

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on February 10, 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, Jeff Knobloch, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, and Jeff Smith.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance (arrived at 6:05)

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

Administrators Present: Principal Sarah Seney, Activities Director Chris Coffman, and Director of Nutrition Carrie Nachazel

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

Brown noted some of the bills listed without indicating the item purchase, but rather listing only the employee making the purchase. Johnson stated items can be listed with more detail in the future.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Jones Bair to amend the minutes from January 27, 2016 reflect that the robotics club is available to all students.

Jones Bair asked about SIAC minutes.

Jonathan Nance arrived at 6:05.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 1/20/16 SIAC 1/27/16 Regular Meeting 2/3/16 Facilities Committee
2/3/16 Policy Committee

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Financials

E. Personnel:

1. **Resignations:** Joe Quick: Assistant Coach 7th grade Basketball; Joe Quick: Assistant Coach 8th Grade Football
2. **Offerings:** Mike Furlong: Assistant Coach Varsity Baseball
3. **Upgrades:** Darius Payvandi: BA to MA
4. **Open Enrollment Out:** Jayden Collum (16-17): 8th grade to Clayton Ridge, Olivia Hermanstorfer (15-16): 7th grade to CAM
5. **Open Enrollment In:** Hayden Bockenstedt (15-16): Kindergarten from BGM; Fayeanna Guthrie (16-17): Kindergarten from Newton; Lucas Hunter (16-17): Kindergarten from Newton; Easton Phelps (16-17): Kindergarten from Newton

Motion carried 7-0.

4. Communication from the Public

Brandon Berg encouraged the board to look at other avenues to make up the budget shortfall, other than reducing teachers and increasing class sizes, in order to keep class sizes at a reasonable level.

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Knobloch stated he attended the legislative coffee over the weekend and stated he believes they are feeling some urgency to finalize the budget. Jones Bair attended Don Lender's service and she wanted to publicly thank him for his many years of service and all that he was able to contribute. Abrahamson gave an update on the future of the SAVE funds and the various legislation that is being proposed to divert some of these funds to other projects. Brown asked what the community should do. Abrahamson asked people to contact their representatives and ask them to not change the original purpose of the funds.

B. Nutrition Program Options: Bruce Taher and Carrie Nachazel

Johnson discussed the District's declining Nutrition balance. She introduced the options including making additional cuts to staff and the implementation of a Food Service Management Company. Bruce Taher from Taher Foods discussed how their Food Service Management Company runs school programs. He stated they are a 35 year old company who operate in 14 states with about 230 school programs. Success is driven on increasing the revenues, not through increasing prices, but through participation. The second part is monitoring expenses in food

and labor. He explained they can buy cheaper. The labor costs are fairly consistent. At the elementary level they typically have two hot options and one cold. They would also have a self-service bar with at least five fruit and vegetable options. At the middle school level they would have four hot options and at a high school that is typically expanded further to six or seven options. They require at least 70% of items be prepared from scratch. He stated they have chefs who come in and train the staff on how to prepare the food correctly. All the meals they provide follow the requirements for federal reimbursements. He stated from the staffing perspective he would not replace the current staff who are leaving, but reallocate the remaining resources appropriately.

Brown asked if we tried a FSMC and wanted to return to self-management what would we need to be aware of. Taher stated it is only a one year contract, so after each year the district can either continue with the FSMC or end the agreement with a 60 day notice.

The question of where the food is purchased was asked. Taher stated the food purchasing is bid out annually each summer. All items must meet the federal requirements. Nachazel stated this is consistent with the current practices. Nance asked Nachazel what her pros and cons are to this. She stated this may put us better position financially. She is concerned with the staffing.

Abrahamson asked about the purchasing power. Taher stated moving from processed to made from scratch actually can reduce costs. It does utilize a little more labor. They know what foods to prepare and what to buy. In a FSMC there are more resources for the District to pull from and there is not as much trial and error in the process. Brown asked about student's with special dietary needs. There would be various options in the regular rotations that apply to many of the most common special dietary needs.

Jones Bair asked about the marketing to parents and students. Taher stated Nachazel and the rest of the FSMC staff would work together to market the program. He discussed the elementary food of the month where they work with teachers to introduce new foods. Johnson stated she spoke with the business manager at Dallas Center, who invited our students, staff, and parents to come and see how their program is working, and see the food they are serving. He also stated they like giving out free meal tickets to parents and staff to experience the program and the food.

Discussion ensued about how we would do an RFP. Johnson clarified in doing an RFP, the district would not have to accept the lowest bidder, but could include several factors in the decision to choose a company to contract with. The entire process would be overseen by the Department of Education.

Questions arose from district food service employees regarding logistics of operations, which Taher answered.

J. Smith asked about the breakfast program. Taher stated the breakfast really needs to be fast in order make it successful.

Brown asked what Johnson needed from the Board. Johnson explained that she wanted to know the board was interested in moving forward with this before she and Nachazel began creating an RFP, noting that RFP's are a time consuming process, in which they would need to work with the state. Jones Bair asked what the alternative would be if the board did not choose to move forward toward a FCSM. Nachazel explained that she had created an alternative that would bring the program down to "bare bones," which would include cutting staff hours. It was also noted that with the alternative that Nachazel had documented, the nutrition fund would still be pulling funds from the general fund rather than sustaining on it's own.

Brown asked if it would be binding to proceed with an RFP, and Johnson replied it would not be binding. That being said, the board directed Johnson to begin the RFP process.

Discussion continued regarding logistics, the process of the RFP, and what other districts are doing.

6. Old Business

A. 2nd reading of 500 Series Second Reading

Motion by Knobloch, seconded Nance to approve the 2nd reading of the 500 Series Policies.

Motion carried 7-0.

7. New Business

A. FEH Architects & Associates Recommendation and Award Contract for High School Tennis Courts

John Karrmann from FEH discussed the bid received on Tennis Court project. The bid from Manatts of \$932,370 was for the base bid. He also discussed the various alternates. This is significantly over the estimate.

Other contractors were contacted as to why they did not bid. The main reasons included: having other projects in the bid process, the local asphalt supplier is Manatts, thus companies didn't believe it would make sense to bid, and the project was out of their typical service area.

Karrmann also discussed the bid with Manatts to see if they would be interested in value engineering the project with the District in order to reduce costs. He stated he does not believe rebidding the project will affect the results.

Brown asked if the District could work on the value engineering with Manatts prior to accepting a bid. Karrmann stated this could be possible and he believes Manatts has already been thinking about this. Knobloch asked about how the AD and coaches could be involved in that process. Karrmann stated they can be involved as much as they would like. Board members would like the Karrmann to ask for an extension to accept the bid to 45 days and begin work on value engineering the project.

8. Board Discussion

None

9. Board Talking Points

J. Smith reiterated reaching out to legislators, and remembering that it is not just our district, but that it is every district in the state that is having issues right now.

Abrahamson stated there is a link on the District's website to each legislator's contact information. Jones Bair asked for a [link](#) to be placed within the minutes. Brown stated there are legislative coffees on Saturdays in town.

10. Adjournment

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Policy Committee	5:00 p.m., February 10, 2016
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., February 24, 2016
SIAC Work Session	5:00 p.m., February 17, 2016