

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on January 27, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg Community High School in the Board Room, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

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

Members Absent: Jeff Knobloch and Jonathan Nance

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

Administrators Present: Principals Kevin Seney, Brian Conway, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Technology Integrationist Bill Gruman and Director of Instruction and Curriculum Kym Stein.

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. Five members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary

Johnson discussed the December year to date financials.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Redmond to amend minutes from the 1/19/16 Finance Committee to reflect that Redmond suggested a K-12 programming audit, including costs.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 1/13/16 Board Meeting, 1/19/16 Finance Committee, 1/20/16 Policy Committee

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Financials

E. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Cindy Dudley: Middle school cook; Steve Dudley: Bailey Park night custodian

2. Offerings: Julia Warwick: High school paraprofessional; Malissa Juni: Co-Junior class sponsor; Abby Allen: Co-Junior class sponsor

3. Open Enrollment Out (2015-16): Carrie Tratchel: 6th grade to

Lynnville-Sully; Thomas Trachel: 9th grade to Lynnville-Sully

4. **Open Enrollment In (2016-17):** Gunner Morrison: Kindergarten from Marshalltown

Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Public Hearing: HS Tennis Courts**

John Karrmann from FEH discussed the Tennis courts project and alternates that vendors have suggested.

5. **Communication from the Public**

G-N Teacher Ellie Arsenault distributed a letter to board asking the board not to approve the elimination of the sixth section of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade classrooms.

Steve Sieck discussed the state initiatives on STEM and how to fit that into the budget.

Shane Jacobson also voiced concern over eliminating elementary positions and asked for other areas to be researched as well.

6. **Communications and Reports**

- A. **Board**

1. **Committee Reports**

Dustin Smith will be representing the District at the County Conference Board.

- B. **Ursula Wolz - Code Community**

Ursula Wolz of Grinnell College discussed her involvement in bringing computing into a rural community. She is working closely with Bill Gruman, Technology Integrationist for the District. The program is designed for the community and students, to determine what they need to know and what they want to learn. Brown asked if they have meetings other than the game development course currently being offered. Ursula stated she hopes as the communities needs arise the program develops to meet those needs. Jones Bair asked about successful communities in the process and Ursula named a few. Redmond stated students may need to download additional software to their computers. Abrahamson stated the district would need to look at district policy regarding proper use of district computers for this program.

- C. **Director of Instruction & HS Principal - IA State Report Card Next Steps**

Kevin Seney presented on the current academic state of the High School. The proficiency percent, graduation rate and attendance and staff retention are all areas he says they are doing well in. The first area to work on is College and Career Readiness. The High School is currently at 51.5%, which is higher than the state average of 39.1%, but Seney believes that should be improved. Another area of improvement is closing the achievement gaps in proficiency. College and Career Readiness Growth and Expected Growth were also listed as areas for improvement. He discussed various ideas for ways to make improvements, and also noted some of the work the District has already been doing, such as working directly with IEP and low SES students. He also noted At-Risk personnel are making good connections with their students.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

A. Approve Robotics Club

Johnson stated teacher Dave Schubert started the project in his class and the interest has grown to be too large to contain. He is asking for use of the facilities for meeting, and district transportation to events. He has received money to help fund competitions and other costs.

Motion by D. Smith, seconded J. Smith to approve the Robotics Club.

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Out of State Travel: 2016 National FFA Convention - Indianapolis, IN

Abrahamson stated this is moving back to Indianapolis.

Motion by Redmond, seconded Jones-Bair to approve the Out of State Travel 2016 National FFA Convention - Indianapolis, IN.

Motion carried 5-0.

C. First Reading of the 500 series policies

Brown stated the change log shows the changes made.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded J. Smith to approve the first reading of the 500 Series policies.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Board Talking Points

Brown noted the coding program.

11. Adjournment

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Facilities Committee Work Session

8:00 a.m., February 3, 2016

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., February 10, 2016

SIAC Work Session

4:00 p.m., February 17, 2016