

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on January 8, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center, Grinnell-Newburg High School, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

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

Members Absent: none

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

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Board Secretary Lisa Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

**2. Fiduciary**

Business Manager Johnson discussed the January bills. The professional development expenses used existing TQ funds, as there was a carryover from FY2013.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular board meeting 12/18/13

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Offering: Cindy Dudley: Kitchen middle school; Wanda White: Kitchen high school

**4. Public Hear: R & C Industries, Inc.**

Don Seymour, Senior Project Manager with FEH Associates, Inc., discussed the demolition of the R & C Building and the pre-bid meeting that was recently held on-site.

At 6:05 p.m. Wilhelm arrived for the meeting.

The bid date is Wednesday, January 15, 2014. FEH Associates, Inc. will then review the bids to ensure the capability of each company and provide the board with the three best bids.

**5. Communication from the Public**

The board heard from Jenifer Hicks, as she discussed enrolling her student with an on-line academy.

The board heard from Dale Lamb. He asked the question if the demolition of the R & C property will detract from the value of the property? He also remarked could the district spend money on solar panels to reduce the utility costs of the current buildings.

## **6. Communication and Reports**

### **A. Board**

Fisher asked why only 174 days for the school year when 180 days is required. Per Superintendent Abrahamson the PD days count toward the total as they are full days. The new state requirement for district calendars is the establishment of total hours versus current days. Currently, the district has more than enough hours to meet the 1080 regulation.

Brown stated the policy committee met earlier in the day, the committee is working on the 200 policy series.

Board member Fisher updated the board on the academic committee. They are working on a set mission and vision statement. They will be posting their minutes on the website.

### **B. Superintendent**

Superintendent Abrahamson discussed the abstract for the R & C property. He recently attend a meeting on negotiations, teacher leader pay, update on the health care, days versus hours legislation, and education reform. He will be sending a summary to the board regarding this meeting.

## **7. Old Business**

None to report.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Request from the Poweshiek County Chronicle Republican to be the designated official legal newspaper for the Grinnell-Newburg School District for the year 2014.**

Request died from lack of a motion.

## **9. Discussion Items**

### **A. Board Calendar**

President Smith provided the board with a draft copy of the 2014-2015 calendar for the school board. Per Wilhelm provide the committee tentative meeting dates to the board agenda. Per Fisher need to receive assessments with the strategic plan. Per President Smith, this will continue to be a work in progress.

## **B. Facilities**

Superintendent Abrahamson reported the district has secured as much of the R & C property as physically possible. The police department will also increase their patrols in the area. The drawings and bid procedure is available in the central office. The contractor will hold a pre-bid meeting for the public after the bid has been awarded.

FEH and Associates, Inc. will have a meeting with the facilities committee and then with the school board to discuss options for the current middle school site. During the month of February there will be a work session.

## **C. Administrative Reports**

The board discussed what is expected and desired with the reports from the administrators. The board would like to know what is being held to meet the goals of the strategic plan. Twice a year would like to hear a presentation from each administrator on: what is being learned; taught; and what innovation and technology and the effect on the culture climate. The board also wants to hear information on safety and student issues. They also want to be aware of any bullying situations. They do not want administrators to wait until their designated month to report on what is not going well and also any excellent progress. The board can read a report, which means the administrators does not need to present the actual report to the board. The board also wants to know the process that is being used at the buildings and who is involved in the process.

Knobloch reported the Civil Rights Symposium will be at the high school on Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. The symposium is an opportunity for students to present and debate.

Smith reported on Friday, May 2 Grinnell College will have a display of public posters for former Grinnell high school students currently enrolled at Grinnell College.

Fisher indicated the calendar needs to have an adjustment regarding the difference between the conference dates and report cards. Fisher also indicated the budget issues and the 1.3 million dollar deficit needs to have the stakeholders involved in the process.

Superintendent Abrahamson informed the board the district will be using the Tregoe process regarding the budget discussions. He will be attending an upcoming meeting regarding this process. He also informed the board the program evaluations are due in February 2014 from the principals.

Principal Hegg-Dunne informed the board the calendar committee is requesting and reviewing teacher feedback for the proposed calendar.

Business Manager Johnson discussed analytics and forecasting software to help address the budget issues.

**10. Adjournment**

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

**Board Calendar:**

**Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., January 22, 2014**