

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD**  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2024

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 met in regular session on Monday, May 13, 2024, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Amber Flynn presiding.

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

**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 via phone, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Melissa Buchhop, 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.

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

**Reading of School Board Meeting Norms.** The school board meeting norms were read aloud by Manley.

**Public Comments.** None.

**Approval of Agenda.** A duplicate entry for Kennedy Hanson on the list of teacher appointments on the consent agenda was removed.

**K-5 Library, K-5 Music, and Secondary Music Curriculum Adoption.** Amy Bartsch, Chief Academic Officer, and members of the elementary library, elementary music, and secondary music adoption teams presented a proposal for this seven-year curriculum adoption as follows:

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to approve the agenda as amended. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Gaukler.

Elementary Library (per year costs):	
1. K-5 ELBA Curriculum	\$ 23,940.00
2. K-5 Digital Platforms	\$ 29,175.21
Total Yearly Adoption	\$ 53,115.21
Total Seven-Year Adoption	\$371,806.47

**Celebrating Success.** Angie Jonasson, Lake Agassiz Elementary School Principal, introduced this discussion. Accompanied by several staff members, they gave a presentation about the school's staff, students, literacy goals, activities and events, and proficiency assessments.

Elementary Music:	
1. K-5 Game Plan Curriculum	\$ 58,650.00
2. K-6 Music Play Platforms	\$ 2,991.64
Total Seven-Year Adoption	\$ 79,591.48

Barker joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

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

Secondary Music:	
1. Band Curriculum	\$ 2,379.39
2. Orchestra Curriculum	\$ 1,594.75
3. Chorus Curriculum	\$119,540.29
4. Harmony and Piano	\$ 2,856.63
Total Seven-Year Adoption	\$126,371.06

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Manley to approve the minutes of April 29, 2024, as written.

Consideration of approval of the above curriculum will

be brought forth for action at the May 28 school board meeting.

**Cybersecurity and Computer Science Integration Plan.** Amy Bartsch, Chief Academic Officer, and Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education and Technology, presented an overview of the integration plan committee's recommendation for a cybersecurity and computer science integration plan. They discussed details of the requirements under the North Dakota Century Code for the current school year, the 2024-2025 school year, and the 2025-2026 school year and how these are or will be met at the elementary, middle, and high schools. Details of the integration plan were provided in the agenda packet. Consideration of approval of the cybersecurity and computer science integration plan will be brought forth for action at the May 28 school board meeting.

**Finance Committee Report.** Baumbach reported on the May 6, 2024, meeting of the Finance Committee. The committee discussed voluntary alternates 11-15 and 17-18 as follows:

- #11 – irrigation at remaining green space.
- #12 – enlarge gym to the north 12 ft.
- #13 – orchestra addition.
- #14 – larger weight and multipurpose/wrestling room.
- #15 – add canopy at area E vestibule E115E.
- #17 – expand staff lounge.
- #18 – expand Commons area.

With soft costs which include a new alternate design fee of \$124,230, the total project cost is now \$52,258,245 which is \$481,137 less than the previous total project cost estimate and \$741,755 less than the approved maximum project cost of \$53M.

The committee also heard a financial update on the Career Impact Academy. Administration has been working to close a financial gap in the project that was nearly \$6 million through several means with the most significant being participation in the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program. On March 26 the school district (and several other partners) successfully closed on the program which brought additional proceeds to the project of \$1,913,882. It was also reported the formal award of the state for a grant of \$715,874, which was anticipated. The administration will continue the efforts to close the ~\$4 million gap with additional NMTC and other

strategies.

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

- ◆ Appointments effective August 19, 2024, of Ashleigh Zimmer, special education teacher, salary of \$50,274; Rachel Bausman business education teacher, salary of \$64,923; Stephanie Wynne, school counselor (50%), salary of \$28,671.50; Cassey Slater, library media specialist, salary of \$49,477; Kayla Brisbois, 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, salary of \$49,477; Kennedy Hanson, 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, salary of \$49,477; Shera Nesheim, school counselor (50%), salary of \$24,738.50; and Lydia Kantonen, science teacher, salary of \$55,121;
- ◆ Long-term Leave of Absence for the 2024-2025 school year for Michael Bisenius, social science teacher;
- ◆ Resignations of Brent Jiran, history teacher; Teresa Dahlstrom, occupational therapist; Megan Bonn, Head Start teacher; Dustin Norby, business and marketing teacher; Samantha Schneider, social studies teacher; John Stempinski, technology and engineering teacher; Taonarufaro Karimanzira, special education teacher; and Heather Turnipseed, social studies/intervention teacher; all effective May 31, 2024; and
- ◆ Travel request for 16 students to Switzerland and France in June 2025.

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

**Assistant Superintendent Matt Bakke's 2024 -2025 Contract.** It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Larson to approve a 2024-2025 contract for Mr. Bakke of \$182,450.00 which includes a 5% increase over his salary from 2023-2024 and an education factor of \$2,900.00.

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

**Consideration of Request for Proposals for High School Events Streaming.** Mike Biermaier, District Activities Director, explained a proposal to advertise a request for proposal to solicit proposals for a few-for-service agreement with media companies to stream

various high school events.

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the request for proposals as outlined.

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

**Consideration of Bids for Winship Envelope Restoration.** Jonathan Ellwein, Buildings and Grounds Director, reported one bid was received from Innes Construction and it was deemed responsible. It was 5% higher than expected due to the cost of glazing (glass).

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Shabb to approve Innes Construction as the contractor for the Winship Elementary School envelope restoration for \$430,200 and an owner contingency of \$21,510 for a total project cost of \$451,710. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Palmiscno, Lunn, Shabb, Manley, Larson, Berger, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Gaukler.

**Policy Review.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to complete the second reading and adoption as an official policy of the district of the following policies as written or amended:

1. DEAD, Staff use of Electronic Devices (as written)
2. ABCB, Sportsmanship (as written)
3. DFAC, Classified Staff Growth and Evaluation Process (as written)
4. BCAA, Board meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation (as amended)
5. DEAJ, Designated Medical Provider for Work-Related Injury (as written)
6. GAAC, Review and Complaints of Instructional/Resource Material (as amended)
7. HBCC, Fundraising (as written) (new) \*effective July 1, 2024
8. HBCD, Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO)/Booster Groups (replaces Policy 3230) \*effective July 1, 2024

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

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to

approve the one reading and adoption as an official board regulation of the district of GAAC-BR, Procedure for Reviewing Complaints About Instructional/Resource Material, as amended. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Berger, Lunn, Shabb, Anderson, Manley, Larson, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Gaukler.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Palmiscno to rescind the following policies:

1. 4200, Classified Staff Growth and Evaluation Process (replaced by DFAC)
2. 3230, Booster Groups (replaced by HBCD)

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

**Announcements.** Barker invited board members to attend the Cushman Cup this evening.

Dr. Brenner announced two of the three presidential scholars representing North Dakota are GFPS students Hanson Du and Selena Wu.

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

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

The board recessed from 8:01 p.m. to 8:07 p.m.

**Executive Session (closed meeting).** It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to hold an executive session to meet with Principal Joshua Mailhot to convey the reasons for the nonrenewal of his contract as allowed by North Dakota Century Code 44-04-19.2 and North Dakota Century Code 15.1-15-05.1. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Berger, Anderson, Lunn, Shabb, Palmiscno, Larson, and Flynn. Nay: None. Absent: Gaukler.

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting room.

The executive session began at 8:09 p.m. and concluded at 8:12 p.m.

Members of the public were invited back into the meeting room.

**Adjournment.** The meeting/forum adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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

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Amber Flynn, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager