

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 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
Oliver Wolfe, Non-voting Member

Board Members Absent:

None

Student Board Members Absent:

None

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
Amanda Weston Caillier, 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 Mikula and seconded by Hoffarth to move the action item "Future of West Elementary School" up on the agenda to follow "Citizen Comments." Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Spivey.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Spivey.

Celebrating Success – Employee of the Quarter Recognition. Ione Seidlinger, an English Language paraprofessional at Red River High School, was presented with the Classified Employee of the Quarter award by Principal Dr. Kris Arason.

Kristy Hanson, an education coordinator at Head Start, was presented with the Certified Employee of the Quarter award by Director Tracey Johnson.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the January 6, 2020, minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Spivey.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

Future of West Elementary School. Audience members who spoke in favor of keeping West Elementary School open were:

Lisa Yeip, Grand Forks, ND
Mark Guy, Grand Forks, ND
John Welch, Grand Forks, ND

Cindy Peterson, Grand Forks, ND
Jennifer Tarlin, Grand Forks, ND
Kenzie Carriere, Grand Forks, ND

Lunn suggested that there may be some confusion about incorporating the future of West Elementary School into the Facilities Task Force as they prepare for a referendum and that the public may be thinking this means there will be a public vote on closing the school.

Brenner clarified there is no public vote and the task force would study all facilities and bring a recommendation to the board before the referendum.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Hoffarth to keep West Elementary School open and incorporate West into the overall Facilities Task Force as the district prepares for referendum.

Carpenter said he struggled with West being incorporated into the task force. He said he wanted broader discussion and that not all of the discussion be about West. He thought the concept of small neighborhood schools needed to be discussed because there are neighborhoods that don't have a small neighborhood school, e.g. the Congressional area. He said the board needed to decide if it wanted small neighborhood schools and to define what is meant by small neighborhood schools.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to amend the motion to refer the matter of small neighborhood schools to the Facilities Task Force.

Shabb pointed out that there was nothing in the draft strategic plan about small neighborhood schools. She said the board needed to have a full discussion about all of the schools and not call out a single school.

Mikula talked about treating all facilities on equal footing through the referendum process and the task force to be defining the measuring sticks by which the board will measure the facilities.

Flynn agreed and said the decision tonight is

whether West is kept open or closed and if kept open, West is treated like any other building on equal footing.

Spivey joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

The amendment and original motion were withdrawn.

It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Mikula to keep West Elementary School open. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Strategic Plan Presentation – Dr. Jeff Schatz.

Schatz explained the strategic planning process and gave a high-level overview of the draft strategic plan. He said the plan would not be finalized until after the final accreditation report is received. The accreditation visit will take place in February. The next step after the strategic plan is approved is for the administration to complete an operational plan.

Shabb had questions about common language, the progress monitoring mechanism, indicators of success or metrics for effective teaching. Discussion continued about the strategic plan being a high-level document whereas the specifics of implementing the strategic plan would be found in the operational plan.

Mikula said she had concerns similar to Shabb's about measuring progress in areas other than the High Reliability Schools section. Schatz explained that the amount of specificity to include in the strategic plan is the board's discretion.

Discussion continued on topics that would be included in an operational plan, a long-range financial plan, and long-range facilities plan and their relationship to the strategic plan.

Pre-Referendum and Community Engagement

– Unesco. Tom Weber, a senior business consultant from Unesco, provided an overview of the pre-referendum process that will be used to engage the public at the February 10, 2020,

public forum. He also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of September 2020 and February 2021 referendum dates. A final referendum date will be determined at a future meeting.

Following discussion, the board recessed from 8:42 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Spivey left the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

K-12 PLC Early Release Presentation. Gillach, along with Leslie Bjelde, principal at Ben Franklin Elementary School, Kelly Tannahill, principal at Lewis & Clark Elementary School, Ali Parkinson, principal at Discovery Elementary School, and Dr. Kris Arason, principal at Red River High School, gave a presentation about the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in the district and how the district calendar is being restructured to align PLCs across grades K-12.

Student Board Members Thoreson and Wolfe left the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Consent Agenda. A correction of the effective dates of the resignations that were included in the consent agenda was provided. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Hoffarth to approve the consent agenda as amended as follows: Appointment of Lisa Sinjem (salary \$25,714); Reversal of Open Enrollment; and Resignations of Nichole Martin effective January 22, 2020, and Alana Johnston effective January 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Spivey.

Finance Committee Report – Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2019. Brian Opsahl of Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. presented the audit report to the Finance Committee on December 18, 2019. He reported the audit reports for both Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District #140 and Grand Forks Public School District #1 for the year ended June 30, 2019, received a clean, unmodified opinion on the financial statements. There were no deficiencies and no findings. The Single Audit Report for the federal Impact Aid program, special education, and child nutrition program also received a clean audit with no findings on internal controls. The general fund balance for District No. 1 was approximately

13.9% of general fund expenditures, which is less than the auditor’s recommendation of 15-25% for a healthy fund balance.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the audited financial statements for Grand Forks Public School District #1 and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District #140 for the year ended June 30, 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Spivey.

General Fund Financial Statement. Berge reported for the period of July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019, total general fund revenues were \$48,495,737 and total general fund expenditures were \$43,522,711, resulting in an excess of revenues over expenses of \$4,973,026.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Spivey.

Announcements. A clerical announcement was made by Dr. Brenner.

Board Requests for Future Consideration. None.

School Board Norms - How Did We Do? Manley reported the board did great in following its meeting norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager