

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD**  
**GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
August 11, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with President Dave Berger presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Josh Anderson, Dave Berger, Amber Flynn, Dr. Sherry Houdek, Jay Kleven, Joel Larson, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno. **Absent:** None.

**Student Board Members Present:** McKayla Sagini. **Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager; Dr. Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Brady Olson, President of the Grand Forks Education Association; Jonathan Ellwein, Director of Buildings and Grounds; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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**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.

**Appointment of Student Board Members and Oath of Office.**

McKayla Sagini, a Red River High School senior, was reappointed by unanimous consensus as one of two student school board members for 2025-2026, and Sagini recited the Oath of Office.

**Reading of School Board Meeting Norms.**

Kleven read aloud the meeting norms.

**Approval of Agenda.**

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

**Public Comments.**

None.

**Guaranteed Energy Savings Program Presentation.**

Conner Dailey, project manager at CMTA Energy Solutions, gave an update on the first six months

of the energy savings performance project, including the scope of work, electrical and gas consumption and demand, and savings to date.

**Finance Committee Report.**

Palmiscno reported on the August 4, 2025, committee meeting, at which Change Proposal Request 12 for Valley Middle School, in the amount of \$125,545, was approved.

Ellwein updated the board on the project's contingency balances.

**Consent Agenda.**

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Manley to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- July 29, 2025, school board meeting minutes as written;
- Open enrollment applications as presented;
- Teacher appointments effective August 18, 2025, of Katherine Bremer, eighth-grade science teacher, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$50,477; Valentina Moro, ML teacher, salary placement at MA/MS, Step 1, \$55,322; Rita West, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math teacher, salary placement at MA+15, Step 21, \$40,837.52 (97 days); and Kasey Gregoire, first-grade

teacher, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$50,477;

- Resignation of Jennifer Pieper, special education teacher, effective July 31, 2025; and
- Third-party request for access to student information for Figjam and RCA House Points.

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

#### **Contracted Staff Resignation and Release from Contract (Evan Pederson).**

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Lunn to grant Evan Pederson release from his 2025-2026 teaching contract, effective August 15, 2025, with the enforcement of liquidated damages as outlined in Policy DKBB. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Anderson, Lunn, Flynn, Larson, Manley, Kleven, Houdek, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

#### **Consideration of Proposals for Food Service Beverages.**

Baumbach reported that proposals for this line-item bid were received from two vendors and that several products were selected from each vendor.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Houdek to approve the selection of beverage products according to the bid summary form, including the Pepsi products Aquafina, Gatorade Water, LifeWater, Pure Leaf, Gatorade Zero, and Gatorade Propel, and the Coke products SmartWater, Minute Maid, Topo Chico Sabores, and Body Armor Lyte/Zero. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Larson, Palmiscno, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Anderson, Houdek, Flynn, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

#### **Policy Review.**

Houdek reported on the August 4, 2025, meeting of the Policy Review Committee and its recommendations.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Lunn to expedite the policy adoption process as permitted by Policy BDA and to adopt ACB, Child Safety Liaison Work Group, and Mandatory Training, as written in the first reading, and waive the second reading. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Manley, Houdek, Anderson, Flynn, Larson, Lunn, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Lunn to expedite the policy adoption process as permitted by Policy BDA and to adopt ABAD, Virtual School, as amended, and GACA, Virtual Instruction, as written, in their first reading, and waive their second reading. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Lunn, Larson, Palmiscno, Houdek, Kleven, Flynn, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Houdek to expedite the policy adoption process as permitted by Policy BDA and to adopt ABEA, Wellness Policy, as amended, in the first reading, and waive the second reading. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Houdek, Flynn, Manley, Lunn, Palmiscno, Larson, Kleven, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Manley to expedite the policy adoption process as permitted by Policy BDA and to adopt FFI, Student Use of Personal Technology - renamed to Personal Electronic Communication Devices Prohibition During Instructional Time, as amended, in the first reading, and waive the second reading. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Kleven, Anderson, Houdek, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, Larson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Lunn to expedite the policy adoption process, as permitted by Policy BDA, and to adopt the following policies in their first reading, and waive their second reading.

- GACB, Patriotic Exercises (as amended);

- GACE, GED Credit for High School Graduation and Curriculum Requirements – renamed to Alternative Methods of Credit for High School Graduation and Curriculum Requirements (as amended);
- FFK, Suspension and Expulsion (as amended);
- ACCB, Protection for Student Victims of Sexual Offenses (as written);
- FGA, Student Education Records and Privacy (as amended);
- DCCA, Signing Bonuses (as written);
- FFE, Extracurricular Participation Requirements (as amended);
- FCAA, Accommodating Students with Allergies and Special Dietary Needs (as amended);
- DDBD, Military Leave (as amended);
- GABE, Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention and Awareness Education (as written);
- BCAA, Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation (as amended);
- BCBA, Public Participation at Board Meetings (as amended);
- BBA, School Board Elections and Terms of Office (as amended);
- KAAC, Golden Age Pass (as amended); and
- GAAD, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials (as amended).

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

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Manley to expedite the policy adoption process as permitted by Policy BDA and to adopt FF, Student Conduct and Discipline, as amended, in the first reading, and waive the second reading. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Manley, Lunn, Larson, Kleven, Houdek, Flynn, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

A discussion was held regarding policy BDD, Compensation and Expenses for Board Members, and the committee's recommendation for an amendment. The discussion included

financial constraints that might preclude someone's ability to run for office, compensation comparisons with other school districts, the timing of making a change in compensation, establishing a cycle for compensation review, establishing a formula for compensation increases, and concerns about board members' increasing their compensation.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Houdek to share comparison information from other school districts with all board members for feedback at the August 25 board meeting, and to refer the policy back to the Policy Review Committee for its September 11 meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Flynn, Houdek, Kleven, Larson, Lunn, Manley, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Houdek to rescind policy 5640, Health, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting, Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Anderson, Houdek, Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Flynn, Lunn, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

It was moved by Berger and seconded by Houdek to adopt FFK-BR, Suspension and Expulsion Regulations, as amended, and to make it an official board regulation of the district. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Lunn, Palmiscno, Flynn, Anderson, Kleven, Manley, Larson, Houdek, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

### **Consideration of Proposal for Gasoline for Vehicles.**

Baumbach reported that proposals were received from two vendors.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Manley to accept the proposals from B-ONE INC, dba Gateway Cenex, for priority in-town refueling, and from Circle K Holiday Corporation for other in-town and out-of-town refueling. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Kleven, Manley, Larson, Flynn, Lunn,

Anderson, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None.  
Absent: None.

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

**Consideration of Proposals for Filters for HVAC Units Districtwide.**

Ellwein reported that one proposal was received for a total cost of \$105,178.15, with no increase in cost from last year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Berger, President

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Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Kleven to accept the proposal and approve Techniques Filtration as the supplier for district-wide HVAC filters. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, Manley, Lunn, Kleven, Palmiscno, Larson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

**Announcements.**

The Career Impact Academy ribbon cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, at 1:00 p.m., and an open house begins at 3:00 p.m.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.**

None.

**School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?**

Kleven reported that the board did very well in following its meeting norms.

**Recess.**

The board recessed at 7:50 p.m. to travel to the site of the new Valley Middle School.

Larson and Baumbach left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

**Reconvene and Tour of Valley Middle School.**

The meeting was reconvened at 8:15 p.m., and a tour of the new Valley Middle School building construction was conducted from 8:15 p.m. to 9:13 p.m.

**Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.