

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, December 12, 2025, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with President Dave Berger presiding.

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

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; Michelle Shepperd, GFAFB School Board President; 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.

Manley read aloud the school board's meeting norms.

Approval of Agenda.

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

Flynn joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Celebrating Success – Schroeder Middle School.

Dave Nowatzki, Principal of Schroeder Middle School, along with Judy Anderson, Assistant Principal; Blake Neubauer, School Counselor; Michelle Ruse, School Counselor, presented the school's mission, vision, values, demographics, goals and academic achievement, structures and systems for success, counseling and career ed

programs and goals, and Panorama survey results.

Public Comments.

None.

Government Affairs Committee Report.

Palmiscno and Dr. Brenner reported on the December 4, 2025, committee meeting at which the effects of recent legislation were discussed.

Annual Report for 2024-2025.

Bakke reported on various data points, including student enrollment, school lunch, academic achievement, AVID, special education, multilingual program, and staffing. Amy Bartsch, Chief Academic Officer; Katie Arthur, AVID District Coordinator; Lisa Vojacek, AVID Coordinator; AVID Students Layla Bakke and Lacey Ramos; Dr. Elisa Diederich, Director of Special Education; and Ivona Todorovic, District Multilingual Coordinator, participated in the presentation.

Consent Agenda.

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

- Approval of November 24, 2025, school board meeting minutes as written;

- Student travel request to Germany and France, June 2-27, 2026;
- Third-party request for access to student information for Duolingo and MagicSchool AI;
- Open enrollment application as presented;
- School-sponsored fundraising reports;
- Appointment of Leifka Brown, Speech Language Pathologist, effective January 5, 2026, salary schedule placement at MA/MS, Step 1, \$29,720.86;
- Resignation of Kayla Brisbois, English Language Arts Teacher, effective January 16, 2026; and
- Long-term leave of absence for Kristan Neufeld, Grade 4 Teacher, from March 27, 2026, through May 29, 2026.

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

Consideration of Curriculum Proposal for 2026-2027

Dr. Gillach reviewed the Secondary Curriculum Review Committee's proposal for 2026-2027, as discussed at the November 24 meeting. Recommended additions include Drumline, Exploring Healthcare Careers, Advanced Manufacturing I and II, Dual Credit Anatomy and Physiology A and B, and Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers I and II. Robotics was recommended for deletion.

Following discussion, it was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the 2026-2027 curriculum proposal as outlined. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Manley, Flynn, Lunn, Anderson, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: Kleven. Absent: Larson.

General Fund Financial Statement.

Baumbach reported that for the period from July 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025, total general fund revenue was \$49,868,912 and total general fund expenditures were \$40,787,864,

resulting in revenue exceeding expenditures by \$9,081,048.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Manley to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for July 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025, as outlined. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson.

District Calendar for 2026-2027.

Bakke reported on the District Calendar Committee's work, which resulted in its recommendation for the 2026-2027 school start and end dates and teacher blackout dates. School Board Policy ABAB requires the Board to approve the start and end days and teacher blackout days.

The recommended start date for grades K through 9 is Wednesday, August 26, 2026, and for grades 10-12 is Thursday, August 27, 2026. The recommended end date for all grades is Thursday, May 27, 2027. The recommended teacher blackout dates are:

- Elementary School – September 24, 29, October 5, November 19, 24, 25, December 1, 2, February 23, 25, March 1, 2, 3, 8, and May 18, 19, 20, 25, 26.
- Middle School – October 5, 7, 29, 30, November 2, 3, January 14, 15, 19, February 10, 12, March 18, 19, 30, 31, and May 25, 26, 27.
- High School – October 8, 13, 29, 30, November 2, 3, January 14, 15, 19, February 11, 16, March 18, 19, 30, 31, and May 25, 26, 27.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Houdek to approve the 2026-2027 school start and end dates and teacher blackout dates as recommended. Upon roll call vote as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Flynn, Houdek, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Larson.

Announcements.

Announcements were made regarding the

weather and logistics for the Facilities Committee of the Whole meeting that follows this school board meeting.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Dr. Houdek requested that detailed, factual information be provided when considering upcoming budget realignment decisions.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Kleven concluded that the board followed its meeting norms well.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager