

**Meeting Minutes:** Governance Committee

**Date/Time:** May 27, 2021/7:30 a.m.

**Location:** Board Room

**Start:** 7:30 a.m.

**End:** 8:51 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Nikkie Gullickson, Rebecca Knutson, Jim Johnson, Robin Nelson, David Paulson

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Non-Committee Members Present:** Jennifer Benson

**Staff Members Present:** Doug Andring, Missy Eidsness, Rupak Gandhi, Jackie Gapp, Robert Grosz

**Recorder:** AnnMarie Campbell

**Guest:** Cristie Jacobsen (Fargo Police Department)

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
<b>Approval of May 5 Minutes</b>	Robin Nelson said the minutes of the May 5 are an accurate reflection of the meeting. However, she wanted It was noted that the HB1349 had an emergency clause that allows for virtual meetings currently for public entities. The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the May 5 meeting.	The minutes will be posted on the Board’s section of the public website.
<b>SRO Liaison to the School Board</b>	Sergeant Cristie Jacobsen of the Fargo Police Department joined the meeting; she oversees the community engagement team for the department, including the School Resource Officers (SRO). The team serves the department with outreach education and community engagement, focusing on at-risk youth. She shared the police department has a liaison officer to the Human Relations Commission and Native American Commission, while also having officers at City Commission meetings. Currently, the team has a strong relationship with school administration in the buildings, and with the District’s social workers. They are looking to deepen the relationship with District Office personnel and the School Board. She offered to serve as a liaison to the School Board, offering safety information and data as requested and third-party perspective. The relationship could be shaped per the desire of the Board. Discussion occurred. Sergeant Jacobsen shared information on the educational diversion program facilitated by the police department. Additional information on roles of the police department in the community was shared, including the suicide prevention video that was recently developed for the schools’ and community’s use. The police department also offers free mentor programs and outdoor summer programs for at-risk youth. Board member Robin Nelson is currently the chair of the police department’s Badges of Unity Board; she also shared information. Discussion occurred about possible updates on the SRO program to the Board and how to deepen the connection of the police department and SROs to the Board. Consensus was reached to expand the relationship between the Board and the police department, and that an update presentation be provided to the Board at an August Board meeting. It was also suggested that SROs be invited to the annual summer staff appreciation picnic.	Consensus was reached to expand the Board-SRO relationship, have 2-3 presentation updates per year at Board meetings, and invite SROs to the summer picnic.
<b>GP-12: Addressing Board Violations - #2</b>	Board member Jennifer Benson joined the meeting for GP-12: Addressing Board Violations, policy point 2, which states: <i>discussion with the offending member at a Governance Committee meeting regarding the specifics of the violation(s)</i> . Chair Knutson distributed printed handouts for the agenda item, including information from Amy DeKok, legal counsel at NDSBA, and an email exchange between Ms. Knutson and Ms. Benson on the topic of Ms. Benson’s noncompliance of wearing a face mask at Board meetings; currently, there is a requirement of wearing a face mask on FPS property due to COVID-19. Time was granted for meeting participants to read the information. Chair Knutson shared background	

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	<p>and documentation on the Board member violation per GP-12. On May 4, per GP-12, policy point 1 (<i>conversation in a private setting between the offending member and the Board president or other individual member</i>), Ms. Knutson had a discussion with Ms. Benson about items that occurred at the April 27 Board meeting, including not wearing a mask and reactions during the recognition of audience item of the agenda. If wearing a mask was an issue, Ms. Knutson offered for Ms. Benson to join meetings via the phone or to file documentation with the Human Resources Department for a mask exemption. Ms. Knutson shared that Ms. Benson elected to do neither, as Ms. Benson indicated phoning into a meeting would not allow her to fully participate in a meeting (not able to participate in executive sessions per Board processes) and that she would not file paperwork. As such, Ms. Knutson shared the next step of the GP-12 would need to occur, which was scheduled this Governance Committee meeting. Ms. Knutson shared that since Ms. Benson has indicated she is not interested in complying with the District’s requirements, she would be in violation of GP-10: Board Member Covenants, specifically policy point 6, which states: <i>Accordingly, members will respect decisions of the full board.</i> Chair Knutson provided a time for Ms. Benson to address the Governance Committee. Ms. Benson shared that it is not of lack of interest in her part in terms of compliance and that she has been told that Board members are not fearing that she is not wearing a mask, but that people want to know why. Ms. Benson said she has shared with the Board President that Board members are demanding medical documentation for her not wearing a mask and that it is against the law to do so, citing ADA law. She said she is not an employee of the district and therefore employee policies do not apply to her as a Board member. She said the Governance Committee meeting on May 5 was spent on ways to demand people to comply with the District’s mask mandate or to exclude her and members of the community from Board meetings, versus finding a way to accommodate, like using South High School, for a Board meeting. She believes this is about control. She also shared that a policy violation occurred at the last Governance Committee meeting when a committee member threatened to have her leave a meeting if she is not wearing a mask. She asked to know why the committee didn’t consider moving the Board meeting to South. She shared she believes when North Dakota removed the statewide mask mandate that FPS should have moved to having masks as a recommendation versus a requirement. She shared she believes the school district is infringing on people’s rights, and breeding fear and cynicism. Chair Knutson opened the discussion to Governance Committee members to share their thoughts or have discussion on the topic. Discussion occurred on the policy violation and possible next steps. It was noted that a violation of GP-10, policy point 16, has also possibly occurred, which states: <i>Accordingly, members will make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive image of the district and one another.</i> Ms. Benson stated that the Board President should consider a policy violation from the May 5 Governance Committee meeting of threatening behavior of a Board member. Consensus was reached to move the conversation to the full Board per GP-12, policy point 3, which states: <i>discussion in a public meeting between the offending member and the full Board.</i> The topic will be added to the June 8 meeting agenda as a business item.</p>	<p>Consensus was reached to move the conversation to the full Board per GP-12, policy point 3, and add the topic to the June 8 Board meeting.</p>

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<p><b>Agenda Planning for June Meeting</b></p>	<p><b><i>Refer to Agenda planner for Second Quarter 2021</i></b>  Discussion occurred on the topics needed to be included at the June meeting. The agenda topics were set as follows:</p> <p><u>June 8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports: Marzano Evaluation System Reports, Grant Revenues &amp; Opportunities Report, FEA Report, Superintendent Report</li> <li>• Consent: EL-8: Financial Administration Monitoring Report, EL-9: Asset Protection Monitoring Report, Award of Bid – Lincoln Elementary Library Furniture, Award of Bid – Printer Center Booklet Maker, Award of Bid – South High Stadium Lighting Retrofit, Award of Bid – Explorer Academy Educational Furniture, Award of Bid – Nutrition Services-Fresh Bread, Award of Bid – Nutrition Services-Disposable Wares</li> <li>• Business: Assignment of Canvassing Committee, GP-7: Committee Structure Monitoring, ESSER II Application, Health Insurance Premium Recommendation, Explorer Academy Plant ID, GP-12: Board Member Violation</li> <li>• Board Reports: none at this time</li> <li>• Possible executive session for nonrenewal of teacher contracts</li> </ul> <p>Per the request of administration and consensus of the Governance Committee at a previous committee meeting, there will be only one meeting in June 2021. This request was only for 2021 due to impacts of COVID-19. Two meetings in June will be held in future years.</p> <p>It was noted the preliminary budget for 2021-22 will be brought to the July 13 Board meeting. It was also noted that Robin Nelson’s request to the Governance Committee to place the topic of a mask requirement on an upcoming agenda is no longer needed due to Board action at the May 11 Board meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Audio/Video recordings</b>  <b>A. Work session</b>  <b>B. Committee meetings</b></p>	<p>Chair Knutson indicated a constituent reached out to ask the committee consider committee meeting and work session recordings. Currently, Board meetings are livestreamed via You Tube and the video recordings are available online. Committee meetings are audio recorded; audio recordings are available upon request by the public. Discussion occurred on if any changes were warranted in current practice. It was noted that cost could be a factor if a change were made to video committee meetings and work sessions. Consensus was reached that audio recordings will be posted on the board’s page of the website starting with the Board’s reorganization for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.</p>	
<p>Discussion occurred on the committee’s next meeting date of June 24. Dr. Gandhi will not be in town on that date. Consensus was reached to hold the next Governance Committee meeting on June 10. It was noted that AnnMarie Campbell will be out of town on this date.  <b><i>The next meeting will be held June 10 at 7:30 a.m.</i></b></p>		