

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Monday, June 8, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Per Governor Doug Burgum’s executive order, all North Dakota school districts, including Grand Forks Public Schools, will be closed until further notice. This is a precautionary measure against the transmission of COVID-19. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

To join the meeting, click the link below:

<https://mygfschools.zoom.us/j/99098881813?pwd=S1B1dlZtcTRvZVR2R2o3ZGQ3M2pRZz09>

To join by phone, dial 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 990 9888 1813

Password: 826320

Citizens wishing to address the school board under Citizens’ Comments related to NON-AGENDA items are asked to state their name and address in the CHAT ROOM and wait for the Chairperson to invite them to speak. Board members will not respond to citizens’ comments but, rather, refer them to Administration. Citizens wishing to speak to an agenda item are asked to wait until that item is under discussion and then state their name and address in the CHAT ROOM and wait for the Chairperson to invite them to speak. Each person may speak for up to three minutes.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. May 26, 2020
- IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS (non-agenda items)**
- V. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - A. Review School Board Norms
 - B. Facilities Taskforce Update
 - C. Recognition of Board Member
 - D. Recognition of Student Board Members
- VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**
 - A. Consent Agenda: Appointments and Resignations
 - B. Award Bid for \$995,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A
 - C. Award Bid for \$2,770,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B
 - D. Policy Review Committee Report: First & Second Readings & Rescinding of Policies
- VII. OTHER**
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Board Requests for Future Consideration
(There should be no discussion concerning an individual item that is requested for future consideration. The Board President and Superintendent will determine the best method of response to board requests for future consideration.)
 - C. School Board Norms - How Did We Do?
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2020**

NOTE: Per Governor Doug Burgum's executive order, all North Dakota school districts, including Grand Forks Public Schools, are closed until further notice. This is a precautionary measure against the transmission of COVID-19. This meeting was held via Zoom.

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, with Bill Palmiscno presiding.

Board Members Present:

Bill Palmiscno, President/Voting Member
Amber Flynn, Vice President/Voting Member
Doug Carpenter, Voting Member
Eric Lunn, Voting Member
Jeff Manley, Voting Member
Shannon Mikula, Voting Member
Cynthia Shabb, Voting Member
Matt Spivey, Voting Member

Student Board Members Present:

Riley Thoreson, Non-voting Member

Board Members Absent:

Jacqueline Hoffarth, Voting Member

Student Board Members Absent:

Oliver Wolfe, Non-voting Member

Others Present:

Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools
Scott J. Berge, Business Manager
Jody Thompson, Associate Superintendent of Elementary Education
Catherine Gillach, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Melissa Buchhop, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association
Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Celebrating Success. Chris Douthit, Interim Principal at Schroeder Middle School, announced Milly Lafferty, who was also in attendance, as the Classified Employee of the Quarter. He and Chris Arnold, Director of Buildings & Grounds, spoke highly about Ms. Lafferty's job performance.

Darin Walters, Associate Principal at Red River High School, announced Mrs. Emily Parrill as the Certified Employee of the Quarter. He also spoke highly about Mrs. Parrill's job performance.

Approval of Agenda. It was requested to add the topic "Graduation Planning Update" as a discussion item. It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

Review School Board Norms. Flynn read the school board norms.

Graduation Planning Update. Gillach explained that graduation planning was based on three goals. 1) to ensure student, family, and community safety, 2) to celebrate and honor each student, and 3) to provide for family involvement. She continued with a detailed discussion of the plans for a drive-up ceremony and stage presentation of diplomas at Grand Forks Central and Red River High Schools and a parking lot ceremony and stage presentation of diplomas at Community High School.

Demographer's Report. Rob Schwarz, owner and principal planner of RSP & Associates, presented an overview of the district's enrollment projections and demographics, building capacity, and development opportunities. He noted that things would change post-COVID-19. Overall, elementary enrollment is stable, middle school enrollment is expected to increase slightly, and high school enrollment is expected to decrease slightly.

Self-Assessment Committee Report. Carpenter reported on the May 18, 2020, meeting of the Self-Assessment Committee at which the responses to this year's school board self-assessment survey were reviewed. He thanked everyone for completing the survey and noted there was 100% participation, including the participation of the student board members. He said that all survey areas were rated as satisfactory and reviewed some items that were mentioned for future discussion.

Consent Agenda. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda as follows: Appointments of Allison Dyer (salary \$42,445), Jordan LaPlant (salary \$42,445), Lauren McMillan (salary \$48,806), Kyah Nettum (salary \$42,445), Olivia Schreiner (salary \$42,445), Anna Mariah Sjol (salary \$51,114), Amanda Warzecha (salary \$46,273), and Kelsie Wiens (salary \$42,445) effective August 18, 2020; and Resignations of Katie Boorman, Bailey Gander, Bridget Ryberg, and Cassandra Thomte effective May 29, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

General Fund Financial Statement. Berge explained that for the period of July 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020, total general fund

revenues were \$92,522,017 and total general fund expenditures were \$80,918,954 resulting in an excess of revenues over expenses of \$11,603,063. He reported the general fund balance has decreased by \$6.4 million in the last two years with a significant amount of that related to construction expenditures. Year-to-date revenue growth is at .4% as compared to the budget of 1% and expense growth is at 5.9% as compared to the budget of 3%. Construction Services is a \$1.38 million increase from last year and is 69% of the \$3.65 million annual budget. The end-of-year general fund balance is projected to be around \$10 million depending upon the timing of construction expenses and CARES Act funding. Berge said \$10 million is one month's expenses.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Spivey to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Renewal of Community High School Lease for the Term July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Berge explained the lease proposal. The lease amount of \$9.25 per square foot per annum is the same as the previous lease period. Upon the expiration of the initial term, the lease may be renewed annually until June 30, 2025.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to renew the lease with the State of North Dakota for space used by Community High School in the North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind building located at 500 Stanford Road for the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

CARES Act Funding. Thompson reported the district is eligible to receive \$2,100,205 through the CARES Act, specifically the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. A committee was formed to review the funding requirements and is proposing that the funding priorities are technology, COVID-19 incurred expenses and supplies, and expenses that are dedicated to offsetting the general fund deficit.

Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technology Education and Technology, explained the proposal to substantially invest in technology and bring the district to a true 1:1 district by providing an iPad for all students in grades K-2 and a Chromebook for all students in grades 3-12. He said there is a recommendation to not share equipment in the current environment and this investment would also allow the district to transition back to a remote learning environment if needed. Teachers' laptops would also be updated as part of their regular rotation and hotspots for students would be provided if needed again.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to approve the ESSER Fund Priorities List for \$2,100,205. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Resolution Providing for Public Sale of up to \$995,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A.

Berge explained that interest rates were again favorable for the district to prepay its special assessments with bonds and that the district could save \$180,000+ in interest costs over the life of the bonds (14 years).

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to adopt the resolutions required for Providing for Public Sale of up to \$995,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Resolution Providing for Public Sale of \$2,770,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B.

Berge explained that interest rates were again favorable for the district to pay its old debt with bonds and that the district could save \$240,000 in interest costs over the life of the new bonds (13 years).

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to adopt the resolutions required for Providing for Public Sale of \$2,770,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Policy Review Committee Report: First and Second Readings and Rescinding of Policies.

Shabb reported on the May 13, 2020, Policy Review Committee meeting and continuation of its work toward the adoption of the NDSBA policy templates.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to complete the second reading as written of Policy AACA – Section 504 Dispute Resolution Policy, Policy FCAF – Concussion Management, Policy FFB – Attendance & Absences, Policy FFD – Carrying Weapons, Policy GCC – Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment & Third-Party Research on Students, and Policy IDC – Data Protection & Security Breaches and adopt each one as an official policy of the district. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Manley to complete the first reading as written of Board Regulation AAC-BR – Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedure and adopt it as an official policy of the district. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Manley to rescind Policy 5633 – Concussion Management. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Manley to complete the first reading as written of Policy ACBB – Significant Contagious Diseases, Policy ACDA – Acceptable Use, Policy DBBA – Drug and Alcohol Testing Program for Employees, Policy DEAA – Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace, Policy FDD – Education of Pregnant and Parenting Students, Policy BDD – Compensation for School Board Members, Policy FF – Student Conduct & Discipline, and Policy FFK – Suspension & Expulsion.

Lunn explained that although he thought board members were markedly under-compensated, he had concerns about the timing of increasing board member compensation (Policy BDD) amid the COVID-19 situation, and he wanted the full board to discuss it.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to amend the motion and separate

Policy BDD – Compensation for School Board Members. Amendment carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

The original motion as amended carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Discussion continued on Policy BDD – Compensation for School Board Members. Shabb reported the committee discussed that increasing the compensation for board members might help increase the diversity and demographic of future candidates. Lunn said the increase should happen but not this year. Carpenter said that there is never a good time to increase compensation and that one could always find a reason to decrease it. He reminded the board that they took a step back a few years ago and that compared to other districts' compensation and the amount of time that board members have spent over the last couple of years, an increase is something that should happen.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Manley to complete the first reading as written of Policy BDD – Compensation for School Board Members. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Carpenter, Flynn, Manley, Shabb, and Spivey. Nay: Lunn, Mikula, and Palmiscno. Absent: Hoffarth.

Announcements. None.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.
None.

School Board Norms - How Did We Do? Flynn reported the board did a good job of following its norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager

School Board Meeting Norms

The purpose of establishing school board norms is to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to contribute in the meeting; to increase productivity and effectiveness; and to facilitate the achievement of its goals.

NORMS

- 1) Be prepared
- 2) Be on time
- 3) Value and respect each other
- 4) Exercise thoughtful deliberation and conversation
- 5) Be professional at the Board table and when visiting with the general public
- 6) Speak up when the norms are not being followed
- 7) Advocate on behalf of students and keep the community in mind

GOVERNANCE

- 1) Lead by policy
- 2) Serve as advocates for K-12 public education
- 3) Entrust the day-to-day operations to the professionals; Let the administrators do their work
- 4) Assist community members and stakeholders in following the chain of command

OTHER

- 1) Consider staff and District capacity in resources
- 2) Balance the meeting agendas so one meeting isn't heavier than the other

Board Approved 10.8.18



Mission Statement
Grand Forks Public Schools will provide an environment of educational excellence that engages all learners to develop their maximum potential for community and global success.

Mark Sanford Education Center
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Grand Forks School Board
FROM: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools *TB*
SUBJECT: Facilities Taskforce Update
DATE: June 8, 2020

Tom Weber, Senior Business Consultant with SitelogIQ, will be on hand Monday evening via Zoom to update you on the Facility Taskforce's work over the last several weeks. Please also know that you can find all of the recorded Taskforce meetings and accompanying PowerPoint presentations made by various individuals on our school district website: <https://www.gfschools.org/Page/8979>.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Grand Forks School Board
FROM: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent of Schools *TB*
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda
DATE: June 8, 2020

Many items of a routine nature can be handled as one item rather than spending additional time on each individual item. Therefore, the Consent Agenda has been developed for the school board's use in order to speed up the process of conducting its meetings. Items that may be listed on the Consent Agenda include:

- Appointments (excludes administrative appointments)
- Leave Requests (excludes requests for extension)
- Open Enrollment Applications
- Resignations
- Student Placements
- Student Travel Requests

There should be no discussion concerning an individual item on the Consent Agenda. However, during the approval of the school board meeting agenda, any board member may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Once the school board meeting agenda has been approved, all items listed on the Consent Agenda are handled as one item.

Items appearing on the Consent Agenda at the time of the publishing of this agenda packet with their requested considerations are:

- Appointments (excludes administrative appointments)**
- Resignations**

Administrative recommendation is for approval.

cj
Attachments



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent

FROM: Tracy Abentroth, Director of Human Resources *TA*

RE: Teacher Appointments

DATE: June 8, 2020

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-33 the School Board approves the issuance of contracts to school district personnel.

Appointments appearing on this list at the time of the publishing of the agenda packet follow. There may be additional appointments presented for consideration at the meeting.

Administrative recommendation is to approve the appointments effective August 18, 2020.

Attachment

mjs

6-8-2020 Appointments

Name: Taylor Burris
Degree: BA/BS
Yrs of Exp: 1
Salary: \$43,232
Position: Replacement

Major: Elementary Education
Assignment: Grade 1 Teacher
Location: Discovery Elementary

Name: Heather Chatham
Degree: BA/BS
Yrs of Exp: 11
Salary: \$51,114
Position: Replacement

Major: Elementary Education
Assignment: Education Coordinator
Location: Head Start

Name: Tawni Murphy
Degree: MA+15
Yrs of Exp: 6
Salary: \$53,084
Position: Replacement

Major: Special Education
Assignment: Special Education Teacher
Location: South Middle School

Name: Ellen Nowatzki
Degree: BA/BS
Yrs of Exp: 11
Salary: \$51,114
Position: Replacement

Major: Elementary Education
Assignment: Grade 5 Teacher
Location: Discovery Elementary



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent

FROM: Tracy Abentroth, Director of Human Resources *BA*

RE: Resignations

DATE: June 8, 2020

North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-33 provides authority for the School Board to act on employment contracts for school district personnel.

Please find attached letters of resignation from the following:

Taylor Ray Grade 5 Teacher Kelly Elementary

Administrative recommendation is to approve the resignations effective May 29, 2020.

Attachments
mjs

May 31, 2020

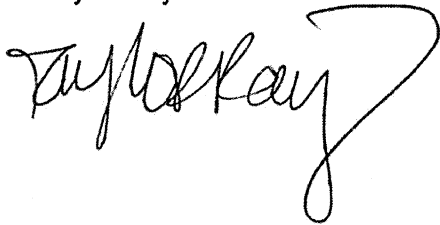
To Whom It May Concern:

I am Taylor Ray and I am a 5th grade teacher at Kelly Elementary School. I am writing this letter to put in my letter of resignation at the Grand Forks School District. I will be moving to Minneapolis over the summer to start teaching in the fall.

Thank you to my Kelly Staff, parents, and students for helping me grow these past two years professional and personally. I will miss this amazing school district and all the people I came encounter with through my experience here. Thanks again for everything you have done. I am excited to continue watching this district grow. It truly is the best!

Sincerely,

Taylor Ray

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.