

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on February 23, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Library, 930 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: President Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Leo Lease, Carol Wilhelm, and Lynn Cavanagh. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Eckles, Board Secretary J.T. Anderson and Student Representative Meredith Kalkbrenner.

Members Absent: Jeanette Budding

Administrators Present: Nancy Beck, Kevin Seney, and Gary Meldrem

## **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Board Secretary called the roll. Budding was absent. Cameron left early at 6:45 p.m.

## **II. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: work session 2-8-11; regular meeting 2-9-11
- C. Secretary's Financial Report

Motion carried 6-0.

## **III. Approve claims and accounts**

Motion by Cavanagh, seconded by Cameron, to approve the claims and accounts as of February 23, 2011. Motion carried 6-0.

## **IV. Communication from the Public**

None.

## **V. Action Items**

### **A. Approve overnight travel to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' Convention in Indianapolis, IN for Jennifer Brown, Meaghan Hunter, Marsha Schultz, Tammy Strawser, Jill Wagner; April 13-15, 2011**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to approve overnight travel. Motion carried 6-0.

## **VI. Discussion Items**

### **A. Update on Mike Schmoker presentations March 3-4, 2011**

Superintendent Eckles reminded board members that school improvement specialist Mike Schmoker will be in Grinnell on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schmoker will give a community presentation on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the mini theatre located at Grinnell Middle School. Parents, community members, and representatives from surrounding districts are invited to attend. Following the community presentation, on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Schmoker will hold an interactive presentation for the Grinnell-Newburg teaching faculty. This will take place from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the Harris Center at Grinnell College. Superintendent Eckles thanked various community groups and business for helping underwrite the costs associated with this event.

### **B. Legislative update: Leo Lease**

Board member Lease discussed current legislation moving through the Iowa House of Representatives that if passed, would drastically change the way school districts operate. Lease explained that presently districts operate under "Dillon's Rule," whereby school districts only have the power or authority expressly granted to them by the state legislature. The newly proposed legislation would allow schools to operate under "Home Rule," whereby school districts would have the authority and power to make

decisions as long as it was not prohibited by the state legislature. Simply put, local school districts would have more flexibility in decision making and thinking creatively, rather than having decisions and control prescribed at the state level. Lease expressed his support of the proposed legislation and encouraged other board members, staff, and community members to contact local representatives in support of the "Home Rule" legislation.

## **VII. Presentation from the DLR Group: Long Range Facilities Master Plan**

Vince Ward and Tom Penney, from DLR Group, presented information and options resulting from a series of Facilities Committee meetings that began in October 2010. The committee consisted of a diverse group of district staff, district administration, students, board members, and community representatives (about forty members). Mr. Ward reviewed the four guiding principles the committee developed to assist them in setting a clear vision for the facilities master plan. The principles were:

- Facilities will be safe, inviting and flexible to support diverse learning and teaching styles
- Facilities will support and facilitate social interaction in both extra-curricular and co-curricular activities
- Facilities will integrate technology for optimal use for teaching and learning to maximize flexibility and adaptability
- Facilities will be fiscally responsible. Cost considerations will emphasize building costs, transportation, and delivery of educational programs

Before talking about specific facilities options, Business Manager J.T. Anderson gave a high level discussion on funding opportunities as it related to facility maintenance, renovation, and construction. After the finance discussion, Mr. Penney described various planning options for the district. The scenarios included multiple options ranging from maintaining the current building structure within the district to designing and constructing a new PK-8 building. Discussion also included the repurposing of buildings, renovating buildings, and new building locations. With each scenario, DLR presented an estimated cost range.

After the presentation, the board discussed the next step in the long range facility master planning process. The board agreed that DLR should give a presentation to the entire district staff and also another presentation to the community. These meetings would serve as venues to gather more input and information and once completed, DLR would give a final written report to the board.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Board Calendar:**

Finance committee	4:00 pm February 24, 2011
Policy committee	5:00 pm March 7, 2011
Board meeting	5:30 pm March 9, 2011