

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on May 27, 2015, at 7:00 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: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson and Board Treasurer/Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Administrators Present: Principals Kevin Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne and Heidi Durbin.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board Secretary Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance. Board member Knobloch read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Fiduciary Report:

Board Member Wilhelm commented on a correction in the summary on a couple of bill items. Board Treasurer Johnson commented these were typos in the Summary and the list of bills in the document is correct. Wilhelm also commented on the total amounts paid to FEH for the design process related to new buildings. Superintendent Abrahamson noted FEH pays the other contractors working for us as well (including A&J Associates).

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Wilhem to amend the 5/13/15 minutes to remove the previous statement and replace with "Wilhelm expressed concern regarding the lunch price increase. She would like to see a more equitable raise between the age groups," seconded by Knobloch.

Motion carried 6-0.

- A. A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: [5/6/15 Work Session](#), [5/13/15 Regular Meeting](#)
- C. Claims and Accounts
- D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Linda Perrenoud: Fall Play Director; Amber Bayer: Middle School Music
2. Offerings: Michael Furlong: Assistant Varsity FB Coach; Kent Mick: High School Social Studies
3. Upgrades: Carlos Gallegos: MA to MA+15; Lori Walker: Standard to Generalist; Cami Seals-Drake: BA to BA+15
4. Open Enrollment Out: Garrett Pirkl: (15-16) Kindergarten to East Marshall; Jessica Drafahl: (15-16) Junior to Lynnville Sully
5. Open Enrollment In: Gavin McFarland: (15-16) 9th grade from BGM

Motion carried 5-1 (Wilhelm voted nay).

4. Communication from the Public

None.

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Knobloch attended Y-Camp with the 4th graders. He was impressed with the curriculum and the staff there. Vice-President Smith noted the 8th grade campout was also a fun time, but was cut short by the weather. Knobloch also stated he attended the Showcase at the High School and he thought it was a great representation of the work being done. Wilhelm enjoyed the graduation ceremony. Smith also mentioned the recognition awards given out at Honors Night.

B. Presentations: High School Math & Language Arts (New Curriculum) and Culture/Climate Summary

Dean of Students Heidi Durbin and Teacher Mike Baker presented on the progress for determining the new Math Curriculum. They considered many factors such as continuing with an integrated curriculum or switching to a more traditional curriculum. They also looked at the Iowa Core standards and what will best serve the students to aid in proficiency. They recommended the Integrated Series from McGraw Hill for Integrated I,II,III, and Pre-Calculus. Wilhelm asked whether this would work with trimesters and Baker stated they believe it will. Board member Moisan stated she believes they are doing good work with the 80% mastery requirement.

Principal Kevin Seney presented on the recommendation for the new English Curriculum. He noted they did not find one program they believed met the

District's needs. They wanted to go with a more integrated approach where reading, speaking and writing will be taught together as students progress. The final course will be a Capstone which will be student focused and project based. To do this they will be pulling resources from various places and not a stand alone curriculum series from one vendor.

Knobloch likes the Capstone approach where a couple of teachers teach together and the students are able to focus on their passion. He believes this will help the students to recognize that these skills are relevant regardless of their profession after school. He also liked the idea of creating the curriculum, believing it would still achieve the skills needed to succeed in regards to standards like the Common Core.

Principal Seney then presented on the Culture Climate survey results. He stated there were some positive themes and some regressions. He noted some staff felt their opinions weren't considered. Staff enjoyed recognition from Administration on successes throughout the year. A concern was whether the questions in the survey were providing the information desired and also about whether the answers could be traced back to the individual.

C. Superintendent & CFO

CFO Lisa Johnson presented the district's current forecasted financial status, implementing the latest assumptions on Supplemental State Aid, staffing changes, and the Teacher Leadership Grant. Johnson noted the district is continuing to decrease the Unspent Authorized Budget, as expenditures are more than revenues. This is the key financial measure to focus on when looking at the financial stability of the district. Knobloch asked why the picture does not appear to be as bad as the district has predicted in the past. Johnson stated the district has made reductions through attrition and early retirement the last couple of years, as well as implementing the TLC (Teacher Leadership Compensation) Grant, which helps to reduce General Fund expenditures. She explained the district has been able to make these reductions, but that there are no longer many positions that could be reduced without significant impacts to class size or programming.

Superintendent Abrahamson gave an update on the Tregoe process, which the district is using to prioritize budget cuts to be implemented in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business

A. Award audit services contract to Hunt & Associates

The District has used Hunt & Associates for many years. No other firms responded to the RFP. Wilhelm noted the costs have actually gone down over the years.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Knobloch to approve the award of audit services contract to Hunt & Associates.

Motioned carried 6-0.

B. Technology 3-year Plan: Year 2 High School and Davis Switch Replacement

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve Year 2 of the High School and Davis Switch Replacement. Johnson stated this cost will be paid from PPEL.

Technology Director David Kubalsky explained Step 2 of the 3 year plan. Brown asked for the total cost. Kubalsky stated the cost is \$42K.

Motioned carried 6-0.

C. Ratify Tentative Agreement (District and PPE)

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the ratification of the Tentative Agreement between the District and PPE.

Wilhelm asked if the staff was on board with this. Abrahamson stated this was a negotiation with the Physical Plant Employees and they were in favor.

Motioned carried 6-0.

D. Other Employee Contracts

Abrahamson stated this includes Administrative Assistants, Drivers, and Cooks.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Smith to approve the Other Employee Contracts.

Motioned carried 6-0.

E. Out-of-State Travel - China

Abrahamson stated this is a collaborative effort with Grinnell College to develop this program and establish relationships with schools in China. The program could include student and/or teacher exchanges. Other local districts have similar programs.

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by Moisan to approve the Out-of-State Travel - China for Principal Kevin Seney.

Moisan asked if these schools have a Chinese language program. Principal Seney didn't believe so. Superintendent Abrahamson stated this would be more of a cultural learning experience. Moisan stated she believes the resources would be better spent developing a K-12 comprehensive foreign language program. Wilhelm believes this program could have some great learning opportunities.

Brown expressed concern over what the benefits to the district would be. Superintendent Abrahamson and Principal Seney stated the most likely positive outcomes are teacher experiences that will impact the teacher's interactions with the students. Knobloch expressed concern about spending this amount at such late notice.

Motioned carried 4-2 (Knobloch and Brown voted nay) .

8. Board Discussion

A. School Board Elections

Brown discussed the Board election coming in the fall. Three members are up for re-election. Knobloch holds the At-Large seat, and he stated he will be running. Moisan intends not to run again for the District 4 seat. Wilhelm is encouraging people to run, but would not make a statement as to her intentions at this time to re-run for District 3.

9. Board Talking Points

Wilhelm expressed thanks for the members of the public who attended the meeting. Knobloch stated he enjoyed the discussion on the curriculum adoption process.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Nance, seconded by Moisan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Board Calendar:

MS/HS Showcase (High School)

5:00-6:30 p.m., May 27, 2015

Closed Session

6:00 p.m., June 4, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., June 10, 2015

Policy Advisory Meeting

4:00 p.m., June 11, 2015