

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on May 11, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Library, 930 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: President Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Leo Lease, Jeanette Budding, Carol Wilhelm, and Lynn Cavanagh. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Eckles, Student Representative Meredith Kalkbrenner, and Administrative Assistant Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Nancy Beck, Kevin Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne, and Matt Marrietta

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and Susan Kriegel called the roll. All members were present.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Budding, seconded by Cameron, to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 4/27/11
- C. Offers: Tori Dunham, MS PE; Drivers Ed instructors: Paul Wagner, Jill Wagner, Gary Meldrem, Sam Moyes: Gina Beck, K-4 ELP
Resignation: Joni Staton
Termination: Dick Saunders
- D. Open Enrollment
2010-2011 school year: Abby Kirchner, 6th grade, Madison Kirchner, 4th grade, Dylan Kirchner, 7th grade from South Tama, Wayne Dupee, 5th grade, Jason Dupee, 9th grade from Belle Plaine.
2011-2012 school year: Katelyn Mindrup, 10th grade from Newton

Motion carried 7-0.

III. Approve claims and accounts

No claims to approve.

IV. Public Hearing: Waiver of start date, 2011-2012 school year

There was no public comment.

V. Communication from the Public

A representative from GNEA, Mary Newton, spoke regarding the principal position to be filled at Davis Elementary. The GNEA requested clarification whether this position will be a building principal or a head principal. Superintendent Eckles explained the open position is for a head principal position, there will be no change in the current structure. Todd Abrahamson's recommendation for the position will be brought to Superintendent Eckles who will present the name for board approval.

President Smith extended a thank you to those who served on the DLR committee.

VI. Action Items

A. Approve the submission of start date waiver pursuant to IA Code 279.10(4)

Motion by Lynn Cavanagh, seconded by Doug Cameron to approve the submission of start date waiver pursuant to IA Code 279.10(4). Superintendent Eckles remarked this request is an annual event, with the waiver request, which allows school to start prior to September 1. This waiver has

to be approved which allows submission of the wavier request. Wilhelm commented more discussion is needed on when is the best time to start the school year. Motion carried 6-1, Wilhelm opposed.

B. Approve School Improvement Advisory Committee:

Motion by Barbara Brown, second by Doug Cameron to approve the following names for the School Improvement Advisory Committee: Scott Herbers, Becky McIlrath, Amy Miller, Sue Hovenga, Francesca Cunningham, Nancy Martino, Doug and Mary Beth Badger, Lee Stratford, Sarah and Dustin Smith, Wen and Chang Cai, Jackie and Paul Hutchinson, Peggy Parker, Nick and Stephanie Noun-Harder, Craig Smith, Andrew Mobley and Val Benoist, Dale Lamb, Lee McFee, and Lisa Moorehead.

The building administrators selected the names. Discussion was held regarding the importance of diversity in the group, a fair segment of the population, and the importance of attendance at the meetings. Superintendent Eckles indicated names can be added to the committee at a later time. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Approve 2011-2012 fees

Motion by Doug Cameron, second by Jeanette Budding to approve the 2011-2012 fees. Superintendent Eckles explained the only increase will be the student lunch price, which will increase \$.05. A question was asked for an explanation for the instructional fees. Superintendent Eckles explained what these fees cover. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Approve revised New Horizons staffing plan: eliminate .875 FTE para position, add .50 FTE teaching position

Motion by Leo Lease, seconded by Barbara Brown to approve the revised New Horizons staffing plan. Superintendent Eckles remarked this change follows the "No Child Left Behind Act" requirements for highly qualified teachers to have endorsements in the area they are teaching. The state's dropout dollars will fund this change. Lori Francis also discussed the proposed change. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Approve preschool playground cement bid, Spriggs Enterprises, LLC \$12,398 (from PPEL)

Motion by Doug Cameron and seconded by Leo Lease to approved the preschool playground cement bid of \$12,398 by Spriggs Enterprises, LLC. Superintendent Eckles asked that the preschool personnel give a presentation on the proposal. Matt Marietta introduced Andre Zhorne and Jan Phifer, both Fairview preschool teachers. Matt Marietta said the playground must meet safety and curriculum requirements. He reviewed the US Consumer and Product Safety Commission guidelines. Currently nine playground factors are not being met.

Currently the preschool uses the west side of the playground, which was originally designated for K-6th grade play.

The new playground location will be on the east side of the current playground. This site was chosen due to the following existing factors that are already present; pea gravel and fencing. Matt also discussed this project with the head Fairview custodian. The proposed area will meet the curriculum and safety guidelines for large motor skills, coordination, strength, and flexibility. A skid loader will be needed to remove the existing equipment. Matt also discussed this plan with Karen Veerhusen-Langerud along with reviewing preschool documents. The total for the project will be \$52,536.00. A question was asked if there will be fundraising or a grant for this project? Superintendent Eckles responded this project was reviewed with the finance committee. JT Anderson indicated per the master plan, any building changes are probably three years away. Ms. Phifer indicated in Grinnell there is no preschool playground equipment that has open access at all times. This project will be very rewarding for the community to use the equipment. JT Anderson indicated the funds will come out of the PPEL account.

F. Approve preschool playground fencing bid, D & N Fence Company, \$5920 (from PPEL)

Motion by Barbara Brown, seconded by Jeanette Budding, to approve the preschool playground-fencing bid from D & N Fence Company for \$5920. Motion carried 7-0.

G. Approve preschool playground assembly bid, Chris Simon Construction, \$8750 (from PPEL)

Motion by Barbara Brown, seconded by Jeanette Budding, to approve the preschool playground assembly bid from Chris Simon Construction for \$8750. Motion carried 7-0.

H. Approve preschool playground canopy bid, Chris Simon Construction, \$3820 (from PPEL)

Motion by Doug Cameron, seconded by Jeanette Budding, to approve the preschool playground canopy bid from Chris Simon Construction for \$3820. Motion carried 7-0.

I. Approve preschool playground equipment bid, Boland Recreation, \$21,649 (from PPEL)

Motion by Leo Lease, seconded by Doug Cameron, to approve the preschool playground equipment bid from Boland Recreation for \$21,649. Under discussions Wilhelm asked about information regarding the company Boland Recreation. Boland Recreation is a vendor for the Miracle Recreation product. No further questions. Motion carried 7-0.

J. Approve purchase of projectors for HS band and HS vocal rooms: estimated \$5,000 cost (\$6,800 total less \$1,800 GNEE grant)

Motion by Leo Lease, seconded by Jeanette Budding, to approve the purchase of projectors for the HS band and HS vocal rooms, estimated cost of \$5,000. Motion carried 7-0.

K. Approve increase in Fairview night custodian position to 12 months, from 11 months

Motion by Lynn Cavanagh, seconded by Doug Cameron, to approve increase in the Fairview night custodian position from 11 months to 12 months. Under discussion there was a request for an explanation of this change. Superintendent Eckles explained the other buildings have twelve-month custodial positions. This change will put Fairview school in line with the other buildings. This position is currently vacant and will be advertised. No further questions. Motion carried 7-0.

L. Approve 3.75% package increase for PPE, cooks, administrative assistants, and district office support staff.

Motion by Lynn Cavanagh, seconded by Doug Cameron, to approve the 3.75% package increase for PPE, cooks, administrative assistants, and district office support staff. Under discussion Superintendent Eckles indicated this increase is consistent with the package increase for the teachers. PPE stands for the physical plant employees. JT Anderson stated the bus drivers are not part of this group. This has been discussed with Bill Ahrens and may go to the finance committee. JT Anderson indicated the teachers will be going into the third year of their three-year contract. No further discussion. Motion carried 6-0-1, Smith abstained.

VII. Discussion

A. Revenue Purpose Statement

JT Anderson remarked he had sent the board information regarding the revenue purpose statement. The Sales Tax Law has changed. This fall, this change will appear on the ballot for the school board election. The community needs to understand this is not a tax increase. During the June 22, 2011, board meeting, the board will authorize the Revenue Purpose Statement be placed on the upcoming ballot. The board needs to education the community, this is a formality and not a sales tax increase. Superintendent Eckles reminded the board they cannot tell the community to vote yes or no. The board can only inform the community the purpose of the vote.

VIII. Reports from principals and superintendent

Principals Beck, Hegg-Dunne, and Seney presented their reports for their respective buildings. Superintendent Eckles also gave a brief report. Superintendent Eckles indicated it was School Board Appreciate Week. She distributed school board certificates to each board member. She thanked the school board members for their service on the board. The superintendents' report was a combination of several supervisor's reports. Superintendent Eckles also indicated the district website was up and running. She also reported the Webmaster is working properly.

X. Adjourn

Motion by Doug Cameron, seconded by Jeanette Budding to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.
Motion carried 7-0.

Board Calendar:

Vision committee meeting	4:00 pm, May 12, 2011
Board regular meeting	5:30 pm, May 25, 2011
Finance committee meeting	4:00 pm, May 26, 2011
Graduation	2:00 pm, May 29, 2011