

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on December 8, 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, Sara Hegg-Dunne and Kevin Seney

**Work Session-Discussion with legislators (5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)**

Dan Kelly-House District 41, Guy Vander Linden-House District 76, and Tom Rielly-Senate District 38 were in attendance and School Board President Jeff Smith moderated a panel discussion. Significant topics discussed included allowable growth for school districts and related funding, maintaining of strong educational programming such as State Voluntary Preschool Access and the Iowa Core Curriculum, and the ability of school districts to use such things as renewable energy to generate new funding streams. Legislators acknowledged that state government is in transition after the recent election. As the legislative session begins, education will be a top priority for each of them.

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Following the work session, President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Secretary called the roll. All members present.

**II. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 11-10-10
- C. Secretary's monthly financial report
- D. Personnel:
  - 1. Offers: Robin Brierly, Literacy Interventionist; Nicole Tews, Elementary Counselor
  - 2. Resignations: Karen Robbins, Assistant High School Swimming Coach
- E. Open Enrollment In: Spencer Johns, Kdg from BGM; Miracle Bowie, Kdg from BGM

Motion carried 7-0.

**III. Approve claims and accounts**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Cavanagh, to approve the claims and accounts as of December 8, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

**IV. Communication from the Public**

None.

**V. Action Items**

**A. Approve Levi Dressler to attend the Midwest Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago, Illinois 12/14/10-12/17/10**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to approve out-of-state travel. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Delete resolution “approach to paying for property damages suffered by a school employee”**

Motion by Budding, seconded by Cavanagh, to delete resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**C. Delete resolution “class attendance during state tournament participation”**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Budding, to delete resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**D. Delete resolution “Equity committee”**

Motion by Budding, seconded by Lease, to delete resolution. Members felt that some of the language in the resolution and that the stated committee’s function is important and therefore, do not want to delete the resolution until these items are incorporated into board policy. Motion failed 3-4 (Cavanagh, Cameron, Lease, and Wilhelm dissents).

**E. Delete resolution “Framework for addressing holidays, celebrations, and parties within the school district”**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Cameron, to delete resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**F. Delete resolution “Non-harassment statement”**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to delete resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**G. Approve resolution “Targeted small business procurement goals”**

Motion by Budding, seconded by Lease, to approve resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**H. Delete resolution “Statewide mutual aid compact”**

Motion by Budding, seconded by Lease, to delete resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**I. Delete resolution “Adoption of NIMS”**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Budding, to delete resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

**J. Offer retirement assistance**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Cavanagh, to offer retirement assistance (RA) as stated in current policy. Board members discussed varying reasons why RA should or should not be offered. The question was called for and roll call vote was taken. Motion failed 3-4 (Brown, Budding, Smith, and Lease dissents). Per board policy, RA will be reevaluated on an annual basis and board action taken accordingly.

**K. Approve maximum allowable growth application subject to Iowa Department of Education approval**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Budding, to approve maximum allowable growth application related to dropout/at-risk prevention. Motion carried 7-0.

**VI. Discussion**

**A. School Uniforms: what, if any, might be reasons for or against**

Board Member Lease brought the topic of school uniforms to the table for discussion, citing classroom management and teaching of socialization as potential reasons why a school district may opt for school uniforms. Board members asked if the district had any current problems related to student dress. Administrators present responded with no known issues. Student representative Kalkbrenner said that she and many of her peers would be upset if the school district implemented a school uniform policy. Consensus from the board was that there are no reasons to consider a school uniform policy at this time.

**VII. Reports**

**A. Principal and Superintendent Reports**

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

Superintendent Eckles gave a report to the board. Eckles updated the board on the new security camera system being installed at the high school and the status of the long-range facilities master planning process, noting that the planning committee meets again on December 14. Eckles also discussed the new accreditation that community colleges are undertaking to ensure that dual credit courses taught by high school teachers in the local high schools are rigorous and are consistent statewide.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cavanagh, to adjourn meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

**Upcoming Schedule**

Vision Committee	December 9, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	December 13, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting	December 22, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.
Policy Committee Meeting	January 3, 2011 @ 5:00 p.m.