

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on June 10, 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, Jeff Knobloch, Jonathan Nance, and Jeff Smith.

Members Absent: Kirsten Fisher, Claire Moisan and Carol Wilhelm.

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

Administrators Present: Principals Chris Coffman, Sara Hegg-Dunne and Sarah Seney.

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. Four members were in attendance. Board member Nance read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Fiduciary Report:

No questions on the bills.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Knobloch to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Nance.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 5/27/15 Regular Meeting 6/4/15 Special Work Session

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Liz Hansen: Spring Play Director; Mike Hunter: Technical Director Spring Play; Alison Blankenfeld: Paraeducator; Bryan Woods: 7th Grade FB Coach

2. Offerings: Annie Smothers: Co-Cheer Coach; Liz Hansen: Co-Curtain Club and Thespians; Mike Hunter: Co-Curtain Club and Thespians, Spring Play Director; Alison Blankenfeld: Level I Instructional Strategist; Bryan Woods: 10th Grade FB Coach/Assistant Varsity Coach

4. Open Enrollment Out (15-16): Dayton Reif: Kindergarten to Montezuma

Motion carried 4-0.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Public Hearing- High School Roof Replacement

Jason from FEH presented the roof replacement bids. Completion is targeted for the end of August. Abrahamson stated the funds will come from the SAVE fund, budgeted for in the PPEL/SAVE budget. Smith asked about the quality of the replacement. FEH explained the superior features as well as a 20 year warranty on the design. Brown asked if the roof will have a pitch to it once completed. FEH stated they will be adding the pitch to the finished roof.

6. Communications and Reports

A. Board

None

B. Principals Reports

1. Chris Coffman & Sarah Seney FAST Data

Principal Sarah Seney presented the FAST data. FAST is a universal screening in reading for students in K-3. Brown asked about the summer reading program being offered this year. Seney explained the program is being held at Fairview this year and students were invited to participate based on need. Brown asked which grade level will be the first to be held to the standards as well as which grade started with the Making Meaning curriculum. Seney stated it is the 2015-2016 2nd grade class for both.

2. Sara Hegg-Dunne on GMS Data 2014-15, MYP Action Plan, and IB Report IB Presentation

Principal Hegg-Dunne presented the Iowa Assessment data. Overall the growth was good, but there were some areas to continue to improve. This data includes: Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies. Brown asked about topics covered in the Social Studies test. Hegg-Dunne stated she hasn't reviewed specific questions, but she was meeting with the Social Studies teachers to discuss the results.

Hegg-Dunne spoke about the IB (International Baccalaureate) MYP (Middle Years Project) program the Middle School is proposing. IB is a philosophy used to increase the rigor in the curriculum. It takes a typical lesson and helps direct the teaching to show the impact to others locally and globally to create a greater awareness of a global community. Ideally,

it will include a foreign language aspect for 5-8.

Nance asked about the specific job responsibilities. Hegg-Dunne stated the instructor would work with the other teachers to help develop plans and ensure standards are met, similar to an instructional leader.

The candidacy application was submitted and approved. The certification is a 3 or 5 year process to meeting specific requirements. Knobloch asked about the impact for students before and after their Middle School experience. Hegg-Dunne explained both Principal Seney at the High School and Principal Kirby at Davis are excited about this program and the prospect of what this means for students and how these same concepts could be applied to other grade levels.

Superintendent Abrahamson stated the Central Office is 99% moved out. A few pieces of equipment still need to be moved. The city has been notified and our lease ends on June 30th.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

A. Approve Resignation of District #2 Director

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the resignation of District #2 Director.

Motioned carried 4-0.

B. Appoint and Approve Interim Director of District #2

Johnson noted Doug Cameron was the only person who expressed interest.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to appoint Doug Cameron as District #2 Director.

Motioned carried 4-0.

C. Administrative, Department Head and Other Contracts

Johnson stated the data shows a 3.75% increase and also the savings related to reducing the percentage to 3%, 2%, 1% or 0%. Brown asked about the open

positions. Abrahamson stated the Administrators have met previously to discuss the openings and are meeting again next week to finalize.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Knobloch to table the Administrative, Department Head and Other Contracts.

Motioned carried 4-0.

D. Bus Lease

Johnson stated she will contact several banks to obtain the best competitive rate for financing. The lease will be paid out of the PPEL fund.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Nance to approve the Fall 2015 Bus Lease.

Motioned carried 4-0.

E. Instructional Fees

Abrahamson stated we typically increase these every couple of years and it has been a couple of years. These fees cover a small piece of the classroom supplies needed.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Smith to approve the 2015-2016 Instructional Fees.

Motioned carried 4-0.

F. Jester Insurance Contract Renewal

Brown asked about the historical loss ratio. Johnson stated the percent last year was 43%, which is low. The premium was reduced for FY15 and the current ratio with a month and a half to go is at 50%. She stated as the computer's warranty expires we expect those claims to go up and directly impact the loss ratio.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Jester Insurance Contract Renewal.

Motioned carried 4-0.

G. Approve New Math and ELA Curriculum

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the New Math and ELA Curriculum.

Motioned carried 4-0.

H. Approve Pay For It Program

Johnson explained the Pay For It program will replace the current Payschools program. The fees are similar, but it has additional features, including more interaction with the student data system (JMC), and ease of use, as well as payment guarantee. She also stated this will greatly improve the online registration, where the biggest complaint was moving between JMC and Payschools.

The second piece of the program is for electronic Free and Reduced applications. The program will allow people to fill out the application online versus the current required paper application. She stated the program will have to be approved by the state before it can be implemented. The district is wanting to try and implement it mid-year of 2015-2016.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Smith to approve the Pay For It Program Contracts.

Motioned carried 4-0.

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Board Talking Points

Brown noted the Central Office move to the High School. Smith gave a welcome back to the board for Doug. Knobloch stated he is interested in viewing the Administrative structure. Brown asked about the bond survey results so far. Abrahamson stated the district is reaching out to more groups to try to gain more opinions.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Policy Advisory Meeting
Regular Board Meeting

4:00 p.m., June 11, 2015
6:00 p.m., July 8, 2015