

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD**  
**GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 7, 2023**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, August 7, 2023, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Amber Flynn presiding.

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

**Student Board Members Present:** Maggie Barker. **Absent:** Ryaan Alshami.

**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; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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**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.

**Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved by unanimous consensus. Absent: Larson and Shabb.

**Appointment of Student Board Member and Oath of Office.** Due to Alshami's absence, this topic is postponed to a future meeting.

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Shabb.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Gaukler to approve the minutes of July 24, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Shabb.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the minutes of July 31, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Shabb.

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

**Public Comments.** None.

**Recruitment and Hiring Update.** Griffin Gillespie, Director of Human Resources, reported on the number of openings and new hires in the district.

Shabb joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Gillespie said there was a larger applicant pool this year as compared to last year due to an increase in wages and advertising. He also gave an update on recruitment efforts and future sourcing initiatives. In response to an inquiry, he discussed support for international candidates through an organization in Fargo.

**Summer Projects Update.** Jonathan Ellwein, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported on summer projects at Grand Forks Central High School, Cushman Field, Ben Franklin Elementary School, Viking Elementary School, Lake Agassiz Elementary School, Schroeder Middle School, and the districtwide lighting upgrade.

**Finance Committee Report.** Baumbach reported on the August 2, 2023, meeting of the Finance Committee and its recommendations.

- **Consideration of Career Impact Academy Guaranteed Maximum Price.** Shawn Senescall of JLG Architects gave a comprehensive update on the Academy's design concept.

Sean Scott of PCL Construction Services, Inc. gave an update on the bid solicitation process and bid packages.

Baumbach reported on funding options related to the guaranteed maximum price for the project of \$24,983,859 and the following alternates: Alternate 01: Commons Expansion \$1,660,920;

Alternate 02: Welding Expansion \$2,028,388;  
Alternate 03: Finned Tube Radiation \$278,629;  
and Alternate 04: Folding Glass Walls \$216,000.

Keith Lund, President and CEO of the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, discussed opportunities for additional fundraising and community support.

Discussion continued about the possibility of approaching a prospective donor for naming rights as a funding opportunity, the district's past and future budget and fiscal responsibility, and how delaying project alternates affects any cost savings.

Manley left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education and Technology, discussed programs and funding for equipment and in-kind donations.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Lunn to move forward with the base bid for construction of \$24,983,859.

Palmiscno clarified the intent is to delay a decision on the alternates until November after the business manager has had time to get more information for funding.

Senescall responded that August/September would be ideal and November would be a point when the district would incur additional costs. He also recommended the 5% contingency be included in the construction dollars.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Lunn to amend the motion to include the 5% contingency for a total of \$26,233,052. Amendment carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

Original motion as amended unanimously carried. Absent: Larson and Manley.

- Consideration of Land Swap Adjacent to Career Impact Academy Site. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to postpone the discussion of this topic to a future date. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.
- Consideration of Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy for FY24. Baumbach reported on the preliminary budget and tax levy for FY24 which calls for a total levy of

131.68 mills. This levy includes 70 mills for the general fund, 12 mills for miscellaneous, 4 mills for tuition, 3 mills for a special reserve fund, 20 mills for the building fund, 2 mills for special assessments, and 20.68 mills for sinking & interest related to the public referendum passed on May 16, 2023.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Berger to approve the preliminary budget and certificate of levy as presented and to set the public hearing date for the preliminary budget and certificate of levy for September 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Mark Sanford Education Center. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Baumbach reported for fiscal year 2022-2023, total general fund revenues were \$115,200,654 and total general fund expenditures were \$118,814,613 resulting in expenses over revenues of \$3,613,959. He pointed out the statement is not an accurate report due to the lagging of federal reimbursements and other considerations such as a reserve fund transfer.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

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

- Teacher appointments effective August 22, 2023, of Priscilla Mathsen, ND Studies and Special Topics (salary \$60,771); Sierra McCall, SAIL Teacher (salary \$46,977); Christina Ibrahim, Social Worker (salary \$46,977); Mallory Rudningen, first-grade teacher (salary \$46,977); and Hannah Freese, Marketing Teacher (salary \$47,774);
- 2023-2024 In-Person Instruction Plan;
- Amended Designation of Authorized Representative for Title Programs and Grants for 2023-2024 as follows:
  - Title I – Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards - Matt Bakke
  - Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Quality Training and Recruiting - Matt Bakke
  - Title III – English Language Acquisition/Enhancement - Matt Bakke
  - Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants - Matt Bakke
  - Title VI-B (IDEA) – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Matt Bakke
  - Title VII – Indian Education - Matt Bakke

- Title VIII – Impact Aid - Dr. Terry Brenner and Brandon Baumbach
- Title IX of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – Griffin Gillespie
- Indian Education Formula Grant - Matt Bakke
- Johnson O'Malley Act (Indian Education) - Matt Bakke
- Head Start - Matt Bakke
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning - Matt Bakke
- District Homeless Liaison - Sara Munson
- CLSD Grant - Amy Bartsch
- School Food Service - Wendy Mankie; and
- Grand Forks Central and Red River High Schools Speech, Debate, and Student Congress Cooperative Agreements.

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

**Third-Party Individual/Entity Request for Student Information.** Dr. Brenner reported on four third-party entities' requests for student information. Policy FGA, Student Education Records and Privacy, requires Board approval of student information sharing requests from third-party individuals/entities other than parties to which the District reports student information under the law. The requests are:

1. Edgenuity (Imagine Learning) – Imagine Learning will provide secondary students with a web-based courseware option through its Edgenuity platform. The platform will be primarily used by high school students and a handful of middle school students in need of credit recovery, alternative learning pathways, or acceleration options. Edgenuity will replace Edmentum as the district's online courseware provider as it offers a more robust and interactive asynchronous learning experience. School official exception applies so parental consent is not required to release applicable student information.
2. Active Internet Technologies, dba Finalsite – This is a school system-wide notification system that will be used to communicate vital information to families and employees quickly through multiple channels. Their master terms and conditions are on file which coincides with the language in the policy. School official exception applies so parental consent is not required to release applicable student information.
3. Peachjar – This platform will be used to create the *Kids Connection* publication. A FERPA compliance overview is on file which coincides with the language in the policy. School official

exception applies so parental consent is not required to release applicable student information.

4. UND College of Education & Human Development Student Teachers – Through placement at participating schools across the district as part of their professional training and education, student teachers will be exposed to and have access to student information. The affiliation agreement which includes provisions to inform students of the confidential nature of all school records is on file. School official exception applies so parental consent is not required to release applicable student information.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the requests of the Edgenuity (Imagine Learning), Active Internet Technologies, dba Finalsite, Peachjar, and UND College of Education & Human Development Student Teachers for access to student information as requested and as allowed by policy and/or the law. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

**Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Resources.** The library books being challenged are *Nineteen Minutes*, *Beloved*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, *grl2grl*, and *Dead Until Dark*. Reviewing one book at a time, board members shared their perspectives about and acted on each of the challenged library books as follows:

*Nineteen Minutes*. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to sustain and keep the book in its respective libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Lunn, Shabb, Flynn, Berger, and Gaukler. Nay: Palmiscno and Anderson. Absent: Manley and Larson.

*Beloved*. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Gaukler to sustain and keep the book in its respective libraries. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

*The Bluest Eye*. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to sustain and keep the book in its respective libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Gaukler, Lunn, Palmiscno, Shabb, Flynn, and Berger. Nay: Anderson. Absent: Larson and Manley.

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to sustain and keep the book in its respective libraries. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Shabb, Flynn,

Berger, Gaukler, and Lunn. Nay: Palmiscno and Anderson. Absent: Larson and Manley.

*grl2grl*. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Gaukler to sustain and keep the book in its respective libraries. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

*Dead until Dark*. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Berger to sustain and keep the book in its respective libraries. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Manley.

**Announcements.** It was announced that grades K-9 start school on August 30.

Matt Bakke was welcomed to his first official school board meeting.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.** Gaukler requested information about how high-dosage tutoring will continue with Edgenuity versus Edmentum.

**School Board Norms – How did we do?** President Flynn reported the board did a good job in following its meeting norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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

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Amber Flynn, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager