

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD JANUARY 23, 2023**
4

5 A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public
6 Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South, on the 23rd day
7 of January 2023.
8

9 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.
10

11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
13 Bill Bronson
14 Mark Finnicum
15 Marlee Sunchild
16 Amie Thompson
17 Paige Turoski
18

19 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
20 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; and Jackie Mainwaring
21 and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for Student Achievement. Also present was Tom
22 Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President and Malmstrom Air
23 Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth Education Services-School Liaison Lisa Sapp.
24

25 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
26 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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28
29 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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31 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded –Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adopt
32 the agenda as presented.
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35 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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37 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
38 the Consent Agenda as presented.
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40 **A. Minutes of the January 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
41 the minutes of the January 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
42

43 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.
44

45 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
46 Awards: Jennifer Cantley and Kara Bell, Music teachers at East Middle School;
47 Grandma Loyce, Foster Grandparent Services at Lewis and Clark Elementary School;
48 Katelyn Lindland, Kindergarten teacher at Valley View Elementary School; Whitney

1 Staub, Academic Achievement Coach at Great Falls High School; Brittani Yoder,
2 Resource 1 teacher at Giant Springs Elementary School; Kelsey Brown, Counselor at
3 Giant Springs Elementary School; Selena Coburn, Mental Health Therapist at North
4 Middle School; Lyndsey Oraw, District Wide Alluvion Counselor; Lisa Hermansson,
5 District Wide AWARE/CSCT; and Tara Murillo, Librarian at Chief Joseph Elementary
6 School.

7
8 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
9 Montana Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the agenda.

10
11 **E. TR-1 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims** - The Board approved the TR-1 Bus
12 Route Reimbursement Claims for bus routes for both the high school and elementary
13 districts.

14
15 **F. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance at the Early Learning Center for**
16 **the 2022-2023 School Year** – The Board approved the students listed in the agenda to
17 attend the Early Learning Center for the 2022-2023 school year due to exceptional
18 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

19
20 **G. Student Activity Monthly Report for November 2022** – The Board approved the
21 Student Activity Accounts for November 2022.

22
23 **H. Great Falls High School Orchestra and Band Students Travel Request** – The
24 Board approved travel for 68 orchestra and band students and their teachers to travel to
25 Spokane, Washington, April 14-16, 2023, for touring and intensive performance
26 opportunities.

27 28 29 **COMMUNICATION**

30
31 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – Malmstrom Air Force Base
32 (MAFB) Child and Youth Education Services-School Liaison Lisa Sapp reported that
33 three (3) High School Hack sessions where C.M. Russell High School Librarian and
34 Instructional Coach Jamie Williams and Malmstrom Lead Librarian Ashley Mayer gave
35 families opportunities to learn about the various academic resources available through
36 the base and school district. The sessions helped parents and students trouble shoot
37 and navigate the various learning platforms available. She also reported that there is an
38 ACT Workshop scheduled for February 28, 2023 for information and support regarding
39 upcoming ACT testing. Lisa explained MAFB, Great Falls Public Schools, along with
40 other various community partners will be at the Malmstrom Air Force Base Youth Center
41 providing developmental and health screenings on February 10, 2023 for children ages
42 0-5.

43
44 **B. Superintendent's Report** –
45 Valley View Elementary School's Principal Dannelle Dyke and two students presented a
46 video on the *Character Strong* word of the month. Mrs. Dyke reported that the students
47 are having fun with this program.

1 Superintendent Moore reported that the High Voltage Weekend is scheduled for
2 February 10-12, 2023. This successful event also took place last year.
3 The Great Falls Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Agriculture Banquet on
4 January 20, 2023, where various high school student group representatives served over
5 400 deserts and the Russell Ayers performed the National Anthem. Superintendent
6 Moore also stated that Loy Elementary School students led the Pledge of Allegiance at
7 the 2023 PRCA Rodeo.
8 C.M. Russell High School’s drum line surprised the audience as they marched out
9 during the Ignite event held at the Meadow Lark Country Club on January 13, 2023.
10 Superintendent Moore reported that two Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC)
11 students “paid it forward” by designing, beading and painting a bison skull for the
12 upcoming Children’s Receiving Home Cowboy Cabaret Fundraiser scheduled for March
13 4, 2023.
14 He stated that the twelve (12) representatives from Montana Air National Guard
15 (MANG) Red Horse Squadron and over 350 high school students participated in a
16 “hands on” Military Day.
17 Superintendent Moore congratulated Jordann Lankford for being featured in NEAToday
18 Magazine.
19 Great Falls High School students have created “I am Bison” which is a student driven,
20 student led group that meets twice a month to come up with different way to improve the
21 culture within Great Falls High School.
22 Superintendent Moore stated that the Great Falls Public Schools Community Forum
23 Series will start on February 2, 2023. The first forum pertains to the issues with youth
24 wellness within our schools.
25 Superintendent Moore reviewed several proposed bills currently being discussed in the
26 Montana Legislature that will affect Great Falls Public Schools.
27 A Great Falls Public Schools Job Fair is scheduled for January 25, 2023 at Paris Gibson
28 Education Center (PGEC).
29 Superintendent Moore stated that Tres 65 is hosting Teacher Trivia on January 27,
30 2023 for 1st and 2nd year teachers and their plus one.
31 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick stated that the sale of Roosevelt
32 Elementary School has been completed with Great Falls Public Schools receiving
33 payment.

34
35 **C. Audience Communication – None**
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37
38 **ACTION ITEMS**
39

40 **A. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for November 2022** – Motion – Bill
41 Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the November
42 2022 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #124973 - #125399 in the amount
43 of \$2,381,090.52 and Payroll checks #76795 - #77063 in the amount of \$557,630.38 as
44 presented.
45

46 **B. Bids for Technology Purchase of Replacement Wireless Access Points** –
47 Director of Information Technology Tom Hering stated that Great Falls Public Schools
48 participates in the Schools and Libraries Universal Services Support (E-Rate) program.

1 This program helps ensure that schools and libraries can obtain telecommunications
2 and internet access at affordable rates. The Federal Communications Commission
3 (FCC) adopted the E-rate Modernization Order in 2014 which focuses on expanding
4 funding for wired and Wi-Fi networks in elementary and secondary schools and libraries
5 so that broadband needs can be met in today’s world of interactive, individualized digital
6 learning. Tom explained that in 2020, the FCC revised the rules and secured funding for
7 the next five years. Currently, the District qualifies for an 80% discount on eligible
8 equipment and services purchased upon application approval and availability of funding.
9 The discount is calculated each year and is dependent on the number of students
10 eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The E-rate program requires
11 that applicants follow a formal process in order to create open and fair competitive
12 bidding. Tom said the District is requesting to fund a replacement of wireless access
13 points for all District locations. Four hundred thirty-three wireless access points are out
14 of warranty and do not meet current wireless needs.

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16 Motion - Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
17 call for replacement wireless access points as presented.

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19 **C. Location of Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) Collective Bargaining**
20 **Site** – Superintendent Tom Moore explained the GFEA and District recently initiated the
21 collective bargaining process to bargain a successor agreement. The GFEA has
22 requested that bargaining meeting take place in their office building which is located a
23 block away from the District Administration Building. Under the Montana Open Meeting
24 law “public meetings must be conducted in school buildings or, upon the unanimous
25 vote of the trustees, in a publicly accessible building located within the district”.

26
27 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
28 approve the use of the Great Falls Education Association’s building located at 511 13th
29 Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana for the purpose of bargaining meetings for a
30 successor agreement with Great Falls Education Association.

31
32 **D. Resolution Estimating Changes in Revenues/Mills for Tuition, Adult Education,**
33 **Building Reserve, Flexibility, Bus Depreciation, and Transportation Funds for**
34 **School Fiscal Year 2023-24** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained
35 Montana State Law requires school boards to adopt a resolution whenever Trustees
36 intend to impose an increase in a non-voted levy in the ensuing fiscal year. The Board
37 Budget Committee reviewed the estimated permissive levies at a work session held on
38 January 18, 2023. Brian explained increases, decreases or no changes in each of the
39 funds. The estimated impact for all the combined Elementary and High School budgets
40 is a reduction of 4.29 mills. The impact on taxes for a home with an estimated taxable
41 valuation of \$100,000 is a decrease of \$5.80 for all funds combined and a home valued
42 at \$200,000 is a reduction of \$11.59. This information will be advertised in the local
43 paper and on the District website. Exact fiscal implications will not be known until
44 August as these are estimates only.

45
46 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adopt the
47 resolution estimating changes in revenues/mills to the Adult Education, Building

1 Reserve, Flexibility, Bus Depreciation, Transportation and Tuition levies for the school
2 fiscal year 2023-24 as presented.

3 **ACTION: OTHER**

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5 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

6
7 **A. Report on the School Nutrition Program** – School Food Services Supervisor Jessa
8 Youngers stated that while the amount of food items being cancelled or substituted are
9 slowly decreasing the cost of food is rapidly increasing. In the annual review, she stated
10 that the large freezer located in the Warehouse had a frozen fire suppression line and
11 all food had to be relocated until it could be repaired. Riverview Elementary School’s
12 remodel which included a new service line and window expansion is now complete.
13 Longfellow Elementary School’s second service line has also been completed. Jessa
14 gave special recognition to food service employee Kay Nash for her dedication and
15 willingness to adapt to any situations that arise. Jessa reported on student participation
16 and meals served from the 2018-2019 school year to current. The Summer Food
17 Service Program showed a significant decrease in community participation due to
18 federal waivers being lifted. With the help of Director of Student Achievement Lance
19 Boyd, Free and Reduced application returns have increased. Meal charges texts and
20 push notifications have been implemented this school year for accounts with negative
21 balances. Jessa reported that Great Falls Public Schools is in collaboration with Get Fit
22 Great Falls with the *Color Your Plate* challenge for February and March. Great Falls
23 Public School food service employees volunteered at the Food Bank as well as Meals
24 on Wheels to give back to the community. Jessa thanked all her staff for their work.

25
26 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –

27 Trustees Skornogoski and Turoski stated that they are excited for the Wellness
28 Community Forums and hope that the community gets involved. Trustee Turoski also
29 said that she looks forward to the Elementary students “Character Strong” reports.
30 Trustee Finnicum stated that his son participated in the judging for Business
31 Professionals of America (BPA) contest and was amazed by the students.
32 Trustee Thompson and Sunchild reported how impressed they are with the “I am Bison”
33 student group and their work.
34 Trustee Sunchild appreciates how much Great Falls Public Schools is involved with the
35 Indigenous persons/culture and stated how nationally that is not the case.
36 Trustee Bronson expressed his thanks to Mike Henneberg, Director of Athletics, for his
37 detailed report regarding the Montana High School Association (MHSA) annual meeting
38 proposal results.

39
40 **C. Superintendent Evaluation**– Board Chairperson Johnson announced that the
41 Superintendent’s right to privacy in this discussion and query phase of the evaluation
42 process supersedes the public’s right to know and therefore this portion of the meeting
43 would be closed to the public in accordance with Montana Code Annotated 2-3-203(3).
44 Chairperson Johnson recessed the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:49
45 p.m. and went into closed session at 6:55 p.m.

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47 At 8:07 p.m. Chairperson Johnson reopened the Regular Meeting of the Board of
48 Trustees.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2023, and Monday, February 27, 2023.

ACTION TO ADJOURN

Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:09 p.m.

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk