

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on November 9, 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, 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: Leo Lease

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. Board member Lease was absent.

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: Offers: Travis Smith, varsity boys assistant swim coach; Steve Glenn, varsity girls volunteer basketball coach, and Joseph Meyer, middle school volunteer wrestling coach.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to approve the amended item.

President Smith also read the following addition to the agenda under New Business: G. Approve stipend for PLC facilitators.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Brown to add item G. under New Business.

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 10-12-11, special session 10-27-11
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
 - 1. Resignation: Willow Dye

Motion carried 6-0 to approve amended consent agenda.

3. Communication from the Public

No comments from the audience.

4. Nicole Brua-Behrens: Grant Presentation

Nicole Brua-Behrens and Al Henderson presented a check for \$1,000 on behalf of Monsanto to Bailey Park and Fairview elementary schools. As a result of the grant, Nicole will work with Principal Seney. This may also be an opportunity for parent involvement, student activities, and partnering with Grinnell College.

Heidi Durbin Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation: Pledge Donation

On behalf of the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation "pledge donation" Heidi Durban presented a check for \$100,000 to the school district. This check is also on behalf of the donors for the high school renovation project. The district has received \$3,710,000. There should be one more allotment coming to the district.

5. Staff Presentation/Student Recognition

A. National FFA Trip/FFA Students

FFA students Megan Iverson, Abbie Versendall, Taylor Long, Kolton Werner, and Daniel

McCammant and their FFA advisor, Ashley Wolfe, presented a power point presentation from their recent FFA trip to the FFC national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Advisor Wolfe and each student also spoke about their personal highlights from the trip.

6. Communication and reports

A. Board

Book Study "Effective School Boards; Strategies for Improving Board Performance"- Ch. 1

Each board member gave their highlights from the first chapter of the book: consider alternative courses of action, get data, good framework on how boards should operate, board develop norms, good introduction, discussed common mistakes of boards, is ok to disagree but handle with respect, need to improve student education, and review all the information in making a decision.

Superintendent Abrahamson asked the board to please read Chapter 2 by the educational meeting date.

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson reminded the board about the upcoming IASB convention on November 16 and November 17.

He is working on the agenda for the November 21 educational meeting. This meeting will not contain action items, but a review of student data. There may be a presentation at the meeting.

The board development session will be November 30.

AlertNow is now operational. The "dirty data" is being cleaned up. This system replaces the calling tree and can be used for various announcements. The next phase will be adding additional requested numbers into the system.

Superintendent Abrahamson and JT Anderson recently met with Vince Ward from DLR. Prior to the holiday break the next step will be to meet with the original facilities committee. Superintendent Abrahamson has met with various groups to discuss alternate uses for the school buildings. By the first of the year, a design plan should be in place.

The business partner group will soon have their second meeting.

The district will be publishing a bi-monthly newsletter. Articles are needed by Monday, November 14. The newsletter will also be on the website.

Superintendent Abrahamson commended the fall sports, the play, and the choir concert.

B. Principals

Principal Sarah Seney discussed their PLC facilitators and their recent meeting. She has received good feedback from the staff. It is difficult to have a meeting time where staff from both buildings can attend. Both staffs are committed to the PLC project.

Principal Kirby discuss the SINA. November 15, 2011 will be their site visit. They will review their feedback.

A tech audit has been done on the infrastructure. A move to a wireless system is a good idea. They will receive bids from three vendors. These vendors will visit the buildings. Per Superintendent Abrahamson, all the buildings need a tech upgrade. The bandwidth is too low. The high school and middle school are receiving a 30 bandwidth, with the elementary buildings at lower readings.

Principal Hegg-Dunne explained their personal development(PD) monthly plan. The PD will be work outside the PLC format. They met on October 26 to discuss the format of the PLC at the middle school. Goal setting is very important at the middle school. The staff is also working with students on recognizing their strengths and weaknesses.

On November 2, Chris Coffman met with the middle school teachers. The teachers also worked in their PLC groups.

On November 17, the SINA team will be in Marshalltown. The action plan will be completed and work begins on their goals.

Principal Hegg-Dunne also mentioned the high honor for those selected to perform in the Opus choir. The new shelves are working out great. The winter sports are starting their practices and games.

Principal Kevin Seney discussed the different stages of the PLC and the importance of student data. What are the standards, the benchmarks, the skills, and the need to be looked at? This is a good learning experience. They have a checklist and are engaged in the PLC format.

During the E-squared time, the mid-level to high-level students are taking advantage of the opportunity to work with teachers. It has been hard to get the lower range students attend this instruction time.

He has been reviewing college data on what high school seniors do post graduation. Lori Francis has been involved in this project. They are working on a better success rate. He discussed some of the questions the graduates are asked.

Seney praised the recent success of the boys and girls cross-country teams.

On October 21, 2011, Youth Frontiers met with the freshman class. This presentation was very well received.

C. TOSA

Chris Coffman gave a power point demonstration that explained the filing requirements of data for certification purposes at the Department of Education. He explained the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), the APR report, and the Iowa Assessment (was ITEDS).

He read some of the questions and explained some of the answers. The teachers are working with the data.

Coffman also explained results from the socio-economic range of students.

There was discussion on helping students with stress and low scores. Currently, David Ford meets with the K-2nd grade students in small groups. The schools are using the community resources that are available.

7. Old Business

None to report

8. New Business

A. Approve Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to approve the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Motion carried 6-0.

B. Approve Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch, to approve the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Approve Annual Progress Report (APR)

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan, to approve the Annual Progress Report (APR).
Motion carried 6-0.

D. Approve Title VI Application

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to approve the Title VI application. This money helps to pay for assessment testing. Motion carried 6-0.

E. Approve Level I and Level II Investigators

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron, to approve Julie Bisher as the Level I investigator and Dan Keller as the Level II investigator. Motion carried 6-0.

F. Approve Security Equipment, Inc. Quote

Superintendent Abrahamson explained this proposal is not restricting access usage by the staff. There is a concern for safety and extra keys that may be in the community. The district will receive a monthly charge for this system. There will also be a maintenance charge. The money will be from the capital project dollars. Certain doors in the buildings will be used for access. Each building will also receive a video monitor. The facility decision from the DLR project is a minimum of three years out.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan, to approve the Security Equipment, Inc. Quote.
Motion carried 6-0.

G. Approve stipend for PLC Facilitators

During a full school year, the stipend would be \$1000.00. The stipend will be paid in two installments, from the Iowa Core Dollars. The plan is for approximately 28 PLC facilitators.
Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the stipend for 7 months of \$800 for the PLC facilitators. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Discussion Items

There were no discussion items to report.

10. Board Talking Points

The board had the following points: enjoyed the FFA students interactions, the work involved with CSIP by Chris Coffman, the student at risk plan should apply to all students, the FFA trip, and troubling the increase in free and reduced meals.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Calendar:

Educational Meeting

6:00 pm, November 21, 2011

Board Development
Fiduciary Meeting
Regular Board Meeting

6:00 pm, November 30, 2011
5:30 pm, December 14, 2011
6:00 pm, December 14, 2011