

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD**  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES  
March 25, 2024

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2024, at South Middle School with President Amber Flynn presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Josh Anderson, Dave Berger via phone, Amber Flynn, Monte Gaukler, Joel Larson, Jeff Manley, Bill Palmiscno, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** Eric Lunn.

**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; Brady Olson, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association; Arielle Neumann, GFAFB School Board Liaison; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Gaukler to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024, as written. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Anderson, Gaukler, Larson, Gerber, Manley, Palmiscno, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn and Shabb.

Neumann joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Shabb joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

**Public Forum Planning.** Dr. Brenner led a review of the public forum materials and process.

**Budget Realignment Update.** Dr. Brenner reported on administrative meetings with representatives of the secondary music teachers, German teachers, and library media specialists. The meetings have been productive and positive. More conversations will be held.

A discussion continued about the status of the

computer class, SAIL Center, addiction counselor position, the Board's direction to achieve a 15% general fund balance by June 30, 2026, and the connection to the District's strategic plan.

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

- ◆ Resignations of Laura Pradhan, music teacher, and Tianna Wilhelmi, Special Education Coordinator, effective May 31, 2024.

Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Lunn.

**Request for Extension of Long-Term Leave – Badera Muhanna.** Dr. Brenner reported Badera Muhanna requested an extension of their long-term leave of absence for the 2024-2025 school year. The request meets the requirements of the Teacher Negotiated Agreement for an extension.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Palmiscno to approve Badera Muhanna's request for an extension of her long-term leave of absence for the 2024-2025 school year. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Larson, Manley, Gaukler, Anderson, Berger, Palmiscno, Shabb, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

**Head Start Baseline Grant First Year of the Five-Year 2024-2029.** Tracey Johnson, Head Start Director, presented information regarding the first year of the five-year baseline grant funding application that the Grand Forks Head Start program received from the

Office of Children and Families for the budget period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, totaling \$3,094,568. This includes \$33,281 for training and technical assistance and a non-federal share of \$773,642. The federally funded enrollment is 154 in four locations and 1,020 hours. Presentation topics included the process, programming, curriculum and data, readiness goals, and family engagement. The Head Start Policy Council unanimously approved the baseline application, budget, and supporting documents on March 19, 2024.

It was moved by Gaukler and seconded by Manley to approve the 2024-2025 baseline first year of the five-year grant application, budget, and supporting documents in the amount of 3,094,568. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Manley, Gaukler, Larson, Shabb, Palmiscno, Berger, Anderson, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Baumbach reported the period of July 1, 2023, through February 28, 2024, total general fund revenues were \$86,662,194 and total general fund expenditures were \$75,000,352 resulting in revenues over expenses of \$11,661,843.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Anderson to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2023, through February 28, 2024. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Palmiscno, Anderson, Berger, Larson, Shabb, Manley, Gaukler, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

**Policy Review.** Shabb reported on the March 6 and March 21, 2024, meetings and recommendations of the Policy Review Committee and District Administration.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Gaukler to waive the second reading as allowed by Policy BDA and complete one reading and adoption of Policy DKBB, Contracted Staff Resignations and Request for Release from Contract, as amended. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Shabb, Gaukler, Larson, Manley, Palmiscno, Berger, Anderson, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to complete one reading and adoption of the following board regulations as amended: DKBB-BR, Granting a Release from Contract, and CAAA-BR, Superintendent Job Description. Upon roll call vote as follows, the

motion carried. Aye: Larson, Anderson, Berger, Manley, Shabb, Palmiscno, Gaukler, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Palmiscno to complete the first reading of the following policies as written or amended:

1. ACBH, School Health Services (as written)
2. FCAE, Suicide Prevention (as written)
3. KACA, Patron Complaints (as amended)
4. LBC, Business/Education Partnerships (as written)
5. LBD, Relations with Police Authorities (as written)
6. FFH, Student Dress Code (as written)
7. FGDB, Student Handbooks (as written)
8. FFI, Student Use of Personal Technology (as written)
9. FG, Student Rights and Responsibilities (as written)
10. FGDC, Students of Legal Age (as written)
11. GDB, Graduation Exercises (as written)
12. GCE, Opting Out of State and Federal Assessments (as written)
13. IDB, Risk Management (as written)
14. ICCD, Public Review of School records (as written)
15. ABAD, Virtual School (as amended)

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

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to rescind Policy 6160, Graduation Requirements, without replacement. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Berger, Gaukler, Manley, Anderson, Larson, Shabb, Palmiscno, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

**Consideration of Fee Acquisition and Temporary Construction Easement related to North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Signal Rehab Project Adjacent to Wilder Elementary School.**

Baumbach reported the NDDOT will be doing some road rehabilitation along Gateway Drive (US 2) starting in May 2025 and in order to complete the work, a temporary construction easement is needed for contractor access to the property in the area. For this temporary access, they are offering \$9,149.76 compensation. The value is set at \$1.44 per square foot on a total area of 6,354 square feet. The administrative recommendation is for approval.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by

Anderson to approve the execution of the attached documents including the Memorandum of Offer to Landowner, Compensation & Parcel Breakdown, Memorandum Agreement, Notification and Appraisal Waiver, Agreement for Entry and Construction (no compensation), and Temporary Construction Easement for Parcels 1-1 & 1-2. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried. Aye: Anderson, Berger, Gaukler, Larson, Manley, Palmiscno, Shabb, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

**Announcements.** Flynn made an announcement regarding Berger’s absence from this meeting.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.** None.

**School Board Norms – How Did We Do?** This topic was not discussed.

Berger left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

The school board meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened in a public forum at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Forum Held Under North Dakota Century Code 15.1-07-26.** A public forum was held jointly with the Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board, which focused on balancing enrollment between and among all schools, the location of ML magnet school programs, and whether to convene a demographic task force to re-examine boundary lines.

GFAFB School Board Members joining the public forum were Jennifer Rivera, Branden Shepperd, and Michelle Shepperd.

**Adjournment.** The meeting/forum adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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

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Amber Flynn, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager