

Minutes Amended by board action at March 11, 2015 meeting

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in a Work Session on February 18, 2015, 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, Jonathan Nance, Jeff Smith, and Carol Wilhelm.

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Accounting Assistant Teresa Hawk

Administrators Present: Kevin Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne, Jeff Kirby, Sarah Seney, and Chris Coffman

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Brown called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. Teresa Hawk called the roll. All board members were in attendance. Board member Wilhelm requested the date of Board Meetings are given when calling the meetings to order. Board member Moisan read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Work Session - presentation by Academic Advisory Committee

A. Academic Rigor

Superintendent Abrahamson began the session indicating that members Moisan and Fisher would be making their presentation on Rigor this evening. He also told the group that due to another event at the High School this evening he would need to leave at 6:45 to help with coverage of a Bond Campaign event.

Moisan started the presentation by introducing the Academic Advisory Committee members and their Mission and Vision for the district. There was an overview of what rigor is and goals regarding rigor. Those goals covered four areas; define rigor, identify district classroom examples, also identify lack of rigor within curriculum, and brainstorming ways of filling gaps.

Board members indicated their emphasis on rigor being; real world and personal, learning experiences with depth and care, and engaging in strategic process as much as subject matter. Moisan gave an overview of the 7 myths of rigor and

Fisher discussed the 5 elements of instruction.

Fisher utilized these 5 elements of instructions in discussions with the administrators and their staff. Results from the discussions were organized into three areas. What we are currently doing, what could be changed, and what the next steps would be to fill the gaps.

Following the Committee's presentation, the Board and Administrators had an open discussion on the concept of rigor and addressing gaps in the process. There is a need to make sure that parents, students, and staff are all using the same definition of rigor. Rigor in instructional planning is varied by students learning levels, and also with the implementation of the common core concepts.

Administrators discussed varying ways to communicate with parents in a new direction. Possibly innovating more with Open House events that would involve families instead of Parent/Teacher conferences. There is a need for some type of publicity campaign to communicate with parents. Examples might be web based; videos, newsletters, or classroom pages that convey lessons or showcase student work.

The board would like to re-establish one building Administrator provide a presentation at each regular board meeting. Board members were appreciative of the work done by the Academic Advisory Committee. They at this time will task the Superintendent and building Administrators to continue the efforts and communication on academic rigor.

3. Adjournment

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

Board Calendar:

Academic Work Session	4:15 p.m., February 24, 2015
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., February 25, 2015
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., March 11, 2015