

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND TAX LEVY PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a public hearing on the FY26 preliminary budget and tax levy and a regular meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

Student Board Members Present: McKayla Sagini. **Absent:** Adrianna Tande.

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; Branden Shepperd, GFAFB School Board Liaison; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order and Voluntary Recitation of the 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 FY26.

The public hearing began at 6:00 p.m.

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 the same as for fiscal year 2024-2025.

The floor was opened for public comment, but no members of the public came forward to speak. The public hearing was closed at 6:01 p.m.

Reading of School Board Meeting Norms.

Palmiscno 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: Larson, Palmiscno, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Anderson, Houdek, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Flynn.

Public Comments.

None.

Summer School Reports.

Dr. Gillach, Bakke, and Summer School Directors Trevor Lennon, Nick Pederson, Terry Bohan, and Allison Peterson reported highlights of elementary summer school, ENCORE, secondary summer school, Valley Summer RISE, driver's education, and Summer Performing Arts (SPA). Detailed and statistical data were provided in the meeting agenda packet.

Boundary Lines Discussion.

Dr. Brenner reviewed the work of the Demographic Task Force, public listening sessions, the school board, and the Community Communication Talking Points for the proposed school attendance boundary line adjustments.

Consideration of approval of the school attendance boundary line adjustments is scheduled for the September 22 meeting.

Consent Agenda.

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

- August 25, 2025, school board meeting minutes as written;
- Student Transportation Bus Drivers and Equipment as presented;
- Teacher appointment, effective September 3, 2025, for Madison Milleker, social worker, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$47,792.05;
- Teacher appointment, effective August 27, 2025, for Kaylee Conklin, student support specialist, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 2, \$48,866.03;
- Teacher appointment, effective August 18, 2025, for Kimberly Davis, special education strategist, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 2, \$53,555.00;
- Research requests from Wei Mao and Wanting He; and
- School-sponsored fundraising reports for Red River football and Grand Forks Central volleyball.

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

Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

Dr. Brenner provided an overview of the final version of the proposed strategic plan for 2025-2030, along with the administration's recommendation for approval.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Anderson to approve the 2025-2030 Grand Forks Public School District's Strategic Plan as presented. Aye: Manley, Lunn, Larson, Palmiscno, Houdek, Kleven, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Flynn.

Announcements.

Emily Dawes will be celebrated as one of four finalists for the North Dakota Teacher of the Year at Lake Agassiz Elementary School on Friday, September 12, at 8:30 a.m.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Larson requested a discussion about the process for dual credit and AP courses, as well as whether there was an appetite to offer more courses and more expansive courses. He stated that there was a discrepancy between Grand Forks, Fargo, and Bismarck, as well as other school districts, regarding the number of classes offered and the credits students can earn.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Palmiscno reported that the board did a fine job of following its meeting norms.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager