

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #140
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District No. 140 held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School, with President Michelle Shepperd presiding.

Board Members Present: Gladstone Edwards, Jr., Branden Shepperd, Michelle Shepperd, and Terry R. Snider, Sr.

Board Members Absent: Brendan Brustad.

Others Present: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager; Col. Reynaldo Champion, Commander, 319th Mission Support Group; Jennifer Schroeder, GFAFB School Liaison Program Manager; DaLee Wilkinson, Safety and Security Manager; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda.

It was moved by Snider and seconded by B. Shepperd to approve the agenda as written. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Edwards, Snider, B. Shepperd, and M. Shepperd.
Nay: None.
Absent: Brustad.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Snider and seconded by B. Shepperd to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, as written. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: B. Shepperd, Snider, Edwards, and M. Shepperd.
Nay: None.
Absent: Brustad.

Public Comments.

None.

Monthly Enrollment Report.

Dr. Brenner reported that, as of February 27, 2026, Twining School had a total of 278 students, with 205 in grades K-5 and 73 in grades 6-8. At the high school level, Grand Forks Central had 61 students, while Red River High School and Community High School had no students from the Air Base enrolled.

Consideration of Amended 2026-2027 Joint Powers Agreement between GFAFB PSD #140 and GF PSD #1 for Educational Services.

Baumbach discussed items to be completed before the construction of the new Twining School building begins. One of which is amending the 2026-2027 Joint Powers Agreement due to requested changes from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) that further clarify site control and ownership, as indicated in the draft amended agreement.

The Grand Forks School Board approved the amendments on March 9, 2026.

It was moved by Snider and seconded by B. Shepperd to approve the amended 2026-2027 Joint Powers Agreement between Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District No. 140 and

Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Edwards, B. Shepperd, Snider, and M. Shepperd.

Nay: None.

Absent: Brustad.

Consideration of Ground Lease for Twining Elementary and Middle School.

The Board reviewed a proposed 35-year ground lease with the Air Force for the Eielson site to allow construction of the new Twining School and satisfy requirements from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). The current lease is in effect through September 2033. The new lease separates the existing two-parcel lease, placing only the Eielson site for the new school under the new lease while leaving the current Twining site under the existing agreement. This provides the District time to determine the future of the current building. Baumbach noted the lease is the final version following nearly two years of negotiations with Air Force legal representatives, OLDCC, and District legal counsel.

Board members discussed ongoing maintenance responsibilities for the existing building, potential future uses, safety concerns, and the possibility of collaborating with the Air Force and community partners about future use of the existing Twining building.

Exhibits to the lease were provided to the Board for review, except for the safety plan, due to disclosure restrictions.

It was moved by Snider and seconded by Edwards to approve, as presented, the Ground Lease Agreement by and between the United States of America, acting by and through the Secretary of the Air Force, and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District #140, with an initial term of 35 years and a renewal term of 15 years, at zero cost to the District, and authorize the Board President and Business Manager to sign the lease. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Snider, B. Shepperd,

Edwards, and M. Shepperd.

Nay: None.

Absent: Brustad.

Consideration of RFP Responses for Soil Testing and Remediation.

Baumbach reported that soil contamination was discovered in Fall 2025 during site preparation for the new Twining School after the fuel oil tank was removed. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality was notified, and initial soil samples were collected and included in the Request for Proposals (RFP). A full survey to determine the extent of contamination has not yet been completed. To assess the scope and perform any required remediation, the administration issued an RFP for professional services, with proposals due March 9.

Two proposals were received: L2 Contracting for \$346,525 and Terracon for \$157,295, both noting potential additional costs.

The administration determined L2 to be the low bidder and a responsible party, and expressed comfort in proceeding with them. Coordination is underway with McGough Construction and L2 to maintain the April 25 deadline and avoid delays to the Notice to Proceed and construction schedule.

Baumbach also reported that, while negotiations continue, achieving an 80/20 cost share with the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) for soil testing and remediation may be difficult, as the agency's current position is that funding is not available; however, this does not jeopardize the project.

It was moved by Snider and seconded by Edwards to approve L2 Contracting as the vendor to complete the soil testing and remediation. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Edwards, B. Shepperd, Snider, and M. Shepperd.

Nay: None.

Absent: Brustad.

Announcements.

Schroeder updated the Board on planning for the April 7th event to be held in conjunction with the Month of the Military Child.

M. Shepperd informed the Board of a communication from the military family life counselor (MFLAC) that will be sent to families.

Board Request for Future Consideration.

None.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Michelle Shepperd, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager