

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
WORK SESSION MINUTES
November 12, 2019**

The Grand Forks School Board held a work session on Tuesday, November 12, 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
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
Oliver Wolfe, Non-voting Member

Board Members Absent:

Jacqueline Hoffarth, Voting Member

Student Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Khushnum Kapur, Engagement Coach, Thoughtexchange (via Zoom video conference)
Megan Humphrey, Discover Manager, Thoughtexchange (via Zoom video conference)
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
Chris Arnold, Building & Grounds Director
Lewis Isassi, GFAPB School Board Liaison
Melissa Buchhop, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association (GFEA)
Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. The work session was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was not recited because it had been recited in the regular meeting that preceded this meeting.

Facilities. Brenner reviewed what has been done to date to engage the community regarding the state of the districts' facilities. Five community meetings were held in September at Valley Middle School, Discovery Elementary School, Grand Forks Central High School, Viking Elementary School, and Wilder Elementary School. A Facebook Live presentation was held in October and a presentation for all staff was conducted in November.

Kapur and Humphrey reported on information that was gathered from the Thoughtexchange online structured interactions with community, staff, and parents who chose to participate.

Berge and Arnold reported on regular investments and other improvements as per the facilities master plan, broken down into three phases over the next 15 years. The cost is currently estimated at \$66.9M for District #1 schools and \$11.2M for Twining School (District #140) for only deferred maintenance, which is all work behind the walls (mechanical and maintenance) with nothing new added to the facilities such as improvements for accessibility or air conditioning. Berge said the district needs

to consider the cost of deferred maintenance compared to the cost of building replacement in some cases and that in addition to financial considerations, the wellbeing of the students and educational opportunities in the facilities we have should be considered.

Discussion continued on the current enrollment of 89 students at West Elementary School. Fifty-four of the students live in the neighborhood. Thirty-three of the students are in-district transfers and two of the students are open-enrolled. Thompson reported there would not be a significant impact to moving the transfer students back to their neighborhood schools.

Palmiscno said discussion was needed about West because it did not make sense to put money into the school.

Arnold said Valley Middle School was another school that needed to be discussed further.

Discussion continued on planning for the referendum. Brenner said Administration was ready to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a firm that could be a one-stop shop for the district for referendum planning, scenarios, renderings, etc. Shabb was not convinced another consultant was needed. Flynn said a consultant's experience was a benefit. Carpenter said he was uncomfortable with the board not voting on the RFP or making the selection; however, Palmiscno said it would come back to the board. Mikula said she would prefer suggestions for options come from within the district. Lunn said it was the board's responsibility to approve the RFP or the firm.

Thoreson and Wolfe left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Discussion continued on planning for a referendum. Spivey said the district needed a consultant for the referendum and that discussing West was a separate issue whose decision needed to be made before the referendum issue.

Gillach agreed with Spivey and spoke about the educational and professional disadvantages at West. She said a decision needed to be made as

soon as possible so that teachers and families had time to plan.

Mikula asked if something could be done to help with transportation for the West students and said she wanted to hear more from the families who would be moving from West.

Lunn suggested the RFP be included in Friday Focus.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager