



Grand Rapids Area Schools

Regular Meeting of the School Board

Monday, August 11, 2025

6:00 p.m. Open Forum & Work Session

6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

District Educational Services Center ~ Boardroom

650 SW 7th Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Remote access is available from the [Board of Education page](#) of the Grand Rapids Area Schools website.

Open Forum / Work Session

Those wishing to address the school board during Open Forum must attend in-person.

1. Teaching & Learning: Curriculum Indicator Report

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of agenda
4. **EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES**
 - a. Approve 2024/25 - 2025/26 Local Literacy Plan

5. **BELONGING**

6. **EQUITABLE EDUCATION**

- a. Principal Report - East Rapids Elementary

7. **STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES**

- a. Approve minutes of 7/14/25 regular meeting minutes
- b. Approve the following retirements:
 - i. Diana Bishop, ESP
- c. Approve Consent Agenda

All matters listed under the consent agenda are staffing-related or considered routine and do not require discussion. These items will be acted upon together in one motion. If discussion is desired on a particular item, it will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately by the Board.

- i. Elizabeth Blackburn, ESP replacement hire
- ii. James Bujold, Nordic Ski Coach replacement hire
- iii. Jon Bylkas, Food & Nutrition replacement hire
- iv. Ryan Christianson, Special Education Teacher replacement hire
- v. Wyatt Dietrich, Bigfork Football Coach resignation
- vi. Carrie Dunham, ESP replacement hire
- vii. Kerri Haas, ESP replacement hire
- viii. Kaitlyn Kessler, ESP replacement hire
- ix. Amber Kongsjord, Teacher replacement hire
- x. Charles LaPlant, Bus Driver resignation
- xi. Charity Ostby, ESP replacement hire
- xii. Kyle Rae, Routing Specialist resignation
- xiii. Sybil Ruder, Teacher replacement hire
- xiv. Jordan Sawatzky, ESP replacement hire
- xv. Jessica Stoltz, ESP replacement hire
- xvi. Mandi Theilmann, ESP replacement hire
- xvii. Madilynn Thomsen, ESP replacement hire

- xviii. Jessica Tunbridge, Special Education Teacher replacement hire
- xix. Christopher Weddle, Bigfork Football Coach resignation
- xx. Zachary Willson, Bus Driver resignation
- d. Approve 2025-26 Grand Rapids Area Schools handbooks - Mark
 - i. Bigfork High School
 - ii. Digital Student Learning Initiative
 - iii. EARLY EDge Parent Handbook
 - iv. Education Support Paraprofessionals (ESP)
 - v. Elementary Schools
 - vi. Grand Rapids Area Learning Center
 - vii. Grand Rapids High School
 - viii. Grand Rapids Area Schools Coach & Advisor
 - ix. Grand Rapids Area Schools Employees
 - x. Itaskin Education Center
 - xi. Robert J. Elkington Middle School

8. PARTNERSHIPS

- a. Approve 2025-26 Athletic Training Services Agreement with Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
- b. Board Reports
- c. Superintendent Report

9. COMMUNICATION

- a. Meeting Announcements

DESC = District Educational Services Center

- i. Facilities Steering Committee 8/18/25 4:00 p.m. DESC Conf Room 196
- ii. School Board Work Session 8/18/25 5:00 p.m. DESC Boardroom
- iii. Reif Board 8/19/25 12:00 p.m. Reif Theater Classroom
- iv. IASC Board 8/19/25 5:00 p.m. Zoom
- v. Policy Review Committee 8/21/25 10:00 a.m. DESC Conf Room 196
- vi. School Board Open Forum 8/25/25 6:00 p.m. DESC Boardroom
- vii. School Board Regular Meeting 8/25/25 6:30 p.m. DESC Boardroom

10. Other Business

11. Public Input: *Those wishing to address the school board during Public Input must attend in-person. All individual comments shall be less than 5 minutes. Any group of five or more persons must appoint one person to present the group's views to the Board. Depending on the number of persons present, the school board chair reserves the right to set further time limits to allow participation within the allocated time. The Board shall not allow negative comments in public sessions about individual employees or students. Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any issue that is not included on the agenda posted with the notice of the meeting. If there are more requests than time available priority will be given to persons that reside within the Grand Rapids Area Schools school district.*

12. Adjournment