

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD

This meeting was held jointly with the Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2025

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, November 24, 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, Joel Larson, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno. **Absent:** None.

Student Board Members Present: None. **Absent:** McKayla Sagini and Adrianna Tande.

Others Present: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager; GFAFB School Board Members Michelle Shepperd, President; Branden Shepperd; Terry R. Snider, Sr., Vice President; and Brendan Brustad; Joe Drumm, Vice 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 Larson and seconded by Anderson to approve the agenda as written. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Lunn, Flynn, Palmiscno, Larson, Kleven, Houdek, Anderson, Manley, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Celebrating Success - Classified and Certified Employees of the 1st Quarter.

Community High School Principal Terry Bohan introduced Kristi Robson, Classroom Specialist/Family Room Mentor, as the Classified Employee of the 1st Quarter. She was presented with a plaque in recognition of the selection.

Red River High School Associate Principal Jay Hepperle introduced Emily Kulas, Library Media Specialist, as the Certified Employee of the 1st

Quarter. She was presented with a plaque in recognition of the selection.

Public Comments.

Lisa Johnson addressed the board regarding the local housing market and spoke in support of the Brookstone Apartments project.

Bob Cowger spoke against the Brookstone development and requested the board vote no on the project.

Terry Hanson commented on the consolidated tax incentive for Brookstone Apartments and requested the board vote yes on the project.

State of the Base.

Colonel Bishane Whitmore, Deputy Wing Commander, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, provided an overview of missions and programs at the Air Base, including the temporary relocation of B-1B bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, quality-of-life improvements, the prospective new Twining School project, and support for military families.

Impact Aid Funding Update.

Baumbach gave an overview of Impact Aid

funding and payment history to the district.

Curriculum Review.

Dr. Brenner summarized the Secondary Curriculum Review Committee's proposal for 2026-2027. 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. The proposal will return for formal board action at the December meeting.

Consent Agenda.

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

- Approval of November 7 and 10, 2025, school board meeting minutes as written; and
- Open enrollment application as presented.

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

General Fund Financial Statement.

Baumbach reported that for the period from July 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025, total general fund revenue was \$33,035,657 and total general fund expenditures were \$29,263,754, resulting in revenue exceeding expenditures by \$3,771,903.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Manley to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for July 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025, as outlined. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Anderson, Lunn, Flynn, Larson, Manley, Kleven, Houdek, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Finance Committee Report.

Palmiscno reported on the November 17, 2025, Finance Committee meeting. Committee actions included approval of Contingency Proposal 25 for Valley Middle School for \$72,179 to relocate HVAC equipment and approval of Owner

Allowance Request 9 for Valley Middle School for \$169,718 for new scoreboards and goal posts.

The committee discussed the request from Brookstone Apartments, LLC, for tax incentive financing in the form of a 20-year, 90% PILOT, and agreed to forward the request to the school board without a recommendation. Discussions also included anticipated summer 2026 projects, such as roof restoration work at Schroeder and Lake Agassiz and a ramp project within the Red River Rider Room.

Consideration of Tax Incentive Financing Application for Brookstone Apartments.

Baumbach outlined the details of this request from Brookstone Apartments, LLC, for tax incentive financing in the form of a 20-year, 90% PILOT for a moderate-income housing project with rental rates below market.

Lisa Rotvold, executive director of the Red River Community Housing Development Organization, articulated the need for moderate-income housing in Grand Forks and expressed her support for the project.

Curtis Regan of Dakota Commercial, the project developer, explained how the project benefits the school district and the broader Grand Forks community, and described how the request parameters were determined.

Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the project's merits, the school district's financial priorities, and the process for considering future requests.

Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski spoke in favor of the project. He also acknowledged that the process needed to change, including holding joint meetings of all boards to hear and discuss the details of future requests together.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the request from Brookstone Apartments, LLC, for tax incentive financing in the form of a 20-year, 90% PILOT.

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

Announcements.

Dr. Brenner announced that an update on the new Valley Middle School will be provided on December 8. He further reported that, based on the afternoon’s weather meetings, tomorrow’s operations were expected to be business as usual.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Lunn informed the administration that several board members were willing to assist with the move into the new Valley Middle School.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Manley concluded that the board followed its meeting norms very well.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager