

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

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with Vice President Josh Anderson presiding.

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

**Student Board Members Present:** Adrianna Tande. **Absent:** None.

**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; Joe Drumm, Vice President of Grand Forks Education Association; Terry R. Snider, Sr., Vice President of GFAFB School Board, and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Recognition of Outgoing Board Member.** Participating via Zoom, Monte Gaukler was recognized for her service on the Grand Forks School Board.

**Appointment of Student Board Member and Oath of Office.** This topic was deferred.

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

**Approval of Agenda.** It was moved by Larson and seconded by Manley to approve the agenda as written. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Flynn, Lunn, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Public Comments.** Cathy Williams requested to speak about district policies concerns however she was dismissed from speaking because her comments concerned personnel which is not allowed.

**Grand Forks Youth Behavior Survey.** Gillach shared an overview of the 2024 Grand Forks Youth Survey results. The survey is conducted every other year opposite the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Data is required as a goal-setting and assessment tool for the Drug-Free Communities grant. The data is used to

implement programming and interventions and the district and school levels.

**Student Transportation Update.** John McLaughlin, owner of Valley Bus, provided an update about the company, last year's operations, and services for this year.

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

- ◆ Appointments effective August 19, 2024, of Hailey Robertson, Social Studies Teacher, salary of \$49,477; James Flores, Music Teacher, salary of \$49,477; Emma Peterson, School Psychologist Intern, salary of \$57,058; and Jennifer Long, Multilingual Teacher, salary of \$51,074;
- ◆ Waiver of years of experience to allow twenty (20) years of experience to be brought into the district by Courtney Barron and to approve her teacher appointment at 78,148 (MA+15, Step 21);
- ◆ Open Enrollment Applications as presented;
- ◆ July 22, July 13, and August 5, 2024, special meetings minutes;
- ◆ 2024-2025 In-Person Instruction Plan;
- ◆ Third-Party Requests for Access to Student Information for Emerson College student teachers and Westat and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Lunn, Palmiscno, Flynn, Kleven,

Manley, Larson, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Consideration of Proposals to Provide Gasoline.**

Baumbach reported on the results of the request for bids to provide gasoline in all District vehicles.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Kleven to accept the proposals from B-ONE, INC dba Gateway Cenex for priority in-town refueling with a 10¢ discount at the pump and Circle K Holiday Corporation for other in-town and out-of-town refueling with a 7¢ discount at the pump. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Manley, Larson, Flynn, Lunn, Palmiscno, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Consideration of Snow Removal Service Bids.**

Baumbach reported on the results of the request for bids for snow removal services for the district. Rates quoted were:

- Loader Tractor: \$105/hour
- Skid Steer: \$125/hour
- Wheel Loader: \$155/hour
- Hauling (Dump Truck): \$90/hour
- Wheel Loader with Snow Blower: \$155/hour

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Palmiscno to approve M&W Services, Inc./Fert-L-Lawn as the snow removal vendor for the 2024-2025 school year. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Manley, Lunn, Kleven, Palmiscno, Larson, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$52,800,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024.**

Baumbach reported the district intended to undertake certain improvements including (i) to construct and equip a new Valley Middle School; demolish the existing Valley Middle School; construct and modernize the Child Nutrition facility; construct and equip safety and security facilities (\$49,000,000); (ii) to construct, install and equip certain air quality and HVAC improvements in school buildings throughout the School District (\$3,800,000); and (iii) to construct and equip a career and technical education facility (\$6,500,000). The board has previously discussed these projects, but a change is necessary to wait for the 60-day protest period to pass regarding the sale of the \$6,500,000 building fund bonds. It is

anticipated the resolutions authorizing that sale will come to the board in September with a final sale on October 14, 2024. This resolution authorizing the sale of bonds is scoped to the referendum projects (\$49,000,000) and the energy efficiency and HVAC improvement projects (\$3,800,000), totaling \$52,800,000. The Bonds shall be general obligations of the District and shall be payable from the Sinking and Interest Fund (\$49,000,000) and the Building Fund (\$3,800,000). Baumbach reported the final sale amount is \$52,535,000 which was reflected in the resolution handed out at the meeting.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$52,535,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Lunn, Larson, Flynn, Manley, Kleven, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Policy Review.** Flynn reported on the August 1, 2024, meeting of the Policy Review Committee and the resulting recommendations.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Lunn to approve the first reading as amended of the following policies:

- ◆ ABBS, Community Use of District Property,
- ◆ ABDA, Website Accessibility Policy (renamed to Website Accessibility for People with Disabilities),
- ◆ DGHA, Lactation/Breastfeeding,
- ◆ FDE, Education of Special Education/Disabled Students (renamed to Education of Special Education Students/Students with Disabilities),
- ◆ GABAA, English Learners (renamed to Services for English Learners), and
- ◆ GABDB, Title Programs Dispute Resolution Procedure (renamed to Federal Title Programs Dispute Resolution Procedure).

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

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Manley to rescind Policy BDAA, Contracts Supersede Policy and Regulations. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Finance Committee Report.** Palmiscno and Baumbach reported on the August 5, 2024, meeting of the Finance Committee and the resulting action and recommendations.

- ◆ Phase 2 Culinary Bid, Café Equipment. Approved a bid for this component for \$57,814 which was lower than the budgeted amount of \$150,175.
- ◆ EAPC Design Fees for Safety and Security Enhancement Project. Approved and is recommending the board approve EAPC's amended contract for the first of scope work.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Kleven to approve EAPC's amended contract for the first of scope work which includes Red River, Winship, Schroeder, Wilder, Lake Agassiz, and Head Start for A/E fees of \$555,495 and estimated project costs of \$7,903,923 as recommended. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Larson, Manley, Lunn, Palmiscno, Kleven, Flynn, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

- ◆ Increased Building Fund Contribution to Ben Franklin HVAC Project. Approved and is recommending the board approve increasing the Building Fund contribution to the project to free up ESSER dollars for use against other general fund expenses and to keep the general fund on track to reach its goal of having 15% of expenses in carryover by the end of FY26.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Larson to approve increasing the Building Fund contribution to the Ben Franklin HVAC project to free up ESSER dollars as recommended. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Kleven, Larson, Lunn, Manley, Palmiscno, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

**Announcements.** The Career and Technical Education program has advanced as one of the top 10 to Phase 3 of a U.S. Department of Education work-based learning competition.

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

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

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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

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Dave Berger, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager