

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Special Session on Thursday April 25, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the New Horizons room, 3rd Floor, 927 4th Avenue, 2nd floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Leo Lease, Claire Moisan, Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: Jeff Knobloch

Administrators Present: Sara Hegg-Dunne, Jeff Kirby, Chris Coffman, Sarah Seney

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the special session to order at 6:03 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Public Hearing: Innovative Calendar

There was no discussion.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. New Business

A. Innovative calendar waiver request

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to approve the innovative calendar waiver request. Superintendent Abrahamson stated there have been no more changes to the calendar. He indicated the Iowa Department of Education has a copy of the 2013-2014 school calendar. The department needs to receive copy of the board minutes from this meeting before they issue the final approval. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Comprehensive reading program

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to approve the comprehensive reading program.

Curriculum Director Chris Coffman explained the proposed comprehensive reading program called Making Meaning. Currently, the district has nine different reading programs. If approved, it will take two to four weeks for the materials to arrive. The program will also include a writing section and a vocabulary section.

The question was asked what measures will be used for tracking the success of the program. Coffman explained the assessments that will be used to measure the program. This program has a defined purpose. It will indicate deficiencies by answering where, why, and how.

Principal Seney indicated the students involved with The Daily Café understand what they are working on. It is important to have the new reading program in the hands of the teachers prior to summer break. She also stated this program will allow teachers to be more aware of where their students are with their learning capabilities.

Principal Kirby indicated data collection is an ongoing process. Both Principal Seney and Principal Kirby explained the process they use for running records on students.

Coffman explained this new program will allow teachers to understand when a child struggles with reading, to define the area they are struggling in. He also indicated this program will improve the writing skills of students. This model is a learning community. Students will learn how to disagree and agree with classmates, there will be collaboration with a partner. These skills will work well with the Olweus structure. Coffman also explained this program is not a result of the SINA status in the district. He also indicated this program will be a part of the PLC sessions for the 2013-2014 school year.

Cameron indicated this is not a for profit program. The program was designed to help teachers.

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Election of the Board Treasurer and Administration of the Oath of Office

President Smith asked Lisa Johnson to provide the board with some background history. She explained her previous employment history, she has passed the CPA exam, and will soon have her MBA degree.

Board Secretary Kriegel issued the Oath of Office for Board Treasurer to Lisa Johnson.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Calendar:

Board Work Session	5:00 p.m., May 7, 2013
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., May 8, 2013
Board/Educational Work Session	6:00 p.m., May 22, 2013