

Regular Board Meeting December 14, 2015

The Board of Education for USD #291 Grinnell Public Schools met on Monday, December 14, 2015. Attending: Board members Duane Vollbracht, Brian Beckman, Robert Fellhoelter, Julie Dickman, Joyce Baalman and Loren Stephens; Superintendent Mike McDermeit; Clerk Mary Jane Goetz; staff member Les Barnhart.

Meeting called to order by President, Duane Vollbracht at 8:30 a.m. Agenda approved as presented.

Mr. Barnhart reported on technology committee meeting. The teachers are still researching and using the free trial to Brainpop, Jr. Mr. Barnhart has been working on the Windows server 2016 test site that will be released this spring. He has not received word from S&T on internet speed and has not received any formal bids for E-rate. Social studies and science have been added to IXL site for 2nd-5th grade and language arts for 1st grade is on its way. There was discussion on PC or mac computers to purchase for next school year.

Duane Vollbracht and Mr. McDermeit shared information with the board from the KASB convention. The new law called Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) maintains mandated testing of students and allows states to determine how to use test scores to evaluate teachers and schools. Duane reported on the delegate assembly.

Mr. McDermeit went over budget line item percentages in the general fund. Exit lights in the gym have been finished by Hot Wire Electric. The teachers will do an analysis on test results at the January in-service and will also include a presentation on twitter. There was discussion on students accomplishing areas in each grade level before they enter the next grade. Together with USD 292 we will focus on areas to better transition the 5th and 9th grade students. The quiz bowl 7th grade team placed 3rd and 8th grade 1st at the Cheylin meet. The basketball teams continue to do very well. The Christmas program is this evening with a bake sale by GAP.

The minutes of the regular meeting held November 16, 2015 were approved.

Approval of December checks: General Fund \$58,323.98, Supplemental General Fund \$2,991.01, Capital Outlay \$9,240.73, 4 Year Old at Risk \$845.75, K-12 At Risk \$292.12, Food Service \$4,044.32, Professional Development 2,400.00 Special Education \$5,472.43, Federal Funds 2,829.21.

Duane Vollbracht mentioned that Mark Heier invited the board to visit the WHS shop and check out the plasma cutter.

Joyce Baalman's family 'Lubbers' gave money to purchase baby changing tables that will be installed in the lobby bathrooms. The board would like to thank them for their donation. The board discussed a house that is for sale in Grinnell. It was suggested to get an appraisal on the house and we will discuss it at our next meeting. The student council is working on a letter to ask for donations for a new scoreboard. The scoreboard will cost approximately \$3,500 installed. The 7th grade students did a 50/50 raffle at the basketball game in November for the greenhouse. The person that won the raffle from the Ness City area returned the money plus gave the students another \$200 to be used for the greenhouse. The students sent him a thank you.

Mr. McDermeit went over board goals. There was discussion on volume purchasing, daycare, programmable boiler thermostats, and if we teach keyboarding skills in the classroom. Mr. McDermeit will check with the teachers on keyboarding and will inquire on how the daycare works at the Brewster Schools. Concerns for a daycare are requirements, insurance, and finding staff. The board would like to see if there is an interest for someone to run a daycare in the grade school building if no other daycares open up in the community. Mr. McDermeit has visited with American Boiler on programmable thermostats but they have not responded. The board updated goals.

The board accepted a check from the Knights of Columbus for special education. The board thanked the Angelus Knights of Columbus.

The board held one executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel.

The board reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

The board toured the middle school.

Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m.