

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2024

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a special meeting on Monday, July 22, 2024, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

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, President of Grand Forks Education Association; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

- ◆ Teacher Appointments effective August 19, 2024, of Chantel Bergquist, Social Worker, salary of \$57,547; Anna Engstrom, Social Worker, salary of \$51,872; Madeleine Two Crow, SWIS/SAIL Teacher, salary of \$49,477; and Mark Diischer, Band Teacher, salary of \$63,100; and
 - ◆ July 8, 2024, annual meeting minutes.
- Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Palmiscno, Kleven, Gaukler, Anderson, Manley, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

Contracted Staff Resignation and Release from Contract (Erhardt). Dr. Brenner reported on the administrative recommendation. The teacher signed the release from contract agreement indicating their understanding of the liquidated damages application to the resignation.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Gaukler to accept Ms. Jodi Erhardt's resignation and grant release from her 2024-2025 teaching contract effective May 31, 2024, with enforcement of the liquidated damages under Policy DKBB. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Gaukler, Manley, Kleven, Anderson, Flynn, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

Contracted Staff Resignation and Release from Contract (O'Shea). Dr. Brenner reported on the administrative recommendation. The teacher's position was eliminated due to the budget realignment process. Reassignment as a classroom specialist at Ben Franklin Elementary School for 2024-2025 was identified however she is resigning to accept employment outside the district that is more suitable for her skills, qualifications, and experience.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Gaukler to approve Ms. O'Shea's resignation effective May 31, 2024, and to release her from her 2024-2025 teaching contract with a waiver of all liquidated damages. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Anderson, Flynn, Manley, Kleven, Gaukler, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

Appointment of Interim Assistant Director of Special Education. Bakke reported on the recommendation to appoint an assistant director of special education for a one-year interim.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Manley to appoint Mr. Brandon Vandervort as the interim assistant director of special education for the 2024-2025 school year at a salary of \$103,252 and an education factor of \$2,200. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Kleven, Manley, Anderson, Gaukler, Flynn, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

School Board Committee and Community Liaison Appointments for 2024-2025. Dr. Brenner reported meeting with School Board President Berger and on their recommendation for appointments to standing

committees, community committees, and district and school building liaison assignments.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the school board committee and community liaison appointments for 2024-2025 as recommended by the school board president and superintendent. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Manley, Gaukler, Anderson, Flynn, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

Consideration of Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$59,300,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024. Baumbach reported the School District intends to undertake certain improvements including (i) constructing and equipping a new Valley Middle School; demolishing the existing Valley Middle School; constructing and modernizing the child nutrition facility; constructing and equipping safety and security facilities (\$49,000,000); (ii) constructing, installing, and equipping certain air quality and HVAC improvements in school buildings throughout the district to improve energy efficiency (\$3,800,000); and (iii) constructing and equipping a career and technical education facility (\$6,500,000) (together, the "Projects"). The board has previously discussed these projects, approved initial resolutions for a bond sale, and advertised publicly for any protest from the public, of which none were received.

This resolution authorizes and allows for the sale of the bonds and establishes a Term and Pricing Committee, constituted by the Superintendent and the Business Manager, who are delegated the power and authority to agree with the purchaser on the actual principal amount of Bonds to be issued, the stated maturity dates and maturity schedule, the specific principal amounts and interest rates for each maturity and purchase price.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Anderson to approve the Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$59,300,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Palmiscno, Gaukler, Flynn, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn. Abstain: Kleven.

Consideration of Resolution Providing for Participation in School Bond Credit Enhancement Program. Baumbach reported on the recommendation to establish a credit enhancement program for school district bonds to be used in

reducing the interest rate payable on its bonds as allowed by Section 6-09.4-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Flynn to approve the Resolution Providing for Participation in School Bond Credit Enhancement Program. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Gaukler, Flynn, Manley, Palmiscno, Kleven, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

Consideration of Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy for FY2024-25. Baumbach reported on state law requirements for the school board to levy district taxes on or before the tenth day of August and to hold a public hearing on its property tax levy thereafter and no earlier than September 7th. He also reported on the FY24 general fund budget and projections for the end of the year, the FY25 general fund preliminary budget, and projected budgets and ending fund balances. The FY25 special assessment levy is reduced from two mills to one mill.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Gaukler to approve the 2024-2025 preliminary budget and tax levy of 130.68 mills which includes 70 mills for the general fund, 12 mills for miscellaneous, 4 mills for tuition, 3 mills for a special reserve fund, 20 mills for the building fund, 1 mill for special assessments, and 20.68 mills for sinking & interest related to the public referendum passed on May 16, 2023, and to schedule the public hearing for Monday, September 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Mark Sanford Education Center. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Kleven, Anderson, Gaukler, Palmiscno, Manley, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson and Lunn.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager