

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on February 8, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Lease, seconded by Brown to approve the consent agenda.

President Smith read the following amended items for the consent agenda:

2. Approval of Consent Agenda 3. Personnel: 1. Offerings: Steve Dudley, night janitor at Bailey Park; Valerie VanOtegham, paraeducator 3. Open Enrollment: Brian VanWilligen, 10<sup>th</sup> grade from Montezuma

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: regular meeting 1-11-12, special board meeting 1-18-12, and special board meeting 1-25-12

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Christy Thelen; paraeducator, Dwight Laidig; varsity assistant girls soccer

2. Resignation: Travis Renze

3. Open Enrollments: Ethan Licht, 1<sup>st</sup> grade from Montezuma; Jasmine Young, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Montezuma; Ryanne Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade from BGM

Open Enrollment for 2012-2013: Olivia Chandler, kindergarten from BGM

4. Contract upgrade: Mike Hunter; MA to MA + 30

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to approve amended and consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

### **3. Communication from the Public**

No comments from the audience.

### **4. Presentation(2) (20 min)**

Cory Jackson from Grinnell Regional Medical Center gave a presentation on the Blue Zone project. She informed the board of the upcoming Blue Zone announcement set for Friday, February 10, 2012. The announcement will list the winning Blue Zone communities. Winning communities will receive a dollar amount to spend for health initiatives. If Grinnell would become one of the Blue Zone communities, there would be an upcoming five-hour meeting sometime between February 27 and March 9. Ms. Jackson explained the importance of having school board members and other community leaders attend the five-hour meeting. Ms. Jackson and Jen Jacobsen from Grinnell College have been busy presenting the Blue Zone project to various community groups. This project emphasizes health and wellness for communities. Governor Branstad wants to move the state of Iowa from the #19 to #1 healthiest state. The school district is involved with this project.

Bailey Park kindergarten teacher, Lisa Coffman, presented a blogging demonstration that involved the students in her class. This blogging project involves students, their parents, and also responses from another classroom of older students. The board viewed several blogging entries and pictures

created by Ms. Coffman's students. She explained the security of the site and permission received from the parents.

## **5. Student Recognition (10 min)**

The following student council representatives: Shay Petersen, Will Hamilton, Hannah Whitney, Abby Honold, Claudia Handel, Ann Menner, and Thomas Marsho discussed their idea for a local Foods Initiative Program. Each student gave a brief talk on the importance of healthy eating, local foods, and the initiative for having locally grown foods for the school kitchens. The state of Iowa has a Farm to School program. The group believes there is a health benefit for local foods and the lasting impact of locally grown foods.

## **6. Communication and reports**

### **A. Board**

Several board members and Superintendent Abrahamson attended a recent legislative dinner at the Carnsforth Inn. The board members had the opportunity to discuss the Reform Plan, which includes the idea of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention.

### **B. Superintendent**

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated that earlier on Wednesday FEH did tours of the school buildings and the Windstream property. They are requesting aerial shots of the different properties. The Building and Grounds Committee and Rick Whitney will be involved in this project.

Superintendent Abrahamson stated that since fall David Ford is a full time counselor.

The district continues to work on the bullying issue with the counselors and the PLC groups. The Transportation Committee met with Bill Ahrens to discuss the bullying issue and transportation. Bill is working on ideas to resolve the issue.

The technology project is 85% completed in increasing the bandwidth.

Superintendent Abrahamson will have his goals completed by the February 29, 2012 meeting.

### **C. Principals**

Principal S. Seney reported they have completed two months of eWalks. Their goal in the next two months is to increase the level of Blooms. There has been good conversation in the PLC groups. Principal Seney stated the teachers are using the PLC site for the sharing of ideas. The visits between classrooms in the two buildings have been going very well.

Principal Kirby reported Ms. Tews has been busy visiting classrooms to discuss the bullying issue with Davis students. She also has a mailbox on her door that allows students to communicate with her regarding delicate issues.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Davis students completed the Iowa Assessment tests.

Principal Kirby gave an update on the 1:1 program. They visited the Van Meter School to observe their existing 1:1 program. Plans are underway to visit several other schools and their 1:1 programs.

Principal Kirby indicated the district had a very good Special Education Compliance Review. He appreciated the hard work that was involved for the good results for the district's review.

Principal Hegg-Dunne spoke how well the middle school students worked during the first semester to be their best while at school. They had a fun assembly on February 3, 2012 that involved staff and students that celebrated these accomplishments.

The middle school teachers are also sharing their ideas on the PLC website.

Principal Kevin Seney passed out the names of the meritorious achievements awards that occurred during the first semester. He discussed the results from his board report.

#### **D. TOSA**

Chris Coffman reported the teacher conversations in the district regarding PLC has been very good, it appears students are achieving more, and the PLC website sharing is also going very well.

In January a team visited the Pella high school and the Pella middle school to observe their Project Lead the Way(PLTW) program. There has been good publicity regarding this program.

### **7. Old Business**

There was no old business to report.

### **8. New Business**

#### **A. Audit report**

Moved by Cameron, seconded by Brown to approve the 2011 Audit Report. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **B. District mapping**

Business Manager Anderson passed out the district mapping pictures. For this meeting, the district mapping is a discussion item. Three more readings will occur for a resolution regarding district mapping. The next reading will be during the February 29 meeting.

District mapping is done every ten years due to the census results. There are slight deviations from the current district map.

The resolution for the district mapping has to be completed by May 15, 2012.

### **9. Suggestions for next Agenda**

The following suggestions were made for the March board meeting: AESOP how is it going, update on bullying, keyless entry, summer school proposal, and the Davis School local meal program.

### **10. Board Talking Points**

The board appreciated all the good things that are occurring, the progress in technology, blogging, local foods initiative, the work being done on the bullying issue, how well the Special Ed Compliance went, appreciate ideas for the next board meeting, showcasing the students, how different areas are working on one vision.

The book study will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

### **11. Adjournment**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

**Board Calendar:**

Educational Meeting and Budget Work Session	6:00 pm, February 29, 2012
Fiduciary Meeting	5:30 pm, March 14, 2012
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 pm, March 14, 2012