

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on June 12, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Doug Cameron, Barbara Brown, Jeff Knobloch, Claire Moisan, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager Lisa Johnson, and Board Secretary Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: Leo Lease

Administrators Present: Chris Coffman

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Susan Kriegel called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary

Business Manager Johnson informed the board that a recent large expense was the bond payment of \$385,000.00. The next payment will be in November. There was discussion regarding the chamber growth collaboration payment amount of \$7,500.00.

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the three-year collaboration plan involvement with the chamber, school district, the hospital, and the community resulting in a larger community. There were questions of what does the board get back and what does the board see in return? The chamber has a prospectus for review. The district is not committed to a three year plan. The school is the fourth largest employer in the community. The chamber based the payments on the number of employees. There was discussion regarding the money the district has spent on the monthly video, the newsletters, and the building project. The public can view the monthly video on the district website and also on the GET 12 station.

There was continual discussion regarding the nutrition balance. The meal prices have increased for the 2013-2014 school year. The district won't be filling two vacancies of a 5.5 hour employee and a 3.5 hour employee.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

President Smith noted the following amended items to the consent agenda:

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Mike Anderson: head coach high school track and field; Janelle Pirkli; 7th grade language arts; Tami Smith: kindergarten teacher; Amanda Rude: PT preschool teacher; Deb Huebner: administrative assistant athletic director; Becky

Nance: transfer administrative assistant bus barn to administrative assistant high school office

2. Resignations: Tracy Rosburg: head cheer coach

G: Contract Upgrade: April Gosselink BA+30 to MA+15

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting 5/8/13, Work Session 5/22/13, and Work Session 5/29/13

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Brad Bowlin: Head coach 7th grade football; Tyler Youngers: Assistant coach 7th grade football; Julie Ritter-Zurcher: Middle school behavior interventionist; Paul Wagner: Middle school game manager

2. Resignations: Colleen Schmitt: 7th grade language arts; Paul Wagner: High school track and field; Nikki Tews: Elementary counselor; Dana Willis: High school Strat I special education teacher; David Nickum: High school Strat II special education teacher; Melissa Deatherage: Para-educator

F. Open Enrollment Out: Thatcher Shivers: Kindergarten to Iowa Connections Academy; Ethan Reames: 11th grade to Iowa Connections Academy; Trinity Van Wyk: Pre-kindergarten to Lynnville-Sully

G. Contract upgrade: April Gosselink BA+30 to MA; Diane Volkman BA+15 to BA+30

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Cameron to approve amendments to consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Public Hearing: Early Start Calendar Waiver

The early start calendar waiver has been a standard procedure to allow the district to start school before Labor Day. The district does exceed the required hours set by the state. Moving up the start date does not interfere with the dates of the Iowa State Fair.

5. Communication from the Public

No comments

6. Communication and Reports

A. Board

Cameron and Wilhelm attended the cookout that honored the employees who either resigned or retired.

President Smith reminded everyone about the next facility committee meeting to be held the following evening in the high school media center. He also indicated the graduation ceremony went very well.

The upcoming school election will be held on September 10, 2013. The new board members will be sworn in on September 25, 2013.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson explained the session that was held earlier in the day at the courthouse. The judge appointed the panel. The current owner has a thirty-day appeal window. He also discussed the upcoming closed session regarding the R&C property. The meeting is slated for the following Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. If the board vote supports the R&C property, the district would acquire a clean title of the property. The district would not be involved with the outstanding liens.

For the upcoming meeting, the board will meet in closed session, then the board will vote on the property in an open session. The public is invited to attend the open session of the meeting. The district would acquire the property as it currently exists. Two estimates for demolition of the existing structures on the property are \$330,000 and \$320,000.

Superintendent Abrahamson explained the upcoming retreat for the administration team. The Monday discussion will involve professional development, Tuesday discussion will involve human resources, and Wednesday's discussion will involve technology. The administration will have two more retreat days.

Since February 2013 Superintendent Abrahamson and the cabinet have been discussing the structure of the current administration. A common theme is to have a principal in every building. Superintendent Abrahamson explained Principal Sarah Seney will continue to have the responsibility of Fairview School and the preschool, Chris Coffman will assume the responsibility of Bailey Park, and Jeff Kirby will remain at Davis. Heidi Durbin will assume some of the curriculum responsibility.

The maps for the bus routes are now completed. Within the next two weeks, there will be a transportation meeting. The district is working on "safe zones". The district is now working with the company called Transfinder. The previous company, Edulog was not creating maps as requested by the district. The new company, Transfinder is less expensive and produces a better product.

The board reminded Superintendent Abrahamson the parents need to know the drop off and pick up sites.

D. Director of Instruction

Coffman presented a power point on the data results. He also commented the summer reading program is going well. He is working on eliminating the peaks and valleys with the test results. He is aiming for baseline results that trend upward. The ACT test results are better than the state average. The elementary needs to focus on student need. The principals need to create awareness in the teachers. The test results show a drop off when a student changes buildings. Emphasize the need to answer the question of why when studying the student data results.

7. New Business

A. Early Start Calendar waiver

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Early Start Calendar Waiver. Motion carried 6-0.

B. District & Building Goals

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cameron to accept the District & Building Goals. The discussion for the district goals and the building goals began in January 2013. They have aligned the building goals. The district now has five year goals and the buildings have one year goals. The curriculum has been aligned to focus on the Common Core.

Superintendent Abrahamson explained his calendar for the 2013-2014 school Year. He plans on spending more time in the buildings and working with the principals. He plans on having his 2013-2014 calendar completed by July 1, 2013. The meetings for the cabinet will switch from a weekly meeting to a monthly meeting. Superintendent Abrahamson continues to have discussions with education consultants Troyce Fisher and Julie Davis.

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Concrete Work – High School

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to approve Concrete Work – High School. Superintendent Abrahamson explained the concern regarding injuries and falling at the rock area at the high school football stadium. The plan is to remove the rock and replace it with cement. The expenditure would come from the PPEL fund. Maintenance Supervisor Lender is also working on a five-year infrastructure plan for the district. The board approved the bid from Absolute Concrete for \$34,371 for the bleacher slab and \$25,920 for the play area. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Abrahamson also stated due to the recent rainy weather, there is now a leak in the roof of the Kriegel gym.

D. 2013-14 fundraisers

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Brown to approve the 2013-14 fundraisers. There was discussion on what are the fundraisers actually raising money for. The PTO's raise funds for the classrooms and for the students. Superintendent Abrahamson suggested a presentation by the PTO's to the board. He explained the details for fundraisings a request from the auditors.

Motion by Cameron that the board accept the GHS fundraisers, seconded by Brown. Motion carried 5-1. Knobloch voted nay.

Motion by Cameron, based on the discussion information, to rescind the original motion, seconded by Brown. Motion carried 6-0.

The board requested the fundraising item be placed on the agenda for the July meeting. The board would like a presentation from those involved with the fundraising.

8. Suggestions for next agenda

The importance of the upcoming election, the board encourages everyone to get involved in the process.

9. Decision Points

Enjoyed the curriculum presentation, emphasize data to make decisions. The building goals are designed to show growth.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Knobloch to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., July 10, 2013
Tentative Board Retreat	6:00 p.m., July 17, 2013