The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on December 10, 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, Jeff Knobloch, Kirsten Fisher, Claire Moisan, Jonathan Nance (arrived at 6:05), and Jeff Smith.

Members Absent: Carol Wilhelm.

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

Administrators Present: Sara Hegg-Dunne, Sarah Seney, and Kevin 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 Moisan read the district’s Mission and Vision Statement.

**2. Fiduciary Report:**

Business Manager Johnson made comments on the financials and the bills.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**A. Approve/Amenda Agenda**

**B. Minutes:** Special Meeting 11/24/14, Work Session 12/3/14

**C. Financial Reports**

**D. Claims and Accounts**

**E. Personnel:**

**1. Offerings:** Ian Saderholm: HS volunteer spring production

**2. Resignations:** Adam Geerdes: MS paraeducator

**3. Open Enrollments Out:** Jace Coppock: Kindergarten to Lynnville-Sully

(2015-2016)

Motion carried 5-0.

Jonathan Nance arrived.

**4. Communication from the Public**

None

**5. Communications and Reports**

**A. Board**

None

**B. Principal -** Modified Allowable Growth-Dropout Prevention Presentation

Principal, Kevin Seney, and Teacher, Lori Francis, presented on the district’s program application for categorical funding for the FY16 school year. The program funding is approximately $512,000 to be used for 7-12 students identified as “At-Risk.”

There are three goals of the program: to recover dropout students, to support students who choose to return, and to develop relationships with potential dropouts to keep them at school. The graduation rates for Grinnell are better than the statewide average, but the goal is 100% graduation rate.

Some of the key areas include summer school at both the Middle School and High School, and the ILC credit recovery through APEX courses for students who have failed courses. In addition, expansion of the work experience program would help students transition after graduation.

Knobloch asked about community partnerships the district could utilize to reach out to these students and help mentor and/or work with them. Seney remarked that the work experience program and the community MICA program are both ways to reach out to students. Principal Hegg-Dunne mentioned the impact the Big Brother Big Sister program has on the Middle School students. Principal Sarah Seney stated that at the elementary level they are always in need of Big Sisters and Big Brothers to cover all the needs.

**C. Superintendent**

Abrahamson stated he and a number of school employees met with POW-I80 and other community groups to discuss opportunities for at-risk students in the community, as these are the students most likely to stay in the area. The discussion included job shadowing and internships. The sooner students can be trained in available positions, the more successful a student can be in the community. Internships for teachers at local industries was also discussed, so that teachers could better understand what skills are needed for these kinds of job opportunities.

**6. Old Business - None**

**7. New Business**

**A. SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out**

Johnson stated the amount for Open Enrollment Out is $30,605 due to 5 more students enrolling out in FY14 versus FY14.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Fisher to approve the SBRC Application for Open Enrollment Out.

Motioned carried 6-0.

**B. SBRC Application LEP (Limited English Proficient) Instruction**

Johnson stated the amount for LEP is $5,622 due to 4 students being served beyond 5 years.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Fisher to approve the the SBRC Application for LEP Instruction.

Motioned carried 6-0.

**C. Approve Modified Allowable Growth/At-Risk Application**

Knobloch stated the approval of the positions will need to be discussed at a later date with more specifics.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Fisher to approve Modified Supplemental Aid/At-Risk Application

Motioned carried 6-0.

**D. Approve Out-of-State Travel; Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders - Kansas City, MO**

Abrahamson stated this is being paid out of Teacher Quality funds.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Fisher to approve the Out-of-State Travel; Midwest Symposium for Leadership Behavior Disorders.

Motion carried 6-0.

**8. Board Discussion**

**A. Charrette Process - Takeaways**

Brown stated there were a lot of people who gave input. Fisher agreed and noted that she enjoyed seeing the student input as well. Abrahamson stated this a start to get ideas for the buildings and to start getting more specific costs. As the costs are determined more changes will need to be made. The design will continue to evolve as the process continues. FEH felt there was great dialog.

Moisan asked for a summary of suggestions. Abrahamson stated creative/innovative spaces were common themes, specifically at the Middle School. Brown and Knobloch asked about how programming desires are driving the design. Sarah Seney stated the teachers have given a list of their desires. The administrators have not had specific conversations about programming and how needs impact the building design at this point. It will be addressed prior to final designs.

Fisher asked about using spaces for multiple purposes, such as a wrestling room used for another purpose during the daytime. Moisan stated the design needs to be labeled clearly to show the intent of each space (ie multiple use rooms). FEH is coming back later in the month to meet more with staff and will be continuing to contact staff to get input.

Brown asked what will be different in the new buildings in comparison to our current buildings. Abrahamson stated that FEH wants to hear directly from teachers on how to better help them deliver programming, but the Administrative team will be working on the design piece more in the coming months.

**B. Facilities**

Discussed above.

**9. Board Talking Points**

Brown is pleased with the public involvement. Moisan is very happy with the At-Risk program. Knobloch enjoyed the context of the presentation and how it tells a story.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Board Calendar:**

Policy Advisory Meeting 4:00 p.m., December 11, 2014

Facilities Advisory Meeting 5:00 p.m., December 15, 2014

Policy Advisory Meeting 4:00 p.m., January 8, 2015

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., January 14, 2015

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., January 28, 2015