

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on October 28, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg Community High School in the Media Center, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Meg Jones Bair, Jeff Knobloch, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, and Jeff Smith.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson and Board Treasurer/Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Administrators Present: Principals Sara Hegg-Dunne, Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, Maintenance Director Shawn Edelen and Activities Director Chris Coffman.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Fiduciary

Brown asked about the Drone purchase and what student groups are looking at it. Superintendent Abrahamson stated a number of student groups are interested in using it, including Industrial Tech and Agriculture. Other High School courses are looking into incorporating it into their classrooms.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Jones Bair to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Smith.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 10/14/15 Regular Meeting

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Offerings: Mike Furlong: 7th grade boys basketball coach

Motion carried 7-0.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

None

B. A&J Associates - Middle School Tank Removal

Vic Amoroso from A & J Associates discussed the leaking tank at the Middle School. The DNR is recommending the tank to be drained and removed.

Maintenance Director Shawn Edelen explained he shut off the tank to stop the leak. Amoroso stated the tank is used as a backup, if the boiler goes down, to allow time to get it repaired. The district could choose to do nothing and hope the boiler does not have an issue. Amoroso and Edelen did not recommend that.

Option 1 is a back up electric boiler costing \$27,500-\$33,000

Option 2 is installing three smaller gas units with a cost of \$59,000-\$70,000

Option 3 is installing three smaller gas units as well as electric water heaters. The cost for this is \$81,000-\$103,000

Option 4 is Option 3, as well as replacing heat pumps over the larger areas (cafeteria, gym, media center), to make the system more efficient.

Abrahamson stated he would like to go to the three smaller electric resistance boilers (Option 2).

J. Smith asked about what removing the tank does to capacity. Vic stated this removes the capacity. Board member Knobloch asked about replacing the tank. Amoroso explained another tank cannot be put under ground due to regulations. The cost is significantly higher than other options.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business

A. Early Retirement Policy

Johnson stated this is the same policy they reviewed at the last meeting, except the limit of 10 applications per group (Certified and Non-Certified) was added. Brown stated the amount was \$30,000, similar to what was done in years prior to the 14-15 year. Brown asked when the process would be completed. Abrahamson stated applications would be accepted through December 14, 2015.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded D. Smith to approve the Certified and Non-Certified Early Retirement Policies.

Motion carried 6-0.

B. SBRC Request for \$3,726.58 of LEP Allowable Cost

Johnson stated the LEP Allowable Cost is \$3,726.58. This is requesting authority. The cash cannot be levied due to a solvency ratio higher than 20%.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to approve the SBRC Request for LEP Allowable Cost of \$3,726.58.

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Line Item Budget

Johnson gave an overview of the Line Item Budget for all the funds, focusing on the General fund and the projected deficit of \$765,425. She stated enrollment and supplemental state aid are the largest determining factors in determining revenue. Staff raises and benefits are the largest factor in increasing expenditures. She stated the district needs to continue to decrease costs in order to reverse the trend of running a deficit.

Johnson also presented a 5 year forecast. She noted the assumptions she used for the 3 factors she spoke about previously of enrollment, supplemental state aid and staff raises and benefits. The projections show the district continuing to run a deficit and using up reserves, decreasing the Unspent Authorized Budget from \$5.7M after FY15 to \$1.5M after FY20. Johnson stated \$2.0M-\$2.5M is still a reasonable balance for a district this size, but explained what worries her most is the trend is still declining in FY20, meaning the balance will continue to drop.

She asked the board for other scenarios they would like to see. Knobloch stated changing supplemental state aid to 1.25% for FY17, which is what the Governor recently recommended, to see what that impact would have. Johnson stated she can provide that, as well as other scenarios, to show the sensitivity of the projections based on what the supplement state aid is.

Motion by Redmond, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Line Item Budget.

Motion carried 6-0.

D. Approve renovations of the softball field

Brown asked which fund this would be expensed from. Johnson stated these funds would come from the SAVE fund. Redmond asked about how approval of this affects the other projects. Coffman stated tiling around the field is also needed to move the water away from the field to reduce issues. Knobloch asked about other water retention issues besides the right field. Coffman stated the tile work outside the field will probably move the water away from the field. Not until they start working will they know if tiling needs to happen on the field. Brown asked about the cost of possible tiling. Abrahamson stated he could approve the tiling if less than \$10,000 to not have a delay, but if the cost is more than \$10,000 it would have to go to the board. Brown asked Coffman for his recommendation. Coffman stated if they do both fields (Softball and Baseball) at the same time they would save approximately \$15,000. Brown asked if the Baseball field is better. Coffman stated both fields are approximately the same. Knobloch stated he would like to go ahead and do the softball field.

Motion by D. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to approve the renovation of the softball field.

Motion carried 6-0.

E. Approve Middle School tank removal and replacement option

Abrahamson stated his preference for the gas fired boilers. Johnson stated the funds will come from the SAVE fund. Amoroso stated the boilers have a 20 year life estimate. J. Smith asked about the timeline. Amoroso stated it probably won't be finished until February. The current electric system could be used unless it fails.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to approve the Middle School tank removal

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to approve A & J Associates to design and take bids for option 2 for purchasing three gas fired boilers.

Motion carried 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

Redmond stated the SIAC meeting is on the 18th not the 3rd.

9. Board Talking Points

None

10. Adjournment

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by J. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Board Calendar:

SIAC Meeting

5:00 p.m., November 18, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., November 11, 2015