

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND TAX LEVY PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2024

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a public hearing on the FY25 preliminary budget and tax levy and a regular meeting on Monday, September 23, 2024, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

Student Board Members Present: Adrianna Tande and McKayla Sagini. **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, 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.

Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget and Certificate of Tax Levy for FY24. Baumbach reported that the board approved the preliminary budget and tax levy, which was certified to the county as required by state law. Notices of estimated property tax and the hearing date were sent, and the hearing date was published. The preliminary mill levy is 130.68, which is one mill less than last year.

The public hearing began at 6:01 p.m. No individuals wished to speak, so the public hearing was closed at 6:02 p.m.

Appointment of Student Board Members and Oath of Office. Dr. Brenner introduced McKayla Sagini, a Red River High School junior, as the second of two new student school board members. Sagini's appointment was approved by unanimous consensus, and Sagini took the Oath of Office.

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

Approval of Agenda. Topic 7.B., Contracted Staff Resignation and Release from Contract (Briona Nnoli), was removed from the agenda pending further research.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to

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

Public Comments. None.

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

- ◆ Appointment effective September 30, 2024, of Jessica Pierson, Kindergarten Teacher, salary of \$45,219.43 (159 days);
- ◆ Waiver of Years of Experience and Appointment effective September 30, 2024, of Marti Putman, Autism Teacher, salary of \$60,563.11 (B/A/BS, Step 20, 164 days);
- ◆ September 9, 2024, regular meeting minutes as written;
- ◆ September 11, 2024, special meeting minutes as written;
- ◆ Third-Party Request for Access to Student Information for Snorkl.app; and
- ◆ Student transportation drivers as presented.

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

Finance Committee Report: Consideration of Bid Results related to Safety and Security Enhancement at Red River High School. Palmiscno and Baumbach reported on the September 16, 2024, meeting of the

Finance Committee.

The committee approved a recommendation to the school board to approve the guaranteed maximum price of \$1,334,347 and associated soft costs of \$213,675 for a total project budget of \$1,548,022 for the safety and security enhancement for the administration suite renovation at Red River High School.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Lunn to approve the guaranteed maximum price of \$1,334,347 and associated soft costs of \$213,675 for a total project budget for the safety and security enhancement for the administration suite renovation at the Red River High School. Chad Dustin, Project Manager, Construction Engineers, reported the numbers presented were the final numbers for the project and could not be exceeded without approval by the board. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Kleven, Manley, Flynn, Lunn, Anderson, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson.

The committee also discussed establishing a building fund minimum balance policy and the frequency of reporting Building Fund financials to the school board. This discussion will continue at the finance committee until a recommendation is formed.

General Fund Financial Statement. Baumbach reported that from July 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024, total general fund revenues were \$7,718,418, and total general fund expenditures were \$6,168,135, resulting in revenues over expenses of \$1,550,284.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Houdek to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for July 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, Manley, Lunn, Kleven, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson.

Annual Compliance Report. Dr. Brenner reported North Dakota Century Code 15.1-06-06 requires that all North Dakota schools and school districts must submit an "Annual Compliance Report" to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction by October 1st of each school year to be declared "APPROVED" and receive foundation aid. All school principals have completed their reports and indicated complete compliance with all compliance areas. The school board must approve the Annual Compliance Report

before the superintendent submits it.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Manley to approve the Grand Forks Public Schools Annual Compliance Report for 2024-2025. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Lunn, Flynn, Anderson, Houdek, Manley, Kleven, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson.

Consideration of FY2024-2025 Final Budget and Tax Levy – Certificate of Tax Levy. Baumbach gave a detailed presentation on the final budget and tax levy for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Joe Drumm joined the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

The administrative recommendation was to approve the budget with a property tax levy of 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 and interest related to the public referendum passed on May 16, 2023, for a total levy of 130.68 mills.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Kleven to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 final budget and tax levy as recommended and to file the certificate of levy with the county auditor as required by state law. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Flynn, Kleven, Houdek, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson.

Announcements. Conservatively speaking, the 2024-2025 student enrollment is up by 150 students.

The Grand Forks Central JV football team won its game this evening.

Board Requests for Future Consideration. Flynn requested future conversations about the guiding change document goals and guardrails for the building fund.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do? Anderson reported the board did very well in following its meeting norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager

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