

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011
7:30 PM
LEARNING CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM**

President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 8:27 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. Present were board members Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Robert Gunther, Mike Connor, Marie Colbeth, and Marin Hansch.

Cranston moved, with second by Hansch, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Groups or Individuals Wishing to be Heard: Witzmann read the rules for this portion of the meeting. Lorri Baillargeon came forward and stated she wanted to go on record as encouraging the board to consider cutting non-academic areas before the district's class sizes evolve at 27 students or above at each section. She stated that, as a parent, community resident, and teacher of the district, she felt it was more important to have low class sizes than junior high sports, stating that every sport team has a community team as well. She stated that, if extra-curricular sports were eliminated from the middle school budget, the community teams would cover them.

Baillargeon said she prefers dollars to go to classroom teachers rather than paying for kids to play basketball. Witzmann responded stating that fortunately the district has been able to not propose many cuts to the programs, other than the middle school keyboarding program being considered by the district. Witzmann stated he felt the board of education and the administrative team have done a good job creating the preliminary budget as there are few cuts in programs. Baillargeon stated she is concerned that the cuts will not be apparent to taxpayers, and that things will look normal when they are not. Superintendent Rosburg stated that was what the Governor asked schools to do, to balance their budgets without affecting students or taxpayers.

Witzmann stated there will be some visible impact to the taxpayers such as cutting one bus from the daily route, along with looking at other suggestions such as eliminating C-team athletics.

Consent Agenda: Connor moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve hiring of Jessica Thorson as .75 FTE School Psychologist
- B. Approve resignation of Middle School Aide Sandy Nemec
- C. Approve Student Assurance Services Renewal for the 2011-2012 school year
- D. Approve TeacherInsight Agreement Renewal for June 10, 2011 to June 9, 2012

Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to approve the 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget which incorporates the Budget Repair Bill and Budget Bill. Witzmann asked board members if they wanted to go through the budget again this evening, and to keep in mind that the budget is only a preliminary budget.

Cranston asked for clarification regarding Fund 10 in the budget and wanted to know why the area of “staffing/fund compensation changes” were not filled. Rosburg indicate this was because the staffing changes, or moving around of staff, in the budget created a savings in addition to the WRS. Connor asked members to remember this budget is a starting point, and is not set in stone. Connor stated the board asked to have a budget that didn’t affect teachers or layoffs, and the preliminary budget before them is a good start. Cranston was concerned that the board, administrative, and district office budget was only reduced by 7% compared to the other departments budgets that were reduced 15 to 20%. Rosburg stated that the other department budgets have a larger reduction mainly due to the size of the buildings and their utility use. Cranston also stated that the board salaries should also be reduced. Colbeth indicated the percentages of the reductions do not show what those costs, or measures are, and that board members should not get locked up in the percentages without knowing the details. Gunther asked if the transportation reductions included student athletic and activity travel. Rosburg stated yes, that the transportation reductions were all lumped into one category.

Cranston did not know where the department percentage cuts were coming from; she said that—though she has always trusted the administration’s guidance in the past—things are different with the current Governor, and the district needs to be more transparent with where the cuts are to give others a better understanding. Board members agreed they would like to look more closely at the details and have clarity on what those details are. Middle school principal Sara Eichten stated she had conversations with her staff to try to find the best balance where reductions could be made, noting that some items were non-negotiable. Rosburg stated he did not ask the administrators about details as he knows that the administrative staff has done what was asked and have not impacted staff and students with the reductions.

Colbeth stated the preliminary budget gives the district the ability to keep moving forward, but does not lock the district in to hard numbers just yet. She added that having the preliminary budget helps to provide a blueprint for the district and helps the district stay within the law. However, she encouraged board members and others to continue to ask questions if they needed more clarity with regard to the budget reductions.

There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Hansch moved, with second by Colbeth to move to Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1), (c) for the purpose of discussing performance, compensation, and benefit data of administrators, teachers, support staff, and supervisory support staff employees for 2011-2012. On roll call, this motion passed unanimously. Hansch moved, with second by Colbeth to move out of Executive session at 9:49 p.m. On roll call, this motion passed unanimously.

Cranston moved, with second by Connor to Adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk