

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 26, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell Middle School media center, 132 East Street South, 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, and Student Board Representative Zane Strawser

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, Jeff Kirby, Sara Hegg-Dunne, and Chris Coffman,

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 February financials and answered questions from the board members. Business Manager Johnson also spoke to the board of the upcoming budget presentation at future board meeting on April 9th. A forecasting presentation will be done by the FPP group, utilizing forecasting software at the April 23rd Board Meeting. Superintendent Abrahamson discussed what measures are currently being utilized to relieve the budget shortfall. Also, the process that will be used to develop long range plans. The Superintendent spoke of an article that will be in the upcoming April Newsletter that will help our district citizens with the understanding of the budget issues.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to move Closed Session and New Business, Item A to end of the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

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

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: Regular Board Meeting 3/12/14
- C. Financials: Summary, Monthly Fund Balances, Activity Fund Balances
- D. Claims and Accounts: Bills
- E. Personnel:
 - 1. Offerings: Lynn Mawe: Volunteer coach girls golf; Kendall McGinnis: Night custodian Davis Elementary
 - 2. Resignations: Alicia Sieverding: 5th/6th grade counselor middle school; Jessica McLaughlin: Bus Driver

4. Public Hearing: Early Start Calendar

High School Principal Kevin Seney discussed the 14-15 School Year calendar and the early start waiver. He also confirmed that this early start would still be after the Iowa State Fair concludes. Board member Wilhelm voiced concerns of days of attendance for students after the Memorial Day holiday. She would also like to voice the preference for year-round school. President Smith went over the states requirement of the district's waiver approval needed to start school before the September 1st date.

5. Communication from the Public

None

6. Communication and Reports

A. Board

Board member Fisher mentioned the Academic Committee working on the goals and discussion of the "clustering" concept. The Early Literacy Program will be a topic of discussion in the future by board member Moisan on behalf of the Academic Committee.

B. Superintendent

The demolition on the RC property is approximately one-third complete, and on the south side the building is down. Superintendent Abrahamson shared the calendar that outlines the schedule for the continued demolition on the property.

In reference to budget it was mentioned that despite revenue estimates continuing to rise, the senate passed at 6%. Although the house is still holding out on approval measures. The timeliness of funding is important to help with the prediction and forecasts of future budgets.

C. Principals

Middle School Principal Sara Hegg-Dunne gave the board an overview of the success of various middle school programs throughout this school year.

Fifth grade teacher Lisa Cirks presented the blog website that her students are using to post their writings. Students can read each others in their class, other middle school classes, and even other students in school districts they are partnering with. Board member Wilhelm inquired if there is the ability to carry forward each students work into their future years? Mrs. Cirks said that this is not currently an option used, but they are looking into the capabilities for the future.

Sixth grade teachers Tammy Strawser and Rebecca Goltz are teaching students how to find reliable data information and sources online. Their students are also creating videos of past news history. Mrs. Strawser used a virtual room makeover project to teach shapes and budgets when designing a room makeover. Also, using i-movies and other technologies to get students interested in their curriculum by using technology.

Seventh grade students are using videos to help create stories. A student presented the board an example of her work, and explained how she went through the creative process.

Eighth grade students were exploring their career opportunities through technology. They used online quizzes to help narrow their focus and assist with selection of classes in their future high school years. A middle school student gave an overview of her and her families experience of how this help planned for her potential future career choices.

Middle School teachers Janelle Pirkl and Josh Ellis presented to the board their use of the Canvas and EdModo programs. Examples and comparisons were given by each of them to show how they can track assignments given to students. Also, how they can monitor the student's submitted work and return to them with comments.

Principal Hegg-Dunne told the board of the setting up student help desks in the media center this spring on a trial basis.

7. Old Business

Board member Brown had suggestions for policy **209.2**. Insert to **209.2** (Adoption of Policy) between first and second paragraph:

Policies in their final form must be presented for discussion and board approval at two regular board meetings in order to be adopted.

Board member Brown had suggested changes to policy **210.8**. Insert to **210.8** (Board Meeting Agenda) between second and third paragraph:

Board members may place an item on the agenda by contacting both the superintendent and board president with the recommendation. Each board meeting will conclude with an opportunity for board members to suggest items for subsequent board meetings.

Board member Fisher suggested a tentative board calendar be online.

Motion by Wilhelm to make changes on policy **209.2** as; Policies in their final form must be presented for discussion and board approval at two regular board meetings in order to be adopted, and policy **210.8** as; Board members may place an item on the agenda by contacting both the superintendent and board president with the recommendation. Each board meeting will conclude with an opportunity for board members to suggest items for subsequent board meetings. seconded by Moisan. Motioned carried 7-0.

Motion by Moisan that other 200 policies have a second reading, seconded by Nance. Motion carried 7-0.

8. New Business

B. Early Start Calendar Waiver

Motion by Nance, seconded by Brown to approve Early Start Calendar Waiver. Motion carried 7-0.

C. 2014-2015 School Calendar

Board member Brown indicated that parents would like more school days for students. It was mentioned by board member Fisher that our school hours are similar, or more than schools in many countries.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Moisan to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar. Motioned carried 7-0.

D. Out of state travel – attending the 2014 National FFA Convention Louisville, Kentucky

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve the out of state travel – attending the 2014 National FFA Convention Louisville, Kentucky. Motion carried 7-0.

9. New Business

Motion at 8:15 p.m. by Brown to move to Closed Session for New Business, agenda item A., seconded by Nance. Motion carried 7-0.

A. Continuous of Superintendent Contract

Motion by Moisan, to approve the renewal of a 2 year Superintendent Contract, seconded by Nance. Motion carried 5 (Fisher, Nance, Moisan, Smith, Wilhelm) – 2 (Brown, Knobloch)

9. Adjournment

Motion by Brown, seconded by Nance to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., April 9, 2014
Regular/Educational Meeting	6:00 p.m., April 23, 2014