

## GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD

This meeting was held jointly with the Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board

### GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

#### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2023

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 met in regular session on Monday, November 27, 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, Bill Palmiscno, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** None.

**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; Brady Olson, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association; GFAFB School Board Members Michelle Shepperd, Branden Shepperd, and Arielle Neumann; Meredith, Vukelic via phone, Legal Counsel from Pearce Durick PLLC; 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.

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

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

**Celebrating Success - Classified and Certified Employees of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.** Tara Ulrich, SAIL Coordinator, introduced Mohamad Abouelmagd, Special Education Paraprofessional, as the Classified Employee of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. He was presented with a plaque in recognition of the selection.

Tad Schye, Valley Middle School Principal, introduced Adam Carlson, Special Education Teacher, as the Certified Employee of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. He was presented with a plaque in recognition of the selection.

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Larson to approve the minutes of November 13, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments (non-agenda items).** None.

**State of the Base – Colonel David Castor.** Colonel David Castor, Commander of the Grand Forks Air Force Base 319<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group, gave an overview of the strategy of the Reconnaissance Wing, Air Force operating locations, GFAFB missions, area partnerships, and symbolism of the Griffin.

**Annual Report for 2022-2023.** Bakke reported on a variety of information including student enrollment, student academic achievement, staffing, and business information.

**Impact Aid Funding Update.** Baumbach gave an overview of Impact Aid funding and payment history to the districts.

**Curriculum Review.** Gillach reported on the Secondary Curriculum Review Committee's proposal for 2024-2025. A proposed course deletion is A & B. Proposed course additions included Enriched Physical Science A & B Course 13101 A/B, Graphic Design I and II Digital Photography & Graphics, Work-Based Learning and Workplace Learning, Career Connection-Business, Career Connection-Family and Consumer Sciences, Career Connection-Health Sciences, Career Connection-Information Technology, Career Connection-Marketing, Career Connection-Technology and Engineering, Career Connection-Trade and Industry, Workplace Readiness, and Successful School and Life Skills. The proposal will be brought forth for action at its December meeting.

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

- ◆ Appointment of Anthony Legaspi, Special Education Teacher, salary \$35,115 (120 days), effective November 30, 2023;
- ◆ Open Enrollment Application as presented; and
- ◆ Third-Party Requests for Student Information for Vernier Graphical Analysis Extension, Learning Without Tears (Handwriting Without Tears Program), Q-Global by Pearson, Q-Interactive by Pearson, Riverside Insights, and Vocabulary.com.

Motion carried unanimously.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Baumbach reported the period of July 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023, total general fund revenues were \$30,983,981 and total general fund expenditures were \$31,740,563 resulting in expenses over revenues of \$756,583.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Berger to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation to Contemplate the Discharge of Teacher Nneka Nwaokeafor from her current contract, and possible Board action.** Dr. Brenner announced that Meredith Vukelic, legal counsel from Pearce Durick PLLC, had joined the meeting via phone. He along with Vukelic reported on the recommendation and contemplated discharge process.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Palmiscno that a special meeting of the board be held at a time and place to be set by the administrative law judge at which time the board will discuss and act upon the contemplated discharge of Nneka Nwaokeafor from her current contract for insubordination and/or conduct unbecoming her position and that the school district provide written notice of this action to her. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Anderson, Berger, Gaukler, Larson, Lunn, Manley, Palmiscno, Shabb, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: None.

**Announcements.** Dr. Brenner reminded board members of the November 30 tour of the new Altru Hospital site.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.** Gaukler

requested information on recruitment plans for teachers for next year.

**School Board Norms – How Did We Do?** Gaukler reported the board did great in following its meeting norms.

**Recess.** The meeting was recessed from 7:42 p.m. to 7:47 p.m.

**Executive Session (closed meeting).** It was moved by Larson and seconded by Anderson to convene into an executive session as allowed by North Dakota Century Code Section 15.1-15-10 to discuss suspension of Nneka Nwaokeafor while discharge for cause is pursued. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Berger, Gaukler, Anderson, Manley, Palmiscno, Larson, Shabb, Lunn, and Flynn.

The executive session started at 7:50 p.m. Following the executive session at 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Gaukler to reconvene in open session. Motion carried unanimously.

President Flynn announced that during the executive session, a motion was made by Manley, seconded by Anderson, and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

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Amber Flynn, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager