AGENDA

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
November 9, 2026



Great Falls Public Schools

1100 Fourth Street South, Great Falls, Montana

Welcome to the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees meeting!

Is this your first meeting?

If this is your first time attending a meeting, let us extend our special welcome! These meetings are designed to give everyone the opportunity to participate in seeing how the Great Falls Public Schools Trustees facilitate school business.

What is the purpose of these meetings?

The meetings of the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees are open to the public, are recorded, and may be accessed on our website for up to one year. These meetings are held to officially conduct the business of the school district, as governed by Montana law. Trustees are responsible for key decisions, some of which include hiring employees, reviewing negotiated agreements, approving new curriculum or changes to existing curricula, facility usage requests, and paying of monthly expenses.

How can I address the Trustees?

If you would like to address the Board of Trustees on any matter, please fill out a "Request to Speak" card available from the Clerk of the Board at each meeting. Return this card to the Clerk of the Board or the Board Chairperson. This will allow the Chairperson to recognize you at the appropriate time in the meeting and to guarantee you the opportunity to address the Board. There are federal and state laws that must be followed when addressing the Board to protect the privacy of individuals and to conduct business in an orderly manner. Details can be found on the "Request to Speak" card.

Again – thank you for participating in this democratic process – we appreciate your presence!

– The Great Falls Public Schools Trustees

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Great Falls, MT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gordon Johnson	Chairperson
Kim Skornogoski	Vice Chairperson
Bill Bronson	Trustee
Craig Duff	Trustee
Paige Henning	Trustee
Marlee Sunchild	Trustee
Amie Thompson	Trustee

SUPERINTENDENT'S CABINET

Heather Hoyer	Superintendent of Schools
Luke Diekhans	Director of Business Operations
Lance Boyd	Executive Director for Student Achievement
Jackie Mainwaring	Executive Director for Student Achievement
Heather Spurzem	Director of Human Resources
Jeff Williams	Director of Information Technology
Katelyn Marsik	Director of the GFPS Foundation

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Lydia Comstock	C.M. Russell High School
Addie Crist	C.M. Russell High School
Kade Hobson	C.M. Russell High School
Kaitlynn Fulbright	Great Falls High School
Weston Stoll	Great Falls High School
Sydney Trunkle	Great Falls High School
Jocelyn Salois	Paris Gibson Education Center
Adyson Baez	Paris Gibson Education Center
Elizabeth Culberson	Paris Gibson Education Center

Great Falls Public Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting

AGENDA

November 9, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Aspen Meeting Room – District Office Building
1100 4th Street South, Great Falls, Montana

We Successfully Educate Students to Navigate the Future

			Page
I.	**CALL TO ORDER – PUBLIC DECLARATION OF RECORDED MEETING**	Chairperson Johnson	
II.	**ROLL CALL**	Luke Diekhans	
III.	**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**	Chairperson Johnson	
IV.	**ADOPT AGENDA**	Chairperson Johnson	
V.	**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**	Chairperson Johnson	

The Consent Agenda consists of routine business items related to the operation of the District. Any trustee may remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Items so removed will be discussed and acted upon separately under ACTION: OTHER

A.	Minutes of October 26, 2026 Regular Meeting	Luke Diekhans	6
B.	Personnel Actions	Heather Spurzem	12
C.	Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus Driver Certificates	Luke Diekhans	15
D.	Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year	Luke Diekhans	16
E.	Charles M. Russell High School Cross Country Team Travel Request to the Hoover Dam ½ Marathon	Jackie Mainwaring	17
F.	Great Falls High School Drama Club Travel Request to New York City, March 2027	Lance Boyd	19
G.	Great Falls High School Delphian Choir Travel Request to Salt Lake City, Utah March 2027	Lance Boyd	23

VI. COMMUNICATION

A.	Report of the Student Representatives	Jackie Mainwaring
B.	Superintendent Report	Heather Hoyer
C.	Audience Communication	

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A.	Fund 95-Section 125/Cafeteria Plans: Flexible Medical & Dependent Care	Luke Diekhans	25

VIII. ACTION: OTHER

Chairperson Johnson

IX. REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments — Chairperson Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS — Chairperson Johnson

Wednesday, November 11, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Community Town Hall: Budget Projections	District Offices Building
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Board Work Session – Healthy Schools	District Offices Building
Monday, November 23, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting	District Offices Building
Wednesday, December 9, 2026	4:00 p.m.	Board Budget Committee Meeting: Legislative Updates	District Offices Building
Monday, December 21, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting	District Offices Building

ACTION TO ADJOURN — Chairperson Johnson

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. A.

CABINET MEMBER: Luke Diekhans

TOPIC

Minutes of the October 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Board is required to approve the minutes of each Board meeting. The minutes of the October 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting are presented for approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Luke Diekhans at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD OCTOBER 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 October 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
Bill Bronson
Craig Duff
Paige Henning

Trustees Excused: Marlee Sunchild
Amie Thompson

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 Heath Heggem, Community Connections Coordinator. 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 – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Craig Duff, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, with special thanks given to Starbase Montana for their donation, as presented.

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A. **Minutes of the October 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the minutes of the October 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

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

C. **Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple Awards: Stefanie Cummings, School Registered Nurse, Meadowlark Elementary School; Sarah Schaeffer, Strings Teacher, East Middle School; and Justus Hilbig, Grounds-man, and Tim Heisler, Grounds Foreman, both Buildings and Grounds Department.

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

E. **Student Activity Monthly Report for September 2026** – The Board approved the Student Activity Accounts for September 2026 as presented.

F. **Presence of a Therapy Dog at Mountain View Elementary School** – The Board approved the presence of a therapy dog at Mountain View Elementary School and acknowledges that the certifications and requirements have been met.

G. **Approval of Great Falls High School (GFHS) Chamber Orchestra Tour to Salt Lake City, Utah in March 2027** - The Board approved the Great Falls High School (GFHS) Chamber Orchestra Tour to Salt Lake City, Utah on March 17-20, 2027.

H. **Donation from Starbase Montana to Great Falls Public Schools** – The Board approved the donation of approximately $2,060 in STEM materials from Starbase Montana, with thanks.

COMMUNICATION

A. **Character Strong – Mountain View Elementary School** – Kim Marzolf, Mountain View Elementary School Principal, and three (3) student representatives reported on what responsibility, the *Character Strong* word of the month, means to Mountain View Elementary School. They reviewed how they implement *Character Strong* within their school.

B. **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Hoyer reported that Technology Integration Coaches have completed the twenty-one (21) school-based Technology Budget planning meetings. They have also started *Tech Coach Tuesdays* in schools. Their goals are to clean up instructor used applications and sites to remove duplicity; streamline data entering, especially

DRAFT

when done manually; evaluate how current sites are, and if they are meeting needs; and work to be a united and accessible front.
She recognized six (6) recipients of the Heisey Foundation Classroom Grants.
Superintendent Hoyer stated that Early Learning Family Center Coordinator, Barbara Doughty, has provided information on her facility so the District is better prepared to answer questions from the community and/or Helena. Barbara will continue to update Superintendent Hoyer as information changes.
Superintendent Hoyer invited everyone to attend *Partnership with a Purpose (Part 1)*, scheduled for October 27, 2026. This event will look at the unique preschool-to-college relationship that enhances Career and Technical Education in the community.
National *Boss's Day* was recognized on October 16, 2026, and *Treasure Our Teachers* was recognized October 19-23, 2026.
Superintendent Hoyer updated the Board on the Long-Range Strategic Plan survey progress.
Superintendent Hoyer reviewed and provided guidance on legislative interactions and stated that the Legislative *Walk-And-Talk* opportunities are on the agenda for discussion at the November Principal Meeting.
Superintendent Hoyer reviewed students coming into our District from surrounding districts as well as students from our Districts attending surrounding districts.

C. **Audience Communication** – Community Member Judy Mortensen spoke on her concerns, her current actions, and her communications with the city regarding the use of marijuana and its negative impact on the community and schools. Mrs. Mortensen provided a handout which has been entered into the record with hard copies provided to the Board, thereafter.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Henning, passed unanimously to approve the Financial Report and Check Register for September 2026 and Accounts Payable checks #146166 - #146725 in the amount of $2,279,979.12 and Payroll checks #86572 - #86741 in the amount of $458,502.99 as presented.

B. **2027-2028 Budget Development Process Schedule** – Director of Business Operations, Luke Diekhans stated that District funding largely depends on student enrollment. When enrollment is declining, current law allows for a three-year average for enrollment as well as the ability to ask voters for additional funding up to the State Maximum Budget (100%) to maintain the previous year's budget. Luke said that after only one enrollment count it is difficult to have an accurate revenue forecast for the 2027-2028 fiscal year. He presented a Board Budget Committee recommended timeline for the 2027-2028 budget meetings with the main Board Budget Committee meetings

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scheduled for March of 2027. He emphasized the importance of building opportunity for the community to participate.

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the 2027-2028 Budget Development Process as presented.

C. **Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 3416 – *Administering Medications to Students;* 5227 – *Employee Substance Use;* and 8205 – *Food Service***
Superintendent Hoyer reviewed the policies above and stated no comments or recommendations for changes were received since the first reading of the policies at the October 12, 2026 Board Meeting.

Motion – Paige Henning, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve revised Board Policies 3416 – *Administering Medications to Students;* 5227 – *Employee Substance Use;* and 8205 – *Food Service,* as presented.

ACTION: OTHER

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

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES

A. **Technology 2026 Summer Work Report** – Director of Information Technology, Jeff Williams, provided a presentation of major accomplishments and projects completed during the summer that were directly related to the long-term technology plan. Projects included, but were not limited to, security camera memory installation in seventeen (17) schools; Main Distribution Fram (MDF) modifications at West Elementary School; Chromebook cleaning and repairs; tech support during construction projects; and fiber work for the new scoreboard at Memorial Stadium.

B. **Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments**
Trustee Duff stated that he attended the crosstown football game. He thanked Erica Harp, the Policy Committee and the Technology Department for their work.
Trustee Skornogoski wished Chairperson Johnson a Happy Birthday. She also stated that the “I Am Bison” group at Great Falls High School have started their *Coffee with the Crew* meetings.
Trustees Skornogoski and Henning encouraged everyone to attend the Town Hall Budget meeting scheduled for November 11, 2026. They stated that this would be the meeting to listen, and voice their comments.
Trustee Henning thanked Judy Mortensen for attending the Board meetings and voicing her concerns. She also spoke on her concern with math curriculum being done on Chromebooks. Students are not understanding the material.
Trustee Bronson spoke on his attendance and learning during the MCEL Conference and encouraged his fellow Board members to watch the recording on the MTSBA

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website. He also thanked Superintendent Hoyer for her legislative handout and her continued observance of the proposed bills.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson said the next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2026.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Chairperson Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:35 p.m.

_____
Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

_____
Luke Diekhans, Clerk

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gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. B.

CABINET MEMBER: Heather Spurzem

TOPIC

Personnel Actions

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

As per MCA 20-3-324 – *Powers and Duties* – the trustees of each district shall employ or dismiss…personnel considered necessary to carry out the various services of the district.

DISCUSSION

See attached Personnel Action Report to the Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Noted on report.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to employ, dismiss, or accept the resignations of those noted on the Personnel Action Report.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Human Resources Heather Spurzem at (406) 268-6010.

Return to Agenda

Personnel Action Report to the Board of Trustees
Great Falls Public Schools

New Employee

Position: TEACHER

Name: ZAPARYNUK, DANIELLE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $34.44	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:PARIS GIBSON EDUCATION CENT
Position: ELEMENTARY ART TEACHER (OYO) (06/04/2027)		Amount: $31,769.52		Effective Date: 11/23/2026

Position: SUPPLEMENTAL

Name: LIETZ, DAVID	Pay: Salary	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 1.83	DAC:NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
Position: BOYS BB COACH (MS)		Amount: $2,130.00		Effective Date: 10/19/2026
Name: LINS, GRACIE JANE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 1.75	DAC:EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
Position: BOYS BB COACH (MS)		Amount: $2,028.00		Effective Date: 10/19/2026
Name: WEBSTER, JASON CHRISTOPHER	Pay: Salary	Rate: $22.00	Hrs: 0.50	DAC:EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
Position: PERFORMING ARTS COORD		Amount: $2,064.00		Effective Date: 08/24/2026
Name: GRAFE, NASH	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $110.00	Hrs: 0.00	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: SUB TEACHER		Amount: $0.00		Effective Date: 11/03/2026
Name: MAXWELL, DEBORAH	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $110.00	Hrs: 0.00	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: SUB TEACHER		Amount: $0.00		Effective Date: 10/27/2026
Name: FULGUM, DALE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 0.20	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: HOMEBOUND TEACHER (KS)		Amount: $388.80		Effective Date: 10/08/2026
Name: ELLEDGE, DANIELLE NICOLE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 0.40	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: HOMEBOUND TEACHER (AF)		Amount: $1,112.40		Effective Date: 08/26/2026
Name: BUDESKI, NICHOLAS JAMES	Pay: Salary	Rate: $22.00	Hrs: 0.69	DAC:C M RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
Position: DEPT HEAD COUNSELING		Amount: $2,168.00		Effective Date: 10/27/2026
Name: MERRIMAN, JASON B	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 0.60	DAC:NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
Position: SATURDAY SCHOOL FACILITATOR (06/06/27)		Amount: $2,883.60		Effective Date: 09/01/2026
Name: NALL, GRACE VICTORIA	Pay: Salary	Rate: $27.00	Hrs: 1.49	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: ASSISTANT MARCHING BAND DIRECTOR		Amount: $1,691.00		Effective Date: 08/26/2026
Name: MURPHY, JESSICA J	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $110.00	Hrs: 0.00	DAC:DISTRICT WIDE
Position: SUB TEACHER		Amount: $0.00		Effective Date: 11/04/2026
Name: DAVIS, MIKE J	Pay: Salary	Rate: $32.25	Hrs: 1.84	DAC:PARIS GIBSON EDUCATION CENT
Position: DR ED TEACHER/CLASS (10/30/2026)		Amount: $475.00		Effective Date: 10/21/2026

Position: ELECTRICIAN

Name: CLOUTIER, ANTHONY	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $37.70	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
Position: ELECTRICIAN		Amount: $48,256.00		Effective Date: 11/09/2026

Position: ENGINEERS

Name: LIM, JOSEF ESKER BALLESTEROS	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $21.51	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
Position: CUSTODIAN		Amount: $28,737.36		Effective Date: 10/29/2026
Name: WHEELER, ABIGALE NICOLE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $21.51	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
Position: CUSTODIAN		Amount: $29,769.84		Effective Date: 10/21/2026

Position: LIBRARY/TEACHER AIDES

Name: GROSSMAN, LYLA LARSON	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $13.23	Hrs: 0.00	DAC:SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY
Position: OVERLOAD TEACHER AIDE		Amount: $0.00		Effective Date: 10/27/2026
Name: RUIZ, MARIA ELENA	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $13.23	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY
Position: CORE TEACHER AIDE		Amount: $14,189.18		Effective Date: 10/27/2026

Position: NURSE

Name: MAHLUM, TRACY MARIE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $44.50	Hrs: 6.00	DAC:PARIS GIBSON EDUCATION CENT
Position: FLOAT SCHOOL REGISTERED NURSE		Amount: $36,579.00		Effective Date: 11/04/2026

Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)

Name: JOHNSON, NOAH WILLIAMS	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:CHIEF JOSEPH ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $18,662.40		Effective Date: 10/26/2026
Name: KELLER, LANIAH JILL	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $19,051.20		Effective Date: 10/21/2026
Name: GOODWIN, BOBBIE VALENTINE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:GIANT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $18,014.40		Effective Date: 11/02/2026
Name: TAKES GUN, JAMES RAY	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 4.50	DAC:C M RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $11,119.68		Effective Date: 10/26/2026
Name: KOONTZ, T'AYRA	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $17,884.80		Effective Date: 11/03/2026

Name: ONEILL, LAURA MARIE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)		Amount: $16,718.40		Effective Date: 11/16/2026

Position: SUPERVISORS (PERS)

Name: CORDEIRO, STEPHANIE	Pay: Salary	Rate: $29.01	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:HUMAN RESOURCES
Position: LEAD PAYROLL TECHNICIAN		Amount: $39,451.72		Effective Date: 11/05/2026

Resignation

Position: ENGINEERS

Name: LE MASTER, JESS A	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $20.98	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
Position: GROUNDSMAN (11/11/2026)		Amount: $17,287.52		Effective Date: 11/11/2026
Name: KLEINSASSER, JOHN J	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $21.51	Hrs: 8.00	DAC:SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY
Position: CUSTODIAN (11/06/2026)		Amount: $10,324.80		Effective Date: 11/06/2026

Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)

Name: MERCER, TIARA KAY	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.70	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED) (10/23/2026)		Amount: $5,442.75		Effective Date: 10/23/2026

Termination

Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED)

Name: KOCH THURSTON, GRACE YVONNE	Pay: Hourly	Rate: $17.28	Hrs: 7.50	DAC:LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY
Position: PARA EDUCATOR (SP ED) (10/27/2026)		Amount: $5,572.80		Effective Date: 10/27/2026

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. C.

CABINET MEMBER: Luke Diekhans

TOPIC

Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) TR-35 School Bus Driver Certificates

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

School bus drivers are required to comply with qualifications set forth in Section 20-10-103, MCA, and 10.7.111 ARM, and file a certificate of compliance with the County Superintendent of Schools.

DISCUSSION

The following individuals meet the qualifications of school bus drivers: Jamie Perry, Jay Aitken, Michael Clark, and Nicholas Guidotti

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the Montana Office of Public Instruction TR-35 school bus driver certificates for the individuals listed above.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Luke Diekhans at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. D.

CABINET MEMBER: Luke Diekhans

TOPIC

Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

Under the provisions of MCA 20-5-320 – *Attendance with Discretionary Approval* and MCA 20-5-321 – *Attendance with Mandatory Approval – Tuition and Transportation*, and Board Policy 3141 – *Nonresident Student Enrollment,* students from outside of the Great Falls District are requesting to attend school in Great Falls for the 2026-2027 school year.

DISCUSSION

The following student is requesting to attend school in Great Falls for the 2026-2027 school year:

STUDENT IDENTIFIER	DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE	GRADE
1027121407	VAUGHN	4TH

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Tuition fees to be paid for by the District of Residence.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the Incoming Student Attendance Agreement for the student listed above, with tuition to be paid for by the District of Residence.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Luke Diekhans at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. E.

CABINET MEMBER: Jackie Mainwaring

TOPIC

Approval of Charles M. Russell (CMR) High School Cross Country Team, Hoover Dam ½ Marathon Travel Request

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability and Student Achievement

BACKGROUND

Per Board Policy 2320 Instruction – *Field Trips, Excursions, and Outdoor Education*, field trips which take students out of school for two or more days in state, or any trips out of state, require Board approval.

Discussion

CMR Head Cross Country Coach, Jolyn Kimmet, is requesting permission to take thirty (30) students and two (2) additional chaperones to the Hoover Dam ½ Marathon Run held in Lake Mead, NV, December 3rd – December 7th, 2026. Students will miss three days of classroom instruction and will arrange to get assignments from their teachers before departing. The event takes place during the regular high school season. This will give students the opportunity to test their endurance through competition.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

All funds for the trip are being paid by the students and their families. Students will carpool with Coach Kimmet, Asst. Coach Branch Brady and Tad Kimmet. No district funds will be used for this trip. Students have done individual fundraising through a run-a-thon, and all money is going directly to the costs of the trip, registration, etc.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the Charles M. Russell High School Cross Country Team to travel to the Hoover Dam ½ Marathon race in Lake Mead, Nevada on December 3rd – 7th, 2026.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001, or Executive Director Jackie Mainwaring at (406) 268-6006.

Return to Agenda

Received by:
OCT 2 8 2026
GFPS Executive
Director's Office

October 26, 2025
Jolyn Kimmet
C.M. Russell High School
227 17th Ave NW
Great Falls, MT 59404

Dear Mrs. Mainwaring:

I am asking Great Falls Public Schools for permission to take 30 students, myself, and two chaperones (Branch Brady & Tad Kimmet) to the Hoover Dam to run a half marathon. It will be held from December 3rd to December 7th.

