GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Mark Sanford Education Center. President Dave Berger presided.

Board Members Present: Josh Anderson, Dave Berger, Amber Flynn, Dr. Sherry Houdek, Jay Kleven, Joel Larson, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno.
Board Members Absent: None.

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

Others Present: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager; Dr. Catherine Gillach, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education; Matt Bakke, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Brady Olson, President, 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 the school board's meeting norms aloud.

Approval of Agenda.
It was moved by Larson and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the agenda as written. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Anderson, Houdek, Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Flynn, Lunn, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Celebrating Success – Wilder Elementary School.
Leslie Bjelde, Principal; Kelsey McKnight, Teacher; Elizabeth Watson, Interventionist; Brittney Biermaier, Teacher; Christine Higginbotham, Teacher; and Heidi Lamb Castle, School Counselor, delivered a presentation highlighting the school's staffing, demographics, goals, assessments, instructional practices, attendance, behavior supports, and family engagement activities.

Public Comments.
None.

K-12 Mathematics Curricular Resource Adoption.
Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Nicole Krefting and Secondary Curriculum Coordinator Evan Kritzberger presented the recommendation to adopt the K-12 mathematics curricular resource for the 2026–2027 school year. The adoption recommendation will be considered at the May 26, 2026, board meeting.

Government Affairs Committee Report.
Anderson reported on the April 16, 2026, meeting of the Government Affairs committee. Discussions centered on the upcoming budget, anticipated financial considerations, and school lunch funding, which will likely come from foundation aid payments.

Native American Graduation Regalia Update.
Dr. Gillach updated the board on the district's efforts to enhance graduation ceremonies and to honor Indigenous students' cultural, spiritual, and

historical identities, while also educating the broader community about the importance of these traditions. Native American graduates will be invited to wear a stole (premade or beaded) representing their culture, display their Star Quilt on their graduation chair, and write a short essay about what their culture means to them, to be shared with graduation attendees for educational purposes.

Consent Agenda.
It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Anderson to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- April 27, 2026, Grand Forks School Board meeting minutes;
- Administrator resignation effective June 30, 2026, of Brandon Baumbach;
- Teacher resignations effective May 29, 2026, of Brooke Ramlo, Kelsey McKnight, Hallie Reinholdt, Steven Carriere, and Bethany Lundby;
- Teacher appointments effective August 17, 2026, of Shama Singh, Special Education Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 2, $52,275; Ella Adolphson, 4th-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Emily Messner, 5th-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 4, $53,871; Taylor Thompson, 4th-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Emiley Huderle, 3rd-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 2, $52,275; Payton Ames, 4th-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Emily Crosby, 4th-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Grace Miletich-Peterson, Special Education Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 2, $52,275; Whitney Pankratz, 1st-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Abigail Brend, Kindergarten Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Macy Lotzer, 2nd-grade Teacher, salary placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Kelly Powell, Kindergarten Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 25, $79,945; Thomas Loer, 5th-grade Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, $51,477; Travis Martin, Science Teacher, salary schedule placement at MA+30, Step 11, $66,582; and Jodie Erhardt, Special Education Teacher, salary schedule placement at MA+15, Step 25, $87,071; and
- School-Sponsored Fundraising Report as presented.

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

Consideration of Proposed Revised Process for TIF and PILOT Tax Incentives.
The board reviewed revisions to a document previously discussed on March 23 and April 27, including adding a non-binding intent statement, replacing “work session” with “meeting,” correcting outdated references and a typo, and clarifying the Department of Commerce's role in determining primary sector projects. Discussion included adding a five-minute speaking limit per speaker per project, questions about receiving Department of Commerce determinations, the county’s stance on residential real estate projects, and how disagreements between taxing entities would affect exemptions. Members noted the process would apply to all project types and could be revised by future boards.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Kleven to approve the Combined Grand Forks Local Government Subdivisions Payment in Lieu of Tax Incentive Review Process Guideline Document with the addition of a five-minute comment opportunity per person per project and correction of the typographical error (“fir” to “fit”). Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Kleven, Manley, Larson, Flynn, Lunn, Anderson, and Berger.
Nay: Houdek and Palmiscno. Absent: None.

Consideration of Proposals for Scoreboards at Grand Forks Central High School Gymnasium.
Mike Biermaier, District Activities Director, presented the administration’s review of

proposals from Daktronics and LucentHD for scoreboards and video boards, including the evaluation criteria and scoring results, which favored Daktronics. He emphasized that the project would be funded entirely through private sponsorships, with no impact on the general fund. Board discussion focused on product quality, vendor experience, sponsorship collection timelines, financing terms, donor commitments, district financial risk, and equity between schools. Members requested additional information on contract terms, sponsorship agreements, financing arrangements, warranties, and long-term financial obligations before proceeding.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Houdek to postpone consideration of the scoreboard proposals at the Grand Forks Central High School gymnasium until the May 26, 2026, meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, Manley, Lunn, Kleven, Larson, and Berger.
Nay: Palmiscno. Absent: None.

Consideration of Proposals for Scoreboards at Red River High School Gymnasium.
It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Kleven to postpone consideration of the scoreboard proposals at the Red River High School gymnasium until the May 26, 2026, meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Lunn, Larson, Flynn, Anderson, Houdek, Manley, Kleven, and Berger.
Nay: Palmiscno. Absent: None.

Consideration of Proposals for Scoreboard at Cushman Field.
It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Kleven to postpone consideration of the scoreboard proposals at Cushman Field until the May 26, 2026, meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Anderson, Flynn, Kleven, Houdek, Larson, Lunn, Manley, and Berger.
Nay: Palmiscno. Absent: None.

Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding between East Grand Forks Public Schools and Grand Forks Public Schools for Participation in Career Impact Academy.
The board reviewed a memorandum of understanding between Grand Forks Public Schools and East Grand Forks Public Schools regarding East Grand Forks students' participation in the Career Impact Academy beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

Chad Grassel, Career Academy Coordinator, East Grand Forks Public Schools, discussed student interest in career and technical education programs and anticipated enrollment in several program areas.

Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education, highlighted reciprocity between North Dakota and Minnesota and operational alignment with Grand Forks Public Schools' procedures and academic calendar.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Larson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between East Grand Forks Public Schools and Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, and Berger.
Nay: None. Absent: None.

Announcements.
Board members were reminded of the Red River High School National Technical Honor Society event on Wednesday, May 13.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.
Lunn requested an update on the proposed roundabout at one of the district's elementary schools and a discussion about school board processes and work-life balance for administrators.

Flynn requested information about how bus routes are determined and what providing a route to every school in the morning and afternoon would entail.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?
Manley concluded that the board followed its meeting norms just fine.

Adjournment.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

_____
Dave Berger, President

_____
Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager