

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Special Session on November 24, 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, Claire Moisan (arrived at 6:10), Jeff Smith, and Carol Wilhelm.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance.

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

Administrators/Directors Present: Chris Coffman, Shawn Edelen, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Jeff Kirby, Kevin Seney and Sarah Seney.

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. Six members were in attendance. Board member Fisher read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting 11/12/14, Policy Work Session 11/13/14

C. Personnel:

- 1. Offerings:** Tammy Strawser: Destination Imagination; Thomas Brinkman: HS volunteer wrestling coach; Shawn Fellers: HS volunteer wrestling coach; Nick Rutherford: HS volunteer wrestling coach; Wade Welcher: HS volunteer wrestling coach.

Motion carried 5-0.

3. Communication from the Public

Wilhelm received a letter requesting medical insurance be added to the retirement policy. Brown asked how to address concerns that were brought up at the previous meeting. She suggested a special meeting.

Moisan arrived

4. Old Business

A. Approve Early Retirement Plans: Certified and Noncertified

Business Manager Johnson discussed the changes from the previous year's policy to the proposed policy. Wilhelm asked if these changes will be viewed favorably by the employees. Johnson stated the plan is easier to understand, increases the payout, and moves the payouts to 2 versus 4 and moves them up in timing.

Wilhelm asked about why the district does not offer benefits like some other districts do. Abrahamson stated most districts are moving away from this because the costs are unknown due to fluctuations in the health care expenses making it harder for the district to budget.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Wilhelm to approve the Certified Early Retirement Plans.

Motioned carried 6-0.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to approve the Non-Certified Early Retirement Plans.

Motioned carried 6-0.

B. Approve Decision Analysis Budget Objectives

Abrahamson stated the Administration/Directors all met again last week and the group believes the list is still appropriate and they would not like to change any of the objectives or ratings. He distributed a package the district received while at a training on the process to help with understanding the process.

Brown asked for examples of ways these items are different. The administrators provided examples of items that might have higher or lower impact for the different objectives. Sarah Seney explained they came to consensus as a group on the weightings starting with what was most important and rating the remaining accordingly.

Fisher asked where the public has input. Abrahamson stated once the list is developed and weighted the items will come to the board, staff, and community for input before a recommendation is approved by the board.

Brown asked about the timing of the process. Abrahamson stated he hopes to have a final list to the board in February/March time frame, but it will all depend on how the process flows.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Smith to approve the Decision Analysis Budget Objectives.

Motioned carried 6-0.

5. New Business - None

6. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

Abrahamson stated he is scheduling meetings with FEH for community input. Brown asked for a presentation to the board on the process prior to community meetings. Knobloch also asked that the bond campaign committee be involved. Abrahamson has scheduled the first bond campaign committee for the first week of December.

He is also reaching out to various other districts regarding how their committees have worked and what actions they drove. He also stated we are ahead of the game and we need to be prepared, but we don't want to wear people out before the big push in February and March.

Abrahamson and Johnson have a meeting with Piper Jaffary to finalize the bond amount available and impact on tax rates.

7. Board Talking Points

Knobloch discussed the delegate assembly and the items IASB is pushing in the legislature this year. He stated that foreign language was one of the new items this year. Also the timely setting of supplemental state aid is a key priority for this fiscal year. Brown and Wilhelm stated the importance of communicating this to our public and representatives in order to get these pushed into legislation.

Fisher stated she really likes the structure of the Tregoe process and how it takes into consideration facts and is not as emotional. Moisan stated the district and board needs to communicate well how the building project and the budget are connected.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Smith, seconded by Moisan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Smith to approve the Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(a) and 21.5(1)(i): To review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential. To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, as that individual has requested a closed session.

Motioned carried 6-0.

Board Calendar:

Academic Advisory Committee	4:00 p.m. November 25, 2014
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m. December 10, 2014
Policy Committee Work Session	4:00 p.m. December 11, 2014