

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on May 11, 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, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, and Jeff Smith

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance

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

Administrators Present: Principals Brian Conway, Kevin Seney, Sara Hegg-Dunne Food Service Director Carrie Nachazel 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. Six members were in attendance. J. Smith read the District's Mission and Vision statement.

2. Fiduciary

No comments

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 4/27/16 Minutes 5/2/16 Facilities Minutes

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. **Resignations:** Kristina Loschen: MS Behavior Interventionist; Molly Loftin: Homeschool Liaison; Karen Renbarger: BP Cook
2. **Upgrades:** Sarah Lewis: Standard to Generalist; Jerry Hulsing: BA to BA+15; Paula Simon: BA+30 to MA; Amy Skousan: BA+30 to MA
3. **Open Enrollment Out:** Courtney Thorn: Iowa Online Connection Academy

Motion carried 6-0.

4. Communication from the Public

Lori Francis discussed the decline of services provided to children in need. She asked about the At Risk counselor position at the HS. Abrahamson stated the elementaries are in greater need of a counselor, but that the district would be posting for a HS At Risk counselor.

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Knobloch stated he attended Y-camp and it went very well. Jones Bair noted the excitement students have over field trips and special events. J. Smith stated he is enjoying seeing the Read Everyday program District wide.

B. Principal

1. Kevin Seney & Sara Hegg-Dunne: Selection process for advanced ninth grade science class and future criteria for selection processes

Principal Seney presented on level placement in different subjects as well as the ability of students to take AP courses at various levels. A question on notifying parents of events was asked, and Seney stated announcements are sent out using various district systems. He acknowledged the District could be more proactive in sending out information in the announcements. Another question on individualized plans, for students based on specific needs, arose. Seney stated there are students identified for accelerated programs in one area and may still need additional help in other areas. Redmond stated there is a

Teacher Tammy Strawser stated in the previous years the District has made significant improvements in the services provided and number of students included. She stated the process of analyzing students is multifaceted and the point of the test is to find the students' baseline knowledge.

Redmond stated the number of opportunities in education are not clearly communicated to parents. Seney stated all the criteria are clearly listed on the website for those parents who are interested. Strawser stated the single-subject giftedness is also being recognized more at the MS and students are being given more options based on their skills. A community member stated the prior notification can also get the parents on board for the students to be engaged and encourage their students to perform at their best. Jones Bair stated the importance of communication is the

takeaway from this discussion. Not just for specific grade levels, but District-wide. Conway stated that at the Elementary level he has a list of major events.

C. Superintendent

1. Report

Abrahamson thanked the Board members for their service to the District. He gave an update on the various construction projects. The MS tank removal will be complete after some concrete is laid. The MS boiler is testing well. The Tennis courts will be started May 25th. The HS envelope project and Phase II roofing will be starting soon.

There are concerns about both Davis and BP roofs as well with leaking. Both buildings will be needing significant work. The HS SB/BB/Tennis court restrooms will also be beginning soon.

Abrahamson gave an update on the consortium program. The numbers interested continue to increase. Newton will be hosting the MS program next year. They are also looking at a special program for Level III students with intellectual disabilities. J. Smith asked about more of these programs springing up across the state. Abrahamson stated we are pioneering this program. The District frequently receives questions from other districts about how the program is working.

2. Sitler Lighting Presentation

Renfred Miller from Sitler Supplies in Washington, IA presented on their proposal for the District on energy efficient lighting. He displayed various lighting option and discussed the new technology options available in lighting. He gave a proposal for each specific building separately.

J. Smith asked if it is fairly easy to pull the old ballasts and lights out and put the new ones in. Jones Bair asked about the manufacturing of the bulbs. Miller stated he purchases the bulbs and if there was a failure in the next 5 years the District would work through them.

Abrahamson stated the recommendation would be to to the gyms, HS lighting and the exterior lighting. Miller stated the ISFIS program has vetted these services already, so an RFP is not required regardless of the

size of the project. Redmond asked about grants for the project. Miller stated there are grants available for tax paying entities. Knobloch stated he would support doing all but the Elementary and MS projects due to the unknowns of those building with the District. Brown asked about the cost a year from now. Miller stated the rebates will most likely significantly change.

6. Old Business

A. Discuss/Approve Nutrition Plan for 2016-2017 FSMC

Taher representative Judy Cameron stated Taher won the RFP, but if approved the contract would be an annual contract with four one-year renewals at the District's discretion with a 60 day cancellation notice. One of the keys for improving the program is getting more kids to eat. Brown asked how that is done. Cameron stated offering more options and the marketing of the food is what has worked for them in other Districts. They use chefs to encourage kids to explore and learn about food as well as various classroom education projects.

Brown asked Johnson for a recommendation. Johnson stated both plans (Taher and the District) provided a break-even financial scenario. She stated from an operational standpoint the Board needs to determine which direction is best operationally for the District and community.

Specific questions on employee benefits and structure were asked. Cameron addressed those questions clarifying benefits available and the support Carrie would have from the corporation. The question of chef meals provided to free and reduced students was brought up. Cameron discussed the meal structure at other schools. She stated a free and reduced student's meals will be priced the same as they are today and menu items can be put together to form a meals according to the Federal standards.

Johnson stated there are functions Taher could not provide according the Federal regulations. Most notably, free and reduced applications and Federal reporting. Johnson stated this would be absorbed by the District somewhere.

Knobloch stated he believes a different building structure will help the program and he would like to give the District's proposal a chance.

Moved by Knobloch, seconded by J. Smith to stay with the District management and approve the cuts proposed by Food Service Director Carrie Nachazel in the next year.

Motion carried 6-0.

7. New Business

A. Discuss New Website/Logo

Johnson stated as the District is developing the new website they were entertaining the idea of creating a separate logo for academics and activities. This was brought to them through various comments from board members and community members. Coffman stated he likes to cohesiveness of one logo as the activities are an extension of the instructional and having separate logos divides them. Discussion ensued about the benefits and detriments of having two logos. Community members voiced a desire to keep the tiger logo. Board members chose not to move forward with the new logo. Johnson asked for specifics regarding what the board is looking for in the website. The board determined a committee would be helpful to facilitate.

B. Approve 0.5 FTE Increase Special Education Position at Bailey Park

Abrahamson stated the case load at BP is high and an additional 0.5 FTE is needed to address the SPED needs at the building.

Moved by Jones Bair, seconded by Redmond to approve 0.5 FTE increase of a special education position at Bailey Park Elementary.

Motion carried 6-0.

C. Approve district phone proposal to MARCO - Mitel MiVoice Office

Abrahamson discussed the proposed phone upgrades which includes classroom phones.

Redmond stated some parents are questioning this due to cell phone usage and other communication options. Abrahamson stated there are buildings where cell service is not available, and technology can be spotty, which could be problematic in the event of an emergency.

Moved by D. Smith, seconded by J. Smith to purchase a new District phone system from MARCO for \$75,889.05.

Motion carried 6-0.

D. Approve MARCO to conduct a comprehensive study for the G-N school district - Communications Solutions, Managed Services, Network Services, and Business Performance and Service Delivery

Abrahamson stated we have a number of leases with the District for various services. This is a free study to see what services and upgrades they recommend to increase productivity.

Moved by Jones Bair, seconded by D. Smith to approve MARCO to conduct a comprehensive study for the District on communication solutions, managed services, network services and business performance and service delivery.

Motion carried 6-0.

E. Approve iPad, iPad mini, and MacBook mobility carts

Abrahamson stated there are various cart options. Some are not compatible or energy efficient. Other vendors charge significant amounts for shipping, and/or the carts require assembly upon arrival, which is not feasible with the District's limited personnel resources, as well as the current tasks required of the tech office this summer. Abrahamson stated there are a two or three carts currently that may be able to be repurposed for the repurposed computers, but not enough for all computers. Redmond stated she does not believe carts are necessary for the 5-12 who send take their devices home. Discussion ensued as to the specific uses of the carts requested. The board requested a breakdown of the distribution of the 17 requested MacBook carts before a decision was made on the purchase.

Moved by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to purchase for 23 iPad carts for \$44,844.

Motion carried 6-0.

F. Ratify Tentative Agreement - Physical Plant Employee (PPE)

Abrahamson stated there were no language changes.

Moved by Jones Bair, seconded by Redmond to ratify the tentative agreement for the Physical Plant Employee Contract.

Motion carried 6-0.

G. Approve All Other Employee Contracts

Johnson answered a question regarding the details listed, assuring a staff member that her contract would be renewed the following year. D. Smith questioned the number of paras listed. Johnson explained the details of the document.

Moved by Jones Bair, seconded by D. Smith to approve all other employee contracts.

Motion carried 6-0.

H. Approve the Class of 2016 Graduate List

Moved by J. Smith, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Class of 2016 Graduate List.

Motion carried 6-0.

I. Discuss/Approve Under Armor school partnership

Activities Director Chris Coffman discussed the proposal to approve Under Armor as a school partnership. This partnership gives us 40% off anything we buy. Without the partnership other Districts cannot access this discount. It is mostly uniforms or equipment. It does not narrow us down to exclusively them. If a desirable product is not found then they can move onto Decker to help them find a different product. He stated he has had conversations with local business owners and he does not anticipate the local businesses sales dropping due to this issue.

J. Smith stated this is equivalent to a Sam's Club Card or a Hyvee Fuel-Saver Card. You don't have to use it, but if you use it you get a discount.

Moved by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to approve the Under Armor school partnership.

Motion carried 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

Knobloch asked the Board to reach out to people about volunteering to help with the

website. Jones Bair asked to have a broader discussion about communication in the future.

9. Board Talking Points

Commentary

10. Adjournment

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Redmond to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Special Work Session

6:00 p.m., May 9, 2016

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., May 25, 2016