

The Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education met in a Special Board Session on September 28, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Grinnell-Newburg Community High School in the District Office, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Members Present: Barbara Brown, Meg Jones Bair, Helen Redmond, Dustin Smith, Jeff Smith, and Stephen Sieck.

Members Absent: Jonathan Nance

Also in attendance at the table: Superintendent Dr. Janet Stutz and Board Treasurer/Secretary Lisa Johnson.

Administrators Present: Principal Sarah Seney and Dean of Students Heidi Durbin.

Jones Bair read the District's Mission and Vision Statements.

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.

2. Fiduciary

Johnson presented the Annual Financial Statement Summaries. She stated the annual deficit for the General Fund in FY16 is \$902,245. This \$174K more than in FY15 and \$137K more than budgeted. The increase from prior year is due to expenses increasing more than revenues. The increase in expenditures year over year is due primarily to an increase in wages and benefits. The variance from budget is due to revenues being less than anticipated. This was primarily due to a reduction in the income surtax revenue. This is due to both a reduction in the surtax rate to help maintain property tax rates, as well as a lower than projected increase in incomes. She then discussed the variances in the various subsets of expenditures.

Johnson then discussed the Activity Fund, stating there was an increase in revenue due to the GNEE piano donation, but the payment did not hit until FY17. There was also a reduction in expenses, due to higher than normal expenses in FY15 due to refinishing of the gymnasium floors.

In the Management fund a deficit was budgeted. The actual deficit was less than projected due to fewer than anticipated retirements.

For the PPEL fund the revenues were significantly higher than budgeted due to the proceeds from the computer lease of \$1.4M. The expenditures were also significantly higher to account for the computer lease purchase.

In the SAVE fund the expenditures came in well under budget due to unknown cost and timing of the payments for building and athletic facility improvements at the time of budgeting. The remaining costs of these projects will be expensed in FY17.

The Debt Service fund came in close to projected. The deficit was planned in order to use the fund balance to make the final debt payments. There is approximately \$100K remaining, which Johnson stated she will later ask the board to approve a resolution to transfer this to PPEL, since all payments have been completed. She is waiting to get a final amount as delinquent property taxes may still be coming in for the next couple of months.

The Nutrition fund finished significantly better than budgeted due higher than anticipated revenues and lower expenditures. The increase in revenues is due to the price increase implemented in December as well as better summer program participation due to the summer reading program. Expenditures were also decreased due to a \$20K reduction in food costs year over year.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by J. Smith to amend the consent agenda to remove Shane Rose from the Transfers.

Motion to amend the consent agenda carried 6-0.

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

A. Approve/Amend Agenda

B. Minutes: 9/14/16 Board Minutes

C. Claims and Accounts

D. Personnel:

1. Resignations: Karla Stewart: MS Play Director

2. Offerings: Josh Wardenburg: Track & Field-Varsity Assistant Coach-Boys

3. Transfers: Cathy Wise: Consortium Para to HS Para (.8); Shane Rose:
Consortium Para (1.0)

4. Upgrades: None

5. **Open Enrollment In:** Skyler Hass: 10th grade from BGM; Jacob Boots: 6th grade from BGM; Logan Hermanstorfer: 5th grade from Newton; Josie Davenport: 9th grade from Tama
6. **Open Enrollment Out:** Bryce Solem: 10th grade to BGM

Motion to approve the consent agenda carried 6-0.

4. Communication from the Public

None

5. Communications and Reports

A. Board

J. Smith welcomed the government class students.

Redmond stated there is a Math Club starting at the MS. Jones Bair thanked the staff and community members who participated in the community forums.

B. Superintendent

1. Community engagement feedback

Dr. Stutz thanked the community members who participated in the community forums. She discussed the main questions the District asked for feedback on. The questions were: 1. How do we know when we reach success? 2. What are the next most important things? 3. What is missing?

Highlights for question one included graduation rates, attendance, test scores, and staff moral. For the second question the highlights included, curriculum development, facilities plan, world languages at lower levels, parent technology training, improved relationships with community and the college, providing before/after school care, and hiring good educators. For the third question, highlights included improved communication (both to community and back to District), considering outside the box thinking, after school and summer programs, mental health services, and collaboration with community organizations. The comments will be posted on the District website.

Sieck asked if the group was representative of the community. Stutz stated there were not enough numbers to represent the entire community's perspective well. She stated we need to continue to find additional way to reach out to other groups in the community.

2. Start of the Year Summary

Stutz stated the Principals have done a great job planning to start off the year. Jan Phifer and Andrea Zhorne received a grant to implement new teaching strategies and will be a test site for the state. Davis is doing an Insect segment for 4th grade, and Iowa State will be bringing insects to the school later this year. There is also a language learner program starting at Davis. The Middle school has numerous clubs and organizations going on. Almost half of the MS students are participating in athletics. At the High School they are focusing on essential learning and understandings. They are looking at engagement, depth of knowledge and technology integration. Conversation on partnering with other Districts on the Welding certificate program. A committee is forming to create a way for people to Celebrate Successes to determine a method to best nominate people (teachers, students, and community members).

6. Old Business

A. Approve Third Reading of Policy 903.5 Distribution of Materials

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to approve the Third Reading of Policy 903.5 Distribution of Materials.

Motion approved 6-0.

7. New Business

A. Approve a Board Representative to GNEE

Jones Bair nominated Brown, Redmond seconded it..

The board approved President Brown as the GNEE Representative 6-0.

B. Approve Official Publication as Grinnell Herald Register

Motion by Redmond, seconded by D. Smith, to approve the Grinnell Herald Register as the Official Publication.

Motion approved 6-0.

C. Approve Board Secretary

J. Smith nominated Johnson, seconded by J. Smith.

The board approved Johnson as the GNEE Representative 6-0.

D. Approve Certified Annual Report

Johnson stated this approving the reports presented in the Fiduciary portion.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to approve the Certified Annual Report.

Motion approved 6-0.

E. Approve Transportation Report

Johnson stated the increase in the cost per mile is due to fuel prices and higher labor costs. She also stated the increase in expenses was offset by a small increase of students being transported led to the decrease in the cost per pupil.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by D. Smith to approve the Transportation Report.

Motion approved 6-0.

F. Approve Special Education Supplement

Johnson stated the additional staffing costs of the consortium for our resident students, along with a reduction of 20 students served, excluding the consortium, contributed to the increase in the SPED deficit. Stutz stated she, with the help of the AEA, will be doing an audit and reviewing all student's' IEP to ensure we are meeting students needs appropriately.

J. Smith asked about the services the students are receiving in the consortium versus sending them to another facility, if there are facilities with openings. Stutz stated noted she has been in the classroom a couple of times and will be monitoring the program throughout the year to ensure students are receiving the enrichment they need. She also stated the Elementary program is not operating this year due to the inability to high a qualified teacher. Sarah Seney stated as students are in the program longer they are working to integrate them into the regular education program as much as possible.

Motion by D. Smith, seconded by Jones Bair to approve the Special Education Supplement.

Motion approved 6-0.

G. Approve Allowable Growth for the Negative Special Education Balance of \$588,203.97.

Johnson stated this is to approve the request to the SBRC for the allowable growth increase of the deficit which provides the District the ability to levy the SPED deficit back in property taxes in the FY18 certified budget.

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by D. Smith to approve the Allowable Growth for the Negative Special Education Balance of \$588,203.97.

Motion approved 6-0.

H. Approve Allowable Costs for LEP Report of \$74,302.75

Johnson stated this is similar to the SPED deficit. It is requesting to the SBRC for the allowable growth and will give the District the ability to levy the LEP costs back in property taxes in the FY18 certified budget.

Motion by Sieck, seconded by Jones Bair to approve the Allowable Costs for LEP Report of \$74,302.75.

Motion approved 6-0.

I. Approve Online Education Library Partnership

Stutz stated she continues to hear requests for research to support decisions and endeavors, and this program would provide such support. Stutz stated this would be for 50 licenses for Administrators and Teachers (Coaches, PLC, and Teacher Leaders), and would come out of the TQ budget. Included in the program are researching opportunities and professional development. There are numerous resources for best practices and implementation. Sieck asked about the annual rate. Stutz stated this an annual license. Jones Bair stated it seemed reasonable for 50 licenses to try it. Brown asked for clarification on the plan for the year and beyond. Stutz stated this would be tried for a year to see if it is successful. Redmond asked about using it in the SIAC committee as well. Stutz stated approximately 40 of the licenses have been reserved, and there are still some that could be used as the District determines who needs them.

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by Redmond to approve the Online Education Library Partnership.

Motion approved 6-0.

J. Approve the Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education 2016-17 Meeting Dates

Stutz stated there may be additional meeting or unneeded meetings may be removed from the calendar.

Motion by Redmond, seconded by Sieck to approve the Grinnell-Newburg Board of Education 2016-2017 Meeting Dates.

Motion approved 6-0.

8. Board Discussion

Redmond asked about getting staff and parents involved in the State wide forums to discuss replacing No Child Left Behind. Stutz stated she was looking into the closest meeting to send people to. Redmond wondered if parents might want to be involved in these meetings. Stutz stated we could look into this.

9. Board Talking Points

J. Smith reminded the board of the upcoming forum in Des Moines. Brown noted the upcoming Homecoming parade. Stutz gave a few parade details for the board.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Jones Bair, seconded by D. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Board Calendar:

Regular Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., October 12, 2016