

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on May 8, 2013, at 6:25 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, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager Lisa Johnson, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: Claire Moisan

Administrators Present: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Board Secretary Susan Kriegel called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary

There was no discussion on the financials.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Cameron, 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: Deb Schade: middle school Strategist II; Karma Werner: transfer administrative assistant high school to Bailey Park administrative assistant

2. Resignations: Dana Willis: high school Strategist I; David Nickum: high school Strategist II

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: regular meeting 4/10/13 and special meeting 4/25/13

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: David Schubert: high school industrial tech teacher; Lisa Coffman: Summer Reading Camp Director; Kristina Loschen: middle school transfer from Strategist II to Behavior Interventionist; Cami Seals: ESYS instructor; Diane Volkman: ESYS instructor; Steve Glenn: high school assistant girls basketball coach; Kent Kastendick: transfer 9th grade girls basketball coach to 8th grade girls basketball coach; Josh Wardenburg: transfer assistant 7th grade football coach to

8th grade head football coach; Casey O'Rourke: transfer co-head 7th grade boys basketball coach to 8th grade head basketball coach

2. Resignations: Tanya Thompson: para-educator; Cathy Dudak: para-educator; Christina Norenberg: para-educator; Casey O'Rourke: head coach 7th grade boys football

F. Open Enrollment in 2013-2014: Diane Boyd: kindergarten from East Marshall

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

4. Communication from the Public

No comments.

5. Presentation – Robin Elliott

Robin Elliott gave a presentation on radon to the school board. She indicated the state of Iowa has very high levels of radon and explained what has created the high radon readings. Elliott explained the Iowa radon hotline, the different testing kits, and the procedure to do a radon test. Elliott also said the Iowa radon hotline provides good consumer information. She explained the radon bill has passed the senate but not passed the house. Elliott gave each board member additional information to read concerning radon.

6. Communication and Reports

A. Board

May is School Board Recognition Month. Superintendent Abrahamson passed out certificates to the board members and thanked the board members for their service to the school district.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson explained the recent work session with RSP & Associates. There was good discussion regarding the building project with the how, the why, and the upcoming community forums.

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the recent meetings of the District Leadership Team (DLT) that occurred on April 19 and April 29. The buildings are working on their building level goals. These goals will be revised at the May 22, 2013 board meeting with approval scheduled for the June 12, 2013 board meeting.

He also updated the board on the April 30 meeting for the DLT to work on the cultural climate action plans. The work is going well, with plans for the board to approve the cultural climate action plans at the June 12 board meeting.

After each weekly administrative team meeting, a general message will be shared with the district staff.

The transportation committee is working with Transfinder on a policy regarding the in-town bus stops. The goal is built around safety and efficiency. Currently there are more in-town students than rural students that require a bus pick-up. The policy needs to be shared with the parents before the end of the school year.

The district does not have crosswalks.

Knobloch and Cameron shared what a positive experience the recent 4th grade Y camp was. The teachers and camp staff did an excellent job of changing their plans to accommodate the snowy conditions.

Cameron also noted President Smith became an honorary FFA member at the recent FFA banquet. Smith also awarded a scholarship in memory of Tracy to a FFA student member.

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the May video is available for viewing with a theme of celebrating students.

The new website has a deadline of July 1, 2013 to go live.

C. Principals

No report

D. Director of Instruction

No report

7. Old Business

A. 900 Series – 3rd Reading

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron to approve the third and final reading of the 900 Series. Motion carried 6-0.

8. New Business

A. Class of 2013 graduates

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Wilhelm to approve the Class of 2013 graduates. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Student Fees

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Student Fees. Under discussion Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the fees were raised due to inflation.

Most of the fees have not seen a rate increase over a period of several years. There was a question regarding the cleaning of an additional band uniform. Superintendent Abrahamson will review this question for an appropriate answer. He also indicated the fees will be reviewed and if increases need to occur adjust at a moderate rate. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Task Force Committee

RSP & Associates is reviewing data from the Grinnell district. They are planning five meetings with the committee and two public forums. They suggested 25-30 members for the committee. The proposed committee has forty-seven names. The Building and Grounds Committee looked at the previous DLR committee, some names were recommended, and some individuals volunteered for the committee. The committee will consist of parents, teachers, administrators, and other members of the school district. Once approved, RSP & Associates will be drafting a letter to the committee regarding a time line for the upcoming members. Two public forums are being planned for Tuesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 29.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to approve the Task Force committee. Motion carried 6-0.

D. 28E Agreement Grinnell-Newburg Community School District and GRMC– Day Camp

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the only change in this agreement is the dates for the 2013 day camp.

Motion by Brown seconded by Cameron to approve the 28E Agreement Grinnell-Newburg Community School District and GRMC – Day Camp. Motion carried 6-0.

E. 28E Agreement Grinnell-Newburg Community School district – ELL

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the only change in this agreement is the dates for the school year.

Motion by Lease, seconded by Knobloch to approve the 28E Agreement Grinnell-Newburg Community School District – ELL. Motion carried 6-0.

F. Out-of-State travel May 22 – May 25, Destination Imagination

There is money in the TAG account to support this trip. The involved students are also working on several fundraisers to cover the travel costs.

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by Brown to approve the out-of-state travel May 22 – May 25, Destination Imagination. Motion carried 6-0.

G. Contracts: Administrators and non-certified

Motion by Lease, seconded by Cameron to approve the Contracts: Administrators and non-certified. The contracts reflect a 3.7% increase. Motion carried 6-0.

H. Early start calendar waiver request

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to approve the early start calendar waiver request. June 12, 2013 will be the public hearing date for the early start waiver request. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Suggestions for next agenda

The board would like to see a report from Curriculum Director Chris Coffman regarding the achievement data. They also want a report from the transportation committee.

The board is planning on attending the upcoming senior graduation.

Superintendent Abrahamson informed the board there will be a meal on Tuesday, June 4th for the district staff. The event will be held at the middle school or at the high school starting around 1:00 p.m.

10. Decision Points

President Smith indicated the percent increase for contracts is the same across all levels. Cameron mentioned the ELL and how this program is being observed. Lease indicated the high percent of graduates for the senior class. Wilhelm gave a thank you to senior Hannah Whitney for her two years of service to the school board as the student representative.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Calendar:

Board/Educational Work Session	5:00 p.m., May 22, 2013
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., June 12, 2013