

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD JANUARY 9, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of  
7 January 2023.

8  
9 Chairperson Johnson noted that public comment will be taken on the Superintendent's  
10 Evaluation during the meeting when the Superintendent's Evaluation agenda item is  
11 presented.

12  
13 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.

14  
15 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson  
16 Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson  
17 Bill Bronson  
18 Mark Finnicum  
19 Marlee Sunchild  
20 Amie Thompson  
21 Paige Turoski  
22

23 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business  
24 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Lance Boyd, Jackie  
25 Mainwaring and Heather Hoyer, Executive Directors for Student Achievement; and  
26 Stephanie Schnider, Executive Director of the GFPS Foundation.

27  
28 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.

29  
30 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
31 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

32  
33  
34 **ADOPT AGENDA**

35  
36 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adopt  
37 the agenda as presented.

38  
39  
40 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

41  
42 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve  
43 the Consent Agenda as presented. Special thanks was given to WVH Enterprises for  
44 their donation of sheds to Sacajawea and Valley View Elementary Schools and to the  
45 anonymous donors who donated a total of \$5,375.00 to support lunch fund charges at  
46 various schools listed in the agenda.  
47

1 **A. Minutes of the December 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board  
2 approved the minutes of the December 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

3  
4 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

5  
6 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple  
7 Awards: Building and Grounds personnel Tim Heisler, Darren Brown, Jessica Erickson,  
8 Clint Buford, AJ Griffith, Jon Digullio, Lane Spurzem and Justus Hilbig, Substitute  
9 Teachers Rob Strandall and Michael Hall, Para Educators Bridget Johnson and Katie  
10 Richmond and Supervisor of Music and Arts Dusty Molyneaux.

11  
12 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35's** – The Board approved  
13 the Montana Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the  
14 agenda.

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

20  
21 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2022-2023 School Year** - The  
22 Board approved the 2022-2023 Student Attendance Agreements for the students listed  
23 in the agenda.

24  
25 **G. Student Activity Monthly Report for October 2022** - The Board approved the  
26 Student Activity Accounts for October 2022.

27  
28 **H. C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Chanteur Choir Travel Request** - The Board  
29 approved the CMR Chanteur Choir to travel to Spokane, WA March 24-26, 2023.

30  
31 **I. Donation of Two Sheds to Sacajawea and Valley View Elementary Schools** – The  
32 Board approved the donation to two sheds from WVH Enterprises to Sacajawea and  
33 Valley View Elementary Schools with thanks.

34  
35 **J. Donation of \$1,375.00 to Support Lunch Fund Charges**– The Board approved the  
36 donation of \$1,375.00 from an anonymous donor to support lunch fund charges at  
37 Lincoln Elementary School with thanks.

38  
39 **K. Donation of \$4,000.00 to Support Lunch Fund Charges**– The Board approved the  
40 donation of \$4,000.00 to support lunch fund charges at Great Falls High School, C.M.  
41 Russell High School, North Middle School, East Middle School, Whittier Elementary  
42 School and West Elementary School with thanks.

43  
44

## 45 **COMMUNICATION**

46  
47 **A. Report of the Student Representatives**

1 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representative MacKenna Medina gave a  
2 update on winter sports that included wrestling, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and  
3 swimming. She reported on class events in Mrs. Lloyd's Science class, Mr. Zepeda's  
4 Spanish class and showcased Math teacher Mr. Brien. McKenna announced the  
5 National Honor Society will be hosting a cakewalk and Nintendo Switch Party for some  
6 post-finals fun on January 12, 2023. Last week, the members of the Blue Notes, Jazz  
7 Band and Rhapsody Choir had the opportunity to work with instructors from the  
8 University of Idaho and held a concert on January 6, 2023. MacKenna said that during  
9 the last week of January, the GFH Drama Department will be putting together a cabaret  
10 to perform *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other* on January 26-28, 2023.

11  
12 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) Student Representatives Miah LeDeau and  
13 Taelar Severson reported that just before the winter break, the first Wellness  
14 Wednesday was held. Students and staff spent the afternoon focusing on wellness  
15 activities and community building. January 31-February 2, 2023, approximately sixty  
16 students will attend Thrive, a mental health focused retreat. It will be held at the Ursuline  
17 Center and students will attend three days of workshops and small group discussions  
18 on mental health issues. Therapists will be on hand to support students and to help  
19 ensure students leave the workshops with more awareness and additional coping  
20 strategies. Miah and Taelar gave reports on activities of the Student Mentor Group, the  
21 PGEC student/staff basketball game and the events at which students volunteered to  
22 give back to the community. They reported that five students completed fourteen  
23 college classes successfully during the fall semester and that six students have  
24 completed the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) courses. Students from East Middle  
25 School, Great Falls High School, C.M. Russell High School, Paris Gibson Education  
26 Center as well as home-school students are participating in a weekly Archery class  
27 being held at PGEC.

28  
29 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Luke Banks, Caroline  
30 Hermiller, and Allison Marr explained that in January, students and staff are focusing on  
31 Perseverance as the Character Trait of the month. A video was shown that was created  
32 by CMR's Peer Mentor group on how to prepare for seven exams in three days while  
33 taking care of personal mental and emotional health. The students gave an update on  
34 winter sports that included wrestling, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and swimming.  
35 The week leading up to the holiday break was filled with fun holiday activities that  
36 included Holiday themed movies, sweaters, flannels and socks. Luke, Caroline and  
37 Allison reported that CMR's Russtones, Jazz Band and Russell Aires Choir recently met  
38 with the University of Idaho faculty and performed a concert on January 6, 2023.  
39 Congratulations to CMR teachers Mr. Olson, Mr. Kloker and Mr. and Mrs. Evans for  
40 receiving Gold Star Awards for their outstanding leadership during the Beauty and the  
41 Beast production last December. The students showcased CMR teachers Mrs. King,  
42 Mr. Comstock, Mrs. Underwood and Mrs. Wheeler reporting on fun and educational  
43 activities taking place in their classrooms. It was announced that CMR Golf Coach Brian  
44 Halverson has decided to retire from coaching after 22 years. He has also served as the  
45 CMR Tennis coach for nine years. The impact he has had on student athletes at CMR is  
46 immeasurable.

47  
48 **B. Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Moore thanked the Student

1 Representatives for their reports and wished them luck during finals week.  
2 Superintendent Moore introduced the District's four School Resources Officers;  
3 Detective Jesse Rosteck, Detective Clint Houston, Detective Kristi Kinsey and Detective  
4 Aaron McAdam, along with their supervisor Sergeant Katie Cunningham in  
5 acknowledgement of Law Enforcement Day. He read the history of Law Enforcement  
6 Day and presented them with a thank you. They were then thanked by each of the  
7 Board members.

8 Superintendent Moore thanked twenty-nine individuals and businesses who were  
9 involved in Secret Santa the weeks leading up to the holiday break. Secret Santa  
10 requested a list from school principals of needs for their school food pantries and  
11 through the donations, then went shopping. Before the holiday break, all school  
12 pantries received \$500.00 worth of food. Superintendent Moore also thanked  
13 Community Connections Manager Becky Nelson for her help with the project.  
14 Superintendent Moore introduced Pepsi General Manager Zach Mendenhal and  
15 thanked him for the gift cards Pepsi has been giving to each school. The card allows  
16 one family to go out to dinner at a local restaurant without the stress of paying. Many  
17 restaurants have partnered with Zach and Pepsi to make this possible. Zach was  
18 thanked by each of the Board members.

19 Superintendent Moore said the 2023 Legislative session began last week and that he  
20 will be participating in a weekly Zoom meeting with School Administrators of Montana  
21 (SAM) members receiving legislative updates. He reported that Montana Schools  
22 Boards Association (MTSBA) will be hosting a Day of Advocacy on January 25, 2023 for  
23 school officials and Board members to attend and interact with legislators.

24 Superintendent Moore presented a schedule of Community Forums that GFPS will be  
25 hosting, in conjunction with community partners, inviting community members to attend  
26 and learn about such topics as Student Wellness, School Safety, Student Wellbeing and  
27 School Budgeting.

28 Superintendent Moore reported that GFPS will be holding a Job Fair on January 25,  
29 2023 at Paris Gibson Education Center from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. He thanked the Human  
30 Resources Department and Becky Nelson for their continued efforts to fill open  
31 positions throughout the District.

32

33

34 **C. Audience Communication – None**

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36

37 **ACTION ITEMS**

38

39 **A. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for October 2022** - Motion – Bill  
40 Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the October 2022  
41 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #124427 - #124972 in the amount of  
42 \$3,184,757.07 and Payroll checks #76546 - #76794 in the amount of \$712,177.64 as  
43 presented.

44

45 **B. Advertise Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for Indefinite Demand, Indefinite**  
46 **Quantity (IDIQ) Projects** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that  
47 this process allows the District to have a list of prequalified professionals to work on  
48 upcoming projects. These professional categories include Architects, Civil Engineers,

1 Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical Engineers, Hazardous Material  
2 Designers/Inspectors, Mechanical Engineers, Roofing and Building Envelope Specialist,  
3 Special Systems Designers (Low Volt, IT and Phones) Hydrogeologic Consultant and  
4 Structural Engineers. Mr. Patrick explained this is the same process the District used at  
5 the beginning of the bond projects in 2016.

6  
7 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the  
8 request to disseminate RFQs for IDIQ professionals.

9  
10 **C. Advertise Bids for Facility Projects at Sunnyside Elementary School and**  
11 **Meadow Lark Elementary School** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick  
12 explained that the District advertised for bids for the projects at Sunnyside and Meadow  
13 Lark Elementary Schools last year, and that the bids came in too high. The District  
14 would like to readvertise at this time. Mr. Patrick explained that last year the projects at  
15 Sunnyside Elementary School included HVAC work and a window project. At this time,  
16 the District will only advertise for bids for the window project. The project at Meadow  
17 Lark Elementary School will once again be for the addition of four classrooms. American  
18 Recovery Plan funds will be the primary revenue source for the identified projects.

19  
20 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve  
21 spending the American Recovery Plan funds to replace windows at Sunnyside  
22 Elementary School and for the construction of four new classrooms at Meadow Lark  
23 Elementary School.

24  
25 **D. Re-investment in the Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA) –**  
26 Superintendent Moore explained the District’s previous 5-year investment agreement  
27 ended on December 31, 2022. He said he is proposing a 3-year agreement at  
28 \$7,500.00 per year and that it will be paid from the Revenue Enhancement Fund which  
29 is a non-tax revenue source. Superintendent Moore said the work of GFDA is key to  
30 future community developments that will be beneficial to the schools. GFDA President  
31 Brett Doney explained that GFDA was created 20 years ago to grow diverse economic  
32 opportunities that enhance the quality of life. He said that when a business is looking at  
33 coming to Great Falls, the main questions concerns the public school system. He  
34 thanked the Board and the school district for their continued partnership throughout the  
35 years. Trustees Finnicum and Turoski thanked Mr. Doney for the GFDA’s work to  
36 enhance a community where families will want live and work.

37  
38 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to re-invest in  
39 the Great Falls Development Authority for \$22,500.00 to be paid \$7,500.00 each year  
40 for three years.

41  
42  
43 **E. Second Reading of the New K-12 Library Standards Documents (KUDs Know-**  
44 **Understand-Do)** – Co-Curriculum Directors Rachel Cutler and Beckie Frisbee  
45 explained that the new K-12 Library Standards Documents were first presented at the  
46 December 12, 2022 Board meeting and that they have not received any comments or  
47 concerns on the standards.

1 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve  
2 the new K-12 Library Standards Documents as presented.  
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4

## 5 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

6

7 **A. Chamber Orchestra Ensemble Pilot at C.M. Russell (CMR) High School – 7-12**  
8 Curriculum Coordinator Beckie Frisbee explained the proposed pilot Chamber  
9 Orchestra Ensemble class would begin next fall at C.M. Russell High School. There  
10 would be no change in Teacher FTE or additional costs. The class would be an upper-  
11 level expansion of Chamber Orchestra and the ensemble would perform exclusively  
12 without a conductor. The conductor would be present for all rehearsals to teach,  
13 facilitate, introduce new concepts, leading only when necessary. Mrs. Frisbee said the  
14 class would introduce a pathway for string instrument students interested in entering the  
15 music profession. A detailed proposal of the class is included in the agenda. Trustee  
16 Bronson said the proposal is very positive and comprehensive. Trustee Turoski said  
17 she likes the idea of student independence beyond the classroom. Mrs. Frisbee  
18 recognized CMR Music Teacher Steve Olson for his work on the pilot class proposal.  
19

20 Chairperson Johnson noted that there were no items removed from the Consent  
21 Agenda to be placed in the Action Other section of the agenda.  
22

23 **B. Montana High School Association (MHSA) Rule Change Proposals Report –**  
24 Athletic Director Mike Henneberg said the annual MHSA meeting will take place on  
25 January 16, 2023 in Missoula, MT. He and the principals from Great Falls High School  
26 and C.M. Russell High School are voting members. He reviewed the four proposals in  
27 detail that will be presented at the Annual Meeting and his voting recommendation for  
28 each.  
29

30 **C. Superintendent’s Evaluation Process –** Trustee Thompson explained that written  
31 Public Comment for the Superintendent’s Evaluation was due on January 5, 2023.  
32 Seven comments were received with mixed scoring/comments. Board members’  
33 evaluation submissions are due on January 12, 2023 and a written summary of the  
34 Superintendent’s Evaluation will be made public on January 27, 2023. There was no  
35 public comment made on the Superintendent’s Evaluation at the meeting.  
36

### 37 **D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

38 Trustee Sunchild said her daughter was a substitute teacher for the District during her  
39 holiday break from college and that it was great to hear of her experiences in the  
40 classrooms.

41 Trustee Bronson he recently had a conversation with a middle school teacher who was  
42 optimistic about the new English Language Arts curriculum. He said Montana School  
43 Boards Association’s Think Tank Thursdays has good information and updates of the  
44 legislative session. Trustee Bronson has attended mental health presentations at  
45 PGEC listening to students share experiences and how they help others. He  
46 encouraged others to attend.

47 Vice-Chairperson Skornogoski thanked the Music Department and school staff for their  
48 hard work during the holiday music program season. She feels it is important to invest in

1 GFDA as they help bring in new businesses that in turn can lower taxes and bring  
2 students to the District.

3 Trustee Thompson wished everyone a Happy New Year and said she has been a Board  
4 member now for half a year and is impressed by the behind-the-scene work of the  
5 District's Leadership Team.

6 Trustee Finnicum thanked the student representatives for their reports. He expressed  
7 his appreciation for the School Resource Officers and the special relationships they  
8 have with students and staff. He reported that he filled in for a Kindergarten teacher  
9 before the holiday break for his Convocation assignment and said he had a lot of fun.

10 Trustee Turoski wished everyone a Happy New Year. She said the District's investment  
11 with GFDA is very important.

12 Chairperson Johnson said the Kids Education Yes (KEY) members participated in a  
13 Zoom call that day and were encouraged to stay informed with the legislative session.  
14  
15

16 **UPCOMING EVENTS**  
17

18 Chairperson Johnson said a Board Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for January  
19 18, 2023 and the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2023. He reminded  
20 everyone that these meetings are always open to the public.  
21  
22

23 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**  
24

25 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to  
26 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:12 p.m.  
27  
28  
29  
30

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

32 \_\_\_\_\_  
33 Brian Patrick, Clerk