

Minutes Amended by board action at March 25, 2015 meeting

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 11, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch, Claire Moisan, Jeff Smith, and Carol Wilhelm arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance

Administrators Present: Jeff Kirby

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Accounting Assistant Teresa Hawk called the roll. Five members were in attendance. Board member Kirsten Fisher read the District's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Fiduciary Report

No comments or questions were received.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Smith to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Knobloch

A. Approve/Amenda Agenda

B. Minutes: Work Session 2/18/15

Amended minutes to include that the Superintendent and Building Administrators were tasked to lead further discussions on rigor.

Motion to approve amended minutes by Knobloch, seconded by Fisher (5-0)

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. **Offerings:** Stuart Zurcher: Assistant Coach Girls Soccer; Kent Kastendick: Assistant Coach Boys Tennis; Mindy Rozendaal: Transfer from Kindergarten to 2nd grade-Bailey Park; Jeni Roadcap: Transfer from Math Interventionist to 2nd grade-Fairview; Ellen Grabe: Transfer from part-time Preschool Instructor to part-time Special Ed. Instructor-Bailey Park; Jill Hollingsworth: Transfer from Middle School Special Ed. Instructor to 6th grade Language Arts; Travis Smith: Transfer from Middle School PE Instructor to High School PE Instructor.

E. **Open Enrollments (14-15) In:** Joclyn Fleming: Preschool from East Marshall

F. **Open Enrollments (15-16) In:** Reese Ashing: Kindergarten from Newton

G. **Open Enrollments (15-16) Out:** Mallorie Doty: 8th grade to BGM; Mashayla Doty: 5th grade to BGM; Cayler Noun Harder: 7th grade to CAM Community School District; Garet Sumner: 8th grade to Iowa Virtual Academy; Miguel Ulloa: 7th grade to Newton; Acacia Torbensen: 11th grade to Newton

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Hearing: Iowa Telecom Building - Interior Deconstruction

A presentation was made by Don Seymour with FEH. Pre-bid meeting was held March 11, 2015, with eight contractors present. Several additional contractors with proposed plans did not attend. The plan is to deconstruct the interior of the building including all interior walls on the main level and lower level, excepting the walls around the mechanical area. Radon testing will be done in the coming weeks. Discussions were held regarding which buildings have been radon tested. Todd will follow up with Tyler at FEH. Community member Scott Keenan questioned the level at which radon is considered mitigated or clean. Don and Todd said they would secure an answer. Any asbestos and mold will be removed.

The demolition budget range is \$220,000 to \$250,000, which includes some parking and sidewalk areas. There will be a small garage, which is not part of the deconstruction budget. Per Don Seymour, the next step is to secure answers to a few remaining questions from the contractors and issue an addenda which will list the contractors and make recommendations. This should be available for the March 25, 2015 Board Meeting. It has been asked that the contractors hold the information for 30 days to allow the board time to make their decision. Mitigation is part of the new design and not deconstruction.

Keenan questioned what would happen to this building if bond fails. Todd responded, saying it is in the best interest as a property owner to clean up the building and keep any further mold from growing. It is anticipated that the deconstruction should be completed by end of June or July. Community member Dale Lamb spoke in opposition in the deconstruction process, indicating he would like to see this process be delayed until after the bond referendum. Keenan would like to see a breakdown of the costs associated with the bond referendum. Abrahamson indicated this information is available in the FAQ's section on the website. Keenan also wanted to note that all the deeds to the school buildings are in different names. This will also be investigated.

5. Communication from the Public

No comments or questions received.

6. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Board members Smith and Fisher mentioned the public forum went well, with good questions. They would like to see the presentation time reduced for the next forum to allow more time for questions. Lori Schoh asked if the FAQ's would be available and Abrahamson stated they will be available on the district website and also in the newspaper.

B. Principal Report

Jeff Kirby spoke on a program Davis School started this fall. It's called RADAR (Reading At Davis Absolutely Rocks). It is a concept that blends third and fourth graders together and eliminates the grade barrier. The Building Leadership Team (BLT) groups students by areas of need, either intervention or extension. The BLT uses data from NWEA, FAST, Fountas & Pinnell and Teacher Input. RADAR is designed to review student data more frequently and to identify where the student needs help. Groups are flexible and the group size is varied according to level of need. Concentrated effort began with reading but has been extended to include math. The

BLT regrouped after six weeks of intervention/extension and analyzes student progress. Kirby pointed out that RADAR is a team effort in the implementation of this program. It has enhanced ways of utilizing data and works to bolster higher level activities. He would like to push the data review and formation of groups to the PLC level. Knobloch stated that this is exactly what is expected in the Principal Report. Helen Redmond asked about parent communication on this. Kirby mentioned flyers went out early in the school year and an open house is set for May 14th. Future plans for next year include scheduling changes where students would move to a different classroom for concentration on one subject content. Brenda Price mentioned that technologies to suit student needs with testing on computers would be helpful.

7. Old Business

A. Third & Final Reading of Policy 905.2 Tobacco/Nicotine-Free Environment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to approve the Third and Final Reading of Policy 905.2.

Motion carried 6-0

8. New Business

A. Out of State Travel - National Debate Tournament, Dallas, TX

June 14-19, 2015

Motion by Wilhelm, and seconded by Knobloch to approve the out of state travel for the Debate Tournament.

Motion carried 6-0

9. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

There was discussion on the bids for 11th Avenue interior deconstruction and the Public Forum that was held 3/11/15. Smith indicated the public is somewhat confused with the tax costs associated with the bond. It's very difficult to understand all the different funds and what they can be used for. Matt Gillaspie did a great job to explain all types of property.

Moisan would like the points that Kirby made regarding building grade transitions and the difficulties they are for the students mentioned during the next forum. Fisher would like to have information at the next forum regarding grouping students in a PK-5 building. The next forum will have more input from teachers on what the proposed schools will do for them, and less focus on the maintenance side of the bond issue.

Keenan had questions regarding the sale of the elementary buildings and how it might offset construction expenses. The board indicated that due to legality they were unable to talk about building sales at this time.

10. Board Talking Points

Brown stated Forum #1 was completed and we are ready for Forum #2 on March 24th at 6:30 in the Community Center Theater. Smith acknowledged the GHS Debate Team going to Nationals and that the FFA got either 2nd or 3rd place in their competition. He noted we have great students doing great things. Brown remarked on the many opportunities that exist for our students to excel in our district.

Moisan noted great work being done at Davis, and how Kirby demonstrates great leadership in understanding his teacher's strengths and abilities. Wilhelm noted that she appreciates that Kirby talks with each teacher for their input. Fisher wanted to recognize the teachers for their valued knowledge and strength to continue on the road to excellence.

Wilhelm also wanted to acknowledge the efforts of central office staff in keeping the schools on track. She noted the teachers have the direct contact with students and parents, however the central office is the hub of the district.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Board Calendar:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Academic Advisory Meeting | 4:15 p.m., March 10, 2015 |
| Public Forum (HS Auditorium) | 6:30 p.m., March 10, 2015 |
| Regular Board Meeting | 6:00 p.m., March 11, 2015 |
| Policy Advisory Meeting | 4:00 p.m., March 12, 2015 |
| Academic Advisory Meeting | 4:15 p.m., March 24, 2015 |
| Public Forum (Community Center Theater) | 6:30 p.m., March 24, 2015 |
| Regular Board Meeting | 6:00 p.m., March 25, 2015 |