

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at Fairview School, media center, 1310 Hobart Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch, Claire Moisan, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson and administration assistant Susan Kriegel

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance, Lisa Johnson

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Susan Kriegel called the roll. Six members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary

The board discussed the cost for the video newsletter and the regular newsletters. A question was asked, what does the district want to receive from the newsletters? Principal Seney stated the high school has recently purchased some equipment that will enable the production of a video newsletter. Principal Kirby is reviewing the number of monthly hits for the video newsletter. Superintendent Abrahamson stated the next video newsletter would be a spring activity wrap-up. For the 2013-2014 school year, fewer newsletters have been produced compared to the 2012-2013 school year. It was stated the newsletters were originally a tool of communication for the superintendent, they have morphed into activity newsletters.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: Regular board meeting 2/12/14, Work Session 2/19/14
- C. Claims and Accounts

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communication and Reports

A. Board

Moisan and Brown indicated there will be an open forum for colleagues at Grinnell College on Friday, March 14 for questions and answers regarding the building project.

Wilhelm indicated she received many calls regarding the building project after the last meeting. One suggestion was to place the 7th and 8th graders at Davis School or at the community center. There is a concern about the 7th and 8th graders at the high school regarding their development. Fisher also indicated she received calls regarding using the community center as a school. President Smith indicated the February 19 meeting yielded good discussion and audience participation. Knobloch indicated he plans to attend an upcoming legislature breakfast.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Abrahamson stated the district has partnered with Grinnell College and the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation regarding Literacy. They will be attending the 3rd Annual Forum on World Class Readers on Wednesday, March 5 in Des Moines. He has discussed the next building steps with Denny Sharp from FEH. They are requesting more detailed programming needs. The target continues for a preK - 5th grade building. The facility committee will be having an upcoming meeting then a work session with the board. The building administrators will be invited to the upcoming facility meeting. Fisher indicated she discussed a Pod building with another district, they did not like their existing Pod building.

B. Principal(s)

Principal S. Seney presented a report to the board regarding student achievement data, the changes to the intervention block, changes with inclusion, instructional practices inventory (IPI) with results from Fairview and Bailey Park, GOLD online assessment data, and technology integration. Teachers Liz Malinowski, Jodie Gallagher, Patty Lloyd, and Lauren Backlin presented information regarding the intervention block, Tami Smith and Ellen Grabe presented information regarding inclusion, Kate Petersen and Rhonda Gohlmann explained the instruction practices inventory, Andrea Zhorne and Jan Phifer presented information regarding the online assessment data for the preschool students, and Staci Harms presented information regarding tech integration.

For the intervention block, the teachers explained the scheduling procedure, rotation for students, this process enables more eyes to view assessments, and stresses a community feel for the students regarding the intervention block. Students with similar skills are grouped together, resulting in a positive growth from the previous year.

Inclusion has become a strong emphasis for the 2013-2014 school year. Previously a student was pulled from a classroom for twenty minutes, now they are involved with more inclusion within the classroom. There is respect in the classroom for a quiet environment as more adults may be in the classroom.

Principal Coffman explained the building goals and presented data for the school board members to review.

IPI involves student engagement. This is processed three or four times during the school

year. It is a day of observing, a snap shot, a mention observation as they move through the classroom. The IPI instructors were nominated by their peers. The administrators are also trained on the IPI procedure.

The preschool teachers showed how they observe and score their students. They follow the schedule established by the Department of Education. The first checkpoint occurred on October 3, 2014, which was for an eight-week check. They also stay in touch with the other preschools and their scoring levels.

Staci Harms discussed the enrichment activities, the keyboard skills, and the support for science and social studies for tech integration.

Principal Coffman discussed the narrowing of tech skills. Per the Iowa Code, a third grade student has to be able to type a half page.

Principal S. Seney indicated the goal is to increase the rigor, with walk throughs and feedback.

Fisher stated this was a great presentation, amazing what teachers are doing. President Smith also agreed with this summary. Wilhelm appreciated having the meeting focused on students.

6. Old Business

A. 3rd and Final Reading – 100 Policy Series

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve the 3rd and Final Reading of the 100 Policy Series. Motion approved 6-0.

7. New Business - None

8. Adjournment

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., March 12, 2014
Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., March 26, 2014