

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 9, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 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 (via phone)  
Matt Spivey, Voting Member

**Student Board Members Present:**

Riley Thoreson, Non-voting Member

**Board Members Absent:**

None

**Student Board Members Absent:**

Oliver Wolfe, Non-voting Member

**Others Present:**

Tom Weber, Senior Business Consultant, SitelogIQ (via phone)  
Gavin Benson, Senior Business Consultant, SitelogIQ (in audience)  
Sarah Shimek, Character Education and Prevention Coordinator  
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.

the February 24, 2020, minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**Celebrating Success.** Terry Bohan, Community High School Principal, Kevin Phelps, Career Resource Educator, and Phil Kramer, Vice President of Operations at Lunseth Plumbing & Heating, spoke about Career Fairs that are held at Community High School and the follow up that happens thereafter.

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

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

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

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Manley to approve

**Facilities Taskforce Update.** Weber reported on the process to populate the Taskforce. Discussion continued about the elimination and confirmation process, diversity, community perceptions, and focus groups. Weber reported that all meetings of the Taskforce are open to the public to observe and hear the conversation and see any presentations. The audience does not participate. Meetings will also be video recorded

and uploaded on the school district's website. Handouts will also be uploaded on the website.

**Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2019 Results.**

Sarah Shimek, Character Education and Prevention Coordinator, reported on the results of the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The discussion continued on the filtering and dissemination of information to parents. Thoreson said it was important to share district-specific results so that it is relatable to students and suggested it be shared in health class or at an assembly.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda as follows: Appointment of Brooke Abernathy (salary \$44,358), Jessica Lancaster (salary \$45,822), Janie Sipe (salary \$44,358), and Sophie Woinarowicz (salary \$43,232) effective August 18, 2020, Open Enrollment Applications as presented, and Resignations of Katelyn Cavalli, Amy Geinert, Ashley Lackner, and Constance Peck effective May 29, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Mikula left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

**Resolution Providing for Public Sale of up to \$955,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A.**

Berge explained special assessments through the city have various interest rates. The public sale of the bonds will result in a lower interest rate, although the rate is yet to be determined, for a minimum savings of about \$200,000. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Spivey to adopt the following resolutions: 1) Initial Resolution for General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A, 2) Resolution Providing for Participation in School Bond Credit Enhancement Program, and 3) Resolution Providing for Public Sale of up to \$955,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A, and to approve the Notice of Bond Sale. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula.

**Resolution Providing for Public Sale of \$2,735,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B.** Berge explained this will refund the 2013A bond issue which is currently at 4.5% for an estimated interest savings of

\$260,000. It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Carpenter to adopt the following resolutions: 1) Resolution Providing for Participation in School Bond Credit Enhancement Program and 2) Resolution Providing for Public Sale of \$2,735,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B, and to approve the Notice of Bond Sale. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula.

**Facilities Core Planning Team Appointments.**

President Palmiscno reported on his request to appoint Board Members Flynn and Carpenter to the Facilities Core Planning Team. It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Lunn to appoint Amber Flynn and Doug Carpenter to the Facilities Core Planning Team. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula.

**Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report.**

• **Superintendent's March Evaluation.**

Palmiscno reported on the February 25, 2020, meeting of the Superintendent Evaluation Committee. Although the meeting did not have a quorum and no official action could be taken, committee members reviewed input that was provided by 8 of 14 board members and reached consensus to draft the final evaluation document with a satisfactory rating in all domains (Board Relations, Goal and Vision Setting, Curriculum and Student Support Services, Human Resource Management, Community Relations, and Operations and Resource Management) and forward it to the school board with a recommendation for approval.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the Superintendent's March Evaluation as satisfactory in all areas. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula.

• **Superintendent's Contract Extension.**

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to approve the superintendent's contract extension to three years starting July 1, 2020, and ending on June 30, 2023. It was pointed out that at the superintendent's request, the salary would remain frozen through the fiscal year 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Mikula.

**Announcements.** None.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.**

Hoffarth requested a report from the district's addiction counselor and on bullying as it comes up in its rotation.

**School Board Norms - How Did We Do?** Flynn

reported the board did great in following its meeting norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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

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Bill Palmiscno, President

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Scott J. Berge, Business Manager