

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD JUNE 12, 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 12th day
7 of June 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
16 Amie Thompson
17 Paige Turoski
18

19 **Others Present:** Tom Moore, Superintendent, Brian Patrick, Director of Business
20 Operations; Heather Hoyer, Jackie Mainwaring and Lance Boyd, Executive Directors for
21 Student Achievement and Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology.
22

23 Also present was Tom Cubbage, Great Falls Education Association (GFEA) President.
24

25 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
26 Trustees and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
27

28
29 **ADOPT AGENDA**
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31 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt
32 the agenda as presented.
33

34
35 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**
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37 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
38 approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
39

40 **A. Minutes of the May 22, 2023, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting** – The
41 Board approved the minutes of the May 22, 2023, Reorganization/Regular Board
42 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: Substitute Teacher Miriam Chorpenning, Chief Joseph Elementary School
48 Food Service employees Julie Banks, Teresa Gay and Katie Barnard, Early Learning

1 Family Center Resource 1 Teachers Ryan Beam and Judi Guisti, Sacajawea
2 Elementary School Principal Rae Smith and Sacajawea Elementary School 5th grade
3 Teachers Scott Mayer and Sharon Kelley.
4

5 **D. Montana School Bus Driver’s Certificates – OPI TR-35** – The Board approved the
6 Montana Bus Drivers’ Certificates – OPI TR-35’s for the individuals listed in the agenda.
7

8 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Students Attendance Agreements at the Early**
9 **Learning Center for the 2023-2024 School Year** – The Board approved the students
10 listed in the agenda to attend the Early Learning Center for the 2023-2024 school year
11 due to exceptional circumstances per Board Policy 3100.
12

13 **F. Student Activity Monthly Report for April 2023** – The Board approved the Student
14 Activity Accounts for April 2023.
15

16 **G. Special Education Records Disposal Request** – The Board approved the disposal
17 of the 2015-2016 Special Education records that have not been requested by the
18 parents or students.
19

20 21 **COMMUNICATION**

22
23 **A. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Moore reported that the District’s annual
24 Book Giveaway will be held June 14-15, 2023 at Paris Gibson Education Center. This
25 event is open to the public.

26 Superintendent Moore acknowledged the hard work of Student Services Coordinator
27 Carol Paul in helping launch the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in Cascade County.
28 To date more than 14,000 students are enrolled in the program. The target is a 95%
29 enrollment of children ages 0-5 in Cascade County. The enrolled children will receive a
30 free book each month. Kindergarten Registration is continuing until June 16, 2023, at
31 each elementary school.

32 Superintendent Moore reported on the Summer Food Service Program and the Get Fit
33 Great Falls Park Pals Program that are currently taking place until August 11. He
34 reviewed a list of locations for the programs. Information on other summer activities
35 and camps in the community can be found on the District’s website.

36 Superintendent Moore encouraged everyone to stop by the C.M. Russell High School
37 parking lot on June 13, 2023, at which various local beverage and food vendors will be
38 available during the lunch time.

39 A Flag Day Celebration will be held on June 14, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at Overlook Park at
40 which three Great Falls Public Schools’ students will read their winning Flag Day
41 essays.

42 Superintendent Moore paid tribute to community member Val Keaveny, who passed
43 away on May 29, 2023. Mr. Keaveny attended many Board meetings, was a former
44 school bus driver and a supporter of Great Falls Public Schools.
45

46
47 **D. Audience Communication** – None
48

1
2 **ACTION ITEMS**
3

4 **A. Financial Report and Check Register for April 2023 -**

5 Director of Business Operations presented the financial report and check register for
6 April 2023.
7

8 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
9 the April 2023 Financial Report and Accounts Payable checks #127495 - #127965 in
10 the amount of \$2,105,680.08 and Payroll checks #78200 - #78474 in the amount of
11 \$519,332.30 as presented.
12

13 **B. Authority for the Director of Business Operations to Make End-of-Year Budget**

14 **Transfers** – Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Business
15 Department is very busy the month of June taking steps to close out the fiscal year on
16 June 30th. By allowing the Director of Business Operations the authority to make end-
17 of-year budget transfers, it alleviates the need for a Special Board meeting at the end of
18 June to approve transfers. All transfers made will follow the legal guidelines established
19 by law and will be reviewed at the regularly scheduled July Board meeting or at the
20 budget adoption meeting held in August. Mr. Patrick said this is an annual request to the
21 Board.
22

23 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve the
24 Director of Business Operations the authority to make end-of-year budget transfers.
25

26 **C. Transfer of Budgeted Funds – Elementary General Fund Budget to the**

27 **Elementary Interlocal Agreement Fund** – Director of Business Operations, Brian
28 Patrick explained the transferring of the elementary curriculum funds to the Interlocal
29 Agreement Fund allows the remaining money that was budgeted in the 2022-2023
30 school year to be carried over to the next school year for elementary curriculum
31 materials and staff development.
32

33 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
34 approve the transfer of \$220,400 from the Elementary District General Fund into the
35 Interlocal Agreement Fund (182). This money was budgeted in the 2022-2023 school
36 year for curriculum materials and staff development and will be specifically designated
37 for curriculum materials and staff development during the 2023-2024 school year.
38

39 **D. School Meal Price Increase for the 2023-2024 School Year** – Director of Business

40 Operations Brian Patrick explained that the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010
41 requires that schools annually review the prices charged for student meals. The USDA
42 provides a calculator in which, prices are compared to the Federal reimbursement paid
43 to the District for students who participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. If
44 the District does not charge enough for meals according to the calculated amount, the
45 District is required to increase the price of paid meals by at least ten cents per year or
46 an amount which meets the Federal reimbursements rate for free meals. If this price
47 increase is not implemented, paid meals must be reimbursed by non-Federal funding to
48 cover the difference. During the pandemic, all meals for students were free and the

1 calculator was not available. Mr. Patrick said the recommendation is to increase the
2 student lunch prices by the minimum amount required by law, which is ten cents. The
3 increase will help offset the rising food supply costs. Mr. Patrick said approximately 52
4 % of students qualified for free or reduced lunches last year. The price will remain the
5 same for those students who qualify for a reduced rate.

6
7 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve a
8 \$.10 per lunch and breakfast price increase for the 2023-2024 school year:

9
10 Elementary Lunches: from \$2.80 to \$2.90

11 Secondary Lunches: from \$2.90 to \$3.00

12 Elementary and Secondary Breakfasts: from \$1.75 to \$1.85

13
14 **E. Second Reading of the Secondary Social Studies Curriculum** – Secondary
15 Curriculum Coordinator Beckie Frisbee explained the first reading of the Secondary
16 Social Studies curriculum occurred at the April 24, 2023, Board meeting. The
17 curriculum materials were available for community input from April 25 to May 5, 2023.
18 Approximately ten (10) teachers, community members and Trustees reviewed the
19 curriculum. Concerns were expressed about Civics curriculum and how it may be
20 taught.

21 Mrs. Frisbee reviewed the Social Studies Curriculum Committee’s recommendations for
22 7th and 8th grade curriculum with both grades utilizing Inquiry Arc. The cost of
23 \$136,866.82 includes a 3-year digital license, new Geography and US History books,
24 classroom sets and additional books for the library and intervention classes. The
25 current Board approved Civic textbooks that will continue to be used. Mrs. Frisbee
26 reviewed the 9th and 10th grade curriculum with both grades utilizing Inquiry Arc. 10th
27 grade will continue to use the Stories of the Land from the Montana Historical Society
28 which had been previously adopted. She said the implementation guides will need to
29 add Inquire Arc and updated standards. High School 11th and 12th grades curriculum
30 was reviewed noting that in 12th grade, a semester of Government or Civics is required.
31 This meets the new Montana State Standards and Chapter 55 changes. The cost of
32 \$225,854.77 for grades 9, 11 and 12 includes a 4-year digital license, new World
33 History, US History and US Government books, classroom sets and additional books for
34 the library and intervention classes. Mrs. Frisbee said the total cost of secondary
35 curriculum will be \$362,721.59. This includes five (5) days of training from McGraw Hill.
36 Mrs. Frisbee explained the Social Studies Curriculum Committee consisted of two (2)
37 community members, two (2) GFPS Board members and twenty (20) teachers.
38 Mrs. Frisbee said the committee members and teachers liked that the text is available in
39 multiple languages, includes English Language Learners support, digital options with
40 current events and that the Primary and Secondary sources are available on-line.
41 Community member Gerry Jennings asked if Advanced Placement curriculum is
42 included in what has been presented. Mrs. Frisbee said no that the curriculum for
43 Advanced Placement is chosen by the College Board and is not purchased by the
44 District. Mrs. Jennings said she is impressed with the new curriculum and
45 congratulated the Curriculum Committee.

46 Chairperson Johnson asked if the current books the District is continuing to use are able
47 to be purchased if needed. Mrs. Frisbee said yes, the Montana History book has not
48 been updated and is still available for purchase. Great Falls High School teacher Anitra

1 Hall said the MT History book is also available digitally. Community member Jane
2 Weber congratulated the Curriculum Committee on choosing a solid curriculum. She
3 said the twenty (20) teachers who served on the committee work with students each
4 day and understand the importance of a good curriculum.
5 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski asked if the cost of renewing the digital subscriptions will
6 be affordable when it is time to do so. Mrs. Frisbee said the digital version is always
7 updated and is more affordable when purchased for fewer years at a time.
8 Trustee Thompson asked about the different languages available. Mrs. Frisbee said the
9 books can be purchased in Spanish with more options being available digitally.
10 Trustee Bronson said he is impressed with the committee's recommendations. He has
11 received some community concerns to avoid subjects. He is satisfied that teachers
12 know how to teach the curriculum. Critical thinking is an important skill set for all
13 students.

14
15 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
16 the secondary Social Studies materials as presented.

17
18 **F. Professional Development Plan for 2023-2024** – Curriculum Coordinator Beckie
19 Frisbee explained that each year, teachers are required to complete 18 hours of Pupil
20 Instruction Related (PIR) Professional Development (PD). Teachers may complete their
21 hours on the designated days throughout the school year or outside of their regularly
22 scheduled workday in the summer and/or in the evenings. Each year six hours are
23 District Directed (DD) and reflect the strategic goals of the District. Teachers may
24 choose areas that meet their needs for the remaining twelve hours. Mrs. Frisbee said
25 the focus of this year's DD PIR will be Responsibility Centered Discipline at the
26 Secondary level and Mathematical Mindset at the Elementary level. She reviewed the
27 PIR offerings and explained that teachers have 93 PIR options to choose from. The
28 options range from 3-12 hours each. Mrs. Frisbee reported that the PIR budget is
29 supported through Student Services, Indian Education, and the majority of budget
30 comes from the Curriculum Department. The total budget for the 2023-2024 year is
31 \$27,135 which amounts to approximately \$45.00 per teacher for 18 hours of PD.
32 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski said she attended a schedule planning meeting and is
33 impressed with the opportunities offered to teachers and that the cost per teacher is
34 remarkable.

35
36 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
37 the Professional Development Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

38
39 **G. Second Reading of Revised Board Policy 3300, Suspension and Expulsion** –
40 Superintendent Moore explained the changes to Board Policy 3300 were presented at
41 the May 22, 2023, Board meeting and that he has not received any comments or
42 concerns regarding the changes.

43
44 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
45 revised Board Policy 3300, Suspension and Expulsion, as presented.

46
47 **H. Consider Termination and Removal of Temporary Emergency Policies**
48 **Numbered 1900-1911** – Superintendent Moore explained the emergency Board

1 policies were initially distributed to districts by the Montana School Boards Association
2 (MTSBA) to temporarily guide district operations and delivery of instruction during the
3 period of an emergency. The 1900 Emergency Policy series was developed to govern
4 during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the federal Public Health Emergency for
5 COVID-19 concluded on May 11, 2023, through a declaration by the President of the
6 United States, therefore the emergency policy series may be terminated.

7 Superintendent Moore said the policies will be non-operational, but will be kept in the
8 event they are needed again. The Board Policy Committee reviewed a list of standard
9 Board policies in preparation of the termination of the emergency policy series.

10 Community member Rodney Meyers asked if this also includes the elimination of the
11 Declaration of Unforeseen Emergency that was declared by the Board in March of
12 2020. Superintendent Moore said it does.

13
14 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve
15 the termination and removal of the temporary Emergency Board Policy series numbered
16 1900-1911.

17 18 19 **ACTION: OTHER**

20 21 22 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

23
24 **A. Annual Review of Board Policy 3311, Firearms and Weapons** – Director of
25 Business Operations Brian Patrick explained Board Policy 3311, Firearms and
26 Weapons, is required to be reviewed annually in accordance with state law. The policy
27 was reviewed by the Board Policy Committee on May 16, 2023, and no changes are
28 being recommended.

29
30 **B. Board Sub-Committee Assignments** – Chairperson Johnson explained that an
31 important role as a Trustee is to serve on District committees. After receiving input from
32 the Trustees, Chairperson Johnson said he made the sub-committee assignments as
33 listed in the agenda.

34 35 **C. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments** –

36 Trustee Turoski said she attended the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)
37 training last week and that it was very informative. She is looking forward to serving
38 another year on the committees that she has been assigned. She thanked Rachel
39 Cutler and Beckie Frisbee for the cohesiveness of the English Language Learners and
40 Social Studies curriculum.

41 Chairperson Johnson said he was inspired by the recent graduations and ceremonies.
42 He enjoyed seeing the pride and excitement in the faces of families and friends in the
43 audience.

44 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski thanked the Curriculum Coordinators and committee for
45 the massive Social Studies curriculum undertaking. She also thanked Carol Paul for
46 her work with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and said she is excited about the
47 number of students already enrolled in the program.

48 Trustee Thompson said she is glad to see that the Social Studies curriculum includes

1 Inquiry Arc which she feels will make a difference. It is so important for students to
2 learn and think for themselves.
3 Trustee Sunchild said there are great PIR options for teachers. She said Great Falls
4 Public Schools continues to be visible beyond the school year with summer school and
5 the Summer Food Service Program.
6 Trustee Bronson thanked the Social Studies Curriculum Committee for their hard work.
7 He reported that he and Chairperson Johnson attended the MTSBA training last week
8 and continues to be impressed by MTSBA's Executive Director Lance Melton. Trustee
9 Bronson thanked the representatives of the school district that participated in the
10 Veteran's Memorial Day activities.
11 Trustee Finnicum said he is impressed with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
12 Program. He commended the Curriculum Coordinators and committees for their work
13 on the Social Studies curriculum.

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16 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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Chairperson Johnson said the next Board meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2023.

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ACTION TO ADJOURN

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Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:56 p.m.

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30

Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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Brian Patrick, Clerk