

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 30, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg Community High School in the Media Center, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Meg Jones Bair, Jeff Knobloch, Jonathan Nance, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, and Jeff Smith

Members Absent: None

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

Administrators Present: Principals Brian Conway, Jeff Kirby, Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, Dean of Students Heidi Durbin, and Activities Director Chris Coffman.

**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. Seven members were in attendance. Jones Bair read the District's Mission and Vision statement.

**2. Fiduciary**

No Comments

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**A. Approve/Amend Agenda**

**B. Minutes:** 3/7/2016 Work Session, 3/8/2016 Work Session, 3/9/2016 Regular Meeting, 3/10/2016 Work Session, 3/14/2016 Work Session, 3/16/2016 Work Session, 3/21/16 Work Session

**C. Claims and Accounts**

**D. Personnel:**

- 1. Resignations:** Lori Olson: FV Paraeducator effective June 2, 2016
- 2. Offerings:** Sandra Faulkner: Interim Varsity Boys Track Coach, Bryan Woods: Interim Varsity Boys Assistant Track Coach
- 3. Open Enrollment Out:** Cade McKnight: 12th grade to Montezuma (2015-16); Cade McKnight: 12th grade to Newton (2015-16); Abby Peters: 1st grade to East Marshall (2015-16); Conner Peters: 3rd grade to East Marshall (2015-16); Chandler Carl: 9th grade to Montezuma

(2016-17)

- 4. Open Enrollment In:** Kaylee Butler: Kindergarten from East Marshall
- E. Approvals:** GHS Football Rent-a-Tiger Fundraiser, Student Council Pink Flamingo After-Prom Fundraiser

Motion carried 7-0.

**4. Public Hearing: FY2017 Certified Budget**

Johnson presented the Certified Budget presentation noting the budget is primarily driven by Supplemental State Aid and Enrollment. She stated the important thing to consider is unspent authority. She reiterated the District cannot legally spend cash in the bank unless it has the authority. Johnson also discussed the tax rate changes if the Governor signs the bill for a 2.25% increase in supplemental state aid. Abrahamson stressed the importance of advocating for school districts to the legislature setting supplemental state aid timely, as well as paying special attention to the unspent authority.

**5. Communication from the Public**

None

**6. Communications and Reports**

**A. Board**

None

**7. Old Business**

**A. Approve Budget Reductions**

Brown asked Abrahamson his opinion on the reduction. Abrahamson stated he had not been a part of the discussion or decisions, but from a business standpoint the District should entertain Option C, making all the cuts. From a more practical standpoint he recommends moving forward with making the non certified staffing cuts. He also recommended moving forward pursuing the items that need additional board approval, such as outsourcing food service and sharing the curriculum director.

Nance stated Option D leaves the District significantly short of breaking even for FY17. Johnson stated the District would need to eliminate approximately \$1.2M in order to break even for FY17. Brown asked how the District would manage this. Abrahamson stated there would be significant work to be done in order to make all the cuts in Option C work operationally, such as changes in schedules and class sizes.

Knobloch stated in looking at this process the Board has relied heavily on the Principals, and he is comfortable with their rationale for how to manage the proposed cuts. His recommendation would be to support the Principal's recommendation.

Redmond stated she does not believe the District is functioning at a K-12 level. She stated we have been reactionary in decision making, rather than planning ahead. She does not feel she has sufficient information on programming costs and returns. Her recommendation is to leave the business, choir and technology positions in place.

Larry Jansen, President of Grinnell Mutual, advocated for the business program. He stated he would be willing to help fund the program to the amount of \$37,000 annually for a period of 5 years. John Lof spoke about his efforts of gaining community support for keeping the business program.

J. Smith stated he would like to see the business classes take this as a project and suggest a recommendation. He stated the elimination of the paraprofessionals is a questionable item, as the District is not able to predict the number of students with IEPs who will require paraprofessionals next year.

Larry Jansen stated the communities need to take a more active role in this process, and businesses need to step up in order to fund important programs. Brown stated she would like to take Larry up on his offer. Knobloch wanted to clear up the misconception the District is doing away with the business program, explaining the District is looking at having to do things differently. Brown stated there would be details that would need to be worked out before deciding on next steps.

Strawser discussed looking at the Industrial Tech position and PLTW since that employee is currently leaving. She suggested we reduce the staffing position through attrition, and coordinate with IVCC to continue the Industrial Tech program. Seney stated they are looking at this as well. Brown stated all programs that could be cut do have impacts on students.

Doug Cameron stated this will be an ongoing discussion and that there is a huge amount of funds spent on infrastructure. He stated the District will continue to spend large amounts of money on infrastructure until a different building structure

is in place.

John Lof stated he feels less and less students will pursue business classes if the program is moved IVCC. He asked about Administration cuts and cuts to the District office. Jackson Schulte also stressed some of the same issues. Other students thanked people for attending the presentation and urged the board to reconsider, stating the business program would not work at IVCC.

