

WORK SESSION - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
December 5, 2016

Board President Bob Gunther called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Present were Bob Gunther, Nancy Dressel, Brian Moulton, Marie Colbeth, Patty Schachtner, Katie Thurmes and Courtney Kurkowski.

Protocol Discussion: Dr. Bezek opened the conversation on protocol. There was no discussion from the board.

State Report Card: Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Trish Sheridan, opened the conversation on the State Report Card. Sheridan walked through the priority areas: Student Achievement, Student Growth, Closing Gaps and On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness. High School Principal Chris Moore spoke of the math program and explained Eureka Math. Sheridan reiterated that math has been a topic of conversation at the district for a few years as well as how the needs of all students in math can be met. Moore explained how other districts have seen some decline in their scores as well. Somerset is right on average with other schools in the area/conference. Moore also explained the implementation dip and how this occurs. The amount of class time spent on math at the high school, middle school and elementary were discussed. The amount of time spent on math and the impact of Eureka Math in correlation to results and what can be expected was talked through. The principals and Sheridan answered questions from the board. Schachtner spoke of how to involve parents and celebrate the wins the school does have. Bezek stressed that knowing where the strengths and weaknesses are is key to help plan and get the strategic plan in place.

Strategic Plan Update: Bezek spoke of revisiting the Strategic Plan including Mission, Vision and the Belief Statement. Bezek compared the Somerset Mission Statement, Vision and Belief Statements to that of his past district. There will be a committee to look at this and the work of the past team will be respected. The Strategic Objectives, which are the what of what you are going to do, were discussed. Somerset does not yet have Strategies, how these have been accomplished at past districts was talked through. Bezek also shared and explained Strategic Delimiters and how current practice or tradition should not be allowed to interfere with consideration of new ideas. A planning day for December 15, 2016 is in place to tweak and look at the current strategic plan. Bezek stressed the importance of honoring the work that was done this past summer while having the work wrapped up by May, 2017.

NEOLA: Bezek spoke of an upcoming visit with Stu Waller from NEOLA and how the guidelines will be discussed and policies walked through. Dressel asked about who maintains the records of the guidelines and what the reading process is for this.

France Trip: High School Principal Chris Moore spoke of a request he received from Miss Crawford regarding a trip to France she would like to help facilitate. Crawford spoke on the topic as well as the particulars of the trip. Crawford shared that she used to facilitate and accompany students and community members on these trips in the past. Teaching a community ed class to adults that would like to travel with the group is something Crawford would like explore also. The benefits to the students and community were shared as well as how a collaboration with other teachers could occur. Schachtner asked about the cost and how the opportunity could be made available to students that may not be able to afford it. Dressel asked if policies would have to be changed or updated. Discussion ensued on the topic. Gunther asked for something in writing for the board.

Youth Options: High School Principal Chris Moore stated the cost of Youth Options, in 2009-2010 the costs were approximately \$9-10K. Recently the costs per year for Youth Options range from \$32-39K. Moore explained the jump in costs and contributing factors including the scheduling changes and its impact. Schachtner asked what the minimum requirements for students is to get accepted. High School Counselor, Jenna Evenson explained the process and how the acceptances are made. The impact of College in the Schools on Youth Options was discussed. Schachtner asked if it was reason to get out of school or it is reason to learn and she wondered if we are really working on rigor and what are we doing to push the College in Schools. Moore spoke of the growth in the College in Schools and AP classes. Schachtner asked if we are causing more damage. Moore responded that the state mandates this and guidance can be given to students to encourage AP classes and College in Schools classes versus Youth Options. Schachtner explained how it is looked at from a tax payer perspective. Gunther shared that the students having the opportunity to get acclimated to the college setting was a plus. Dressel would like a comparison and percentages of the costs as well as then comparing this to the benchmark schools. Evenson spoke of how individualized the process is. Schachtner spoke of how this could be a

barrier for students that do not have transportation as well as if students have to sign a waiver as to riding with other students.

Course Offerings: High School Principal Chris Moore presented the draft 2017-18 High School Course Offering booklet to the board. How the needs of all students can be met and how courses can be set to meet these needs was explained. The course areas were talked about and math was a topic that the high school spent much time on. Preparing students for their careers and offering what they need and can benefit from is key. The changes/updates to Engineering, English, FACS, Math, Science and Technology Education courses were explained as well as the costs. Dressel asked about pacing and if Moore had spoken with other schools. The pacing was explained as well as the adjusted rigor for the students. Thurmes asked how these align with the strategic plan when we do not really have one yet. Moore responded that this is being addressed and looked at.

FABLAB: High School Principal Chris Moore shared how the Fablab would look and where it would be located at the high school. The equipment needed as well as current equipment was discussed and how the classes would all correlate. The schools that have Fablabs were talked about and how the Polycom system could be used to share the learning with students using other Fablabs. The cost of purchasing the equipment was shared and how this would be a collaborative effort. The benefits to the community and how the community could use the equipment was presented. A proposal was sent to SMC by the high school and the high school is waiting to hear back. Moore asked for the board to give the ok to submit a grant. Dressel stated that tech ed classes have taken a dip with the schedule change and how would this impact that. Moore explained the students could take the courses through community ed as well as other ways the students could benefit from this. Gunther asked if the application was put in for the grant, would the district have to accept it and be financially liable. Bezek suggested the board give the ok for grant to be submitted.

The next Work Session will be held on January 9, 2017.

Once around the table:

Dressel: Would like to see Benchmark Schools identified so relationships can be built and results looked at.

Moulton: The opportunity for a France trip is appreciated.

Gunther: The video recording is a positive and some minor tweaking can be made.

Kurkowski: Nothing to report.

Schachtner: Mentor meeting at the high school is this week.

Colbeth: excused herself early and was not present for once around the table.

Gunther adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.