

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on July 8, 2015, 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, Doug Cameron, Jeff Knobloch, and Jonathan Nance.

Members Absent: Claire Moisan, Jeff Smith and Carol Wilhelm.

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

Administrators Present: None

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 Knobloch read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

2. Fiduciary Report:

Board Treasurer Johnson stated there were no surprises in either the financials or the bills this month. A large payment for the early retirement benefits for the previous two years was paid. Final payments for 2014-2015 are being made for open enrollments and preschool partners. Soon the final payments for SPED billings will be coming in as well.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Knobloch asked about the responsibilities of the new Central Office Administrative Assistant position. Abrahamson stated this is needed in the Central Office to help with more Human Resources responsibilities due to additional requirements imposed by the Affordable Care Act.

Cameron asked about the SPED Consortium positions. Abrahamson explained the position will be the first of its kind in Iowa. Students with needs from other local districts will attend Grinnell and the costs will be billed back to the resident districts. The district is currently in the process of hiring the people to start this program. He believes 75% of the costs will be billed back to the other district's for their students. Cameron asked if we already have students eligible for the program, and Abrahamson reassured him that there are already more students identified than we have spots for. Nance asked how much risk

there is of hiring these positions and not getting the revenue. Abrahamson stated all the superintendents of local districts have met numerous times and are in agreement regarding shared costs.

- A. Approve/Amend Agenda
- B. Minutes: 6/11/15 Policy Minutes 6/17/15 Minutes
- C. Financials
- D. Claims and Accounts
- E. Personnel:
 - 1. Resignations: Julie Zurcher: Middle school special education teacher; Shannon Fiser: Paraeducator
 - 2. Offerings: Paula Simon: Middle School Student Council; Jerica Latcham: HR/Payroll Specialist; Sarina Shondel: Consortium Center for Success-HS Behavioral Interventionist; Damian Imhoff: Consortium Center for Success-HS Paraeducator; Judy Smith: Administrative Assistant to HR/Payroll Specialist; Jeanine Link: Middle school (7th & 8th grade) music
 - 4. Open Enrollment Out: Jorian Ratcliff: 7th grade to East Marshall

Motion carried 4-0.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Cameron asked when signatures for candidates for the School Board election are due. Abrahamson stated July 30th.

B. Superintendent

Abrahamson stated he shared the survey on the bond issue with the Board. He will be putting together some next steps for facilities planning.

He also stated included in the school board election there will also be a PPEL renewal election. Information is being prepared to educate the public before the election date.

Lastly, Abrahamson commented on the need for increased communication district-wide. He is reshaping a communication plan to provide information to the

public from the District.

President Brown asked about the HS roof replacement. Abrahamson stated they are staging tomorrow and it will be starting on the 13th.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business

A. Worker's Compensation Renewal

Johnson stated the premium is decreasing due to minimal claims in the past couple of years. The current year is looking favorable as well and she expects this trend to continue. This insurance is paid for from the Management Fund.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the Worker's Compensation Renewal.

Motioned carried 4-0.

B. Furniture Purchases

Abrahamson discussed the purchase of regular classroom furniture, explaining that the district makes small purchases year to avoid large expenditures in one year. This year's furniture purchase will include new tables for the Bailey Park cafeteria. These purchases will be paid from the PPEL or SAVE fund.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Cameron to approve the furniture purchases.

Motioned carried 4-0.

C. IASB Legislative Priorities

Brown stated she would like to wait to take action on this item until the whole board can be involved. She asked if any of the wording in the priorities should be changed. Knobloch does not believe school board terms should be reversed back to three years and should remain at the current four years. Brown suggests they discuss these and create the priorities at the upcoming meeting scheduled for July 13, 2015.

D. 2015-16 Activities & Fundraisers

Brown asked about the use of the funds from various fundraisers and activities.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to approve the 2016-16 Activities & Fundraisers list.

Motioned carried 4-0.

8. Board Discussion

A. Facilities

Cameron asked about painting the Central Offices. Abrahamson stated he plans on getting the rooms painted. Brown asked about a more permanent plan.

Abrahamson stated there is a plan, but we need to put out a request for proposal in the fall to encourage more bidders and get some economies of scale.

B. Financials

Brown asked about how financials are looking for the 2014-2015. Johnson stated she is predicting a deficit, but will not have financials completed until late August or mid September.

Abrahamson mentioned there are serious problems with drainage on the baseball and softball fields. He is getting a contractor to come see what the issue is.

Activities Director Coffman is working with the fine arts group on getting a good projector system in the auditorium.

9. Board Talking Points

Brown stated the Closed Sessions are being moved to Monday to allow all the board members to attend.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Nance to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Policy Advisory Meeting

4:00 p.m., July 9, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., August 12, 2015

Policy Advisory Meeting

4:00 p.m., August 13, 2015