

1 **MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD MAY 22, 2023**
4

5 A duly called Reorganization 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 22nd day
7 of May 2023.

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

10
11 **Trustees Present:** Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
12 Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
13 Bill Bronson
14 Mark Finnicum
15 Marlee Sunchild – Via Zoom Conference
16 Amie Thompson
17 Paige Turoski
18

19 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business
20 Operations; Heather Hoyer and Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Directors for Student
21 Achievement; and Stephanie Schnider, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools
22 Foundation. Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association
23 (GFEA).
24

25 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Reorganization Meeting of the
26 Board of 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 – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adopt the
32 agenda as presented.
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35 **COMMUNICATION**
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37 **A. Audience Communication** – None
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40 **ACTION ITEMS**
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42 **A. Minutes of the May 8, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – Motion – Paige Turoski,
43 Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the May
44 8, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as presented.
45

46 **B. Trustee Election Results** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained
47 that on May 12, 2023, he, Chairperson Gordon Johnson and Trustee Mark Finnicum

1 met with the Cascade County Election Administration to receive the results for the
2 Trustee Election held on May 2, 2023.

3
4 Superintendent Moore stated that two (2) precincts totaling 495 registered voters did not
5 receive their absentee ballots. He received this information from the County Attorney's
6 Office and not the Elections Office. He reviewed, in detail, the Board of Trustees options
7 on canvassing the votes. Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick stated that if
8 Great Falls Public Schools does not canvass the election results and a judge does not
9 sign off on a fifteen (15) day extension, the Board can appoint each position for a one-
10 year term.

11
12 Trustee Bronson stated that he was concerned the District would be billed more than
13 what was previously quoted by the Elections Office. He said that the District could opt
14 not to pay, however, the county could sue. Trustee Bronson stated that, according to
15 state law, anyone challenging the election would have to prove that the outcome would
16 have been different if it weren't for the Election Office's inconsistencies.

17
18 Trustee Skornogoski asked if the County Attorney's Office has offered help to Great
19 Falls Public Schools, but Jean Faure, District Counsel, stated that the County Attorney's
20 Office can only offer guidance and that they cannot force the Elections Office to
21 respond. Jean also stated that in certifying the results, the Board is not endorsing the
22 process.

23
24 Community members, Jasmine Taylor, Pete Fontana, and Anne Brust expressed their
25 concerns with the way that the election was run.

26
27 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed 4 to 3 on a roll call vote to
28 approve the canvass the May 2, 2023, Trustee Election results that include the election
29 of Bill Bronson, Kim Skornogoski, and Amie Thompson as duly appointed Trustees
30 each for a three-year term.

31
32 Johnson – Aye
33 Skornogoski – Nay
34 Bronson – Aye
35 Finnicum - Aye
36 Sunchild - Nay
37 Thompson – Nay
38 Turoski - Aye

39
40 **C. Actions of the Present Board** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick
41 explained this action concludes all business and commitments of the present (outgoing)
42 Board and allows for the clear delineation of activities between the present Board and
43 the new Board. All actions are considered complete and there will be no reason for the
44 present Board to return to conclude business on unfinished items.

45
46 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously, to ratify all
47 actions of the present Board.

48

1 **D. Swearing In and Oath of Office of Newly Elected Trustee** – Motion – Paige
2 Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously, to Swear in and complete
3 the Oath of Office for the newly elected Trustees, as presented. Brian Patrick, Clerk of
4 the Board, gave the Oath of Office to newly elected Trustees Bill Bronson, Kim
5 Skornogoski and Amie Thompson.
6

7 **E. Organization of the New Board**
8

9 **1. Elect Chairperson** – Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed
10 unanimously, to appoint Gordon Johnson as the Board Chairperson to the Board of
11 Trustees for a term of one year.
12

13 **2. Elect Vice-Chairperson** – Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Amie Thompson,
14 passed unanimously, to appoint Kim Skornogoski as Board Vice-Chairperson to the
15 Board of Trustees for a term of one year.
16

17 **F. Designate and Swear In Clerk of the District/Board** – Motion Mark Finnicum,
18 Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously, to designate Brian Patrick as Clerk of
19 the Board for a term of one year. Aly Konecny gave Brian Patrick the Oath of Office.
20

21 **G. Common Resources of the Board** – Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie
22 Thompson, passed unanimously, to approve the Common Resources of the Board as
23 presented. The Common Resources of the Board are the Attorney of Record – Faure
24 Holden Attorneys at Law, P.C., Property, Liability and School Board Error & Omissions
25 Insurance – Montana Schools Property and Liability Insurance Plan/Payne West
26 Insurance, Banking and Investments – First Interstate Bank, Worker’s Compensation
27 Insurance – Montana School Group Insurance Authority (MSGIA) and Workers’
28 Compensation Risk Retention Program (WCRRP), Unemployment Insurance – Montana
29 Schools Unemployment Insurance Program, and Trustee Organizations – Montana
30 School Boards Association (MTSBA).
31

32 Chairperson Johnson announced there will be a short break before starting the Regular
33 Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
34
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36 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**
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38 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adjourn
39 the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:39 pm.
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42 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
43 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
44 **HELD MAY 22, 2023**
45

46 A duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Falls Public
47 Schools was held at the District Offices Building, 1100 4th Street South, on the 22nd day
48 of May 2023.

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ROLL CALL: Brian Patrick took roll call.

Trustees Present: Gordon Johnson, Chairperson
Kim Skornogoski, Vice Chairperson
Bill Bronson
Mark Finnicum
Marlee Sunchild – Via Zoom Conference
Amie Thompson
Paige Turoski

Others Present: Tom Moore, Superintendent; Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations; Heather Hoyer and Jackie Mainwaring, Executive Directors for Student Achievement; and Stephanie Schnider, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA).

At 6:44 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with special recognition to the receipts of Good Apple Awards. Superintendent Moore presented Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick with a Good Apple Award. Brian thanked all the Election candidates, volunteers, and past election administrators for their work.

A. Personnel Actions – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

B. Good Apple Awards - The Board approved the nominations for Good Apple Awards: Erica LaTray, Librarian at East and North Middle Schools; Meggie Kotthoff, Librarian at East Middle School; Andrea Chapman-Harris, Resource 1 Teacher at West Elementary School; Holly Johnson, Resource 2 Teacher at Valley View Elementary School; Debbie DeShon, Special Education Para Educator at C.M. Russell High School; Heidi Reiger, Science Teacher and Jeff Reiger, Math Teacher both at North Middle School; Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations at the District Offices; Nicole Gilbert, Special Education Para Educator, Casey Gibson, Counselor, Cathy MacDonald, Administrative Assistant, Kelci Eisenbarth, Resource 1 Teacher, and Megan Pancich, General Education Intervention Teacher all located at Riverview Elementary School.

1 **C. Montana School Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
2 Montana Bus Driver Certificate – OPI TR-35's for the individual listed in the agenda.

3
4 **D. TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for the 2022-2023 Second Semester -**
5 The Board approved the TR-6 Bus Route Reimbursement Claims for bus routes for both
6 the high school and elementary districts for the second semester of the 2022-2023
7 School Year.

8
9 **E. Student Activity Accounts for March 2023** - The Board approved the Student
10 Activity Accounts for March 2023.

11
12 **F. Great Falls High School HOSA Travel Request to Dallas, Texas June 20-25,**
13 **2023** - The Board approved travel for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
14 students and their advisor to travel to Dallas Texas, June 20-25, 2023, to compete in
15 the HOSA International Leadership Conference.

16 17 18 **COMMUNICATION**

19 20 **A. Superintendent's Report**

21 Superintendent Moore reviewed the upcoming High School Softball, Tennis and Track
22 events.

23 Kindergarten registration is currently taking place at all the elementary schools now
24 through Friday, June 16, 2023.

25 Superintendent Moore stated that the Summer Food Service Program will take place
26 Monday through Friday starting June 7, 2023, continuing through August 10, 2023.

27 The annual Longevity/Retiree ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023,
28 where many Great Falls Public Schools employees were honored for their service to the
29 District.

30 He stated that many end of school events will be taking place in the coming weeks.

31 Superintendent Moore attended the Air Force National Security Forum where
32 discussions on historic and contemporary national security strategic realities and
33 challenges take place. Attendees engaged with United States and foreign national
34 military officers and government civilians in a lecture and seminar structure.

35 36 **B. Audience Communication – None**

37 38 39 **ACTION ITEMS**

40
41 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for March 2023** - Motion – Bill Bronson,
42 Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the March 2023 Financial
43 Report and Accounts Payable checks #126877 - #127494 in the amount of
44 \$2,679,136.99 and Payroll checks #77913 - #78199 in the amount of \$606,906.45 as
45 presented.

46
47 **B. Second Reading of Revised Board Policies 2221 and 5223** - Superintendent
48 Moore reviewed the changes to revised Board Policies 2221 and 5223.

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2 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
3 revised Board Policies 2221 and 5223 as presented.
4

5 **C. Second Reading of the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar –**
6 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that he has not received any
7 comments or concerns since the first reading of the Board Meeting Calendar at the May
8 8, 2023, Board meeting and recommended approval of the Board Meeting Calendar.
9

10 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
11 approve 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar as presented.
12

13 **D. 2023/2024 Strategic Plan Draft and Revised Great Falls Public Schools Mission,**
14 **Vision, and Belief Statement.** - Superintendent Moore thanked the Board members
15 for their time spent at the Board Work Session at which the draft 2023-2024 Strategic
16 Plan was discussed and revised. He also thanked District leaders for their input in
17 creating the draft plan. He reviewed the changes to the District’s Vision, Mission and
18 Belief Statements and the draft 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. Trustee Skornogoski said the
19 Strategic Plan is the most important work of the School Board. She said she is excited
20 to see the plan implemented and hopes student achievement can be improved.
21 Trustees thanked District leaders for their innovative thinking and actions.
22

23 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
24 the 2023/2024 Strategic Plan and the revised Great Falls Public Schools Mission Vision
25 and Belief Statement as presented.
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28 **ACTION: OTHER**
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31 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**
32

33 **A. First Reading of Revised Board Policy 3300 –** Superintendent Moore reviewed the
34 changes to revised Board Policy 3300 and asked if anyone has comments, concerns, or
35 questions to contact him before the next Board meeting. He also stated that, by law, this
36 Policy is reviewed annually.
37

38 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**
39 Trustee Bronson stated that he attended the Longevity/Retirement ceremony and is
40 impressed that the District honors not only teachers, but all District employees.
41 Trustee Bronson and Turoski attended the ribbon cutting event at the new High School
42 House where parents were grateful for the opportunities their children are given.
43 Trustee Turoski also thanked community partners for their support and donations to
44 make this elective possible.
45 All Trustees thanked Great Falls Public Schools administrators for their work with the
46 election process and hope that future elections are not as chaotic. They are also looking
47 forward to the upcoming high school graduation events.
48

1 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

2

3 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,
4 June 12, 2023, and Monday, June 26, 2023.

5

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7 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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9 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
10 adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:32 p.m.

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Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk

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