

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD NOVEMBER 28, 2022**  
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 28<sup>th</sup> day  
7 of November 2022.

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; Luke Diekhans, Interim  
21 Director of Human Resources; Heather Hoyer, and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for  
22 Student Achievement; and Stephanie Schnider, Director of the Great Falls Public  
23 Schools Foundation. Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education  
24 Association (GFEA) President.

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

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32 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adopt the  
33 agenda as presented.  
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36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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38 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve  
39 the Consent Agenda as presented.  
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41 **A. Minutes of the November 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board  
42 approved the minutes of the November 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.  
43

44 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.  
45

46 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple  
47 Awards: Melanie Knutson, School Registered Nurse and Pamela Mackiel, Librarian,  
48 both at Giant Springs Elementary School; Katharine Beisecker, Core Teacher Aide at

1 Whittier Elementary School; Teresa Gay, Food Service Employee at Chief Joseph  
2 Elementary School; Ryan Anderson, English Teacher at C.M. Russell High School; and  
3 Erica Harp, District Lead School Registered Nurse at Paris Gibson Education Center.  
4

5 **D. Montana School Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the  
6 Montana Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35 for the individual listed in the agenda.  
7

8 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance at the Early Learning Center for**  
9 **the 2022-2023 School Year** – The Board approved the students listed in the agenda to  
10 attend the Early Learning Center for the 2022-2023 school year due to exceptional  
11 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.  
12

13 **G. Great Falls High School Delphian Choir Travel Request** – The Board approved  
14 travel for 45 Delphian Choir students and their teachers to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah  
15 March 15-18, 2023, for touring and intensive performance opportunities.  
16

## 17 18 **COMMUNICATION**

19  
20 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** – None  
21

### 22 **B. Superintendent’s Report** –

23 Morningside Elementary School’s Principal Kim Marzolf introduced two (2) students who  
24 reported on the *Character Strong* word of the month. They also presented a video  
25 containing Morningside Elementary School students who expressed their opinions on  
26 this program. The students are excited about the fun and interactive learning activities  
27 used in this program.

28 Superintendent Moore introduced Luke Diekhans, who will be taking over as Director of  
29 Human Resources when Kerry Dattilo resigns in February 2023. He also introduced  
30 Nicole Heintzelman who will be the new Interim Principal at Riverview Elementary  
31 School for the remainder of the school year.

32 Superintendent Moore thanked Jody Murray for her work as the Great Falls Public  
33 Schools United Way Coordinator. Great Falls Public Schools exceeded their goal for the  
34 2022-2023 school year campaign.

35 Fishers of Men and the Red Dawg Association 12<sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron collected 40  
36 turkeys, stuffing, corn and other items that were donated to Whittier Elementary for their  
37 Thanksgiving boxes for families in need. Many organizations and churches have given  
38 food to assemble boxes for the holidays.

39 In an effort to retain beginning teachers, the District hosted an event at Brush Crazy on  
40 Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

41 Superintendent Moore stated that the District is hosting a *Dinner on Us* in Bozeman, MT  
42 on December 1, 2022 for college junior and senior students who are majoring in  
43 Education. The District is hosting these events in hopes of recruiting future employees.  
44 The 2022 Christmas Stroll Pop-Up Shop is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2022, at  
45 the Celtic Cowboy’s Red Room and the Hometana Store where items created by  
46 students will be for sale.

47 C.M. Russell High School’s Performing Arts Department production of *Beauty and the*  
48 *Beast* will start December 1, 2022.

1 Superintendent Moore thanked the Great Falls Tribune for recognizing the Great Falls  
2 Public Schools' Early Learning Center for receiving the Unified Partners Award from the  
3 National Special Olympics organization.

4 A *Math Task Force* will start to meet to craft a cohesive direction for mathematics  
5 instruction in Great Falls Public Schools, develop common understanding of how to  
6 strengthen existing practices and inform future professional learning, district math loads  
7 and curriculum work. Superintendent Moore stated that this is not a curriculum  
8 committee.

9 Superintendent Moore presented a video regarding the partnership between Great Falls  
10 Public Schools, Great Falls College Montana State University, and Montana State  
11 University Northern. This partnership hopes to help recruit new teachers.

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13 **C. Audience Communication – None**

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16 **ACTION ITEMS**

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18 **A. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 2135, 2158, and 2335 –**  
19 Trustee Bronson recommended language changes to new Board Policy 2135 to better  
20 coincide with state statute. Trustees Turoski and Finnicum and Superintendent Moore  
21 stated that they agreed with the changes.

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23 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve new  
24 Board Policy 2335 and revised Board Policy 2158 as well as amended new Board  
25 Policy 2135 as presented.

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27 **B. Montana School Boards Association's (MTSBA) Dues –** Chairperson Johnson  
28 and Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that Great Falls Public  
29 Schools relies on services provided by the Montana Schools Boards Association. Brian  
30 explained the projected dues for the 2023-2024 school year for the District are  
31 \$19,874.00 which is a \$542.00 increase from the 2022-2023 school year.

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33 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the  
34 Montana School Boards Association Dues as presented.

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37 **ACTION: OTHER**

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40 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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42 **A. 2023 School Election Calendar and Trustee Filing Timeline –** Director of  
43 Business Operations Brian Patrick reviewed the 2023 School Election Calendar that  
44 was included in the agenda and is available on the District's website. He explained the  
45 nominating petitions and candidacy forms for Trustee positions will be available starting  
46 December 8, 2022. There are three open seats on the GFPS Board of Trustees; All  
47 seats are for three-year terms and are currently held by Kim Skornogoski, Bill Bronson  
48 and Amie Thompson. Mr. Patrick said candidates must live within the Great Falls Public

1 School District boundary and must submit a Declaration of Intent and Oath of  
2 Candidacy for Trustee Candidate form no later than March 23, 2023 to be included on  
3 the ballot or by March 30, 2023 to be a write in candidate.  
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5 **B. 2021-2022 Participation for Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment and**  
6 **Virtual Academy (VA) Report–**

7 Executive Director of Student Achievement Heather Hoyer and 7-12 Curriculum  
8 Coordinator Beckie Frisbee explained that dual enrollment allows students to take  
9 college courses while still in high school. Students can earn college credit or dual credit  
10 (high school and college credit) depending on the type of course. These courses are  
11 offered at high schools, at Great Falls College – Montana State University (GFC-MSU)  
12 and online. Heather explained that since the fall of 2018, Montana has offered “One  
13 Two Free” that allows students to take two dual credit courses for free. Beckie  
14 explained the data on the number of students enrolled in courses that offer dual credit,  
15 the dual credit hours earned and money saved with dual credit for each high school  
16 from 2017–2021.  
17

18 Heather explained Advanced Placement (AP) courses allow students to take  
19 challenging course work and offers them a chance to show what they learned with  
20 cumulative tests at the end. Some of the AP courses are also offered for dual  
21 enrollment. Each test costs \$100.00 and many students choose to take an AP course,  
22 but not take the test. She explained the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation helps  
23 with the testing expenses for students. Beckie showed data on students enrolled, tests  
24 taken, and scores earned in AP classes for the 2021-2022 school year. Data was also  
25 shown on four-year college enrollment probabilities as well as college success by  
26 average AP score.  
27

28 Heather stated that the Summer Virtual Academy is a credit accrual not a credit  
29 recovery program. Beckie explained that two (2) courses were not offered this summer  
30 due to teachers needing a break. She presented data of virtual academy credits earned  
31 from 2011 through 2022. Beckie stated that the spike in the 2020 and 2021 years was  
32 due to COVID-19.  
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35 **C. Review Year 1 of the 3-Year 2021-2024 Technology Plan –** Director of Information  
36 Technology Tom Hering reported on the 2021-2022 school year accomplishments. The  
37 new ELA Curriculum for Amplify, and McGraw Hill were implemented as well as Dual  
38 Credit Cybersecurity and eSports programs. The Technology department replaced 3000  
39 Chromebooks that were out of support. They also added 1100 requested Chromebooks  
40 and 1800 Chromebooks to middle and high schools. Blackboard Reach, a mobile  
41 application, was implemented to streamline District/parent communication. Tom stated  
42 that the construction of the private fiber is now completed and will hopefully be  
43 implemented within the next month. Paris Gibson Education Center’s (PGEC) re-wire  
44 has been completed and additional network switches and wireless access points have  
45 been added. PGEC video surveillance system was also replaced. Tom reported that  
46 security and privacy measures and training have also been taking place. An External  
47 Vulnerability Assessment was completed, and Great Falls Public Schools’ score had  
48 improved.

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2 **D. Superintendent Evaluation Process** – Trustee Thompson reported that the  
3 Superintendent’s Evaluation is now open for public participation through a Google  
4 document form on the District’s website until January 5, 2023 or as public comment at  
5 the January 9, 2023 Board meeting. Written comments will also be accepted through  
6 the mail until January 5, 2023 and must include the author’s name and address.  
7 Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

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9 **E. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –

10 All Trustees thanked Heather Hoyer, Beckie Frisbee and Tom Hering for their  
11 informative reports.  
12 Trustee Turoski and Finnicum said that they enjoyed the report from the Morningside  
13 Elementary School students.  
14 Trustee Turoski stated that she is looking forward to the upcoming District holiday  
15 concerts.  
16 Trustee Sunchild thanked the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation and  
17 Superintendent Moore for their sympathy regarding employees who have lost family  
18 members. She also congratulated Luke Diekhans on his new position in the District.  
19 Trustee Bronson stated that he was able to watch the 2022 Bookathon video presented  
20 by the Great Falls High School Production class. He is thankful for the opportunities that  
21 these classes bring to the students.  
22 Trustee Thompson stated stress and mental health issues increase during the holidays  
23 and reminded everyone to be kind and thoughtful when speaking to others.  
24 Trustee Skornogoski reminded that the C.M. Russell High School drama production of  
25 Beauty and the Beast will start this weekend and invited everyone to attend. She is also  
26 excited to see how the Blackboard Reach application will be utilized by parents.

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29 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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31 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,  
32 December 12, 2022, and Monday, January 9, 2023.

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35 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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37 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Marlee Sunchild, passed unanimously to  
38 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:36 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk  
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