

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on August 10, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Library, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Lynn Cavanagh, Leo Lease, Carol Wilhelm, and Jeanette Budding. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager JT Anderson, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne, and Jeff Kirby

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Board Secretary called the roll.

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Budding, seconded by Cameron to approve the consent agenda.

Superintendent Abrahamson amended the consent agenda to add the resignation of Deanne Grabinski.

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

A. Agenda

B. Minutes: regular meeting 7/27/11

C. Personnel:

1. Offers: Ed Fenner, night custodian Grinnell High School; Troy Schilder, night custodian Fairview; Michelle Schenking, head cook Davis; DeAnn Elliott, cook Grinnell High School; Susan Vos, cook Grinnell High School; Tom Dayton, head 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball; Erin Darrah, head 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball; Tori Dunham, assistant 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball, Tori Dunham, head 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls track, and Rebecca Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade long term substitute
2. Resignation: Nicole Routier
3. Open enrollment; Alexander Snook; 5<sup>th</sup> grade from BGM; Arianna Stevens; kindergarten from BGM; Devyn Caves, kindergarten from BCLUW; Payton Burnett, kindergarten from Lynnville-Sully, Sylvia Townsend, 12<sup>th</sup> grade from South Tama

Motion carried 7-0.

### 3. Communication from the Public

Interviews will be held next week for the position of long term 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts.

### 4. Old Business

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Budding to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Board Policy "Public Participation in Board Meetings" Code No. 213.

Due to discussions from the last board meeting, Superintendent Abrahamson changed the text to state two days not three days for filing a request to speak at a school board meeting. He also added language that states the board president has discretion to waive the requirements regarding filing a request prior to a board meeting. When the policy is finalized it will be available on line for the public to download.

Carol Wilhelm explained her concerns that the language was not consistent with the other policies. The policy tone is not inviting. Several board members suggested working on the tone of the text prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading review. Motion carried 6-1, Wilhelm voted no.

Superintendent Abrahamson explained the public needs to use the brochure that was described during the July 27, 2011 board meeting for a reference on how to proceed with concerns about the school district.

### 5. New Business

#### A. Approve administrative contracts

Motion by Cavanagh, seconded by Lease to approve the administrative contracts. The question was asked on the process used to explain the salary increases. A 3.75 % percent had been established prior

to Superintendent Abrahamson beginning his new position. The salaries for the two elementary principals are based on their years of experience. Motion carried 6-1, Cameron voted no.

Superintendent Abrahamson and Business Manager JT Anderson are revising the job descriptions for the staff, the current ones were established in 1993.

## **6. Discussion Items**

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the recent PLC convention. Principal Seney gave a brief description of the history surrounding the establishment of the PLC. Representatives from the elementary levels, the middle school, and the high school explained when they learned from the conference.

It is very important to have consistency regarding professional development between all buildings. There needs to be a scheduled time for collaboration. The staff is interested in one weekly late start for the PLC development. There was discussion concerning the K-4<sup>th</sup> grade and the potential need for supervision of children that arrive at school during the PLC learning time. It was also discussed regarding the difficulty for parents that work with the one hour late start time.

Superintendent Abrahamson will bring the PLC plan to the board for approval at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. He has been discussing the PLC format with one of the Solution Tree speakers. The tentative plan is to start the late starts after the Labor Day holiday.

## **7. Reports**

### **A. Board**

Superintendent Abrahamson encouraged the board members to continue reading their assigned book. Discussion on the book will begin in September. Tom Downs from the IASB will be coming to talk with the board either in September or October.

### **B. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Abrahamson explained the open enrollment request from South Tama. He had discussed the request with Principal Seney. They made a good faith effort for this request. Advertisement was made for a sign language interpreter. They did not receive any certified applications for a sign language interpreter. Superintendent Abrahamson will call the grandparents and explain the results. As a result, South Tama will be responsible for the open enrollment request.

Superintendent Abrahamson has had many one on one meetings with the board and the administration. He is working on establishing a business round table. A mission statement will soon be established for the round table. The common theme will be building a partnership between the district and the business community.

## **8. Board Talking Points**

Two suggestions were the updating of job descriptions and the enthusiasm for the PLC team concept that everyone is involved in.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion by Cameron and seconded by Brown to adjourn meeting at 7:35 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Board Calendar:**

Fiduciary meeting	5:30 pm, August 24, 2011
Regular board meeting	6:00 pm, August 24, 2011