

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on April 10, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Doug Cameron, Barbara Brown, Jeff Knobloch, Leo Lease, Claire Moisan, and 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, Jeff Kirby, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Chris Coffman

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Board Secretary Susan Kriegel called the roll. Seven members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary

There was no discussion on the financials.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

President Smith noted the following amended items to the consent agenda:

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Kristen Van Wyk: volunteer girls golf coach; Heather Krumm: volunteer girls tennis coach; Lisa Johnson: Chief Financial Officer
2. Resignation: Lisa Coffman: assistant varsity girls basketball coach

1. Offerings: Travis Smith: middle school physical education teacher; Travis Smith: assistant girls tennis coach; Annette Latcham: transfer administrative assistant Bailey Park to the Middle School; Dennis Witte: activity bus driver; Duane Loftin: activity bus driver; Colman Ditzler: activity bus driver

2. Resignations: Gloria Pebbles: para-educator; JT Anderson: Business Manager

F. Open Enrollment Out 2013-2014: Henry Peterson-Smith 5th grade to Iowa Connections Academy

Open Enrollment In 2013-2014: Parker Lewis 5th grade from East Marshall

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve the amended consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Public Hearing: FY2014 Certified Budget

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch for the Public Hearing: FY2014 Certified Budget. Business Manager Anderson gave a brief review on the FY2014 Certified Budget. President Smith asked for any questions from the audience. There were no questions. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Communication from the Public

Roger Henderson updated the school board on the recent fine arts trip to New York City. The students and chaperones enjoyed great shows and good tours. He reported how well the students behaved on the trip.

6. Student Recognition

None to report.

7. Presentation

Julie Davies, Director of Educational Services AEA 267, gave a presentation on the culture climate survey. She explained the twelve questions, the areas of strength, and the need to create an action plan. Her handout to the board was an action plan for the administrators. Davies will continue to work with the administrators. They will target the areas below the 90% level.

The district needs to realize changes are being made. The survey will be issued at the same time during the next school year.

The board gave several suggestions for the survey: look at the three lowest scores, give praise and recognition to staff, is there a better time to take the survey, for best results have the same people take the survey.

There was a concern about being anonymous in taking the survey. There was a suggestion to take the survey in a computer lab. Some didn't like having to make comments before moving on to the next question in the survey.

It was noted that para-educators are not part of the district leadership team. There was a suggestion for their involvement.

8. Communication and Reports

A. Board

Cameron reported he enjoyed the recent music concert presented by the Davis School students.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson explained there will be a district leadership team meeting on Friday, April 19. He indicated the AEA has been very helpful in working on this concept.

Superintendent Abrahamson said RSP & Associates have requested data. He is planning a work session with them on Tuesday, May 7.

Knobloch remarked several on the board are on the panel for the upcoming Civil Rites Symposium.

C. Principals

Principal Hegg-Dunne informed the board that one of the Destination Imagination (DI) Teams will be attending the national competition to be held this summer in Tennessee.

Principal K. Seney informed the board that three student artists were recently honored at the Belin-Blank Center for Performing Arts in Iowa City.

D. Director of Instruction

Chris Coffman and Principal Kirby explained the proposed Summer Reading Camp. They are planning on working with small groups of students, still working on the finances, won't need materials, will need prep time, will involve a level library, will review Diebels assessments.

The plan is to have camp run from Monday through Thursday. They are planning on having the camp at Davis School. This camp will be the beginning step for working on improving reading scores for some SES students.

To assess the program, the students will be benchmarked when they enter the program.

9. Old Business

A. 900 Series – 2nd Reading

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan for the 900 series – 2nd reading. No language changes will be made to 904.1, 904.2, or 904.3. Motion approved 7-0.

10. New Business

A. Superintendent Contract

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Lease to approve a one-year contract with the current terms for Superintendent Abrahamson. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Debt Service Prepayment Resolution

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Debt Service Prepayment Resolution. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Budget Guarantee Resolution

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron to approve the Budget Guarantee Resolution. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Certify the FY2014 budget to the levying bodies

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to approve - certify the FY2014 budget to the levying bodies. Motion carried 7-0.

E. High School Summer School Program

Motion by Lease, seconded by Cameron to approve the High School Summer Program. Dwight Laidig and Todd Crites will have the responsibility for this program. Motion carried 7-0.

F. Reading Camp

Motion by Lease, seconded by Cameron to approve the Reading Camp. Motion carried 7-0.

G. School Calendar 2013-14

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease to approve the School Calendar 2013-14. Several from the calendar committee commented on their discussions regarding school conferences, the importance of time for elementary conferences, the last day of school, different needs are at different levels, and the state sets the dates for state tournaments five years in advance. Superintendent Abrahamson indicated he would like to see the planning for a two-year calendar.

It was noted school conferences are not a state mandate. There was discussion regarding the school start times. The K-8th grade levels would like to return to the original school start times for the 2013-2014 school year. Not all of the PLC early morning sessions are as productive as originally planned. It was suggested to have the 2014-2015 calendar be drafted during the months of November and December 2013. Motion carried 7-0.

H. Set public hearing date of April 25, 2013 for innovative calendar waiver request

Motion by Lease, seconded by Moisan to approve the public hearing date of April 25, 2013 for innovation calendar waiver request. Motion carried 7-0.

I. Set public hearing date of May 8, 2013 for early start calendar waiver request

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve - set public hearing date of May 8, 2013 for early start calendar waiver request. Motion carried 7-0.

J. Early Retirement

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to approve the early retirement. This request is for early retirement option available to take in March 2014. Motion carried 7-0.

K. Lease renewal: City of Grinnell and Grinnell-Newburg Community School District

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to approve the lease renewal: City of Grinnell and Grinnell-Newburg Community School District.

The lease does not involve New Horizons. The lease reads for two years. The board requested the amendment of the policy for a one-year lease. Motion carried 7-0.

11. Suggestions for next agenda

The board would like to hear about the one room school within the school.

12. Decision Points

Knobloch extended a thank you for Business Manager Anderson for his dedication to the school district.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., May 13, 2013