

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a special meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with Vice President Josh Anderson presiding.

Board Members Present: Josh Anderson, Amber Flynn, Jay Kleven, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno.

Board Members Absent: Dave Berger, Dr. Sherry Houdek, Joel Larson, and Eric Lunn.

Others Present: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Griffin Gillespie, Human Resources Director; Meredith Vukelic (via phone), Attorney, Pearce Durick PLLC; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order and Voluntary Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent's Recommendation to Contemplate the Discharge of Teacher Ana Marie Fernandez from her 2025-26 Contract, and Possible Board Action.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Manley to hold an executive session pursuant to NDCC Sections 15.1-15-10 and 44-04-19.2 to address the matter of suspension of Ana Fernandez while discharge for cause is pursued.

The motion was ruled out of procedural order, and the motion and the second were withdrawn.

Dr. Brenner read from a prepared script a recommendation to contemplate the discharge for cause of teacher Ana Marie Fernandez from her 2025-26 contract for insubordination; conduct unbecoming her position; and/or failure to perform contractual duties without justification.

Vukelic reviewed procedures for this meeting and possible board action.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Manley that a special meeting of the board be held at a

time and place to be set by the administrative law judge, at which time the board will discuss and act upon the contemplated discharge of Ana Marie Fernandez from her 2025-26 contract for insubordination, conduct unbecoming her position, and/or failure to perform contracted duties without justification, and that the school district provide written notice of this action to Ana Marie Fernandez. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Palmiscno, Kleven, Manley, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn, Larson, Houdek, and Berger.

Vukelic reviewed additional procedures, instructed board members not to attempt to gather information, and reminded them of the importance of remaining impartial between now and the discharge hearing.

Executive Session Pursuant to NDCC Sections 15.1-15- 10 and 44-04-19.2 to Address the Matter of Suspension of Ana Fernandez While Discharge for Cause is Pursued, and Possible Board Action to Suspend Teacher Ana Marie Fernandez During Pendency of Discharge.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Palmiscno to hold an executive session pursuant to NDCC Sections 15.1-15-10 and 44-04-19.2 to address the matter of suspension of Ana Marie Fernandez while discharge for cause is pursued. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried

unanimously. Aye: Manley, Kleven, Flynn, Palmiscno, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Houdek, Larson, Lunn, and Berger.

Attendees left the board's meeting room for the superintendent's office. The executive session began at 4:38 p.m.

Attendees included Josh Anderson, Amber Flynn, Jay Kleven, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno; Dr. Terry Brenner; Dr. Catherine Gillach; Matt Bakke; Griffin Gillespie; Meredith Vukelic (via phone); and Cindy Johnson.

Vukelic confirmed that the executive session was being recorded, and attendees were informed.

The executive session ended at 4:51 p.m. Attendees returned to the board's meeting room, and the open meeting reconvened at 4:52 p.m.

Anderson reported that, in the executive session, a motion was made and carried unanimously.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager