

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in a Work Session Meeting on April 29, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., at the West Marshall High School Library, 601 3rd Street N.W., State Center, Iowa

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Jeff Knobloch, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Smith

Members attended an academy of board learning experiences at West Marshall School in State Center, Iowa in order to become a more effective governance team. The training focused on evaluation and forecasting through Superintendent and Board Evaluations.

The five main board leadership roles for improving student learning include: Setting Clear Expectations, Creating Conditions for Success, Holding the System Accountable to the Expectations, Building Collective Will, and Learning Together as a Board Team.

The evaluation process should include observations, indicators of progress, and frequent monitoring to ensure continuous progress. This team development and training helps build shared knowledge, values, and commitments for improvement efforts through strong collaboration and mutual trust.

Discussions: Each Grinnell-Newburg board member sat at a different table with board members from other schools including East and West Marshall, Newton, Marshalltown, Boone, and other surrounding schools. This provided the opportunity for collaboration and brainstorming from various perspectives and experiences. Participation and discussion involved “unpacking” the six administrator standards to better understand the meaning and impact of each one. We then discussed evidence supporting progress toward goals.

The participants also perused board values and governance operations through self-assessment documents. It was recommended that the board determine a rubric or questionnaire to be used to ensure the board is effective through the eight characteristics of effective school boards.

Decisions: The board has a work session on Wednesday, April 30th to discuss and determine superintendent goals for the upcoming year based on the Iowa requirements for administrators. The six standards to be included are: Shared Vision, Culture of Learning, Management, Family and Community, Ethics, and Societal Context.