

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 10, 2019**

The School Board of Grand Forks Public School District #1 held a regular meeting on Monday, June 10, 2019, at Discovery Elementary School with President Bill Palmiscno presiding.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Jacqueline Hoffarth.

**Others Present:** Student Board Members Riley Thoreson and Anastasia Usatii, 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 5:45 p.m. and a tour of the facility was held. The business portion of the meeting began at 6:15 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda.** Additions to the agenda were made as follows: Under action items, Appointment of South Middle School Associate Principal and Pure Development TIF Project Amendment.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the minutes of May 28, 2019, as written. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

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

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

**Project Lead The Way Distinguished Schools Recognition.** Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education, reported that earlier this year Elroy H. Schroder Middle School, Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School, South Middle School, and Valley Middle School were each selected as a 2018-2019 Distinguished School by the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Gateway program. Kathy Van Kley, PTLW's Director of School Engagement for North Dakota and South Dakota, gave congratulatory remarks to the Board for this recognition.

**High Reliability Schools Level 1 Certification Update.** Thompson reported that all schools received High Reliability Schools (HRS) Level 1 certification. Level 1 is one of five areas in the HRS Framework and relates to a safe and collaborative culture. Thompson also provided an overview of the certification process.

**School Board Self-Assessment Committee Report.** President Palmiscno reported seven responses to this year's school board self-assessment survey were received. The responses will be reviewed by the new Board in July.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Shabb to approve the consent agenda as follows: Teacher Appointments effective August 19, 2019, of Stetson Carr (salary \$41,200), Andrew Glaser (salary \$45,844), Kiya Knable (salary \$48,139), Ashley Loe (salary \$49,614), Leann Miller (salary \$50,761), Payton Peterson (salary \$41,200), Genevieve Spicer (salary \$41,200), Jennifer Trader (salary \$41,200), and Sydney Vorachek (salary \$41,200); Open Enrollment Applications as presented; and Resignations effective May 31, 2019, of Margaret Creciun, Daniel Jacobson, Carolyn Olson, and

Sandra Reck. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

**Lake Agassiz/West Principal Assignments.**

Thompson reported on the administration's recommendation to move Angie Jonasson from West Elementary School to serve as the principal at Lake Agassiz Elementary School. Elisa Diederich will serve as the associate principal 40% of the time at Lake Agassiz and as the principal designee 60% of the time at West. [Diederich's appointment as associate principal at Lake Agassiz was approved on May 13.]

It was moved by Douthit and seconded by Carpenter to approve the reassignment of Angie Jonasson as the principal of Lake Agassiz Elementary School and the appointment of Elisa Diederich as the principal designee for 60% of the time at West Elementary School. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

**Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission Scope and Work and Request.**

Dr. Brenner reported on the administration's recommendation to not approve the scope of work submitted by the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission. Some of the administration's concerns were:

- The district may see increased construction costs due to the requirements of the National Register,
- Construction may be delayed due to requirements of the National Register (and our construction season is short),
- Maintaining architectural integrity of the exterior would not only cost more, but capturing energy efficiency would be marginalized, and
- Exterior oversight of projects will cost the district human resource power and money due to delays.

Board members discussed their reasons for supporting or not supporting the recommendation.

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Lunn to not approve the scope of work submitted by the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission. Motion defeated on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Douthit, Spivey,

Palmiscno; Nay: Carpenter, Flynn, Lunn, Mikula, Shabb; Absent: Hoffarth.

Board members discussed options for compromise on the request.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to allow the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission (GFHPC) access to West Elementary, Lewis & Clark Elementary, Valley Middle, Viking Elementary, Ben Franklin Elementary, and Wilder Elementary schools to identify and document with notes and photographs any key features that help to further the historical context of the schools while working with District Administration to limit public information related to safety and security and that the GFHPC report back to the Board upon completion of their work. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Douthit, Flynn, Lunn, Mikula, Shabb, Spivey, Carpenter, Palmiscno; Nay: None; Absent: Hoffarth.

Chuck Flemmer, Chair of the GFHPC, said that the GFHPC expected to have their final report and recommendation by the end of June. A copy of the nomination would be provided to the District prior to a public hearing, which the GFHPC would hold at the end of July. He also said that the District would have an opportunity to decline the nomination prior to the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office's submission to the United States Department of the Interior and that they would respect the wishes of the Board if it chose to not allow the nomination.

**Student Handbooks.** Gillach reported on recommended updates related to bullying by electronic devices in the middle and high school student handbooks and to dress and grooming in the middle school student handbook. She explained the rationale for a ban on wearing jackets is related to safety and environmental concerns. The jacket can be a trip hazard and can harbor an unauthorized weapon or substance.

Mikula suggested the term "non-religious head scarves/bandanas" be changed to "non-religious head coverings."

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Douthit to approve the updates to the middle and high school student handbooks as recommended. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

**Appointment of South Middle School**

**Associate Principal.** It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Lunn to approve the appointment of Mr. Brian Loe as the associate principal at South Middle School. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

**Pure Development TIF Project**

**Amendment.** President Palmiscno reported that notification was received that the City of Grand Forks received a request from Fire Thorn, LLC to amend the authorized tax increment financing assistance (TIF) in order to add and include a fifth floor to the proposed Pure Development mixed use building which would provide for an additional nine market-rate and nine affordable-rate residential rental units to the project. Fire Thorn, LLC is requesting to amend and add the additional value and units to the existing and already approved TIF authorization for an 80 percent property tax exemption for 15 years with the larger and amended Pure Development mixed use building. Board members discussed their disappointment with the short notice in which the request was submitted to the Board and the lack of representatives being present to answer any questions and requested that the City be informed of the same. Carpenter pointed out that if the Board did not take action within the 30-days response window, the District must be treated as participating in the property tax incentive.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the request to amend the authorized tax increment financing assistance for Fire Thorn, LLC for a larger and amended Pure Development mixed use building. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

**Announcements.** Usatii was recognized for her service to the Board as a student board member.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.**

Carpenter referenced the Board’s action regarding the GFHPC and the Board’s opportunity to review and consider the nomination of six schools to the National

Register of Historic Places and asked if the topic should be put on the July meeting agenda.

**Executive Session (Closed Meeting).**

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code Sections 15.1-16-22 and 44-04-19.1(9).

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Mikula to convene into executive session to discuss negotiating strategy or provide negotiating instructions regarding teacher contracts which were currently being negotiated or for which negotiation is reasonably likely to occur in the immediate future. Motion carried with all Board members present voting aye. Absent: Hoffarth.

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting room.

The executive session was held from 7:37 p.m. to 8:47 p.m. Following the executive session, members of the public were invited to return to the meeting room and the school board returned to open session.

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

Spivey said the Board did well in following its norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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

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Bill Palmiscno, President

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Scott J. Berge, Business Manager