

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2023

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, October 9, 2023, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Amber Flynn and Eric Lunn presiding.

Board Members Present: Josh Anderson, Dave Berger via phone, Amber Flynn, in person and via phone, Monte Gaukler, Joel Larson, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, Bill Palmiscno, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** None.

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; Melissa Buchhop, President, Grand Forks Education Association; Michelle Shepperd, President, GFAFB School Board; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. Flynn called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Agenda. It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Gaukler to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Celebrating Success. Dr. Kris Arason, principal, Dani Rowekamp, health careers teacher, and former student Morgan Knudsvig, Dustin Norby, marketing teacher, and former student Clarkson Sande, Kevin Nelson, automotive teacher, and former students Aaron Sullivan and Max Polum, and Paul Zettler, information technology teacher, and current students Dimitri Kolodka and Lauryn Brynjulson, gave a presentation on the Career and Technical Education programs at Red River High School.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the minutes of September 25, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments. Courtney Davis and children spoke about Indigenous Peoples' Day. Victoria Swift spoke about the bussing.

Board Education: Fall Achievement Data 2023. Amy Bartsch, chief academic officer, and Jessica Sporbart

and Amy Rohlk, MTSS coordinators, gave a comprehensive review of current student achievement data. All data in the presentation were generated from the ND Insights Dashboard, ACT, and the STAR Renaissance testing platform.

Berger left the meeting at 6:26 p.m. and re-joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Fall Enrollment Report. Bakke reported on this year's student enrollment for grades K-12. Comparatively, from spring 2023 to fall 2023, enrollment increased by 96 students, and from fall 2022 to fall 2023, enrollment decreased by 7 students. The fall 2023 enrollment was 64 students less than the demographer's projection.

NDSBA Resolutions. The Government Affairs Committee Resolution Report including a list of resolutions that are four years old and recommended for re-adoption as written, as amended, and to be dropped was provided.

President Flynn left the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Board member Lunn presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Finance Committee Report and Recommendation. Baumbach reported on the September 25, 2023, Finance Committee meeting. Discussion topics at the meeting included a presentation on new market tax credits and their application to the Career Impact Academy, consideration of an information technology

manager position, and the budget and certificate of tax levy for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Flynn re-joined the meeting via phone at 6:46 p.m.

Consideration of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Final Budget and Tax Levy – Certificate of Tax Levy. Baumbach gave a detailed presentation on the final budget and tax levy for fiscal year 2023-2024. Included in the presentation were a review of the Guiding Change Document, budget timeline, highlights of key assumptions, a review of actual revenues and expenditures for 2022-2023, budgeted revenues and expenditures for 2023-2024, future considerations, and next steps. The administrative recommendation was to approve the budget with a property tax levy of 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 and interest related to the public referendum passed on May 16, 2023, for a total levy of 131.68 mills. The Finance Committee recommended the same with direction to further reduce expenditures by 1%.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Anderson to approve the fiscal year 2023-2024 final budget and tax levy as recommended by the administration and finance committee and to file the certificate of levy with the county auditor as required by state law. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Teacher appointments of Harris Sandhu, special education teacher effective October 6, 2023, salary \$47,589; Lanie Sandhu, special education teacher effective October 6, 2023, salary \$50,947; and Andrea Goertzen, speech-language pathologist effective October 9, 2023, salary \$44,605. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Snow Removal Services Bids. Baumbach reported four written responses were received from Fert-L-Lawn, The Grass Guys, Matheson Sweeping, and R&R Snow Removal. The incumbent, RJ Zavoral did not respond. After reviewing the proposals, R&R Snow Removal was recommended to be selected as the lowest responsible bidder based on a comparison of the type of equipment and rates quoted. The rates quoted were:

- Loader Tractor - \$100 per hour.
- Skid-Steer - \$85 per hour.
- Wheel Loader - \$100 per hour.

- Hauling (dump truck) - \$95 per hour.
- Wheel Loader with snow blower - \$75 per hour.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Palmiscno to approve R&R Snow Removal as the snow removal vendor for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

School Board Self-Assessment Committee Report and Recommendation. Larson reported on the October 9, 2023, meeting of the School Board Self-Assessment Committee and its recommendation for this year’s evaluation instrument. Dr. Brenner reported the former instrument was based on the school board meeting norms whereas the recommended instrument went deeper looking at assessments as the Be Legendary training suggested.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to approve the new evaluation instrument for this year’s school board self-assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements. Dr. Brenner reminded board members of the open house tomorrow at Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School at which the prospective new school will be announced.

Gaukler commented on the new sign at Red River High School.

Board Requests for Future Consideration. None.

School Board Norms – How did we do? Larson reported the board was awesome in following its meeting norms and the presentation by the Red River High School team was fantastic.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager