

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on August 13, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Community Building 927 4th Ave., Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Jeff Smith, Barbara Brown, Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Knobloch (arrived at 6:55), Claire Moisan, Jonathon Nance, and Carol Wilhelm. Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, Business Manager and Board Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Chris Coffman and Sara Hegg-Dunne

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

President Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Lisa Johnson called the roll. Six members were in attendance. Board member Carol Wilhelm read the district's Mission and Vision Statement.

**2. Fiduciary:**

Wilhelm asked what the abstract cost was for. Abrahamson stated this was for the entire 4th Avenue property. Wilhelm also asked about the Special Education and Open Enrollment payments and whether we were getting receipts from other schools as well. Business Manager Johnson stated the district is getting these same payments from other schools.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Moisan to approve the consent agenda.

Brown asked about any new positions. Abrahamson stated there will be paraprofessional openings due to the numbers coming in from registration. These will be posted on Teach Iowa.

Fisher asked about the procedures used for hiring. Brown asked we discuss this prior to the policy committee spending bringing the updated 400 series to the board.

**A. Approve/Amend Agenda**

**B. Minutes:** Regular Meeting 7/9/14, Special Meeting 7/16/14, Work Session 8/6/14, Policy Committee 8/7/14

**C. Claims and Accounts**

**D. Personnel:**

**1. Resignations:** Cheryl Hull: MS paraeducator; Heather Dillman: HS assistant softball coach; Ryan Hendrickson: HS 9th grade boys basketball coach; Wanda White: HS cook

**2. Offerings:** Terry Morrison: Route driver; Whitney Edgerly: Varsity assistant

volleyball coach; Karen Robbins: Assistant girls swimming coach; Tracy Neighbors: Administrative assistant

- E. Open Enrollments In:** Matthew Schroeder: Kindergarten from Newton; Chad Gillson: 9th grade from BGM; Samantha Wierson: 9th grade from BGM; Abby DeJong: 9th grade from Newton

Motion carried 6-0.

**4. Communication from the Public**

Brown asked about the transportation safety discussion that occurred the end of last year and what changes are in place for this coming year. Abrahamson stated we will have crossing guards with vests outside to help kids cross the streets at the Elementary schools. At the Middle School they are continuing to look at the traffic flow to determine the best options there. The High School will also be looked at this fall.

**5. Communications and Reports**

**A. Board**

Fisher attended a conference with Governor Branstad on Teacher Leadership. Fisher also attended the campaign for reading at the Drake Library, where numerous community members were discussing options to increase literacy within our district.

Principal Coffman discusses the process districts are going through implementing the Teacher Leadership process. Abrahamson stated Principal Coffman and Dean of Students Durbin are leading a teacher group to develop the process for Grinnell.

**B. Superintendent/Curriculum Director**

Coffman presented Needs Assessment results. He discussed what are the characteristics of high performing schools and how Grinnell-Newburg's results compare. Brown asked that the final presentation be posted on the website as well as adding our scientific data to the survey to compare actual results to perception.

Fisher encouraged the district to take a look at our mission, vision and goals for 2014-2015. She believes the mission is too long and it should be known by staff and students. Coffman stated these results are improving and good, but there is still room for improvement. Abrahamson stated we have trouble getting participation and encourages parents/community members to get involved.

Wilhelm asked if there was a better survey option to encourage better participation, such as setting aside time during the school day for student and teachers to complete the survey.

Chris presented the Iowa Assessment data on proficiency in Reading and Math. Moisan asked if the data could be changed to show a graduating class' 3 year scores and not a 3 year history of each grade. Brown asked more details about why we are seeing the scores, and would especially like to see more explanations for changes, particularly drops in scores.

He also presented the MAP data, showing growth and proficiency for both Math and Reading. Moisan noted we need to more clearly define what rigor is and what the expectations are. Knobloch (arrived at 6:55) noted the growth data is important in looking at rigor. Rigor for one student may not be rigorous for another student.

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. 2nd Reading - Policy 302.5 and 302.5E2**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Nance to approve the second reading of Policy 302.5 and 302.5E2.

Motion carried 7-0.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Easement: Right-of-Way Easement**

Abrahamson stated this is a temporary easement until we decide what to do with the 4th Avenue property. The dollar figure is required for a public to private easement.

Motion by Nance, seconded by Knobloch to approve the easement for Miraco.

Motion carried 7-0.

### **B. IASB Legislative Priorities**

The Board discussed their top 5 choices from the given list and decided on:

1. Supports adequate funding to ensure all 4-year-olds have access to a high quality public school preschool program. We should continue to allow 4-year-olds to be included in the enrollment count if those programs can demonstrate meeting the collaboration and quality standards requirements of the statewide voluntary preschool program.
2. Supports predictable and timely state funding to serve students receiving special education services at a level that reflects the actual cost, including educational programming and health care costs.

3. Supports sufficient state revenues to adequately fund public education as Iowa's number one priority. IASB opposes erosion of the existing tax base. IASB supports a full accounting every two years by state government of the costs of all exemptions, credits or deductions for the income tax, sales tax or property tax.
4. Supports the inclusion of drop-out prevention and funding for at-risk students in the foundation formula and the inclusion of socio-economic status as a factor in determining a student's at-risk status. Supports increased flexibility in the use of drop-out prevention and at-risk funding.
5. Supports legislation that provides greater flexibility for school districts to meet changing needs, become more efficient, protect natural resources and save public funds, including support of Home Rule.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Wilhelm to approve the IASB Legislative Priorities.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**C. Board Meeting Calendar**

Smith stated we need to be sure to try and follow timeline for items discussed at board meetings. Abrahamson noted he just confirmed a September 3rd work session at 6:00 with Larry Siegel on a bond campaign.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Brown to approve the IASB Legislative Priorities.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**8. Board Discussion**

**A. Facilities**

Abrahamson stated the city has ended their contract with Hubbell. Todd is bringing a signed copy of the revised purchase agreement to the city tomorrow.

He stated April 7 is the date we would do a bond issue for a building project. February 20 is the latest date to file the detailed petition with the county to reserve the date.

He also met with a teacher group last week to start working on the instructional gains from a consolidation project. They are putting together talking points for the board, parents, and public.

Progress on 4th Avenue continues as some of the grass has been planted on the property. Alfalfa will be planted later this fall. The project will be closed in the next couple of weeks and they will come back later in the fall to plant the Alfalfa.

Abrahamson stated there are some legal disputes on a portion of the property due to back taxes. We are mitigating the issue through the use of our attorneys and working with the county.

**9. Board Talking Points**

Smith stated we need to resolve the 4th Avenue issue. Brown identified the importance of continuing with the 11th Avenue purchase. Wilhelm stated the collection of good data is vital to get good information. Fisher liked the discussion on the academic data.

**Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(a) and 21.5(1)(i):**

To review or discuss records which are required or authorized to be kept confidential.

To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, as that individual has requested a closed session.

Motion to go into closed session by Brown, seconded by Knobloch.

Motion carried 7-0.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Brown, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

**Board Calendar**

Work Session	6:00 p.m., September 3, 2014
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., September 10, 2014
Regular Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., September 24, 2014