

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on January 14, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building 927 4th Ave., Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Jeff Knobloch, Claire Moisan, Jonathan Nance, Jeff Smith, and Carol Wilhelm.

Members Absent: Kirsten Fisher.

Also in attendance at the table: Business Manager and Board Secretary Lisa Johnson

Administrators Present: None.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Lisa Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance. Board member Moisan read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Fiduciary Report:

Business Manager Johnson made comments on the financials and the bills.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amenda Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting 12/10/14 Policy Work Session 1/8/15

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Samantha Hanson: MS paraeducator

2. Offerings: Alex Hsieh: HS technical director spring play; Parker Koester: MS head 7th girls basketball

3. Open Enrollment Out: Jonathan Schaeffer: Kindergarten to Marshalltown

4. Open Enrollment In: Cody Tuttle: 2nd grade from Newton; Rylee Finch: 5th grade from Colfax; Bobbi Finch: 4th grade from Colfax; Faith Finch: 2nd grade from Colfax; Matthew Brockington: preschool from BGM; Kinnick VanWyk: kindergarten from Lynnville-Sully (2015-2016)

Motion carried 6-0.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Moisan spoke on the Academic committees work in looking at the rigor in the schools. The committee is recommending a work session for the board to look into the subject. They also want to brainstorm ideas on how to communicate what the district is doing to increase rigor to the parents, including increased presence on the website.

Brown and Moisan scheduled times at Grinnell College to get input from staff there on their personal and professional interactions with the school district. Brown suggests each board member reach out to the organizations they are a part of to give the public a chance to ask questions about the projects going on with the district.

Knobloch stated that is what he envisioned for the principal reports. For example a topic could be clustering, with an explanation of what it is and how it works. He also stated he is getting numerous complaints about the drop off and pick-up process not working well recently.

Moisan stated she attended the employee luncheon and had great conversations with the teachers on various topics. Knobloch stated he also had great conversations with the staff at the luncheon.

Nance wanted to clarify a topic he believes a number of community members are confused on. He restated that to renovate the current facilities would be approximately the same price as the cost of new buildings.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business

A. Approve Settlement Agreement - Greg Epping

Johnson recommended this item be tabled until after Abrahamson meets with Gruhn next week.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to table the approval of the settlement agreement with Greg Epping.

Motioned carried 6-0.

B. Approve Piper Jaffray sales tax agreement

Johnson explained that the contract is for the placement of the sales tax bonds. The payment is 1.3% of gross proceeds. If the district placed \$12.0M in bonds that would cost \$156,000.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to approve the the Piper Jaffray sales tax agreement.

Motioned carried 5-0. Wilhelm abstained.

C. Approve Piper Jaffray general obligation bond agreement

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Piper Jaffray general obligation bond agreement.

Motioned carried 5-0. Wilhelm abstained.

D. First Reading of Policies 507.2, 507.2E1, 507.2E2, 507.2E3 and 606.5E2

Brown stated these updates coordinate more closely with what the nurses need for safe practices.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to approve the first reading of policies 507.2, 507.2E1, 507.2E2, 507.2E3 and 606.5E2.

Motion carried 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

The campaign committee attended a meeting in Johnston to meet with their communications director. Carol stated she likes the name of the campaign committee and how it clearly states it is driven by the community and not the district.

Smith asked about the Governor's recommendation of 1.25% for

Supplemental State Aid in FY16. Johnson stated this is the Governor's recommendation and other groups are still lobbying for an amount closer to 6%.

Knobloch asked if teachers are being allowed to spend PLC or PD time to discuss. Sally Smith, teacher, stated those times are already filled and doesn't know how to include more here. Moisan also wanted teachers driving the designs of the buildings to facilitate better learning environments. Wilhelm stated she hears the windows at Davis are a great feature of that building. Brown suggested the administration set aside some time for teachers to discuss this.

9. Board Talking Points

Moisan stated hopes to see more meetings like the ones she and Brown held at the college. Knobloch stated he agrees we need to get the information out better, but we also need to be careful to not violate open meeting laws. Moisan stated that as these meetings are held she would hope to address the issues/concerns that come up frequently.

The make-up day for the snow day on the 7th is January 19th. Helen Redmond asked about having community input into the creation of the calendar. Brown stated, typically a group of staff and administration create the calendar. Knobloch stated in the past the changes are typically small as far as start and end dates. Getting public input if the calendar changes dramatically would be possible.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Policy Committee Meeting	4:00 p.m., January 21, 2015
Finance Advisory Meeting	5:00 p.m., January 21, 2015
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., January 28, 2015