

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on August 8, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Doug Cameron, Barbara Brown, Claire Moisan, Jeff Knobloch, and Leo Lease. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager J.T. Anderson, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: Carol Wilhelm

Administrators Present: None

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

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll. Six members in attendance, one absent.

## **2. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

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

2. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - E. Personnel:
    1. Offering: Steve Glenn, volunteer coach high school cross country
    2. Resignation: Abby Allen, Junior Class Prom Sponsor
5. New Business
  - A. Preschool contracts  
Grinnell College Preschool contract is attached
  - C. Out-of-state travel September 20 and 21 to Maryland: Jan Phifer, Andrea Zhorne, and Sarah Seney to attend a preschool training  
Update – Jan Phifer is now unable to attend this out-of-state training
  - D. Approve SIAC Goals
- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 7/11/12; board retreat 7/13/12
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
  1. Offerings: Sabrina Edsen; volunteer coach varsity girls volleyball, Stephanie Onthank; volunteer coach Tiger Paws, Kristina Loschen; special education teacher (middle school), Jamie Lloyd; volunteer coach high school cheerleading
  2. Resignations: Bonnie Halterman; high school cook, Sue Hovenga; middle school cook
- F. Contract upgrade; Levi Dressler BA +30 to MA
- G. Open Enrollment: Terran Gosselink; kindergarten from Lynnville-Sully, Corall

neighbors; kindergarten from BGM

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to approve consent agenda with amendments.  
Motion carried 6-0.

**3. Communication from the Public**

None to report

**4. Communication and Reports**

**A. Board**

President Smith discussed the board retreats and how to learn the best way to do business. There has been good output. There will be changes on how the board meetings are conducted.

**B. Superintendent**

Chris Coffman gave his report prior to Superintendent Abrahamson's report.

Chris Coffman reported the SIAC committee met on June 19. They reviewed goals for the upcoming school year and reviewed data from the 2011-2012 school year. Davis and Grinnell Middle School will continue on the SINA list. The goals were not met for the special education students and SES. During the 2011-2012 school year, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students did not meet the measure of the National Standard Score (NSS). Coffman indicated after reviewing the district as a whole, the goals were fairly strong. He discussed the 2012-2013 goals. During the upcoming school year, teachers will have more time for collaboration. Coffman also attended a meeting on competency base learning.

President Smith asked what is needed from the board. The board discussed goals for the sub groups, available resources, and how is the progress monitored.

Superintendent Abrahamson met with the FEH group. They are working on a design phase of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade attending the high school and an upgrade for the tennis courts. The committee feels comfortable with the design, bid, build approach. Superintendent Abrahamson notified Estes Construction of this decision.

Superintendent Abrahamson hopes to have the Phase 2 report by the end of this week. When it arrives, the law firm will need to have a copy for review. A closed session will be planned with the board to also discuss options for preK – 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

He indicated the summer retreats went well. There will be changes at the next board meeting to become more efficient.

Mr. Heiligenthal plans to Skype an upcoming board meeting, maybe the November meeting. He will also summarize the material from the summer retreats and prepare a plan.

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the upcoming Macbook evening. There will be two sessions, one for the 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and one for the 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Scott McLeod will be the key note speaker. Dan McCue will be present to discuss social media. During the evening there will be about 30 high school ambassadors helping parents, students, and answering questions. There will also be vendors there to help parents with questions concerning the Internet or if they want to purchase an Internet package for their household.

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - 800 series**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - 800 series. Motion carried 6-0.

### **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Macbook policy**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - Macbook policy. Under discussion it was suggested to have the policy available on the website. It was discussed if a parent does not sign the agreement, the student won't be able to take the Macbook home. They would then be responsible for any damages to the Macbook. Motion carried 6-0.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Preschool contracts**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch, to approve the Preschool contracts. Motion carried 6-0.

### **B. Board meeting dates**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Lease, to approve the Board meeting dates. Under discussion, it was noted November 14 is the first day of the IASB convention. The retreat dates are still tentative. The plan is to go from two to one budget workshop session. Board development will be in November and January. It was discussed the board does not need thirty minutes for the fiduciary. Motion by Moisan, to amend and start at the meeting at 6:00 pm with the fiduciary being included, seconded by Brown. Motion carried 6-0.

### **C. Out-of-state travel September 20 and 21 to Maryland: Jan Phifer, Andrea Zhorne, and Sarah Seney to attend a preschool training**

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve the out-of-state travel September 20 and 21 to Maryland: Jan Phifer, Andrea Zhorne, and Sarah Seney to attend a preschool training.

This training was discussed during the state preschool visit. The state preschool visitors explained how the training will strengthen the preschool with community groups and parents.

**D. Approve SIAC Goals**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve SIAC Goals.

Under discussion the board would like the SIAC information be placed on the website. It was discussed to have one or two board members be on the committee. Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the committee will be meeting three times during the school year. Motion carried 6-0.

**7. Suggestion for next agenda**

The board would like the data on the subgroups with the SINA label.

**8. Decision Points**

It was discussed the Macbook policy was well thought out. Questions from patrons were handled appropriately, with advice from legal if required.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

**Board Calendar:**

Regular Board and Fiduciary Meeting

6:00 p.m., September 12, 2012