

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD MARCH 27, 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 27th day
7 of March 2023.

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

10
11 **Trustees Present:** Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
12 Bill Bronson
13 Mark Finnicum
14 Marlee Sunchild
15 Amie Thompson
16 Paige Turoski
17

18 **Trustee Absent:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson - Excused
19

20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
21 Operations; Jackie Mainwaring, 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, Vice Chairperson Skornogoski called to order the Regular Meeting of the
27 Board of 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 – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the
33 agenda as presented.
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36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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38 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the
39 Consent Agenda as presented. Special acknowledgement was given to the Carole
40 Harris, Chad Erickson and Carol and Ron Beeler for their donations.
41

42 **A. Minutes of the March 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
43 minutes of the March 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
44

45 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.
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47 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple
48 Awards: Clint Houston, Student Resource Office at Great Falls High School; Patrick

1 Brennan, Programmer/Operator at the District Offices; Rhonda Westphal, Special
2 Education Paraprofessional Educator at Longfellow Elementary School; Cheryl Taylor,
3 Special Education Paraprofessional Educator at Giant Springs Elementary School;
4 Daneen Pate Administrative Assistant at the District Offices; Ellen Coogan, Substitute
5 Teacher District Wide; Bill Schlosser, 1st Engineer at Giant Springs Elementary School;
6 Lisa Winters, Library/media Assistant at North Middle School; and Amy Gilbertson,
7 Occupational Therapist at Paris Gibson Education Center.

8
9 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
10 Montana Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the agenda.

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

16
17 **F. Donations of a 2005 Mazda Tribute Sport and a 2004 Chevrolet Engine with**
18 **Accessories to the C.M. Russell High School Auto Department** – The Board
19 approved the donation of a 2005 Mazda Tribute Sport from Carole Harris and a 2004
20 Chevrolet Engine with Accessories from Chad Erickson to the C.M. Russell High School
21 Auto Department with thanks.

22
23 **G. Donation of \$1,000 to Support the Valley View Elementary School Lunch Fund**
24 **Charges** - The Board approved the donation of \$1,000.00 from Carol and Ron Beeler to
25 support lunch fund charges at Valley View Elementary School with thanks.

26
27 **H. Great Falls High School Skills USA Chapter Travel Request** – The Board
28 approved travel for Skills USA Chapter students and advisors, to travel to Helena
29 Montana, March 28-31, 2023, for the State Skills USA Competition.

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31 **I. North Middle School Science Bowl Travel Request** – The Board approved travel
32 for Science Bowl students and their supervisor to travel to Washington, D.C. from April
33 27 – May 1, 2023, for the National Science Bowl Competition.

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36 **COMMUNICATION**

37
38 **A. Reports of the Student Representatives -**

39 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Luke Banks, Caroline
40 Hermiller, and Allison Marr explained that a series of *Industry Days* have been
41 scheduled for students to learn about a variety of career pathways. They stated that
42 CMR has been focusing on school values including relationships, learning and
43 accountability. Students participated in a student culture survey where they are able
44 give honest and anonymous feedback to help improve student culture. The Introduction
45 to Education classes at CMR and Great Falls High School are doing a combined
46 community service project titled *The Pillowcase Project*. Handmade pillowcases are
47 filled with various items to be given to the Children's Receiving Home. CMR forensic
48 classes recently practiced Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) electrophoresis which students

1 found interesting and applicable to many careers in science. CMR Key Club students
2 were congratulated on their achievements at the Montana Key Club District Convention
3 in Billings, Montana. Over 750 students attended the prom located at the Civic Center
4 on Saturday, March 18, 2023. While woodshop students are working hard on their
5 jewelry boxes, the art department students celebrated various awards and scholarships
6 that have been received. The library hosts different makerspace activities for students
7 on Thursdays. The students reported that English classes have been participating in a
8 poetry tournament based on the theme of the March Madness Basketball Tournaments.
9 Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) was celebrated with a variety of amazing
10 opportunities and concerts. The Chanteur Choir traveled to Spokane Washington and
11 met with professors at Gonzaga and Eastern Washington University. Students had the
12 opportunity to learn from guest conductors. In honor of Theatre in Our Schools Month
13 the drama department's production of *Our Town* is scheduled for March 30-31, 2023
14 and April 1, 2023. A CMR student was congratulated for receiving a \$300 scholarship
15 for his performance on the math examinations. Three CMR students were
16 acknowledged for being National Merit Finalists. Business Professionals of America
17 (BPA) students had great success at the State competition and are sending twelve
18 students to Nationals in April. To help fund their trip, a corn hole tournament fundraiser
19 is scheduled for April 1, 2023 at the CMR Fieldhouse. The secondary Life Skills
20 Program celebrated their annual boss' night this month where they recognized local
21 employers and their Great Falls Public Schools employees. CMR is partnering with
22 Malmstrom Air Force Base to host *Operation Warmheart* at the CMR Fieldhouse on
23 April 6, 2023. Lynda Morin was acknowledged for being a devoted fan. Her home is a
24 shrine displaying CMR memorabilia and she attends all CMR events that she can.
25

26 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representatives Hayley Bouchard and
27 MacKenna Medina reported that the Foreign language students celebrated International
28 Language week by experiencing different cultures through food and song. The winter
29 sport season has come to an end and Spring sports are in full swing. During MIOSM,
30 Great Falls High (GFH) band, orchestra and choirs shared music with middle school
31 students to inspire them to continue music in high school. The Symphonic Band
32 participated at the AA Band Festival and GFH, CMR, Sentinel and Helena High Schools
33 were all invited to join together in the Davidson Auditorium to work with guest
34 conductors and share music. Prom was hosted in the Great Falls High Hub on March
35 25, 2023. Atley Baldwin has been taking photos around GFH for his photography class
36 and asking the question : *Where is this in Great Falls High?* These images are posted
37 on the GFH social media sites where students, staff and community members can
38 guess where the photos were taken. They reported that the theatre department is
39 hosting their duck fundraiser to raise money for a variety of production elements. Their
40 next production, titled *The Adding Machine* is scheduled for the end of April / beginning
41 of May. The Academic Honors Ceremony took place on March 22, 2023, where 82
42 students were honored with either Academic Letter Awards or 7-Semester Honor Roll
43 Awards. The Academic dinner also took place where students were treated to pizza and
44 prizes for their hard work. GFH Key Club recently attended DCON, where they gathered
45 with fellow key club members from across the state. GFH student Neva Clark will
46 become Montana's new District Governor. Kathryn Hill graduated in February and was
47 able to walk the stage and receive her diploma. The music department has been
48 traveling giving students the opportunity to learn and grow from fellow musicians.

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2 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) Student Representatives Stratton Kiser and
3 Taelar Severson reported that math students spent a few weeks learning land
4 navigation using maps and compasses. The students then applied their skills on a field
5 trip from PGEC to the Sluice Boxes State Park in the Little Belt Mountains. PGEC
6 student Taylor Hoke displayed several art pieces at the Out West Show at the Heritage
7 Inn as well as the Missouri Falls Show located at the Civic Center during Western Art
8 Week. Geoff Mainwaring, Nancy McGonigal and Kate Beckner took a group of students
9 on a theater/arts field trip to the University of Montana. Students got a backstage and
10 close-up tour of set building, costume making and lighting. Five students have been
11 selected to represent PGEC at the upcoming Outstanding Junior Breakfast. Science
12 students have cleaned the beehives and are waiting for a new shipment of bees to
13 arrive. They are also experimenting with freeze drying candy to determine the scientific
14 properties behind the process. Science Enrichment students are using their knowledge
15 of chemistry and the reduction oxidation reactions to covert wood into shades of grey
16 and red undertones. Students are learning about Medicine Bags and the importance of
17 what a person chooses to put in them. PGEC students are excited for the delivery of
18 baby chickens after spring break.

19
20 **B. Superintendent's Report –**
21 Superintendent Moore congratulated the North Middle School (NMS) Science Bowl
22 student winners and teacher Mary Somerfeld. Mrs. Somerfeld explained the Science
23 Bowl was held the day after the Montana Science Olympiad and that the NMS took 1st
24 Place while competing against students from across the United States. The students
25 will be participating in the National Competition in Washington D.C. in April. Mrs.
26 Somerfeld thanked the parents for their support and commitment to the program. Mrs.
27 Somerfeld and the students were congratulated by the Board.
28 Five students representing GFH and CMR served food and bussed tables at the *Night*
29 *Out for Science* event.

30 He stated that Griz Bizz students as well as High School House construction students
31 will be attending the Great Falls Home and Garden Show this weekend selling products
32 and raffle tickets.

33 Superintendent Moore reported that community members attended school on Thursday,
34 March 23, 2023 for the Business Goes to School event where they shadowed a GFPS
35 Principal from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 am. A luncheon was held at PGEC where they
36 discussed the experience. He thanked the community partners for hosting this event.
37 No More Violence Week is April 10-14, 2023 and Superintendent Moore reviewed the
38 schedule of events.

39 The School Safety and Youth Wellbeing Community Forum is scheduled for Thursday,
40 April 13, 2023 at the Great Falls High School Davidson Auditorium and encouraged
41 attendance.

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43 **C. Audience Communication - None**

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46 **ACTION ITEMS**

1 **A. Indefinite Demand, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) - Hydrogeological Consultant –**
2 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that a committee met on March
3 17, 2023, and reviewed materials submitted as outlined in the Request for Qualifications
4 (RFQs) for professional Hydrogeologic Consultants that will be hired on an “Indefinite
5 Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ)” basis. Submittals were scored on experience with
6 projects of similar scope and size, key team member qualifications and experience,
7 capability to meet time and project budget requirements, local professional resources
8 utilized, recent and current work with Great Falls Public Schools and current and
9 projected workload. Brian stated that the committee followed the guidelines established
10 in 18-8-204, MCA.

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12 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve
13 Water and Environmental Technologies as the Hydrogeological Consultant for the
14 District for the next five years as recommended by the committee.

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16 **B. Board Budget Committee Recommendations Regarding an Elementary and/or
17 High School Levy including the Related Ballot Propositions and Resolution –**

18 Trustee Mark Finnicum explained that the Board Budget Committee held a community
19 meeting on March 9, 2023 and deliberated after hearing administrative options and
20 public comment. With ample federal funds being allocated to address the learning loss
21 associated with COVID-19 as well as sufficient reserves, the Board Budget Committee
22 recommended to forego asking for additional support of District programs via a levy for
23 the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

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25 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve to
26 not request a levy for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as presented.

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29 **ACTION: OTHER**

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32 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

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

35 Trustees Turoski, Sunchild and Thompson said they were impressed with the Business
36 goes to School event along with the discussions held after the event.

37 Trustee Thompson reported that many Great Falls High School students attended the
38 graduation of Kathryn Hill. She was impressed that they wanted to give her an authentic
39 graduation experience. She also stated that she reviewed applications for the Heisey
40 Scholarship and wished all applicants were able to receive the award.

41 Trustees Bronson and Finnicum expressed their appreciation for the Montana School
42 Boards Association and their professionalism engaging in conversations regarding
43 educational bills during the current legislative session.

44 Trustee Bronson also stated that he has reviewed scholarship applications and he is
45 extremely impressed with the quality of the essays. He reported that he was able to
46 attend the Community Forum regarding drugs in the schools. He thanked the School
47 Resources Officers (SROs) and other representatives who attended to answer

1 questions. Trustee Bronson recently sat with the students involved with IMBison and
2 acknowledged their ability to openly discuss their concerns.
3 Trustee Finnicum thanked the High School Student Representatives for their reports
4 and stated that he looks forward to this every month.

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7 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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9 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for
10 Monday, April 10, 2023, and Monday, April 24, 2023.

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13 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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15 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adjourn the
16 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:36 p.m.

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Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk