

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on October 22, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building 927 4th Ave., Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch, Jonathan Nance, and Jeff Smith.

Members Absent: Claire Moisan and Carol Wilhelm.

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager and Board Secretary Lisa Johnson

Administrators Present: Sarah Seney, Kevin Seney, Jeff Kirby, and Chris Coffman.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Lisa Johnson called the roll. Five members were in attendance. Board member Knobloch read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Fiduciary Report:

Business Manager Johnson answered questions on the bills. She also discussed the financials for August year to date. She stated the line item budget will be presented at the meeting in November.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amenda Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting 10/8/14, Policy Committee Meeting 10/9/14

C. Financial Reports

D. Claims and Accounts

E. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Bryan Woods: MS 7th grade boys basketball; Cassandra Stark: Cook; Barb Johnson: Cook

2. Contract Upgrade: Barb Van Ersvelde: BA+15 to BA+30

F. Open Enrollments:

1. In: Haeley Garringer: Kindergarten from BGM; Emmett Otto: Kindergarten from Newton; Aundraya Hernandez: 4th grade from Marshalltown

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Communication from the Public

An issue of overcrowding on a bus at the Middle School was brought up as a concern from the public. Student Representative James asked about student concerns for green alternatives in any building projects the district is looking at. Board members noted that in the demolition process as much material as possible is being recycled. In addition, the plans moving forward will include looking at “green” and energy efficient options.

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Smith stated Co-Line had visitors from the Intro to Manufacturing class. He enjoyed seeing them there.

Brown asked about new enrollment numbers. Abrahamson stated we are down approximately 25 students. Final numbers will come in November after the process is completed, but he doesn't anticipate much of a change from this.

He also stated the Administrative team met to work on objectives and developing the timeline for the budget reduction process. He will be bringing the objectives and the timeline to the board for review in November.

B. Curriculum

Principal Coffman gave an update on the Iowa Assessment and proficiency rates for the district. Overall there is an improvement in both math and reading proficiency rates. The steps the district has taken to facilitate this change include: monitoring forms, instructional rounds, new curriculum for Elementary and Middle School, SIAC team, and incorporating site visit suggestions.

Future steps include a new High School Math adoption in 2014-2015. The High School is also working on developing plans for an update to the English curriculum. Smith asked, as we move our focus toward Math, how we planned to make sure we don't lose focus on the Reading and slide back to where we were. Coffman stated that although Math is more of a focus, teachers are still working to improve Reading by using collaboration time and professional development days.

Knobloch asked how the district identifies problem areas. Coffman stated the scores are one indicator, but it is the teachers' knowledge of what the students are retaining and how they are progressing that drives what the district focuses on.

6. Old Business - None

A. 2nd Reading - Policies 507.2, 507.2E1, 507.2E2, and 606.5E2

Brown suggested postponing this item until further review by the Committee.

7. New Business

A. Approve Special Education Delivery Plan

Principal Kirby noted that there were some revisions to the plan, and that the AEA has approved the current plan. The Plan was on the website for public comment for 20 days.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Fisher to approve the Special Education Delivery Plan.

Motioned carried 5-0.

B. Approve Principals Iowa Individual Administrator Professional Development Plan

Abrahamson spoke on the plans for the principals. Each one is based on the building goals, which are connected to the district goals. The SIAC Committee is reviewing these at their next meeting. Brown asked about different buildings using different assessment measures and various percentages. Abraham responded saying all buildings are using the same assessments, but choose their preferred assessment to be reflected in their goals. This can be aligned if desired. The percentages were set based on the previous year's data for each building.

Smith stated that monitoring these goals throughout the year, and making adjustments as necessary, is more important than having everything identified in the beginning. Seney stated the key is having the conversations with the superintendent about what he is seeing in the walk-throughs. The discussions on what they, as a principals, are doing to work with teachers to continuously improve their teaching and the learning for the students is the key to improvement in the classrooms. Abrahamson stated the entire process is a more systematic approach than it has been in the past. Teachers are also working on their individual plans. Smith suggested the approval of the Principals Iowa Individual Administrator Professional Development Plan should be tabled until the SIAC group has approved these as well.

C. Approve Outdoor Adventure Club

Abrahamson stated the focus of this group is on students who are not heavily involved in other activities.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the the Outdoor Adventure Club.

Motioned carried 4-1, Brown voted nay.

D. Approve primary and backup bank signatures

Johnson stated it is recommended to have at least three approved signatures at the bank. In the past the district had both the Board Treasurer and Board Secretary, as well as the Board President. The recommendation is the primary signers would include: Lisa Johnson, Treasurer/Secretary and Barbara Brown, President. The secondary signature could be: Jeff Smith, Vice President. Johnson stated this would be a good option to incorporate into the annual organizational meeting to ensure this is updated as the board turns over.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Knobloch to approve the primary and backup bank signatures as Lisa Johnson, Barbara Brown, and Jeff Smith.

Motioned carried 5-0.

E. Out of state travel for Fairview Administrator and preschool teachers to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conference in Dallas, Texas November 4-8, 2014.

Principal Sarah Seney stated the funds will come out of their preschool budget.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Fisher to approve the out of state travel for Fairview Administrator and preschool teachers.

Motioned carried 5-0.

8. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

Abrahamson stated he is working with the architects on getting more information on the abatement of the 11th Avenue property. FEH will have a plan to the school soon. Abrahamson offered to set up a tour of the property for the school board members to understand the scope of work on the project.

Abrahamson is also working with Tim from Piper Jaffray on the funding options for the building projects and the wording for the ballot vote. The board must make a decision

soon, as decisions regarding funding options will greatly affect the timing of the projects. He will try to schedule a Special Meeting for next Monday or Tuesday.

In addition, Abrahamson is working on forming the campaign committee. He is working closely with the ethics board to be sure we do not taken any action that would be in violation of the law. He is not sure he can legally coordinate the committee, but is working to determine who can.

Smith asked about the gravel pile at 4th Avenue. Abrahamson stated the rock will be removed before winter. The district will not close out the project until the rock is removed and the seeding is completed.

9. Board Talking Points

Smith stated having the principals working to align to the district goals is a good step in the right direction. Fisher was glad to see the improvement in reading considering the new curriculum adoption.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Smith, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Board Calendar:

SIAC Meeting	5:30 p.m., November 5, 2014
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., November 12, 2014
Policy Committee Meeting	4:00 p.m., November 13, 2014
Iowa Association School Board Convention	November 19-21, 2014