

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Special Session on February 29, 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, 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. Wilhelm arrived at 6:08 pm.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Motion carried 6-0.

3. Student presentation

The student presentation will be presented at the March 14, 2012 board meeting.

4. New Business

A. Closed Session per Iowa Code 25.(1)(i) Re: Custodian request to evaluate the profession 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 Cameron, seconded by Lease to go into closed session. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Cameron to go out of closed session. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Action on recommendation to terminate employment contract

Motion to terminate employee by Brown, seconded by Cameron. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

C. District Mapping

As a result of the recent census, there are proposed changes to the district mapping. Business Manager Anderson has not received any comments about the proposed changes. Superintendent Abrahamson reminded the board three readings are needed for the district mapping approved change. This meeting is the first reading. The board discussed which option to go with. The board felt option 2 was the easiest to explain. Option 2 has the highways that serve as the boundaries.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Cameron to approve the district mapping option 2 as exhibit A. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Driver's Education

The transportation committee has met and discussed the request of parents to offer more driver's ed flexibility. There is also concern to reduce the operating loss for the driver's education program. The committee received three RFP's. They selected Teen Driver Inc.

based out of Indianola, IA. Currently there is a proposed contract with this company. The proposal is for Teen Driver Inc., to offer three sessions in Grinnell. Teen Driver Inc., would offer a rate of \$200.00 per student. The proposed contract does not state Teen Driver Inc. will hire the current Grinnell driver ed instructors. This contract would be good for three years. There is a ninety-day termination if needed with this company. Per Business Manager Anderson, Teen Driver Inc., needs to be notified by April 1, 2012, for contract approval or not using their services.

There was discussion regarding what type of screening Teen Driver Inc. uses for their instructors and how thoroughly driving references have been reviewed by this company.

Current instructor, Paul Wagner, explained the program that he offers every June. The students receive 15 to 16 tests over the material plus the driving hours. Last year for 110 students, they had four drivers. He discussed parent involvement, as driver ed is often the 1st grade on a student's transcript. They usually have 12 on a waiting list. He has increased class to 112 or 114 to accommodate all the requests. These June classes are one third of the actual pool of beginning drivers. He believes June works well to offer the driver's ed program, he is able to accommodate most of the student's schedules.

Paul Wagner was also informed a similar situation occurred at another location. That particular driver ed instructor proceeded to establish his own company. That plan worked well for the instructor and the school district. Mr. Wagner is not familiar with Teen Driver Inc., as he has never discussed driver's education with them. Mr. Wagner would like to discuss the driver's education program with Teen Driver Inc..

The board agreed the existing program is a good program but also need to look at the dollars and cents of the driver's ed program. If the current program continues to acquire a loss in revenue, then the rate would have to increase. Per Business Manager Anderson the proposed contract is for a \$200 fee versus the \$320 current fee, and locked in for three years. If the driver's ed program is outsourced, the students do not get credit for the class.

There was discussion if the contract can be amended to request the hiring of the current drivers from Grinnell. The proposed contract is for Teen Driver Inc. to start classes in the fall of 2012.

A suggestion was made for Teen Driver Inc. to attend the March 14, 2012 meeting and make a presentation regarding their driver education program.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to accept the contract with Teen Driver Inc., for the September session. Motion failed 0-7.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to table further discussion until the March 14, 2012 board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Cameron and seconded by Lease to continue with current summer driver education session, increase fee from \$310 to \$325, and tabl contract discussion regarding Teen Drive Inc. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Retirement Assistance

Following discussion regarding retirement assistance, there was a motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease for retirement assistance availability for ten certified employees for 2012, ten certified for 2013, ten non certified employees for 2012, and ten non certified employees for 2013.

Motion by Cameron and seconded by Lease to change retirement assistance policy from five certified and five noncertified and dates to ten certified employees for 2012, ten certified for 2013, ten non certified employees for 2012, and ten non certified employees for 2013.

Motion carried 7-0.

F. Move April Budget Work Session to March 22

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to move the April Budget Work Session to March 22, 2012. Motion carried 7-0. The work session will begin at 6:00 pm.

5. Education

A. Innovative Calendar

In reviewing the two calendar proposals, there is only a one-day difference between them. The two proposals indicate a 1:1 calendar or not a 1:1 calendar.

There was discussion regarding instructional time for classes. The proposed calendar shows less class time but able to maintain the same amount of instructional minutes. For the proposed PD days, Chris Coffman is working on technology programs for the staff, these days won't be a sit and get. There have been requests from the para professionals for more instruction, which cannot occur with the proposed calendar.

The current staff requested more integrated technology for the classrooms and more time focused for PLC training for the PD days. They are excited to have a full preparation day for their classes.

For the bullying situation, if a district wide training format is used. This particular program requires the entire staff to be trained, which includes paraprofessionals, food service staff, and bus drivers. This training could occur during the PD days.

The proposed start time is at 8:20 am, with 7:45 – 8:15 am, scheduled for PLC training.

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the word needs to be explained to the newspapers, that the proposed calendar for 2012-2013 will not have a loss of instructional minutes for students.

He also indicated the current bus routes are being reviewed to become more efficient.

Superintendent Abrahamson informed the board, the district has received two open enrollment out requests for 2012-2013 for the Clayton Ridge Academy.

6. Budget Work Session

A. Budget process

The budget work session will be held on Thursday, March 22 at 6:00 pm.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Calendar:

Fiduciary Meeting

5:30 pm, March 14, 2012

Regular Board Meeting
Budget Work Session

6:00 pm, March 14, 2012
6:00 pm, March 22, 2012