

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a special meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with Vice President Josh Anderson presiding.

Board Members Present: Josh Anderson, Amber Flynn, Dr. Sherry Houdek, Jay Kleven, Jeff Manley, Eric Lunn, and Bill Palmiscno.

Board Members Absent: Dave Berger and Joel Larson.

Others Present: Hope Hogan, Administrative Law Judge; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Travis Thorvilson, Principal, Lake Agassiz Elementary School; Meredith Vukelic, Attorney, Pearce Durick, PLLC; Ana Marie Fernandez, Teacher; Maria Bradshaw, Interpreter; Glen King, Interpreter; Desiree Morton, Representative, State of North Dakota; and Lori VanWinkle, Representative, State of North Dakota.

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Executive Session (closed meeting).

Members of the public were asked to leave the room, and the executive session hearing reconvened at 8:35 a.m. The executive session hearing was recorded as required by state law. All individuals listed as present above attended the executive session hearing. Witnesses were called into the executive session individually for purposes of providing testimony and were then excused.

The executive session hearing recessed for a morning break and later recessed for a lunch break. An afternoon break was also taken.

The executive session hearing ended at 7:06 p.m., and the open meeting reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Palmiscno that the Board finds that the charges and reasons for discharge of insubordination, conduct unbecoming the position of a teacher, and failure to perform contracted duties without justification have been sustained with evidence produced at this hearing; that said charges have not been refuted; and that the school district's

attorney prepare draft Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for subsequent board discussion and action at a meeting to be scheduled within the next thirty days for purposes of finalizing the discharge of Ana Marie Fernandez. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Lunn, Flynn, Anderson, Houdek, Manley, and Kleven. Nay: None.

Absent: Berger and Larson.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager