

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
RETREAT MINUTES
November 7, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a retreat on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Career Impact Academy, 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.

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; John Strandell, Principal, Grand Forks Central High School; Terry Bohan, Principal, Community High School; Loren Hoheisel, Principal, Viking Elementary School; Leslie Bjelde, Principal, Wilder Elementary School; Amy Bartsch, Chief Academic Officer; Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education; Brady Olson, President, Grand Forks Education Association; Jay Hepperle, Associate Principal, Red River High School; Kevin Ohnstad, Principal, Phoenix Elementary School; Mike Biermaier, District Activities Director; Melissa Bakke, Communications and Marketing Manager; Dr. Elisa Diederich, Executive Director of Special Education; Judy Anderson, Associate Principal, Schroeder Middle School; Angie Jonasson, Principal, Lewis & Clark Elementary School; Amber Basting, Associate Principal, Valley Middle School; Dr. Holly Larson, Principal, Century Elementary School; Brian Loe, Associate Principal, South Middle School; Kelli Tannahill, Kelly Elementary School; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order.

Dr. Brenner welcomed those in attendance and gave opening remarks about the budget realignment discussion.

The retreat was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Flynn joined the meeting at 8:03 a.m.

Budget Realignment Discussion.

Baumbach provided clarifications from the October 10 retreat and revisions to the forced-choice exercise.

Gillespie joined the meeting at 8:09 a.m.

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

Bartsch joined the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

Following the forced-choice exercise, a philosophical conversation continued regarding the potential impacts of the forced-choice concepts on students, operations, the budget, and the community.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the retreat adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager