

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 11, 2023**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Amber Flynn presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Josh Anderson, Dave Berger, Amber Flynn, Monte Gaukler via phone, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** Joel Larson and Bill Palmiscno.

**Student Board Members Present:** Ryaan Alshami and Maggie Barker. **Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager; Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Melissa Buchhop, President, Grand Forks Education Association; Michelle Shepperd, President, Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Reading of School Board Meeting Norms.** Anderson read aloud the school board meeting norms.

**Approval of Agenda.** It was moved by Manley and seconded by Lunn to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson, Palmiscno, and Shabb.

Shabb joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Lunn to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023, as corrected. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Berger to approve the minutes of August 21, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Public Comments.** Mandy Johnson and her daughter and Nicole Derenne spoke about the Valley Rise Program.

**Summer School Reports.** Summer School Directors Evan Pederson, Judy Anderson, Mike Wilber, Jay Hepperle, Allison Peterson, Terry Bohan, Kayla Erickson, and Austin Salyer reported highlights of the elementary and secondary summer school, Summer

Performing Arts (SPA), driver's education, and ENCORE programs.

Pederson reported the elementary program's enrollment was the highest it has been since tracking began. A teacher on special assignment (TOSA) was employed to help with issues and he would like to see one in every building next year along with improvements with busing.

Alshami joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Anderson reported the middle school program added reading and math at Twining School and South Middle School hosted an EL program. A special education strategist was employed at each site. Students had a live online tutor.

Wilber and Hepperle reported they split duties for the high school program. Courses are taken for remediation or to free up next year's schedule. 72 students were dropped due to attendance issues. 628 ½ credits were issued. Wilber discussed salary changes, state reimbursements, and new legislation regarding distance education. Hepperle reported on the credit recovery option offered through Edmentum and with assistance from the Mentor Center.

Peterson reported a record enrollment of 1,063 students in SPA. Students receive programming in Fine Arts, instrumental, and strings. Requests for scholarships were also up this year and more were extreme hardship cases. Audience attendance was up

with 6 of 8 performances sold out. Peterson discussed the effect of employee pay raises on the SPA budget and fundraising for next year.

Bohan reported 252 students completed the driver education program which was a decrease from last year. 16 completion certificates were issued, which means those students are not required to take a road test. Vehicles were provided through a rental agreement from Rydell Cars and Grand Forks Subaru.

Ericson reported ENCORE activities included cooking, art, STEM, swimming, and sports and were offered at three schools. Salyer reported on the Valley Rise ENCORE for incoming 5<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Ericson continued with a report on STEMKamp 2023, Summer ENCORE Intro to K.

Alshami left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

**Public School on Military Installations Grant Update.**

Dr. Brenner, Taunya Schleicher, and Janell Regimbal gave an update on this grant opportunity. Included was an overview of the grant, deficiencies found at Twining School, security concerns, timeline, and next steps to submit a design proposal to build a new school. The design proposal will be considered for approval by the Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board at its September 19 meeting.

**Remote Learning Survey Results.** Dr. Brenner reviewed the results of the May 2023 remote learning survey. A high-level overview suggested remote learning during applicable weather-related events continue although with more rigor and increased teacher availability.

**Storm Day Decision-making Process.** Dr. Brenner gave a comprehensive overview of the decision-making process on whether to delay or cancel school during inclement weather.

**NDSBA Opportunities for Board Member Development.**

Dr. Brenner informed board members of upcoming opportunities for board member development sponsored by the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA), including the New Member Seminar, which per state law requires each newly elected school board member attend within one year of assuming office, School Law Seminar, and Annual Convention. The events will be held October 26-27, 2023, in Bismarck. Board members were asked to notify Cindy Johnson of their attendance plans.

**District Achievement Goal Alignment Overview.**

Gillach gave a high-level overview of the initial steps taken to align the district's math and literacy goals across the district and anticipated progress monitoring reports.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Lunn to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Teacher appointments of Rosemae Agriam, special education teacher effective August 25, 2023, salary \$52,061; Kristine Bendol, special education teacher effective August 31, 2023, salary \$49,728; Mitchell Misagrande, special education teacher effective September 7, 2023, salary \$51,043; Kaith Paraiso, special education teacher effective September 7, 2023, salary \$53,135; and Blessy Mullot, autism teacher effective September 11, 2023, salary \$51,899;
- Open enrollment application for K.A.;
- Third-party individual/entity request for student information for Klett World Languages, easyCBM, Minnesota State University Moorhead student teachers, and Doorway to College Foundation;
- Renewal of Parking Lot Lease with The United Lutheran Church from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, with an annual rental fee of \$14,000 and with an automatic renewal of two subsequent one-year terms through June 30, 2026, unless written notice to non-renew is given; and
- Bus drivers for student transportation as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Contracted Staff Resignations and Release from Contracts.**

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the release from contract for Ally Paradee effective September 20, 2023, with the 5% liquidated damages under Policy DKBB. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to approve the release from contract for Martha Wesley effective September 15, 2023, with the 5% liquidated damages under Policy DKBB. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Clarification of School Attendance Boundary for Lake Agassiz and Winship Elementary Schools.**

Dr. Brenner reported that when West Elementary School came offline in the spring of 2021, district administration communicated with families that all students west of Columbia Road North would attend Lake Agassiz Elementary School while families east of Columbia Road North would attend Winship

Elementary School. Within a short amount of time, those lines put additional enrollment capacity pressure on Winship Elementary School, thus district administration adjusted the boundary line that moved all students west of 20th Street North to Lake Agassiz Elementary School. Students east of 20th Street North attend Winship Elementary School. The adjustment has worked well and the administrative recommendation is for the board to approve the adjustment.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Berger to approve the boundary line of 20th Street North is used to guide students west of 20th Street North to Lake Agassiz Elementary School and students east of 20th Street North attend Winship Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Consideration to Initiate a Procurement Process for Snow Removal Services for School Year 2023-2024.**

Baumbach explained the administrative recommendation to seek proposals for this year's snow removal services which are likely to exceed \$50,000.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to authorize the initiation of a procurement process and post the legal notice for snow removal services for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Consideration of Land Swap Adjacent to Career Impact Academy Site.**

Baumbach reported property recently given to the school district from the City of Grand Forks and its Jobs Development Authority included two parcels located on and near the old Holiday Inn location at the intersection of 42nd Ave and Gateway Dr. These two parcels compose the project site for the coming Career Impact Academy. A third parcel privately owned by Ross Huebner is located on the east side of the project site. On August 2, 2023, the finance committee discussed a proposal brought forward by Huebner that contemplates swapping his parcel at 1215 N 42nd St for the 4251 Gateway Drive parcel. The board continued the conversation on August 7, 2023. Since that time, Administration ordered and received an appraisal on the two properties contemplated for the land swap. The appraisal established fair market value of the 1215 N 42nd St (\$540,000) is greater than the 4251 Gateway Drive property (\$440,000). The owner has agreed to demo the vacant structure and concrete prior to delivery to the school district.

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Berger to

approve the land exchange agreement between Ross Huebner and Grand Forks Public Schools to swap the parcel at 1215 N 42nd St for the 4251 Gateway Drive parcel. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Joint Powers Agreement between City, School District, and Valley Bus for Student Transportation Services.**

Baumbach reported this agreement clarifies the roles and responsibilities related to providing student transportation services to the District, the City of Grand Forks (Cities Area Transit), and Valley Bus Grand Forks, LLC. It is the same mechanism used with the previous student transportation vendor to address an ongoing bus driver shortage.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the joint powers agreement between the City, School District, and Valley Bus for Student Transportation Services through June 2, 2024. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Policy Review.** Shabb reported on the September 5, 2023, meeting of the Policy Review Committee and the ensuing recommendations.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to complete the first reading of the following policies as written or amended:

1. ABAD, Virtual School (as amended)
2. ABEC, School Meal Charge Policy (as amended)
3. BC, Meetings of the Board (as amended)
4. BCAA, Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation (as amended)
5. DGGGA, Professional Development Plan (as amended)
6. FAAA, Open Enrollment (as amended)
7. FFD, Possessing Weapons (as amended)
8. FFK, Suspension and Expulsion (as amended)
9. KAAA, Visitors in the Schools (as amended)
10. GACG, Educational Opportunities Through Sponsoring Entities (as amended)
11. HCAE, Disbursement of Monies (as amended)
12. FDB, Education of the Homeless Student (as amended)
13. FDH, Students in Foster Care (as amended)

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Authorization for Sale of Building Trades Project House.**

Baumbach reported construction on the 2023-2024 school year's house located at 3071 44th Avenue South has started. Part of the selling process includes school board action to designate school district representatives to handle the closing transaction.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to authorize the school board president or their designee and the business manager to sign the required closing documents for the sale of the 3071 44th Avenue South residential property. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

**Announcements.** Dr. Brenner announced the Cushman Classic XXVII will be held on Friday, September 15 at Cliff Cushman Field. Board members and Administration are invited to assist with serving the tailgate meal in the food court.

Dr. Brenner announced this is the last meeting for Grand Forks Herald Reporter Joe Banish as he will be working in the communications department at UND.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.** None.

**School Board Norms – How did we do?** Anderson reported the board did quite well in following its meeting norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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Amber Flynn, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager