

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2023

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, August 21, 2023, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Amber Flynn presiding.

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

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

Others Present: 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.

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. Items 6.A., Remote Learning Survey Results, and 6.B., Storm Day Decision-making Process, were postponed due to the superintendent's absence.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Amendment of Consent Agenda. A third-party individual/entity request for student information for Northern State University School of Education student teachers was brought forward for addition to the consent agenda.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Larson to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Student Board Member and Oath of Office. The reappointment of Ryaan Alshami as a student board member for 2023-2024 was approved by unanimous consensus and Alshami read his Oath of Office for the same.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to approve the minutes of

August 7, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments. Nelson Rosit spoke to the board about the design of the new Valley Middle School related to the preservation of the tree line.

New Valley Middle School Design Update. Kyle Kvamme, Director of Project Development & Community Engagement, presented an update on the design concept for the new Valley Middle School. Included in the presentation were conceptual drawings of the site and landscape plans with exterior views of the building and floor plans. Future steering committee meetings are scheduled for August 29, September 12, and September 26.

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

- Teacher appointments effective August 22, 2023, of Jennifer Wynne, 3rd-grade teacher, salary \$54,957; Ellie Vonesh, speech-language pathologist, salary \$54,900; Deb Arnason, FACS instructor 36%, salary \$12,943.44; Shelley Amundson, elementary reading specialist 40%, salary \$33,939.20; and Lynn Gilbraith, elementary math interventionist 30%, salary \$23,830.20;
- Health restoration leave during 2023-2024 for Melissa Miedema;
- Student travel request for up to 21 students to Winnipeg, Canada on October 26, 2023;
- Student travel request for up to 21 students to Germany and France beginning June 11, 2024,

- and ending July 6, 2024;
- Student travel request for up to 20 students to Kanuma City, Japan beginning October 9, 2024, and ending October 20, 2024;
- Third-party individual/entity request for student information for Mayville State University Division of Education student teachers;
- Third-party individual/entity request for student information for Northern State University Department of Education student teachers;
- Designation of Sara Berg as the Homeless Student Liaison for the district for 2023-2024;
- Designation of Sara Berg as the Foster Care Liaison for the district for 2023-2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

District Academic Goals. Gillach reported as a direct result of the board’s Be Legendary training in June 2023, District leadership recommended the adoption of the following academic goals for 2023-2024:

1. Literacy. GFPS will increase district-wide student Ela proficiency levels from 46% to 51% as measured by North Dakota State Accountability Assessments, NDSA, and ACT.
2. GFPS will increase district-wide student mathematical proficiency levels from 40% to 45% as measured by North Dakota State Accountability Assessments, NDSA, and ACT.

Progress monitoring tools and checkpoints related to each of the goals were discussed as well as the timing for future consideration of the goals.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Gaukler to approve the academic goals for literacy and mathematics for 2023-2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration to Expend Construction Services Against Building Fund. Baumbach reported on the administrative recommendation to approve expending the following construction services totaling \$503,168.90 against the building fund:

Date	Line Memo	Debit
11/1/2022	July payment for Central stair repair project.	\$66,119.40
12/6/2022	Sept payment for Central stair repair project	\$101,609.20
12/6/2022	Additional sidewalk and curb and gutter removal at City Hall entry	\$25,667.00
12/6/2022	Retainage for Central stair repair project	\$21,717.30
12/6/2022	Central exterior stair caulking at 5th Street stair and handrail fixed	\$4,801.00
6/20/2023	AE2S Design services for Central HS stair replacement	\$4,417.00
6/20/2023	Provide as-built drawings of Central stair replace	\$2,400.00
9/1/2022	Ref PO 225350 second half payment Kelly windows	\$99,750.00
11/14/2022	Design of new fire suppression system and plumbing	\$23,750.00
2/14/2023	Design of new fire suppression system and plumbing	\$2,490.00
3/17/2023	Design of new fire suppression system and plumbing	\$1,260.00
6/30/2023	Structures PO 231319 Central atrium and lift	\$149,188.00
	Total	\$503,168.90

The construction services represent the Grand Forks Central stair reconstruction project, Kelly window project, Ben Franklin fire suppression system and plumbing design, and Grand Forks Central auditorium stage project.

If approved, the building fund balance would decrease from \$9,150,750.63 to \$8,647,581.73.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Anderson to approve the expending of construction services totaling \$503,168.90 against the building fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Special Reserve Fund Transfer.

Baumbach reported on the administrative recommendation to approve a transfer of \$1,014,229.37 from the special reserve fund to the general fund to offset the over-budget salary expenses. Two primary factors that contributed to over-spending the general fund by \$1,607,981 in substitute teacher salaries during FY23 include a change in title from instructional para to designated sub and subs serving in classrooms due to a shortage of teachers, even while awaiting the arrival of international talent.

The special reserve fund balance as of July 2023 was \$2,028,458.74. Per North Dakota Century Code Section 57-19-11, the district can transfer as much as 50% of the fund, or \$1,014,229.37.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Larson to approve a transfer of \$1,014,229.37 from the special reserve fund to the general fund to offset the over-budget salary expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bid for Filtration Services.

Baumbach reported on the bid process and administrative recommendation for district-wide filtration services. One written response was received from Techniques Filtration.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Palmiscno to approve Techniques Filtration as the supplier for district-wide HVAC filters. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of A&E Firm for Grand Forks Central High School Pool.

Baumbach reported on the selection process for an architecture and engineering (A&E) firm for the potential recommissioning of the Grand Forks Central High School pool. One written response was received from JLG Architects.

A discussion was held to clarify this was not a bid to recommission the pool. Rather it is a process to

partner with the architect in designing potential uses for the space.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Larson to approve JLG Architects as the A&E firm for the potential recommissioning of the Grand Forks Central High School pool. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of A&E Firm for Safety and Security Upgrades. Baumbach reported on the selection process for an architecture and engineering (A&E) firm for district-wide safety and security upgrades. Three written responses were received from EAPC Architects Engineers, ICON Architectural Group, and JLG Architects.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Anderson to approve EAPC Architects Engineers as the A&E firm for district-wide safety and security upgrades. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution Authorizing and Establishing the Terms of \$30,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2023. Baumbach reviewed action leading up to the May 16, 2023, special election that resulted in the public's approval to issue \$79,000,000 in general obligation bonds to provide funds, together with any other funds available, to construct and equip a new Valley Middle School; demolish the existing Valley Middle School; construct and modernize the child nutrition facility; construct and equip safety and security facilities; and to otherwise improve and renovate school property. Since then, the District has received a commitment from the Bank of North Dakota dated July 19, 2023, as amended on August 2, 2023, to provide up to \$30,000,000 of financing through the School Construction Assistance Revolving Loan Fund pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 15.1-36-08. He reported this resolution authorizes the district to be issued a general obligation bond in the principal amount of \$30,000,000 from the Bank of North Dakota at a rate of 2% rather than selling the same bond dollars in the private market at a higher rate which will also reduce the tax cost to the Grand Forks residents.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Berger to adopt the Resolution Authorizing and Establishing the Terms of \$30,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bond, Series 2023, Creating a sinking Fund Therefore, and Pledging Taxes for Their Payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution Levying Tax for General Obligation Bonds. Baumbach reported this resolution

is related to the \$30,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds and provides the authority to levy the dollars to pay for the dollars to pay for the bonds to the Bank of North Dakota and levy and certify to the county auditor that a portion of the tax is required.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Manley to adopt the Resolution Levying Tax for General Obligation Bonds and Pledging Taxes for their Payment. Motion carried unanimously.

General Fund Financial Statement. Baumbach reported for the first month of the fiscal year 2023-2024, total general fund revenues were \$112,757 and total general fund expenditures were \$1,993,420 resulting in expenses over revenues of \$1,880,663.

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

Announcements. Gillach thanked Chief Academic Officer Amy Bartsch and her academic team for leading a successful new certified staff onboarding last week and announced school starts on August 30.

Gaukler announced a STEM conference was held at UND on August 10 with 14 of the 24 sessions led by GFPS teachers and 10 led by UND staff.

Board Requests for Future Consideration. Gaukler requested what the district will be doing for positions that have not been filled.

Shabb requested an update on Twining School and an update on bussing including how the hiring of drivers has gone, ridership, and how schools are selected to have and not to have busing.

Flynn announced an update on Twining School is scheduled for September 11 and action related to the same for September 26.

Flynn requested a cheat sheet of construction terminology in layman's terms and how they apply to some of the things the board is approving be provided in *Friday Focus*.

School Board Norms – How did we do? Berger reported the board did particularly well in following its meeting norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager