

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2024**

The Grand Forks School Board Government Affairs Committee met on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with Amber Flynn serving as the meeting chair.

Committee Members Present: Board Members Josh Anderson, Amber Flynn, and Jay Kleven, and Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; and Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager.

Committee Members Absent: Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education.

Others Present: None.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at noon.

Purpose of Government Affairs Committee. Brenner opened the meeting until Flynn assumed Chair of the meeting. Brenner walked the group through the purpose of the committee (see attached). The primary purpose of the group is stated to Monitor federal, state, and city legislation and executive actions pertaining to public education and school districts; keep the entire board informed regarding such issues; provide advice regarding the timing and content of communication and testimony to inform those in a decision-making capacity.

Review of North Dakota Constitution Article VIII, Education. Brenner reviewed North Dakota Constitution Article VIII, Education, and highlighted the purpose of the state's support for public education.

Board Member Legislative District Residency. Brenner provided documentation of the legislative district residency along with the established political districts across the state.

Work Calendar (2025 Legislative Deadlines). The group discussed, in general, the overall timeline of the legislative process and discussed optimal times to meet. The committee also discussed and agreed to invite sitting state legislators and those running for office in November 2024 to future committee meetings.

Potential Legislative Session Topics. Brenner listed a draft list of legislative priorities as follows and asked

others to weigh in as well:

- Foundation Aid Increase
- Special Ed Foundation Aid formula increase
- Multi-lingual Foundation Aid formula increase
- Opposition to Measure 4
- Opposition to Charter Schools, tax incentives for private school vouchers
- Student Mental Health Behavior and 24/7 Attendant Care/Academic support

Other topics listed were:

- Transportation formula
- New Laws that aggravate our work at the school level
- Staff Retention & Incentives
- Increase CTE funding to address new CTE facility funding gaps
- School Construction Loan for facilities and infrastructure improvement
- Support for the continuance of TFFR
- Monitor School Choice Committee discussions
- Coal Development Trust Fund
- Streamlining the School Accreditation process
- Monitor ND Center for Distance Ed costs

Item for Next Committee Meeting. Discussed the possibility of adding GFEA leadership to the committee as most topics are jointly agreed upon.

Establish Regular Meeting Time Inclusive of Legislator Invitations. The group discussed the best possible meeting day/time, and it was agreed upon that Wednesdays (except for the 3rd Wednesday of each month) work best at Noon via Zoom.

Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024, beginning at noon via Zoom.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, Meeting Chair

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager