

FINANCE COMMITTEE
GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2026

The Grand Forks School Board Finance Committee met on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with Bill Palmiscno presiding.

Committee Members Present: Josh Anderson, Amber Flynn, Eric Lunn, and Bill Palmiscno, Board Members; Terry R. Snider, GFAFB School Board Member; Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager; Dr. Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; and Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education.

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools.

Other Staff Present: DaLee Wilkinson, Safety and Security Manager; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Consideration of Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the March 3, 2026, minutes as written. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2025.

Brian Opsahl, Principal at Brady Martz & Associates, P.C., reviewed the audit reports for the Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District #140 and Grand Forks Public School District #1 and the District #1 Management Report for the year ended June 30, 2025. Both audit reports state that in the auditors' opinion, the financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information...in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." Both audit reports were issued a clean opinion. Four internal control deficiencies that were neither significant nor material weaknesses were noted, along with District management's response.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Lunn to

accept the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025, for Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District #140 and Grand Forks Public School District #1 and forward them to their respective Boards with a recommendation for approval. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of School-Led Initiatives for Capital Enhancements Allocation for 2026.

This concept, also known as SLICE, was introduced to the school board by the former director of Buildings & Grounds in September 2025. Under this initiative, approximately \$250,000 from the building fund would be allocated directly to school buildings over a three-year cycle, based on each building's square footage, to provide them with a budget for capital improvements informed by building priorities, with the Buildings & Grounds Department overseeing each project. The first-year allocations include Grand Forks Central High, \$149,000; Century Elementary, \$43,900; Phoenix Elementary, \$29,750; Viking Elementary, \$20,500; and Wilder Elementary, \$12,500. The scope of each project was discussed.

Dr. Gillach left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Bakke left the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to recommend to the school board approval of the first-year allocations and the use of the building fund for the SLICE projects as discussed. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Use of Building Fund for Roof Restoration and Authorization to Submit School Construction Approval Request and School Facility Plan.

District administration initiated a roof restoration project for Schroeder Middle School and the Lake Agassiz (Head Start area) in compliance with NDCC 48-01.2 bidding requirements. Material costs were secured through a state cooperative purchasing contract with Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., totaling approximately \$276,944.53. A separate bid process for installation labor resulted in one qualified bid from Tecta America in the amount of \$286,873, along with additional hourly rates for potential unforeseen damage. The total estimated project cost is \$563,817.53. To account for possible additional repairs due to water damage or deterioration, a 15% contingency (\$84,572.63) is recommended, bringing the maximum total project cost to \$648,390.16.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Anderson to recommend to the school board approval of the roof restoration project scope, use of Building Fund dollars up to \$648,390.16, and authorize the submission of SFN 52304, School Construction Approval Request, and SFN 52813, School Facility Plan, to the Department of Public Instruction. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Use of Building Fund to Replace Light Fixtures at Discovery Elementary.

The district has obtained a quote for 75 fixtures at a total cost of \$38,385 to replace aging and deteriorating light fixtures at Discovery Elementary. Installation will be completed by Grand Forks Public Schools staff.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the use of Building Fund dollars in the amount of \$38,385 to purchase light fixtures for

Discovery Elementary. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Additional Expense for Schroeder Safety and Security Project to Add Air-Cooled Condensing Unit.

The Schroeder Safety and Security Project was completed this past fall under budget by approximately \$115,000. An additional condenser unit has been procured to expand air conditioning to a portion of the building that is currently not served. Installation and commissioning of the unit is pending, with an estimated cost of \$47,500.

It was moved by Anderson and seconded by Flynn to approve up to \$47,500 of the safety and security project budget to install an air-cooled condensing unit at Schroder Middle School. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Use of Building Fund for Sanding and Refinishing Central High School First Floor Gym.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to recommend to the school board approval of up to \$19,950 in Building Fund dollars to sand and refinish the Central High School first-floor gym. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., although an earlier date may be convened if necessary.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, Meeting Chairperson

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager