

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on April 27, 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 Accounting Clerk Teresa Hawk.

Administrators Present: Principals Brian Conway, Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Accounting Clerk Hawk called the roll. Seven members were in attendance. Jones Bair read the District's Mission and Vision statement.

2. Fiduciary

Redmond questioned the purchase of a Macbook Pro and iPad's she noticed on the list of bills. Abrahamson explained the items were purchased prior to the Apple Lease.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 4/13/16 Minutes

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Financials

E. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Alice Ahrens: Paraeducator Fairview; Wanda White: MS cook; Jerry Hulsing: 8th grade football coach; Shelly Fitzgerald: HS At-Risk Counselor; Robin Elliott: Elementary teacher Bailey Park; April Cooper: 8th grade Reading/Language Arts; Lori Olson: Paraeducator Fairview

2. Offerings: Elizabeth Plagge: Administrative Assistant; Karla Stewart: MS play

3. Transfer: Karen Renbarger: Bailey Park Cook to Bailey Park Night Custodian

4. Open Enrollment In (2016-17): Kasadi Becvar-Lewis: 12th grade from East

Marshall

- 5. Open Enrollment Out 2015-2016):** Brevin Hansen: Lynnville-Sully; Brittney Hansen: Lynnville-Sully; Tanner Foster: 10th grade to Lynnville-Sully

Motion carried 7-0.

4. Communication from the Public

Parent Bridget Bachtel expressed her appreciation to the staff and administration for the job they do. She questioned the criteria that is used in determining how students are chosen to participate in special classes or programs. Specifically, she noted thirty(30) 8th graders who were chosen by “one teacher or teachers” to take a science test that would gain them admission into the advanced 9th grade science class. She asked for clarity on how students are selected for special classes or events (she also noted at recent field trip to a LGTB conference in Des Moines some students were able to attend). She feels all students should be given the opportunity to be given access to such classes or events, and that the criteria should be clearly defined and shared with parents and students. She also noted she often finds out about events after-the-fact, and wanted to know how to better receive communications from the district in order to prepare and participate. It was determined that principal Kevin Seney will follow-up with her questions at the next meeting.

Steve Sieck reiterated his feelings that it is a disservice to our students that some are selected to participate in events and courses that others are not. His particular concern was that by directly excluding some students, notably in the science, engineering, and mathematics fields, we are telling students of certain demographics or genders that they are not good enough to participate. He feels this is a terrible message to send to children, particularly at the younger ages, when they are not even given a chance to try.

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

D. Smith reported that he met with Russ Behrens and Rich Damon from Imagine Grinnell, and he noted the City will be applying for a grant for sidewalks, and they would like the District to be involved as the plans unfold.

B. Superintendent

Abrahamson gave an update regarding the progress of the various facilities projects currently underway in the District. He also briefly recapped his trip to the Governor's Summit he was able to attend the week before. President Brown asked if he had kindergarten numbers for the upcoming school year. Principal Sarah Seney stated currently the kindergarten enrollment was approximately 115

students.

C. Principal(s)

1. Chris Molitor and Student Physics Team

HS Science Teacher Chris Molitor gave an overview of the competition that the physics team participated in, and the dedication necessary from students. Additionally, each group gave an overview of their challenges and accomplishments.

2. Sarah Seney along with Melissa Strovers, Beth Crow and Karen Neal- Summer Learning Loss (AmeriCorps)

Seney began the presentation, noting the Summer Learning Loss Prevention program ran for 4 weeks and served 34 students last year. She discussed plans to improve participation this year, which includes running the program for 6 weeks (3 in June and 3 more in August), and providing transportation, lunch, and afternoon activities. This year 180 students were invited to attend and 110 students are currently enrolled. Students will attend summer school from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and then be bussed to/from the high school for lunch. Melissa Strovers briefly reviewed the events leading the Americorps program to support the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, and shared the group's desire to work with the summer learning loss task force to help support summer school, an after school enrichment program, and "In Your Neighborhood" program, all to support summer learning loss.

Seney noted 110 students are enrolled, and 60 of those students intend to stay for the afternoon portion of the program. Karen Neal explained programming will be available in the interim weeks to all children through neighborhood reading sites where volunteers will take books and read to them. Brown asked how the District would be measuring the effectiveness of the program. Seney explained the District would be keeping track of data from this spring and also from the fall, using FAST data. Knobloch asked if this was part of the 3rd grade retention, and Seney replied that it could become a choice of grade retention or summer school. Discussion concluded with an explanation of the specifics the program would need to serve the students.

6. Old Business

A. Discussion Part 1: Nutrition Program Cost Reductions

Brown explained the discussion of the Nutrition Program for the evening was Part 1 of a larger discussion that would be continued at the next board meeting. Food

Service Director Carrie Nachazel presented how her department will be impacted if the Board decides to switch to a Food Service Management Company. Her employees will lose their IPERS, any built up leaves accumulated, more expensive health insurance and the potential loss of good employees. The District will need to move the responsibilities of the Food Service Director to another employee which includes the Free & reduced program. The District would still be responsible for ensuring that equipment and food safety measurements are met. She also stated employees within the food service department are willing to accept a salary freeze for next year, reduction of hours, less sick days, and change to a \$1,000 deductible, if the District is willing to give them one more year to strategize more saving improvements. Several of the food service employees voiced their concerns about the proposed change to a Management Company. When visiting other schools managed by an FSMC our employees noticed that some of the food was not kept at a warm temperature, there was not as much home-made as what was promised, the quality of food served wasn't good, and chef cooked meals were higher priced. They all asked that the Board give them another year. Brown asked how this would change if the district had 3 kitchens instead of 5. Nachazel stated we would still need staff, but we would save money in staff, efficiencies, and food. There would also be less food waste. Nance asked Nachazel to review her statement about her current responsibilities that she would no longer be able to do if her role was transferred to a FCSM. Nachazel explained the Free and Reduced paperwork would need to be handled by someone else, as well as the overall monitoring of the program (someone monitoring the FSMC to ensure they are complying with state standards), state auditing, etc. Knobloch asked how the companies guarantee profitability when the district sets the price of meals. Abrahamson answered stating these companies have more buying power and pay less in wages. Knobloch noted he did not believe these FCSM's did not have as much buying power as they said they did. Discussion continued on some of the specifics of how the district and staff would be impacted with these decisions.

7. New Business

A. Discuss/Approve Bus Purchase/Lease

Discussion included Bill Ahrens from the Bus Garage regarding the benefits of the proposed busses, i.e., diesel/gas, warranties, repairs, etc. It was decided that since we have diesel busses, to buy the same kind.

Moved by Nance, seconded by Jones Bair to purchase/lease 4 diesel busses \$341,748.

Motion carried 7-0.

B. Approve GNEA Master Contract

Abrahamson stated that the Master Contract was ratified today (April 29). No major changes were made, but does allow for a 3.5% package increase, allows certified staff a 30 minute work time per day and some language cleanup for paraprofessionals.

Moved by Knobloch to approve the Master Contract. Seconded by Redmond.

Motion carried 7-0.

C. Approve Policy 905.2

Abrahamson noted that an emergency approval for this policy was needed due to a time sensitive grant. The policy will include the following, “including, but not limited to products such as dissolvable, spit less, snus, chewing and electronic cigarettes.”

Moved by Jones Bair to approve the Master Contract. Seconded by D. Smith

Knobloch wanted to amend the proposal to include “vaping and products such as.”

Motion carried 7-0.

8. Board Discussion

None.

9. Board Talking Points

Jones Bair spoke up about how students were chosen for the special classes/programs, and clarified that the subject would be brought up at the next board meeting. Abrahamson reiterated negotiations went smoothly and were productive.

Knobloch noted many problems including food service and efficiency issues are really facilities issues that would be resolved with new buildings

10. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Facilities Work Session

8:00 a.m., May 4, 2016

SIAC Work Session

5:00 p.m., May 4, 2016