

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2020, at Ben Franklin Elementary 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
Shannon Mikula, Voting Member
Matt Spivey, Voting Member

Student Board Members Present:

Oliver Wolfe, Non-voting Member

Board Members Absent:

Cynthia Shabb, Voting Member

Student Board Members Absent:

Riley Thoreson, 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
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 6:05 p.m.

Facility Tour. A tour of the facility was conducted.

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

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Spivey to rescind the action taken on February 10, 2020, to approve the January 21, 2020, minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Hoffarth to approve the January 21, 2020, minutes as corrected. Motion carried

unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020, and February 12, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

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

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Update. Amy Bartsch, Chief Academic Officer, and Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education and Technology, gave an update of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Department, which is in its first year as a merged department.

School Board Election Process Timeline. Berge reported there are five positions on the Grand Forks School Board with terms expiring in June 2020. They are Amber Flynn, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, Cynthia Shabb, and Matt Spivey. Four of the positions are four-year terms and one position is a two-year term. As per the recently approved Joint Powers Agreement with Grand Forks County for Election Services, the school district will participate in the June 9, 2020, state-wide election with Grand Forks County and the City of Grand Forks. The deadline for candidates to file elections forms with the Business Manager is 4:00 p.m. on April 6, 2020.

District Calendar for 2020-2021 – Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Start and End Dates, Blackout Dates, and PLC Early Release Days. The following citizens spoke in support of including Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the district calendar:

- Cindy Jansson, Grand Forks, ND
- Kimberly Forness Wilson, Grand Forks, ND
- Jeb Wilson, Grand Forks, ND
- Donald Warne, East Grand Forks, MN
- Aiyana Luke, Grand Forks, ND
- Will Lovelace, Grand Forks, ND
- Sarah Galbraith, Grand Forks, ND
- Brittney Christy, Grand Forks, ND
- Courtney Davis Souvannasacd, Grand Forks, ND
- Katie Dachtler, Grand Forks, ND
- Maura Ferguson, Grand Forks, ND
- Jane Croeker, Grand Forks, ND
- Avara (illegible), Grand Forks, ND
- Nelenah GreyEyes, Grand Forks, ND
- Destince Williams, Grand Forks, ND
- Eric Burin, Grand Forks, ND
- Unidentified Citizen

Dr. Brenner reported the administration’s recommendation to include Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the school district’s main PDF calendar found on the district’s home webpage.

Wolfe spoke in support of including Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the district calendar.

Mikula spoke about doing more than the minimum standard in the curriculum.

It was moved by Mikula and seconded by Hoffarth to add Indigenous Peoples’ Day to the

calendar as recommended by administration. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

Gillach reiterated the administration’s recommendation to approve the 2020-2021 District Calendar with modified start and end dates of August 26, 2020, for grades K-9 and August 27, 2020, for grades 10-12; 22 elementary blackout days, 14 middle school blackout days, and 16 high school blackout days; and 14 early release days for all school levels.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the 2020-2021 start and end dates, blackout days, and PLC early release days as recommended and to remove the word ‘holiday’ from the school breaks. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

Consent Agenda. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the consent agenda as follows: Appointment of Kim Lloyd (salary \$17,393 (62 days)) effective March 2, 2020, and Resignations of Kathryn Baker, Briana Corneliussen, Mariah Dolan, Jerome Gunderson, and Jeffrey Rasmussen effective May 29, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

General Fund Financial Statement. Berge reported for the period of July 1, 2019, through January 31, 2020, total general fund revenues were \$59,398,281 and total general fund expenditures were \$53,730,967, resulting in an excess of revenues over expenses of \$5,667,314. He reported the General Fund balance has decreased by \$4.5M in the last two years, \$2.8M of which is related to construction expenditures. Revenues increased by 1.2% compared to the budget of 1% but that is not enough to cover the expense growth. Construction expenditures are \$1.8M higher than last year at this same time. He estimates the General Fund balance will be in the \$5-6M range at the end of 2020-2021, which would put the district in a critical range.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Spivey to approve the General Fund Financial Statement for the period July 1, 2019, through January 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

Agreement Between Districts Committee Report – Joint Powers Agreement between District #140 and District #1 for Educational Services. Dr. Brenner reported on the February 5, 2020, meeting of the Agreement Between Districts Committee. Recommended updates to the agreement for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are limited to an update of the dates. The proposed agreement was approved by the Grand Forks Air Force Base School board on February 18, 2020.

It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Lunn to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between District #140 and District #1 for Educational Services for the 2020-2021 fiscal year as recommended. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

Finance Committee Report – Possible Savings Options and Refinancing. Carpenter reported on the February 12, 2020, meeting of the Finance Committee. The committee’s first recommendation is to authorize the business manager to proceed with pursuing possible savings options which could include refinancing existing debt, an annual savings of approximately \$20,000; issuing debt and paying off the District’s special assessments, an overall savings of approximately \$205,000; or a combination of the two, an annual savings of approximately \$30-\$35,000. Berge explained details of this recommendation and said the relative resolutions will be presented at the next school board meeting.

The committee’s second recommendation is to authorize additional funding for construction services and sustainment costs for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve an additional \$650,000 for construction services and \$350,000 for sustainment costs for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Shabb.

Announcements. Wolfe was congratulated on his academic achievements.

Gillach announced the District is co-hosting a mental health collaborative on March 7 and invited board members to attend.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.
None.

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

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager