

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in regular session on April 22, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building, 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

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

Members Absent: None

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

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Jeff Kirby, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Chris Coffman, Sarah 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 Kirsten Fisher read the District's Mission and Vision Statement.

**2. Fiduciary Report**

No comments or questions were received.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Moisan to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Nance.

Board member Wilhelm stated she would like to postpone offering the contract for the activities director at this time, stating she felt we did not have to vote at this time.

President Brown asked board members if they had any other discussions on the topic. No other discussion followed. President Brown proceeded with the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried 6-1, Wilhelm voted no.

**A. Approve/Amend Agenda**

**B. Minutes:** Regular meeting 4/8/15 and Special meeting 4/13/15

**C. Financials**

**D. Claims and Accounts**

**E. Personnel:**

- 1. Resignations:** Mary Onstot: High School Special Education Instructor; Mike Anderson: High School Assistant Football Coach; Dan Covino: High School Social Studies Instructor, Student Council Advisor and SWAG Advisor; Lori Van Roekel: HR/Payroll Specialist; York Plagge: 7th Grade Assistant Football Coach; Jessica Brown: Co-Cheer Coach

2. **Offerings:** Nicole Ellis: Middle School Special Education Instructor; Joe Quick: Middle School Counselor; Lisha Marsh: Part-time Preschool Instructor; George Seldon: High School Math Interventionist; Shelly Fitzgerald: High School At-Risk Counselor; Chris Coffman: Activities Director; Bill Gruman: Technology Integrationist; Amy Skouson: High School FCS Instructor; Raven Cross: 7-12 Level III Consortium BD Instructor; Aaron Shipley: High School Special Education Level 1 Instructor and Head Varsity Football Coach
3. **Open Enrollments In:** Brooke Maschmeier: (15-16) Kindergarten from Newton; Ivan Anderson: (15-16) Kindergarten from Newton

#### 4. **Public Hearing: 2015-2016 School Calendar**

Principal Kevin Seney presented the proposed calendar for next year. School will start August 26th and end June 2nd, which equates to 174 school days or 1124 contact hours.

Discussion followed regarding holidays listed on the Calendar. Seney clarified that the holidays included in the Calendar indicate paid holidays as listed in the Master Contract. Moisan requested clarification on the requirements for Professional Development time. Seney explained we are required to give teachers 36 hours of collaboration time. Parent Teacher Conferences were also discussed.

#### **Public Hearing: Central Office Move**

Superintendent Abrahamson stated the move has been discussed for many years, and there are two vacant classrooms available to renovate into district office space. Construction will consist of removing two non-load bearing walls and constructing seven offices and a conference room. A budget of \$160-180,000 has been established for the construction (not including any moving costs). Bids are due next week. Time frame is approximately 3 months, with construction expected to be completed before fall classes begin, if construction can begin on time. Wilhelm opposes the move.

#### 5. **Communication from the Public**

Kelly Johnson-Rose and Jennifer McAlexander spoke on behalf of the Sub-Committee formed to assist in the interview process for the AD position. They asked for exclusion of any coaching/sponsorship for the new AD position in order to eliminate any conflict of interests on the part of the new AD. Abrahamson/Seney stated that no coaching or sponsorship applied to during the school year, but since baseball has already begun, it would detrimental to the student athletes to remove their coach at this time. Community member Dale Lamb presented two articles from the Des Moines Register that focused on renovating buildings with up-to-date facilities.

7:00 p.m. Jonathan Nance left the meeting.

## **6. Communications and Reports**

### **A. Board**

Fisher attended the Campaign for Grade Level Reading Project. Knobloch stated the legislature went home early last week with no budget for school financing.

### **B. School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)**

Sam Rebelsky and Helen Redmond spoke on behalf of SIAC, explaining the committee's efforts to brainstorm ideas on how to serve the district better.

Discussion followed between the Board and Rebelsky/Redmond on how to generate more parent involvement. SIAC will define their structure according to Iowa Code with established goals.

## **7. Old Business**

### **A. Review and decision on bids for Iowa Telecom deconstruction package.**

Wilhelm moved that we reject all bids, seconded by Moisan, motion failed 1-5. Discussion followed that if all bids are rejected, we need a contingency plan on our investment. Abrahamson noted that CHI from Minnesota is coming next week to do an assessment on climate control. The Board can negotiate with the low bidder on specifics before a contract is signed. For example, costs could be reduced by not removing any driveways, sidewalks, or garage.

Motion by Knobloch that we accept the low bid with the understanding that the deconstruction only includes removal of the interior to steel and concrete walls, seconded by Moisan. Motion passed 5-1

Discussion continued regarding what the public wants for this building, what mitigation is currently being done in the building, increased deconstruction costs if nothing is done, and the process of future mitigation.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Ratify Tentative Agreement (District and GNEA)**

Abrahamson noted that the Association ratified the Agreement on Friday. It shows a 3.75% increase across the board. Discussion ensued between the Board regarding concerns of whether the District can afford the increase.

Motion by Knobloch to approve the Master Contract between the District and GNEA, seconded by Moisan. Motion carried 6-0.

### **B. 2015-2016 School Calendar**

Smith asked if the suggested changes that were discussed earlier were made. Seney confirmed they were. Sam Rebelsky noted concerns regarding spring parent teacher conferences.

Motion by Wilhelm to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar, seconded by Knobloch. Motion carried 6-0.

**9. Board Discussion**

**A. Facilities**

Abrahamson suggested that there be a Special Work Session of the Board to discuss how the Board wants to proceed regarding facilities. Previous meetings suggested a task force be re-organized. Abrahamson will send the Board a list of date options.

Paraeducator Emily Loudon spoke, saying the community needs a consensus to establish what the community, as a whole, wants to support. Community member Dan Huebner suggested the District regroup/rethink the whole process, as he believed it was very confusing to the community.

**10. Board Talking Points**

**11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Smith, seconded by Knobloch. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Board Calendar**

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., May 13, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., May 27, 2015