

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD  
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 10, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2020, with Amber Flynn presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Doug Carpenter, Chris Douthit, Amber Flynn, Jacqueline Hoffarth, Eric Lunn, Bill Palmiscno, and Cynthia Shabb. **Absent:** Jeff Manley and Shannon Mikula.

**Student Board Members Present:** 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, President, Grand Forks Education Association; and 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.

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

**Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Hoffarth to approve the minutes of July 13, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

It was moved by Douthit and seconded by Shabb to approve the minutes of July 28, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Carpenter to approve the minute of August 3, 2020, as written. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

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

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

**School Reopening Update.** An update was given on the school smart reopening plans. Discussion continued on a variety of topics including the parent and staff surveys, the district's online learning academy (Edmentum),

bussing, space issues at some of the campuses, travel, the number of active COVID cases in the county and other data, the delivery of education, what a typical school day will look like, contingency planning, communications, mental health, sick leave, and knowing that the plans will need to be flexible. Participating in the conversation were Shawn McBride, Field Epidemiologist for the North Dakota State Health Department; Theresa Knox, Nursing and Nutrition Supervisor at Grand Forks Public Health; Ashlee Nelson, Lead for Contact Tracing Team at Grand Forks Public Health; and Linsey Rood, GFPS Human Resources Director.

**Consent Agenda.** It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda as follows: Teacher Appointments effective August 18, 2020, of Wendi Ghassemi (salary \$50,720), Britni Hart (salary \$44,022), Lorina Limarii (salary \$43,232), Ryan Marshall (salary \$25,467), Sydney Novotak (salary \$42,445), Macy Quinton (salary \$42,445), Lane Stoltz (salary \$47,174), and Lindsay VonRuden (salary \$44,022); Open Enrollment applications as presented; and Resignations effective May 29, 2020, of Christie Aleshire and Amanda Bosman. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

**School Board Committee Appointments for 2020-2021.** It was moved by Hoffarth and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the school

board committee appointments and liaison assignments for 2020-2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

**Athletics Smart Reopening Plan.** Brenner and Athletic Director Mark Rerick gave an update on the athletics smart reopening plan. Discussion continued on a variety of topics including the athlete's code of conduct, fan attendance, travel, transition time and clustering of students, bussing, capacity at games, enforcement of social distancing rules, and the wearing of facemasks.

It was moved by Lunn and seconded by Palmiscno to approve the athletics smart reopening plan as outlined. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

**Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy for FY2020-2021.** Berge gave a detailed overview of the preliminary budget and tax levy for the fiscal year 2020-2021, which calls for a total levy of 101 mills. This levy includes 70 mills for the general fund, 12 mills for miscellaneous, 4 mills for tuition, 3 mills for a special reserve fund, 10 mills for the building fund, and 2 mills for special assessments. State law requires school district taxes to be levied on or before August 10. The law allows the district to amend its tax levy and budget on or before October 10. State law also requires that a preliminary budget statement and the date, time, and location of the District's public hearing on the property tax levy, which may be no earlier than September 7, be provided to the county auditor on or before August 10. The public hearing is planned for Monday, September 28, 2020. It was moved by Carpenter and seconded by Douthit to approve the preliminary budget and tax levy of 101 mills for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and to establish that the school board will conduct a public hearing on the 2020 property tax levy during its meeting on Monday, September 28, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Mark Sanford Education Center. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Manley and Mikula.

**Announcements.** The following announcements were made:

- Voluntary COVID testing is available on Friday at the UND High Performance Center.
- The Facilities Taskforce will meet on Thursday with tours of Schroeder Middle School and Viking Elementary School.
- Dr. Brenner will be participating in a Q&A with Inform Communications tomorrow.
- Board members were asked to hold August 17 for a possible special meeting.

**Board Requests for Future Consideration.**  
None.

**School Board Norms - How Did We Do?**  
Douthit reported that the board did rather well in following its norms.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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Amber Flynn, President

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Scott J. Berge, Business Manager