

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD MARCH 13, 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 13th day
7 of March 2023.

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

10
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Mark Finnicum
13 Marlee Sunchild
14 Amie Thompson
15 Paige Turoski
16

17 **Trustees Absent:** Bill Bronson - Excused
18 Kim Skornogoski - Excused
19

20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
21 Operations; Luke Diekhans, Director of Human Resources; and Stephanie Schnider,
22 Executive Director of the GFPS Foundation.
23

24 Also present was Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.
25

26 At 5:29 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.
28

29
30 **ADOPT AGENDA**
31

32 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adopt
33 the agenda as presented.
34
35

36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
37

38 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve
39 the Consent Agenda as presented.
40

41 **A. Minutes of the February 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved
42 the minutes of the February 27, 2023, 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: George Neihley, Crossing Guard at Longfellow Elementary School, Sharon
48 Iszler, Central Reception Secretary, Jamie Wanner, Finance Technician and Aly

1 Konecny, Business Office Lead, at the District Office Building, Samantha Gordon,
2 Genevieve Hepworth and Abby Vanetz, CSCT Team at Mountain View Elementary
3 School and Courtney George, Nurse at East Middle School.

4
5 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificate – OPI TR-35’s** – The Board approved the
6 Montana Bus Drivers Certificate – OPI TR-35’s 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 student 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 **F. 2023-2024 Instructional and Office Paper Supply Bid-** The Board approved the
14 request to bid the 2023-2024 Instructional and Office Paper Supply order.

15
16 **G. Resolution to Dispose of Unsuitable District Property-** The Board approved the
17 list of items in the agenda as surplus property. A book giveaway is scheduled for June
18 14-15, 2023, in the Paris Gibson Education Center School Gymnasium to dispose of the
19 curriculum and library books.

20 21 22 **COMMUNICATION**

23
24 **A. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Moore introduced Nicole Heintzelman,
25 who has been selected as the Principal at Riverview Elementary School. Nicole’s
26 previous experience with the District includes being an elementary and middle school
27 teacher, Student Advocate at East Middle School and she has been the interim
28 Principal at Riverview Elementary School since January 2023. Nicole was
29 congratulated by the Board members.

30 Superintendent Moore congratulated North Middle School (NMS) teachers Mary
31 Somerfeld and Joanne Rohrback and the NMS Science Bowl students for winning the
32 regional championship last week in Bozeman and Billings. Five students will travel to
33 Washington D.C. to participate in the National Championship.

34 Superintendent Moore introduced Wade Stout, the Cascade County Health
35 Department’s Tobacco Education Specialist. Mr. Stout explained that Lydia Comstock,
36 an 8th grade student at NMS, won a State-wide sticker competition to “Take Down
37 Drugs” and said he looks forward to continuing his work with the GFPS staff.

38 Superintendent Moore reported that an event will be held on March 14, 2023, at the
39 Great Falls Public Library to educate community members on the Fentanyl Crisis. He
40 encouraged all to attend. He said the Home and Garden Show will be held March 31 –
41 April 2, 2023, at the Montana Expo Park. High School House students will be there
42 selling tickets for a shed they built.

43 Superintendent Moore reported that women from the construction industries presented
44 and hosted welding demonstrations at Great Falls High School and C.M. Russell High
45 School during Women in Construction Week. Over 30 girls attended the
46 demonstrations.

47 Superintendent Moore announced that GFPS principals will host community members
48 to “shadow” them on March 23, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. as part of the

1 Business Goes to School event. Principals and community members will then gather
2 for lunch at Paris Gibson Education Center to share their experiences.
3 Superintendent Moore reviewed the 2023-2024 Budget Meeting schedule. A Board
4 Budget Committee meeting will be held on March 15, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. and the
5 committee members will make a recommendation to the full Board at the March 27,
6 2023, Board meeting regarding the 2023-2024 budget. If the recommendation is to run
7 a May levy, the Trustees are required to set an amount at March 27, 2023, meeting.
8

9 **B. Audience Communication** – Community member Shannon Wilson reported that
10 IMBison students and a parent attended the Neighborhood Council #9 meeting last
11 week. Council members have been impressed with the work the students have been
12 doing at Great Falls High School to change the culture of the school. Council members
13 have worked on a resolution that will be read at the April 4, 2023, City Commission
14 Meeting acknowledging the students.
15

16 **ACTION ITEMS**

17
18
19 **A. Sunnyside Elementary School Window Project Re-bid** – Director of Business
20 Operations Brian Patrick explained the Sunnyside Elementary School window project
21 has been bid two times. The bids came in over budget both times. The first bid
22 included the heating and ventilation system. The second bid only included the window
23 project. After both bids were rejected, it was decided to request approval to advertise
24 the window project with a Base bid along with alternate bids to allow the District to stay
25 within the allocated amount of the project. The American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds
26 totaling \$533,695.46 have been approved by the Office of Public Instruction for the
27 project.
28

29 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
30 the re-advertisement of bids with a Base bid and add alternate options to allow for the
31 project to fit within the budget allocated for the project.
32

33 **B. Morningside Elementary School Roof Bid** – Director of Business Operations Brian
34 Patrick said the Morningside Elementary School roof project has been bid by the District
35 according to Montana Law and Board Policy 7320. It was advertised on January 29 and
36 February 5, 2023, in the Great Falls Tribune and a bid opening was held on February
37 14, 2023. The lowest qualified bidder was Centimark Corporation. The project will be
38 paid for by the Elementary School General Fund, Interlocal Fund and Building Reserve
39 Fund or any combination of the listed funds.
40

41 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to award
42 the Morningside Elementary School Roof Project Base Bid and Alternate Bid #1. The
43 lowest qualified bidder was Centimark Corporation with a Base Bid of \$731,318.00 for
44 Roof Sections A1 and A2. The Alternate Bid # 1 included Sections B1, B2, and C for
45 \$471,614.00. The project will be scheduled during the summer of 2023. Total cost for
46 the project is \$1,202,932.00.
47

1 **C. Lowest Qualified Bidder – E-Rate Wireless Access Points** – Director of Business
2 Operations Brian Patrick explained The Schools and Libraries Universal Service
3 Support Program, commonly known as the E-rate program, helps ensure that schools
4 and libraries can obtain telecommunications and internet access at affordable rates.
5 Currently, the District qualifies for an 80% discount on eligible equipment and services
6 purchased upon application approval and availability of funding. The discount is
7 calculated each year and is dependent on the number of students eligible for the
8 National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The E-rate program requires applicants to
9 follow a formal process to create open and fair competitive bidding. The District is
10 requesting to fund the replacement of wireless access points for all District locations.
11 433 of the 470 wireless access points are out of warranty and are not meeting current
12 wireless needs. Mr. Patrick said if approved for E-rate funding, the District’s portion
13 (20%) of the project would come from the Technology Fund.

14
15 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve
16 the lowest qualified bidder, ByteSpeed for 433 - Wireless Access Points for replacement
17 in all buildings. The total project is \$321,286.00 with GFPS paying 20% - \$64,257.20
18 from the District Technology Fund (28).

19
20 **D. 2024-2025 School Year Calendar** - Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans
21 explained the member groups who make up the School Calendar Committee per
22 language in the Teachers’ Collective Bargaining Agreement. The committee met three
23 times and developed and discussed options for the 2024-2025 school year calendar.
24 Staff, students, and parents had the opportunity to provide feedback on the top three
25 calendars. 1017 responses were received with calendar Option A receiving the most
26 positive feedback.

27
28 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
29 Option A (included in the agenda) as the 2024-2025 school year calendar as presented.

30 31 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

32 33 **A. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

34 Trustee Thompson said her daughter is graduating from college with a degree in
35 secondary education and has seen first-hand how hard students work to become
36 teachers. She thanked all employees for their work in the education field.

37 Trustee Turoski thanked community Shannon Wilson for acknowledging the good work
38 of the GFHS IMBison students. She congratulated the NMS Science Bowl students for
39 winning the regional championship and Nicole Heintzelman for being named Riverview
40 Elementary School Principal. Trustee Turoski also thanked Director of Information
41 Technology Tom Hering for his work on the E-rate program that will save the District a
42 large amount of money when replacing the wireless access points in the buildings.

43 Trustee Finnicum thanked the Board Budget Committee members for their work through
44 the Budget process. He said he has been amazed at the work the Legislators have
45 done within the first half of the Legislative session.

46 Trustee Sunchild thanked GFEA President Tom Cabbage for his great work with the
47 teachers. She said she appreciates how he checks in on the teachers all hours of the
48 day and noted that he does his job on a teacher’s salary.

1 Chairperson Johnson thanked GFPS Foundation Director Stephanie Schnider for her
2 work with the Foundation's grants.

3
4

5 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

6

7 Chairperson Johnson said a Board Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for March
8 15, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. and encouraged all to attend. A Board Work Session is
9 scheduled for March 20, 2023, and the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for
10 March 27, 2023.

11

12

13 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

14

15 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adjourn
16 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:04 p.m.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

Brian Patrick, Clerk