

1                   **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
2   **HELD JANUARY 24, 2022**

3  
4 A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public  
5 Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day  
6 of January, 2022.

7  
8 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.

9  
10 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Vice Chairperson  
11   Bill Bronson  
12   Mark Finnicum  
13   Kim Skornogoski  
14   Marlee Sunchild  
15   Nathan Reiff

16  
17 **Trustee Absent:** Jeff Gray, Chairperson

18  
19 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business  
20 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Lance Boyd, Director of  
21 Student Services; Kerry Dattilo, Director of Human Resources; Becky Nelson,  
22 Community Connections Coordinating/Workforce Manager; and Stephanie Schnider,  
23 GFPS Foundation Director. Also present was Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education  
24 Association (GFEA) President.

25  
26 At 5:30 pm, Vice Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board  
27 of Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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29  
30 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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32 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt  
33 the agenda as presented.

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36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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38 Note: Vice Chairperson Johnson explained there has been a correction to the minutes  
39 in the agenda. Action item A – 2020-2021 Financial Statement and Audit Review did not  
40 have the motion and vote included. The minutes have been revised to include the  
41 information.

42  
43 Motion – Kim Skornogoski Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve  
44 the Consent Agenda as presented.

45  
46 **A. Minutes of the January 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved  
47 the minutes of the January 10, 2022 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 for Good Apple  
4 Awards: Shawna Short, Special Education Paraprofessional at Great Falls High School  
5 and Kim Yarlott, HANDS Director at Lewis & Clark Elementary School.

6  
7 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the  
8 Montana Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the agenda.

9  
10 **E. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2021-2022 First Semester** - The  
11 Board approved the TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2021-2022 first  
12 semester.

13  
14 **F. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreement at the Early Learning**  
15 **Center for the 2021-2022 School Year** – The Board approved the Transitional  
16 Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreement for the student listed in the agenda for the  
17 2021-2022 school year due to exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

18  
19 **G. Resolution to Dispose of Unsuitable District Property** - The Board approved the  
20 resolution to declare the items listed in the agenda as surplus.

21  
22  
23 **COMMUNICATION**

24  
25 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – None

26  
27 **B. Superintendent's Report**

28 Superintendent Moore congratulated Director of Athletics Mike Henneberg on being the  
29 recipient of the Outstanding Athletic Director of the Year Award from the Montana High  
30 School Association.

31 He introduced Special Olympics of Montana (SOMT) Chief Operating Officer Vickie  
32 Donisthorpe and Athlete Jon Hargett who thanked the District for the Leadership and  
33 work done with Special Olympics. Jon stated that Great Falls Public Schools' staff and  
34 students raised over \$11,000 from the Polar Plunge that took place during the  
35 Christmas Stroll. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Superintendent Moore.  
36 Lee Haynes, Brent Cutler and Terry Litostansky were presented Good Apple Awards for  
37 their work regarding the East Middle School closure due to a blown transformer. These  
38 individuals turned the power off to the school before further damage could be done and  
39 worked closely with Cascade Electric and Northwestern Energy to maintain heat in the  
40 building to avoid freezing pipes. A temporary transformer was installed and was utilized  
41 until a newly purchased transformer arrived from Texas.

42 Both C.M. Russell High School (CMR) and Great Falls High School (GFHS) Business  
43 Professionals of America (BPA) students hosted a regional competition on Monday,  
44 January 17, 2022, where 241 students from multiple schools competed for an  
45 opportunity to qualify for the State BPA competition.

46 The Great Falls Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Agriculture Banquet on  
47 January 21, 2022, where SKILLS USA Officers served over 400 deserts and the Russell  
48 Ayers performed the National Anthem.

1 Superintendent Moore stated that there are numerous events taking place throughout  
2 Great Falls starting on January 27, 2022. These include a Town Hall Meeting with  
3 Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) and Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) to discuss a  
4 variety of topics with parents and commanders. On January 28, 2022, GFPS will hold a  
5 Job Fair at the District Office Building. February 1, 2022, Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly  
6 will proclaim February as GFPS Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month at the City  
7 Commission Meeting. A Workforce Development Workshop will take place on February  
8 2, 2022 at Heritage Hall where the Montana Chamber of Commerce will engage the  
9 Great Falls business community as well as educators, to discuss workforce issues.  
10 Later in the afternoon at Great Falls High School, Tiana Yates will be conducting  
11 professional development with area educators, providing a hands-on introduction to the  
12 Youth Entrepreneurs curriculum. Great Falls Public Schools' Art Show will take place at  
13 the Dark Horse in the Celtic Cowboy on February 10, 2022, where 30 art pieces from  
14 Paris Gibson Education Center, Great Falls High School, and C.M. Russell High School  
15 students will be on display. The High Voltage Weekend in the Electric City event will  
16 take place February 11-13, 2022.

17 Superintendent Moore stated winter sports are happening throughout the District with  
18 crosstown Girls' Basketball and Wrestling happening January 25 and January 27.  
19 Great Falls High School's drama production of Charlotte's Web was postponed due to  
20 COVID-19 but has been rescheduled to take place February 17-26.

21 Superintendent Moore reviewed the timeline of the Citizen's Academy hosted by Great  
22 Falls Public Schools.

23 Superintendent Moore showed updated graphs that demonstrated the current status of  
24 COVID-19 in GFPS and reminded everyone that COVID-19 testing for GFPS staff and  
25 students is still available at the Fairgrounds.

26  
27 **C. Audience Communication** – Madeleine Saenz expressed her concern regarding  
28 the low compensation for Special Education Paraeducators in the District.

29  
30

31 **ACTION ITEMS**

32

33 **A. Additional Pay for Substitute Teachers to Address Teacher Absences Due to**  
34 **COVID-19** – Director of Human Resources Kerry Dattilo explained that the Board  
35 previously approved additional pay for Substitute Teachers for November and  
36 December 2021. During that time 22 individuals met the requirement for a total  
37 expended amount of \$8,800. With an increase in absences due to COVID-19 after the  
38 holiday break from school, a demand for substitute teachers is apparent. The proposed  
39 recommendation is for additional compensation of \$400 for substitutes who work a  
40 minimum of 25 days from February 1 – March 31, and another \$400 for those who meet  
41 the same requirement from April 1 – May 31.

42  
43 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve  
44 the compensation of \$400 for all substitute teachers who work a minimum of 25 days  
45 from February 1 through March 31, 2022 and \$400 for all substitute teachers who work  
46 a minimum of 25 days from April 1 through May 31, 2022 as presented.

47  
48 **B. Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election on May 3, 2022** - Director of Business

1 Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Trustees must pass a resolution calling for  
2 an election at least 70 days before the election. The resolution must include the  
3 election date, purpose of the election, stating whether the election will be by mail or poll,  
4 voting locations and times the polls will be open. The resolution also includes the  
5 names of the election judges. He explained the May 3, 2022 election will be held to  
6 elect three (3) Trustees for three-year terms and one (1) Trustee for a one-year term.  
7 The deadline for a person to file for a Trustee position is March 24, 2022. Trustees do  
8 not have to set levy amounts at this time; however, they must be set in time for the  
9 Clerk to certify the ballot (not less than 30 days before the election or April 1, 2022).  
10 Brian said that the resolution also states that if it is later determined that any portion of  
11 the election is not required, the Trustees authorize the Election Administrator to cancel  
12 that portion of the election in accordance with State law.

13  
14 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to adopt a  
15 resolution calling for an Election on May 3, 2022 as presented.

16  
17 **C. 2022 School Election by Mail Ballot** – Director of Business Operations Brian  
18 Patrick explained the Trustees must send a request to the Election Department of  
19 Cascade County requesting the school election be held by a mail ballot. The estimated  
20 cost to run a school election is \$40,000.

21  
22 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Second – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve  
23 the request to the Election Department of Cascade County that the 2022 school election  
24 be conducted by mail ballot.

25  
26 **D. Cascade County to Conduct the 2022-2023 School Elections** – Director of  
27 Business Operations Brian Patrick explained this request is not for the upcoming May  
28 2022 election, but the election during the 2022-2023 school year. He said if the Board  
29 does not officially make this request, the Elections Department, by law, cannot run the  
30 election.

31  
32 Motion – Nathan Reiff, Second – Mark Finnicum , passed unanimously to officially ask  
33 the Cascade County Elections Department to run the elections for Great Falls Public  
34 School Districts 1 & A during the 2022-2023 school year.

35  
36 **E. Resolution Estimating Changes in Revenues/Mills for Tuition, Adult Education,**  
37 **Building Reserve, Flexibility, Bus Depreciation, and Transportation Funds for**  
38 **School Fiscal Year 2022-23** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained  
39 Montana state law requires school boards to adopt a resolution whenever Trustees  
40 intend to impose an increase in a non-voted levy in the ensuing fiscal year. The Board  
41 Budget Committee reviewed the estimated permissive levies at a work session held on  
42 January 12, 2022. Brian explained increases, decreases or no changes in each of the  
43 funds. The estimated impact for all the combined Elementary and High School budgets  
44 is a reduction of 2.4 mills. The impact on taxes for a home with an estimated taxable  
45 valuation of \$100,000 is a decrease of \$3.24 for all funds combined and a home valued  
46 at \$200,000 is a reduction of \$6.49. This information will be advertised in the local paper  
47 and on the District website. Exact fiscal implications will not be known until August as  
48 these are estimates only.

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2 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Second – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adopt the  
3 resolution estimating changes in revenues/mills to the Adult Education, Building  
4 Reserve, Flexibility, Bus Depreciation, Transportation and Tuition levies for the school  
5 fiscal year 2022-23 as presented.  
6

7 **F. Intergovernmental Agreement for the Transfer of Monies to the State** – Director  
8 of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that House Bill 671 passed by the 2021  
9 Legislature transferred the management of the Comprehensive School and Community  
10 Treatment (CSCT) program from the Department of Health and Human Services  
11 (DPHHS) to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) effective July 1, 2021. The new  
12 process involves an intergovernmental transfer of funds to one government entity to  
13 another. Brian explained that the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Transfer of  
14 Monies to the State presented to the Board at the December 13, 2021 Board meeting  
15 was rejected by Great Falls Public Schools’ Trustees, along with all of the AA Districts.  
16 Since that time, there have been several meetings to resolve concerns with the original  
17 agreement. Schools are required to provide OPI a non-federal funds match for CSCT  
18 services eligible for Medicaid Reimbursement. OPI will confirm that match funds  
19 remitted are from a non-federal source which are then transferred to DPHHS for claims  
20 processing the Medicaid reimbursement. Director of Student Services Lance Boyd  
21 stated that the most important aspect is to continue providing the same services for the  
22 students.  
23

24 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Second – Bill Bronson , passed unanimously to approve the  
25 revised Intergovernmental Agreement for the transfer of monies to the State as  
26 presented.  
27

28 **G. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 3231 and 4331** - Superintendent  
29 Moore stated that the Board Policy Committee met on January 19, 2022 and discussed  
30 a wording recommendation change made on policy 3231 and determined that change  
31 would be beneficial and the policy was adjusted for the second reading and approval.  
32 He did not receive any comments or concerns regarding policy 4331 since the first  
33 reading on January 10, 2022.  
34

35 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve  
36 revised Board Policies 3231 and 4331 as presented.  
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39 **ACTION: OTHER**  
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42 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**  
43

44 **A. First Reading Revised Board Policies 3225 and 3225P** - Superintendent Moore  
45 and Director of Student Services Lance Boyd reviewed, in detail, the changes to revised  
46 Board Policies 3225 and 3225P and asked if anyone has comments, concerns or  
47 questions to contact them before the next Board meeting.  
48

1 **B. Report on the School Nutrition Program** – School Food Services Supervisor Jessa  
2 Youngers stated that the new dry storage room at Lincoln Elementary School was  
3 completed during Summer of 2021 and that the Riverview Elementary School and  
4 Longfellow Elementary School second service line projects are pending due to  
5 equipment delays. She reported on the challenges experienced due to COVID-19,  
6 school closures due to staffing shortages, and school closures due to building  
7 maintenance issues. Jessa thanked the Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) food  
8 service staff for their dedication and willingness to adapt to any situations that arise. Her  
9 main concerns are food availability and staffing. Jessa reported on student participation  
10 and meals served from the 2018-2019 school year to current and the expectations for  
11 the Summer Food Service Program.  
12

13 **C. American Recovery Program (ARP) Construction Process Project Timeline**  
14 **Update** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the District was  
15 notified by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) in December 2021 that the construction  
16 requests presented to the Board on October 25, 2021 were approved. He reviewed the  
17 details of each project along with their timelines. Work completed will be paid with  
18 American Recovery Plan Funds.  
19

20 **D. Superintendent Evaluation**– Board Vice Chairperson Johnson announced that the  
21 Superintendent’s right to privacy in this discussion and query phase of the evaluation  
22 process supersedes the public’s right to know and therefore this portion of the meeting  
23 would be closed to the public in accordance with Montana Code Annotated 2-3-203(3).  
24 Vice Chairperson Johnson recessed the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at  
25 7:02 p.m. and went into closed session at 7:07 p.m.  
26

27 At 8:10 p.m. Vice Chairperson Johnson reopened the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
28 Trustees.  
29

30 **E. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –  
31 Vice Chairperson Johnson stated that a press release will be made available on  
32 January 28, 2022 regarding Superintendent Moore’s evaluation.  
33 Trustee Skornogoski encouraged people to take advantage of the upcoming Great Falls  
34 Public Schools sponsored health opportunities.  
35 Trustee Sunchild thanked Great Falls Public School staff for their work.  
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37

38 **UPCOMING EVENTS**  
39

40 Vice Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for  
41 Monday, February 14, 2022, and Monday, February 28, 2022.  
42  
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44 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**  
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46 Motion – Marlee Sunchild, Seconded – Mark Finncium, passed unanimously to adjourn  
47 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:21 p.m.  
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Brian Patrick, Clerk

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Gordon Johnson, Vice Chairperson