

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in Regular Session on August 13, 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, Claire Moisan, and Carol Wilhelm.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance and Jeff Smith.

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

Administrators Present: Jeff Kirby, Kevin Seney, Sarah Seney, and Kym Stein.

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. Five members were in attendance.

2. Fiduciary Bills Summary

There were no comments on the bills.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Abrahamson stated this is the majority of our new hires. There are two additional paraeducators and one 5th grade teacher that will be brought to the board for approval at the next meeting.

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 7/8/15 Minutes 7/9/15 Policy Minutes 7/13/15 Minutes 7/21/15 Policy Minutes 7/31/15 Special Meeting Minutes 8/5/15 Special Meeting Minutes 8/10/15 Facilities Minutes

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Val VanOtegham: Paraeducator; Jennifer Brown: MS Math Instructor; Lisa York: MS Head Cross Country Coach; David Van Arkel: 7th grade boys basketball; Mark Kivett: Freshman girls basketball

2. Offerings: Kymberly Stein: Curriculum Director; Jill Whitham: K-2 Special Education/Title 1 Teacher; Amanda Pearce: Consortium Center

for Success 7-12 Paraprofessional; Mindy Kostow: Consortium Center for Success 6-12 Paraprofessional; Jackie Tielburg: Preschool Paraprofessional; Cheryl Hull: Paraprofessional; Lori Olson: Paraprofessional; Rita Mertens: Paraprofessional; Shantel Nickel: Paraprofessional; Callie Farr: Paraprofessional; Karie Smith: Paraprofessional; Nikki Lown: Paraprofessional; Rebecca Anderson: Paraprofessional; Rance Miner: Paraprofessional; Mary Catherine Wise: Paraprofessional; Callie Austin: Middle School Head Cook; Cynthia Little: Middle School Cook; Samantha Newport: Fall Play Director; Mark Kivett: Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball; Lisa York: Assistant Middle School Cross Country; Bill Gruman: Head Middle School Cross Country; Adam Hoop: HS volunteer football coach; Allan Mann: HS volunteer football coach

3. **Transfers:** Rhonda Weiss: Transferred from MS to BP Paraprofessional; Cindy Dudley: Transfer from Paraprofessional to Davis Cook
4. **Contract Upgrades:** Kelsi Walter: BA to MA; Lori Walker: Generalist to Specialist; Paula Simon: BA to BA+30; Rebecca Flanagan: Generalist to Specialist; Lauren Backlin: BA to BA+15

E. Open Enrollment

1. **In:** Kendyl Levelle: Kindergarten from Newton; Brenton Hefflefinger: 4th grade from Newton; Joshua Hefflefinger: 8th grade from Newton; Natalie Arment: 8th grade from Lynnville-Sully; Nicole Arment: 10th grade from Lynnville-Sully; Madelynn Hutton: 7th grade from South Tama
2. **Open Enrollment Out:** Sarah Callahan: 10th grade to CAM

F. Agreements/Renewals:

1. **Shared ELP Contract**
Abrahamson stated this has not changed from the end of the last year.
2. **Preschool Partner Contracts**
Johnson stated these contracts are basically the same. The funds are allocated based on enrollment in the four community programs. Principal Sarah Seney stated the carryover was discussed and going forward it will be limited to 10% of the annual budget.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

Cameron asked about registration. Abrahamson stated there were not a significant number of people at the on-site registration event. Going forward people can go to the buildings to register if they prefer not to register online.

B. Principals:

1. Jeff Kirby Report

Principal Kirby presented data from the Iowa Assessments in Math, Reading, and Social Studies for Davis Elementary. The District is hovering around the 80-90% proficiency range. He explained that when staff are making decisions they use multiple pieces of information, not just the standardized testing results. Brown asked about what is considered proficient. Kirby stated proficiency is considered based on scoring, which is approximately the 41st percentile. This is similar to what testing has always been.

Wilhelm asked about growth versus proficiency. Kirby said they typically refer to growth over proficiency, but for the students who are not proficient they try to increase the growth at a higher rate in order for them to close the gap on proficiency.

2. Kevin Seney Report

Principal Kevin Seney presented the NSS data and ACT data for the High School on Reading, Math and Science. He discussed the meeting growth objectives and how the growth objective is different for every child. He also presented Graduation statistics as well as statistics on the percent of students that go on to postsecondary education. He noted the discrepancy between what students say they are doing after graduation compared to the percentage of students that actually attend post secondary. There is approximately a 10% difference between the percent whose intentions are to attend postsecondary versus the percent who actually enroll.

6. Old Business

A. IASB Legislative Priorities

The top five priorities for the board were: Mental Health Funding, Funding for Foreign Language Curriculum, Preschool Access, State Penny for School Infrastructure, and Foundation Formula.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to approve the Legislative Priorities

Motion carried 5-0

7. New Business

A. First Reading - 400 Policy Series

Brown stated there were a few updates on informing the board of new positions and transfers.

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Wilhelm to approve the First Reading of the 400 Policy Series.

Motion carried 5-0

B. Consortium Center for Success Agreement Contract

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Cameron to approve the Consortium Center for Success Agreement Contract.

Rod Ball from AEA 267 spoke on his work with Abrahamson and the consortium team, which includes 7 districts (Newton, Montezuma, BGM, HLV, West Marshall, East Marshall and Grinnell-Newburg). All the districts become equal partners. Each student is billed actual costs for the program. Most of the costs are wages and benefits (80-85%).

Wilhelm asked where the students will be housed. Abrahamson stated the Middle School and High School students will be housed at the High School and Elementary program will be housed at Fairview Elementary.

Ball stated the smaller class size, along with the individualized treatment, will help these students succeed. He explained this will be the first program of its kind housed within a school. Wilhelm asked about this being a pilot program. Ball stated he believes other districts will follow suit.

Motion carried 5-0

C. Approve Master Plan and Design for Tennis Courts, District Office Renovation, HS Window and Exterior Panel Replacement, and Phase II of HS Roof Construction

Abrahamson stated the facilities committee met and created a priority list. Adding the HS Windows and Exterior Panel Replacement to the District Office

Renovation will encourage more bids. He noted the approval was to move forward with creating the plan. Wilhelm would like to make sure we are able to split out the pieces.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Moisan to approve the creation of a Master Plan and Design for Tennis Courts, District Office Renovation, HS Window and Exterior Panel Replacement and Phase II of HS Roof.

Motion carried 5-0

D. Revised Bus Lease Prices

Johnson stated this is a change in configuration, not in the total number of buses. Bill Ahrens, Transportation Director stated this completes a 3 year rotation for the entire fleet.

Motion by Moisan, seconded by Knobloch to approve the Bus Lease Purchase.

Motion carried 5-0

8. Board Discussion

Brown spoke about the upcoming school board election and PPEL renewal vote, along with school starting.

Abrahamson stated August 21st will be the All-Staff welcome and invited the board to attend. He also noted the district was using multiple media outlets to promote awareness about the upcoming PPEL renewal vote, including specifics about how PPEL is used.

9. Board Talking Points

Knobloch stated he is in favor of the consortium, but is concerned about the development process.

Motion by Cameron , seconded by Moisan to go into closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(j): To discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the government body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property.

Motion carried 6-0.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Knobloch, seconded by Moisan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Policy Advisory Meeting	3:30 p.m., August 18, 2015
Public Hearing/Special Board Meeting	5:00 p.m., August 28, 2015
Organizational Board Meeting	6:00 p.m., September 9, 2015