Larry Jansen reiterated his offer. Brown thanked him for his offer and stated that the District would explore the details.

Knobloch asked about the proficiency law for the financial literacy courses students are required to take in order to graduate. Seney stated there are other ways the District could provide these courses, through other instructors, and through the use of APEX.

Jill Harris discussed the PLTW (Project Lead the Way) requirements and costs for training a new instructor in PLTW courses.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Nance to approve the Principal's recommendation less the business position, the music position, and less the items that need further approval for budget cuts.

Nance stated we need to remember this is not the end of the discussion, but it is the beginning, and the District needs to continue this conversation in order to correct the financial issues. Brown reiterated that regardless of the potential cuts there will be a group of people willing to fight for those positions.

Heather Benning thanked the Board for making more people a part of the conversation, and realizes more cuts will need to be made. She would like community members to be more involved in the process.

Jill Hulsing encouraged people to look at how many Districts with community colleges don't still offer business courses. She believes the number of community members who have stood up for this program show importance of this program.

Dan Huebner stated the problem is not how many students attend IVCC or Grinnell College, but how student enrollment is the main problem. He believes this is a community problem and not just a school problem.

Motion carried 7-0.

**8. New Business**

**A. Approve FEH Architects & Associates Recommendation and Award Contract for High School Roof Project - Phase II**

Tyler Riley from FEH stated there were four bids for the project. He recommends going with the lowest bid, the same contractor who completed the roof project last year, JLH Enterprises. Brown asked about the unit price. Riley stated this unit price was for additional work needed if leaks are found. The total for the project is \$108,025, which is within the estimated range.

Brown asked Johnson which fund this project would come out of. Johnson replied it would come out of PPEL or SAVE, most likely SAVE.

J. Smith asked about the projected end date, and Riley explained that it was projected to be done before school starts, weather permitting.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to award the bid for the High School Roof Project - Phase II to JLH Enterprises for \$108,025.

Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Approve FEH Architects & Associates Recommendation and Award Contract for High School Envelope Project (Window and Exterior Panel Replacement)**

Riley stated there was one bid for this project. Some others had expressed interest, but due to the location of the project they choose not to bid. Brown asked about the alternate costs. Riley discussed the alternates. Shawn Edelen stated the interior door alternate could be done cheaper. He already has a bid for under \$5,000 to put in new steel doors.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Redmond to award the alternate 2 bid for the High School Envelope Project at \$484,600.

Brown asked Johnson which fund this would come out. Johnson stated this would come out of SAVE funds.

D. Smith asked about the safety of putting in inoperable windows in the building.

Riley stated the windows are not a means of escape for fire code. The board decided alternate 2, inoperable windows at a savings of \$13,000, was the best course of action.

Motion carried 7-0.

(Item C was skipped.)

**D. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution**

Brown read the budget Guarantee Resolution. Johnson explained if the Governor does not approve the 2.25%, the District does qualify for the Budget Guarantee, which guarantees the District 101% of last years budget. It is a precautionary measure, which will not be needed if the Governor does approve 2.25%.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Nance to approve the FY17 Certified Budget.

Roll call vote. Motion carried 7-0.

(Realizing Item C was skipped, the board backtracked to discuss and approve Item C, before moving on.)

**C. Approve FY17 Certified Budget**

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to approve the FY17 Certified Budget.

Roll call vote. Motion carried 7-0.

**E. Approve FY15 Audit Report**

Johnson stated the most notable mention regarding the FY15 Audit Report was the deficit the district ran last year. There were a few minor mentions as well. Johnson mentioned the audit is available to the public if they are so inclined to read it.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Nance to approve the FY15 Audit Report.

Motion carried 7-0.

**F. Discuss Phone System Needs**

Johnson explained we have been researching phone system needs this year.

Notably, there are a number of districts that are incorporating phones into all classrooms for safety and security purposes. Johnson stated she would like to discuss with the board the choice to have phones in every classroom or not. If the district would choose to put phones in every classroom the cost involved would be above the threshold of an RFP requirement, rather than getting competitive bids. Redmond noted she wondered why this would be necessary since most teachers have cell phones. Johnson stated she has seen enough districts move toward this that she feels it would be wise to consider as a discretionary measure. Brown stated she would like to see all the numbers. D. Smith stated a concern of his was if it became necessary to do an RFP the pool of bids for the project would become smaller. Abraham said that was a legitimate concern. Jones Bair asked if we have asked teachers of their thoughts on the matter. MS Teacher Tammy Strawser stated she felt it would be advantageous to have classrooms in every room. It was also mentioned that reception is spotty in the Middle School. Johnson gave more estimates on the costs. She also noted all the technology and IP structure could be transferred to a new building if one was built. The board requested more information. Johnson noted an RFP would extend the timeline, but she does not believe this would be a huge issue.

**G. Discuss/Approve Apple MacBook Lease and New IT Position**

Abrahamson introduced Nick Hlavacek of Apple who had been invited to discuss the Apple lease and buyback. Abrahamson explained the lease would put approximately 2,000 devices into the District. Hlavacek went over the lease pricing document. Knobloch asked about the durability of the Pro versus the Air. Hlavacek gave a brief comparison of Pro vs. Air. He explained the Pro weighs approximately a pound more than the air. Both have the aluminum casing to protect the exterior. He noted the main damage they see is students closing the laptop with an item inside and cracking the screen. Nance asked if performance or storage was comparable. He explained they were very comparable. The battery life of the Air is better than Pro due to the retina display in the Pro, which is not in the Air.

Redmond asked typically what Districts are doing, stating she believes more districts are moving to the Air. Hlavacek explained the decision depends on the student needs of individual districts, noting the Air is popular with schools when considering the longer battery life and the weight of the device, but the Pro model, a more powerful device, provides more in specialized programs.

Hlavacek then discussed the lease quotes with lease to purchase structure. It

would be a four year lease with semi-annual payments in July and January. The interest rate is 0.99%. Brown asked which fund this would come out of. Johnson responded saying this could come out of SAVE or PPEL, and the district would most likely choose to pay this lease out of PPEL.

Stephanie Hoopes asked what the benefit of ipads in the early elementary would be. Bill Gruman, technology integrationist noted the benefit of allowing for tactile learning, as well as providing an avenue for learning in which there would be no need to compete for lab time or computer sharing (example: students share 4 computers in one classroom), to accelerate learning. Principal Sarah Seney gave various examples of the way early elementary classrooms are currently using technology. Conway stated the devices are used for more than just apps. Teacher Mike Hunter stated we need to be sure the teacher's devices are sufficient for the life of the lease, noting the current laptops teachers are using have slowed down as the life of the lease is coming to an end. Brown asked Hlavacek for his recommendation. Hlavacek stated moving from the four to eight GB of RAM will help with this significantly.

Brown asked Abrahamson if the Air devices have the ability to meet students needs in specialized courses. Abrahamson said he wasn't sure if the Air would have the processing capabilities needed for specialized classrooms, particularly for PLTW and fine arts. Strawser again noted the need for training teachers how to use the new devices. J. Smith stated he thinks it is important to make sure people have the appropriate devices, depending on what the different groups need, particularly the teachers. Redmond believes the 13" Air for students is sufficient.

Brown requested the district return with a recommendation for the board at the April 13, 2016 meeting to approve the final quote.

Discussing additional accessory items, Gruman noted two options, Apple TV or adaptors, which would be necessary to allow teachers in the lower elementaires to project.

Brown requested Hirota, Gruman, Hunter, and Johnson work together to develop a recommendation regarding the best device for teachers.

Hlavacek summarized the MacBook Air lease, and specific line items. Principal Jeff Kirby stated the District is keeping the best devices and repurposing those to the students at Davis. Kirby stated the Apple development has drastically

improved since the previous rollout. Hlavacek discussed the training provided to all District staff.

Hlavacek discussed the buyback quote. The District can sell current devices that will not be needed in order to put dollars back into the PPEL fund. He also discussed the guaranteed buyback prices Apple is now offering.

J. Smith asked about pushing apps out to the ipads in the elementary buildings. Kirby state Neal has the ability to push out apps using the Casper suite push out programs even to ipads.

The discussion of the Tech Plan and Grinnell CIA Google site will be pushed to the April meeting.

**H. Discuss/Approve sharing Director of Instruction and Curriculum with East Marshall Agreement and Job Description**

Abrahamson discussed the East Marshall sharing agreement proposed by East Marshall. East Marshall approached the district regarding a sharing agreement, stating they need someone to help keep them up to date on current state-mandated standards and regulations. He noted we would receive approximately \$20,000 in sharing incentives from the state, and approximately an additional \$9,000 from East Marshall. Brown asked what the total compensation of salary and benefits amounted to currently, and Johnson responded that it was just over \$100,000.

Brown asked how long the district could delay in making a decision.

Abrahamson said East Marshall would like to know sooner than later, so they could approach other districts if we declined. Nance stated he feels like this is something concrete we can do now. He asked about how the agreement would work if the district decided a year from now to eliminate the position of Dir. of Instruction. Abrahamson stated there is a clause in the agreement allowing us to end the contract if we made a decision to eliminate the position in our district.

Brown stated she wants to take a complete look at administration prior to making this decision, because that is what people are asking us to do, and look to see if there are any potential cost savings there. She asked that the item be placed on the agenda for a later meeting. Nance reiterated that he did not see a negative to the agreement if the district could offset costs by \$30,000.

**9. Board Discussion** None.

**10. Board Talking Points**

Brown stated she is pleased with GMRC's offer to the District. Johnson will discuss with the auditors and lawyers on any legal issues related to this. The board agreed another meeting the following week would be necessary if the offer was not possible.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion by Redmond, seconded by J. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Board Calendar:**

Facilities Work Session	8:00 a.m., April 6, 2016
SIAC Work Session	5:00 p.m., April 6, 2016
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., April 13, 2016