

**GRAND FORKS SCHOOL BOARD
GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 17, 2020**

The Grand Forks School Board met in special session on Monday, August 17, 2020, with Amber Flynn presiding.

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

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.

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

School Reopening Update. Dr. Brenner reported there has been a change in the education delivery model for students in grades 9-12. Gillach explained that the original plan was based on calculated space and preliminary enrollment numbers. Using actual enrollment numbers and reviewing the master schedule, district administration realized there are too many students/classes that still need to move and not enough classrooms available to accomplish that. As a result, district administration determined it is necessary to use a hybrid model to deliver education at Red River and Grand Forks Central high schools. Students will be divided into two groups. Each group will alternate attending school in person while the other group is at home engaged in asynchronous distance learning every other day.

Jon Strandell, Grand Forks Central High School Principal, and Dr. Kris Arason, Red River High School Principal, spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of the hybrid model and how it would work at their respective school. Buchhop spoke about the hybrid model from the teachers' perspective and reported that while there were some concerns about workload, overall the teachers were positive. Linsey Rood, Human Resources Director, spoke on staffing issues.

Discussion continued on a variety of topics including:

- The hybrid model will not be implemented at Community High School because they operate with a different model normally.
- The hybrid model will help prepare students for future post-secondary education because many colleges are already doing distance learning more.
- Communicating social distancing and facemask requirements to families.
- Accommodations for students with special situations/needs.
- Extracurricular activities will still be offered daily.
- Transportation for extracurricular activities is being explored.
- Teacher assignments.
- School supplies.
- The hybrid model will not be implemented in the middle schools.
- Entrance/exit signage.
- Procedures for special classes such as music, Spanish, and physical education.

Hoffarth left the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Discussion continued on a variety of additional topics including:

- Whether to mandate wearing a facemask all of the time.
- Sanitizing locker rooms.
- Personal hygiene practices.
- Tracking COVID data.
- Accommodations for staff based on a health concern.
- Communicating expectations to substitutes, substitute training, and access through Teachers On Call platform.
- Donation leave bank.
- Maintaining flexibility and adaptability during changing times.

It was moved by Palmiscno and seconded by Douthit to approve moving to the high school hybrid model as outlined. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: Hoffarth.

Announcements regarding upcoming testing opportunities and teachers who were honored at the state level were made.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

Amber Flynn, President

Scott J. Berge, Business Manager