

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on June 30, 2014, at 5:05 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, Jonathan Nance, Jeff Knobloch and Carol Wilhelm.

Members Absent: Claire Moisan.

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager and Board Secretary Lisa Johnson

Administrators Present: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Board Secretary Lisa Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

2. Matrix Work Session

Jeff Smith restated the priorities the task force identified, last summer. Abrahamson stated the offer regarding the 11th Avenue property will be discussed at the City Council Meeting on Monday July 7, 2014.

Brown asked what benefits we get from consolidation. Abrahamson stated the savings will allow us to offer a larger variety of programs, such as foreign language. Consolidation will also improve collaboration between teachers and alignment to the core, throughout the elementary.

Fisher asked about the impact to competency based learning. Abrahamson explained that under one roof the district can offer various levels of courses for all grades without a large cost to the district or transporting students.

3. Public Work Session

A. Update from Todd on 11th Avenue

Abrahamson stated the offer will be discussed at the City Council Meeting on Monday July 7, 2014.

B. Updated Floor Plan for Elementary School

Denny from FEH presented new plans showing traditional corridor designs. This reduces about 1,200 sq.ft. and about \$2M in construction costs.

C. Review Middle School Floor Plans

No Discussion

D. Review High School Remodeling

Denny showed a detailed listing of needed renovations to the High School.

E. Updated Budget Projections

FEH handed out budget sheets for each option. Vic from A&J Associates discussed the water issues with building at 11th Avenue, which would require water storage and/or water pressure improvements. An addition at the High School would require some improvements as well, but most likely at a smaller cost than a building on 11th. The Middle School site and 4th Avenue would require little utility cost to address water issues to meet fire suppression codes.

Vic also discussed a safety/storm room option that other schools are looking into.

F. Updated Matrix Comparison

Consensus on site for elementary at:

- MS – Fisher, Brown, Knobloch, Smith
- Opposed to consolidation and a 6-8 at HS- Wilhelm

Nance exited the meeting during the above discussions.

Margie Laehn stated that it is the teachers, not the building, that facilitates learning. The resources saved by consolidation could provide the teacher resources needed to create the best learning environment.

Knobloch stated there are a lot of advantages to the teachers being in one building. Paired with the fact that teachers create the biggest impact, this provides the best resources for our students.

4. Special Board Meeting

Not needed

5. Approve of Agenda

Not needed

6. Site Selection

Not addressed

7. Building Configuration

Not addressed

8. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., July 9, 2014