

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
RETREAT MINUTES
October 10, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a retreat on Friday, October 10, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Grand Forks - Church on the Edge, with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

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; Terry R. Snider, Sr., GFAFB School Board Vice President; Dr. Kris Arason, Principal, Red River High School; Terry Bohan, Principal, Community High School; Loren Hoheisel, Principal, Viking Elementary School; Ryan Voss; Associate Principal, Lake Agassiz Elementary School; Leslie Bjelde, Principal, Wilder Elementary School; Jon Strandell, Principal, Grand Forks Central High School; Amy Bartsch, Chief Academic Officer; Ali Parkinson, Principal, Discovery Elementary School; Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education; Dave Nowatzki, Principal, Schroeder Middle School; Jonathan Ellwein, Director of Buildings and Grounds; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order.

The retreat was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Budget Realignment Discussion.

Dr. Brenner gave opening remarks about how the district arrived at its current financial position and the preliminary steps the administration has taken to address the estimated \$4.5 million budget gap while remaining aligned with the strategic plan guiding principles. These steps include implementing a hiring freeze and requiring pre-approval for all overtime hours.

Baumbach gave a high-level presentation on the budget and realignment goals for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, as well as the guiding criteria for budget reduction decisions, including student impact, staff/operational impact, financial impact, and community impact.

Baumbach, Dr. Gillach, Bartsch, and Bakke reviewed components within the core pillars of the 2025-2030 strategic plan. The core pillars are Academic Excellence, Behavioral Health and Wellness, Shared Understanding, and Operational Effectiveness. Components included effective instruction, diverse course

offerings, class sizes, certified staff support, curriculum adoptions, co-and extracurricular offerings, operational effectiveness, compensation, support staffing, building utilization, busing, carryover general fund balance, educational technology tools, and MSEC support services.

Baumbach led board members through a hypothetical exercise in which they made choices between expenditure categories.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the retreat adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager