

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 11, 2020**

NOTE: Per Governor Doug Burgum's executive order, all North Dakota school districts, including Grand Forks Public Schools, are closed until further notice. This is a precautionary measure against the transmission of COVID-19. This meeting was held via Zoom.

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2020, 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  
Melissa Buchhop, Vice President, Grand Forks Education Association  
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.

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

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

**Graduation Planning Update.** Participating in this discussion with the board were Dr. Brenner, Gillach, Dr. Kris Arason, Red River High School Principal, Jon Strandell, Grand Forks Central High School Principal, Terry Bohan, Community High School, Dr. Joel Walz, Grand Forks Public Health Officer, and Debbie Swanson, Grand Forks Public health Department Director. The discussion began with Dr. Brenner's explanation that graduation is a district-sponsored event and as such, there is a risk to it, which to that end, the district will seek an opinion from its legal counsel relative to having a liability waiver for the events. Gillach explained that safety was a

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Lunn to approve the minutes of April 28, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

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

Hoffarth joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

top priority in the planning as well as family inclusion. Each high school principal discussed their preliminary plans for a memorable ceremony to celebrate the graduates within the confines of guidelines for social distancing. Details still needed to be worked out. Mikula suggested some type of memento be put together. Wolfe and Thoreson spoke in support of the planning.

**West Elementary School Plan 2020-2021.** Dr. Brenner explained the administration's efforts to complete planning for West Elementary School's 2020-2021 school year. Thompson said the district will continue to use Discovery Elementary School as West's home school for next year. He discussed school choice and bussing plans for students, staffing, scheduling, and potential plans should there be a limitation on face-to-face learning. Ali Parkinson, Discovery's principal, and Elisa Diederich, West's principal designee, spoke about scheduling and school assemblies. Chris Arnold, Director of Buildings and Grounds, gave an update on the mold and radon mitigation at West.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Shabb to approve the consent agenda as follows: Appointment of Erin Cummings (salary \$47,174), Hilary Kujawa (salary \$43,232), and Lucas Moldenhauer (salary \$45,597) effective August 18, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

**Summer School Program.** Thompson introduced this topic and said that the governor may allow face-to-face summer school so district administration may have to reconsider their options.

Kevin Ohnstad, Elementary Summer School Director, recommended remedial math be canceled due to timing and to have remedial reading and Intro to K for three weeks beginning July 27. This will meet the State's minimum requirement. He said he did not support the distance learning model for elementary summer school and that the recommendation presumed classes could be face-to-face.

Mike Wilber, Secondary Summer School Director, reported that middle school summer school will be offered July 27-August 14 with courses in math and reading. Teachers have been asked to prepare for both in-class and

remote learning because State guidelines may be changing. The high school summer school will be offered June 1-July 7 with all courses delivered online.

Dean Opp, Summer Performing Arts (SPA) Director, informed the board that SPA 2020 has been put on hiatus. If the current restrictions for social distancing are changed, there may be something that could be put together on short notice.

Terry Bohan, Driver Education Director, recommended the course be changed to a two-tier course by removing the simulated driving experience and offer only the classroom instruction and Behind-the-Wheel. Classroom instruction could be distance or remote learning. He recommended the session dates for which students have registered are upheld.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Hoffarth to approve the summer school program for 2020 as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Renewal of School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement for 2020-2021.** Gillach reported a change in the agreement from last year to increase the contracted amount by approximately \$10,000 which reflected an increase in officer salary and health insurance as a result of a market comparison study.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Carpenter to approve the School Resource Officer Agreement for 2020-2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**South Middle School Title I School-wide Application.** Thompson explained that South Middle School has reached the level for free and reduced meals to become a Title I School-side program.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Shabb to approve the South Middle School Title I School-wide plan. Motion carried unanimously.

**Employee Compensation through June 30, 2020.** Berge explained the administration's recommendation to continue paying all regularly scheduled hours.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by

Hoffarth to approve the recommendation to pay school district employees their regular scheduled hours from May 15 through June 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of Human Resources Director.**

Dr. Brenner explained the interview process and recommendation of Ms. Linsey Rood for the position of Human Resources Director effective July 1, 2020. He reported that Ms. Rood will be available to do some compensated transition work with the current director during the last few days in June.

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Manley to appoint Ms. Linsey Rood as Human Resources Director with a salary of \$107,727 effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

**Policy Review Committee Report: First and Second Readings and Rescinding of Policies.**

Shabb reported on the April 29, 2020, Policy Review Committee meeting and continuation of its work toward the adoption of the NDSBA policy templates.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Hoffarth to complete the second reading as written of Policy AAC-Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, Policy ABBE-Displays of Religious Objects or Documents, Policy ABCE-Prohibition on Aiding Sexual Abuse, Policy ABDA-Website Accessibility Policy, Policy FDB-Education of the Homeless Student, Policy FDE-Education of Special Education/Disabled Students, Policy FDH-Students in Foster Care, Policy GABAA-English Learners, Policy GACB-Patriotic Exercises, and Policy HBAA-Federal Fiscal Compliance and adopt each one as an official policy of the district. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to complete the first reading as written and adoption of Board Regulation FDB-BR-Education of the Homeless Student Dispute Resolution Procedure. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Lunn to rescind Policy 4660-Sexual Harassment, Policy 4661-Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability, Policy 4662-Compliance with Non-Discrimination Statutes, Policy 4663-Compliance with Non-Discrimination Statutes – Grievance

Procedure, Policy 5660-Sexual Harassment, Policy 5662-Compliance with Non-Discrimination Statutes, Policy 5160-Education of the Homeless Student and Dispute Resolution Policy, Policy 5161-Students in Foster Care, and Policy 6110-Education Services to Limited English Students. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Flynn to complete the first reading as written of Policy AACA-Section 504 Dispute Resolution Policy, Policy FCAF-Concussion Management, Policy FFB-Attendance & Absences, Policy FFD-Carrying Weapons, Policy GCC-Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment & Third-Party Research on Students, and Policy IDC-Data Protection & Security Breaches. Motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements.** Carpenter reminded board members to complete the School Board Self-Assessment instrument.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.**

Mikula requested information about the district's long-term strategy to deal with the State's financial situation in light of the downturn of the Bakken's oil production and its possible effect on the referendum.

**School Board Norms - How Did We Do?** Flynn reported the board did a good job of following its norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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

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Bill Palmiscno, President

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Scott J. Berge, Business Manager