



Griffin Gillespie, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Grand Forks School Board
FROM: Griffin Gillespie, Human Resources Director
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda: Administrator Retirement
DATE: September 28, 2026

GG

Please find attached a notice of retirement effective June 30, 2027, from the following:

Dr. Terry Brenner Superintendent of Schools

MSEC

Administrative recommendation is to accept the resignation effective June 30, 2027.

Attachments

GG/cj



Mark Sanford Education Center
2400 47th Ave. S
Grand Forks, ND 58201-3405



PO Box 6000
Grand Forks, ND 58206-6000



www.gfschools.org

Equal opportunity employer

Grand Forks School District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or other status protected by law. The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by federal law.



Dr. Terry Brenner
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 701.787.4880
Fax: 701.772.7739
tbrenner270@mygfschools.org

September 28, 2026

Dear Grand Forks & Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board Members:

After forty-four years in public education—thirty-seven of those years in leadership—I have reached one of the most difficult and reflective decisions of my professional life. Effective June 30, 2027, I will retire from the Grand Forks Public School District and Grand Forks Air Force Base School District. While I am contracted solely by District 1, it is important for me to acknowledge my responsibilities to District 140. As important, this announcement early in the academic year will give the Board ample time to consider its steps in a superintendent search.

For the past nine years, I have had the extraordinary privilege of serving as Superintendent of Schools for both districts. But my story with these school communities began much earlier. Since arriving in Grand Forks in 1995, I have had the opportunity to serve as a principal, director, and superintendent. In each of those roles, I have been surrounded by people who challenged, supported, and believed in my leadership, and ultimately made me a better educator.

Thirty-one years is a career in and of itself. When I think about all that has happened since I first walked through the doors of both school districts, I realize that I am not simply leaving a job. I am closing a chapter of my life that has shaped, in part, who I am.

With many of you, I have watched students grow into young adults. We have celebrated graduations, accomplishments, new schools, new programs, championships and countless individual successes that never made the media but meant everything to the people involved. I have also stood beside students, families, and staff during some of the most difficult moments imaginable. Through all of it, I have been reminded that the heart of education is not buildings or programs. It is people. And it is the people I will miss most.

I will miss walking through our schools and hearing the energy of students in the hallways. I will miss the echoes of “Hi, Tate’s dad” at Red River High School. I will miss conversations with teachers and principals who care deeply about their craft and their students. I will miss the laughter, the difficult conversations, the unexpected phone calls, the celebrations, and even the problems that seemed impossible to solve.



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The Grand Forks and Grand Forks Air Force Base school communities have given me something that cannot be measured on a résumé. They have given me the opportunity to lead, to infinitely care, and to cultivate relationships that are important and remarkably memorable.

To the students I have had the privilege of serving: you have been the reason for all of it. You have taught me lessons that no leadership book ever could.

To the teachers and support staff: your dedication is the reason our schools are strong. You show up every day for children, often in ways that few people ever see. I hope you know how much that matters.

To the principals, directors, administrators, and school board members with whom I have worked: thank you for sharing the responsibility of leading our schools and for making the difficult work worthwhile.

I have often said that education is not simply a career; it is a calling, a vocation. For forty-four years, I have been fortunate to live that vocation. I will leave K-12 education with a full heart. There is sadness in saying goodbye at the end of this school year, but there is also tremendous pride in what we have accomplished and confidence in the people who will continue the work.

Most of all, I leave knowing that I have been given far more by this profession, by the Grand Forks and Grand Forks Air Force Base communities, and the people in them, than I could ever hope to give back. And for that, I will always consider my years in both school districts to be among the greatest privileges of my life.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

With Sincere Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Brenner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr. Terry Brenner
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure