

MINUTES OF THE 2011 BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
OCTOBER 3, 2011
LEARNING CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

Board members present: Tim Witzmann, Catherine Cranston, Marie Colbeth, Michael Connor, Marin Hansch, and Robert Gunther. Absent: Brian Moulton. Community members present: School Superintendent Randy Rosburg, Shawn Madden, Cherrie Wood, Dave Gerberding, Kathy Brakke, Trisha Sheridan, Donna Eiring, Don McVitty, and Tammie Wishard. Others present: Dave Newman.

School Board President Tim Witzmann called the 2011 Budget Hearing to order at 7:01 p.m. Business Manager David Gerberding briefly reviewed the budget planning calendar along with the 2011-2012 budget process timeline. Gerberding indicated the upcoming year's budget timeline will likely be similar as in past years.

Gerberding went on to review and explain portions of the 2011-12 Summary Budget, including a highlight of Local Sources (Source 200), which Gerberding indicated is primarily made up of tax revenue, and State Sources (Source 600) which is primarily made up of state aid. Gerberding noted the Local Sources are decreasing and the district is one of very few school districts in the state that is predicted to receive equal state aid as last year due to rapidly declining property values. Gerberding also reported on a decrease in district expenditures this year, in line with the Governor's budget. Brakke asked if the district's property values are dropping more than other area districts. Rosburg stated the district's property taxes are dropping due to their rapid and over-increase several years ago. Property values are now "self-correcting" and are valued at about where they were three years ago. There were no other questions and the Budget Hearing was concluded.

Witzmann called the 2011 Annual Meeting to order at 7:18 p.m., explaining the procedures for the meeting, and opened the floor to elect a meeting Chairperson. Rosburg moved, with second by Hansch, to elect Tim Witzmann as Chairperson of the 2011 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Rosburg moved, with second by Connor, to elect Tammie Wishard as Teller of the 2011 Somerset School District Annual Meeting. Motion carried. Witzmann stated last year's annual meeting minutes were provided in the meeting packet as informational since the minutes had been approved at the October, 2010 regular school board meeting.

Rosburg reported on the Business portion of the meeting, starting with the district enrollment report; Rosburg said the enrollment information provided in the packet was generated on September 29th, which showed enrollment of 1,626 students physically in school on that date. The enrollment report indicates student numbers are down slightly than in past years, with the greatest decrease at the Jr. Kindergarten level.

Rosburg went on to briefly report on the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan and its three action strategies, as well as the district's 2011-2012 goal to improve student achievement and the action steps of the goal. The action steps will be reported to the board throughout various times of the year.

State Testing Results were included in the information; Rosburg said Curriculum Director *Trish* Sheridan presented this information to the board at their regular July, 2011 meeting. This information was part of the data retreat session that helped the district decide its goals this year.

Rosburg summarized the report of the 2011-12 Capital Maintenance Projects including the newly remodeled middle school food service area, the replacement of athletic field lights and poles for

safety purposes, annual carpet replacement in various parts of high school, and the repair (with five-year warranty) of the seams on the rubberized roof of the high school.

Brakke moved, with second by Wood, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to acquire real estate during the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried.

Eiring moved, with second by Brakke, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to designate sites for district buildings and provide for the erection of suitable school buildings during the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to direct and provide for the prosecution and defense of legal procedures during the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried.

Wood moved, with second by Eiring, to authorize reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses for travel of Somerset Board of Education members during the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried.

Brakke moved, with second by Gunther, to approve a tentative tax levy of \$5,253,128.00 for the purpose of defraying the operation and maintenance of the public schools for the 2011-2012 school year. The projected mill rate shall be \$12.49 per \$1,000 value. Motion carried.

Colbeth moved, with second by Wishard, to authorize selling tangible personal property belonging to the school district that is no longer needed by the district as determined by the Administration during the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried.

Eiring moved, with second by Brakke, to approve that the Board salaries remain as follows for the 2011-2012 school year: \$2,000.00 for the Board President, \$1,800.00 for the Vice President, the Clerk and the Treasurer, and \$1,500.00 for all other members, and that all committee members will receive an additional \$25 per meeting for attending Special and Committee meetings. Rosburg commented there was no increase, and that board salaries have remained the same for five years. Motion carried.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to hold the 2012 Annual Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. in the Learning Center Conference Room. After some discussion with regard to the timing of the Annual Meeting along with state and federal report deadlines at the end of September each year, Colbeth amended the motion, with second by Connor, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to hold the 2012 Annual Meeting on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. in the Learning Center Conference Room. The change in time to 8:00 p.m. (from previous years' 7:00 p.m.) will allow the board to hold its monthly committee meetings before the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Wood moved, with second by Colbeth, to adjourn the 2011 Somerset School District Annual Meeting at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried