

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on October 13, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Drake Library, 930 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: President Jeff Smith, Vice President Doug Cameron, Jeanette Budding, Barbara Brown, Leo Lease, Carol Wilhelm, and Lynn Cavanagh. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Edie Eckles, Board Secretary J.T. Anderson, and student representative Meredith Kalkbrenner.

Members Absent: None

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

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Secretary called the roll. All members present.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Budding, seconded by Lease, to approve consent agenda as follows:

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 9-22-10
- C. Personnel:
 - 1. Contract upgrade: Roger Henderson, to MA+15
 - 2. Offers: Jaydine Good, custodian
 - 3. Resignations: Gina Beck, paraeducator
- D. Student teaching contract with Iowa State University
- E. Approve contracts with Iowa Valley Community College for college courses for high school students taught by Grinnell-Newburg employees and taught by Iowa Valley employees

Motion by Cavanagh, seconded by Wilhelm, to amend item VI (B) in the 9-22-10 board minutes and add language noting all schools in the district were on the NCLB watch list for not meeting state testing participation goals. Motion carried 7-0.

Original motion carried 7-0.

III. Approve claims and account

Motion by Brown, seconded by Budding, to approve the claims and accounts as of October 13, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Communication from the Public

Deb Montgomery, parent and community member, expressed concern over the way students were being supervised during their lunch periods. She witnessed what she describes as adults "bullying" students and would like the board, administration, and staff to review lunch room procedures and how to better supervise students.

V. Action Items

A. Approve at second reading policy 507.9 Wellness

Motion by Budding, seconded by Brown, to approve policy 507.9 at second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Approve purchase of 7 Radio Engineering Industries Bus Watch R4001 camera systems; \$15,211 from PPEL

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Lease, to approve purchase of bus cameras. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Approve payment to S&S for middle school HVAC work; \$21,850 from PPEL

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron, to approve payment for work done on middle school HVAC. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Approve proposal from Musco Lighting for repairs to baseball, softball, and football lighting from hail storm damage: \$24,892 (\$17,470 from insurance proceeds; \$7,422 from PPEL)

Motion by Lease, seconded by Budding, to approve Musco Lighting proposal. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Reports

A. Principals, Business Manager, and Superintendent reports

Nancy Beck, elementary principal, congratulated David Abarr-4th grade teacher for receiving the Golden Apple Award by WHO TV and Allied Insurance. Beck, along with Chris Coffman-Teacher on Special Assignment, updated the board on elementary professional development, testing, and other technology related issues.

Sara Hegg-Dunne, middle school principal, informed the board that the middle school hosted a variety of guest speakers in October including; Deb Michaels from the education department at Grinnell College and Steve Sherman, who is a Grinnell native that just authored a young adult novel titled Moxie. Ms. Hegg-Dunne also updated the board on the professional development activities that had recently occurred at the middle school.

Kevin Seney, high school principal, acknowledged student D.J. Savarese for winning a \$5,000 scholarship from the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association's annual Uncommon Student Award program. Savarese entered a project into the competition, which is intended to help non-speaking people learn to communicate through reading and writing. Only three Iowa students received this prestigious honor.

J.T. Anderson, business manager, gave the board the fiscal year 2010 treasurer's report directly from the Certified Annual Report. Anderson also updated the board on the progress of the FY2010 audit, certified enrollment, Microsoft Settlement, and Statewide Voluntary Preschool enrollment numbers. Anderson recommended that the board revisit

the preschool funding allocations now that actual enrollment in the program has been determined.

Edie Eckles, superintendent, reported that in partnership with the Grinnell Police Department, the school district was able to secure a \$35,000 federal Secure Our Schools grant that will assist in upgrading the high school security camera system. Eckles also informed the board that the district's free or reduced population increased from 30% in FY2010 to 37.8% in FY2011.

B. Finance committee report

Board President Smith gave a report from the September 23 finance committee meeting, which the majority of the discussion related to the potential high school exterior project. After a presentation from Mark Thiessen-Angelo Architects, the finance committee recommended that the board wait until after the facilities master planning process is completed before approving the high school exterior project.

C. Policy Committee Report

Board President Smith reported no significant items from the policy committee meeting from October 4.

VII. Discussion

A. District website redesign ideas, technology update and needs

Dave Kubalsky, Technology Director, updated the board on the most recent technology purchases and the implementation of such equipment and software. Kubalsky noted that due to the magnitude of technology purchases, it took longer than anticipated to implement certain items. He noted that most of the significant technology difficulties have been addressed and thanked the board for approving a second technology staff position, as the technology work within the district is projected to increase in the coming years. Board members asked Mr. Kubalsky if there were other actions the board can take to assist in the technology implementation. Members also tasked Mr. Kubalsky, along with the district technology committee, to plot out a district technology vision and 5-10 year long range plan.

Discussion then moved to the district website and possible redesign ideas. Board members expressed various ideas and suggestions on how to make a website more user friendly. President Smith recommended that the board form a website redesign committee to come up with tools and functionalities the district website should contain, and then bring these items as a recommendation to the entire board.

B. Federal Ed Jobs funding proposal

Superintendent Eckles presented the federal Ed Jobs funding proposal, which included the hiring of a .5 FTE Math Interventionist, 1.0 FTE Literacy Strategist, and a 1.0 FTE elementary counselor (a 1.0 FTE technology position was approved at the previous board meeting). Eckles and the building principals discussed specifically the roles of the proposed positions and their expected impact on student and teacher development. Board members were mostly satisfied with the proposal and asked that it be on the agenda of the next board meeting as an action item.

C. Update on Facilities' Master Plan process

Eckles noted that the first Facilities Master Planning Committee meeting was held on October 12. Meeting was facilitated by DLR Group and the purpose of the meeting was for the committee to develop memorable goals or priorities unique to Grinnell-Newburg schools that would help serve as the focus and basis for future discussions and decisions.

This committee is scheduled to meet at least two more times before the end of the calendar year. In the mean time, DLR will continue progressing with its building and programming analysis, as well as interviewing district staff.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Budding, seconded by Brown, to adjourn meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Upcoming Schedule

Vision Committee Meeting	October 20, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting	October 21, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting	October 26, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.