

**SOMERSET BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011
LEARNING CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
7:30 PM**

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Witzmann stated the board will be holding working sessions and special sessions like tonight's meeting throughout the year.

Approval of Agenda: Hansch moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve Agenda Marin moved with second by Marie. Motion carried unanimously.

Groups or Individuals Wishing to be Heard: Witzmann read off rules for this portion of the meeting. No one came forward.

Sarah Welker Resignation: Witzmann moved, with second by Cranston, to approve Sarah Welker's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring Coaching Assignments: Witzmann moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve Spring Coaching Assignments. Motion carried unanimously.

High School Gymnasium Bleacher Motors: Moulton moved, with second by Gunther, to approve BR Bleachers to replace five high school gym bleacher Motors for \$9,375.00. Moulton stated repair is moving forward of the high school gym floor. He indicated the rollers on the bleachers located on east side of the gym have been damaged for a long time. With the floor being repaired, now was the time to repair the rollers to take advantage of the price break. Motion carried unanimously.

Middle School Generator Repair: Moulton moved, with second by Hansch, to approve Titan Energy to repair the middle school generator not to exceed \$5,420.00. Moulton stated this generator provides back up to the middle school for outages and technology servers. The generator is no longer working and needs to be repaired. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Enrollment for 2011-2012: Cranston moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve all Open Enrollment In and Out Applications for the 2011-2012. Cranston said that for many years the district has been denying open enrollment applications due to space constraints, however, this year, with the help of the new Learning Center building and grade-level specific requests, the district has available space for open enrollment and is legally obligated to accept the applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Balancing the 2011-2012 Budget: Board members discussed options for balancing the 2011-2012 Budget while planning for the implementation of the governor's Budget Repair Bill and Budget Bill. Superintendent Rosburg provided a handout of district revenue and expenditures stating administrative staff and board members have been using the document as a working document against the budget repair bill for the past two months.

Rosburg stated that, based on preliminary budget figures, the school district will grapple with a \$296,000 deficit. He said there were many variables involved in balancing the district budget with the budget repair bill and shared "worst case" scenarios which included possible decreases in state aid compared to last year, health and dental insurance co-pay increases, decrease in district department and contract services budgets by 15%, driver's education program elimination, and eliminating one bus route from the 13 routes to 12 routes.

Rosburg went on to say the flip side of the worst case scenario is that the district may be in better financial shape this year compared to last year due to increasing enrollment and declining property values, which indicates the district is a less wealthy district and may have state aid increased. He said the district will not know final state aid certified numbers until the third week in October.

Rosburg then stated that, as a part of the governor's budget repair plan, employee contracts will need to be tweaked to reflect pension requirements, etc, and that employee pay will also need to be addressed. He added that, effective July 1st, all district staff contracts will expire, and asked if the board would like the district to pursue looking at what contracts might look like by July 1st. Rosburg said that, if the district starts work on agreements now, employees may have an idea of what their contracts would look like by June. The district office will work on the contracts and bring back to the Human Resources Committee for discussion and reporting out to the full board. Rosburg indicated the board would be alerted if more committee sessions were needed.

Moulton stressed the importance of keeping the lines of communication open, and asked that committee meeting minutes be shared with all staff throughout this process. Other board members stated they were pleased with the concentrated effort from administrators to keep the budget issues from impacting students and from laying off district staff.

Hopefully by June employees will know what the agreement will look like. RR thinks the work on the handbooks we can start administratively. Will alert Tim to see if we need more committee sessions or if we should just keep going the way we have. Brian wants the line of communication open through this entire process. Layoffs should be last. Mike C said we value our teachers and what we do in our classroom is number one.

Cranston moved, with second by Hansch, to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk