

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2019**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, October 14, 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
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:

None

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 (GFEA)
Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary

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

Celebrating Success – Social Workers. Jennifer Modeen, Pamela Elmquist, and Allissa Lester spoke on behalf of the district’s social workers. Topics included staffing, students’ needs, social workers’ scope of work and professional development, partnerships, and program successes.

Approval of Agenda. It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Shabb to table Item VI.E. Indigenous Peoples’ Day Update. Discussion continued on reasons this topic should, or should not, be on this meeting’s agenda. Those in favor of the motion were concerned about the timing because interested parties may be left out since they are celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the community this evening.

Those not in favor of the motion said the topic was only information for the board about what the district was doing to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day and that additional conversation could happen at another meeting. Carpenter said it was inappropriate to table an item during the approval of the agenda and that the appropriate time was when the item came up for discussion. Hoffarth and Shabb withdrew their motion to table.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Hoffarth to delete Item VI.E. Indigenous Peoples’ Day Update from the agenda. Motion defeated on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hoffarth, Lunn, Mikula, and Shabb. Nay: Carpenter, Flynn, Manley, Spivey, and Palmiscno.

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Lunn to approve the agenda as written. Motion

carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the September 30 2019, minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

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

Mental Health Matters Update. Geoff Gaukler, Mental Health Coordinator, highlighted the progress of some of the projects and initiatives he has been working on in the district and community regarding mental health. Included was an update on the Grand Forks Mental Health Matters Community Collaborative, formerly the Community Call to Action, in which 40+ entities in the community are represented.

Fall Enrollment Report. Thompson reported on this year's student enrollment for grades K-12. Comparatively, from spring 2019 to fall 2019, grades K-12 enrollment increased by 246 students and from fall 2018 to fall 2019, grades K-12 enrollment increased by 121 students. The demographer's projections were 99.8% accurate.

NDSBA Resolutions. Resolutions that are four years old and recommended for re adoption as written were provided in the agenda packet. Dr. Brenner reported that Doug Carpenter will be representing the Grand Forks School Board as a voting delegate at the North Dakota School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.

Indigenous Peoples' Day Update. Gillach reported on discussions that have been held with Courtney Souvannasac and Grand Forks Indigenous Peoples' Day Planning Committee members regarding their request to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day versus Columbus Day in the district. In their meetings, social studies curriculum [North Dakota Studies Content Standards], which has a comprehensive scope and sequence that includes Native American essential understandings, was reviewed. Social studies teachers and building administrators will ensure there will be an opportunity in the schools to learn about Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Some schools integrated cultures and practices into their assemblies. Additional tools to look at curriculum through a race-based lens were brought forth and will be utilized in future curriculum adoptions.

Hoffarth left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Regarding the calendar, school holidays are dictated by North Dakota Century Code. Columbus Day is not recognized on the district calendar.

Lunn said the district should be cautious about focusing only on Indigenous Peoples and the district needed to educate globally.

Additional discussion on this topic will be held at a future meeting in a work session format.

Consent Agenda. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the consent agenda as follows: Open Enrollment application as presented and Resignation of Alison Cherney effective December 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

General Fund Financial Statement. Berge explained that for the period of July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, total general fund revenues were \$13,436,573 and total general fund expenditures were \$15,190,495, resulting in an excess of expenses over revenues of \$1,753,922. Berge said interest income growth will not be sustainable due to anticipated interest rate declines as well as lower investment balances and construction services expense is already at 47.3% of budget.

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

Title I Look Alike Program. Thompson explained that a Look Alike program is used at Discovery, Kelly, and Twining schools since they do not meet Title I criteria to provide assistance to at-risk learners through four reading specialists to support their achievement toward meeting the state academic achievement

standards and requested approval of supplemental local funds for the program.

Approved _____
(Date)

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Spivey to approve the supplemental local funds in the amount of \$304,543.30 for the 2019-2020 school year to provide a Title I Look Alike program at Discovery Elementary School, Kelly Elementary School, and Nathan Twining Elementary and Middle School. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager

Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report. Palmiscno reported on the October 8, 2019 meeting of the committee at which the process for the superintendent’s November evaluation was determined. Each board member will receive a survey to provide their input. The deadline to submit input is October 25. Survey responses will be reviewed by the committee and used to develop a draft evaluation for consideration by the Grand Forks School Board at its November 12 meeting.

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the process for the superintendent’s November evaluation as discussed. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Announcements. None.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.
None.

School Board Norms - How Did We Do?
Spivey reported the board had some possible issues but through Roberts’ Rules and everybody’s respect for each other and thoughtful deliberation, they were able to make the best of it.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.