

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **HELD AUGUST 21, 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 21st day
7 of August 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; Tom Hering, Director of Information Technology; Luke Diekhans, Director of
21 Human Resources; Jackie Mainwaring and Heather Hoyer, Executive Directors for
22 Student Achievement; and Stephanie Becker, Director of the Great Falls Public Schools
23 Foundation. Also present was Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Child and
24 Youth School Liaison.

25
26 At 5:30 pm, Chairperson Johnson called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of
27 Trustees.

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30 **ADOPT AGENDA**

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32 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to adopt the
33 agenda as presented.

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35
36 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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38 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
39 the Consent Agenda as presented.

40
41 **A. Minutes of the August 7, 2023, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved the
42 minutes of the August 7, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

43
44 **B. Personnel Actions** – The Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

45
46 **C. Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35's** – The Board approved
47 the Montana School Bus Drivers Certificates – OPI TR-35's for the individuals listed in
48 the agenda.

1 **D. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance at the Early Learning Center for**
2 **the 2023-2024 School Year** – The Board approved the students listed in the agenda to
3 attend the Early Learning Center for the 2023-2024 school year due to exceptional
4 circumstances per Board Policy 3100.

5
6 **E. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2023-2024 School Year** - The
7 Board approved the 2023-2024 Student Attendance Agreements for the students listed
8 in the agenda with tuition to be paid for by the parent.

9
10 **F. Records Disposal Request – Business Office** – The Board approved the request
11 for disposal of the Business Office records listed in the agenda that are in compliance
12 with the approved State, Local Government Records Committee Retention Schedule.

13
14
15 **COMMUNICATION**

16
17 **A. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication** - Malmstrom Air Force Base
18 (MAFB) Child and Youth School Liaison Lisa Saap introduced the new Mission Support
19 Group Commander, Col. Ciro De La Vega and Child and Youth Services Flight Chief
20 James Yracheta who presented both Great Falls Public Schools and the Great Falls
21 Chamber of Commerce with the Pete Taylor Partnerships of Excellence Award.

22
23 **B. Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Moore thanked Lisa Sapp for her work
24 as the Child and Youth School Liaison.
25 He reported on the events taking place throughout the community to help support many
26 back-to-school needs.

27 Superintendent Moore also reported that the August Job Fair held, at Paris Gibson
28 Education Center, was successful as over sixty individuals were interviewed.

29 Great Falls Public Schools Executive Directors welcomed back principals during District
30 meetings.

31 He thanked Carol Paul for her work with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. She and
32 First Lady of Montana Susan Gianforte interviewed with KRTV discussing childhood
33 literacy in Great Falls.

34 Superintendent Moore thanked the Administrative Assistants throughout the District for
35 their work.

36 Convocation is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2023, at the Great Falls High School
37 Davidson Auditorium at 8:00 a.m. with guest speaker Steve Bollar.

38
39 **C. Audience Communication** – Community Member Joe Ghahari expressed his
40 concern regarding the Spring Break time frame and student attendance. Chairperson
41 Johnson expressed that multiple variables contribute to making the school calendar.
42 Vice-Chairperson Skornogoski stated that she is on the Calendar Committee and
43 reviewed examples and factors that contribute to the creation of the calendar. Mr.
44 Ghahari was invited to attend the Calendar Committee meetings to provide input on
45 future school calendars.

1 **ACTION ITEMS**

2
3 **A. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 1400, 1770, 2131, 2140, 2158, 2332, 2410, 2410R, 3233, 3310, 3510, 3550, 4410, and 8301** – Superintendent
4 Moore reviewed and discussed the changes to Board Policies 1400, 1770, 2158, 2332,
5 3233, 3310, 3510, 3550, and 8301 since the first reading at the August 7, 2023, Board
6 meeting.
7

8
9 Trustee Finnicum thanked the Board Policy Committee for their work.
10

11 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approved
12 new and revised Board policies 1400, 1770, 2131, 2140, 2158, 2332, 2410, 2140R,
13 3233, 3310, 3510, 3550, 4410, 8301 as presented.
14

15 **B. Library Materials Review Committee** – Executive Director Jackie Mainwaring
16 reported that as per Board Policy 2310R a Library Materials Review Committee has
17 been assembled in case there are disputed materials located in a school Library. She
18 stated that the application process was completed in the spring with the support of the
19 Great Falls Education Association (GFEA). The committee is made up of sixteen (16)
20 members, which is greater than the number that would be required at any given meeting
21 to allow for changes to the composition of the committee based on the level and origin
22 of the complaint. Members consist of one (1) administrator, six (6) faculty members, five
23 (5) District Librarians and four (4) community members, one of which is also a Trustee.
24

25 Motion – Amie Thompson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to
26 approve the Library Materials Review Committee members as presented.
27

28 **C. 2023-2024 Athletic Ticket/Pass Price Increases** – Director of Athletics Mike
29 Henneberg stated that proceeds from ticket/pass sales are utilized to help offset the
30 costs associated with the management of athletic programs as well as hosting of
31 athletic events. The cost of individual ticket prices and season/yearly passes was last
32 evaluated in 2006. Mr. Henneberg reported that athletic department members,
33 Executive Directors and Secondary Building Administrators met to evaluate the current
34 pricing structure of tickets and passes and compared them to prices being utilized by
35 other AA schools for admission to their athletic events.
36

37 Trustee Skornogoski questioned if raising costs will become a common occurrence now
38 that it has come to the attention of the Board. Mike indicated that it should not become
39 an annual occurrence.
40

41 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve
42 the ticket/pass price increase of a season pass or an adult from \$55 to \$60, student
43 passes from \$15 to \$20, and individual passes at Memorial Stadium for adults from \$6
44 to \$7 and student passes from \$4 to \$5 along with ticket for all other sports to be raised
45 from \$5 to \$6 for adults and from \$3 to \$4 for students as presented.
46

47 **D. 2023-2024 Secondary Student Class Fees** - Executive Director for Student
48 Achievement Heather Hoyer explained there are secondary classes/courses that have

1 class fees associated with them in order to provide additional materials that will
2 enhance instruction. She reported that the class fee for Fashion Design and
3 Construction 1,2,3 has increased by \$5.00 and a class fee of \$15.00 for Introductions to
4 Anatomy and Physiology at Great Falls High School has been implemented. Heather
5 explained that Great Falls Public Schools has received support through the Montana
6 Advanced Opportunities Act to offset Career and Technical Education (CTE) associated
7 costs.

8
9 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
10 approve the Fashion Design and Construction 1,2,3 class fee increase of \$5.00 and the
11 addition of Introductions to Anatomy and Physiology class fee at Great Falls High
12 School of \$15.00 as presented.

13
14 **E. Two-Year 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the**
15 **International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local Union #2** - Director of Human
16 Resources Luke Diekhans explained that the CBA with the International Brotherhood of
17 Teamsters Local No. 2 expired on June 30, 2023. This bargaining group consists of the
18 six (6) warehouse employees. He reviewed the substantive language changes and
19 salary schedule through 2025. In the 2023-2024 school year, a proposed 4% wage
20 increase and an additional 4% wage increase for the 2024-2025 year. The proposed
21 agreement will also modify the longevity schedule to match the new Operating Engineer
22 longevity schedule.

23
24 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to
25 approve two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of
26 Teamsters Local Union No. 2 for the school years of 2023-24 and 2024-25, as
27 presented.

28
29 **F. Three-Year 2022-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Local Union**
30 **400 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO with Retroactive**
31 **Pay for the year 2022-2023** - Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans explained
32 the CBA with the Local Union 400 of the International Union of Operating Engineers,
33 AFL-CIO expired on June 30, 2021. The District bargained with the group throughout
34 the 2021-2022 school year and continued bargaining until September 2022 at which
35 point an agreement was made and approved at the October 10, 2022 Board meeting for
36 the 2021-2022 school year. In January the District and Union began negotiations on a
37 new contract that includes the 2022-2023 school year within the future agreement. He
38 reviewed the substantive language changes and salary schedule through 2025. In the
39 2022-2023 school year, a proposed 2.7% wage increase, a proposed 3% wage
40 increase for the 2023-2024 school year, and a 2.5% wage increase for the 2024-2025
41 year.

42
43 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve
44 the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local Union 400 of the
45 International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO for the school years of 2022-23,
46 2023-24 and 2024-25, as presented.

1 **G. Substitute Teacher Pay for the 2023-2024 School Year** - Director of Human
2 Resources Luke Diekhans reviewed the current substitute teacher compensation
3 schedule. He reported that it is imperative that students have qualified substitute
4 teachers when the classroom teacher is unable to provide instruction due to an
5 absence. Luke stated that although fill rates for teachers absences are increasing since
6 COVID, in the past school year it still averaged 84%, meaning 16% of absences were
7 filled in building by other staff. The last time substitute teachers have had an increase in
8 compensation was August 2, 2020.

9
10 Trustee Sunchild expressed her concerns about the daily pay rate for substitute
11 teachers attending trainings as well as the information being covered.

12
13 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to approve
14 the outlined pay increase for substitute teachers effective August 28, 2023, as
15 presented.

16
17 **H. Substitute Teacher Incentive Pay** - Director of Human Resources Luke Diekhans
18 explained that during the 2022-2023 school year, the Board approved additional
19 compensation for substitute teachers who worked at least 25 days in a selected two-
20 month timeframe. During those months, the fill rate of teacher classrooms was at the
21 highest percentage of the year. For the 2023-2024 school year, it is proposed that
22 substitute teachers who work a minimum of 25 days during September 1 – October 31,
23 November 1 – December 31, January 1 – February 28 and/or March 1 – April 30
24 receive an additional compensation of \$400.00. Also proposed is that substitute
25 teachers who work a minimum of 18 days from May 1 through the end of the school
26 year receive an additional \$400.00 in compensation.

27
28 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Amie Thompson, passed unanimously to
29 approve \$400 of additional compensation for all substitutes who work a minimum of 25
30 days during the two-month timeframes listed in the agenda or 18 days during the last
31 month of the school year.

32
33 **I. 2022-2023 Trustees’ Financial Summary** - Director of Business Operations Brian
34 Patrick explained that the Trustees’ Financial Summary (TFS) is the official document
35 that closes the books on the 2022-23 fiscal year and is required by law to be approved
36 by the Board. Mr. Patrick explained that when the District is audited each year, the
37 auditors look very closely at the TFS. He noted that the TFS can be found on the
38 District’s website.

39
40 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to approve the
41 2022-2023 Trustees’ Financial Report as presented.

42
43 **J. Budgets for all Budgeted Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year** - Brian Patrick,
44 Director of Business Operations, explained that a Board Budget Work Session was held
45 on August 17, 2023, to review each of the budgeted funds in detail. He explained that
46 General Fund Budgets for the Elementary and High School Districts are impacted by
47 successful levies, student enrollment, and legislative actions. Brian stated that the
48 Taxable Valuation increased in both districts due to property tax reevaluations.

1
2 Motion – Paige Turoski, Second – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt
3 Elementary and High School Budgeted Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year as
4 presented.

5
6 **Great Falls Elementary:**

7	General Fund	\$53,211,034.30
8	Transportation Fund	\$ 3,850,157.00
9	Bus Depreciation Fund	\$ 52,425.41
10	Tuition	\$ 2,355,558.52
11	Retirement	\$ 8,000,000.00
12	Adult Education	\$ 537,204.00
13	Technology	\$ 616,694.04
14	Flexibility	\$ 785,661.47
15	Building Reserve	\$ 3,414,413.94
16	Debt Service	\$ 3,457,443.76

17
18 **Great Falls High School:**

19	General Fund	\$26,154,929.05
20	Transportation Fund	\$ 1,785,425.14
21	Bus Depreciation Fund	\$ 32,534.34
22	Tuition	\$ 595,965.08
23	Retirement	\$ 4,500,000.00
24	Adult Education	\$ 522,903.00
25	Technology	\$ 171,475.41
26	Flexibility	\$ 582,507.68
27	Building Reserve	\$ 1,098,316.10
28	Debt Service	\$ 4,142,481.26

29
30 Trustee Bronson stated that due to the 2023 Legislative session the State will be levying
31 mills which will contribute to property tax increases.

32
33 Trustee Finnicum asked what impact the school has had on homeowner taxes in the
34 previous two years. Brian stated that the District has been financially responsible. For
35 the third year in a row, homeowners have paid lower taxes each year on the Budgeted
36 Funds for the District.

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39 **ACTION: OTHER**

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42 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES**

43
44 **A. First Reading of Revised Board Policies 2050, 2168, 2450, 2600, 3110, 3120,**
45 **3121, 3121R, 3141, 3150, 3226, 3235, 3340, and 3413** – Superintendent Moore
46 reviewed revised Board policies 2050, 2168, 2450, 2600, 3110, 3120, 3121, 3121R,
47 3141, 3150, 3226, 3235, 3340, and 3413. He highlighted changes that will be made to
48 policy 3121R which allows the District to receive additional funding when out of district

1 students enroll in classes offered by the District. He indicated that these changes will be
2 made prior to the second reading and will reflect the correct class-enrollment measure
3 ratio. Superintendent Moore stated that if anyone has questions or concerns about
4 these policies to contact him before the next Board meeting.

5
6 **B. Discussion, Committee Reports, and Comments –**

7 Trustees Thompson and Finnicum thanked individuals who have worked on the budget
8 information and the Collective Bargaining Agreements. Trustee Thompson stated that
9 she is looking forward to this year's Convocation.

10 Trustee Finnicum recognized the working relationship between Great Falls Public
11 Schools and Malmstrom Air Force Base and congratulated both on their award.

12 Trustee Turoski encouraged fellow Board members to look at the House and Senate
13 bills that have passed to understand the changes in District Policies. She is also looking
14 forward to the upcoming school year.

15 Trustees Sunchild and Bronson thanked Trustee Skornogoski, United Way, volunteers
16 and the many vendors who participated in the *Stuff the Bus* and *Back to School Blast*
17 events.

18 Trustee Skornogoski reported that approximately 16,000 items were received and over
19 110 people volunteered for the *Stuff the Bus event* and an estimated 200 volunteers
20 participated in the *Back-to-School Blast* event with around 1,400 backpacks assembled
21 for distribution to Great Falls Public Schools students.

22
23
24 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

25
26 Chairperson Johnson said the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Monday,
27 September 11, 2023, and Monday, September 25, 2023.

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30 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

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32 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to adjourn
33 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:18 p.m.

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38 _____
39 Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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41 Brian Patrick, Clerk