

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on October 12, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Library, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Jeff Knobloch, Leo Lease, Claire Moisan, Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager JT Anderson, Student Representative Hannah Whitney, 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. The Board Secretary called the roll.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

President Smith read the following amended item for the consent agenda: Open Enrollments, Bladen Fisher, 8th grade from Newton, Levi Fisher, 11th grade from Newton, and Shelby Kerr, 10th grade from Newton.

President Smith indicated the addition of 7.E. would be discussed later in the meeting: Approve Publication for the Public Hearing related to the 2012-2013 Innovative Calendar. The Public Hearing will be Thursday, October 27, 2011.

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 9-21-11
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
 - 1. Offer: Judith Lourens, para educator
 - 2. Open Enrollments: Jack Stephens, kindergarten from BGM, Sam Simon, kindergarten from South Tama, Trevor Goulding, 5th grade from Le Grand, Ryan Goulding, 1st grade from Le Grand, Jacob Hutchcraft, 2nd grade from BGM, Aslyn Hutchcraft, 1st grade from BGM, Cloe Hutchcraft, kindergarten from BGM
 - 3. Resignations: Stacy Sonnichson, Kelly Pilcher
- F. Approval of contract: Contracted Services Agreement with Iowa Valley Community College

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Cameron to approve the amended consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Communication from the Public

A parent discussed the need of awareness for the English Language Learners(ELL) program. She mentioned the importance of ELL teacher training. She is very pleased with the training her child's teachers have received. She indicated there are nineteen ELL students in the district and is concerned about the importance of ELL training for the teachers of the other ELL students. President Smith indicated this might become a later discussion item.

President Smith stated the addition of item 3.A. regarding the HVAC system. He introduced Shawn Edelen and Victor Amoroso, A & J Associates, to discuss the current HVAC system for the high school.

Currently, for proper temperature in the different areas of the building Edelen has to operate the chilling system at a maximum level or not at all. He indicated another bypass needs to be added to the system. The proposed design includes a bypass that would allow for proper operation of the current system. The proposed plan would save energy dollars. Shawn indicated he has talked to the original engineers. The pump currently operates at a 100% level. The proposed design would allow the pump to have a 50% to 100% fluctuation as needed. The two air handlers that currently serve the

gym cannot be modulated. The proposal would allow for modulation as needed. Specs have been submitted to Alliant Energy for rebates.

Amoroso discussed the carbon dioxide demand only air intake system. This design concept was not available at the time of the high school construction project. The proposed design will also save energy dollars with this system. It can also regulate the air noise in the gymnasium. This equipment is able to detect when fresh outside air is needed.

On September 9, 2011, A & J Associates sent emails to the following potential bidders: S&S Plumbing and Heating of Marengo, Jensen Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc., and German Plumbing Heating & Cooling Inc. The email requested two proposals: high school gym and auditorium chiller modification and the high school ventilation system with two options. Two competitive bids were returned. Both companies indicated they could have the two projects finished in the spring of 2012. Amoroso has worked with both companies. Amoroso recommended awarding the contract for both projects to the low bid from S&S Plumbing and Heating of Marengo.

4. Student Recognition

Sara Hegg-Dunne introduced the “Green Team” and Grinnell Middle School teacher, Cathy Sonnichsen. Green Team members are: Danica Nolton, Cody Sicard, Madison Levandoski, and Drew Cooper. Each member spoke about different highlights of their recent trip to Springbrook State Park where they spent two days and one night discussing environmental issues. They have made positive changes at the middle school and Cooper has plans for “green” changes at the high school.

5. Staff Presentation

- A. **The Daily 5:** Brenda Mikel and Patty Lloyd
Sarah Seney introduced Brenda Mikel and Patty Lloyd to explain the Daily 5 and how they have implemented this program in their classroom. Lloyd explained the Read to Self concept and the goal of increasing student reading time. The students have been able to increase their reading time from five-minute increments to fifteen-minute increments. Another part of the Daily 5 is the concept called Read to Someone. During this time students share their reading books. Mikel also discussed the Listen to Read concept and how she has incorporated the reading applications with an iPad, Word Work, and journal writing. Fairview School is also using the Daily 5 in their classrooms.
- B. **Science Curriculum and Technology:** Malissa Juni GMS and Sally Kriegel GHS
Sally Kriegel explained the new laptops, microscopes, and a camera that science students are now using. She indicated the new textbooks have some errors. Kriegel is working with the textbook company on corrections. Kriegel gave a demonstration that involved five questions and had the school board members respond by using the Smart Response (clickers). She likes the new science program that allows her to have a quick classroom assessment.

Malissa Juni explained the 6th grade thru 8th grade science curriculum. This is a hands on room, with reading, writing, and discussion. They are using twenty-five computers and modeling Pierson Success Net. Juni continues to work on a few issues, but is enjoying the new technology.

6. Old Business

None to report

7. New Business

A. Approve HVAC bid for the high school gym and auditorium

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Lease to award the HVAC bid to S&S Plumbing and Heating of Marengo for the high school gymnasium and auditorium. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Approve transfer of \$100,000 from Capital Project Tun to PPEL Fund

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to transfer \$100,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to the PPEL fund. This amount will be used for the HVAC system. Motion carried 7-0.

C. On November 16, 2011, at the IASB Delegate Assembly, the Election of a District Director to serve on the Board of Directors

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the board did not have to proceed with this election for a district director. He did not know any of the candidates. Item failed, due to lack of a motion.

D. Approve board committees

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan, to approve the board committees as posted. Superintendent Abrahamson added Knobloch to the Negotiation committee and the Building and Grounds committee. Board members may attend any of the evening committee meetings. Superintendent Abrahamson indicated a decision will be made on how often the committees should meet. The dates and times will be posted on Google Docs. Superintendent Abrahamson will attend every meeting and take notes. President Smith indicated each committee will give a report during the monthly board meeting. The Building and Grounds committee will be developing a long-term plan.

Cameron indicated Bill Ahrens should be on the Transportation committee and Don Lender should be on the Building and Grounds committee.

As part of the Innovation Think Tank committee, Superintendent Abrahamson met and discussed the One to One platform with iPads with the local colleges, various individuals, and technology individuals.

President Smith stated the motion to approve the board committees with the addition of Knobloch to the Negotiation Committee and the Building and Grounds committee. Motion carried 7-0.

As an idea for the Transportation committee, Superintendent Abrahamson has been involved in the leasing and reselling of school busses.

E. Approve publication for the Public Hearing related to the 2012-2013 Innovation Calendar. The Public Hearing will be Thursday, October 27, 2011.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve publication for the Public Hearing related to the 2012-2013 Innovation Calendar. Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the meeting will start at 6:00 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

8. Discussion Items

There were no discussion items to report.

9. Reports

A. Board

President Smith discussed the upcoming IASB convention and orientation meetings for new and old board members. New school board member training will be October 20, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the presentation by Rich Smith to the district staff went well. The PLC facilitators met in the morning with Mr. Smith. Superintendent Abrahamson has drafted a letter for the district regarding the PLC plan. He wants this plan to move forward. PLC facilitators will receive a stipend for their PLC work. This group will be responsible for developing norms and keeping the various groups on task.

Superintendent Abrahamson explained the AlertNow communication tool. Notices from AlertNow will go to every individual that has a student in school. This system can be used for weather, open houses, and various school announcements. The plan is to have AlertNow operational by November 1, 2011.

The auditors completed their recent audit of the district with an audit wrap meeting. During the meeting they discussed their concerns regarding the purchase order process, fundraisers not being reconciled, Grinnell Middle School concession stands, and the yearbook. They also mentioned awards presented to staff and students must be in the form of a check. A cash award is not acceptable.

The Iowa Education Blueprint is posted on the website. Superintendents from the Little Hawkeye Conference will start meeting four times a year. The October 19, 2011 meeting with Tom Downs was moved to November 3, 2011. Several board members indicated they are unable to attend the November 3, 2011, meeting. Superintendent Abrahamson will continue to work on a date for the board to meet with Tom Downs.

Early enrollment indicators show a steady to plus growth.

Superintendent Abrahamson is working on a bi-monthly newsletter for the district. This newsletter will contain articles provided by teachers and administrators.

Dan Agnew is assisting Superintendent Abrahamson with the Business Round Table committee. Thirteen individuals are part of this committee. They will be meeting later in October.

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the photography decision. The decision will be reviewed at the end of the school year.

Superintendent Abrahamson instructed the board members to start reading the first chapter of their assigned book.

The principals explained their reports and answered any questions. Principal Seney indicated her staff are meeting to discuss data, progress monitoring tools, frequency, and the goals of students in the intervention. Principal Kirby indicated the SINA plan will be presented this Friday. Last year Davis School was involved in data analysis, now they are working on a plan regarding students who are not learning. Principal Hegg-Dunne indicated their Action Plan is due next Friday. They need to make students aware of their learning potential. Their SINA plan is still in the design stage. They are working on structuring time during the day for SINA. Principal Seney discussed the PLC, skills, and working with students who are not getting their skills. Chris Coffman discussed SINA and its two-year plan.

10. Board Talking Points

Board member shared their comments; good presentations, enjoyed the Daily Five, good photos of children learning science, staff enthusiasm for improvements, technology reactions, and iPad usage by 2nd graders.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Calendar:

Special board meeting	6:00 pm, October 27, 2011
Fiduciary meeting	5:30 pm, November 9, 2011
Regular board meeting	6:00 pm, November 9, 2011
Educational meeting	6:00 pm, November 21, 2011
Board Development	6:00 pm, November 30, 2011