

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 4, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. This meeting was originally scheduled for February 25, 2015 but was postponed due to inclement weather.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch, Claire Moisan, Jonathan Nance, Jeff Smith and Carol Wilhelm.

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson and Accounting Assistant Teresa Hawk.

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney

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

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Accounting Assistant Teresa Hawk called the roll. Seven members were in attendance. Board member Jeff Knobloch read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. **Fiduciary Report**

No comments or questions were received.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Smith to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Fisher.

A. **Approve/Amenda Agenda**

B. **Minutes:** Regular Board Meeting 2/11/15 Policy 2/12/15

C. **Claims and Accounts**

D. **Personnel:**

1. **Resignations:**

Jaelyn Lussenhop: Elementary Counselor

James Jolly: Middle School Paraeducator

2. **Open Enrollments In:**

Cora Kellogg: Kindergarten (15-16) from East Marshall

Lillian Riedel: Kindergarten (15-16) from BGM

Motion carried 7-0.

4. **Communication from the Public**

No comments or questions were received.

5. **Communications and Reports**

A. **Board**

No comments or questions were received.

**B. Superintendent**

Abrahamson presented an overview of a meeting held 2 weeks ago on the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and Consortium. This committee is made up of community members, agency members, teachers, and parents. The goal is to collectively provide community resources to parents. At this time, no funding is required, but as the committee defines its action plans, this could change. The committee is in the early planning stages and is working on a list of action plans. The goal is to be able to implement the action plans by the end of this summer (2015). Grinnell has a wealth of community resources and volunteers, but would be more effective to the community as a whole if all resources were pulled together for the greater good. The district is one of many components in this endeavor

Abrahamson spoke of a meeting that he and Kevin Seney attended regarding Behavioral and Mental Health needs. The meeting included area schools and the AEA. This group is in the early stages and assessing the needs of the districts and working towards establishing the action plans. More information will become available, but Abrahamson wanted to keep the Board apprised of this endeavor.

At the next board meeting Abrahamson will inform the Board on the status of the vacancies created by the group of retirees. Currently the district office is in the process of gathering applications and scheduling interviews.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Second Reading of Policy 905.2 Tobacco/Nicotine-Free Environment**

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Fisher to approve Policy 905.2.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**7. New Business**

**A. Approve FEH Design Development**

Tyler from FEH presented the updated design of the proposed Middle School. There were enhancements made to the original plan, per staff input. Tyler has also met with representatives from the City, Police, Fire, and City Manager, who were pleased with the plans so far. Some of the enhancements included moving special education classrooms to outside walls with windows, providing the art room with a smaller auxiliary room for small group instruction, and redefining music rooms as requested. In addition, kitchen details will be discussed with the district's Food Service Director next week. General classrooms will be identical to allow for rearrangement configurations as warranted from year-to-year.

Board discussion followed the presentation with questions on entrances for athletic events and the areas for volunteers or public to congregate. Additionally there were questions and comments regarding the location of special ed classrooms in conjunction with general ed classrooms, courtyard pros and cons, and the options in the multi-purpose room for staging and seating. The designs provided security for school administrators, access to basement storage area, and walls that will allow flexibility for future technology enhancements. Classroom size will be approximately 900 sq ft versus existing sizes of 650-700 sq ft.

Tyler reiterated that plans have not been finalized and there will be more discussions with staff and administrators.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Nance to approve the FEH Design Development.

Motion carried 6-0, Wilhelm abstained

8. **Board Discussion**

A. **Facilities**

Abrahamson has sent aerial maps to the Department of Transportation in response to request for traffic studies at the proposed Middle School location.

There will be a public forum on March 11, 2014. FEH will be a part of the presentation, answering questions pertaining to proposed facility sites. Wilhelm stated she has been made aware of concerns from community members who wonder why demolition of the 11th Avenue building is taking place before the school bond vote. Abrahamson explained the demolition will help to improve the site and would increase the value of the property if we needed to sell it. We would not want the site to become a negative impact on a residential area.

9. **Board Talking Points**

Wilhelm stated that the FEH presentation was excellent. The updated designs will be forwarded to Abrahamson and will be uploaded to the website.

Board members Knobloch, Fisher, and Moisan were glad to hear the teachers are excited about the project.

Knobloch and Brown restated that Principal Reports are part of the guidelines for board meetings and requested one be given at the next meeting on March 11th.

10. **Adjournment**

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Board Calendar:**

Academic Advisory Meeting	4:15 p.m., March 10, 2015
Public Forum (HS Auditorium)	6:30 p.m., March 10, 2015
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., March 11, 2015
Policy Advisory Meeting	4:00 p.m., March 12, 2015
Academic Advisory Meeting	4:15 p.m., March 24, 2015
Public Forum (Community Center Theater)	6:30 p.m., March 24, 2015
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., March 25, 2015