

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 14, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

**Members Present:** Jeff Smith, Doug Cameron, Barbara Brown, Jeff Knobloch, Leo Lease, Carol Wilhelm, and Claire Moisan. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager J.T. Anderson, and Student Representative Hannah Whitney

**Members Absent:** Board Secretary Susan Kriegel

**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 Business Manager called the roll. All members present.

**2. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

President Smith noted the following amended items to the consent agenda:  
E. Personnel: 1. Offerings: Eric Dean; night janitor at Davis, Mark Johnson; volunteer assistant girl's tennis coach 2. Resignation: removing Teresa Ziegenmeyer's name

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 2-8-12, special board meeting 2-29-12
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
  - 1. Offerings: Andy Steward; volunteer coach 9<sup>th</sup> grade baseball, Angie Larsen; volunteer high school track, Travis Smith; volunteer high school track, Dillon Murray; volunteer high school track, Judith Lourens; para educator transfer from MS to HS, Carrie Nachazel; Food Service Director
  - 2. Resignations: Mac Jorth; high school science, Casey O'Rourke; middle school assistant wrestling coach, Shawn Barker; paraeducator, Tina Richardson; middle school special education teacher
  - 3. Open Enrollment In: Kyla Daniel; 4<sup>th</sup> grade from East Marshall, Devin Daniel; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade from East Marshall, Kolton Kline;

- kindergarten from Montezuma, Salena Yoeun; 6<sup>th</sup> grade from East Marshall, Tristan Yoeun; 7<sup>th</sup> grade from East Marshall
4. Open Enrollment Out: Adam Freeborn; 1<sup>st</sup> grade to Clayton Ridge Academy, Chad Gillson; 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Clayton Ridge Academy

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

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

The board allowed Ron Johnson from Teen Driver, Inc. to speak about his company, which provides student driver education classes. Mr. Johnson described the basic operations of his business, which included staffing, vehicles, cost, and driver's education curriculum. Teen Driver, Inc. has been providing driver's education services in Grinnell for several years outside of the school district's umbrella. The district is considering outsourcing all of its driver's education services to Teen Driver, Inc. (New Business item F.).

### **4. Staff Presentation: Kindergarten Teachers**

Principal Sarah Seney and the district kindergarten teachers presented information about transitional kindergarten. Ms. Seney presented transitional kindergarten as a proactive way to have "school ready for kids" no matter what the developmental level. The program is for students who are of school age, but not quite ready for the expectations of kindergarten. The student's age, fine motors skills, intellectual skills, social/behavioral skills, and preschool teacher's recommendation will all be factors when determining whether or not the transitional program is appropriate for a student. If the student is deemed eligible for the program, parent consent will be the ultimate determining factor on whether or not their child participates in the program. Ms. Seney noted the district is offering kindergarten round up on April 10-11 as an opportunity for parents to have their student assessed by school district staff before he/she enters kindergarten in the fall.

### **5. Student Recognition: Business Plan Competition- Winning team presentation**

High school students Thomas Marsho, Hannah Whitney, Katherine Menner, and Maile Leathem-Rietz presented their winning business plan "Déjà Vu" to the board. Déjà Vu is a quality dress consignment boutique whose mission is to provide affordable formalwear for women. The presentation noted the target market for the business, operating costs, location, and projected revenues. These students plan to work closely with the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce in hopes of making their newly created business a success.

**6. Communication and Reports**

**A. Board**

None.

**B. Superintendent**

Mr. Abrahamson updated the board on various items including facilities master planning, bullying, 1:1 computer initiative, and developing a survey for staff members to evaluate the superintendent's performance.

**C. Principals**

Sara Hegg-Dunne presented results from an Olweus bullying survey that was completed by the majority of middle school students (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Seventy-seven students (16%) reported being bullied 2-3 times per month. The form of bullying varied among students. Ms. Hegg-Dunne discussed the results of the survey with middle school staff. Ms. Hegg-Dunne indicated certain measures, including more Olweus training, are being scheduled to assist in recognizing and preventing bullying at the middle school.

Principals Kevin Seney and Jeff Kirby presented various updates from their respective buildings.

**D. TOSA**

Chris Coffman updated the board on his recent work as teacher on special assignment.

**7. Old Business: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of District Mapping Plan**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to approve second reading of district mapping plan option "2." Wilhelm noted concerns over the district population distribution for plan option "2" and instead proposed a mapping plan that she created. Mr. Abrahamson noted that Wilhelm's map was submitted to Addy Mapping Services for review and the map did not comply with the law, as full census blocks must be used when dividing areas. Ms. Wilhelm indicated she would do further research on this issue. Motion carried 6-1 (Wilhelm dissents).

**8. New Business**

**A1. IHSAA - request renew existing Coop Agreement: Soccer with BGM and Iowa Valley**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron, to approve agreement.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**A2. IHSAA - request renew existing Coop Agreement: Swimming and Diving with BGM**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to approve agreement. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. License Agreement with Grinnell College for use of the Charles Benson Bear '39 Recreation and Athletic Center indoor pool and locker facilities from 8/8/11 through 5/31/12 at a cost of \$2,000**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Wilhelm, to approve agreement.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**C. Lease agreement with City for use of Ahrens Park soccer facility from 4/1/12 to 5/31/12 for \$1,800**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Knobloch, to approve lease agreement.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**D. Out-of-state travel: April Cooper, Jill Crotts, Jill Hulsing, Heather Agnew-Moore to attend the International Reading Conference, Chicago, Illinois from 4/29/12 to 5/2/12**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan, to approve out-of-state travel.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**E. Innovative Calendar**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan, to approve the innovative calendar (non 1:1 template) as presented in the board packet. Motion carried 7-0.

**F. Driver's Education**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to approve a three-year contract with Teen Driver, Inc. to provide driver's education services for the district beginning September 1, 2012. Board members discussed in detail the reason for and against outsourcing driver's education. Current district driver's education instructor Paul Wagner was present for the discussion as well. Mr. Abrahamson noted the

recommendation to outsource driver's education was for financial reasons and to give students more flexibility and opportunities to take driver's education throughout the year. Motion carried 6-1 (Wilhelm dissents).

**G. Transitional Kindergarten**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Brown, to approve transitional kindergarten beginning the 2012-2013 academic year. Motion carried 7-0.

**H. Audit RFP's**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Cameron, to approve a three-year auditing services agreement with Hunt & Associates, P.C. (Oskaloosa) to perform the district's annual audit for the fiscal years ending 2012, 2013, and 2014. Business Manager Anderson noted that proposals were also received from Nolte, Cornman, & Johnson, P.C. (Newton, IA) and VanMaanen, Sietstra, & Meyer, P.C. (Pella, IA). Motion carried 7-0.

**9. Suggestion for next Agenda**

Board members noted the following items for the next agenda: discussion about the online academies in Iowa and the impact on other local school districts, and the next steps in the superintendent evaluation process.

**10. Board Talking Points**

No talking points were discussed.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to adjourn meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

**Board Calendar:**

Budget Work Session	6:00 p.m., March 22, 2012
Fiduciary Meeting	5:30 p.m., April 11, 2012
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., April 11, 2012