

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Special Session on January 5, 2011 at 5:30 P.M. in the Grinnell High School Media Center, 1333 Sunset, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: President Jeff Smith, Vice-President Doug Cameron, Lynn Cavanagh, Barbara Brown, Jeannette Budding, Leo Lease, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Edie Eckles, Board Secretary J.T. Anderson, and student representative Meredith Kalkbrenner.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Nancy Beck, and Heidi Durbin

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Secretary called the roll. Wilhelm arrived at 5:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Brown, seconded by Budding, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

A. Agenda

Motion carried 6-0.

III. Communication from the Public

None.

IV. Action Items

A. Accept offer of resignation from Superintendent Eckles, effective June 30, 2011

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to accept offer of Superintendent Eckles resignation effective June 30, 2011. Several board members expressed their appreciation for Eckles and the five years of work she gave Grinnell-Newburg CSD, and wished her good luck in her future endeavors. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Authorization of request for proposal to retain school executive search consultant

Motion by Lease, seconded by Budding, to approve authorization of request for proposal to retain school executive search consultant. Board President Smith clarified that this action item does not mean the district will be hiring a search consultant to assist in the superintendent search. Rather, this action merely allows the board to research in more detail the option of hiring a search consultant by gathering information about the specific services performed and associated costs from various search consultants. Motion carried 7-0.

V. Discussion Items

A. Board Work Session: Superintendent Search Planning

Board members and Superintendent Eckles discussed several topics related to the superintendent search process. Some of the topics discussed included; the positive and negative aspects of hiring a search consultant, possibility of revisiting the superintendent's job description, how to gather stakeholder input in the search process, potential restructuring of district administration, sharing administrative costs with surrounding school districts, beginning to draft a job advertisement, target hiring date, and more.

Board President Smith tasked board members, the district administrative team, and district supervisors to submit to the board secretary, in priority order, the four most important qualities, attributes, or characteristics the next superintendent of Grinnell-Newburg CSD should possess. This information will be compiled and presented at the January 12 regularly scheduled board meeting.

VI. Adjourn

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease, to adjourn meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Calendar: Facilities Planning	7:00 pm, January 11, 2011
Board meeting	5:30 pm, January 12, 2011
Vision Committee	4:00 pm, January 13, 2011
Special meeting	5:30 pm, January 19, 2011
Board meeting	5:30 pm, January 26, 2011
Finance Committee	4:00 pm, January 27, 2011