

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL MEETING
February 12, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in special session on Wednesday, February 12, 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
Matt Spivey, Voting Member

Student Board Members Present:

Riley Thoreson, Non-voting Member

Board Members Absent:

Shannon Mikula, 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
Chris Arnold, Director of Buildings and Grounds
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 3:15 p.m.

Cognia Accreditation Exit Review Report. Dr. Nancy Golson, the Lead Evaluator of the Cognia External Review Team, gave an overview of the review that took place across the district over the past few days.

Flynn joined the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Golson explained the process the evaluation team used, what they saw in their observations, and provided highlights of recommendations for improvement. Evaluator Brenda Young participated in the discussion. A comprehensive report will be provided to District Administration in the future.

Student Board Member Thoreson left the

meeting at 3:45 p.m.

The school board meeting recessed at 3:45 p.m. and reconvened at 3:57 p.m.

Berge joined the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Declaration of Emergency Situation for Mold Remediation.

Dr. Brenner and Arnold discussed how the extremely wet fall led to the inspection for mold in the district's schools and the findings to date. All test reports can be found on the district's website. Findings for one of the schools inspected, West Elementary School, indicate extremely high levels of mold in the library and tunnels near two classrooms with one area showing *Stachybotrys* mold, also known as Black mold. It was noted that air quality at the school is within an acceptable range, however, District Administration believes it would be best to

mitigate the mold now, which would result in relocating the West campus to an alternative site.

Thompson reported on work that has been completed to secure an alternate site and that a site would be selected soon.

It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Lunn to declare that an emergency situation exists with regard to mold at all of the district's schools and to allow the district to proceed with remediation as soon as possible.

Discussion continued on the costs for the inspections and remediation and the need to be fiscally responsible.

Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager