

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD APRIL 24, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day  
7 of April 2023.  
8

9 **ROLL CALL:** Brian Patrick took roll call.  
10

11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson  
12 Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson  
13 Mark Finnicum  
14 Amie Thompson  
15 Paige Turoski  
16

17 **Trustee Absent:** Bill Bronson – Excused  
18 Marlee Sunchild - Excused  
19

20 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business  
21 Operations; Jackie Mainwaring and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for Student  
22 Achievement; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Luke Diekhans, Director  
23 of Human Resources; Becky Nelson, Community Connections/Workforce Manager; and  
24 Stephanie Schnider, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Also present  
25 were Tom Cabbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President and Lisa  
26 Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison.  
27

28 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of  
29 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
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31

32 **ADOPT AGENDA**  
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34 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adopt  
35 the agenda as presented.  
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37

38 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**  
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40 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve  
41 the Consent Agenda as presented.  
42

43 **A. Minutes of the April 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the  
44 minutes of the April 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.  
45

46 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.  
47

48 **C. Good Apple Awards** – The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple

1 Awards: Lisa Winters, Library/Media Assistant at North Middle School; Brenda Dockter,  
2 Office Assistant at Great Falls High School; Kelly Palomo, Secretary at Great Falls High  
3 School; Londa Hart, Kindergarten Teacher at Chief Joseph Elementary School; Megan  
4 Kambic, Administrative Assistant at Giant Springs Elementary School; Chelle  
5 Herbruger, Student Advocate at Morningside Elementary School; and Darcy Kuntz,  
6 English Teacher at North Middle School.

7  
8 **D. Montana School Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the  
9 Montana Bus Drivers' Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in the agenda.

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

15  
16 **F. Student Activity Monthly Report for January 2023** – The Board approved the  
17 Student Activity Accounts for January 2023.

18  
19  
20 **COMMUNICATION**

21  
22 **A. Reports of the Student Representatives -**

23 Great Falls High School (GFHS) Student Representative Ryan Harrington stated that  
24 the Drama Department's production of *The Adding Machine* is scheduled for April 27-  
25 29, 2023, and May 6, 2023. Advanced Placement (AP) English seniors have been  
26 presenting their research projects on poets. Great Falls High School and C.M. Russell  
27 High School students gathered to celebrate with music and showcase their talent to a  
28 series of adjudicators during the District Music Festival. The Student Council decided to  
29 make the painted rock from Ms. Bouchard's class part of the senior gift. He stated that  
30 students are encouraged to wear different specified colors throughout the week for  
31 Mental Health Week. A pep assembly was performed at East Middle School to excite  
32 future Bison students. Congratulations were given to Health Occupational Students of  
33 America (HOSA) students for their success at the State Competition. *Hoops for Hodges*  
34 is scheduled for April 27, 2023. This student vs. staff basketball game is a great  
35 opportunity to help support the Hodges family and allows staff and students to show  
36 their school spirit. Mr. McNamee and Mr. Komac, a former GFHS teacher, will be  
37 inducted into the Montana Coaches Association (MCA) Hall of Fame. Spring sports are  
38 still in season for both high schools although there have been issues with the weather.  
39 Mr. Killian was highlighted as a recent addition to the GFHS family as a teacher and a  
40 coach.

41  
42 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) Student Representative Stratton Kiser reported  
43 that four students will be traveling to Helena, Montana and competing in a variety of  
44 events at the Job for Montana's Graduates (JMG) State Conference. Students have  
45 been creating an interactive art installation using blacklights and reactive paint to create  
46 a surreal atmosphere. PGEC art students will act as docents for children attending the  
47 Young Parents Education Center (YPEC). Preschool classes from the Ursuline Center  
48 will also be invited to the festivities. Students worked with Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly

1 to plan a prom that over 80 students attended. Community partners helped organize,  
2 fund, and chaperone the event. With the help of Drew Uecker and butchers from Central  
3 Avenue Meats, culinary students spent a day cutting, chopping, and grinding pork  
4 before vacuum sealing the packages to stock the PGEC freezer. Three grants were  
5 awarded to PGEC by Great Falls Public Schools Foundation to create a new star lab,  
6 purchase a new large-scale printer/cutter, and purchase a classroom set of graphing  
7 calculators. Young Parents Education Center (YPEC) is hosting *Family Fun Field Day*  
8 on May 20, 2023. Math units can be earned from PGEC students for creating a carnival  
9 game, calculating the experimental and theoretical probability, and running their game  
10 at this event. Native American Studies, Art and History classes will be learning about  
11 human trafficking, Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) as well as  
12 decorating red dresses to string along the fences in preparation for May 5, 2023, which  
13 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP).  
14 Science classes had to work on their engineering skills for an egg drop experiment.  
15 They are also spending time training the baby chicks. Dugan Coburn and the Great  
16 Falls Public Schools' Archery team were introduced and congratulated on their  
17 accomplishments at the State Championship tournament. Stratton stated that the  
18 archery team will be traveling to Salt Lake City for the National Competition.

19  
20 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Luke Banks, Caroline  
21 Hermiller, and Allison Marr reported Biology students finished *March Mammal Madness*.  
22 CMR Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and Business Professionals of  
23 America (BPA) will participate in national competitions in Florida and California. They  
24 reported that CMR students enjoyed Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Youth Days which  
25 focused on leadership skills, kindness, volunteer work, and honoring diversity and  
26 inclusion. Isabel Foley was recognized for being named the Montana Journalist of the  
27 Year. Student government is currently organizing elections for next year's officers.  
28 Students in the Econ class recently discussed the 2008 great recession and learned  
29 what the Central Bank did at the time to combat the recession, making it shorter and  
30 less extreme. CMR celebrates the Month of the Military Child during April with various  
31 events. They reported that *Operation Warm Heart* was hosted at CMR where the Boys  
32 and Girls Rustler basketball players matched up against Airmen. *Campus Clean-Up*  
33 Challenges have still taken place despite weather issues. Great Falls is being  
34 recognized for another year as one of the 2023 Best Communities for Music Education.  
35 *Own Town*, a CMR drama production, concluded in March with three performances to  
36 conclude Theatre in Our Schools Month. Twelve *Industry Days* took place in March and  
37 April. Representatives from healthcare, military, construction, manufacturing, business,  
38 and insurance shared local opportunities in their career field. "What We Do  
39 Wednesdays" in April were focused on courage, gratitude, and accountability. Health  
40 Science students were able to participate in a day tour experience at Benefis where  
41 they experienced different careers and learned about local opportunities in health care.

#### 42 43 **B. Superintendent's Report –**

44 Karen Brandvold and previous Athena Awardees presented Great Falls Public Schools  
45 Community Connections/Workforce Manager Becky Nelson with the Chamber of  
46 Commerce 2023 Athena Award. The Athena Award honors women who strive toward  
47 the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their

1 chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and forge  
2 paths of leadership for other women to follow.

3 Superintendent Moore congratulated Jamie Marshall as this year's Montana Children's  
4 Trust Fund Award recipient.

5 Andrea Thares has been hired to replace Brian Miller as Principal of Chief Joseph  
6 Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. Brian has been announced as  
7 incoming Principal of North Middle School.

8 He stated that National Administrative Professionals Day is April 27, 2023, and thanked  
9 GFPS staff for their work.

10 Elementary students received a *Dog Man* book provided by the "Give a Child A Book"  
11 campaign. It has been proven that teaching students at a younger age and getting them  
12 ready for school improves testing scores and graduation rates.

13 The Great Falls Community Powwow is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the  
14 C.M. Russell High School Fieldhouse.

15 Superintendent Moore stated that the Bond Building Project Completion Celebrations  
16 will take place at CMR and GFHS on May 1, 2023.

17 He encouraged everyone to wear purple on Thursday, April 27, 2023, to show support  
18 for the military children.

19 The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has sent out the School Accreditation report.

20 Three schools within the District received a deficiency and/or advisement status due to  
21 a delay in license renewal and testing scores.

22 Superintendent Moore reminded everyone that the Trustee Election is scheduled for  
23 May 2, 2023. He stated that absentee ballots have been mailed out by the Cascade  
24 Country Elections Office.

### 25 26 **C. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) –**

27 Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison, Lisa Sapp reported  
28 on the *Operation Warm Heart* basketball game that took place on April 6, 2023,

29 between Boys and Girls Basketball players and MAFB Airmen. She reviewed events  
30 scheduled for April 27, 2023, for *Purple Up Day* to show support for military children.

31 Lisa spoke on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade College and Career Fair for East and North Middle Schools  
32 and a tour of the Malmstrom Child Development Center by the Great Falls High  
33 Schools' Child Development students.

### 34 35 **D. Audience Communication - None**

## 36 37 38 **ACTION ITEMS**

### 39 40 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for January 2023 -**

41 Director of Business Operations reported on the financial report and check register for  
42 January 2023. He reviewed transfers and fund balances for the Investment account.

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44 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to  
45 approve the January 2023 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #125982 -  
46 #126428 in the amount of \$2,220,614.70 and Payroll checks #77317 - #77578 in the  
47 amount of \$801,909.67 as presented.

1 **B. Great Falls Public Schools Auditor for Years Ended on June 30, 2023, June 30,**  
2 **2024, and June 30, 2025** - Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick explained  
3 that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was sent to vendors who are on the Office of  
4 Public Instruction (OPI) list. The District received two proposals, which were evaluated  
5 and scored by staff members who work directly with the audit.  
6

7 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to  
8 approve EideBailly, LLP as the District Audit Firm and to pay the fees as presented.  
9

10 **C. Sunnyside Elementary School Window Project Bid Award** – Director of Business  
11 Operations, Brian Patrick stated that the Sunnyside Elementary School window project  
12 had previously gone out for bid twice, but the bids were too high for available funds and  
13 were rejected. The bid was redesigned which allowed the District the option of  
14 accepting the Base bid along with a combination of alternates that would best fit the  
15 project within budget.  
16

17 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to award  
18 Guy Tabacco Construction the Base bid of \$584,013 along with Alternate Bid #2 in the  
19 amount of \$25,370 for windows in the cafeteria, math room and janitor room; and  
20 Alternate Bid #4 in the amount of \$65,345 for storefront assemblies in public exits 1, 2,  
21 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 for a project grand total of \$675,728 at Sunnyside Elementary School  
22 as presented.  
23

24 **D. C.M. Russell High School Auditorium Renovation Donation Received Through**  
25 **the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation** – Director of the Great Falls Public  
26 Schools Foundation Stephanie Schnider explained that a donation of \$1 million from an  
27 anonymous donor was received for renovations at the C.M. Russell High School  
28 auditorium. A formal assessment was conducted from September 2022 through  
29 February 2023 to determine needs for the space. The renovation will be directed toward  
30 improving acoustics, sound and lighting. She stated that the District had selected  
31 Cushing Terrell Architects for the project design and engineering work.  
32

33 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to accept  
34 the \$1 million gift for renovations of the C.M. Russell High School auditorium as  
35 presented.  
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38 **ACTION: OTHER**  
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41 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**  
42

43 **A. First Reading of Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Materials -**  
44 Curriculum Coordinator for TK-6 grades, Rachel Cutler stated that a committee has  
45 been created to review different social studies resources. The committee expressed  
46 their concerns with the amount of information that would be in the social studies  
47 textbooks and the time permitted to teach students. During the resource review process,  
48 committee members realized that a lot of the content is currently in the new English

1 Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. The committee is suggesting building upon the current  
2 ELA curriculum as well as using approved Open Educational Resources (OER) to  
3 provide additional content when needed. Maps and globes will need to be purchased for  
4 certain grade levels to support geography standards. Committee members will work  
5 throughout the summer creating the lessons for teachers. This will also be very cost  
6 effective for the District. Curriculum Coordinator for 7-12 grades, Beckie Frisbee stated  
7 that all grade levels voted for using McGraw Hill as the publisher for secondary levels.  
8 The content integrates all strands (Civics and Government, Economics, Geography, and  
9 History) throughout each grade level. Teachers will also have access to print outs as  
10 resources. Beckie explained that the 11<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum will not be affected by the  
11 new curriculum because the Montana Government book has not yet been updated.  
12

13 **B. Recruitment and Retention of Great Falls Public Schools' Employees Report -**  
14 Director of Human Resources, Luke Diekhans and Community Connections/Workforce  
15 Manager, Becky Nelson explained the importance of recruitment and retention of  
16 employees. They presented data outlining the trend of new hires from 2019 to current.  
17 Becky stated that hosting events such as High Voltage Weekend, Dinner on US, and  
18 job fairs not only help with teacher recruitment, but also help build community  
19 relationships. Events are hosted throughout Great Falls for new teachers to get together  
20 and build friendships while having fun. These events are hosted in hope to retain staff.  
21 Luke stated that these events and community relationships are invaluable to our District.  
22

23 **C. First Reading of Revised Board Policies 2221, 3222, 5223 and 8131 -**  
24 Superintendent Moore reviewed the changes to revised Board policies 2221, 3222,  
25 5223 and 8131. He asked if anyone has questions or concerns about these policies to  
26 contact him before the next Board meeting.  
27

28 **D. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**  
29 Becky Nelson was recognized by the Trustees for her many accomplishments. The  
30 Trustees also congratulated Becky Nelson and Jamie Marshall for winning their awards.  
31 Trustees Turoski, Finnicum and Skornogoski thanked the anonymous CMR auditorium  
32 donor for their extreme generosity.  
33 Chairperson Johnson acknowledged the archery team for their accomplishments at the  
34 State Championship and wished them luck at Nationals.  
35 Superintendent Moore thanked the Jenn Rowell at the Electric for the excellent  
36 coverage of the Trustee Candidate Forum held at the Great Falls Public Library.  
37

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39 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

40  
41 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday,  
42 May 8, 2023, and a Reorganization Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22,  
43 2023.  
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46 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**  
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1 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to adjourn  
2 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:52 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk