

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on September 23, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg Community High School in the Media Center, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Doug Cameron, Jeff Knobloch, Claire Moisan, Jeff Smith, and Carol Wilhelm.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson and Board Treasurer/Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Administrators Present: Principal Brian Conway, Principal Jeff Kirby, Principal Sara Hegg-Dunne, Principal Kevin Seney, Principal Sarah Seney and Curriculum Director Kym Stein.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Fiduciary Bills Summary

Wilhelm asked about the Moby Max bill. Abrahamson stated this is a program the MS has used for years. Johnson stated this is not part of the Math curriculum but an annual renewal.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Cameron to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Smith.

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by J. Smith to amend the minutes to state "Wilhelm asked about the sound at board meetings, explaining that acoustics in a library do not amplify sound adequately for a public meeting. Abrahamson explained that board meetings would soon be moving to the ICN room to resolve the issues of sound"

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 9/9/15 Minutes

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Dwight Laidig: Assistant Coach Girls Varsity Soccer

2. Upgrades: Shelly Fitzgerald: MA+15 to MA+30; Jill Meyer: BA to

BA+15

3. **Open Enrollment:** Madeline Otto: 10th grade to CAM; Cameron Hungerford: 9th grade to East Marshall

Motion carried 6-0.

4. **Communication from the Public**

None

5. **Old Business**

- A. **Third & Final Reading - 400 Policy Series**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Cameron to approve the third and final reading of the 400 series policy.

Motion carried 6-0.

- B. **Second Reading - Policy 303.2 Administrative Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve the second reading of Policy 303.2.

Motion carried 6-0.

6. **Adjournment of Retiring Board and Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Education**

Brown thanked the members leaving the board for their contributions to the School Board. Wilhelm thanked her fellow board members, school staff and community members for allowing her to serve.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

- A. **Call to Order and Roll Call by the Secretary of the Board of Education; Announce Election Results**

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Meg Jones Bair, Jeff Knobloch, Jonathan Nance (arrived later), Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith and Jeff Smith.

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson and Board Treasurer/Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Administrators Present: Principal Brian Conway, Principal Jeff Kirby, Principal Sara Hegg-Dunne, Principal Kevin Seney, Principal Sarah Seney and Curriculum Director Kym Stein..

Board Secretary Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

B. Administration of the Oath of Office to New Members of the Board of Education

Board Secretary Johnson Administered the Oath of Office to Jeff Knobloch, Director At Large of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Director Knobloch agreed.

Board Secretary Johnson Administered the Oath of Office to Meg Jones Bair, Director District 3 of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Director Jones Bair agreed.

Board Secretary Johnson Administered the Oath of Office to Dustin Smith, Director District 4 of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Director Smith agreed.

Board Secretary Johnson Administered the Oath of Office to Helen Redmond, Director District 2 of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School to fill a vacancy. Director Redmond agreed.

C. Election of the 2015-2016 President of the Board of Education and Administration of the Oath of Office

Motion by Knobloch, seconded J. Smith to nominate Barbara Brown for Board President. Johnson ceased nominations. Written ballots were collected, and Brown was approved.

Board Secretary Johnson Administered the Oath of Office to Brown, Board President of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Board President Brown agreed.

D. Election of the 2015-2016 Vice President of the Board of Education and Administration of the Oath of Office

Motion by Knobloch, seconded D. Smith to nominate Jeff Smith for Board Vice President. J. Smith asked if others were interested. Motion by D. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to nominate Knobloch for Board Vice President. Johnson ceased nominations. Written ballots were collected, and Knobloch was approved.

Board Secretary Johnson Administered the Oath of Office to Knobloch, Board Vice President of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Vice President Knobloch agreed.

E. Establishment of Day, Time, and Place of Regular Meetings, Educational Meetings, and Work/Budget Sessions

J. Smith stated either proposal would work and adjustments can be made. Brown asked about the scheduled work session. Abrahamson stated these could be for performance reviews, budget presentations, etc. Brown favors regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. She also asked to take off the second meeting in March, due to spring break.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by J. Smith to approve the Proposal 1, minus the second meeting in March as the Board Calendar.

Motion carried 6-0.

7. Communications and Reports

A. Board

None.

Nance arrived at 7:50.

B. Principals

1. Clustering

Principal Kirby presented on how principals have intentionally grouped students by placing them in certain classes. Special education students are required to be placed in general education settings, so typically students are spread among a couple of classes in order for Special Education teachers to better serve the students. In recent years TAG students have also started to be clustered in order for these students be provided additional serves more often. Multiple assessments and other factors

(behavior, health, gender, etc.) are considered when making placement decisions.

Principal S. Seney explained how Instruction has moved from teacher centered to student centered. Clustering allows schools to reduce the standard deviation within a classroom. Kirby explained clustering does not place all of the students at one end of the spectrum into one class.

Hegg-Dunne stated the Middle School has block scheduling, meaning students are with the same group of students for two classes blocked together. They use clustering to determine these blocks.

Kirby explained regardless of the class a child is in, students are all getting similar instruction, resources and exposure to various population. Principal Conway reiterated this isn't to make it easier for the teachers, but to better focus the resources to the appropriate students. K. Seney stated the High School uses tracking due to course selection.

Knobloch stated he believes there are students who feel like we are tracking, and asked how the district can combat that. Kirby has not seen this as a major issue. However, there are conversations taking place with the students about how all students have strengths and weaknesses. Hegg-Dunne stated where a student is placed year to year can vary greatly based on the progress a student has made throughout the year.

J. Smith asked about the middle students and what is the variance in improvement for them if they are placed in a class with more SPED versus a class with more TAG. Kirby says they have looked at the data extensively and the middle students placed with SPED typically gain at a higher rate than average.

Community members and Redmond addressed concerns about perpetuating student stereotypes. Curriculum Director Stein stated the numerous factors that are looked at reduce this to a minimum. She also stated teachers are addressing individual needs of all students (low, middle and high). Teachers for TAG and SPED student groups are given additional professional development focused on helping those students by differentiating plans.

Knobloch stated he was pleased with the presentation, and he liked the use of data as well as the presentation of the material.

2. International Baccalaureate (IB) Budget

Sara Hegg-Dunne presented the five year plan, explaining how the International Baccalaureate Program works and what a typical lesson plan looks like. This program coordinates with programs the Middle School is already working on, such as Iowa Core, Olweus, Professional Learning Communities, etc. Hegg-Dunne also pointed out how the philosophy of the IB program is very similar to the District's Mission and Vision. She explained the District submitted an application in the spring and soon after found out it was approved. The Middle School continued to move forward developing a plan to implement the program. She presented a budget of the costs of salaries for additional staff as well as other (software, assessments, training, etc.) costs associated with participating in the program.

Brown asked about the high cost of the assessments. Abrahamson stated the other assessments the district uses are expensive as well. Brown asked how the classroom will look different. Hegg-Dunne stated the classroom language, unit design, more individual student focus with choices of projects will be the most obvious changes. There would need to be work done to be certain students have the opportunities required by the program, for example foreign language.

J. Smith asked who the governing body is. Hegg-Dunne stated it is the International Baccalaureate Organization. J. Smith asked about what happens after a student leaves the Middle School and wants to continue in the IB program? Hegg-Dunne stated the closest current High School is in Des Moines, but K. Seney believes the High School could fairly easily make the transition to the IB program as well.

Brown asked why the Middle School began looking at this program. Hegg-Dunne stated the Academic committee began looking at rigor and the District began investigating the IB program.

Brown asked why the IB program and not another option for similar funding costs. Hegg-Dunne stated the program is very well respected and takes the initiatives the the District is already working on to the next level.

Brown asked if parents have been communicated to. Hegg-Dunne stated that would be a next step. We are currently in the candidacy phase. Brown asked about the consideration phase and why more information hasn't been presented to the board, parents, and community. Hegg-Dunne stated Districts approach the process in different orders.

Hegg-Dunne stated she believes the staff at the Middle School is capable and willing to take on this program and make it successful. There will be a workshop on October 5th with staff. Redmond asked about where the funds for the budgeted costs will come from and if it is sustainable. Abrahamson stated based on current staffing the program is not sustainable. The District is using data collected over the past few years to reallocate resources. He also stated there are conversations with Grinnell College for a possibility to help with funding. Brown asked Abrahamson to address the concerns of communication with the public and the budget. Chavez stated the College is also getting a feeling of excitement about the program and willing to continue with conversations.

Brown asked about languages and how the decision will be made. A community member brought up connecting the communication of this to the public with how this ties to a facility plan.

Knobloch stated this is an expensive answer to rigor, but he believes we could get there without it. He believes based on the budget the district should move forward without it. Moisan stated the IB program was discussed prior to the conversations about rigor. Brown asked if the program could continue to move forward for next year without significant investment. Hegg-Dunne stated it can.

Brown followed up stated she believes the most excitement is around foreign language and asked if the district could continue to move forward with that. Redmond asked about foreign language at the Elementary level as well. D. Smith asked for more information about the funding possibilities. Redmond needs more focus on the finances. J. Smith asked about if we are using IB just to say we are more rigorous versus really looking at how to implement changes make the school more rigorous.

8. New Business

A. Approve a Board of Director to attend the IASB 2015 Delegate Assembly on

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Knobloch stated he attended last year, but is unable to this year. Brown stated she would volunteer.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Redmond to approve Director Brown to attend the IASB 2015 Delegate Assembly.

Motion carried 7-0.

B. Appoint Board Treasurer

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Jones Bair to nominate Lisa Johnson for Board Treasurer.

Board President Brown Administered the Oath of Office to Lisa Johnson, Board Treasurer of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Board Treasurer Johnson agreed.

C. Designate the Depositories: Wells Fargo Bank - \$15,000,000, Grinnell, IA; Iowa School Joint Investment Trust (ISJIT) - \$5,000,000

Johnson stated the Wells Fargo amount is increased from the previous year due to need.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Nance to approve the Depositories.

Motion carried 7-0.

D. Appoint Donald L. Schild, Gruhn Law Firm, and Ahlers Law Firm as district counsel

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the district counsel with the qualification of old business only with Gruhn.

Motion carried 7-0.

E. Approve 2015-2016 Title I application

Abrahamson stated the budget of \$200,556 is primarily salaries and benefits with 5.5 FTEs.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Title I application.

Motion carried 7-0.

F. Election of Director District #6 representative to the AEA 267 Board of Directors

Abrahamson stated Grinnell-Newburg is 23% of the vote. He stated Maureen Hanson was the only candidate running. J. Smith asked if they could come visit the district.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the Maureen Hanson, for AEA 267 Board of Directors.

Motion carried 7-0.

G. Establish of Poweshiek County conference board representative

D. Smith volunteered.

Motion by Redmond, seconded by Knobloch to approve D. Smith as the Poweshiek County conference board representative.

Motion carried 7-0.

H. Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of Pre levied School Bonds FY15

Johnson stated this is authorizing the payment of the funds that were pre-levied in the previous fiscal year. The final bond payment will be made in FY17.

Motion by Nance, seconded by J. Smith to approve the Redemption of Pre levied School Bonds FY15.

Motion carried 7-0.

I. Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of Pre levied School Bonds FY16

Johnson stated this is authorizing the payment of the funds that are being levied in the current fiscal year.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Redemption of Pre levied School Bonds FY16.

Motion carried 7-0.

J. Appoint board members to advisory committees

Motion by Knobloch to Table until the October 14th meeting.

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Board Talking Points

J. Smith asked for IB as an on-going agenda item. He also asked about next steps with the bond. Knobloch asked for the bond survey results discussed as well.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Nance to enter into Closed Session at 9:00 p.m per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(a) and 21.5(1)(i): To review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential. To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, as that individual has requested a closed session.

Motion carried 7-0.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Jones Bair to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Board Calendar:

IASB Board Development Work Session

6:00 p.m., October 7, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., October 14, 2015