

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on January 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 2nd floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Jeff Knobloch, Leo Lease, Claire Moisan, Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager JT Anderson, Student Representative Hannah Whitney, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel.

Members Absent: none

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne, and Jeff Kirby

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the consent agenda.

President Smith read the following amended items for the consent agenda: 2. Approval of Consent Agenda F. Offerings: Rod Boggess; head custodian for Bailey Park, Neal Van Ervelde; volunteer middle school track coach G. Open Enrollment: Cade Kozik, kindergarten from BGM. and 4.

Staff Presentation: Presentation by David Ford, elementary counselor

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: regular meeting 12-14-11, policy committee 12-15-11, building and grounds committee 12-12-11

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Student Teaching Agreement: Central College

F. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Barb Kline; food service, Sara Grubb; food service, Bruce Hidlebaugh; head custodian for Davis, Travis Smith; varsity boys head swim coach, Elizabeth Knight; 2nd semester sub for Bill Rudolph, Cody McDonald; volunteer wrestling coach, Aimee Eitel; para educator, Alice Arens; para educator

2. Resignation: Jill Hulsing, 7th grade volleyball coach

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease to approve amended and consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Communication from the Public

No comments from the audience.

4. Staff Presentation (10 min)

The two elementary school counselors, David Ford and Nikki Tews, gave a presentation to the board regarding their guidance curriculum. Ms. Tews works with the third and fourth grade. Mr. Ford alternates days at Bailey Park and Fairview for counseling assistance. Their presentation included data on the percentage of elementary students that meet with the counseling staff, their involvement with children and test assistance, the student population, breakdown of their workload that would impact one counselor only, the assistance towards students and staff in meeting state standards measurements by the Iowa Assessment and their meeting with the Poweshiek County mental health staff.

Mr. Ford emphasized the importance of parents having visits with the counseling staff. The counselors emphasized the importance of two counselors for the elementary students. Changes are occurring in families and society that have more students asking for counseling assistance. The education system also has more standards for students. The teaching staff appreciates what the counseling staff has done with students in easing the stress of standards and testing requirements.

The second counselor position is funded with federal money. Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the increase in enrollment and state funding, secures 2012-2013 funding for this position and a technology position, a literacy interventionist and a math interventionist at the middle school and Davis. Currently, there is no guarantee in the funding for these four positions for the school year 2013-2014.

5. Student Recognition (10 min)

Due to the recent holiday break, there was no student recognition.

6. Communication and reports

A. Board

During the fiduciary meeting, the board discussed Chapter 3 of the book study, "Effective School Boards; Strategies for Improving Board Performance."

The board discussed Governor Branstad's education plan. There was discussion on assembling talking points for our local legislatures.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the five architectural firms that will give presentations to the board on Wednesday, January 18. Each firm will have thirty minutes for their presentation and fifteen minutes for a question and answer session.

He also discussed the 1:1 concept. A recent 1:1 conference was well attended. Each year more districts are switching to this format. This concept allows every student to have a computer, whether or not their family can afford this expense. He is also planning to have teams visit other schools that have the 1:1 plan.

Superintendent Abrahamson is acquiring cost quotes from Apple for the 1:1 format. A tentative idea is the middle school and high school on the 1:1 format. As a result, this might enable 3rd and 4th grade students to also engage in the 1:1 format. Their equipment would have originated from the middle school and high school.

Superintendent Abrahamson continue to work on the Project Lead program for this district. Iowa Valley and AEA are in support of this project. If successful, Grinnell would be the first school in the region with the Project Lead program

Per Superintendent Abrahamson the wireless project is going well. Engineers are coming on February 7, to finish the project. Once completed, the bandwidth will be around 100.

The hardware for the keyless entry has arrived. This conversion won't occur until the entire system has been tested for the keyless entry. This plan is switching from keys to cards for building entries. The support for the keyless entry is the safety of students and staff. Once the system is in place, building doors are locked; entry into the schools will be with a buzzer and the assistance of security cameras.

C. Principals

Due to the recent holiday break, no reports from the building principals.

Principal Seney reported the PTO's from Bailey Park and Fairview have combined into one PTO organization. The combined PTO is planning a fundraising carnival to be held at the high school on April 6. Principal Seney reported the planning for the event is going very well.

D. TOSA

Due to the recent holiday break, no report from TOSA.

7. Old Business

None to report

8. New Business

A. Request from the Poweshiek County Chronicle Republican to be the designated official legal newspaper for the Grinnell-Newburg School District for the year 2012

No motion, request died due to lack of motion.

B. Out of state travel to New York City; NY: Fine Arts Department

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to approve out of state travel to New York City, NY for students involved in the fine arts. This trip is being planned for the 2013 spring break. Approving this event now, allows student to being fundraising.

Motion approved 7-0.

C. Closed Session Under Iowa Code 25.1(1)(i) – To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

Motion by Lease, seconded by Knobloch to approve Closed Session Under Iowa Code 25.1(1)(i) – To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

Motion approved 7-0.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to move out of closed session.

Motion approved 7-0.

D. Superintendent Professional Development Goals

Superintendent Abrahamson and the school board members discussed goals and a timetable.

9. Board Talking Points

The board appreciated the presentation from the elementary counselors and the upcoming 2013 New York City trip for the students involved with the fine arts program.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Cameron to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Calendar:

Special Board Meeting	5:00 pm, January 18, 2012
Board Development	6:00 pm, January 25, 2012
Fiduciary Meeting	5:30 pm, February 8, 2012

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 pm, February 8, 2012