

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on January 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Library, 930 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: President Jeff Smith, Jeanette Budding, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Leo Lease, Carol Wilhelm, and Lynn Cavanagh. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Edie Eckles and Administrative Assistant Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: none

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

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and Susan Kriegel called the roll.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting, 12-22-10; special meeting, 01-05-11
- C. Open Enrollment: Jaden Chappell, 3rd grade from Montezuma; Mackenzie Happel, 4th grade from Montezuma; Ashley Mockerman, 11th grade from Oskaloosa

Motion carried 7-0.

III. Approve claims and accounts

Wilhelm questioned two bills; one to the Marengo newspaper for advertising and one to the Des Moines Register for advertising. Superintendent Eckles will review the two bills and respond. Eckles indicated if there are questions regarding bills, please contact her prior to the board meeting. This will provide time to review the bills in question.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to approve the claims and accounts as of January 12, 2011. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Communication from the Public

Phil Wertz voiced his concern regarding the retirement assistance fund. He did not think it was fair the fund was not an annual offering. He stated there had not been a staff lay off. As a result, he wanted to know why wasn't the fund offered? Discussion was held regarding the retirement assistance fund. Budding stated the policy specifies the board conduct an annual review of the retirement assistance fund. Board President Smith agreed.

V. Action Items

A. Approve at second reading policy 803.1 Disposition of Material

Motion by Budding, seconded by Brown, to approve second reading of policy 803.1. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Approve at second reading policy 804.3 Bomb Threat

Motion by Budding, seconded by Lease, to approve second reading of policy 804.3. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Approve at first reading policy 802.4 Fixed Assets Management System

Motion by Budding, seconded by Cavanagh, to approve first reading of policy 802.4. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Approve at first reading policy 501.3 Compulsory Attendance

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Budding, to approve first reading of policy 501.3. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Approve request from the Poweshiek Chronicle-Republican to be designated as the official legal newspaper for 2011

Board President Smith asked for a motion. The request died for a lack of a motion.

F. Approve overnight travel for Sara Hegg-Dunne, Matt Marietta, Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney to attend the ASCD national conference, March 25-28 2011, San Francisco, CA (funded by general fund professional development)

Motion by Lease, seconded by Budding to approve overnight travel for Sara Hegg-Dunne, Matt Marietta, Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney to attend the ASCD national conference, March 25-28 2011, San Francisco, CA.

Superintendent Eckles explained the registration for the conference was \$209.00 per person, a flight estimate was about \$512.00, and \$200.00 for lodging. Total cost per person would be \$1000.00. Eckles explained what the district has recently done to save dollars in different areas of the budget. The district continues to review options to save dollars. The professional development account has the dollars to spend. This is a very good workshop to attend. Professional development needs to be provided for every employee. The ASCD does not hold workshops in the Midwest. During discussion several board members stated they were not against attending the conference, but against the travel money. They asked if there were Internet options. Board President Smith reminded the board to be proactive for the employees, how an idea can spark enthusiasm, it is cost vs. content.

Motion carried 4-3. Voting no were Doug Cameron, Lynn Cavanagh, and Carol Wilhelm.

G. Approve overnight travel for Ellie Arseneault, Christy Hughes to attend "How to Add Rigor and Relevance to Literacy Work Stations and Small Group Reading Instruction (Debbie Diller 2011 winter institute), January 26-28, 2011, Nashville, TN (funded by general fund Teacher Quality funds)

Motion by Brown, seconded by Budding. Superintendent Eckles explained the teacher quality money and the three areas it is available in. The funding for the trip comes from the teacher professional development area. If the money is not spent, it is carried over to the next year. The current school year had a carry over of \$29,000.00. Superintendent Eckles enforced this institute meeting was an excellent educational opportunity. Superintendent Eckles indicated there is a limit that teachers can learn from in state. The teachers stated they have learned all they can from the Debbie Diller books and DVD.

Motion carried 6-0, Wilhelm abstained.

H. Approve overnight travel for Mack Jorth, Marty James, Andrew Lehn, Chris Coffman, Brad Bowlin, Jim Dunne to attend the Glazier Football Clinic, February 18-20, 2011, Minneapolis, MN (funded by football activity fund)

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cavanagh. Eckles indicated three of the coaches would miss one day of school. The cost would be \$120.00. This cost is for the use of the suburban. Again, the coaches are in agreement for their program, they want to be the best in their coaching profession. The Minneapolis site will be the closest the Glazier Football Clinic gets to Grinnell.

Motion carried 7-0.

I. Approve method to conduct the superintendent search

Motion by Budding, seconded by Brown.

Board president Smith would like a decision on whether to use internal or external search methods for a new superintendent. The cost range for the search firms is \$6,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Budding made a motion to use an outside firm for a portion of the superintendent search. Barbara Brown stated the board can rescind the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Web Design RFP results

Dave Kubalsky reported he had received fifteen submissions for the RFP project. On January 5, 2011, Superintendent Eckles, JT Anderson, and Dave Kubalsky reviewed the submissions. The dollar range for the submissions was from \$6,000.00 to \$47,000.00. Kubalsky has contacted the top four candidates, all located in Iowa. He had each present a demonstration, all appear to be very user friendly. Within the next

two weeks, he will have several individuals review the portfolios. Wilhelm asked if a test drive can be done. The answer was no, only the sites can be reviewed. Kubalsky indicated the four candidates have worked with other school districts. The project is staying on the established timeline.

B. Use of parent-teacher conferences as a day of school, professional development days: calendar committee

Some members of the calendar committee were in attendance at the board meeting. The committee is addressing parent teacher conferences and professional development. They are aware that early dismissals are a concern. This year the parent teacher conferences were changed to a Thursday from 4-8 pm. The committee inquired as to the board's willingness to return to a prior schedule of school not being held on a Friday in order to hold parent conferences all day Friday. The committee indicated there could be fewer early dismissals, but with a longer time period. The board directed the calendar committee to be creative. Superintendent Eckles indicated the committee will be meeting next week.

C. Middle School HVAC system results

Vic Amoroso, from A&J Associates explained a power point presentation regarding the Middle School HVAC study results. The existing system has been in place since 1977. He explained the current situation and presented different options. There were five options: 1) replace existing and bring it up to code 2) move to geothermal, 3) radiant panel cooling and heating 4) a variable refrigerant flow system 5) a combination of option 3 and 4 as a hybrid system.

He indicated the middle school is a good candidate for geothermal. He explained the typical geothermal HVAC system. Heat pumps are good for twenty years. The GMS heat pumps have been in existence for thirty seven years. Board President Smith indicated this will be discussed in a facility committee meeting.

D. Wind Generation Feasibility Study

Leo Lease explained the wind study project. On January 19, he will be in Des Moines meeting with several legislators to discuss wind facilities. He also explained the idea of a coop, with several schools involved. It would be a sustainable source of revenue, and a worthwhile project. Board President Smith indicated the legislators are very interested in looking outside the box regarding wind energy.

VII. Reports

A. Policy committee report

Board President Smith indicated the approval of 802.4 and 501.3 first readings. These policies were recommended by JT Anderson and the staff. JT has reviewed the 700 policies and written his recommendations. The committee has reviewed the 700 series thru section 703.3.

B. Principal and Superintendent reports

Elementary

Principal Nancy Beck explained what each elementary school has been working on; the use of smart boards, using more technology, Successmaker software, and the focus on achievement. She also passed out a document regarding 90/90/90 schools. Beck explained what the 90/90/90 represents. Beck indicated an initial review of tests taken at Davis indicate good growth in test results. She explained the school improvement action plan. The yellow squares on the graph represented future plans. They are ahead of where they thought they would be regarding the improvement action plan.

Middle school

Principal Sara Hegg-Dunne explained several of the volunteers that take their time to help the middle school students. She also passed out the Tiger Club newspaper. Several Grinnell College students have been helping with the publication. The middle school staff has been meeting to discuss helping students prepare for the upcoming Iowa Test of Basic Skills. As a results of scores from the MAP testing, students were identified that needed extra help to prepare for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. They have changed their approach and feel good about the strategy that is now in place.

High School

Principal Kevin Seney explained the culture climate survey that the students took in November. Seney stated the results were not what he hoped for from the data. The results indicated culture improvement needs to occur. Board President Smith indicated at the IASB convention, they observed surveys that were given to students after high school graduation. Seney indicated the high school plans on doing this. Seney will work with the student seminars, which will allow students to share their concerns in small groups.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Eckles had provided the board with her written report. She also informed the board regarding a legislative report she recently received. The report explains House Study Bill #1 that will likely be discussed at the statehouse on Monday. This Bill is a concern to those in education. The Bill contains the follow proposals: 1) Eliminate the state funded preschool. 2) Rescind the Iowa Core Curriculum 3) Cut AEA by \$10 million 4) Discontinue the ICN program.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

A Board Work Session followed the board meeting.

Board Calendar:

Policy committee	5:00 pm	January 3, 2011
Special Board meeting	5:30 pm	January 5, 2011
Board meeting	5:30 pm	January 12, 2011
Vision committee	4:00 pm	January 13, 2011
Finance committee	4:00 pm	January 27, 2011