

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

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

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; 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.

Reading of School Board Meeting Norms.

Lunn read aloud the school board's meeting norms.

Approval of Agenda.

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

Celebrating Success: Red River High School.

Dr. Kris Arason, Principal of Red River High School, along with Tyler Nelson, Athletic Director; Jay Hepperle, Associate Principal; Andrea Altepeter, Instructional Coach; and Krissandra Pohl math teacher, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the school's mission and guiding belief statements, student and staff demographics, freshman integration and student leadership council, and a variety of assessment data and goals.

Public Comments.

None.

Recap of November 7 Board Retreat.

Baumbach recapped the November 7, 2025, board retreat, during which members engaged in discussions about district priorities, budget allocations, and measured potential impacts based on four key criteria. Materials from the retreat are available on the district's website, along with a continually updated FAQ addressing community questions.

Consent Agenda.

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

- Approval of October 27, 2025, school board meeting minutes as written;
- Acceptance of School-sponsored Fundraising Report for Grand Forks Central DECA;
- Appointment of Sachiko Rutan, as Special Education Teacher, effective October 27, 2025, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$37,320.76; and
- Authorization of third-party requests for access to student information by Juvenile Justice (probation officers, court system) and Youthworks.

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

Contracted Staff Resignation and Release from Contract (Kimberly Segrest).

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to grant Kimberly Segrest release from her 2025-2026 administrator contract, effective December 19, 2025, with enforcement of liquidated damages in accordance with Policy DKBB. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report.

Anderson reported on the November 5, 2025, meeting of the Superintendent Evaluation Committee and its recommendation that the superintendent's performance be deemed satisfactory in all areas.

Dr. Brenner provided reflective commentary on the draft evaluation and recognition of his leadership team.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Larson that, upon review of Board member input and an overall weighted average ranging from 3.45 to 3.55 across all domains, the draft evaluation be approved and the superintendent's performance be found satisfactory. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, Manley, Lunn, Kleven, Palmiscno, Larson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Consideration of Pre-Demolition Abatement Bids for Valley Middle School.

Baumbach presented a summary of the six proposals submitted in response to the district's request for pre-demolition services.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Manley to approve Integrity Environmental, with a proposal of \$202,166.00, as the contract for pre-demolition abatement of the current Valley Middle School. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Larson Manley, Lunn, Palmiscno, Houdek, Anderson, Kleven, Flynn, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Consideration of Commercial Lease Agreement with Whalen's Inc. and Use of Building Fund.

Baumbach reported on the district's storage needs, noting that the Valley Middle School and Twining Elementary and Middle School replacement projects have added to an existing shortage of space in other buildings.

Baumbach reviewed the administrative recommendation to enter into a lease for a cold storage facility owned by Whalen's, Inc., outlining the facility's key features and the proposed lease terms.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Lunn to approve the commercial lease agreement with Whalen's Inc. for the term of 7.5 months from November 15, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and to expense the cost against the building fund. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Kleven, Manley, Larson, Flynn, Lunn, Anderson, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Announcements.

In recognition of Veterans' Day, Dr. Brenner expressed gratitude to all veterans for their service and sacrifice. He also reminded board members of the upcoming State of the District Report to the Community Breakfast scheduled for Thursday, November 13.

Kleven reported on a recent meeting of the Local Government Advisory Committee and outlined the schedule for future discussions with the Finance Committee prior to consideration by the school board.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Palmiscno requested that an update about the timeline for moving into the new Valley Middle School be provided at the next meeting.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Lunn concluded that the board did an A+ job in following its meeting norms.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager