

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2024

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024, 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, Bill Palmiscno, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** Jeff Manley.

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; Michelle Shepperd, GFAFB School Board President; 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. Flynn read aloud the school board norms.

Approval of Agenda. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the agenda as written. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley.

Celebrating Success - Classified and Certified Employees of the 2nd Quarter. Chad Kurtyka, principal at Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School introduced Jennifer Marshik, School Secretary, as the Classified Employee of the 2nd Quarter. She was presented with a plaque in recognition of the selection.

Terry Bohan, principal at Community High School, introduced Sara Tezel, English Teacher, as the Certified Employee of the 2nd Quarter. She was presented with a plaque in recognition of the selection.

Shepperd joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Celebrating Success – Community High School. Terry Bohan, Community High School Principal, introduced this discussion. School Counselor Marilyn Ripplinger along with other staff and students gave a presentation about Sources of Strength and related activities.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Larson to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024, as written. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Gaukler, Larson, Lunn, Palmiscno, Berger, Anderson, Shabb, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Manley.

Public Comments. None.

Public Forum Planning. Dr. Brenner reviewed event logistics and draft information that will be presented at the school board public forum on Monday, March 25, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The school board will also meet briefly in regular session at 6:00 p.m.

School Board Election Process Timeline. Baumbach reported the terms of four (4) members of the Grand Forks School Board will expire this year. They are Jeff Manley, Amber Flynn, Eric Lunn, and Cynthia Shabb. The Board approved the Joint Powers Agreement for Elections Services with Grand Forks County on January 8, 2024; therefore, the school district will participate in the June 11, 2024, statewide election with Grand Forks County, the City of Grand Forks, and the Grand Forks Park District. The County Auditor is responsible for conducting the election and state law requires school districts to follow a specific timeline as part of the election process. The deadline for candidates to file election forms with the business manager is April 8, 2024, no later than 4:00 p.m. The drawing for placement of candidate names on the ballot will be held immediately thereafter. Required forms are available on the District website or may be picked up at the Mark Sanford Education Center.

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

- ◆ Resignations of Kathryn Sondrol, Special Education Teacher, and Lisa Perreault, Physical Education Teacher, effective May 31, 2024;
- ◆ Resignation of Carrie Weippert, Assistant Director of Special Education, effective June 21, 2024; and
- ◆ Third-Party Request for Student Information for Varsity Tutors, DNDBeyond, RTI Scheduler, and Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WSAC).

Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Lunn, Gaukler, Anderson, Berger, Larson, Palmiscno, Shabb and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Manley.

Agreement Between Districts Committee Report – Joint Powers Agreement between District #140 and District #1 for Educational Services. Flynn reported on the February 7, 2024, meeting of the committee at which a draft agreement for 2024-2025 with changes limited to an update of the dates and the name of the president of the Grand Forks School Board was reviewed. No other changes were suggested and the committee unanimously recommended approval.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the 2024-2025 Joint Powers Agreement between Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District #140 and Grand Forks Public School District #1 as recommended. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Gaukler, Palmiscno, Shabb, Lunn, Anderson, Berger, Larson, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Manley.

Level IV Grievance – Steve Painter, and Level IV Grievance – Tim Tandeski. Dr. Brenner reported that Grand Forks Central High School Teacher, Steve Paintner, and Red River High School Teacher, Tim Tandeski, have gone through the grievance steps relative to challenging the language and subsequent decisions made regarding the 2023-25 Teacher Negotiated Agreement. Mr. Paintner’s and Mr. Tandeski’s complaints are that they believe they are entitled to receive an additional career increment of \$2,000 for the 2024-2025 school year based on their 35 years of teaching experience in the district. Both individuals have followed the procedural grievance steps and subsequently, and through conversations with district legal counsel, Laura Cobb, and her review of negotiations information provided by the district, she opined to deny Mr. Paintner’s and Mr. Tandeski’s requests. It is now up to the school board to hear their appeal.

Mr. Paintner spoke about his reasons for the grievance and appeal followed by Mr. Tandeski speaking about his reasons for his grievance and appeal.

Following deliberations by Board members, it was moved by Larson and seconded by Berger to deny Mr. Paintner’s request for an additional \$2,000 career increment in his salary for the 2024-2025 school year. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Berger, Larson, Anderson, Gaukler, Shabb, Lunn, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Manley.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Berger to deny Mr. Tandeski’s request for an additional \$2,000 career increment in his salary for the 2024-2025 school year. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Shabb, Palmiscno, Gaukler, Larson, Lunn, Berger, Anderson, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Manley.

Announcements. Baumbach reminded Board members to submit their biographies by Wednesday.

Board Requests for Future Consideration. Flynn requested an update from the Grand Forks Foundation for Education.

School Board Norms – How Did We Do? Flynn reported the board did okay in following its meeting norms.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager