

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on July 13, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Community Library, 930 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Lynn Cavanagh, Leo lease, Carol Wilhelm, and Jeanette Budding. Also in attendance at the table: Board Secretary Susan Kriegel.

Members Absent: President Jeff Smith

Administrators Present: None

## **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice President Cameron called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Board Secretary called the roll. Smith was absent.

## **II. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 6/22/11
- C. Personnel:
  - 1. Offers: Travis Renze, paraeducator: Myra Sicard, middle school head cook: Angie Kisner, 3.5 hour food service: Rob Gibson, .5 FTE Social Studies New Horizon

Motion carried 6-0.

## **III. Approve claims and accounts**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Cavanagh, to approve the claims and accounts as of July 13, 2011. Motion carried 6-0.

## **IV. Communication from the Public**

None.

## **V. Action Items**

### **A. Approve Gruhn Law Firm, school attorney**

Motion by Budding, seconded by Cavanagh, to approve Gruhn Law Firm as the school attorney. Under discussion, Superintendent Abrahamson explained he was worked with this law firm for several years. The district will continue to work with the previous firm for several projects. The local lawyer will continue to work with the nonprofit entities. Motion carried 6-0.

### **B. Approve music instrument storage, Grinnell Middle School**

Motion by Budding, seconded by Wilhelm, to approve the music instrument storage project. Motion carried 6-0.

### **C. Approve Susan Kriegel, board secretary**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Budding, to approve Susan Kriegel as board secretary. Motion carried 6-0.

## **VI. Discussion**

### **A. IASB membership**

Under discussion several systems were discussed regarding their accountability with JMC. The district will always need a student ID tracking system. Although not IASB members, it was noted several non public schools have used some of the IASB services. Superintendent Abrahamson asked the board to

continue to evaluate the IASB status for the next year. Cameron indicated a letter could be sent to the IASB to make them aware the Grinnell-Newburg school district will be evaluating their progress.

## **B. Sub Pay**

This subject should be discussed every year. The sub pay is \$110.00 for the first 5 days, \$140.00 for the next 45 days, and \$170.00 after that time period. Cameron asked for clarification that a sub used for an entire school year will receive pay only. This is correct as it is not a teacher contract. No action required, as no changes were made.

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. DLR Report**

Vince Ward and Tom Penney from the DLR Group presented booklets that explained the facilities management process and results. This formalized document was created from the work done by the facilities committee. DLR will be issuing a formal statement. Vince asked the board to read through the booklet and contact them with any questions. They are also available to come back for further discussion. DLR indicated option five as described in the booklet as the best fit for the district in terms of financial and facilities growth. During the facilities meetings there was support to remove the fifth grade from the middle school structure as this class age appears to be a better fit for elementary school structure. They are aware the public will want a detailed financial plan. This will require additional public meetings. It will be important for the board to establish a timeline for this project. The cost appendix in the book is costs as of today. Traditionally there has been a 5-6% change per year. Due to the slow economy, there has been no change the last two years. There could be an increase if the economy has a positive growth spurt.

### **B. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated he is working on an entry plan survey, with a web link soon to be on the website. For the next board meeting the elementary administrative levels will be defined. He is working on a hiring procedure manual and will bring the document to the board. Superintendent Abrahamson will be sitting in for all interviews of staff positions. During the PLC conference he held several meetings. The overall consensus of the PLC convention was very supportive. The consensus was the staff to continue to focus on the current initiatives, with no new initiatives for the next three years. Technology for the district will continue a transition to Google mail and docs. Several years ago, the district had established Google. During the email transition, for six months the current staff emails addresses will be automatically forwarded to their new email addresses.

In regards to a fiduciary committee, Superintendent Abrahamson prefers to meet a half hour before the regular board meeting to discuss bills and financials. He would like to meet at 5:00 pm on board meeting days for the fiduciary committee. This time is also part of the open meetings. Due to several board members with 5:00 pm workday schedules, it was discussed to have the fiduciary committee meeting start at 5:30 pm, with the regular board meeting at 6:00 pm. Superintendent Abrahamson prefers all board members attend the fiduciary committee meeting.

This change will start after the September board elections. Superintendent Abrahamson would like the school board committees to consist of building and grounds, transportation, negotiations, policy, and vision.

Wilhelm requested the policy committee needs to meet in either August or September.

### **VIII. Board Talking Points**

Superintendent Abrahamson asked for three highlights of the meeting. Several positives comments were made. After the school year begins, there will be teacher presentations, teacher, and student recognitions during the board meetings. The principals will be organizing these presentations.

### **IX. Adjournment**

Motion by Cavanagh and seconded by Budding, to adjourn meeting at 6:37 pm. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Board Calendar:**

Board regular meeting	5:30 pm, July 27, 2011
Finance committee meeting	4:00 pm, July 28, 2011
Policy committee meeting	5:00 pm. August 1, 2011