

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2026**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 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, Eric Lunn, and Jeff Manley.

Board Members Absent: None.

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; Chris Triggs, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education.

Other Present: Brady Olson, President, Grand Forks Education Association; and Cindy Johnson, Senior Executive Assistant and School Board Operations Coordinator.

Resource Staff Present: Wendy Mankie, Child Nutrition Program Director, and Mike Biermaier, District Activities 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.

Approval of Agenda.

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

Reading of School Board Meeting Norms.

Kraemer read aloud the meeting norms.

Public Comments.

Listed below are the names of citizens who spoke before the Board, along with the topic(s) indicated on their comment cards.

- Miranda Kleven, Ray Richards PILOT.
- Jan Lee, cost of bus transportation.
- Keith Lund, UND/Ray Richards Golf Course Redevelopment.

- Jay Smith, PILOTs.
- Andrew Krauseneck, RRGCI PILOT.
- Kelsey Dodd, RRGCI PILOT Application.
- Jodi Carlsen, PILOT – Ray Richards.
- Eric Murphy – PILOT for Ray Richards Golf Course.

Board Member Debrief on July 28, 2026, NDSBA/NDDPI School Board Member Bootcamp.

Bakke reported on behalf of board members who attended the bootcamp and shared takeaways from the event.

Discussion of Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) Online Briefing.

Bakke shared information about changes that will be made within the Department of Education relative to Special Education.

Consent Agenda.

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

- July 28, 2026, school board meeting minutes;
- Teacher appointments, effective August 17, 2026, as follows:
 - Courtney Litzinger, Day Treatment teacher, 188-day contract, salary schedule placement BA/BS, Step 1, \$51,477;
 - Amber Theisen, Autism teacher, 188-day contract, salary schedule placement BA/BS, Step 1, \$51,477;
 - Traci Nelson, Special Education Strategist, 40% 188-day contract, salary schedule placement MA+45, Step 25, \$36,140.40; and
 - Student Placements as presented.

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

Consideration of Child Nutrition Meal Prices.

Gatzke reported that, in compliance with 7 CFR Section 210.14(e), School Food Authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program must ensure that sufficient revenue in the nonprofit food service account for paid meals aligns with USDA target rates. To address ongoing multi-year food inflation and align revenue more closely with federal target rates and actual production costs, the Board approved the administrative recommendation to increase elementary and secondary breakfast and lunch prices by \$0.20 each and to adjust adult breakfast to \$2.10 and adult lunch to \$4.55 for the upcoming school year.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Adams to increase elementary breakfast, elementary lunch, secondary breakfast, and secondary lunch by \$0.20 each, and change adult breakfast to \$2.10 and adult lunch to \$4.55. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, and Bakke. Nay: Hall. Absent: None.

Consideration of the Addition of JV Girls' Hockey.

Dr. Brenner and Biermaier provided highlights and context from the previous meeting regarding the recommended addition of a junior varsity girls' hockey program on a cost-neutral basis.

It was moved by Adams and seconded by Hall to approve the establishment of a KnightRiders Girls' Junior Varsity Hockey team beginning with the 2026-2027 season as recommended. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Manley, Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, Kleven, Lunn, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

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

Revisiting discussions from a prior meeting, City Administrator Todd Feland presented updates responsive to earlier board feedback regarding the application. Feland confirmed the city and developer will execute a formal agreement guaranteeing district athletic programs and youth sports groups access to the facility. Additionally, to address concerns over the proposed 20-year timeline, the city offered a compromised structure: a 20-year, 90% PILOT featuring mandatory look-back financial reviews at Year 10 and Year 15 by the city's financial advisor, Baker Tilly. If open-book audits show the project's internal rate of return exceeds target benchmarks, the tax incentive will be reduced accordingly.

Hall declared a potential conflict of interest as an employee of the University of North Dakota. Board members discussed that no pecuniary interest existed. It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Adams to allow Hall to discuss and vote on this topic. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The Board held an extensive discussion, weighing community growth, potential student yield, future

tax base expansion, local housing dynamics, district financial constraints, developer incentives, and the PILOT process and options.

City Attorney Dan Gaustad clarified that the PILOT automatically terminates if the business fails or becomes tax-exempt, with clawback and security provisions in place to recoup prior tax abatements.

City Auditor Maureen Storstad confirmed that land and active construction remain 100% taxable through completion (projected for 2028), generating approximately \$114,000 in early property tax revenue for the school district before the PILOT takes effect in 2029. Additionally, the city noted that roughly \$416,000 in unspent funds from a previously terminated TIF project (The Beacon) had been returned to the county for redistribution among taxing entities.

Gaustad provided legal clarification regarding state-mandated 30-day decision timelines, noting that electing not to participate requires a formal request to renegotiate.

Discussion continued on risk, open-book transparency, and long-term community benefits.

Following discussion, it was moved by Flynn and seconded by Kleven to approve the application for tax incentive PILOT from Activate RRG, LLC (UND/Ray Richards Golf Course), with the updated conditions regarding facility access for district athletic programs and youth sports groups and financial reviews at Year 10 and Year 15 by the city's financial advisor, Baker Tilly, be added to the developer agreement. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried. Aye: Lunn, Flynn, Dunnigan, Kleven, and Bakke. Nay: Manley, Kraemer, Adams, and Hall. Absent: None.

Announcements.

None.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

- Kleven requested confirmation of receipt of the funds redistributed from the terminated TIF project (The Beacon), which was mentioned during the discussion of the ACTIVATE RRG, LLC application for a tax-incentive PILOT.
- Flynn requested an update from the Encore Program.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Kraemer concluded that the board did a great job of following its meeting norms.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

JoNell Bakke, President

Ryan Gatzke, Interim Business Manager