

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2025

The Grand Forks School Board Government Affairs Committee met on Thursday, December 4, 2025, with Josh Anderson presiding.

Committee Members Present: Josh Anderson, Jay Kleven, Dr. Terry Brenner, Brandon Baumbach, and Dr. Catherine Gillach.

Committee Members Absent: Amber Flynn and Matt Bakke.

Others Present: Senator Scott Meyer, Dr. Kris Arason, Jon Strandell, Dr. Darin Walters, Jay Hepperle, Eric Ripley, and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Introductions.

Introductions of those in attendance were completed.

Jon Strandell joined the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Discussion of Legislative Topics.

Strandell and Dr. Arason discussed several positive effects of the bell-to-bell cell phone ban. They have noticed that students are more engaged, more social, and more receptive/responsive to staff.

Kleven joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Strandell and Dr. Arason also discussed the challenges posed by HB 1328's requirement that a school exhaust all school discipline policies before police cite a student. This has created a challenge at the schools when the discipline issue is a legal issue. With truant students, a 960 would be filed. But the County and Juvenile Probation do not have staff or the capacity to address truancy, and the reality is that safety issues can be the end result of not attending school.

Dr. Walters expressed frustration that a student cannot be cited on a first offense for an incident that occurs on school property, even though the same offense can be cited if it happens off school property.

Senator Meyer appreciated the discussions and indicated he would follow up with some of the legislation's sponsors.

Baumbach recapped meetings of the state special education interim committee, of which he is a member. They are still in the information-gathering stage, but have recognized that there is a growing need, as the percentage of students with IEPs has increased, and that under the current financial aid, funding has not changed.

Senator Meyer left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Anderson to approve the October 23, 2025, minutes as written. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Flynn.

Next Meeting Date.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026, at noon, via Zoom.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Josh Anderson, Meeting Chair

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager