

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**  
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 12<sup>th</sup> day  
7 of September, 2022.  
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:** Superintendent Tom Moore; Director of Business Operations Brian  
20 Patrick; Executive Director for Student Achievement Lance Boyd; Director of Human  
21 Resources Kerry Dattilo and Director of GFPS Foundation Stephanie Schneider.  
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**  
30

31 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to adopt the  
32 agenda as presented.  
33

34  
35 **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**  
36

37 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Mark Finnicum, passed unanimously to  
38 approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Special acknowledgement was given to the  
39 Riverview Elementary School playground donation.  
40

41 **A. Minutes of the August 22, 2022, Regular Board Meeting** – The Board approved  
42 the minutes of the August 22, 2022, Regular Board 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: Occupational Therapist Jennifer Creed, Physical Therapist Meghan Dellen,  
48 Speech and Language Pathologist Tiffani Fox-Sunchild, Director of Technology Tom

1 Hering, Executive Director of Student Achievement Lance Boyd, Riverview Elementary  
2 School's PTA President Jamie Ronholdt, Overload Aide Tara Hageman and Principal  
3 Luke Diekhans, and Whittier Elementary School's Librarian Dean Jardee and Principal  
4 Corri Smith.

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

9  
10 **E. Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements at the Early**  
11 **Learning Center for the 2022-2023 School Year**– The Board approved the Early  
12 Learning Family Center Transitional Kindergarten Student Attendance Agreements  
13 listed in the agenda for the 2022-2023 school year.

14  
15 **F. Incoming Student Attendance Agreements for the 2022-2023 School Year.** The  
16 Board approved the 2022-2023 Student Attendance Agreements listed in the agenda.  
17 The tuition will be paid by the parents, district of residence, and/or state.

18  
19 **G. Riverview Elementary School Playground Equipment Gift.** The Board approved  
20 the receipt of \$140,3511 to the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation that is the value  
21 of donation from the Riverview Elementary School playground equipment and gaga ball  
22 pit.

## 23 24 25 **COMMUNICATION**

### 26 27 **A. Introduction and Report of the Student Representatives and Foreign Exchange** 28 **Students for the 2022-2023 School Year**

29  
30 Executive Director for Student Achievement Lance Boyd explained that the student  
31 representatives participated in an orientation with Superintendent Moore and  
32 Chairperson Johnson prior to the Board meeting.

33  
34 C.M. Russell (CMR) High School Student Representatives Luke Banks and Caroline  
35 Hermiller introduced themselves and spoke of their interests and involvements in school  
36 activities. Student representative Allison Marr was not able to attend as she was at a  
37 soccer match out of town. The students reported on the start of the school year  
38 activities that included the second annual Rustler Roundup, Crosstown Clash, Rustler  
39 Beginnings, and Senior Sunrise. They gave an update on fall sports, music groups, and  
40 reported on the Drama Department's upcoming production of Beauty and the Beast.  
41 Luke and Caroline said the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) club are  
42 selling pink shirts as a fundraiser for upcoming neon and pink nights for football and  
43 volleyball. They explained GFPS is embracing Character Education and in September  
44 CMR students and staff will be focusing on *Respect*. Each week they will be practicing  
45 different ways to be respectful. A video was shown in which Foreign Exchange  
46 students attending CMR introduced themselves, told where they were from, who their  
47 host families are and what they like about Great Falls. Luke and Caroline explained that  
48 CMR's Senior class engaged in a new tradition at the school by painting senior parking

1 sports as a way to show their Rustler Pride. Several seniors also painted some  
2 elementary school and middle school principals' parking spots to welcome them back to  
3 school with gratitude and Rustler Pride.

4  
5 Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) Student Representatives Stratton Kiser, Miah  
6 LeDeau and Taelar Severson reported that the enrollment at PGEC is at 213 and rising.  
7 After two-years of flexible COVID schedules, this school year is back to a regular  
8 schedule. They recognized new PGEC staff members who included three teachers, a  
9 tutor, a secretary and a para educator. The students reported that a new camera  
10 system was installed this summer and there are more meetings and activities being held  
11 at the school. The new aquaponics room is up and running, the hot pepper harvest will  
12 be in approximately a month and honey is being harvested this week. The students  
13 reported that Native American Heritage Week is September 19-23. Teachers are  
14 collaborating and teaming to bring multiple cultural activities during the designated  
15 week. Other upcoming events include Free College Application weeks October 3-14,  
16 and the Fall Red Cross Blood Drive on September 28.

17  
18 Great Falls High (GFH) School Student Representatives Hayley Bouchard, Ryan  
19 Harrington and MacKenna Medina reported on start of school activities that included  
20 Bison Beginnings, Bison Blue Days, Senior Sunrise, a pep assembly and a volleyball  
21 tournament hosted by the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) club. The  
22 students reported that Arts on Fire was a success with many GFH clubs performing and  
23 serving at the event. It was a way to show GFH Pride in the community. They gave an  
24 update on sporting events and reported that Homecoming 2022 will be the last week of  
25 September. Homecoming week will be filled with Bison Beats music themed events.  
26 Hayley, Ryan and MacKenna reported that GFPS will be incorporating the Character  
27 Strong program in its daily activities. *Respect* is the character for September and GFH  
28 students and staff have already included the meaning of this word into their school  
29 activities. The students reported on the new diversity group *IMBison* and the new  
30 painted rock garden.

31 A video was shown in which Foreign Exchange students attending GFH introduced  
32 themselves, told where they were from, who their host families are and what they like  
33 about Great Falls

#### 34 35 **B. Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) Communication – None**

#### 36 37 38 **C. Superintendent's Report**

39 Superintendent Moore thanked everyone involved in the Student Orientation event prior  
40 to the Board meeting. He announced that the groundbreaking for the 45<sup>th</sup> High School  
41 House in Great Falls is scheduled for September 13. He thanked Neighborworks, the  
42 thirty-five high school house students, instructor Pete Pace, Community Connections  
43 Manager Becky Nelson and the building trades companies within the community.  
44 Superintendent Moore reported that last week over fifty teachers participated in English  
45 Language Arts (ELA) training after their school day. The required training is for the  
46 District's new Amplify/Content, Knowledge, Language Arts reading program. This week  
47 Executive Directors for Student Achievement Jackie Mainwaring and Heather Hoyer,  
48 along with Curriculum Coordinators Rachel Cutler and Beckie Frisbee and K-6 Teacher

1 on Special Assignment Marni Napierala are at Stanford University for a national math  
2 Leadership Summit. The summit is professional learning focused on leading mindset  
3 and mathematics change in schools, districts, counties and beyond.  
4 Superintendent Moore explained the District held several events last year to engage  
5 new teachers in the community. Events will be coordinated again this year for new  
6 teachers with the first event being a night at the Great Falls Symphony on October 1.  
7 The symphony concert will be a celebration of John Williams' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday featuring his  
8 music from many films such as Star Wars, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and more. The  
9 Guest Conductor of the concert will be Chairperson Gordon Johnson.  
10 Superintendent Moore announced that First Interstate Bank will be holding their annual  
11 Stuff the Bus for Food Drive on September 14. Employees from the bank will be at  
12 grocery stores around the city collecting food for the GFPS school food pantries.  
13 Superintendent Moore thanked members of The Industrial Company (TLC) for their  
14 donations of school supplies and food that was distributed to the GFPS elementary  
15 schools. TLC are workers from Texas and Louisiana residing in Great Falls the next  
16 few months while they work at Calumet Refinery.  
17 He announced World of Works 2022 (WOW) is a highly interactive event that will  
18 engage 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students through hands-on learning activities. The  
19 event is sponsored by GFPS, Central Montana Works, United Way and the Great Falls  
20 Chamber of Commerce and will be held on October 18 at Great Falls College/Montana  
21 State University.  
22 Superintendent Moore thanked Becky Nelson and the Human Resources Department  
23 for their continued recruitment efforts. He said many successful job fairs have been  
24 held and the next job fair is scheduled for October 26.  
25 He reported that student enrollment reported on the day after Labor Day is up by 45  
26 students from the same time last year.

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28  
29 **D. Audience Communication – None**  
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32 **ACTION ITEMS**  
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34 **A. Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies 4125, 4330 and 5130 –**  
35 Superintendent Moore said he has not received any comments or concerns on Board  
36 policies 4125, 4330 and 5130 since the first reading at the August 22, 2022 Board  
37 meeting.  
38

39 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to approve new  
40 Board policy 4125 and revised Board policies 4330 and 5130 as presented.  
41

42 **B. Craft Council Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) –** Director of Human  
43 Resources Kerry Dattilo explained the Craft Council consists of five union groups  
44 representing the District's electricians, plumbers, painters, carpenters and groundsmen  
45 whose Collective Bargaining Agreement expired on June 30, 2021. The proposed CBA  
46 will be retroactive to July 1, 2021 with a 2% increase for 2021-2022, a 1.5% increase for  
47 2022-2023 and a 2% increase for 2022-2023. Also included in the proposed CBA will  
48 be an increase in the stipend for the foreman positions of \$0.17 per hour in each of the

1 five associated unions and an increase to the health insurance contributions for crafts  
2 selecting their individual union’s health plan, as some elect to choose this insurance  
3 instead of the District’s health plan.

4  
5 Motion – Mark Finnicum, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to  
6 approve the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Craft Council  
7 members as presented.

8  
9 **C. Proclaim Friday, September 16, 2022 as Constitution Day in Great Falls Public**  
10 **Schools** – Superintendent Moore reported that September 17 is Constitution Day and  
11 Citizenship Day. This day commemorates the September 17, 1787 signing of the  
12 United States Constitution. September 17 falls on a Saturday this year, therefore Great  
13 Falls Public Schools (GFPS) will designate Friday, September 16 as Constitution Day.  
14 He gave a background on Constitution Day and shared a list of activities that will take  
15 place in GFPS during the week of September 12-16, 2022. Chairperson Johnson read  
16 the Great Falls Public Schools’ Constitution Day 2022 Proclamation.

17  
18 Motion – Paige Turoski, Seconded – Bill Bronson, passed unanimously to proclaim  
19 Friday, September 16, 2022 as Constitution Day in Great Falls Public Schools.

20  
21 **D. Taxable Re-Evaluation – Montana Automated Educational Finance and**  
22 **Information Reporting System (MAEFAIRS) Budgeted Funds Re-Submittal –**  
23 Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick explained that on August 25, 2022, after  
24 the Budgeted Funds were approved by the Trustees, the District received a revised  
25 Certified Taxable Valuation form from the Department of Revenue. The Taxable  
26 Valuation was revised due to a miscalculation with Calument Montana Refining. He  
27 explained the revision will not impact the dollar amounts of the adopted budgeted funds,  
28 but the mills levied will increase due to the decrease in Taxable Valuation. The  
29 budgeted funds that were submitted in August were unsubmitted, adjusted and  
30 resubmitted with the updated Taxable Valuation amounts.

31  
32 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to approve the  
33 resubmittal of the MAEFAIRS budget with the change in Taxable Valuation in both the  
34 Elementary and High School districts.

35  
36 **E. Surplus/Transfer of 1 Acre of Land**– Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick  
37 explained that in 1917, one acre of land, located approximately two miles south of Great  
38 Falls, was given to the District for school use. As a part of the gift, language indicated  
39 that it would revert to the persons, heirs or assigns if the property ceased to be used for  
40 school purposes. It is unknown if the school district ever used the land for school  
41 purposes. The owner of the land would like to resolve the title issue before it interferes  
42 with a loan or sale. As per Montana Code Annotated 20-6-604, section 2, the District  
43 can adopt a resolution declaring the property obsolete and authorize the disposal of the  
44 property in a specific manner. Once the resolution is passed and the required posting  
45 occurs for the specified period, the District may dispose of the property in a manner  
46 specified in the resolution.

1 Motion – Bill Bronson, Seconded – Kim Skornogoski, passed unanimously to approve  
2 the District to take the steps outlined in Option 2 of Montana Law 20-6-604 that allows  
3 for the disposing of property and to adopt the resolution listed in the agenda.  
4

5 **F. Trustees as Voting Delegates to the MTSBA Delegate Assembly at the**  
6 **Montana Conference of Educational Leadership (MCEL)** – Chairperson Johnson  
7 explained that there will be a Delegate Assembly meeting at the upcoming MCEL  
8 Conference in October. The District is able to have three trustees, along with Municipal  
9 Director Mark Finnicum, as voting delegates. Trustees Bronson and Skornogoski are  
10 designated as voting delegates for Great Falls. One additional trustee, who will be  
11 attending MCEL in-person, is able to be appointed.  
12

13 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to accept  
14 the appointment of Gordon Johnson as a voting delegate to the MTSBA’s Delegate  
15 Assembly that will be held during the Montana Conference of Education Leadership  
16 (MCEL) October 19-21, 2022 in Missoula, Montana.  
17  
18

19 **ACTION: OTHER**  
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21

22 **REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POLICIES.**  
23

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

25 Trustee Thompson said it was great to have the student representatives at the Board  
26 meeting.

27 Trustee Sunchild said Great Falls High School Advance Placement History Teacher Ed  
28 McNamee does a great job teaching his students about the Constitution. Trustee  
29 Sunchild said GFPS high schools have meaningful traditions and all schools have family  
30 friendly atmospheres that are not present in other school districts.

31 Trustee Bronson reported that he attended an English Language Arts instructional class  
32 last week and is impressed by the modules that are set-up to identify early on students  
33 who may be struggling.

34 Trustee Finnicum said there is excitement in the schools with this year off to a more  
35 normal start.

36 Vice Chairperson Skornogoski thanked Art students and teachers for volunteering their  
37 time for the Arts on Fire event. She said volunteers are needed for the Worlds of Work  
38 (WOW) event in October. Trustee Skornogoski said it was wise of the District to use  
39 one-time-only ESSER funds to invest in teacher training for the new ELA curriculum.

40 Trustee Turoski said she enjoyed the student representative reports and wishes all  
41 students the best in their year ahead. She said she is glad the Craft Council’s CBA has  
42 been settled and is looking forward to attending the High School House  
43 Groundbreaking.

44 Chairperson Johnson said he attended a GFPS Foundation Committee Meeting  
45 recently and is impressed with the volunteers serving on the different Foundation  
46 committees making great things possible.  
47  
48

1 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

2

3 Chairperson Johnson said the High School House Groundbreaking is scheduled for  
4 September 13, a Board Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 16 and  
5 the next Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for September 26, 2022 and October  
6 10, 2022.

7

8

9 **ACTION TO ADJOURN**

10

11 Motion – Kim Skornogoski, Seconded – Paige Turoski, passed unanimously to adjourn  
12 the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:45 p.m.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Johnson, Chairperson

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19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Patrick, Clerk