

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on February 12, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch, 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: None

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney

### **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. Seven members were in attendance.

### **2. Fiduciary**

Business Manager Johnson discussed financials and answered questions from the board members. Johnson and Superintendent Abrahamson also addressed questions regarding high utility bills.

### **3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular board meeting 1/22/14, revised board meeting 1/8/14

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Matt Waldschmitt: Assistant boys tennis coach; Travis Smith: Assistant girls tennis coach; Jake O'Polka: Assistant boys soccer coach

2. Resignation: Pauline Pollock: Kitchen high school

F. Open Enrollments 2014 In: Hunter Neleman: Kindergarten from Newton; Shantel Doyle: 9<sup>th</sup> grade from North Mahaska

G. Open Enrollments 2013 Out: Tucker Gillson: Iowa Connections Academy

H. Open enrollments 2014 Out: Jacob McCammant: 11<sup>th</sup> grade to BGM: David McCammant: 9<sup>th</sup> grade to BGM

I. Contract Upgrades: Aaron Backlin: BA+15 to MA: Chelsey Kolpin: BA+30 to MA+15

### **4. Communication from the Public**

Mary Abrahamson spoke regarding her perspective of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District and the direction it is headed under the leadership of Superintendent Abrahamson.

## **5. Communication and Reports**

### **A. Board**

Several board members and Superintendent Abrahamson attended the board member delegate dinner at Carnsforth Inn on February 6, 2014. President Smith remarked the attendees discussed school related issues in the legislature. Knobloch discuss how supplemental aid should be set by law this week, but most likely will not be completed. Superintendent Abrahamson stated the formula has not changed since 1971. Fisher attended the Poweshiek County Conference Board meeting, the budget was presented and will be voted on Thursday, February 27, 2014. The academic committee held a recent meeting to establish goals, and they also discussed early literacy. Knobloch stated there will be a facility committee meeting on Monday, February 17, to discuss the process for the upcoming work session meeting.

City Manager Russ Behrens discussed the infrastructure costs of an additional structure at the high school and some related costs at the middle school site.

Brown requested possibly alternatives for other current locations.

### **B. Superintendent**

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the received grant for early literacy, which is slightly over \$22,000. The new legislation states students need to be proficient by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. There will be more guidance regarding this topic.

KeBecca works with students dealing with behavioral and mental health issues. Many of these students are sent out of the district for program assistance. Kebecca could provide services to the student in the district. Currently, there are students on a waiting list for this type of programs. The costs for these programs are extensive. We believe the services could be delivered in our school at a lower cost.

## **6. Old Business**

### **2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 100 Policy Series**

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by Moisan to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the 100 Policy Series. Motion approved 6-0. Knobloch did not vote, as he had stepped out of the room.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. pCard program**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve the pCard program. Motion approved 7-0.

**B. Pepsi Contract**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Pepsi Contract. Wilhelm discussed the issues with selling the products out side of the regular school day. Motion approved 6-0, Nay vote by Wilhelm.

**C. Out-of-state travel – Midwest Behavior Symposium in Kansas City**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Nance to approve out-of-state travel – Midwest Behavior Symposium in Kansas City. This trip will be paid with Teach Quality Funds. Motion approved 7-0.

**D. Early Retirement**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch to approve the resignation for Sherry Wallace. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the early retirement for Sherry Wallace. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Fisher, seconded Moisan to approve the resignation of Susan Tew Lowe. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Fisher, seconded Moisan to approve the early retirement of Susan Tew Lowe. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the resignation for Deb Yellick-Manly. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by Knobloch to approve the early retirement for Deb Yellick-Manly. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Nance to approve the resignation for Rosemary Jobs. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Wilhelm to approve the early retirement for Rosemary Jobs. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Brown to approve the resignation for Julie Young. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Brown to approve the early retirement for Julie Young. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Nance to approve the resignation for Cathy Sonnichsen. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by Fisher to approve the early retirement for Cathy Sonnichsen. Motion carried 7-0.

Wilhelm discussed giving exit interviews to these six employees. The district already follows this procedure.

## **8. At the Board Table – Board Development**

Board President Smith led discussion on the consideration of board priorities. Fisher stated 80% on programs with the mission statement, 20% on development. Brown stated 80% on programs that help all children, 20% financial. Wilhelm stated 80% on programs with the focus on students, 20% on teachers to drive the programs. Smith stated 100% on the infrastructure, which frees dollars for other area long-term projects. Moisan 80% on professional development to improve quality, 20% on programming. Nance 80% programming with the focus on children, 20% on infrastructure. Knobloch stated 80% on infrastructure that drives district savings, 20% on professional development to improve teacher quality.

Board President Smith showed three priorities: 1. programming with the focus on the needs of children, 2. professional development – improve quality, 3. Infrastructure to create efficiencies.

Superintendent Abrahamson stated 80% facilities to redirect for a later savings, 20% on professional development . He also stated the district had another visit regarding the Making Meaning group. The other district observed the program. Currently, the focus is on the math curriculum. Opera Iowa will be coming to the high school and Grinnell College.

Fisher indicated she liked seeing the data walls in the buildings, this encourages a continual focus on all students.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Nance to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

### **Board Calendar:**

<b>Work Session</b>	<b>6:00 p.m., February 19, 2014</b>
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 p.m., February 26, 2014</b>