

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in a Special Board Session on February 8, 2017, 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, Meg Jones Bair, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, and Stephen Sieck.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance and Jeff Smith

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

Administrators Present: Director of Technology Amy Harmsen

D. 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. Five members were in attendance.

**2. Fiduciary**

No questions.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**A. Approve/Amend Agenda**

**B. Minutes:** 1/25/17 Policy Minutes, 1/25/17 Board Minutes

**C. Claims and Accounts**

**D. Personnel:**

**1. Resignations:**

**2. Offerings:**

**3. Transfers:**

**4. Upgrades:**

**5. Open Enrollment In (2016-17):** Keegan Rilatos: 4th grade from Lynnville-Sully; Trinity Rilatos: 7th grade from Lynnville-Sully

**6. Open Enrollment In (2017-18):** Avery Behounek: Kindergarten from South Tama

Motion to approve the consent agenda carried 5-0.

**4. Communication from the Public**

None

**5. Communications and Reports**

**A. Board**

None

**B. Superintendent**

**1. Legislative Update**

Dr. Stutz gave an update on the supplemental state aid. She stated most likely supplemental state aid will be approved at 1.1% for FY18. She noted she does not want to try to make more adjustments for FY18, but will wait and see what happens with enrollment and insurance. She also stated the early literacy program may go away next year. She is concerned about the impact this will have in the community and the program the district is currently providing. She discussed the possibility of providing more flexible funding in some of the categorical funds, explaining this would have a minimal impact in Grinnell due to having fairly low balances in most categoricals.

**2. Listening Tours**

Stutz stated she has been holding listening tours with staff at each building. During the sessions, she is asking staff for their input on various topics, such as what is going well and what the District needs to work on. One item that has been mentioned is a need for a writing curriculum District wide. The staffing shifts have also been a topic of concern. She noted the schedule changes proposed for next year will be worked through in the next couple of months. She stated she believes listening tours are a good way to share information with staff. She has reiterated the importance of remaining focused on what we can control, rather than focusing on the things beyond our control.

**3. Recognitions**

Stutz presented an award to Joey Pagliai from Pagliai's Pizza for their reading incentive for children in the District, which encourages reading for elementary students all year long.

Elijah Willig was recognized for his community service to the District in numerous programs, including the Diversity Alliance at GHS, FCA, HS Feminist Club, HS Student Council, and the Grinnell Middle School Gay-Straight Alliance.

**4. Estes Report and prioritization and timeline**

Stutz stated we are holding the current Estes report until the RFQ for architects is out, in an effort to keep the procedure fair for all. She stated the process for the RFQ will include providing the RFQ to all firms who have inquired, as well as providing them the current document. After the proposals have been submitted, the facilities committee will select finalists to be interviewed by the board.

Stutz stated the prioritization will be completed by the Estes, the Admin Team, Facilities Committee and some community members. She hopes this will be completed by the 2nd meeting in March.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Third and Final Reading of the 600 series, excluding 603.6, 605.6, 605.6E1, 605.6E2, 605.6R1, 605.61 and 606.1**

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Redmond, to approve the Third and Final Reading of the 600 series, excluding 603.6, 605.6, 605.6E1, 605.6E2, 605.6R1, 605.61 and 606.1

Motion approved 5-0.

**B. Second Reading: Class Size Guidelines policy 606.1**

Motion by Sieck, seconded by Redmond, to approve the Second Reading of the 606.1

Motion approved 5-0.

**6. New Business**

**A. Approve Cable/fiber for phones**

Brown stated this was previously approved, but this accounts for unknowns and the fiber, which has not yet been completed. Harmsen concurred.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by D. Smith, to approve the cable/fiber for phones.

Motion approved 5-0.

**B. Approve updated PLTW Service Agreement**

Stutz stated the updated PLTW Agreement is being submitted to the board because the timeline for the services has been extended. Sieck asked about the District's ability to continue to fund these programs after the initial scale up grants. Stutz stated these grants help with the initial materials and equipment. She sees the program being rolled into the new NGSS standards.

Motion by Sieck, seconded by D. Smith, to approve the updated PLTW Service Agreement.

Motion approved 5-0.

**C. Approve Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser**

Motion by D. Smith, seconded by Sieck, to approve the Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser.

Motion approved 4-1 (Jones Bair voted nay).

**8. Board Discussion**

Jones Bair asked about the legislative coffee as there was a good number in attendance. Stutz attended and discussed the revenues being proposed to allocate for schools. She stated based on the funds available to the state, she does not understand why more funds could not have been allocated to schools. She believes this will keep the District afloat, but this will definitely hurt in the long term. A discussion on flexibility of categoricals, use of PPEL funds, and vouchers also took place.

**9. Board Talking Points**

None

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Redmond, seconded by D. Smith, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Board Calendar:**

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., February 22, 2017