

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in a Special Board Session on December 14, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg Community High School in the Boardroom, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Jonathan Nance, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, Jeff Smith, and Stephen Sieck.

Members Absent: Meg Jones Bair

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Dr. Janet Stutz and Board Treasurer/Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Administrators Present: Activities Director Chris Coffman, Principals Brian Conway, Mark Ernst, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Kevin Seney, and Sarah Seney, Technology Integrationist Bill Gruman, Technology Director Amy Harmsen, Food Service Director Carrie Nachazel, and Maintenance/Facilities Director Shawn Edelen.

J. Smith read the District's Mission and Vision Statements.

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.

2. Fiduciary

No questions on the monthly financials or bills.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 11/9/16 Board Minutes

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: John Dayton: Head Girls Track & Field Coach; Sarissa Riedel: HS Consortium Paraprofessional

2. Offerings: Sara Nielsen: MS Paraprofessional; Kasandra Fraker: MS Paraprofessional

3. Transfers: none

4. Upgrades: none

5. **Open Enrollment In:** none
6. **Open Enrollment Out:** Layla Wells: kindergarten to Lynnville-Sully; Alauna Wells: 1st grade to Lynnville-Sully; Jozlyn Wells: 2nd grade to Lynnville-Sully; Hannah Wells: 4th grade to Lynnville-Sully

Motion to approve the consent agenda carried 6-0.

4. **Communication from the Public**

None

5. **Communications and Reports**

A. **Board**

Brown, D. Smith, Sieck all enjoyed the convention and learning from the other Districts in the state.

B. **Superintendent**

1. **Changes to the Board Calendar for January 2017, from January 11th to January 18th.**

Stutz asked to move the regularly scheduled board meeting from the 11th as she will be out of District at the NSSA conference. Moving the meeting will also allow Estes to come on either the 18th or the 25th to present their report.

2. **Recognitions and Celebrations:**

a. **Recognize Trent Edsen**, named the Class 2A Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year by the Iowa Association of Track Coaches. Stutz recognized Trent Edsen for his award and presented him with a certificate from the District to honor his accomplishment.

b. **Food Service Director Carrie Nachazel** for her work in the District's Wellness Initiatives. Stutz recognized Nachazel for her work on the District's Wellness Initiatives.

c. **All State Music Festival Participants:** David Gilbert, vocal musician ('17); Robert Clower, oboe ('18); David Krumm, tuba ('19); and Nick Jacobson, bassoon ('18)
Stutz recognized the students for their selection at the Music Festival.

d. Boardmanship Awards

Dustin Smith and Barbara Brown were awarded Boardmanship Awards at the IASB Convention.

3. Donation gift for the 5th grade instructional fees of \$5,395

Stutz recognized and thanked the donor.

4. GNEE Mini-Grants Awarded: Wobble Chairs for High School Library and Independent Learning Center, Music Therapy for At-Risk Students, PebbleGo Online Databases, Storyworks Jr.: Connecting Students with Rich Text. Total Amount Awarded: \$9,190.18

Stutz expressed appreciation for GNEE and their continued support of the District.

5. District Admin Goals and Assessment Presentation

Stutz stated all the Administrators worked collectively on the presentation. Once feedback is received, the District will post the final document on the website. She stated she likes to do these annually in order to create a picture of where the District is from year to year.

Stutz started by presenting an overview of the District, highlighting the 220 square miles the district covers, and the staffing numbers, including the high percent of teachers with master's degrees (41%). She also summarized the student populations.

Johnson explained the differences in students served versus certified enrollment, including, preschool, open enrolled and dual enrolled students. She stated a majority of the District's \$18.0M in General Fund Revenues are the taxes and state aid which make up the approximately \$6,500 per student the District receives for funding in FY17. She then explained that over 82% of the District's expenditures are salaries and benefits. The recommended range is 75-78%. The District has had a deficit for the past two years and is predicting a deficit of more than \$730K for FY17. She stated in order to correct this, the 82% of expenditures in staffing will need to be reduced.

Johnson discussed the leveled weightings for the special education population and how the district receives more funds based on the levels. She stated the percent of Grinnell students identified has remained fairly

consistent, which shows us that as we are identifying new students, we also have students who are meeting their goals and are moving back into regular education. She stated there is an increase in the percent of students identified at the lower elementary level, which is positive as those students can receive the services they need sooner and perhaps not need services later. There was also an increase in the percent of special education students at the High School, however, those students identified have recently moved into the district. She explained that very few students have been identified as needing special education at the High School level in the past few years, as the district works to identify those needs early on.

Technology Director Amy Harmsen stated the 1:1 rollout went fairly smoothly. She is currently more focused on the Networking in District to allow the installation of the new phones and to provide better connectivity to the buildings staff and students. Technology Integrationist Bill Gruman noted Grinnell is one of the few Districts in the state that are 1:1 K-12.

Johnson stated the Transportation leasing of the route buses has actually reduced maintenance costs over the years as the District currently has all 12 route buses being leased. She stated the lease is paid out of PPEL or SAVE, and maintenance costs come from the General fund, so by leasing the buses to reduce maintenance costs we are reducing costs in the General fund. Cost per pupil has leveled out as FY16 was the first year in a few years we have not had fewer students participating in busing.

Stutz stated Activities Director Chris Coffman and Facilities Director Shawn Edelen have been working together to complete numerous projects this past year. Edelen stated it was a busy year of projects (siding, tennis courts, auditorium, outdoor restrooms, etc.) that have been completed, along with savings from the energy efficiency projects (LED lights, MS boiler, new windows/siding). Coffman discussed future concerns for activities that need to be addressed, including parking, bleachers in gyms and at outdoor facilities, football field and track surface upgrades, batting cages, etc. He stated they are working with other organizations to try and help come up with funding for some of these projects. Other concerns identified are District storage and blacktop at Fairview. Stutz stated Estes will be presenting some recommendations

and solutions in January for the facilities district wide.

Food Service Director Carrie Nachazel gave an overview of the Nutrition program, reviewing the status of the 5 fully functional kitchens with multiple food choices. She stated in FY16 the financials were positive due to the price increase. She noted additional staffing changes for the current year have put the program in a better position. She does not anticipate having to make additional changes to pricing or staffing in the near future.

Stutz gave an overview of Teaching and Learning Activities, listing a few of the many initiatives the District is working on, such as focusing on instructional practices and integrating technology into the classrooms. She is already seeing the impact of this work in the classrooms. She also noted the clarity data will be ready the first of the year.

For curriculum the District's focus will be on Reading K-8, Next Generation Science Standards, Health in grades 6-12, additional Integration of technology into the classroom, utilizing the instructional coaches in the classrooms and using essential learnings to focus the work.

Davis Principal Brian Conway gave an overview of the goals for the Elementary which were developed together by the 3 schools. The goals focused on reading, math and attendance at PK-4th grades. Middle School Principal Sara Hegg-Dunne presented the Middle School goals focusing on reading, math, engagement and attendance. High School Principal Kevin Seney discussed the High School goals. The High School's focus is in meeting growth in reading, engagement, improving culture and climate, and graduation rates.

Stutz stated the list of opportunities for Grinnell students is amazing. Fairview Principal Sarah Seney discussed the summer program offered at Fairview last summer. Bailey Park Principal Mark Ernst discussed the elementary MakerSpace Club at the elementary buildings. Stutz stated these activities were all school related and do not include the outside activities.

Hegg-Dunne noted the athletics as well as the other clubs and activities taking place at the Middle School. K. Seney discussed the clubs at the

High School level These are constantly evolving based on student interest as well as the traditional programs and athletics.

Stutz highlighted the assessments the District uses to assess the District's performance as well as student's individual performance. Stutz noted the norm for the assessments is 50%, so the District numbers are really quite good. For the MAP data the standard deviation is a measure of the range of the students' knowledge. She noted the mean scores are quite good, but also reviewed the goal areas for the District. The District uses these assessments to both look at individual performance as well as District wide improvements.

S. Seney discussed the FAST assessment in reading. She noted this is one way students are identified for the summer program. Conway highlighted the Iowa Assessment data and the significantly higher scores for Grinnell in comparison to the state average in Reading, Math and Science.

Hegg-Dunne presented the Middle School data for the Iowa Assessment. She noted they use this data to address concerns and direct curriculum changes in Reading, Math and Science. She also noted the scores being better than the state average.

K. Seney covered the High School Iowa Assessment in Reading, Math and Science. He noted some areas for concern at the 11th grade level, which may be attributed to those students not putting forth full effort, however the scores are still better than the state averages. He also discussed ACT participation trends and composite scores. The scores for Grinnell are higher than state and national averages in all subject areas. He also presented graduation rate data. He noted the concern is that this is below the state average, thus driving one of the building goals. He noted the low SES and non-low SES students still have a significant gap in graduation rates. Post-Secondary enrollment data showed Grinnell's trends of student populations continuing their education. This is something the counselors are actively working to improve on.

Stutz discussed the focus the District is having on the recognizing celebrations in the District and all the great achievements the District has accomplished recently.

Brown asked about the intention of the information. Stutz wanted to provide information about the District in general for people to access to be able to learn a little about the District. She also stated it is important to look at trends over year and this provides a baseline each year. It allows the District to point to changes in the District and distribute resources accordingly.

6. Discuss 2017-18 School Calendar

Stutz wanted to start the approval process in order to keep to a timeline to create master schedules for the buildings based on class requests. This will allow the District to address staffing needs according to students needs. K. Seney stated the 17-18 Calendar is the same format as the current year, with the exception of moving one PD day to the beginning of the year.

Nance asked if there are any known concerns with the current schedule. K. Seney stated the biggest concern is typically having large blocks of uninterrupted time, but that has not been a huge concern with this current calendar.

6. Old Business

- A. Approve the PLTW Scale Up Agreements:** PLTW Launch Summary, Computer Science Agreement, Computer Science Summary, FIRST Robotics Competition Agreement, Robotics Summary, BP Launch Agreement, FV Launch Agreement, DV Launch Agreement.

Motion by D. Smith, seconded by Nance, to approve the PLTW Scale Up Agreements.

Motion approved 6-0.

7. New Business

- A. Approve the support of “The Promise of Iowa” Campaign Resolution**
Brown stated this is a public relations campaign to bring awareness to the importance and funding of public education. Stutz stated she would like the Board to sign the banner and send a picture to IASB to show the District’s support of the promise.

Motion by Sieck, seconded by J. Smith, to approve the support of “The Promise

of Iowa” Campaign Resolution.

Motion approved 6-0.

B. Approve SBRC Application for MSA of \$77,383.80 for Increasing Enrollment

Johnson stated the next three items are to approve the Modified Supplemental Amount for the various allowed areas from the state.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Nance to approve the SBRC Application for MSA of \$77,383.80 for Increasing Enrollment.

Motion approved 6-0.

C. Approve SBRC Application for MSA of \$27,073.20 for Open Enrollment Out Commentary

Motion by Redmond, seconded by Nance, to approve the SBRC Application for MSA of \$27,073.20 for Open Enrollment Out.

Motion approved 6-0.

D. Approve SBRC Application for MSA of \$7,275.40 for ELL beyond 5 years Commentary

Motion by Sieck, seconded by D. Smith, to approve the SBRC Application for MSA of \$7,275.40 for ELL beyond 5 years.

Motion approved 6-0.

E. Approve MOU with MICA

Stutz stated this is the formal agreement we have had with MICA for years. This is a cooperative arrangement.

Motion by D. Smith, seconded by Nance, to approve the MOU with MICA.

Motion approved 6-0.

F. Approve Debt Service Transfer to PPEL

Johnson stated this transfer will clear out the remaining balance in the Debt Service fund, due to making the final payments to the Debt Service in FY16.

Motion by Sieck, seconded by D. Smith, to approve the Debt Service Transfer to PPEL of \$117,707.

Motion approved 6-0.

G. Approve Early Retirements

Brown stated each employee and their current position and years of service with the District.

Motion by Redmond, seconded by J. Smith, to approve the Early Retirements.

Motion approved 6-0.

H. Approve Resignations for Early Retirees, 16-17: Sandy Allen, Ellie Arseneault, Liz Hansen, Jeanne Hanson, Bruce Hidlebaugh, Carol Hirsch, Sally Kriegel, Marguerite Laehn, Patty Lloyd, Chris Molitor, Mary Newton, Betty Niday, Debbie Smith and Sally Smith; 17-18: Jill Allen, Rebecca Davis, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Jill Harris and Dan Keller.

Motion by Redmond, seconded by Sieck, to approve the Resignations for the Early Retirees.

Motion approved 6-0.

I. Approve School Sponsored Activities with No Funding

Brown stated these are activities that are not receiving funding by the school, but would like to meet on school property with a volunteer sponsor.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Redmond, to approve the following School Sponsored Activities with No Funding: High School: Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Diversity Alliance, Feminist Club, Harry Potter Club, Film Club, Students Against Sexual Assault, Math Club (*will start in January/February*), Outdoor Club, Robotics Club, Middle School: Fellow Christian Athletes, Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention, Math Counts, Chess Club, Drama Club, and Art Club.

Motion approved 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

J. Smith stated it has been a pleasure working with all the retirees approved tonight. He credits these employees with helping to move the District forward over the years.

9. Board Talking Points

None

- 10.** Closed Session: To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when a closed session is necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i)

Motion by Nance, seconded by D. Smith,
Roll Call vote 6-0.

11. Adjournment

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Redmond,
Motion by Redmond, seconded by Sieck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Policy Meeting	5:00 p.m., December 14, 2016
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., January 18, 2017
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., January 25, 2017