

## **Regular Board Meeting March 9, 2026**

The Board of Education for USD #291 Grinnell Public Schools met on Monday March 9, 2026. Attending: Board members Todd Losey, Julie Dickman, Brian Beckman, Dusty Taul, Brock Maier, Julie Dickman and Sarah Teeter.; Superintendent Keith Hall; Clerk Elizabeth Rietcheck; and Principal Rebecca Scheck and Guests Leslie Barnhart and Jesse Bauman.

Meeting called to order by President, Brian Beckman at 7:00 p.m.

Board approved agenda as presented.

Jesse Bauman provided an update on the mitigation process with FEMA, including inspection reports and associated mitigation costs.

### **Mold Report**

- The middle school mold report indicated the building is clear.
- Areas of concern were identified for Grade School
- Recommended actions include:
  - Installation of air scrubbers
  - Cabinet removal and washing
  - Cleaning to remove dust
  - Surface treatment for mold
  - Final clearance testing after reconstruction is complete

### **Daycare Discussion**

- Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of daycare returning to the building.
- The likelihood was described as slim, though still possible.
- A loan option through the Hansen Foundation was discussed.
- Alternative daycare option mentioned: possible location in Ruleton.

### **Financing / Mitigation**

- Discussion of a NWKS Innovation Center line of credit.
- FEMA may become involved in the process.

### **Building Updates**

- Grade school progress update provided.
- Middle school:
  - Exhaust fan installation planned that vents to the gym area.
  - Fourth grade room has a leak in the southeast corner.

### **Technology Report:** Presented by Les Barnhart

#### Network Upgrades

- E-Rate funding will be used to upgrade network equipment.
- Building cabling will be upgraded using E-Rate funding with approximately 80% discount.
- Equipment will include Cisco Meraki switching and wireless infrastructure.

- Current network infrastructure dates back to the 2013 one-to-one initiative, requiring replacement of switches and wireless systems.
- Upgrades will include:
  - Improved switches
  - Updated wireless wiring
  - Overall network improvement
  - Addition of phones to the system

#### Bids

- System bids received:
  - \$4,087
  - \$7,500 total package
- Newer equipment options will be available through the proposal.

Motion to approve technology upgrades carried.

#### Phone System

- Current phone system is approximately 29 years old.
- Proposed transition to Voice over IP (VoIP).
- S&T Harmony will:
  - Install the system
  - Provide service and repairs
- Monthly service cost required.
- Contract length: 36 months, after which the system becomes district-owned.

Motion passed

### **Principal's Report: 4th Grade Reading Program**

- Fourth grade participated in a reading bowl challenge requiring a set number of reading weeks.
- Maggie Baalman (kdg) earned the Seal of Literacy on her license.

#### Student Snacks

- Snacks were discussed.

#### Technology Use

- No cameras and video may be used on iPads.
- YouTube and games are not permitted on student devices.

#### Kindness Patrol

- Two students from each class will participate.
- Students will write notes recognizing classmates for acts of kindness.

#### FastBridge Assessment

- Scores are increasing.
- Activity funds may be used to for a bowling party.

#### Classroom iPads

- Discussion of keeping a set number of iPads in classrooms instead of sending them home.

#### **Activities / Facilities**

- Track update:

- Runways for long jump/triple jump may be ready for installation.
- Water line will need to be installed to the football field for tree drip irrigation.

**Consent Agenda Items:** Approval of the regular meeting minutes held February 16, 2026, Approval of checks for March in the amounts of General Fund \$90,440.44, Supplemental General \$11,751.09, 4 Year Old at Risk \$3212.89, K-12 At Risk \$2680.54 Capital Outlay \$43,039.13, Food Service \$8,592.14, Special Education \$15,885.51, Title I, \$1,364.52, REAP \$553.50.

One executive session was held to discuss personnel. Back into session at 10:18 pm

Board approved Principal contract for Rebecca Scheck for the year 27-28.  
Board approved cook contract for Ellie Resendez.

The board discussed options for the Daycare center to be moved back over to Grinnell. Either to bring in a new double wide house or to see about getting them back into the Grade School.

The board briefly discussed purchasing or leasing a shipping container to store all the track equipment for when track season is finished. Elizabeth will call around looking for one. The cement around the fence at the grade school will need to be taken out. Adam Teeter will do that when he is digging up the dirt on the playground.

**Negotiations:** Brian Beckman and Todd Losey will be on the negotiations committee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 pm