

(revised-6/12/14)

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on May 28, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg High School 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch, and Jonathan Nance. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Accounting Assistant Teresa Hawk.

Members Absent: Claire Moisan and Carol Wilhelm

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Jeff Kirby, Sara Hegg-Dunne, and Chris Coffman

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Accounting Assistant Teresa Hawk called the roll. Five members were in attendance. Board member Kirsten Fisher read the district's Mission and Vision statement.

2. Fiduciary: [Financials](#) [Bills](#) [Summary](#)

Superintendent Abrahamson indicated the pre-audit visit from the Auditors for the 13-14 school year will be Wednesday, June 4th. The final quarterly payment has been completed for the district's breakdown insurance and the program was discussed.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Brown requested that future minutes include the names of personnel resignations/offering. Board members Knobloch and Brown asked where the district was at in filling vacant positions for the upcoming school year. Abrahamson indicated that work is still taking place with transfers/interviews and that information on completion will be provided at a later date.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting [5/14/14](#) and Work Session [5/21/14](#)

C. Financials

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

- 1. Resignations:** Robin Brierly: Literacy Interventionist; Matthew Jacobson: Elementary School Counselor; Katie Covino: Paraeducator High School;

Brenda Smith: Paraeducator Middle School; Barb Story: Paraeducator Middle School; Jerry Hulsing: Middle School Assistant coach 8th grade football

2. **Offerings:** Casey O'Rourke: Transfer-Instructor from Middle School 8th grade Science to Middle School Behavior Interventionist; Melanie Sharp: High School English; York Plagge: High School Social Studies; Jerry Hulsing: Middle School Head coach 8th grade football; Rob Gibson: Middle School Assistant coach 8th grade football and head coach 8th grade boys track; Janet Ahrens: High School Art Club

- F. **Contract Upgrade:** Monica Moyer: Paraeducator standard to generalist

Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Communication from the Public**

Community member David Ford spoke about the district's guidance counselor vacancies. He also advocated to replace these positions due to his past counselor experience, and the communities limited options for mental health needs.

5. **Communication and Reports**

A. **Board**

President Smith commented on attending the Class of 2014 Honors Night and Graduation ceremonies. He complimented them on their excellent achievements both academically and in extracurricular activities.

Smith mentioned an email he had received from the student body regarding censorship of their laptops when going to their homes. He said that he will forward this email to all board members for their review. High School Administrator Seney mentioned that blocks are in place only during school hours.

Member Brown inquired on the status of the Fairview crossing guard process.

Abrahamson indicated work is being completed with Chief Reilly. Reilly will be sending the district his recommendations and plans. Each building will post and implement these procedures for the next school year.

B. **Superintendent [Report](#)**

In honor of Board Appreciation week Superintendent Abrahamson thanked all board members for their hard work and dedication. In regards to the 11th Avenue property Abrahamson has met with the City, and upon completion of the bid by our district's attorney it will be submitted to the City. The district's offer for the property should be on the agenda for the June 16th City Council Meeting.

Demolition of the 4th Avenue property is ahead of schedule, and the process for gravel bids is being prepared at this time.

Superintendent goals have been signed and shared with the administrative team and staff then placed on the district website. There will be an administrative retreat to work on next year's instructional rounds, PLC's and Principal's reports.

Work on the campaign for grade level reading continues. The next steps are to form a sponsoring coalition and organize community resources to implement in our district buildings.

C. Principals [Report](#)

High School Administrator Seney thanked the board for their presence at this years graduation ceremonies. He highlighted and recognized students for their extracurricular achievements this year.

Liz Hansen presented board members with an adjudication book that provided information on the "Beauty and the Beast" spring musical in March. The district performance was also selected to perform at the Des Moines Civic Center on June 2nd. Their participation with other school districts is part of the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase.

The High School math department represented by Mike Baker, Jill Scanlan, Trent Edsen, and Matt Waldschmitt presented on Mastery Learning. Baker piloted the program in Math 3A/3B this year, using ideas from a PLC Conference. His overview presentation, results of this year, and future plans were covered.

Board members were very pleased with the presentation, the results achieved, and how it will address all varying levels of students needs in the future.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business

A. Middle School/High School Summer School [Proposal](#)

Motion by Brown, seconded by Nance to approve the Middle School/High School Summer Program.

High School Administrator Seney indicated his building will be using online APEX programming, and instructors Crites and Laidig will provide classroom instruction. Laidig will also continue to assist ILC students with their APEX tests during the months of July and August.

At the Middle School, Administrator Hegg-Dunne said they will be offering more skills type training. They will emphasize 8th grade math for High School preparation, but may possibly include reading.

Abrahamson pointed out that there are district at-risk funds available to cover the costs.

Motioned carried 5-0.

B. 1st Reading - [Change Log](#) [300 Policy Series](#)

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the 1st reading of the 300 series policy.

Brown indicated there were not many changes except the 302.5 and 302.5E2 Policies on Superintendent Evaluation.

Motioned carried 5-0.

C. 1st Reading - [Change Log](#) [603.4](#)

Board member Brown indicated that per the site visit it was recommended that the policy needed to include European Americans and persons with disabilities.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to approve the 1st reading of policy 603.4.

Motioned carried 5-0.

D. Math Adoption: Expressions (K-5) and Glencoe (6-8) [Summary](#)

Principal Chris Coffman and teacher Tammy Strawser presented a summary of Expressions and Glencoe to the board.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Fisher to approve the Math adoption of Expressions (K-5) and Glencoe (6-8).
Motioned carried 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

Abrahamson noted that FEH has requested a more detailed decision regarding grade configuration by the June 11th meeting, in preparation for the site decision to be made at the July 11th meeting. The Board confirmed the PreK-5 configuration, contingent upon any new evidence suggesting something better.

In regards to a site decision, the Board is waiting on the City Council's decision regarding the 11th avenue property before making any new moves. Brown suggested evaluating the Matrix during the June 30th work session to discuss pros and cons of each available facilities option, before meeting with FEH. It was decided that the Board would meet at 5:00 p.m., and FEH will join the work session at 6:00 p.m.

9. Board Talking Points

Commentary - Minutes from 5/14 mention DLR, but should have mentioned FEH.

Knobloch praised the Principal Report, stating the topics and data which show the board what schools are doing and how students are benefiting is exactly what he wanted to see. He also praised the Character Counts program, citing how it shapes the attitudes of children to strive to do better.

Fisher praised the awards ceremony, pleased to see so many students accomplishing academic excellence.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., June 11th, 2014

Work Session

5:00 p.m., June 30th, 2014