GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a special meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at the Mark Sanford Education Center, with President JoNell Bakke presiding.

Board Members Present: Mary Adams, JoNell Bakke, Dr. Allyse Dunnigan, Amber Flynn, Brianna Hall, Jay Kleven, Lori Kraemer, and Jeff Manley.
Board Members Absent: Eric Lunn.

Student Board Members Present: None.
Student Board Members Absent: Bella Aipperspach and Elsa Parrill.

District Administration Present: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Ryan Gatzke, Interim Business Manager; Dr. Kris Arason, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; and Chris Triggs, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education.

Others Present: Joe Drumm, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association; and Cindy Johnson, Senior Executive Assistant and School Board Operations Coordinator.

Resource Staff Present: Mike Biermaier, District Activities Director; Tony Bina, Grand Forks Central Athletic Director; Tyler Nelson, Red River High School Athletic Director; Tracey Johnson, Director of Head Start; and DaLee Wilkinson, Buildings and Grounds Director.

Call to Order and 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 aloud the meeting norms.

Discussion of the Addition of JV Girls' Hockey.
Biermaier, Bina, and Nelson presented on the proposal to add junior varsity girls' hockey, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. He discussed reasons to support the addition, how it will be cost-neutral to the district's operating budget, and reviewed the research used to formulate the proposal. Discussion included management of the locker rooms, social interaction across multiple grades and age groups, additional ice time, an increase in fees, fundraising, player-to-coach ratio, and roster size.

Consent Agenda.
It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Hall to amend the consent agenda and pull item 2 for educational discussion. Upon a roll call vote, the amendment carried. Aye: Dunnigan, Kraemer, Flynn, Manley, Hall, Adams, and Bakke. Nay: Kleven. Absent: Lunn.
It was moved by Dunnigan and seconded by Kraemer to approve the consent agenda as amended as follows:

- July 13, 2026, school board meeting minutes.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kraemer, Flynn, Manley, Kleven, Hall, Adams, Dunnigan, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Teacher Appointments. It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Adams to approve the teacher appointments, effective August 17, 2026, as follows:

- Steven Carriere, Orchestra Teacher, 20%,

188-day contract, salary schedule placement MA+30, Step 25, $16,759.20;
- Andrew Kennedy, Title I Behavior Interventionist, 188-day contract, salary schedule placement BA+15, Step 12, $60,957; and
- Austin Salyer, Title I Behavior Interventionist, 188-day contract, salary schedule placement MA/MS, Step 8, $61,908.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Manley, Kleven, Hall, Adams, Dunnigan, Kraemer, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Application for Tax Incentive PILOT from ACTIVATE RRGC, LLC (UND/Ray Richards Golf Course.

UND President Andrew Armacost provided comments regarding UND's commitment to preserving the Ray Richards Golf Course and how the proposed development would allow that. He discussed the value of the proposed development as a community asset, amenities, housing, entertainment, and a home for the UND golf team, as well as the generation of future revenue on the tax rolls.

Grand Forks City Administrator Todd Feland discussed details of the application, PILOT process, and lease agreement.

Developer Steve Burian discussed development of the project, amendments made, financial constraints, and proposed use of the property and amenities.

City of Grand Forks Finance Director Maureen Storstad confirmed the distribution of required notices.

Board members discussed concerns about no public comments at this special meeting. They asked about the current structure of the golf course, operations compared to Lincoln Golf Course, the likelihood of the proposed development remaining on the tax rolls in 20 years, how the proposed development would benefit the school district, relevancy of any legal implications, partnership with UND, financial situations of other investors and developers, possible considerations to reduce the requested PILOT terms, and competition with local business.

It was moved by Dunnigan and seconded by Hall to postpone consideration of the application for tax incentive PILOT from ACTIVATE RRGC, LLC (UND/Ray Richards Golf Course) to the August 10 meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Kleven, Hall, Adams, Dunnigan, Kraemer, Flynn, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of the Head Start Corrective Action Plan.

Johnson reported on two deficiencies resulting from a December 2025 federal review and the corrective action plan. One relates to monthly program reports, which will be submitted to the school board regularly in the future, and one relates to background checks, which will be expedited in the future.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Kleven to approve the Head Start Corrective Action Plan as outlined. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Hall, Adams, Dunnigan, Kraemer, Flynn, Manley, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Bid Results for Districtwide HVAC Filters.

Gatzke and Wilkinson presented the administrative recommendation for approval.

It was moved by Adams and seconded by Kleven to approve Techniques Filtration as the supplier for districtwide HVAC filters. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Hall, Adams, Dunnigan, Kraemer, Flynn, Manley, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Bid Results to Provide Gasoline in District Vehicles.

Gatzke and Wilkinson presented the administrative recommendation for approval.

Two bids were received. One from B-ONE, Inc. DBA Gateway Cenex for a 10¢ discount at the pump and one from Circle K Holiday Corporation for a 7¢ discount at the pump.

It was moved by Kraemer and seconded by Adams to accept the bids from B-ONE, Inc. DBA Gateway Cenex for priority in-town refueling and Circle K Holiday Corporation for other in-town and out-of-town refueling. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Hall, Adams, Dunnigan, Kraemer, Flynn, Manley, Kleven, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy for FY 2026-07.
Gatzke presented legal requirements and details of the preliminary budget and tax levy for fiscal year 2026-2027, which calls for a total levy of 128.75 mills. The levy includes 69.11 mills for the general fund, 11.88 mills for miscellaneous, 4 mills for tuition, 2.97 mills for a special reserve fund, 19.13 mills for the building fund, 1 mill for special assessments, and 20.68 mills for sinking & interest. All mills are at their maximum percentages.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Kleven to approve the 2026-2027 preliminary budget and tax levy of 128.75 mills which includes 69.11 mills for the general fund, 11.88 mills for miscellaneous, 4 mills for tuition, 2.97 mills for a special reserve fund, 19.13 mills for the building fund, 1 mill for special assessments, and 20.68 mills for sinking & interest, and to schedule the public hearing on the budget and tax levy for Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Mark Sanford Education Center. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Adams, Dunnigan, Flynn, Hall, Kleven, Kraemer, Manley, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Consideration of School Board Committee and Community Liaison Assignments for 2026-2027.
Bakke reported on the recommendations for school board appointments to standing and community committees. Administrative assignments for school board-to-school board and school building liaisons were provided for information.

It was moved by Flynn and seconded by Kraemer to approve the school board committee and community liaison appointments for 2026-2027 as recommended by the school board president and superintendent. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Adams, Hall, Kleven, Manley, Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: Lunn.

Contracted Staff Resignation and Release from Contract (Olivia Lund Matter).
Discussion was held on the merits of the request and applicable policy.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Manley to grant Ms. Lund Matter release from her 2026-2027 teaching contract effective July 23, 2026, with the enforcement of liquidated damages totaling $1,833.30 under Policy DKB. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Hall, Kleven, Manley, Flynn, and Kraemer. Nay: Dunnigan, Adams, and Bakke. Absent: Lunn.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?
Flynn concluded that the board did really well in following its meeting norms.

Adjournment.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

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JoNell Bakke, President

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Ryan Gatzke, Interim Business Manager