

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 28, 2019**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District #1 held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at West Elementary School with President Bill Palmiscno presiding.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Matt Spivey.

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

**Approval of Minutes.** Palmiscno reported there were two corrections to the minutes. 1) In the Grand Forks Historical Preservation Commission Request discussion, to remove the word "member" found after the name Jeff Wencl, and 2) In the Renewal of School Resource Officer Agreement for 2019-2020 discussion, to show that Shabb was absent for the vote.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Douthit to approve the minutes of May 13, 2019, as corrected. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**Citizen Comments (non-agenda items).**  
None.

**Review School Board Norms.** Douthit read aloud the school board norms.

**Legal Opinion of National Register of Historic Buildings Section 106 Process.**

Following the discussion that took place at the May 13 School Board meeting about the Grand Forks Historical Preservation Commission's request to visit West, Wilder, Valley, Viking, Ben Franklin, and Lewis & Clark schools and the Commission's intention to nominate the schools to the National Register of Historic Places, District Administration pursued a legal opinion from School District Legal Counsel Richard 'Dick' Olson. Olson, along with Attorney Laura Cobb, reviewed his legal opinion, which, in summary, states,

*...the Board should be aware that any action allowing these buildings to be designated on the National Register of Historic Buildings, could severely limit and hamstring future school boards and subsequent administrations as they try to provide the best teaching environment for facilities and the education of students of the Grand Forks Public School District. While we realize that the commission may have a timeline, that timeline should not influence the need and time for the Board's in-depth review of the potential problems, delay and cost that may be created by inclusion on the National Registry with future actions subject to Section 106 review.*

Mikula questioned whether eligibility for inclusion versus being on the National Registry would trigger a Section 106 review and she asked if there were any situations where the District applied for federal dollars for the buildings.

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission Member Chuck Flemmer shared his experience with a Section 106 review and reiterated that the Commission only wanted to document the buildings to give them the recognition they deserve.

Palmiscno recalled having to install specialized windows at Grand Forks Central.

Flemmer said that was not a requirement of the Preservation Commission, but rather a decision that the District chose because the building is on the National Registry as a part of the Downtown Grand Forks Historic District.

Douthit suggested slowing down the process and having people in the schools who can write the history document the buildings.

Discussion continued on the Commission's request to access the buildings and a request for a scope of work from the Commission. Brenner said that a scope of work has not been received. Palmiscno asked Flemmer to provide a scope of work prior to the next Board meeting and that a decision would be made on the request at the June 10 meeting.

**Overview of Grand Forks Foundation for Education.** Emilia Hodgson, executive director of the Grand Forks Foundation for Education, gave an update of the Foundation's work in the past, present, and for the future. She shared information about various grants, scholarship, and alumni services that have been provided to the District for over 30 years.

**Innovations Committee Update.** Gillach gave an overview of the Innovations Committee's work during the 2018-2019 school year.

**School Board Self-Assessment.** Palmiscno explained the process for this year's school board self-assessment. Each board member will be asked to complete an electronic survey consisting of five broad questions. The deadline to respond to the survey is Monday, June 3. The Self-Assessment Committee will meet to review the responses and make a report at the June 10 meeting.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the consent agenda as follows: Teacher Appointments effective August 19, 2019, of Garnet Asmundson (salary \$54,259), Jessica Grove (salary \$49,232), Dana Kennelly (salary \$54,259), Linsey Naastad (salary \$45,024), and Kane Ueland (salary \$41,200); and Resignations effective May 31, 2019, of Brian Marcus, Moses Oteh, Shiyel Rittenbach, Renae Schanilec, and Leah Smith. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**Head Start Grant Revision for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.** Tracey Johnson, director of Head Start, explained grant revisions for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. The request for 2018-2019 is to transfer \$16,960 from the fringe benefits category to the equipment category because the number of employees who required health insurance was over-estimated. The money will be used to replace an unsafe structure on the playground. The request for 2019-2020 is to move 17 slots from the Grafton site to Grand Forks. Both requests were approved by the Head Start Policy Council.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the transfer of \$16,920 from fringe benefits to equipment in the 2018-2019 grant in order to remove and replace an unsafe structure on the playground and to close the Grafton classroom and move those 17 slots to Grand Forks. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**Designation of Street Name.** Brenner explained a request from South Middle School staff to designate the frontage road on the north side of the school that parallels 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South as "Dutot Drive" in honor of retiring Principal Nancy Dutot.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Douthit to approve the request and designate the area of the frontage road at South Middle School as "Dutot Drive." Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**General Fund Financial Statement.** Berge explained that for the first ten months of the fiscal year 2018-2019, total general fund revenues were \$92,164,141 and total general fund expenditures were \$76,433,929, resulting in an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$15,730,212. He provided a year-over-year comparison and reported that 2018-2019 total revenues were 1.5% more than 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 total expenditures were 4.6% more than 2017-2018. Berge also reported that the Health Insurance Committee approved a 3% increase in premiums.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2018, through April 30, 2019, as presented. Motion carried with

all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**Renewal of Community High School Lease for the Term July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.** Berge explained the lease renewal with the State of North Dakota for space used by Community High School in the ND Vision Services/School for the Blind building located at 500 Stanford Road. The lease was last renewed as of July 1, 2015, with allowance for annual renewals not to extend beyond June 30, 2020. The rent for the one-year period from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, is \$9.25 per square foot per annum. The total cost of the lease is \$160,673 plus an additional \$3,750 for the space occupied by the District’s portable classroom that is located on the northwest area of the parking lot.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve a resolution seeking to renew the lease with the State of North Dakota for spaced used by Community High School in the ND Vision Services/School for the Blind building located at 500 Stanford Road for the period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**Finance Committee Report - Request to Create Assistant Director of Special Education Position.** Brenner explained the request and rationale to create a new assistant director of special education position. He reported that the Finance Committee and District Administration recommend approval.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Douthit to approve creating a new assistant director of special education position, effective July 1, 2019. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Spivey.

**Announcements.**

- Thoreson was recognized for her service to the Board as a student board member.
- Board members were reminded of the upcoming Community, Red River, and Grand Forks Central high school graduations.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.**

- Shabb requested an overview of the Indian Education programs to include the coordinator’s duties.
- Lunn requested some rationale about why Grand Forks Public Schools is still in session when other schools in the area are not.
- Mikula asked about a joint meeting with the City. Flynn said that a City Council member had talked about it but there has been no formal request.

**School Board Norms - How Did We Do?**

Douthit said the Board did well in following its norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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Bill Palmiscno, President

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Scott J. Berge, Business Manager