

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES  
February 10, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session and held a public forum on Monday, February 10, 2020, at South Middle School 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  
Cynthia Shabb, Voting Member

**Student Board Members Present:**

Riley Thoreson, Non-voting Member

**Board Members Absent:**

Shannon Mikula, Voting Member  
Matt Spivey, 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 (GFEA)  
Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary

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

Audience members who spoke regarding Indigenous Peoples Day were:

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

Courtney Ceroll, Grand Forks, ND  
Courtney Davis Souvannasacd, Grand Forks, ND  
Jane Croeker, Grand Forks, ND  
Aiyana Luke, Grand Forks, ND  
Siobhan Wescott, Grand Forks, ND  
Nicole Redvers, Grand Forks, ND

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to approve the January 21, 2020, minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula and Spivey.

Dr. Brenner explained this topic is for discussion only and that it would be brought before the school board on February 24 with a recommendation from Administration.

**Citizen Comments (non-agenda items).** None.

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

Shabb explained her support for adding Indigenous Peoples Day to the district calendar and announced that she would be absent from the February 24 meeting.

**District Calendar for 2020-2021 Update – Indigenous Peoples Day, Start and End Dates, Blackout Dates, PLC Early Release Days.**

Lunn said that he has not formulated a formal

opinion yet and expressed his concern about other cultures that do not get identified. He said the purpose of the calendar is to identify when children as supposed to go to school and suggested simplifying it by eliminating descriptors for no-school days and then look at what is being taught in the schools about the many cultures in the district.

Hoffarth spoke in support of adding Indigenous Peoples Day to the district calendar and said it made sense to follow what was happening locally.

Palmiscno spoke about the city calendar no longer being only a city calendar. It has become more of a governmental calendar.

Flynn said she was overall in support of adding Indigenous Peoples Day to the district calendar but her hesitation was that the term 'Indigenous' is not one-size-fits-all because not all Native Americans identified with it. She encouraged conversation within the Native American community about what it means to be an indigenous person, why some do not identify with the term, and to educate on other ways to celebrate the Native American culture.

Gillach explained how fatigue affects students in the first week of school following the summer break and a request to consider changing the start and end dates of the already-approved district calendar for the 2020-2021 school year to allow for a less dramatic summer-to-school transition period.

Gillach also explained the proposed 2020-2021 blackout dates are primarily based around grading periods and will allow teachers uninterrupted time after school for conference, report card, and standardized testing preparation.

Discussion on PLC Early Release Days was held at the January 21, 2020, school board meeting.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Shabb to approve the consent agenda as follows: Resignations of Monte Gaukler and Kristy Hanson effective May 29, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Absent:

Mikula and Spivey.

**Early Retirement Applications.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to approve the early retirement applications with a total benefit of \$911,320.85 as follows:

Tracy S. Abentroth (benefit \$103,846.40)  
Keith D. Anderson (benefit \$31,466.80)  
Paul E. Boese (benefit (\$63,720.27)  
Scott E. Bommersbach (benefit \$59,786.92)  
Barbara E. Crocker (benefit \$39,333.50)  
Kristi S. Eckman (benefit \$69,729.05)  
Leanne J. Eylands (benefit \$27,891.62)  
Nancy J. Jorgenson (benefit \$70,800.30)  
Judy L. Korsmo (benefit \$48,810.34)  
Gregory A. Ladouceur (benefit \$65,363.90)  
Kari L. Lindemoen (benefit \$24,578.26)  
Kevin D. Murphy (benefit \$51,379.30)  
Dean C. Opp (benefit \$47,200.20)  
Rhonda C. Sand (benefit \$73,680.10)  
Brad A. Sherwood (benefit \$47,200.20)  
Jennifer J. Straw (benefit \$78,667.00)  
Rebecca M. Trapnell (benefit \$7,866.70)

Discussion took place on employees who have retired and then come back to work. Flynn requested the policy be prioritized for review.

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula and Spivey.

**Announcements.** It was announced that the public forum would begin in a few minutes.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.** Flynn requested prioritizing the review of the early retirement policy.

**School Board Norms - How Did We Do?** No comment.

The school board meeting recessed at 6:47 p.m. and reconvened in a public forum at 7:00 p.m.

**Joint Public Forum Held in Accordance with North Dakota Century Code 15.1-07-26.** A public forum was held jointly with the Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board, which focused on seeking input on resource management and long-term planning.

**Adjournment.** The public forum ended at 9:00 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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Bill Palmiscno, President

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Scott J. Berge, Business Manager