

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on June 11, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building 927 4th Ave., Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Claire Moisan, Jonathan Nance, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager and Board Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Members Absent: Jeff Knobloch

Administrators Present: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Lisa Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance. Board member Carol Wilhelm read the district's Mission and Vision statement.

2. Fiduciary: [Bills Summary](#)

Board Member Wilhelm asked about the legal bill. Business Manager Johnson stated this bill includes costs mostly related to the 11th Avenue properties and to personnel issues.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Wilhelm asked about a full time librarian candidate already having a librarian certificate on top of a teaching librarian. Abrahamson stated most candidates did not have a librarian certificate and that people often get their certificate after they are in the position. She was also concerned over sharing the position and what effects this might have on our students. Fisher also voiced her concern over sharing a librarian.

Brown asked to include the exclusions of the 302.5 and 302.5E2 in the previous meetings minutes.

Brown moved and Moisan seconded to amend the consent agenda to remove the word "shared" from the consent agenda in relation to the librarian position.

Motion carried 6-0.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

- B. Minutes:** Regular Meeting [5/28/14](#)
- C. Claims and Accounts**
- D. Personnel:**
Offerings: Jennifer Vander Leest: HS special education instructor; Jessica Brown: Co-cheerleading Fall & Winter; Allison Pease: Shared Librarian; Mike Hunter: HS math instructor
- E. Open Enrollments In:** Jeffrey McVey: 11th grade from Montezuma; Cailyn Grabe: 2nd grade from Newton; Bryce Grabe: Kindergarten from Newton; Emmalynn Little: 5th grade from East Marshall

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

Motion carried 6-0.

4. Communication from the Public

Former Principal/Board Member Doug Cameron spoke against sharing a librarian.

Community Member Dale Lamb discussed his concerns of a possible site of contamination on the 11th Avenue property where an old house once stood.

Cathy Sonnichsen and the TAG group shared their experiences presenting at the global competition. They were filmed during their presentation and it was shown on the big screen during the closing ceremonies. Special memories included meeting many interesting people from across the country and around the world, and trading pins with people they talked to, to remember all the people they spoke with. Brown commented that this is a great example of project based learning.

5. Communication and Reports

A. Board

Brown shared an IASB webinar training on sunshine laws she thinks would benefit the board.

Fisher discussed the SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) meeting's focus on alignment with the academic needs of the school. She encouraged people to get involved, because they need more members on the committee.

Smith commented on the last day of school picnic. Abrahamson stated the school presented awards to the employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 25 plus years of service. They also recognized six retirees.

6. Old Business

- A. 2nd Reading - [Change Log 300 Policy Series](#)** (excluding 302.5 and 302.5E2)
Motion by Brown, seconded by Nance to approve the 2nd reading of the 300 series policies excluding 302.5 and 302.5E2.

Motion carried 6-0.

- B. 2nd Reading - [Change Log 603.4](#)**
Motion by Brown, seconded by Fisher to approve the 2nd reading of policy 603.4

Motion carried 6-0.

Exempt Session - To discuss negotiation strategy per Iowa Code 20.17(3)

7. New Business

- A. Physical Plant Contract [Summary](#)**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Wilhelm to approve the Physical Plant Contract for 2014-2015

Motioned carried 6-0.

- B. Other Employee Contracts [Summary](#)**

Motion by Nance, seconded by Moisan to approve the Other Employee Contracts for 2014-2015

Wilhelm noted that these raises cannot be sustained.

Motioned carried 6-0.

- C. Jester Breakdown Insurance Contract (Electronic Equipment) [Premium Cost](#)**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the Jester Breakdown Insurance Contract for 2014-2015

Superintendent Abrahamson explained that the premium is paid through the Management Fund and any reimbursements come into the General Fund, thus improving our unspent balance by increasing Miscellaneous Income.

Wilhelm asked exactly what this policy covers. Business Manager Johnson explained this policy covers most electronic equipment at the school. This includes: computers, security systems, projectors, scoreboards, etc.

Motioned carried 6-0.

D. Timberline Medicaid Billing [Contract](#)

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the Timberline Medicaid Billing Contract for 2014-2015

Business Manager Johnson stated Timberline provides billing support for Medicaid services provided by the district to students with needs in their IEPs. This allows the district to recoup some of the costs of providing necessary services for students' education.

Motioned carried 6-0.

E. School Bus Lease [Blue Bird Contract](#) [Grinnell State Bank Amortization Schedule](#)

Motion by Nance, seconded by Fisher to approve the School Bus Lease Contract for 2014-2015

Wilhelm asked about the interest rate. Johnson stated this should not be an issue as long as we complete the purchase timely.

Motioned carried 6-0.

F. Purchase Agreement [Agreement](#)

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed his conversations with the City Manager on the purchase of 11th Avenue and the water documents. The City is recommending we remove section 4 on the HVAC system. They want a response by June 20th. They could possibly have a public hearing on July 21st to discuss.

Denny from FEH was onsite at the High School to look at renovations of that building and wants to discuss how this impacts the timeline at the work session on June 30th.

Dale Lamb stated his concern about buying another property. He asked if it is possible to put a contingency in place regarding a passed bond issue before the purchase of the land.

Brown stated the objective of the board is to look into consolidating the elementary schools as well as eliminating the high operating costs of the Middle School.

Wilhelm asked why we would purchase the property before we have a final plan. Brown stated we are moving forward with the purchase to keep our options open in order to make the best decision of the options available.

Community Member Susan Castillo stated many members of the community felt they have not been invited to attend the Task Force meetings or other meetings on the building project. Board President Smith encouraged people to attend the June 30th Work Session.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Brown to approve the Purchase Agreement.

Motioned carried 4-2. Wilhelm and Fisher opposed.

Abrahamson stated we will have the right to opt out so the district can walk away if wanted. Once the city has approved the board will vote again to approve the final contract.

G. 28E Agreement - Librarian [Agreement](#)

Wilhelm re-stated she does not want to share a librarian. Abrahamson stated this agreement with East Marshall would be 1 of a 6 day cycle in East Marshall. Retiring librarian, Sherry Wallace, says this is not ideal, but she believes it is possible. Abrahamson stated if we find the program is not working we could contract additional hours, if necessary.

No motion to approve.

H. Lease Agreement - Natel [Agreement](#)

Abrahamson stated this lease is for an amplifier for ICN signal on a football tower. Brown stated a 10 year lease with a 1 year notice to terminate is too long and to reduce this to 1 year lease with 90 days to terminate.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Fisher to amend the Lease Agreement with Natel to a 1 year term with 90 days notice to terminate.

Motioned carried 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

Smith stated the June 30th meeting at 6:00 is strictly for facilities discussion. We will have a special board meeting following the work session. If enough information is available at that time the board would have the opportunity to make a decision if they so desired.

Nance stated he has had multiple discussions with families with small children and has overwhelmingly been told they are in favor of consolidation and 11th Avenue. Fisher stated she also hears from families with small children who are in favor of consolidation.

Fisher reiterated that the significant number of people who understood the need to have a consolidated school was noted at the site visit. Moisan noted how consolidation allows the alignment of curriculum, which will benefit students.

B. Emergency Procedures

Abrahamson said the Administration team is addressing this topic this week. They are working to clarify procedures, specifically on bomb threats. There will be ongoing training in the fall for threat assessment. Students will also be involved in the trainings.

Immediate communication will come from the Superintendent and ongoing communication will come from either the Superintendent or Principal to parents and community. Communications will not be in social media, nor will the schools monitor social media for false communications. Communication of an issue at a building will be immediate to the Superintendent from the building to try to eliminate social media communicating events prior to the Superintendent.

Messages communicated will include necessary details, but may not detail the situation to eliminate threats of copycats and interfering with law enforcement investigations.

9. Board Talking Points

Abrahamson stated the key message on the purchase of 11th Avenue is the district is pursuing the purchase agreement to make an offer on the property. The district has an opt out clause and another vote will take place before the purchase is finalized.

Fisher stated the importance of a well communicated safety plan. Wilhelm stated communication is very important to addressing threats before the disaster happens.

Moisan is glad the decision of the librarian went the way it did. She feels it is not in our best interest.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Brown, seconded by Nance to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Board Calendar:

SIAC Meeting	6:00 p.m., June 10, 2014
Work Session	5:00 p.m., June 30, 2014
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., July 9, 2014