These students will miss three days of school and will arrange to get assignments from their teachers before departing. It should be an extraordinary opportunity for these student athletes.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please call me at 268-6235.

Sincerely,

Jolyn Kimmet

Head Cross Country Coach

CMR High School

Jamie McGraw, C.M. Russell Principal

Jackie Mainwaring, Asst. Superintendent

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. F.

CABINET MEMBER: Lance Boyd

TOPIC

Approval of Great Falls High School (GFHS) Drama Club Travel Request to New York City, March 2027

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability and Student Achievement

BACKGROUND

Per Board Policy 2320 Instruction – *Field Trips, Excursions, and Outdoor Education*, field trips which take students out of school for two or more days in state, or any trips out of state, require Board approval.

Adult Chaperones are subject to Board Policy 5430 Personnel – *Volunteers*, and are required to undergo a fingerprint criminal background investigation per Board Policy 5122 Personnel – *Fingerprints and Criminal Background Investigations.*

Discussion

Great Falls High School Drama teacher, Ali Dewey, is requesting permission to take approximately ten (10) Drama Club students to New York City, March 12-16, 2027. Additional adult chaperones will be accompanying the group on this trip.

Students will travel to New York via air travel, coordinated in conjunction with Manhattan Concert Productions. Students will spend their days in rehearsals led by music directors and performers who are currently working within the industry. They will meet other high school and middle school students from across the country, performing a final concert on the night of March 15th. Evening activities will be provided by Manhattan Concert Productions and will include a Broadway show and a museum trip. Each student will be required to pay the program fee of $1,535, along with the cost of the flight.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the trip will be self-financed; no District funds will be used.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the Great Falls High School Drama Club travel to New York City on March 12-16, 2027.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001, or Executive Director Lance Boyd at (406) 268-6008.

Return to Agenda

Great Falls High School
1900 2nd Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

October 21, 2026

Great Falls Public Schools School Board
1100 4th Street South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

Request for Approval for *Broadway Series Showcase*

Supt. Hoyer and the GFPS Board of Trustees,

I am writing to request approval for my students and me to attend the Broadway Series Showcase in New York City from March 12–16. This field trip would provide students with a valuable opportunity to experience live theatre, explore the performing arts, and perform at the Lincoln Center Theatre with many experienced music directors and performers.

Students will depart from Great Falls by plane on ~~May~~ March 12 and arrive in New York City that day. After arrival, we will be escorted by Manhattan Concert Productions, to our hotel. Students will spend their days in rehearsals. There, they will meet other high school and middle school students from across the country. Their rehearsals will be led by music directors and performers who are currently working within the industry. Evenings will be spent with activities provided by Manhattan Concert Productions: a Broadway show and a museum trip. Students will perform in a final concert on the night of the 15th. The morning of the 16th, we will leave from New York City and arrive in Great Falls that night. A more detailed itinerary, provided by Manhattan Concert Productions, will be provided as well.

An estimated ten students will be in attendance. Each student will be required to pay the program fee of $1,535. That includes the experience, hotel costs, a museum trip, and tickets to a Broadway show. Students will also be responsible for flight costs, currently estimated at around $500. Flights will be coordinated by me and a Manhattan Concert Productions airfare coordinator.

As students will be missing three days of school, a makeup work check will need to be completed the week before leaving. Students will be required to meet with their teachers before leaving and collect work they will be missing. The day before, students will complete a form that shows what work they will need to complete for each class and when it is due. Throughout the trip, students will be reminded to work on their missing work when time is available.

I care very deeply about the safety of my students. Therefore, I will be going with two to three chaperones. A meeting will be held in the next few weeks to discuss guardians who would be willing and able to chaperone this trip. Chaperones will have a program fee of $745, as well as a flight fee of around $500. Per district policy, any chaperones not employed by Great Falls Public Schools will undergo a background check.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be happy to provide additional details regarding the itinerary, transportation, accommodations, and anticipated costs as needed. I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ali Dewey
Drama Teacher
Great Falls High School
406.268.6354

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Consent

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: V. G.

CABINET MEMBER: Lance Boyd

TOPIC

Approval of Great Falls High School (GFHS) Delphian Choir Travel Request to Salt Lake City, March 2027

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability and Student Achievement

BACKGROUND

Per Board Policy 2320 Instruction – *Field Trips, Excursions, and Outdoor Education*, field trips which take students out of school for two or more days in state, or any trips out of state, require Board approval.

Discussion

GFHS Delphian Choir instructor Patrick Ryan is requesting permission to take forty-six (46) students to Salt Lake City, Utah March 10-13, 2027. Two (2) faculty members and two (2) adult chaperones will accompany students on the trip. The group will depart via bus after school on Wednesday, March 10th and return Saturday, March 13th. Many events are planned that are an integral part of the music experience. Students also have the opportunity to attend a professional opera production with the renowned Utah Opera.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the trip will be financed through the Delphian Choir student activity account, with the money raised through the annual fruit sale fundraiser and *Spark the Arts*. No district funds will be used for this trip.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Board is requested to approve the Great Falls High School Delphian Choir travel request to Salt Lake City, Utah March 10-13, 2027.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001, or Executive Director Lance Boyd at (406) 268-6008.

Return to Agenda

Great Falls Public Schools

Great Falls High School • 1900 2nd Avenue South • Great Falls, MT 59405 •
406.268.6250 • Fax 406.268.6256 • www.gfps.k12.mt.us

October 28, 2026

Dear Mrs. Hoyer, Mr. Habel, and Mr. Molyneaux:

We are writing to request permission to take the Great Falls High School Delphian Choir on a trip to Salt Lake City. Touring and intensive performance are integral parts of the music experience. Our trip will allow us to sing in a variety of wonderful settings with some of the best choirs in the region, and to experience a professional opera production with renowned Utah Opera.

The choir will depart after school on Wednesday, March 10; returning Saturday, March 13. 46 students from the Delphian Choir will participate. The trip will be financed with student accounts money, raised through our fruit sale fundraising and Spark the Arts. We will be taking two faculty members and two parent chaperones with us on the trip.

We have many exciting things in the works:

- Observing the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal
- Clinic and exchange with Utah State University
- Exchanges with Salt Lake City area high school choirs
- Touring and singing in the *Cathedral of the Madeleine*
- Attending the Utah Opera's performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*

It's an exciting time to be in Delphian! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick & Lynn Ryan

gfps Great Falls Public Schools Great Falls, MT	Thompson	Sunchild	Skornogoski	Johnson	Henning	Duff	Bronson
Motion							
Second							
Ayes							
Nays							
Abstain							

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2026

CATEGORY: Action

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: VII. A.

CABINET MEMBER: Luke Diekhans

TOPIC

Fund 95-Section 125/Cafeteria Plans: Flexible Medical & Dependent Care

STRATEGIC PLAN

Stewardship and Accountability

BACKGROUND

Great Falls Public Schools has had a Section 125/Cafeteria Plan for the District that employees may elect to contribute to through Allegiance out of Missoula. In the past, all employee elections for contributing to the plan were paid directly to Allegiance through payroll. Allegiance would then pay claims as the claims were submitted directly to them.

DISCUSSION

Allegiance made the decision that they would no longer hold the funds for the District's plan and had requested that we give them access to pay claims directly from our bank account. As the District was not comfortable with an outside organization having access to our bank account, the decision was made to work with our broker, Mike Bonnville, to come up with an alternative solution. Mike worked with Application Software, Inc., ASI, an alternate company to see if a solution could be found.

In the end, the District chose to work with ASI. ASI would not require direct access to our bank account. They would invoice the District weekly to be reimbursed for payments ASI made on behalf of our enrolled employees.

To make this accurate and efficient, the District will need to set up Fund 95. Fund 95 will hold all employee contributions to the District's Section 125/Cafeteria Plan. Moving forward, these are the funds that will be utilized to pay ASI for the submitted reimbursement. ASI is the Third-Party Administrator responsible for tracking employee contributions and expenditures.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no increase or decrease in overall spending in the District.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The District Board is requested to approve of Fund 95 for the District's Section 125/Cafeteria Plan.

For more information about this item, please contact Superintendent Heather Hoyer at (406) 268-6001 or Director of Business Operations Luke Diekhans at (406) 268-6050.

Return to Agenda