

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD**  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
July 24, 2024

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a special meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

**Others Present:** Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; Dr. Kris Arason, Red River High School Principal; Rachel Bruner, Pearce Durick Legal Counsel; David Christianson, Teacher; Amber Haskell, North Dakota United Northeast Region Field Consultant, Mike Geiermann, North Dakota United Legal Counsel (via phone); and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Level IV Grievance Appeal.**

Hear the Level IV Grievance Appeal by David Christianson to School Board Pursuant to Policy 4120.

Bruner reviewed several handouts including Policy 4120, excerpts from the 2023-2024 Teacher Negotiated Agreement, David Christianson's 2023-2024 Teaching Contract, David Christianson's 2023-2024 Extracurricular Contract, David Christianson's 2024-25 Teaching Contract, Letter of Reprimand to David Christianson from Principal Arason, Letter of Reprimand Rebuttal from David Christianson, Level III Appeal Decision from Superintendent Brenner, and Level IV Appeal from Teacher David Christianson.

Mr. Christianson's 2024-2025 teaching assignment was reassigned from Red River High School to the elementary level. Mr. Christianson's appeal is seeking payment in 2024-2025 for his pep band and head director 2023-2024 extracurricular contracts totaling \$12,848.76. Christianson has not signed any extracurricular contracts for 2024-2025.

Bruner and Geiermann provided testimony and argued the positions of their respective clients.

Geiermann argued the extracurricular contracts are an extension of his teaching contract and subject to continuing contract rights. He cited North Dakota Supreme Court case law to support the teacher's position.

Bruner argued that extracurricular contracts are separate contracts and not subject to continuing contract rights. She cited long-standing language in the teacher negotiated agreement, the title of the contract itself, and long-standing district practice to support the district's position.

**Executive Session.** It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Larson to convene into an executive session as allowed by North Dakota Century Code 44-04-19.1(2),(5) and 44-04-19.2 for the board to receive its attorney's advice and guidance on the legal risks, strengths, and weaknesses of its decision for the Level IV grievance appeal. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Palmiscno, Larson, Anderson, Manley, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Gaukler, Kleven, and Lunn.

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting room and the board members and administration dismissed to the superintendent's office at 6:04 p.m.

The executive session began at 6:07 p.m. and ended at 6:34 p.m.

The board and administration returned, members of the public were invited back into the meeting room, and the open meeting reconvened at 6:36 p.m.

**Potential Action on Level IV Grievance Appeal.** It was moved by Larson and seconded by Manley to deny David Christianson's Level IV Grievance Appeal and instruct Legal Counsel Bruner to draft the denial decision. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion

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

The board will meet in a special session by August 7, 2024, to act on Legal Counsel Bruner's denial decision document.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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

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Dave Berger, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager