

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
April 18, 2011**

President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. Present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Robert Gunther, Catherine Cranston, Mike Connor, Marie Colbeth, and Marin Hansch.

Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The board interviewed the following seniors with regard to their K-12 educational journey at Somerset Schools: Bailey Breault, Sean Conrad, Monica Emerson, Ryan Jacoby, Matthew Karis, Parker LeMire, Tessa Marty, Jenna Newman, Kevin Socha, and Alexandra Swanson. Questions were provided on a separate handout.

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

The Board of Education recognized Scholar Athletes Ashley Martell, daughter of Bruce and Brenda Martell, and Tom Vanasse, son of Mark Vanasse and Agness Ring. High School Principal Shawn Madden provided some background information regarding the award process for scholar athletes, stating the award goes to the top male and female from the class based on both academics and GPA. Vanasse provided information regarding his involvement in sports and other activities including Forensics and NHS, then introduced his parents. Martell was unavailable to attend. Cranston presented Vanasse with a certificate of recognition, and thanked him for representing Somerset so well.

The board recognized State Forensics participants including Brittney Anderson, Grace Becher, Ontario Belter, Megan Duggan, Gavin Germain, Kayla Hansch, Aminah Henne, Anthony Howe, Abreanna Koller, Carrie Kulibert, Tyler Lindquist, Emilee Martell, Jacob Perkins, Samantha Swanson, Natalie Van Dam, Rachel Verdeja, and Luke Westmoreland. Forensics Advisor Jeanne Germain said the entire team qualified for State with 17 participants in eleven categories. Germain stated Abreanna Koller and Carrie Kulibert received gold medals for a perfect score. Hansch handed out certificates of recognition to the team, stating she appreciated that they represented the district so well.

The Board recognized Kohl Fellowship Recipient, Melanie Germain. Elementary school principal, Cherrie Wood, said she had the honor of accompanying Melanie and her family to Chippewa Falls where Melanie received the Kohl award. Wood stated Germain is extremely knowledgeable of child development, teaching techniques, and management. Intangible is the heart for children and people that she has. Great example is when she received the award, she gave Herb Kohl a hug. Genuine person. Part of what makes her an exceptional person. Melanie said she is also the luckiest person in the world. She gets to work with amazing staff. Has learned so much from team and elementary school staff. Quote about all in God's great kindergarten. We are all growing and changing. Tim presented her with an award and gave background info on how folks are chosen to this selection. Thanked MG for her teaching and making us an outstanding district. Efforts.

Meeting was recessed at: 7:25 p.m., and re-convened at 7:42 p.m.

Cranston moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of March 21, 2011 of the School Board
- B. Approve Minutes of Executive Session of March 21, 2011
- C. Approve Minutes of Special Session of April 4, 2011 of the School Board
- D. Approve payment of March/April Board Bills
- E. Approve resignation for retirement of Susan Oberstar, High School English/Reading Teacher
- F. Approve resignation for retirement of Darlene Kongshaug, High School Mathematics Teacher
- G. Approve resignation for retirement of William Powers, High School Business Teacher
- H. Approve resignation for retirement of Cindy Snegosky, Title 1 Reading Teacher
- I. Approve resignation for retirement of Ann Jauquet, Title 1 Reading Teacher
- J. Approve hiring of Eric Johnston as Long-Term Substitute High School Tech Ed Teacher for the 2010-11 school yr.

- K. Approve discontinuation of the district sponsored drivers' education program effective May 12, 2011
- L. Approve special educ. bus aide for 1.5 hrs. a.m. and 1.5 hrs. p.m. to monitor student issues for the 2010-11 school yr.
- M. Approve Spring 2010-11 coaching/advising assignments
- N. Approve Family Means contract renewal for 3-15-11 through 3-14-2012 for Employee Assistance Program
- O. Approve 2011 Summer School booklet for the 2011 summer school session

Motion carried unanimously.

Pupil Services Director Darren Kern introduced staff members Sonya Stewart, Zach Stephens, Abbie Bohatta, and Mollie Leiser before their presentation regarding Autism. Stewart stated the school district has made some dramatic changes in its program. The nationwide awareness of autism has led to enormous growth in autism cases at Somerset schools. Autism cases continue to grow in the district. Stewart then introduced a parent who has an autistic child in the district's program, stating nearly all of the district's autistic students are mainstreamed into classes. The parent said she felt the school district has done a wonderful job with autism awareness and in education students with autism.

2011-2012 Budget Plan: Superintendent Rosburg stated there are many variables with the Governor's Budget Repair Bill, however, the Legislators believe the information the school district has shared with them is helpful. Efforts the district made in letter writing or testifying have been received well by the Joint Finance Committee. At this time, the district is approximately \$200,000-\$400,000 away from a balanced budget. Rosburg indicated the district continues to work out options and will learn more throughout the summer. Insurance plans are unknown now until budget information is received in May. Administration and department staff are looking at reducing their department budgets by 15%. The district has also received notices of retirements and staffing changes, and will be looking at how those positions will be replaced. Wages will also need to be discussed with the board. One-year employment agreements are now being considered by area school districts as a way to manage their budgets, and Somerset School District is also reviewing this possible option. Rosburg stated that the plan now is not to lay off staff, however, that topic is on the table. Witzmann thanked Rosburg for his active participation in this process and sharing the school's concerns with the Joint Finance Committee.

Board of Education Evaluation Results: Witzmann stated the results and how this tool will be used will be discussed at the annual board retreat. Witzmann then asked board members if there was anything they had reviewed in the evaluation that they would like changed. Some members felt the written out comments should be summed up. Board members stated the evaluation piece should: Clarify questions; comments are the most important piece that comes from the evaluation; review at Annual Board Retreat; create as a 360 degree evaluation to share with the community; and remove the word "Self" from the evaluation. Board members agreed that this tool should be used as a starting point and to meet before the board retreat to agree on strengths and weaknesses. The weaknesses should be reviewed at the retreat to help come out with the district's action plan. Rosburg stated a special session will be scheduled to review the data to bring to the retreat. Rosburg stated administrators are also planning to bring the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan to the board retreat.

Superintendent Report: Rosburg reviewed enrollment numbers, stating they have been static for most of the year. Colbeth would like to see a breakdown of the high school alternative education and virtual education numbers. Rosburg went on to state tentative committee meetings for Monday, May 2nd include Facilities, Business, Human Resources, and Teaching and Learning. A special session is also slated for May 2 to review the budget and subcontracts for the middle school food service project. Rosburg indicated that board officer positions will be discussed at the May meeting and members were to get in touch with Witzmann if they had a special interest in any of the positions. Pea Soup Days will run from June 9-11, 2011. The board stated they are interested in helping out. Rosburg will report back to the board on opportunities to help. The Board/Administration retreat will be held on June 27th. Board members wanted to see a later afternoon time of 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to hold the retreat. Rosburg ended his report by stating he has had conversation with Mr. William Foster of School Perceptions regarding crafting a community survey format for the district. The survey format will be brought before the board to review. The survey will be done on-line and in paper format and will be available in October during parent/teacher conferences. Information regarding the survey will be included in the August school newsletter.

Board Report: *CESA 11 Update:* Cranston stated CESA is hosting a meeting on April 28th for school districts to talk about how they will develop staff handbooks and policies if union contracts are no longer valid. CESA indicated school districts could bring as many people as they want to attend this meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Rosburg stated he will be attending this meeting. Cranston also stated there are now new vendors that have started selling pre-packaged common core standards, and the CESA's are hoping districts will be more cooperative and not purchase these packages. Cranston ended her report stating the STAR academy session will be coming up in River Falls, and that the academy paired down their sessions as they feared staff may not be compensated in their districts to take these classes. *Community & School Involvement:* Some board members attended the Vegas Night event put on by the Somerset Memorial Scholarship Committee at the American Legion.

High School Report was provided as a handout and included information regarding the Student Council Report which stated student council has met to summarize the activities held during the school year and decision making some decisions as to what we want to do next year for activities. Sophomores finished their fundraiser efforts this month. Student Council will be in contact with the eighth grade class shortly to make them aware of the high school process. Principal Madden's report included Student of the Month recognition and recipients Community Involvement: 5th Annual Community Day will be held on Friday, May 13th. Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week, Administrative Professionals' Recognition Day is Wednesday, April 27th. Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is May 2-6th. Prom will be held on Saturday, April 30th. The post prom activities will be held at the New Richmond Area Center (formerly the YMCA). Madden thanked Safeway for donating three busses for transportation for our post prom. The graduation ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 22nd at 1:00 p.m. in the high school gym. Madden asked Witzmann to be present for the Welcome of the Graduates. The alternative graduation ceremony will be held on Monday, May 23rd at 5:00 p.m. Madden asked Rosburg to do the Welcome, and board members Cranston and Connors will help with diplomas for that evening.

Middle School Report was provided as a handout and included information regarding Playground Update and the next fundraiser for Saturday, May 14 at Bristol Ridge where the committee is hosting a golf tournament. On April 7th, sixth graders experienced a simulation of what it would be like to run a business for an entire day at BizTown in Maplewood, MN. The middle school annual Talent Show was held on April 1, with many strong musical and dancing artists this year. Last week was Severe Weather Awareness Week. Final MAP tests of the year will begin at the end of April and conclude on May 12. Upcoming Middle School Events include Doc Adolf Brown on April 28th, Student of the Month Breakfast on May 5th, all middle school field trip to the St. Paul Saints Education Day game on May 6th, spring music concerts May 12th and 17th, Hoops for Heart on May 13th, and World Day Celebration from 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. on May 20th.

Elementary School Report was provided as a handout and included information regarding staff development at CESA 11 on new common core standards. Tornado/Severe Weather Awareness week, April 21st 4th grade music program, April 29th Earth Day activities including planting of Colorado Blue Spruce trees, music department 4th grade student transition dates of April 25th –May 2nd, Career Fair on May 13th, where numerous community members will be involved, and the Somerset Fire/Rescue team will be spending the day with students on May 17th where they will provide some basic CPR training to the 3rd and 4th grade students. They will also do safety presentations to the Early Childhood, Junior Kindergarten and 2nd grade students.

Business Services & Operations Report was provided in the packet and included the monthly and cash flow reports.

Pupil Services Report was provided as a handout and included information regarding Special Education and the success of Child Development Day which is held in the fall and spring of each year as part of our child find obligations, on April 14, 2011 the Somerset Middle School hosted the "Early Childhood Family Carnival Night," a free event for any family in St. Croix County with children ages birth to eight. Regarding the Strategic Plan, Kern's report indicated work has been finished on the plan and the committee will be putting the final touches on the plan to be brought before the Board for final approval. The plan consists of 3 strategy areas including Learning and Innovation Skills, Information, Media, and Technology Skills, and Life and Career Skills, as well as 12 action plans under each of the strategy areas. In the area of Gifted & Talented, 5th grade GT students continue

advanced research and study through GT's open lab on prairie living, 6th grade teachers and students are collaborating together with GT for continued advanced reading opportunities and the Science Invention Fair projects. Seventh and 8th grade students have unanimously embraced the Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake research project where they are creating informational poster collages to be displayed seasonally.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report was provided as a handout and included information regarding the continued roll-out of the new Common Core State Standards. Elementary staff came together on April 1st to review the English/Language Arts Standards. Teams moved through activities to observe the progressive levels of sophistication of the standards, the importance of informational text and the K-5 foundational skills across the CCR Categories. The Performance Series adaptive assessment pilot is going well with teachers reporting the ease of using the wireless computers to administer the test. Other positive feedback includes the readability of the reports, understanding the data and grouping students aligned to their academic needs. The IT department reports that adding teachers and students is a simple process which saves time for all. Teachers will be administering the test one more time and will gather to evaluate all components of the assessment.

Teaching and Learning

Cranston moved, with second by Hansch to approve Tuesday, June 7, 2011, as make-up day, without students, for teachers for March 23, 2011, inclement weather day, and also approve building principals coordinating make-up time, without students, for support staff between April 19 and June 3, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Installment and Oath of Office was given to re-elected board members Marie Colbeth and Robert Gunther.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk