson Education Center's automotive program with thanks.

19
20 **F. Donation of a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban to Great Falls High School-** The Board
21 approved the donation of a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban to Great Falls Public Schools with
22 thanks.

23
24 **G. Special Education Records Disposal Request** - The Board approved the disposal
25 of the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Special Education records that have not been
26 requested by the parents or students.

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28 **H. Student Activity Monthly Report for May 2026** – The Board approved the Student
29 Activity Accounts for May 2026 as presented.

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32 **COMMUNICATION**

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34 **A. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the Summer Learning
35 Opportunities taking place throughout the District and the number of attendees in each
36 opportunity.

37 She reported that the 2026 Construction Camp for fifth (5th) and sixth (6th) grade
38 students took place June 15-17, 2026 at C.M. Russell High School. The maximum
39 capacity of forty (40) registrations was quickly filled.

40 Superintendent Hoyer stated that the Free Summer Meals program started June 10th
41 and goes through August 14th.

42 Superintendent Hoyer thanked Arby's and the AES Foundation for their continued
43 support and donations to the District. This is the second year Great Falls Public Schools
44 has received a donation. This year \$2,400 was donated to help families pay for their
45 lunches.

1 She reported that four (4) Great Falls Public Schools students read their “*Flag Day*”
2 essays during the 2026 Flag Day Celebration on June 14.

3 Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the accomplishments of the District 2025-2026
4 Strategic Plan. She stated that there are only a few things the District is still working on
5 completing.

6 Parent Square was implemented this school year for communication between parents
7 and the District/School. Superintendent Hoyer reported on Stewardship and
8 Accountability of this platform. She reported on Safe and Secure School numbers
9 pertaining to aggravated assault, attendance, disorderly conduct, fighting,
10 insubordination, and school threats. She stated that the number of incidents have
11 decreased from prior years. Student Achievement data was presented in Math and
12 English Language Arts. Superintendent Hoyer concluded her report on where Montana
13 and Great Falls fall in the national average of students participating in ACT testing.
14

15 **B. Audience Communication** – Community member, Judy Mortensen, spoke on the
16 concerns of substance abuse issues, particularity marijuana, in the state, city and our
17 District. She believes that parent education and communication are the first steps in
18 making a difference in this issue.
19
20

21 **ACTION ITEMS**

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23 **A. 2026-2027 Great Falls Public Schools Teacher Retirement System (TRS) /**
24 **Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) Administrators and Supervisors**
25 **Compensation** – Director of Human Resources, Heather Spurzem, stated that the
26 2026-2027 Administrator and Supervisor Compensation Budget unit is comprised of 47
27 employees who are critical to the mission of the District. They set the climate, implement
28 the Board’s goals, provide instructional leadership, and maintain the safety and
29 discipline that allows Great Falls Public Schools to continually perform at high levels. A
30 3% increase in base salaries will result in an approximate salary budget for this group of
31 \$5,532,458 for 2026-2027. She stated that this is approximately a \$144,131 net
32 increase.
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34 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
35 approve the Great Falls Public Schools Administrators and Supervisors salaries for
36 2026-2027 as presented.
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38 **B. Great Falls Public Schools Support Personnel Compensation** – Director of
39 Human Resources, Heather Spurzem, stated that the 2026-2027 Support Personnel
40 Compensation Budget unit is comprised of 35 employees. They set the climate,
41 implement the Board’s goals, provide assistance to leadership, support students’ health
42 and maintain technology and business protocols that allow the District to continually
43 perform smoothly. A 3% increase in base salaries will result in an approximate salary
44 budget for this group of \$1,989,779 for the 2026-2027 school year. She stated that this
45 is approximately a \$61,285 net increase.
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1 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the
2 Great Falls Public Schools Support Personnel compensation base salary increase of
3 3% for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

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5 **C. Driver’s Education Class Sessions Held on Saturdays** – Coordinator of the
6 Career and College Readiness Center (CCRC), Jodi Hicks, explained that Great Falls
7 Public Schools offers Driver’s Education classes for our community. These classes are
8 voluntary and are outside the minimum aggregate hours of instruction and do not bear
9 high school credit. At times, Driver’s Education teachers schedule drives with students
10 over the weekends in order to complete this portion of the state class requirements.
11 Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 20-1-303 allows for classes to be held on Saturdays
12 provided it is “*beyond the minimum aggregate hours of instruction required... provided*
13 *that student attendance is voluntary.*” MCA 20-324 tasks the local school Board with
14 approving or disapproving Saturday courses which comply with the criteria in 20-1-303,
15 MCA. She stated that Driver’s Education classes meet these criteria for Saturday
16 scheduling.

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18 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to
19 approve the conduct of Driver’s Education sessions on Saturdays as presented.

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21 **D. Professional Development Pupil Instruction Related (PIR) Plan 2026-2027** –
22 Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, Beckie Frisbee, explained that each year teachers
23 are required to complete eighteen (18) hours of Pupil Instruction Related (PIR)
24 Professional Development (PD). Teachers may complete their hours on the designated
25 days throughout the school year or outside of their regularly scheduled workday in the
26 summer and/or in the evenings. The PIR Steering Committee met frequently during the
27 2025-2026 school year and adjustments were made to ensure that PIR
28 proposals/courses included elements of adult learning theory, collaboration, reflection,
29 and direct application to both the Great Falls Public Schools Strategic Plan and Profile
30 of a Learner. She reviewed the PIR offerings and explained that there are over seventy-
31 five (75) PIR options for teachers. She reported that there is a new program offered
32 where many PIR hours will be obtained during the *Summer Institute Conference*. Mrs.
33 Frisbee reported that the PIR budget is supported through Student Services, Indian
34 Education, and the majority of budget comes from the Curriculum Department. The total
35 budget for the 2026-2027 year is \$16,557.75.

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37 Motion – Craig Duff, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve the
38 Professional Development Plan for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

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40 **E. Second Reading of Board Policy 2410R – Publication of Graduation**
41 **Requirements** - Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the recommended changes in the
42 policy. She stated that she has received no comments or concerns since the first
43 reading on June 8, 2026.

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45 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve
46 revised Board Policy 2410R – *Publication of Graduation Requirements*, as presented.

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2 **F. Second Reading of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook** –Executive Director, Lance
3 Boyd reviewed the changes to the student handbook. He stated that he has not
4 received any comments and concerns since the first reading on June 8, 2026.

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6 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the
7 2026-2027 Student Handbook as presented.

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9 **G. Financial Report and Check Register for May 2026** – Director of Business
10 Operations, Luke Diekhans, reviewed the financial report and check register for May
11 2026.

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13 Motion – Craig Duff, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve the
14 May 2026 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #144496 - #144880 in the
15 amount of \$1,709,141.95 and Payroll checks #86117 - #86292 in the amount of
16 \$521,765.44 as presented.

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18 **H. Lease Agreement with Cascade County for County Extension Space at the**
19 **Early Learning Family Center** – Director of Business Operations, Luke Diekhans,
20 reported that this is the continuation of a long-term lease that has worked well for
21 Cascade County and the District. The County uses this space for the County Extension
22 Service operations. Luke stated that similar to the existing lease, it is a two-year lease
23 with the option for a third year upon agreement by both parties. This lease commences
24 on June 30, 2026 and ends on June 30, 2028 with the option of adding another year. He
25 stated that this contract has been reviewed by attorneys for both the District and the
26 County and has already been approved by the Cascade County Commissioners.

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28 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
29 approve the agreement with Cascade County to continue the Early Learning Family
30 Center lease through June 30, 2028 as presented.

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33 **ACTION: OTHER**

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

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38 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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40 **A. First Reading of the New *Introduction to Automotive Know-Understand-Do***
41 **(KUD)** – Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, Beckie Frisbee, reported that Industrial
42 Technology (IT) has traditionally had a course for freshmen that allows them to sample
43 the various areas of IT. Each course is a quarter in length with a rotation through the
44 department to introduce students to the various courses available. The teachers
45 realized this year there is not an option for an introduction to automotive. Adding an
46 *Intro to Auto* course will allow the schools options to arrange four (4) quarters among

1 five (5) areas: Auto, Drafting, Woods, Electricity, and Welding. She stated that the KUDs
2 are posted on the District website and a hard copy is available in the Curriculum Office
3 for review prior to the request for Board approval that will take place at the next regular
4 Board meeting.

5
6 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**

7 Trustee Duff recognized the Summer Construction Camp program and said he believes
8 that this is a great program. He also thanked Arby's and the AES Foundation for their
9 donation and continued support.

10 Trustee Thompson stated she appreciated Superintendent Hoyer's report on how
11 ParentSquare has increased communication; which has resulted in more volunteering
12 throughout schools.

13 Chairperson Johnson thanked everyone for their work and the reports brought before
14 the Board.

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17 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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19 Chairperson Johnson said the next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13,
20 2026.

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23 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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25 Chairperson Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:32
26 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Luke Diekhans, Clerk
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