

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, May 26, 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, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno.

Board Members Absent: Eric Lunn.

Student Board Members Present: McKayla Sagini.

Student Board Members Absent: 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; Joe Drumm, Vice 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.

Kleven read the school board's meeting norms aloud.

Approval of Agenda.

Agenda topics 7.A.1 and 2, Recognition of Outgoing Student Board Members and Recognition of Outgoing Board Member, were moved up to 3. A and B, and 3. A and B, Classified and Certified Employees of the 4th Quarter and Classified and Certified Employees of the Year, were moved down to 3. C and D.

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

Celebrating Success.

Recognition of Outgoing Student Board

Members.

McKayla Sagini was recognized for two years of service as a student board member from 2024 to 2026.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Member.

Dave Berger was recognized for four years of service as a school board member and board president from 2022 to 2026.

Classified and Certified Employees of the 4th Quarter.

Jason Syvertson, custodian at Red River High School, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the 4th Quarter. Dr. Darin Walters accepted the recognition on his behalf.

Randy Votava, teacher at South Middle School, was recognized as the Certified Employee of the 4th Quarter. Travis Neil gave remarks on his behalf.

Classified and Certified Employees of the Year.

Amanda Koopman, paraeducator at Century Elementary School, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Year. Matt Bakke gave remarks on her behalf.

Katie Hatt Rokke, teacher at the Career Impact Academy, was recognized as the Certified Employee of the Year. Eric Ripley accepted the recognition on her behalf.

Public Comments.

Listed below are the names of citizens who spoke before the Board, along with the topics they indicated on their comment cards. The topics reflect what was written and may differ from the details of their spoken remarks.

- Josh Goldade – scoreboard.
- Tom Rerick – scoreboard project.
- Jared Anderson, scoreboard project.

Presentation by Safe Kids Grand Forks.

Carma Hanson, coordinator for Safe Kids Grand Forks, presented the district with a Vision Zero 2026 Outreach Award.

Special Education Workload Committee Update.

Dr. Brenner introduced the topic and reported on the committee's beginnings. Dr. Elisa Diederich, Executive Director of Special Education, along with Katie Wood, Special Education Strategist, Laura Mason, Speech Language Pathologist, Miya Lutt, Special Education Strategist, Jamie Toutenhoofd, Special Education Strategist, Marti Putman, Autism Teacher, and Carrie Weippert, Special Education Process Facilitator, presented a comprehensive overview of a workload analysis tool that was implemented two years ago. The tool is used to support special education staffing and service delivery requirements for students.

Health Insurance Committee Report.

Dr. Brenner reported on the May 14, 2026, Health Insurance Committee meeting. After consideration of all options in an attempt to keep the premium increase as low as possible, the committee approved the following for the 2026-2027 plan year, resulting in a 4.9% premium increase:

- Increase the annual individual in-network deductible to \$1,000;
- Increased the annual stop-loss limit to \$225,000;

- Accept a \$25,000 retention credit for renewing by May 31, 2026; and
- Apply \$60,000 from the self-insurance plan reserve to offset premium costs.

Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Kleven to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- May 11, 2026, Grand Forks School Board meeting minutes;
- Administrator resignation effective June 30, 2026, of Brandon Baumbach;
- Teacher resignations effective May 29, 2026, of Jennifer Stam-Stangl, Alixandria Most, Leah Gunderson, Jessica Lynn, and Christine Rokke;
- Teacher appointments effective August 17, 2026, of Maliyah Bowman, Kindergarten Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$51,477; Sarah Fetterman, Project Lead the Way Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$51,477; Caden Reimer, English Language Arts Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 1, \$51,477; Jeffrey Nold, Project Lead the Way Teacher, salary schedule placement at MA/MS, Step 21, \$79,009; Jeffrey Lazarus, Math Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 25, \$79,945; Abby McCauley Davis, Health Sciences Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 7, \$56,265; and Crystal Dvorak, Special Education Teacher, salary schedule placement at BA/BS, Step 4, \$53,871;
- Research Request for Melissa Toomey;
- Open Enrollment Application as presented; and
- Renewal of United Lutheran Church Parking Lot Lease for July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, with an annual rental fee of \$14,000 to be paid from the Building Fund.

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

Head Start Carryover Request.

Tracey Johnson, Director of Head Start, presented a request to carry over \$99,500 in funds received by the Grand Forks Public School Head Start Program from the Office of Children and Families for the July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, fiscal year to the 2026–2027 fiscal year. The Head Start Policy Council unanimously approved the request on May 19, 2026.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Anderson to approve the request to carry over \$99,500 from fiscal year 2025-2026 to fiscal year 2026-2027. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Larson, Kleven, Palmiscno, Houdek, Flynn, Manley, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Appointment of Red River High School Principal.

Dr. Brenner presented the recommendation to appoint Dr. Darin Walters as the Red River High School Principal and provided an overview of the interview process.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Flynn to approve the appointment of Dr. Darin Walters as Principal of Red River High School, effective July 1, 2026, with a base salary of \$172,756, a school factor of \$4,000, and an education factor of \$5,000 for a total salary of \$181,756. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Larson, Anderson, Kleven, Flynn, Houdek, Manley, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Appointment of Interim Business Manager.

Dr. Brenner presented the recommendation to appoint Ryan Gatzke, Accounting Supervisor, as Interim Business Manager, reported that he and Gatzke had discussed the opportunity and expectations of the appointment, and outlined the benefits of appointing from within, given Gatzke's experience working alongside the outgoing Business Manager. The interim structure allows for thoughtful assessment of whether the role is a long-term fit. Should it be determined that a permanent transition into the Business

Manager role is not in Gatzke's or the District's best interests, Gatzke's current position as Accounting Supervisor would remain available to him.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Kleven to approve the appointment of Ryan Gatzke as Interim Business Manager, effective July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with a prorated salary based upon a \$135,000 12-month contract, resulting in compensation of \$67,500 along with the prorated benefits associated with the full-time business manager position. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Palmiscno, Houdek, Larson, Manley, Kleven, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

General Fund Financial Statement.

Baumbach reported that for the period from July 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, total general fund revenue was \$110,437,809 and total general fund expenditures were \$98,518,670, resulting in revenue exceeding expenditures by \$11,919,139.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Houdek to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for July 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, as outlined. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Flynn, Houdek, Kleven, Anderson, Palmiscno, Larson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of K-12 Mathematics Curricular Resource Adoption.

A comprehensive presentation on this adoption was presented at the May 11, 2026, Board meeting. Dr. Brenner presented the recommendation for approval.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Kleven to approve the K-12 Mathematics Curricula/Resource adoption for year one at a cost of \$440,461.25 as outlined in the board packet. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Anderson, Manley, Larson, Palmiscno, Flynn, Houdek, Kleven, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Proposals for Scoreboards at Grand Forks Central High School Gymnasium.

Mike Biermaier, District Activities Director, presented responsive information to Board questions from the May 11 meeting and a comprehensive comparative analysis of the proposals received from Daktronics and LucentHD. He reiterated that the project would be funded entirely through private sponsorships, with no impact on the general fund, and the administrative recommendation to accept the Daktronics proposal. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Houdek to accept the Daktronics proposal for the supply and installation of scoreboards and video boards at Grand Forks Central High School, contingent upon securing 100% external project funding or financing secured by sponsor pledges, as outlined. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Anderson, Houdek, Flynn, Manley, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: Kleven and Larson. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Proposals for Scoreboards at Red River High School Gymnasium.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Houdek to accept the Daktronics proposal for the supply and installation of scoreboards and video boards at Red River High School, contingent upon securing 100% external project funding or financing secured by sponsor pledges, as outlined. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Kleven, Palmiscno, Houdek, Flynn, Manley, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: Larson. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Proposals for Scoreboard at Cushman Field.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Houdek to accept the Daktronics proposal for the supply and installation of a scoreboard at Cushman Field, contingent upon securing 100% external project funding or financing secured by sponsor pledges, as outlined. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Houdek, Flynn, Palmiscno, Anderson, Kleven, Manley, and Berger. Nay: Larson. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Student Transportation Services Agreement Amendment with Valley Bus.

Baumbach reported that the initial three-year term of the Valley Bus contract will conclude on June 30, 2026. North Dakota Century Code § 15.1-30 provides an extension of the original contract up to seven years. He presented proposed amendments to extend the current contract for another two years and to make language changes regarding motor coach services.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Manley to approve the 1st Amendment to Student Transportation Services Agreement commencing July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Manley, Flynn, Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Anderson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Bids for Warewashing Chemicals FY27.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Kleven to award the bid for warewashing chemical provider to Cole Paper and permit administration to negotiate a service contract for fiscal year 2027. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Anderson, Manley, Larson, Kleven, Flynn, Houdek, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Policy and Regulation Review and Consideration.

Dr. Houdek reported on the May 15, 2026, Policy Review Committee meeting and subsequent recommendations.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Anderson to approve the proposed policy amendments and complete the first reading for the following policies:

1. AACA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Policy
2. ABAB, School Year and Calendar
3. ACBE, Naloxone (Narcan) Administration
4. ACCA, Sexual Offenders on School Property

5. ACEB, Hazing
6. BAA, Employing Board Members
7. BAB, Board Conflict of Interest
8. BDAB, Savings Clause
9. BDBB, Retaining an Attorney
10. BGA, Board Communication with the Public
11. DE, Staff Code of Conduct
12. FAA, Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use/Abuse
13. HBAA, Federal Fiscal Compliance
14. HCAA, Purchasing
15. HCBA, Vendor Conflict of Interest Disclosure
16. ICCB, Disposal of School Equipment and Supplies

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

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Larson to approve and complete the first reading of the proposed policy FAAD, Tuition Agreements (Education of Non-Resident Students). Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Flynn, Anderson, Kleven, Manley, Larson, Houdek, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the proposed regulation amendments and complete the required reading and adoption of regulation ACCA-BR, Criteria for Granting Parent Sexual Offenders' Privileges to Enter School Property. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Kleven, Manley, Larson, Flynn, Anderson, Palmiscno, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Finance Committee Report.

Palmiscno reported on the May 18, 2026, Finance Committee meeting, subsequent recommendations, and discussion.

- **Consideration of Bid Results Related to Red River High School ADA-Compliant Ramp 2026.**

The committee heard findings from Buildings & Grounds Director DaLee Wilkinson regarding a North Dakota Career and

Technical Education Agency on-site review that identified ADA compliance issues, with Rider Room seating access ramps exceeding allowable slope requirements under the 1991 ADA standards. Following January 5, 2026, board approval to engage Hepper Olson Architects for design and bid coordination, the committee reviewed bids from Structures, Inc., Diversified Contractors, and Construction Engineers.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Kleven to accept the bid proposal for the RRHS Ramp 2026 contract from Construction Engineers for \$49,465 (base bid plus alternates 1 and 2), to be paid from the Building Fund. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Anderson, Manley, Kleven, Palmiscno, Larson, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

- **Consideration of Bid Results Related to Central High School Interior Painting Project.**

The committee heard bid results from Buildings & Grounds Director DaLee Wilkinson for Central High School's SLICE hallway painting project, which includes interior painting of common areas on two floors in the historic portion of the building, excluding bathrooms and stairwells. One bid was received from Caya Painting.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Kleven to accept the bid from Caya Painting for the Central High School Interior Painting Project for \$62,000, to be paid from the Building Fund. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Larson, Flynn, Anderson, Houdek, Manley, Kleven, and Berger. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

- **Discussion on Chiller Addition at Wilder Elementary School.**

A discussion was held about the prospect of adding a chiller to Wilder Elementary School to air-condition the entire building.

Announcements.

None.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Flynn requested a discussion about the district's policy and/or enforcement regarding students' use of electric scooters.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Kleven concluded that the board followed its meeting norms well.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Dave Berger, President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager