

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2025

The Grand Forks School Board Government Affairs Committee met on Thursday, October 23, 2025, with Amber Flynn as chairperson.

Committee Members Present: Josh Anderson, Amber Flynn, and Dr. Terry Brenner.

Committee Members Absent: Jay Kleven, Brandon Baumbach, Dr. Catherine Gillach, and Matt Bakke.

Others Present: Representative Mark Sanford, Senator Jonathan Sickler, Senator Scott Meyer, Eric Ripley, Dr. Elisa Diederich, and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

Introductions.

This topic was not discussed.

Discussion of Newly Enacted Laws from the 2025 Legislative Session.

Dr. Brenner introduced this discussion topic as a way to engage in open conversations during the legislative off-season about the impacts of newly enacted laws, current committee work, and potential future legislation. The conversation topics included the following:

- HB 1328's requirement that a school exhaust all school discipline policies before police citing a student. This has created a challenge at the schools when the discipline issue is a legal issue.
- Student attendance. The district would like to see legislation that gives schools more latitude to address chronically absent students.
- Bell-to-Bell cell phone ban. The district was ahead of the game with its cell phone policies; however, some students used other devices, such as earpods and earbuds. The district addressed the use of other devices this year. Some anecdotal student testimony about the cell phone ban was shared.

Possible exceptions related to medical situations that could be addressed at the next legislative session were mentioned.

Experiences through the special education lens and Career Impact Academy traveling students were shared, along with parent and teacher comments.

Anderson joined the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Future legislative issues include dual credit and increases in the CTE, special education, and per-pupil funding formulas.

Senator Sickler left the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Flynn to approve the minutes of April 17, 2025, and May 8, 2025, as written. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Kleven.

Next Meeting Date.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025, at noon, via Zoom.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, Meeting Chair

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager