

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD**  
**GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**  
**PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND TAX LEVY PUBLIC HEARING and REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 25, 2023**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a public hearing on the FY24 preliminary budget and tax levy and a regular meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with Vice President Dave Berger and President Amber Flynn presiding.

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

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

**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; Brady Olson, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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

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

President Flynn joined the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and presided over the public hearing and the remainder of the meeting.

**Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget and Certificate of Tax Levy for FY24.** Baumbach reported the board approved the preliminary budget and tax levy which was certified to the County as required by state law. Notices of estimated property tax and the hearing date were sent and the hearing date was published. The preliminary mill levy is 131.68 which is last year's mill levy plus 20.68 mills approved by a public vote.

The public hearing began at 6:02 p.m.

Michael Venaccio spoke about tax increases that he believed were unreasonable for citizens on a fixed income and based on a very small percentage of voter turnout for the referendum.

Dylan Abler spoke about setting money aside to build a school rather than increasing taxes and then keeping them in place in perpetuity.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 6:12 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Anderson to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Public Comments.** Ron Barta addressed the board about action on the request for reconsideration of instructional materials, the Return to Learn plan and that visitors may be asked to wear masks, and the superintendent's evaluation criteria.

**Design Proposal for Public School on Military Installations Grant.** Participating in this presentation were Dr. Brenner, Taunya Schleicher, and JLG Architects' representatives Dan Miller and Brian Summerfield.

Dr. Brenner reported on how the grant opportunity came about, eligible project costs, and the costs for renovation versus a new build of Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School. He reported the Grand Forks Air Force Base PSD #140 School Board approved the design proposal to be submitted to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) by tomorrow at its meeting on September 19, 2023.

Miller reported on the vision statement that was developed for this new school. It reads *A future-ready*

*learning environment focused on providing military affiliated students with a high quality education through the principles of STEM learning. A design that celebrates the values of our military personnel and provides an enhanced quality of life for our military families.*

Summerfield reported on the design building layout concept, site plan, programming, and special considerations including a LEED Silver build requirement, Net ZERO Ready, Net Zero, and a requirement that FCAR deficiencies must be rectified to last for 30 years.

Schleicher reported on the Phase 1 design proposal, budget, timeline, and next steps. The proposal will demonstrate the need for a new building versus a renovation and request funding for the design of the building. The design phase soft costs proposal includes \$2,935,042 in grant dollars and \$733,760 in District #140's 20% matching dollars. The design proposal is due September 26, 2023. Thereafter, a federal review team reviews the proposal and will schedule a site visit in late winter or early spring, an environmental study process begins as soon as possible, and upon invitation from the PMSI team, a building proposal will be completed.

After some discussion, it was moved by Berger and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the design proposal to be submitted to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) by September 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

Shabb left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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

- Teacher appointments of Alex Regorgo, special education teacher effective September 18, 2023, salary \$50,003; Christian Salazar, special education teacher effective September 18, 2023, salary \$47,427; Kristan Neufeld, 4<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher effective September 21, 2023, salary \$51,704; Pramod Polimari, special education teacher effective September 27, 2023, salary \$53,233; Jasmin Nogra, special education teacher effective October 2, 2023, salary \$52,543; and Charmaine Jangao, 6<sup>th</sup>-grade ELA teacher effective October 2, 2023, salary \$44,055; and
- Third-party individual/entity requests for student information for MusicPlay Online, Blink Learning, and PebbleGo.

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn and Shabb.

Shabb re-joined the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Baumbach reported for the first two months of the fiscal year 2023-2024, total general fund revenues were \$7,555,054 and total general fund expenditures were \$4,843,144 resulting in revenues over expenses of \$2,711,910.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Shabb to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent Lunn.

**Designation of NDSBA Convention Delegates.** Dr. Brenner reported convention delegates and alternates must have their name submitted to the NDSBA office by October 13 to vote in the Delegate Assembly. According to the formula for determining delegates, Grand Forks Public School District #1 is authorized up to five (5) delegates, all of whom must be elected school board members. To date, Monte Gaukler has indicated she plans to attend the annual convention. It is not yet known if any other board members plan to attend the annual convention.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to designate Monte Gaukler as a delegate and authorize the district administration to designate up to four additional board members who register to attend the convention to serve as convention delegates to the 2023 NDSBA Annual Convention and Delegate Assembly. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Annual Compliance Report.** Dr. Brenner reported North Dakota Century Code 15.1-06-06 requires that all North Dakota schools and school districts must submit an "Annual Compliance Report" to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction by October 1st of each school year to be declared "APPROVED" and receive foundation aid. The report is completed and submitted on the state STARS system. All school principals have completed their reports and indicated complete compliance with all compliance areas. The Annual Compliance Report must be approved by the school board before submission by the superintendent.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to approve the Grand Forks Public Schools Annual Compliance Report for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report.** Anderson reported on the September 18, 2023, committee meeting during which, in accordance with

Policy CAAB, the committee met with the superintendent to mutually establish the specific evaluation criteria and instrument. Talking points included 1) The evaluation instrument/format was modified to reflect components of the Superintendent Job Description Board Regulation CAAA-BR and the District Strategic Plan as required by Policy CAAB, 2) The superintendent will provide a narrative of indicators for each evaluation area, 3) the superintendent's goals will accompany the evaluation instrument, 4) The evaluation instrument will be produced and distributed electronically via SurveyMonkey, and 5) Board members were encouraged to visit with the Superintendent for any clarification on unknown topics. The timelines for the November 15, 2023, and March 15, 2024, evaluations were also discussed.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Gaukler to approve the process and instrument for this year's superintendent evaluation as outlined. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Policy Review.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Berger to complete the second reading and adoption as an official policy of the District the following policies as amended:

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

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Anderson to rescind the following policies:

1. BCAB, Board Meeting Procedures (replaced by BC and BCAB)
2. 8400, Business Manager – Disbursement of Funds (replaced by HCAE)

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Consolidated Grant Application for Federal Title Funding.** Bakke presented a comprehensive review of the final consolidated grant application for 2023-2024 federal funding for Title I Part A, Title II Part A, Title III

Part A, and Title IV Part A. Included in the presentation were the 2022-23 funding levels for comparison, the purpose of each Title's funding, allocations per school, funded activities, and funding criteria.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Berger to approve the final consolidated grant application for 2023-2024 federal title funding of \$4,787,709.58. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Announcements.** Dr. Brenner spoke highly of the board's commitment to service. He noted their recent participation in the Be Legendary training and presented a plaque on behalf of the Department of Public Instruction in recognition of that training.

Flynn recognized Senator Curt Kreun in the audience.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.** Gaukler requested an update on student transportation.

**School Board Norms – How did we do?** Manley reported the board was very respectful in following its meeting norms and had a great conversation.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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

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Amber Flynn, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager