

1 Great Falls School District

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3 **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1441R

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5 Audience Participation

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7 Montana law requires school districts and other public agencies to notify the public of the agenda
8 of all items for discussion at their meetings and to include opportunities for the public to
9 comment on items listed on the agenda or on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the
10 agency.

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12 When a member of the public wishes to speak to an item specifically listed on the agenda, that
13 person will be allowed to do so when the item comes up for discussion by the Board and the
14 Board Chairperson calls for public comment.

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16 If any member of the public wishes to address the Board about other items in the school district's
17 jurisdiction that are not specifically listed on the agenda, that person will be allowed to do so
18 during the "audience communication" portion of the agenda. A member of the public wishing to
19 address the Board will announce the request to speak by completing a "Request to Speak" form
20 and giving it to the Clerk of the Board or the Board Chairperson prior to the opening of the
21 meeting. The Board Chairperson will call upon individuals to speak.

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23 State and federal laws also provide for the privacy rights of individuals. To avoid violations of
24 individual privacy rights, a member of the public wishing to address the Board during this time
25 will not be allowed to make comments that are potentially damaging to any student, staff
26 member, or member of the general public.

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28 The Board does not accept public comment that reports facts or presents conclusions that are not
29 part of the public record or that involve contested cases or other adjudicated proceedings as these
30 are excluded from the state legal definition of "public matter".

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32 Montana law requires that public agencies give advance public notice of any item to be discussed
33 at their meetings. During the audience communication portion of the meeting, the Board does not
34 engage in discussion with the public or with one another because the discussion has not been
35 noticed. At the discretion of the Board, the Board may place the item on a future agenda, or the
36 member of the public may be directed to meet with the Superintendent or his or her staff to
37 utilize the District's Uniform Complaint Procedure.

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39 Policy History

40 Adopted on: January 14, 2013

41 Reviewed on: December 2, 2020