

**WORK SESSION - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
October 24, 2016**

Board President Bob Gunther called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

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

Possible change in By-Laws to accommodate Work Sessions: Thurmes recapped a conversation she had with District Administrator, Dr. Mark Bezek in regards to the by-laws to be in compliance with policy. Question on how to change by-laws was asked as was the cost of the service NEOLA provides regarding policy updates. District office staff to follow up on NEOLA costs.

Walk through new Business Meeting Agenda: Gunther discussed how the consent portion of the agenda is in the packet and how it will be available to the public with the new format. The consent piece is now at the end of the agenda, versus the beginning. Dressel stated she felt we are still in the transition process and links will be added so the public can review any and all pieces. Discussion ensued on the topic of salaries being listed as part of the packet as well as what will and will not be included in the new format. The new format of using cards for the public forum was discussed. Board also discussed the policy on donations and the possible clean-up of the policy. Placement of financial reports in the new packet format was discussed, the current placement is ok with it being listed separately as Monthly Financial Reports.

Board Compensation: Thurmes recapped her research on the board compensation topic as well as how neighboring districts pay their board members. Thurmes would like the board to consider a flat fee pay structure for the board. Per the by-laws it needs to be discussed at the next annual meeting. This led to discussion on the annual meeting and how and when it is posted as well as the content in it.

Adding Items to Work Session and Business Meeting agendas: Thurmes asked who creates the work session agendas. Gunther responded that is an effort between him and Dr. Bezek. Gunther stated he does not want to ever say no to items being added to the agendas unless it would lead to a discussion that was not positive. Discussion ensued on who can have items added to meeting agendas.

Budget Referenda Discussion: Dave Gerberding, Director of Business Services and Operations spoke of the budget referenda documents and the signing of them. Gerberding announced the winning bid regarding the cash flow borrowing and explained his follow up conversations with the bond attorney. To recap, the district has a market typical result this year. Also discussed was the absence of a bid from Baird. Gerberding provided a handout to the board of the budget as to how it will be uploaded to Skyward. The DPI tax levy report was walked through as well. Gerberding reported that the deficit is at \$66,055 which has changed from the first amount of \$45,398. Thurmes asked about Fund 38, to which Gerberding responded what it was and what the amounts were used for. Gerberding reiterated the amounts the board will be approving at the Business meeting following the work session on 10/24/16. Thurmes spoke of a binding referendum discussion that took place at the county level. Gerberding spoke of due diligence calls he has been a part of in regards to the district's financial position and referendums as well as Dr. Bezek's thoughts on this.

Colbeth excused herself at 6:50 p.m.

Employee Advisory Committee: Gunther asked of the board's awareness and understanding of this. The board agreed it is a good idea and the employee advisory committee will be brought to fruition.

Digital Sign: Location, Cost, Fundraising: The middle school student council will begin fundraising for a digital sign. The high school student council will assist with the fundraising as well. It was agreed by the board this will help with communication.

Once around the table: Dressel : District Administrator evaluation and adding check in or team building item to the board agenda. Thurmes: provide updates on employee advisory committee and other pertinent topics.

Gerberding added that the board is welcome to contact him if they would like a tour of the buildings.

Dressel moved with second by Thurmes to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Gunther, President

Nancy Dressel, Clerk