

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
RETREAT MINUTES
December 12, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a retreat on Friday, December 12, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Grand Forks - Church on the Edge, 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; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Dr. Kris Arason, Principal, Red River High School; Terry Bohan, Principal, Community High School; Loren Hoheisel, Principal, Viking Elementary School; Leslie Bjelde, Principal, Wilder Elementary School; Ali Parkinson, Principal, Discovery Elementary School; Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education; Kevin Ohnstad, Principal, Phoenix Elementary School; Jay Hepperle, Associate Principal, Red River High School; Dr. Elisa Diederich, Executive Director, Special Education; Brandon Vandervort; Assistant Director, Special Education; Amber Basting, Associate Principal, Valley Middle School; Judy Anderson, Associate Principal, Schroeder Middle School; Darin King, Information Technology Manager; Mike Biermaier, District Activities Director; Travis Neil, Principal, South Middle School; Travis Thorvilson, Principal, Lake Agassiz Elementary School; Stacey Skarperud, Principal, Ben Franklin Elementary School; Kelli Tannahill, Principal, Kelly Elementary School; Angie Jonasson, Principal, Lewis & Clark Elementary School; Dr. Gabe Dahl, Associate Principal, Grand Forks Central High School; Amy Geinert, Director, Behavioral Health and Wellness; Melissa Bakke, Manager, Communications and Marketing; Griffin Gillespie, Director, Human Resources; Brady Olson, President, Grand Forks Education Association; Joe Drumm, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association, Melissa Buchhop, Government Relations, Grand Forks Education Association; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order.

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

completed to date, noting Baumbach's extensive efforts in particular.

Larson joined the meeting at 8:01 a.m.

Baumbach reviewed the agenda and outlined expectations for the retreat.

Budget Realignment Discussion.

Dr. Brenner welcomed the group and provided a high-level overview of the district's status in the budget realignment process. He noted that while general budget details may be discussed, care must be taken not to discuss positions that the reduction process could potentially impact. Areas identified by board members as not subject to reduction included compensation, mandated requirements, and student transportation, although student transportation operations could be refined.

Flynn joined the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

Baumbach and Brenner gave an overview of the realignment process.

Gillespie joined the meeting at 8:16 a.m.

Dr. Houdek joined the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

Baumbach reviewed the administrative work completed to date. On the revenue side, this included expanding Medicaid billing, increasing rental rates, and increasing SPA fees. On the

Dr. Brenner acknowledged the significant work

expenditure side, this included reviewing and reducing outside services and reducing overtime.

It was noted that the administration's concepts are expected to be refined for board consideration at the January 5th board meeting. However, with the holiday break, some felt this might be too soon as principals need time to speak with staff. A special meeting on January 12 with public comment was suggested.

Nowatzki joined the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

The discussion continued on various potential revenue streams and ways to reduce expenses. Several administrators led discussions on areas that the realignment could impact. These included:

- Biermaier - adjustments to athletic fees.
- Ripley – increasing enrollment at the Career Impact Academy.
- Ohnstad – building size, grades K-2 and 3-5 school buildings.
- Arason – low enrollment courses and credits for graduation, and virtual school.
- King – technology needs.
- Parkinson – extracurricular contracts at the elementary level.
- Hoheisel – curriculum adoption.
- Thorvilson – increased class sizes.

Bjelde left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

- Dr. Brenner – staffing.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the retreat adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager