

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 12, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4th Avenue, 2nd 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, Sarah Seney, Jeff Kirby, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Chris Coffman, and Maintenance Director Shawn Edelen

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/Budget Presentation

Business Manager Johnson discussed financials and answered questions from the board members. Business Manager Johnson also presented the certified budget presentation and answered questions. Superintendent Abrahamson also spoke regarding the focus needs to be on unspent balance, there are only two ways to increase: 1) increase enrollment (our trend shows down) and 2) decrease costs. The district is using the FPP program to see where best to make cuts and gathering groups of stakeholders (parents/staff/community). The effort is doing what we can to not replace retirements and make reductions where possible for the next year.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: special board meeting 2/26/14

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Todd Crites: Co-sponsor GHS Student Council; Susan Kriegel:

Administrative Assistant; Deidre Freeman: Assistant girls swim coach and 9th grade girls softball coach; Nissa Greenquist: HS English instructor

E. Open Enrollments In: Zane Iverson: Kindergarten from Montezuma; Hannah

Robinson: 10th grade from Newton; Paige Robinson: 7th grade from Newton; Madeline Potter: Kindergarten from South Tama; Braydan Winter: 3rd grade from South Tama

F. Open Enrollments Out: Kyle Doty: 9th grade to BGM; Raven Heathcote: 11th grade to Newton; Zachary Herr: 11th grade to Newton; Cody Sicard: 9th grade to BGM; Justin

Sicard: 9th grade to BGM; Travis Sicard: 11th grade to BGM; Addison Collum: Kindergarten to Lynnville-Sully
G. Student Teacher Agreements: Iowa State University; University of Northern Iowa

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communication and Reports

A. Board

President Smith expressed congratulations regarding the recent musical, athletic competitions, and debate competition.

B. Superintendent

The board was presented with a demolition discussion, both FEH and Seaton were present and gave an overview of the route, which will mainly be highway 6. They will use water for dust control. It will take 15-20 days in June to crush. They will begin with the building; a fence will soon go up. The current estimate is 95% of the materials will be recycled. There will be a change order if something is not identified, but that will be communicated. The horse barn on site will be advertised to take bids for the sale and removal.

The FY16 supplemental state aid still not set and no indication it will be anytime soon.

Superintendent Abrahamson, board member Fisher and representatives from the college attended a reading conference with a focus on absences and directly linked to performance, especially in early elementary. The community partners are applying for a grant and looking for ways to fund a program.

Preparation information for the site visit is looking good. All the docs have been uploaded. The site visit will be April 8 and April 9.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Iowa girls' High School Athletic Union request for 2014-2015 Cooperative Sharing Agreement: Soccer, swimming and diving with BGM

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union request for 2014-2015 Cooperative Sharing Agreement: Soccer, swimming and diving with BGM

B. 1st Reading – 200 Policy Series

Regarding 204: “spend more time on educational activities than business functions.” There will be a separate vote this policy. Per Knobloch this is the hope but realistically is this possible? Per Moisan not really an ethical behavior so doesn’t belong in the category. Decision not to add item. Motion carried 6-0. Wilhelm abstained.

Regarding 209.2: change to two readings

Regarding 210.4: Per Brown Roberts rules will “guide”

Regarding 216.1 and 216.2: Change “will” to “may” be a member and work closely

Per Knobloch not wise to bind ourselves with policy to a decision.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve all other 200 series. Motioned carried 7-0.

C. Audit report

Russell from Hunt and Associates explained the Audit Report. The district received An unmodified opinion (best given). Russell discussed the changed in each major fund. No expenditure area exceeded the budget. There was no segregation of duty issues.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Nance to approve the audit report. Motion carried 7-0.

8. At the Board Table – Board Development

Board President Smith led discussion on the prepared superintendent evaluation proposal from IASB. There was discussion on issues with doing evaluations: legal requirements, board driven goals and objections, board presented results. Per Brown need to evaluate all standards legally. Per Wilhelm discuss both positive and negative, good communication needed with all seven bosses. Per Brown need to have consensus on goals and performance from whole board. Per Knobloch need to follow board set schedule for evaluations. Per Fisher need six main standards and ways to present them. Superintendent Abrahamson will set up a Google site with artifacts.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Regular/Educational Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., March 26, 2014