

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2019**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District #1 held a regular meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with President Bill Palmiscno presiding.

Board Members Present: Doug Carpenter, Chris Douthit, Amber Flynn, Jacqueline Hoffarth, Eric Lunn, Shannon Mikula, Bill Palmiscno, Cynthia Shabb, and Matt Spivey.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Student Board Member Riley Thoreson, Superintendent Dr. Terry Brenner, Business Manager Scott J. Berge, Associate Superintendent Jody Thompson, Assistant Superintendent Catherine Gillach, GFEA Vice President Melissa Buchhop, GFAFB School Board Liaison Misty Brustad, and Executive Secretary Cindy Johnson.

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 Spivey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Mikula.

Mikula joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Celebrating Success. Dr. Tricia Lee, executive director of the Special Education Department, spoke about the resident teacher and mentor programs with the Department.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the minutes of April 23, 2019, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

Review School Board Norms. Hoffarth read aloud the school board norms.

Grand Forks Historical Preservation Commission Request. Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission Member Chuck Flemmer and Staff Member Jeff Wencil presented the organization's request to visit specific schools within the district that may have historical significance according to guidelines set forth by the Commission. He said the Commission identified West, Wilder, Valley, Viking, Ben Franklin, and Lewis & Clark schools as examples of mid-century modern architecture that is relatively rare in Grand Forks. The Commission's intention is to nominate the schools to the National Register of Historic Places. Flemmer said that the nomination would not create any impediment to the District when deciding the future of the buildings. He said being on the National Registry is an honorific designation and that the State of North Dakota and City of Grand Forks have no laws or ordinances that require specific consideration of the buildings.

Some Board members questioned the timing of the Commission's request knowing that the District is working on its master facilities plan.

Flemmer said the Commission knew the buildings were important to people and that some people had an emotional connection to them and that the Commission wanted to document the buildings while they still exist in their form as a service to the schools and community. He spoke about the values of being on the National Register, two of which are more access to grants and ease in obtaining a tax credit.

Mikula said her house was on the National Registry and that grant dollars are available to retain or restore the historic nature but it did not prevent tear down, renovation, or addition. It just requires a Section 106 review to retain its historical integrity.

Flemmer said the District would decide if it wanted to keep the buildings on the National Registry in the future and that if the buildings

were torn down, they would no longer be on the National Registry, but the nomination would still exist. When asked if the Commission could provide a copy of the nomination, Flemmer said their consultant was still working on the project and would be hard-pressed to complete the nomination by their June 1 deadline. However, he said that the architectural survey and nomination for the old South Middle School could be provided. It was requested that this information be sent to Superintendent Brenner and that Brenner consult legal counsel about any unintended consequences of being on the National Registry.

Legislative Update. Brenner reported that K-12 funding was finalized with a 2% increase in Year 1 and a 2% increase in Year 2. He highlighted legislation that passed regarding changing instruction days to hours, which will make managing storm days and professional development days easier, matching grant funds for music education and research-based literacy intervention, the nonrenewal of the contract of a first and second year teacher, alternative teacher licensing, which the District supports, expansion of the bullying definition to include cyber bullying and reporting implications, and the development of a District safety plan that may be paid for by levying five mills with voter approval.

MySchoolBucks Expansion Beyond Meal Purchases. Berge reported the District currently uses MySchoolBucks as an electronic system for cafeteria purchases and tracking. In response to stakeholder requests for other electronic payment options, use of the MySchoolBucks system is being expanded for online and in-person payment options such as registrations, fees, event tickets, concession, product purchases, etc.

Technology and CIAPD Departments Merger Update. Dr. Brenner gave an update on the work that has been done to restructure the Technology Department and Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Professional Development Department. Effective July 1, 2019, the two departments will become one under the umbrella of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology.

Consent Agenda. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Hoffarth to approve the consent agenda as follows: Teacher Appointments of Clayton Dodson (salary \$52,729), Alana Johnston (salary \$49,614), Jeffrey Rasmussen (salary \$41,200), Mattea Rindy (salary \$41,200), Kacey Rogne (salary \$41,964), Amy Shirek (salary \$41,200), and Kimberly Wirries (salary \$51,199), effective August 19, 2019; and Resignations of Melanie Faber and Tyler Okerlund effective May 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Chief Academic Officer.

It was moved by Douthit and seconded by Mikula to appoint Mrs. Amy Bartsch as Chief Academic Officer at a salary of \$118,000 effective July 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Associate Principal at Valley Middle School.

It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Carpenter to appoint Ms. Jodi Dodson as the associate principal at Valley Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year, at a salary of \$87,328 subject to principal contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments of Associate Principals at Century, Kelly, Discovery, and Lake Agassiz Elementary Schools.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Mikula to appoint for the 2019-2020 school year Mr. Travis Neil as the associate principal at Century Elementary School; Ms. LuAnn Schmidt as the associate principal at Kelly Elementary School; Mr. Loren Hoheisel as the associate principal at Discovery Elementary School, and Ms. Elisa Diederich as the associate principal at Lake Agassiz Elementary School, each at a salary of \$79,247 subject to principal contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of District Mental Health Coordinator.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to appoint Mr. Geoff Gaukler as the district mental health coordinator for the 2019-2020 school year at a salary of \$82,636 subject to teacher contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

Shabb left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Renewal of School Resource Officer Agreement for 2019-2020. Gillach reported that the only change in the proposed agreement is a slight increase in the costs of benefits of \$365.64.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Hoffarth to approve the Memorandum of Agreement School Resource Officer Services for the term beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020, and authorize the superintendent of schools to sign the agreement. Motion carried with all members present voting aye. Absent: Shabb.

Functional Building Utilization/Capacity Study and Educational Capacity Recommendations. Dr. Brenner reviewed the Board’s discussions that were held at the April 17 and April 23 meetings on this topic. He reported the administrative recommendation is to approve completion of the functional building utilization/capacity study with educational capacity recommendations.

Lunn spoke in support of the study.

Shabb returned to the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve completion of the functional building utilization/capacity study for \$38,250 with educational capacity recommendations for \$5,000 and travel expenses not to exceed \$7,000.

Shabb spoke about the studies that have been done in the past and their costs and said that she was not convinced one more study would help the Board make facility decisions.

Palmiscno said that the Board needed all the information it could get in order to make the big decisions that they may have to make.

Mikula said there were different ways to look at more than one talking point and said that the JLG study was based on square footage versus how the buildings are being used.

Spivey said the capacity study would allow a review by another neutral party, which allows the District to show that it did not rely on data from only one entity and provides more information and more knowledge to move forward.

Shabb said the JLG report is a comprehensive look at the conditions of the buildings. The capacity study documents indicate that they will expand on the JLG report;

they will not focus on condition but will focus on how educational learning is taking place. She said building principals and teachers know the educational learning that is taking place and asked how the studies in the past have benefited the Board.

Palmiscno said the capacity study would look at how the buildings are being used and how the buildings can be used.

Flynn said that each classroom teacher, principal, and administrator has their own opinion about how spaces in a building should be utilized. Sometimes their opinions conflict with each other. The capacity study would give the District a neutral opinion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements.

- Lunn commended a second-grade teacher and the superintendent for attending a recent funeral of a student.
- Douthit applauded Student Board Member Thoreson for an outstanding job of student representation at the Board table.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

None.

School Board Norms - How Did We Do?

Hoffarth said the Board did okay in following its norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager