

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2023**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, December 11, 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, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** Joel Larson and Bill Palmiscno.

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; 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.

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

Approval of Agenda. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson, Palmiscno, and Shabb.

Celebrating Success. Principal Tad Schye and a team of students, spoke about Valley Middle School's AVID class and efforts to implement AVID schoolwide.

Shabb joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Barker joined the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Manley and seconded by Anderson to approve the minutes of November 27, 2023, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Public Comments. None.

Safety and Security Update. EAPC Representatives Casey Hutton and Sean Sugden, and North Dakota Safety Council Master Instructor Don Moseman spoke about the focus of their work to date.

Executive Session (closed meeting). It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Gaukler to convene in

executive session to discuss security system planning as Allowed by North Dakota Century Code Sections 15.1-09-60, 44-09-19.2, 44-04-24, 44-04-25, and 44-04-26. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting room. The executive session convened at 6:42 p.m. and adjourned at 7:56 p.m. Members of the public were invited back into the meeting room. Following a brief recess, the meeting continued in open session at 8:01 p.m.

Olson did not return to the meeting.

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

- Appointments of Jordyn Minske, Social Worker, salary \$26,612 (103 days), effective January 2, 2024, and Kay Saquilayan, ML Teacher, salary \$28,360 (103 days), effective January 2, 2024;
- Open Enrollment application as presented, and
- Resignation of Erika Reich, ECSE Teacher/MTSS Specialist, effective May 31, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Teacher Resignation and Waiving of Liquidated Damages. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to approve the resignation of Teresa Wilde effective December 22, 2023, and waive liquidated damages associated with the resignation. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Curriculum Review. It was moved by Gaukler and seconded by Shabb to approve the proposed curriculum deletion and additions for 2024-2025 as follows: delete Enriched Chemistry A & B and add 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-Agriculture, 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. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Finance Committee Report:

- **Grand Forks Central Pool Update.** Baumbach reported the finance committee met on November 28, 2023, and discussed options given the anticipated closure of the Hyslop and the new aquatics facility would not be opening in time for the approaching need in August. Options discussed included: 1) Utilize adjacent facilities including the Grand Forks Air Force Base Pool, the YMCA, the pool at Choice Health and Fitness, and use of the Crookston pool, 2) Repair Central Pool for 3-5 years with an anticipated expense of \$500,000-\$1,000,000, and 3) Recommission the pool with only short-term repair in mind and add a pool cover to contain moisture for a 2-3-year solution.

The committee agreed that all options must be explored in this order: 1) Confirm Hyslop's timeline with a priority of utilizing this facility for as long as possible, 2) Recommission the pool in the spring to assess equipment operation ahead of a short-term solution utilizing a pool cover, and 3) Ready a pivot to a more substantial repair of the Central pool should it be required.

- **Information Technology Manager Position Recommendation.** Dr. Brenner reported the finance committee also discussed the need for the role and job description and acted unanimously to recommend to the full board to reinstate the position.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to approve the Information Technology Manager position with a salary range of \$81,681 to

\$101,545 as per the Classified Personnel Salary Schedule Category 25. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Appointments to Teacher Contract Bargaining Special Education Study Committee.

President Flynn reported that according to a memorandum of understanding from the 2023 Teacher Contract Negotiations, the school board is to appoint three individuals to serve on a committee to study the workload of special education teachers as it relates to caseload management and supervision and evaluation of paraprofessionals.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to appoint Human Resources Director Griffin Gillespie, Special Education Executive Director Dr. Elisa Diederich, and Special Education Assistant Director Carrie Weippert to the Special Education Study Committee. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Classified Employee Meet and Confer Committee Report:

- **Correction to Nondiscrimination Clause in Classified Personnel Policy Manual.** Dr. Brenner reported the Classified Employee Meet and Confer Committee met on December 5, 2023, and discussed a requirement to correct the nondiscrimination clause in the manual and include the correct coordinator's name with full contact information. The changes were prompted by a recent CTE (Career and Technical Education) OCR (Office of Civil Rights) audit.

- The changes include: Replace the language in Article XII which states "*Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited by state and federal law. Sexual harassment is not condoned and will not be tolerated by the School District. Please see the district School Board policies at <https://www.gfschools.org/domain/11>. An employee who sexually harasses another employee or student is subject to discipline, including immediate dismissal.*

Any employee who believes that he or she is the subject of sexual harassment must inform an appropriate supervisor or the Human Resource Director immediately. Supervisors are responsible for taking immediate action when they become aware of sexual harassment and failure to do so may subject them to disciplinary

action. If a supervisor is unavailable, or if the employee prefers, the employee should inform an administrator of the School District.” with the following language: “The Grand Forks School District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or other status protected by law. The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by federal law. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title IX: Griffin Gillespie, Human Resources Director, PO Box 6000, Grand Forks, ND 58206, 701-787-4878, ggillespie080@mygfschools.org.

Section 504: Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, PO Box 6000, Grand Forks, ND 58206, 701-787-4882, mbakke190@mygfschools.org

For further information, please reference the School Board policies at <https://www.gfschools.org/school-boards/about>.”

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Berger to approve the changes to the Classified Personnel Policy Manual. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Larson and Palmiscno.

Announcements:

- Dr. Brenner recognized three high school students who were attending the meeting as an assignment in their government class.
- Gillach recognized Randy Votava for his work in the tech booth tonight despite it being his anniversary.
- Barker announced next Wednesday is Red River High School’s pajama drive. Collection of all sizes of new pajamas will take place from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the drive loop at the school.
- Gaukler recognized all staff in the district who go above and beyond their assignments.

Board Requests for Future Consideration. None.

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

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager