

1                   **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
2   **HELD MARCH 14, 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 14<sup>th</sup> day  
6 of March, 2022.  
7

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

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

16 **Trustees Absent:**     Gordon Johnson, Vice Chairperson - Excused  
17                                 Kim Skornogoski - Excused  
18

19 **Others Present:** Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Lance Boyd,  
20 Director of Student Services and Stephanie Schnider, GFPS Foundation Director.  
21 Also present were Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth  
22 Education Services-School Liaison and Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education  
23 Association (GFEA) President.  
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25 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Gray called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
26 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
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29 **ADOPT AGENDA**  
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31 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the  
32 agenda as presented.  
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35 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**  
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37 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the  
38 Consent Agenda as presented  
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40 **A. Minutes of the February 28, 2022, Closed Session Meeting** – The Board  
41 approved the minutes of the February 28, 2022, Closed Session Meeting as presented.  
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43 **B. Minutes of the February 28, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved  
44 the minutes of the February 28, 2022, Regular Meeting as presented.  
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46 **C. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.  
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1 **D. Good Apple Award** - The Board approved the nomination for a Good Apple Award:  
2 Char Bunker, General Intervention Teacher at Whittier Elementary School.

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4 **E. Montana School Bus Driver Certificate, OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the  
5 Montana School Bus Driver Certificate listed in the agenda.

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7 **F. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements at the Early**  
8 **Learning Center for the 2021-2022 School Year** – The Board approved students K.C.  
9 and R.T. to attend the Early Learning Center for the 2021-2022 school year due to  
10 exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

11  
12 **G. Donation of \$1,000 Cash from the Home Builders Association** – The Board  
13 approved the gift of \$1,000 cash from the Home Builders Association to North Middle  
14 School’s Griz Biz/IT Department with thanks.

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16 **H. Lowest Qualified Bidder for the Loy Elementary School Ventilation and**  
17 **Window Project Upgrade** – The Board approved Guy Tabacco Construction as the  
18 lowest qualified bidder for the ventilation and window replacement project at Loy  
19 Elementary School in the amount of \$1,112,950 for the Base Bid and \$82,450 for  
20 Alternative Bid #1. The total project approval is \$1,195,400.

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23 **COMMUNICATION**

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25 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air  
26 Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth Education Services-School Liaison announced  
27 that Purple Up Day is April 12, 2022 for the State of Montana and that April is  
28 designated the Month of the Military Child. To show support on April 12, people are  
29 encouraged to wear Purple. She explained when all colors of the military branches are  
30 combined, they create purple. Lisa extended an invitation to the Board members to  
31 attend the Malmstrom Air Force Base PreK-12 Education Summit 2022 on April 12.  
32 This event will host the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) and  
33 provide a venue to acknowledge our area’s Purple Star Schools and Champions. Other  
34 topics will include identify challenges that military students and their families face in  
35 regards to education in our local area and statewide, childcare, and military spousal  
36 licensure. Following the morning meeting and lunch, participants will have the  
37 opportunity to tour the Base. Lisa asked any Board members interested in attending  
38 this event to contact Cindy Gordon with the required information to allow Base access.

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40 **B. Audience Communication** –

41 Shane Etwiler, CEO of the Chamber of Great Falls, explained that last year the  
42 Chamber hired Scott Wolff as their Workforce Developer. Scott reached out to other  
43 Chambers nationwide and the Workforce Development Program in Tuscaloosa,  
44 Alabama was highly recommended as a model program. The Tuscaloosa program is  
45 six years strong and is a very robust program. He said twenty-three people from Great  
46 Falls went to Alabama last week and spent two days learning about their program and  
47 how it is based on relationships and collaboration between the school district and  
48 community partners.

1 Trustee Bill Bronson said Alabama has a very good Workforce model and that Great  
2 Falls is already doing a lot of the things that make their program successful. The group  
3 from Great Falls spent time in their schools including a Prekindergarten Program that  
4 helps develop student success. He said Alabama representatives answered questions,  
5 gave suggestions, and have agreed to be an on-going resource with continued support  
6 for Great Falls. Trustee Bronson said Great Falls needs trade workers and the need will  
7 only become greater with future projects such as expansions at the Great Falls Clinic  
8 Hospital, the opening of a medical school, and the repurposing of missile sites. He said  
9 Great Falls Public Schools is well positioned to work with business partners to find ways  
10 to work together. He appreciated that a representative from the Governor’s Office and  
11 two local legislators also attended the trip to Alabama in support of Workforce  
12 Development at the State level.

13 Community member Brian Cayko said he fully supports Workforce Development, but  
14 has concerns about the Alabama model the District will be modeling. He feels the  
15 Alabama district is failing students because they are unprepared when they graduate.  
16 He asked that if Great Falls considers this model plan that it ensures students are  
17 proficient before graduating and going out into the workforce. He also asked what the  
18 cost was to the District for its employees to attend the trip to Alabama and who had  
19 approved the trip.  
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22 **ACTION ITEMS**

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24 **A. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 4330R and 5140** – Director of  
25 Business Operations Brian Patrick reviewed the suggested changes to Board Policies  
26 4330R and 5140 and said the Board Policy Committee has not received any comments  
27 or concerns on the revised policies since the first reading on February 28, 2022.  
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29 Motion – Nathan Reiff, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve  
30 revised Board Policies 4330R and 5140 as presented.  
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32 **B. Lowest Qualified Bidder for the Great Falls High School Parking Lot/Practice  
33 Field Renovation** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained the District  
34 traded property located by Loy Elementary School with the City of Great Falls for a  
35 portion of Kranz Park. The purpose of the trade was to create parking right next to  
36 Memorial Stadium and maintain the full football practice field and track and field event  
37 area. The District has worked through the City process to close 17<sup>th</sup> Street in order to  
38 accomplish the task. Mr. Patrick said he appreciates the City’s process and said they  
39 have been very good to work with. He explained three bids were received for the  
40 renovation with the lowest qualified bidder being United Materials.  
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42 Motion – Mark Finnicum Seconded – Nathan Reiff, passed unanimously to approve the  
43 lowest qualified bidder, United Materials, for the Great Falls High School Parking  
44 Lot/Practice Field Renovation in the amount of \$993,552 for the Base Bid and \$59,000  
45 for Alternative Bid #1 for a total of \$1,052,552.  
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48 **ACTION: OTHER**

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**REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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

Trustee Bronson said he appreciated the concerns voiced during Public Comment regarding Alabama’s Workforce Development Plan. He said Great Falls will not use their exact program, but the Alabama Workforce representatives will offer the District ideas of how to take our existing program and further improve and enhance it. Trustees Reiff and Finnicum reminded everyone of the Townhall Community Board Budget Committee Meeting that will be held on March 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office Building and encouraged all to attend.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairperson Gray said a Townhall Community Budget Meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 and the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for March 28, April 11, April 25 and May 9, 2022.

**ACTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion – Nathan Reiff, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:10 p.m.

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Jeff Gray, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk