

GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, June 8, 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, Joel Larson, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, and Bill Palmiscno.

Board Members Absent: Dave Berger.

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; 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.

Dr. Houdek read the school board's meeting norms aloud.

Approval of Agenda.

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

Public Comments.

Sherri Brossart provided comments about school lines to middle school.

Consent Agenda.

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

- May 26, 2026, Grand Forks School Board meeting minutes;
- Teacher resignations effective May 29, 2026, of Kristan Neufeld and Emily Thompson;

- Teacher appointments effective August 17, 2026, of Sara Jones, AVID Elective Teacher, salary schedule placement at MA+30, Step 25, \$88,211; and William Chase, School Counselor, salary schedule placement at MA+45, Step 25, \$89,351;
- Third-Party Access to Student Information for GED Flash, Common App, and Project Read UFLI Portal; and
- Use of Building Fund Dollars for Various Leases and Building Expenses as follows:
Leases (total \$524,215.28):
 - Shared Use Agreement with Parks, \$169,900
 - GFC Parking Ramp, \$61,500
 - SAIL CENTER - Olive Anne, \$38,676
 - Community High School, \$166,585.32
 - GFC, Qwest Lot, \$6,000.00
 - Phoenix, United Lutheran, \$14,000.00
 - Maintenance Garage, \$34,014.96
 - Whalen's Moving & Storage, \$19,050
 - Various Facility Rentals, \$14,489Building-Related Expenses (total \$55,882.07):
 - Reset Room Construction, \$9,086.37
 - Gym Floor Renovations - Screen/Recoat, \$18,419.60

- Various Carpet Replacements, \$19,257.39
- Chip Seal Oxford Parking Lot, \$9,118.71.

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

Appointment of Red River High School Associate Principal.

Dr. Brenner presented the recommendation to appoint Amber Basting as the Red River High School Associate Principal.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Houdek to approve the appointment of Amber Basting as Associate Principal of Red River High School, effective July 1, 2026, with a base salary of \$108,009, a school factor of \$2,000, and an education factor of \$2,900 for a total salary of \$112,909. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Kleven, Manley, Larson, Flynn, Lunn, Palmiscno, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Designation of Authorized Representatives for Title and Other Federal Programs and Competitive Grants for 2026-2027.

Individuals recommended for appointment as authorized representatives for Title and other federal programs and competitive grants for 2026-2027 were presented as follows:

- Title I – Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards - Chris Triggs.
- Title II, Part A –Teacher and Principal Quality Training and Recruiting - Chris Triggs.
- Title III – English Language Acquisition/Enhancement - Chris Triggs.
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants - Chris Triggs.
- Title VI-B (IDEA) – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Dr. Terry Brenner.
- Title VII – Indian Education - Chris Triggs.
- Title VIII – Impact Aid - Dr. Terry Brenner and Ryan Gatzke.

- Title IX of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Griffin Gillespie.
- Indian Education Formula Grant - Chris Triggs.
- Johnson O'Malley Act (Indian Education) - Chris Triggs.
- Head Start - Chris Triggs.
- 21st Century Community Learning - Chris Triggs.
- District Homeless Liaison - Debra Nagle.
- District Foster Care Liaison - Christina Ibrahim
- School Food Service - Wendy Mankie.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Manley to appoint the designated individuals as the authorized representatives for the above Title and other federal programs and competitive grants for 2026-2027, as presented. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Manley, Lunn, Kleven, Palmiscno, Larson, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Consideration of Bids for Property Insurance.

Baumbach reported that renewal bids were received from the District's current provider, Liberty Mutual, for \$667,004, and the North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund (NDFIRF) for \$616,049.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Palmiscno to accept the property insurance bid submitted by NDFIRF for a total anticipated premium expense of \$616,049. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Lunn, Larson, Flynn, Houdek, Manley, Kleven, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Consideration of Bids to Provide Independent Annual Financial Audit Services.

Baumbach reported two bids were received for auditing services for Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District No. 140 for fiscal years 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028; one from Eide Bailey for a three-year cost of \$174,038

and from the District's current provider, Brady Martz, with a three-year cost of \$143,378.

It was moved by Kleven and seconded by Larson to accept the proposal from Brady Martz to provide independent annual financial audit services to the Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District No. 140 at a cost of \$45,990 for fiscal year 2025-2026, \$48,038 for fiscal year 2026-2027, and \$49,350 for fiscal year 2027-2028. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Kleven, Houdek, Palmiscno, Larson, Lunn, Manley, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Instructional Time Waiver for Career Impact Academy.

Dr. Gillach reported that the Department of Public Instruction approved the Career Impact Academy's alternative instructional time model of 90-minute blocks per day for 18 weeks, compared with the traditional building-course delivery model of 50 minutes per day for 36 weeks last year. The administration is requesting authorization to apply to extend this alternative instruction time model for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Kleven to approve the Career Impact Academy's extension time waiver application for the 2026-2027 school year. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Larson, Palmiscno, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Houdek, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

School Board Self-Assessment Committee Report: Consideration of 2025-2026 Self-Assessment.

Kleven reported on the June 1, 2026, Self-Assessment Committee meeting and recommendation. Four board members, the superintendent, and one executive cabinet member completed the assessment.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Flynn to accept the school board self-

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

Policy Review and Consideration.

Following Board action on May 26, 2026, and completion of the first reading, and no additional changes made since the first reading, the following policies were recommended for second reading and adoption.

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
17. FAAD, Tuition Agreements (Education of Non-Resident Students)

It was moved by Houdek and seconded by Anderson to complete the second reading and adoption of the aforementioned 17 policies presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Houdek, Kleven, Larson, Lunn, Manley, Palmiscno, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Rescission of May 26, 2026, K-12 Mathematics Adoption Approval and Approval of Final Curriculum Agreements.

Dr. Brenner presented the administrative recommendation to rescind the motion approved on May 26, 2026, authorizing the K-12 Mathematics Adoption in the amount of

\$440,461.25, and to replace that approval with authorization of the finalized contractual agreements associated with the district's K–12 mathematics instructional resources. This is because the true scope of the negotiations and purchase was over a seven-year period; thus, the district's final contractual commitments differ from the original adoption amount approved by the Board.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Palmiscno to rescind the May 26, 2026, motion approving the K–12 Mathematics Adoption in the amount of \$440,461.25. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Palmiscno, Manley, Lunn, Larson, Kleven, Houdek, Flynn, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

It was moved by Manley and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the final curriculum agreements and associated expenditures as presented, including:

- HMH Curriculum: \$634,611.00 (7-year agreement),
- ALEKS Curriculum: \$151,290.14 (7-year agreement),
- High School Math Adoption (Precalculus and Supplies): \$19,552.98 (7-year agreement),
- Everyday Mathematics Curriculum: Not to exceed \$255,000.00 (2-year agreement), and
- IXL Learning: Not to exceed \$349,265.00 over seven years.

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

Consideration to Accept Donation from Oxford Realty to Support Elementary Intramurals.

Baumbach reported that one budget reduction measure resulting from the budget realignment process was the elimination of elementary intramural programming, the cost of which was mostly related to additional contracts for teachers who led the program. Since the decision to eliminate the program was made, Oxford Realty has reached out to support it and is willing

to donate \$50,000 per year for a 5-year term (although both parties have the option to continue, adjust, or terminate the agreement annually). The program will still charge participation fees to families, while the donation amount covers the gap so the cost is not drawn from the general fund.

Under Board regulation HDD-BR, gifts in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the School Board.

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Kleven to approve the donation agreement with Oxford Realty in support of elementary intramurals. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Houdek, Larson, Flynn, Palmiscno, Lunn, Kleven, Manley, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Announcements.

Board members were reminded of the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School at the Grand Forks Air Force Base on Friday, June 12.

Accolades and well wishes were extended to departing staff members Dr. Gillach and Bakke and outgoing Board members Palmiscno, Larson, and Houdek.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

An update on school attendance was requested.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?

Dr. Houdek concluded that the board followed its meeting norms very well.

Executive Session (closed meeting).

It was moved by Larson and seconded by Manley to convene into executive session to discuss the pending litigation of Jane Doe 1, et. a. v. Malaun Alan Dilante Nelson, Grand Forks Public School District, and John Doe School Administrators 1-10, United States District Court for the District of North Dakota, Case Number 3:26-cv-00111. The School Board may convene into executive

session for attorney consultation regarding this pending civil litigation pursuant to NDCC §§ 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2. Upon a roll-call vote, as follows, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Larson, Lunn, Flynn, Houdek, Manley, Palmiscno, and Anderson. Nay: None. Absent: Berger.

Members of the public were asked to leave the room, Board members relocated to the superintendent's office, and the executive session began at 7:31 p.m. The executive session was recorded as required by state law. Anderson, Manley, Larson, Lunn, Palmiscno, Flynn, Dr. Houdek, Kleven, Dr. Brenner, Dr. Gillach, Baumbach, Attorney Dan Gaustad, and Johnson attended.

The executive session ended at 8:15 p.m., and the open meeting was reconvened.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

Josh Anderson, Vice President

Brandon Baumbach, Business Manager