

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on November 10, 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 and Board Secretary J.T. Anderson.

Members Absent: None

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

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 10-21-10, special meeting 11-2-10
- C. Personnel:
 - 1. Offers: Casey O'Rourke, MS asst. wrestling coach
 - 2. Resignations: Erin Darrah, HS asst. volleyball coach
 - 3. Contract Upgrades: Donna Godar to BA+30
- D. Open Enrollment In: Reece Shepard, 5th grade, from Lynnville Sully; Chris Flander, 11th grade, from Lynnville Sully

Motion carried 7-0.

III. Approve claims and accounts

Motion by Cavanagh, seconded by Brown, to approve the claims and accounts as of November 10, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Communication from the Public

Nancy Maly, from the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation Board, presented a check in the amount of \$150,000 to the school board for pledge collections related to the high school addition/renovation project. Maly noted that about \$3.6 million has been collected thus far and about \$300,000 of additional pledges is expected to be collected.

V. Action Items

- A. **Approve Phase II high school security system proposal of \$48,242 from Security Equipment, Inc.**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron, to approve phase II of the high school security system. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Designate Patriot Bank in Grinnell as depository and approve purchase of a \$500,000 12-month CD at 1.4% interest rate

Motion by Budding, seconded by Lease, to approve purchase of certificate of deposit.
Motion carried 7-0.

C. Approve payment request of \$39,922.10 to Central States Roofing for completion of middle school reroof project

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown, to approve payment. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Discussion

A. Retirement Assistance

Business Manager Anderson informed the board that per policy, retirement assistance must be reviewed annually by December 31. Policy states the purpose for retirement assistance as 1) a financial mechanism used for preparation of the district's budget and 2) acknowledgment of employees who have provided years of service to the district. Changes were made to the policy in the previous year that allowed for greater budgetary control in regards to retirement assistance funding. Funding for retirement assistance comes directly from property taxes and flows into the management fund.

Board members had differing opinions on whether or retirement assistance should be offered. It was noted that retirement assistance will be included on the next regular meeting's agenda as an action item and board members should gather input about this issue from community members and staff before voting next meeting.

VII. Reports

A. Principal and Superintendent Reports

Building principals Beck, Hegg-Dunne, and Seney updated the board about various items occurring at their respective buildings. Most of the discussions centered around parent teacher conferences and teacher professional development.

Superintendent Eckles gave a report to the board. Eckles noted that certified enrollment is down nineteen students from the previous year, but open enrollment students coming into the district has increased and therefore the net decrease in students served is down only nine from the previous year. Eckles also noted that several state legislators have been invited and will be attending the first regular school board meeting in December.

B. School Improvement Action Plan for Davis Elementary

Elementary Principal Beck outlined the Davis Elementary School In Need of Assistance (SINA) plan for the board. Beck detailed five action steps 1) notification of parents and community 2) audit diagnosis and design 3) teachers analyzing data to make instructional decisions 4) training on the five attributes of the effective formative assessments and 5) professional development in SuccessMaker Instructional Reading Program.

C. Fall MAP results

Chris Coffman, teacher on special assignment, reported Fall MAP testing results to the board members. The results showed some grade levels below average in math and reading, but also showed many grade levels improvement from the previous year. Coffman explained the purpose of MAP testing and how the data gathered can assist teachers in

understanding the level of learning of each student and then differentiating their instruction techniques accordingly.

D. Finance Committee

Business Manager Anderson reported items from the last finance committee meeting. Such items included discussions about retirement assistance, cash investments, transportation vehicle replacement cycle, facilities update, and technology.

E. Policy Committee

Board Member Budding reported items from the last policy committee meeting. She pointed out that the committee reviewed several of the board resolutions and is recommending many of them to be deleted. Budding asked that other members review these resolutions, as they will be put on next meeting's agenda as action items.

F. Vision Committee

Board Member Cameron reported items from the last vision committee meeting. Items included a status update on wind energy, inviting Kevin Seney and his scheduling committee to present to the entire board about trimester scheduling versus semester scheduling, and discussion about technology.

VIII. Cancel the following meetings

A. November 24, 2010 Board meeting and November 25, 2010 Finance Meeting

Meetings listed were canceled due to Thanksgiving holiday.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Budding, seconded by Cavanagh, to adjourn meeting at 8:05p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Upcoming Schedule

IASB Convention
Policy Committee Meeting
Regular Board Meeting

November 17-18, 2010
December 6, 2010 @ 5:00 p.m.
December 8, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.