

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on December 14, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Community Center, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Jeff Knobloch, Leo Lease, Claire Moisan, Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Student Representative Hannah Whitney, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel.

Members Absent: None

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.

### **2. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Moisan to approve the consent agenda. Under discussion there was a motion by Brown and seconded by Cameron to vote separately on 2. E. 3. Offerings: John Dayton, Varsity Girls Head Track Coach.

Motion to Wilhelm, seconded by Cameron to approve John Dayton as Varsity Girls Head Track Coach. Motion approved 5-0, Brown dissents, Wilhelm abstained.

President Smith read the following amended items for the consent agenda: 2. Approval of Consent Agenda  
B. Minutes: Special meeting 12-09-11, Think Tank committee meeting 12-12-11, E. Personnel: 2.  
Resignation: John (Tom) Collum

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: regular meeting 11-09-11, education meeting 11-21-11, board development meeting 11-30-11
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
  - 1. Contract upgrade: Fay Maschmann Level I Paraeducator to Level II Paraeducator
  - 2. Resignations: DeAnn Elliott, Angie Kisner, Linda Dunwoody, Mark Stanley
  - 3. Offerings: Jody Matherly, Volunteer Coach Varsity Wrestling; John Dayton, Head Coach Varsity Girls Track

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to approve amended and consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

### **3. Communication from the Public**

No comments from the audience.

### **4. Staff Presentation/Student Recognition**

A senior, John Stark, gave a power-point presentation on the State of the Arts for the school district and his involvement with the program. The fine arts program has enabled him with life lessons, a strong community feeling, and leadership roles at the state and international level. He also gave highlights from the recent State Thespian Festival held November 11 and 12, on the UNI campus.

After the presentation John welcomed questions from the board. There was discussion on how to expand the arts in the school district.

### **5. Communication and Reports**

#### **A. Board**

#### **Book Study "Effective School Boards; Strategies for Improving Board Performance"- Ch. 2**

Each board member gave their highlights from the second chapter of the book: repetitions, going in the right direction, community has a clear vision of us, confidential issues, confidential needs to stay confidential, appreciates current on-line documents, norms, common values, free to express our opinions if there are differences, board has grown, ability to discuss things in committee, put trusts in the experts, need

trust, better at norms, working on policies so we know the rules, executive session was interesting, suggestions for visiting schools, norms, when parents approach board members be consistent, develop norms, works well with the PLC format.

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the administrative team is working on developing norms. A Google Doc will soon be started for norms.

Superintendent Abrahamson gave each board member the new IASB handbook.

## **B. Superintendent**

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the recent eWalks. The focus has been on student learners and effective instruction. Debriefing time was also spent with the administrative team. There was discussion on what to teach and how to teach it. The group was divided into teams for the observations. The teachers were provided with immediate feedback. There was discussion regarding the graphs in the superintendent report. The focus continues to be on the PLC format, the structure of a classroom, a goal of high thinking skills, concentration on the curriculum, and how are students involved in their learning. There will be additional visits. The principals are developing their own templates for their buildings. The eWalks are a snapshot of the dialogue between administrators and teachers. During the visits the teams talked with students to learn how they are involved in their learning.

There will be a Policy committee meeting on Thursday, December 15.

Superintendent Abrahamson and JT Anderson have been meeting to discuss a possible building project. They are working with the city on building possibilities. A letter regarding the upcoming facility project will be sent to nine architect firms. The firms will be narrowed from nine to three or five firms. The remaining firms will be invited to do presentations. In January there will be a special meeting regarding facilities. The Building and Grounds committee will be involved in this project.

The DLR committee will meet next Wednesday.

Superintendent Abrahamson stated he was informed by the city the district office needs to be moved out of the community building by spring 2013. He toured the Windstream property on 11<sup>th</sup> avenue as a possible location for the district office and the New Horizons School.

## **A. Principals**

Principal Sarah Seney discussed her report, which highlighted one grade level and their PLC format. The approach they are using appears to be very effective in meeting the needs of the students. She is using the daily announcements to highlight certain items. The district has great teachers with the ability to share with one another. The eWalks are creating good discussion points.

Principal Kirby focused on the data from Davis. Davis School has its own template. There will be more data from the eWalks. Last Friday teachers and some students attended an AEA 267 1:1 meeting. He discussed technology and how students are using technology.

Principal Hegg-Dunne explained their recent PD meetings. The Iowa assessment continues to undergo changes. She explained the GANTT chart that was included in her report.

Principal Kevin Seney passed out recent shout out goods news from the high school. The high school eWalk was held on November 28. His report included results from the eWalk. Each subject group is handling the PLC format a little differently.

## **B. TOSA**

Chris Coffman trained the high school on EdInsight. He will train the middle school and the elementary school at a different time. This training gives teachers the tools to analyze student data in the PLCs. There is constant training with the facilitators. He is working on a google site, which allows the uploading of information to be shared with the district.

### **6. Old Business**

None to report

### **7. New Business**

#### **A. Approve SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Knobloch, to approve the SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment. The district has an increase in 34.2 students for the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **B. Approve SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch, to approve the SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **C. Approve SBRC Application for LEP Instruction**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Lease, to approve the SBRC Application for LEP Instruction. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **D. Approve Title IIA Budget Application**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Lease, to approve the Title IIA Budget Application. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **E. Approve Modified Allowable Growth/At-Risk Budget Application**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Moisan, to Approve the Modified Allowable Growth/At-Risk Budget Application. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **F. Approve Quote for upgrading the Grinnell-Newburg District's Wireless**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to Approve Quote for upgrading the Grinnell-Newburg District's Wireless from Aruba. The current wireless system cannot support the technology needs of the district. The bandwidth at the high school will increase from 25 to over 100.

If all goes well, the upgrade will be completed over the holiday break.

Motion carried 7-0.

#### **G. Approve Sabbatical for Bill Rudolph**

Currently the district does not have a policy regarding sabbaticals. Superintendent Abrahamson has a document with signatures for the superintendent, board president, high school principal, and Mr. Rudolph.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch, to approve the sabbatical for Bill Rudolph. Motion carried 7-0.

## **H. Approve 2-way radio system replacement**

Motion by Lease, seconded by Knobloch to approve 2-way radio system replacement.  
Motion carried 7-0.

## **8. Board Talking Points**

The board had the following points: the strong fine arts program, PLC discussions and applications, the overall good news from several areas in the district, strong finances, enrollment increase, a student such as John Stark who is doing good things, good enrollment, the collaboration at all levels, Ewalks, good the administrators are being seen in the buildings, and would like to hear back from Mr. Rudolph after his sabbatical at Grinnell College.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Board Calendar:**

Fiduciary Meeting	5:30 pm, January 11, 2012
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 pm, January 11, 2012
Board Development	6:00 pm, January 25, 2012