GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2026

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District No. 1 held a regular meeting on Monday, October 12, 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: Bella Aipperspach and Elsa Parrill.
Student Board Members Absent: None.

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

Resource Staff Present: Dr. Elisa Diederich, Executive Director of Special Education; Brandon Vandervort, Assistant Director of Special Education; and DaLee Wilkinson, Director of Buildings and Grounds & Safety/Security.

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

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.
Dr. Dunnigan read aloud the meeting norms.

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

Celebrating Success – Viking Elementary School.
Principal Loren Hoheisel and staff members Lisa Spicer, Britta Zimmer, Michelle Gregoire, and Joan Huus presented an overview of Viking Elementary School's mission, demographics, Title 1 programming, academic progress, and wraparound support. Staff highlighted literacy and math assessments, including early achievement of proficiency goals. Board members discussed chronic absenteeism patterns, sustaining academic growth, and potential supports if additional funding were available.

Public Comments.
None.

Discussion of Fall Enrollment Report.
Triggs reported on K-12 student enrollment as of September 30, 2026, noting a decrease of 49 students from spring 2026 and 229 students since fall 2025. Dr. Brenner noted that declining enrollment reflects a statewide trend outside of West Fargo. Gatzke summarized the resulting state aid revenue loss.

Head Start Orientation and Student Outcome Data.
Head Start Director Tracy Johnson and Education Manager Terry Arason presented the annual Head Start orientation and outcome data, covering program history, governance, grant funding, community partnerships, selection criteria, and school readiness performance metrics.

Board Member Debrief on NDSBA Learning to Lead New Member Workshop and Annual Convention.
Board members who attended the NDSBA Learning to Lead New Member Workshop and Annual Conference shared key takeaways on school safety, teacher retention, legislative updates, early childhood education, school funding, and statewide survey results presented by State Superintendent Levi Bachmeier.

Consideration of Consent Agenda.
It was moved by Dunnigan and seconded by Adams to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- September 28, 2026, school board meeting minutes; and
- Third-Party Requests for Access to Student Information for Yuja Verity, Red River Children's Advocacy Center, Nexus-PATH, Northeast Behavioral Health Clinic, and Bookshare.org.

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

Policy Review Committee Report: Consideration of Policies and Regulations.
Lunn reported on the September 29, 2026, committee meeting, noting the past practice of voting on listed policies as a group while allowing board members the option to pull individual policies for individual consideration.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to complete the first reading of each of the following policies as written or amended:

1. ABBD, Commercial and Political Use of Schools (as written)
2. ABDA, Website Accessibility for People with Disabilities (as amended)
3. BA, School Board Ethics (as amended)
4. BC, Meetings of the Board (as amended)
5. BCAC, Minutes. (as amended)
6. BCAD, Executive Session (as amended)
7. CBAA, Administrative Regulations (as amended)
8. CBAB, Administration in Policy Absence (as amended)
9. DBBA, Drug and Alcohol Testing Program for Employees (as amended)
10. DEAA, Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace (as amended)
11. FAAC, Enrollment of Suspended or Expelled Students (as amended)
12. FCBD, Student Custody (as amended)
13. FDD, Education of Pregnant and Parenting Students (as amended)
14. FDE, Education of Special Education Students/Students with Disabilities Under the IDEA (as amended)

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

Flynn requested that board regulation CAAA-BR be pulled for individual consideration.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Kleven to complete the reading and adoption of board regulation BC-BR, Procedure for Seating New Board at the Annual Meeting, as amended. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, Kleven, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The Board discussed Regulation CAAA-BR. Flynn inquired whether the committee planned to review the superintendent job description prior to the search process and raised concerns that combining "Senior Executive Assistant" and "Coordinator" into a single title might complicate HR market salary research. Lunn clarified that the

committee had not discussed adjusting job duties and that the proposed amendments were primarily technical edits to align job titles. Dr. Brenner noted that the title accurately reflects the duties the position has long performed and that HR reviewed the change. Lunn suggested approving the regulation and that administration review the title classification with HR again.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Kleven to complete the reading and adoption of board regulation CAAA-BR, Superintendent Job Description, as amended. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Consideration of Bid Results for Student Transportation Services.
Gatzke presented the bid results for student transportation services required to meet specific individual student needs that the district could not provide.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Kraemer to award the contract for student transportation services for the 2026-2027 school year to J&N Operations, LLC (dba Grand Forks Taxi) at $300 per one-way trip ($600 round trip). Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Consideration of Bid Results for Snow Removal Services Districtwide.
Gatzke presented the bid results for districtwide snow removal services for the upcoming winter season, and recommended awarding the contract to Grass Guys. He detailed specific performance provisions that would be added to the contract: 1) If Grass Guys cannot complete snow removal at one or more schools by 6:00 a.m., the district will withhold payment for a percentage of that zone. 2) Following a second failure to meet the 6:00 a.m. deadline, Grass Guys will be required to subcontract the remaining schools at their own expense.

It was moved by Adams and seconded by Dunnigan to award the contract for districtwide snow removal services for the upcoming winter season to Grass Guys at $3,450 for Zone 1 and $2,500 for Zone 2. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Flynn, Kraemer, Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Consideration of Superintendent Search Timeline.
Dr. Brenner presented a proposed framework and timeline for selecting the next Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2027. Highlighting this as one of the Board's most consequential responsibilities, he outlined a target selection date of April 1, 2027, to allow for a thoughtful leadership transition. The proposed process includes seeking an RFP for consultant services, gathering stakeholder input, recruiting candidates, and conducting two interview rounds. The Board discussed the overall sequence and the value of engaging an external search firm.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Kraemer to authorize district administration to develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for superintendent search consultant services. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Aye: Dunnigan, Adams, Hall, Kleven, Lunn, Manley, Flynn, Kraemer, and Bakke. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Announcements.
A list of upcoming meetings was linked on the agenda. Board members were reminded of this Thursday’s Government Affairs Committee meeting and the November 17 Legislative Dinner.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.
None.

School Board Meeting Norms—How Did We Do?
Dr. Dunnigan concluded that the board did a pretty good job of following its meeting norms.

Adjournment.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
(Date)

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JoNell Bakke, President

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Ryan Gatzke, Interim Business Manager