

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **HELD FEBRUARY 28, 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 4th Street South, on the 28th day
6 of February 2022.
7

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

10 **Trustees Present:** Jeff Gray, Chairperson
11 Gordon Johnson, Vice Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum
14 Nathan Reiff
15

16 **Trustees Absent:** Marlee Sunchild
17 Kim Skornogoski
18

19 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
20 Operations; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Ruth Uecker, Assistant
21 Superintendent K-6; Heather Hoyer, Assistant Superintendent 7-12; Lance Boyd,
22 Director of Student Services; Kerry Dattilo, Director of Human Resources; and Becky
23 Nelson, Community Connections Coordinator/Workforce Manager. Also present was
24 Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.
25

26 At 5:34 pm, Chairperson Gray called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
27 Trustees and asked everyone to join in a moment of silence regarding the current
28 situation happening in the Ukraine. He then asked everyone to join in the Pledge of
29 Allegiance.
30
31

32 **ADOPT AGENDA**
33

34 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
35 agenda as presented.
36
37

38 **ACTION ON DISCIPLINE A.D.**
39

40 A Special Board meeting was held prior to the Regular meeting at which a Student
41 Discipline Hearing was conducted.
42 In the matter of student disciplinary action for Student A.D., the Trustees determined
43 there is sufficient evidence to establish that Student A.D. violated the School District's
44 discipline policy set forth in Policy 3310 as presented by the Superintendent's
45 Administrative Hearing Panel and therefore further moved to accept the Hearing Panel's
46 recommendation of expulsion with modifications; 1) A.D. receives counseling between
47 now and August 2022, and if so, 2) A.D. may petition for reinstatement with the

1 Assistant Superintendent in August 2022 and ordered A.D. to comply with those
2 recommendations.

3
4 Motion - Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to accept the
5 Hearing Panel’s recommendation of expulsion with modifications as presented.
6

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8 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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10 Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve
11 the Consent Agenda as presented.
12

13 **A. Minutes of the February 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
14 the minutes of the February 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
15

16 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.
17

18 **C. Good Apple Award** - The Board approved the nomination for a Good Apple Award:
19 Cortni Harant, Art Teacher at Great Falls High School.
20

21 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers’ Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
22 Montana Bus Drivers’ Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the agenda.
23

24 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements at the Early**
25 **Learning Center for the 2021-2022 School Year** – The Board approved the
26 Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements for the students listed in the
27 agenda for the 2021-2022 school year due to exceptional circumstances per Board
28 Policy 3100.
29

30 **F. Lowest Qualified Bidder for the Sacajawea Elementary School Ventilation and**
31 **Window Project Upgrade** - The Board approved WVH Enterprises, LLC as the lowest
32 qualified bidder for the ventilation and window project upgrade at Sacajawea
33 Elementary School in the amount of \$1,193,000 for the Base Bid and \$32,000 for
34 Alternative Bid #1 for a total amount of \$1,225,200.
35

36 **G. Lowest Qualified Bidder for the Riverview Elementary School Ventilation and**
37 **Window Project Upgrade** - The Board approved WVH Enterprises, LLC as the lowest
38 qualified bidder for the ventilation and window project upgrade at Riverview Elementary
39 School in the amount of \$983,000 for the Base Bid and \$17,200 for Alternative Bid #1
40 for a total amount of \$1,000,200.
41

42 **H. 2022-2023 Instructional and Office Paper Supply Order** – The Board approved
43 the call for bids for the 2022-2023 Instructional and Office Paper Supply Order.
44

45 **I. EMMA Strong Student Activity Accounts at East Middle School, North Middle**
46 **School, C.M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School** - The Board
47 approved the Student Activity Fund Account “EMMA Strong” at East Middle School,
48 North Middle School, C.M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School. Funds

1 received from the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation will be used to assist student
2 athletes with financial need to purchase equipment, pay participation fees, and travel for
3 competition.
4

5 6 **COMMUNICATION**

7
8 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication – None**
9

10 **B. Proclamation of Youth Art Month (March)** – Supervisor of Music and Arts Dusty
11 Molyneaux read Mayor Bob Kelly’s proclamation stating that March is Youth Art Month.
12 The official reading is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2022. He stated that many art and
13 music productions will be taking place around Great Falls this month and encouraged
14 attendance.
15

16 **C. Superintendent’s Report**

17 Superintendent Moore reported that he along with Trustee Bronson and other Great
18 Falls Public Schools administrators and employees will be traveling to Tuscaloosa
19 Alabama to learn how their economic, education, and workforce development strategies
20 transformed their organization into a nationally recognized workforce champion.

21 Great Falls community organizations are sponsoring a child centered Free Brain
22 Building Expo on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Paris Gibson Education Center where
23 children can play age-appropriate activities. Children will also be able to take home
24 activities, books, games and information.

25 He thanked the Great Falls Clinic and Pepsi for providing lunch to the staff at Paris
26 Gibson Education Center and Early Learning Family Center last week.

27 Great Falls High School’s Drama production of Charlotte’s Web concluded on February
28 26, 2022.

29 Superintendent Moore reviewed the timeline of the Citizen’s Academy hosted by Great
30 Falls Public Schools.

31 Superintendent Moore showed updated graphs that demonstrated the current status of
32 COVID-19 in Great Falls Public Schools and stated that the COVID-19 numbers have
33 declined drastically since early February.

34 He reported that February 21-25, 2022, was School Bus Driver’s Appreciation Week.
35 Appreciation cards and breakfast was taken to Big Sky Bus Lines for bus drivers on
36 Thursday February 24, 2022. As of February 28, 2022, the Center for Disease Control
37 (CDC) does not require masks to be worn on buses or vans operated by public or
38 private school systems, including early care and education/childcare programs.
39

40 **D. Audience Communication** – Great Falls Public Schools’ employee Carol Paul
41 praised the English Language Arts (ELA) Resources Adoption Committee for their
42 outstanding work. She is excited to see the implementation of the proposed curriculum
43 and how students react. Great Falls community member Val Keaveny expressed his
44 concerns about a few areas in the proposed new ELA curriculum.
45

46 47 **ACTION ITEMS** 48

1 **A. Financial Report and Approve Check Register for January 2022** - Motion – Mark
2 Finnicum, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to approve the January
3 2022 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #119651 - #120096 in the amount
4 of \$1,592,637.11 and Payroll checks #73140 - #73388 in the amount of \$740,814.65 as
5 presented.
6

7 **B. Student Activity Report for January 2022** – Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded
8 – Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to approve the Student Activity Monthly Report for
9 January 2022 as presented.
10

11 **C. Lease Agreement with Cascade County for County Extension Space at the**
12 **Early Learning Center at Skyline School** – Director of Business Operations Brian
13 Patrick explained that this is a continuation of a long-term lease that has worked well for
14 Cascade County and Great Falls Public Schools. The County uses this space for the
15 County Extension Service Program. Similar to the existing lease, it is a two-year lease
16 with the option for a third year upon agreement by both parties. The lease commences
17 on June 30, 2022, and ends on June 30, 2024, with the option of adding another year.
18 This agreement has been approved by the Cascade County Commissioners. The rent
19 to be paid to the District will be \$26,563 per year. This is a one percent increase from
20 the existing lease amount.
21

22 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the
23 agreement with Cascade County to continue the Early Learning Family Center lease as
24 presented.
25

26 **D. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 5223 and 5314 and New Board**
27 **Policy 8211** - Superintendent Moore stated that concerns were recently brought to his
28 attention regarding Policy 5223. This policy will be taken back to the Board Policy
29 Committee for further review. He did not receive any comments or concerns regarding
30 Policies 5314 and 8211 since the first reading on February 14, 2022.
31

32 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Gordon Johnson, passed unanimously to approve
33 revised Board Policy 5314 and new Board Policy 8211 and postpone Policy 5223 for
34 further review, as presented.
35

36 **E. Second Reading of New English Language Arts (ELA) Resources K-12** –
37 Curriculum Coordinators Rachel Cutler and Beckie Frisbee stated that since the first
38 reading of the new English Language Arts (ELA) Resources K-12 on February 14, 2022,
39 numerous community members came to the District to review program materials,
40 provided feedback and voice concerns. They reported that the District is still negotiating
41 with the companies regarding purchase pricing. Elementary and Secondary Emergency
42 Relief (ESSER) funds will be predominantly used for this purchase.
43

44 Trustee Bronson stated that he was able to review the High School curriculum and is
45 impressed with the content of the materials.

46 Trustee Bronson and Trustee Finnicum thanked Rachel, Beckie and their committees
47 for their work.
48

1 Motion – Nathan Reiff, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the
2 new English Language Arts (ELA) resources Amplify CKLA/ELA for grades K-6 and
3 McGraw Hill StudySync for grades 7-12 as presented.
4

5 **F. Amendments to the 2022-2023 School Calendar** – Director of Human Resources
6 Kerry Dattilo stated that ongoing staffing challenges have made it more difficult for
7 certified and classified staff to receive professional development during the school
8 week. The staff at Great Falls Public Schools must have quality professional
9 development to help our students be as successful as they can be. She stated that the
10 revised 2022-2023 school calendar is requesting the end of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters
11 be non-student days which will provide the District time to train all of the different
12 employee groups as well as allow additional teacher preparation time for the upcoming
13 quarter. In order to comply with required aggregated hours, students will attend school
14 for an additional five (5) minutes on Wednesdays. These revisions are recommended by
15 the District Cabinet and the District Calendar Committee with support from the
16 Collaborative Solutions team.
17

18 Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approved
19 the revised 2022-2023 school calendar as presented.
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22 **ACTION: OTHER**
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25 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
26

27 **A. First Reading Revised Board Policies 4330R and 5140** - Superintendent Moore
28 reviewed, in detail, the changes to revised Board Policies 4330R and 5140 and asked if
29 anyone has comments, concerns or questions to contact him before the next Board
30 meeting.
31

32 **B. Annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Career and Technical**
33 **Student Organizations (CTSO) Report** - Career Pathways Advisor Mark Yaeger
34 stated that students who participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations
35 (CTSO's) enhance their education and skills for the future. He spoke to credit
36 requirements for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Business
37 Professionals of America (BPA), Skills USA and Air Force Junior Reserve Officer
38 Training Corps (AFJROTC) students. Mark thanked Kathy Dunn for her work collecting
39 data required by the Perkins Grant. He also reviewed student enrollment in CTE classes
40 offered. Mark discussed upcoming events such as the 8th Grade Career Day, Girls in
41 STEM as well as military-based learning experiences at Montana Air National Guard
42 (MANG) Base and Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB).
43

44 **C. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –
45 Trustee Bronson stated that he is excited to be able to travel to Alabama to discuss
46 economic, education and workforce development with their Chamber of Commerce. He
47 stated that he was able to attend Great Falls High School's Charlotte's Web production
48 and was impressed by the students.

1 Trustee Reiff stated that he sits on the Board of Directors for the Great Falls Symphony
2 Association and is amazed to see how many students continue in the musical
3 community after graduation.

4 Trustee Finnicum encouraged attendance at the upcoming Board Budget Committee
5 meetings.

6 Trustee Johnson stated that he attended the Safety Committee meeting on February
7 15, 2022 and is amazed with the District's detailed safety plans. He stated one of the
8 District's main concern is the safety of students.

9 Chairperson Gray announced that he will not be running in the upcoming Board election
10 and thanked current and previous Board members, Great Falls Public Schools'
11 Administration, and staff.

12

UPCOMING EVENTS

14

15 Chairperson Gray said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,
16 March 14, 2022, and Monday, March 28, 2022.

17

18

ACTION TO ADJOURN

20

21 Motion – Gordon Johnson, Seconded – Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to adjourn
22 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:04 p.m.

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24

25

26

27

Jeff Gray, Chairperson

28

Brian Patrick, Clerk

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