

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on December 18, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 927 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Jeff Knobloch, Kirsten Fisher, Claire Moisan, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager and Board Secretary Lisa Johnson

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance

Administrators Present: Jeff Kirby, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Kevin Seney, Chris Coffman, Sarah 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. Six members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary

Business Manager Johnson discussed the November bills and the monthly financial statements. She reported no irregular bills. The board had a discussion regarding how the Activity Fund works versus the General Fund. There was discussion regarding the SBRC and MAG applications for additional state funding to cover these programs.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

Amendment to the Consent Agenda

3. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - F. Open Enrollment In: Emily Winburn: 8th grade from Montezuma

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: Regular board meeting 12/4/13
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
 1. Offering: Nicole Ward: Kitchen middle school
 2. Resignations: Sue Rojohn: Kitchen middle school; Susan Vos: Kitchen high school; Brian Chitwood: Assistant coach boys tennis

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to approved the amended consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Communications from the Public

None to report.

5. Presentation – FEH Architects

The FEH Architects discussed the demolition of the R&C property. There are two pieces for the demolition, the main building and the west portion (concrete slab). The budgeted amount to demolish the main building is \$696,852 with a \$292,000 recycling refund estimate. The budgeted amount to demolish the west portion is \$275,000.

The final total after savings will be \$678,398. They discussed releasing the specs and calling for bids from contractors to be due back in early January (15th). The bids will be good for forty-five days. The timeline for the project is six to seven months.

Superintendent Abrahamson informed the board he has discussed this issue with the Attorney. A signed agreement will be arriving with in the week.

The architects indicated they monitor the demolition and work very closely with the contractors throughout the process. They also work with DNR during the process and the contractors will have all of the historical information. The contractors will have the knowledge of what to be aware of during the demotion process.

There will be a community meeting prior to the beginning of the process. The FEH Architects and the contractors will attend the meeting.

This site will become an attractive project due to being vacant and the available space. The high recycling savings will also attract bidders. Very detailed specs will ensure the quality of the project.

6. Communication and Reports

A. Board

Wilhelm reported she liked the recently published December/January newsletter. President Smith reported good networking by the board members at the recent IASB convention.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson reported he is keeping the adjacent property owners of the R & C land informed of the process. There is interest in the adjacent owners in purchasing a portion of the property.

The board heard from Principal K. Seney regarding the calendar committee. They are planning to present a recommendation for the 2014-2015 school year to the board at the January meeting.

7. Old Business

None to report.

8. New Business

A. Issue Demolition Drawings – R & C Industries, Inc.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve Issue Demolition Drawings – R & C Industries, Inc. There was discussion among the board members regarding the possibility of contamination. Motion carried 4-0, Wilhelm abstaining, Fisher abstaining.

B. SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch approving SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out. Motion carried 6-0.

C. SBRC Application LEP Instruction

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan approving SBRC Application LEP Instruction. Motion carried 6-0.

D. Modified Allowable Growth/At-Risk Application

Motion by Brown, seconded by Knobloch approving Modified Allowable Growth/At-Risk Application. Motion carried 6-0.

E. Early Retirement Plan – Certified & Non-Certified

Motion by Wilhelm, seconded by Moisan to approve Early Retirement Plan – Certified & Non-Certified. There was discussion on current legal issues with multi-year policy and caused change in payout date(s). Additional discussion is needed regarding budget implication. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The board had the following suggestions for meetings: Develop a long range calendar for the board, review evaluation documents for the superintendent in a work session, additional discussion on common messages from the board, student learning emphasis needs to be listed first on the agenda.

The reports from the principals should contain: data on academic growth, staff culture, student health, and parent concerns.

Discussion on counseling services to be offered and budget concerns for the future due to the current year deficit.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., January 8, 2014