

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 21, 2024

The Grand Forks School Board Government Affairs Committee met via Zoom on Thursday, November 21, 2024, with Amber Flynn presiding.

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

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** North Dakota State Legislators Representative Mark Sanford, Representative Eric Murphy, Representative Nels Christianson, Representative Zachary Ista, Senator Jonathan Sickler, and Senator Jeff Barta; Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

**Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

**Approval of September 5, 2024, Minutes.** A correction was made to change the signature line for the meeting chair from Amber Flynn to Josh Anderson.

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Flynn to approve the October 25, 2024, minutes as corrected. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Kleven.

**Introductions.** Those in attendance made introductions of themselves.

Kleven joined the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

**DRAFT District Legislative Priorities.** Dr. Brenner introduced the school district's 2025-2026 legislative priorities. They are:

**Priority Group A**

1. Foundation Aid Increase
2. Special Ed Foundation Aid formula increase
3. Multi-lingual Foundation Aid formula increase
4. Opposition to Charter Schools, tax incentives for private school vouchers; Monitor School Choice Committee discussions
5. Student Mental Health Behavior and 24/7 Attendant Care/Academic support
6. Increase CTE funding to address new CTE facility funding gaps/workforce/staff incentives

7. Free Meals
8. School Construction Loan for facilities and infrastructure improvement
9. Pre-K Funding

**Priority Group B**

1. Coal Development Trust Fund
2. Staff Retention & Incentives
3. Streamlining the School Accreditation process
4. Transportation formula
5. Monitor ND Center for Distance Ed costs
6. Support for the continuance of TFFR
7. New Laws that aggravate our work at the school level

Discussion of the legislative priorities continued.

**Legislator Input on 2025 Legislative Session.**

Legislators discussed their impressions of what the 2025 legislative session could look like, the District's legislative priorities, and other topics they anticipated might come before the legislature.

**Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024, at noon via Zoom.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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

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Amber Flynn, Meeting Chair

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager