

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2019**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, September 9, 2019, at the Mark Sanford Education Center with Bill Palmiscno presiding.

Board Members Present:

Bill Palmiscno, President/Voting Member
Amber Flynn, Vice President/Voting Member
Doug Carpenter, Voting Member
Jacqueline Hoffarth, Voting Member
Eric Lunn, 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:

None

Student Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Chuck Flemmer, Chairperson of the Grand Forks Preservation Commission
Jeff Manley, School Board Applicant
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 (GFEA)
Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary

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

Approval of Agenda. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Celebrating Success. Sarah Shimek, Character Education and Prevention Coordinator and Executive Director for the summer Helping Hands Program, gave an overview of this middle and high school student volunteer program. Two instructors and two students shared in the presentation. Shimek reported volunteer hours for this summer are 5,314 pending additional hours yet to be calculated and for the program since it started are 87,374.50. Board members were invited to attend the 18th Annual Helping

Hands Celebration on September 24 at 7:00 p.m. at South Middle School.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Lunn to approve the August 19, 2019, minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

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

Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Tax Levy. President Palmiscno opened the public hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Berge reviewed action taken by the Board at the August 5, 2019, meeting that authorized a preliminary budget and total tax levy of 101 mills,

which included three (3) mills for a new special reserve fund. That preliminary tax levy was certified to the County Auditor and Notices of Estimated Property Tax and Budget Hearing Dates were sent to each owner of taxable property in the District with a total estimated property tax of at least one hundred dollars. The total property tax levy for fiscal year 2019-2020 will be 101 mills, which compares to 98 mills last year and represents an overall increase of 3.06%.

No public or oral comments were received and the public hearing was closed at 6:18 p.m.

Open Meetings Refresher. The District's legal counsel, Richard (Dick) Olson, and Attorney Laura Cobb gave an overview on the open meetings and records law.

Summer School Reports. Summer School Directors Kevin Ohnstad (Elementary), Dr. Gabe Dahl (Secondary), Terry Bohan (Driver Education), and Dean Opp (Summer Performing Arts) provided highlights of their respective summer school programs.

NDSBA Opportunities for Board Member Development. Dr. Brenner informed Board members of upcoming North Dakota School Boards Association events including the New Member Seminar, School Law Seminar, and Annual Convention and asked those wishing to attend to inform Cindy Johnson by September 20.

Board Member Feedback on Governor's Summit on Innovative Education. Shabb gave an overview of her experience and takeaways from the Governor's Summit on Innovative Education.

Consent Agenda. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda as follows: Teacher Appointments effective August 19, 2019, of Julie Heuchert (salary \$54,463), Kara Hung (salary \$44,923), Sidney Laurie (salary \$43,371), Logen Letofsky (salary \$41,818), Carissa Olson (salary \$41,818), Charles Rerick (salary \$43,371), Sarah Stevens (\$55,073), Robert Waddle, II (salary \$46,532), and Michaela Wavra (salary \$46,532); Open Enrollment applications as presented; 10%

Resignation effective August 19, 2019, of Suzanne Grant-Gooden; and Student Travel Request for 10-15 students to Europe beginning late June 2020 and ending early July 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Compliance Report as Required by NDCC 15.1-06-06. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the Grand Forks Public Schools Annual Compliance Report for 2019-2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Declaration of Emergency for RRHS Elevator Shaft Repair. Chris Arnold, director of Buildings & Grounds, reported on a structural failure at Red River High School. Ground water is pushing on the concrete wall causing it to bow into the elevator shaft. He said the implications of the failure are quite significant as it shuts off the entire lower level to anyone needing ADA access. Alternatives are in place for staff and students. He recommended the Board approve an emergency declaration be approved so that the repair project could begin immediately and prevent further structural and equipment damage to the building.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Hoffarth to declare that an emergency situation exists with regard to the repair of the elevator shaft at Red River High School to allow the district to proceed as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously.

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission Nomination - Mid-Century Schools. Dr. Brenner explained the administrative recommendation to not approve the nomination of West Elementary School, Lewis & Clark Elementary School, Valley Middle School, Viking Elementary School, Ben Franklin Elementary School, and Wilder Elementary School to the National Register of Historic Places is because there is probably a lot of work to be done to the buildings in the future and Administration did not want to do something that could prohibit that work.

Board members stated their opinions as to why they were or were not in favor of approving the nomination, most of which were related to

whether placement on the National Register could impede future work.

Palmiscno asked Flemmer why the Commission could not select only one building that reflected the same quality as all the other buildings. Palmiscno also suggested the historical report could be made available for public consumption without the nomination. Flemmer spoke in favor of the project and said there were no restrictions or impediments as to what could be done to maintain a building when it is on the National Register, not unless it is a local ordinance for aesthetic restrictions, which there is for a small area of downtown Grand Forks, but not for the areas where the schools were located. Flemmer said their perspective about the quantity of buildings and the historical aspect of that is different.

Berge pointed out that the State’s FAQ sheet on what a National Register listing does not do refers to private property, whereas the District’s buildings are public property.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the application for nomination of West Elementary School, Lewis & Clark Elementary School, Valley Middle School, Viking Elementary School, Ben Franklin Elementary School, and Wilder Elementary School to the National Register of Historic Places. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Carpenter, Flynn, Hoffarth, Mikula, Shabb; Nay: Lunn, Spivey, Palmiscno; Absent: None.

County Superintendent of Schools Position.

Dr. Brenner explained Grand Forks County Commission is in the process of employing a county superintendent of schools. The Commission would like to appoint Dr. Steve Swiontek to the position. According to North Dakota Century Code 15.1-11-01, a majority of the school board presidents representing school districts having their administrative headquarters in Grand Forks County, must approve the individual that is hired.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Spivey to approve the appointment of Dr. Steve Swiontek as Grand Forks County Superintendent of Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of School Board Member. Berge reported that in accordance with North Dakota Century Code and School Board Policy, the school board would be appointing a new school board member to fill the mid-vacancy caused by the resignation of Chris Douthit. The appointee would fill the seat until the next regular election, which will take place on June 9, 2020. One application was received from Jeff Manley. Manley was present and in response stated his priorities for the students and district and strengths that he would bring to the Board.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to appoint Jeff Manley to the school board to fill the mid-term vacancy until the next regular election on June 9, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements. Palmiscno reminded Board members of the upcoming community meetings regarding facilities planning.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Mikula requested information on the impact of police department summer programs for at-risk students. Dr. Brenner said this topic is planned for the future joint City Council/School Board meeting.

School Board Norms - How Did We Do?

Carpenter reported that Board members had some frank discussions and did a good job following the school board norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager