

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, June 8, 2020, with Bill Palmiscno presiding. As a precautionary measure against the transmission of COVID-19, this meeting was held via Zoom.

Board Members Present: Bill Palmiscno, Amber Flynn, Doug Carpenter, Jacqueline Hoffarth, Eric Lunn, Jeff Manley, Shannon Mikula, Cynthia Shabb, and Matt Spivey. **Absent:** None.

Student Board Members Present: Riley Thoreson. **Absent:** Oliver Wolfe.

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; and Cindy Johnson, Executive Secretary.

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

Approval of Agenda. The agenda was amended to add "Central High School Emails" and "West School Kindergarten Update" as discussion items. It was moved Shabb and seconded by Carpenter to add the discussion topics and approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Flynn.

Approval of Minutes. It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to approve the minutes of May 26, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Flynn.

Citizen Comments (non-agenda items). None.

Review School Board Norms. Spivey read the school board norms.

Flynn joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Central High School Emails. Dr. Brenner read a prepared statement about racist and threatening statements that were made via social media by some District students. He announced plans to commission a committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion that will include members of the community and District staff and students and to the addition of mandatory courses at various

grade levels to promote a deeper understanding of social injustice issues.

West School Kindergarten Update. Thompson gave an update on why the decision was made to not have a kindergarten class at West Elementary School in 2020-2021.

Arlene O'Halloran, a first grade teacher at West, shared comments she heard from two to three parents.

Facilities Taskforce Update. Tom Weber, senior business consultant, SitelogIQ, gave an update on the work of the taskforce and its timeline. He said they were running about four to six weeks behind due to COVID and working in a virtual environment but they do have the ability to make some of that time up. He anticipates submitting a final report to the board sometime between mid-October and early November. The Taskforce will take a break for a few weeks around July 4th.

Recognition of Board Member. Spivey was recognized for his service to the district as a board member and to the country as a national guardsman.

Recognition of Student Board Members. Thoreson and Wolfe were recognized for their

service to the district as student board members.

Consent Agenda. It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda as follows: Appointments of Taylor Burris (salary \$43,232), Heather Chatham (salary \$51,114), Tawni Murphy (salary \$53,084), and Ellen Nowatzki (salary \$51,114) effective August 18, 2020; and Resignation of Taylor Ray effective May 29, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Award Bid for \$995,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A. Berge reported three bids were received today and recommended Northland Securities with a rate of 1.45% is awarded the bid. Interest savings over the next 15 years or so is estimated to be \$341,958.

It was moved by Spivey and seconded by Carpenter to award the bid for the \$995,000 General Obligation Special Assessment Prepayment Bonds, Series 2020A, to Northland Securities. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Providing for Public Sale of \$2,770,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B. Berge reported seven bids were received today and recommended First Bankers Bank Security out of St. Louis with an overall average rate of 1.71% is awarded the bid. Interest savings over the next 14-15 years is estimated to be \$359,348.

It was moved by Shabb and seconded by Manley to award the bid for the \$2,770,000 Taxable Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2020B, to First Bankers Bank Security. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Review Committee Report: First and Second Readings and Rescinding of Policies. Shabb reported on the May 26, 2020, Policy Review Committee meeting and continuation of its work toward the adoption of the NDSBA policy templates.

In light of the Central High School emails, Shabb recommended postponing action on proposed Policy FF-Student Conduct & Discipline to allow the administration to further review.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to complete the second reading as written and adoption as the official policy of the district of Policy ACBB – Significant Contagious Diseases, Policy ACDA – Acceptable Use, Policy DBBA – Drug and Alcohol Testing Program for Employees, Policy DEAA – Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace, Policy FDD – Education of Pregnant and Parenting Students, and FFK - Suspension & Expulsion. Discussion continued about whether to postpone action on Policy FFK to allow the administration further review. The motion and second were amended to postpone action on Policy FFK – Suspension & Expulsion. Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Spivey to complete the second reading as written and adoption as the official policy of the district effective the 2020-2021 fiscal year of Policy BDD – Compensation for School Board Members. Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Aye: Carpenter, Flynn, Hoffarth, Lunn, Manley, Shabb, and Spivey. Nay: Mikula and Palmiscno. Absent: None.

Shabb reported action on rescinding Policy 5350 is postponed.

It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Manley to rescind Policy 4107 - Significant Contagious Diseases, Policy 5650 – Significant Contagious Diseases, Policy 7020 Drug Free Workplace, and Policy 8330 – Compensation for School Board Members. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Manley to complete the first reading as written of Policy FFA – Student Alcohol & Other Drug Use/Abuse, Policy FGA – Student Education Records and Privacy, Policy FGDD – Student Publications & Freedom of Expression, Policy GABDB – Title Programs Dispute Resolution Procedure, and Policy IB – Food Services Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements. Palmiscno asked if the board was close to holding face-to-face meetings in July. Lunn said the district should follow the State and CDC guidelines and pointed out that board meetings also include administrators and

the public.

Board Requests for Future Consideration.

Flynn requested an update at the next meeting about the committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion that is being formed.

School Board Norms - How Did We Do?

Spivey reported the board did well in following its norms.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Approved _____
(Date)

Bill Palmiscno, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager