

REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
August 16, 2010

President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Present were board members Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Mike Connor, Marie Colbeth, and Marin Hansch. Board members Catherine Cranston and Robert Gunther were absent.

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

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

Positive Recognition

The school board recognized Somerset School District maintenance and custodial employees. Superintendent Rosburg stated that the district has three well-maintained building facilities due to the dedication of the district's maintenance and custodial staff. He added that the district's maintenance and custodial staff are quality people that take pride in their work and in the buildings. Rosburg said the district's maintenance and custodial staff also interact very well with students, staff, and parents. Administrators frequently receive compliments from the community regarding the quality of the staff and their work. The building principals also shared their praise of the maintenance and custodial staff, and Witzmann presented each of the staff with a certificate of appreciation and thanked them for their hard work.

Meeting was recessed at 7:09 p.m. and reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of July 19, 2010
- B. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of August 2, 2010
- C. Approve payment of July/August Board Bills
- D. Approve resignation of Cindy Leonard, Elementary School Bilingual Aide
- E. Approve resignation of Gregg Eldred, Director of Programs/Athletic Director
- F. Approve hiring of William Roll, Director of Programs/Athletic Director, for the 2010-11 school year
- G. Approve hiring of Grady Radabaugh, PK – 12th Grade Physical Educ. Teacher, for the 2010-11 school year
- H. Approve hiring of Jeanne Germain, High School Speech/Journalism Teacher for the 2010-11 school year
- I. Approve hiring of Lora Sorenson, Long-Term ASL Teacher for the 2010-11 school year
- J. Approve preliminary notice of non-renewal of Lora Sorenson, Long-Term ASL Teacher for the 2010-11 school year
- K. Approve hiring of Kari Madden, Kdgn – 4th Grade Special Education Teacher for the 2010-11 school year
- L. Approve hiring of Pamela Bump, Noon Lunch/Recess Supervisor for the 2010-11 school year
- M. Approve hiring of Julie Johnson, Noon Lunch/Recess Supervisor for the 2010-11 school year
- N. Approve hiring of Megan Carlson-Formo, Jr. Kdgn Aide, Noon Lunch/Recess Supvsr for 2010-11 school year
- O. Approve hiring of Christine Leyden, Elementary/Middle School Spec Educ. Aide for the 2010-11 school year
- P. Approve hiring of Kristina Ballard, 1:1 Elementary School Special Educ. Aide for the 2010-11 school year
- Q. Approve hiring of Robin Knudtson, 1:1 Middle School Special Education Aide for the 2010-11 school year
- R. Approve Denise Siggins, Elementary School Special Education Aide for the 2010-11 school year
- S. Approve hiring of Tyler LaVenture, Morning/Afternoon School Crossing Guard for the 2010-11 school year
- T. Approve hiring of Julie Schultz, Morning/Afternoon School Crossing Guard for the 2010-11 school year
- U. Approve hiring of Kelly Walczak as High School Family & Consumer Ed Teacher for 2010-11 school year
- V. Approve hiring of Mary Perrizo-Peterson as ES/HS Art Teacher for the 2010-11 school year
- W. Approve hiring of Stacey Ramacker as High School Special Education Aide for the 2010-11 school year
- X. Approve 2010-2011 Coaching/Extra Curricular Assignments
- Y. Approve Youth Services Bureau, Inc. Agreement for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion
Governance Committee

BOE Evaluation Instrument and Process: Connor recapped the committee's discussion regarding three tool options for self-evaluation which the board may consider to evaluate itself. Connor said the committee did not come to any specific conclusions as they wanted input from the full board. Witzmann would like to get feedback from more than just the board; he would like feedback from community and staff members as well. Connor stated he liked the electronic evaluation tool such as SurveyMonkey. Board members agreed this is a valuable tool as long as people have access to the internet. Board members would like the evaluation tool to be submitted to community members such as those that were in attendance at last year's Big Idea meeting.

Reports for Decision Making: Governance Committee will continue their review for protocol in requesting reports in a timely manner to enable the board to have more input in district decision making.

Teaching and Learning Committee

Student Achievement: Cranston was unavailable to report, however, the committee reviewed information provided regarding student testing and discussed time needed for change to show achievement progress. Board members felt the information could be reviewed during another Big Idea meeting to share student achievement data with community members.

Information

Superintendent Rosburg reviewed the past year's enrollment summary and current enrollment, cautioning members about the variability in numbers as some families are still enrolling and some are still withdrawing. Board agreed to hold September committee meetings on September 13, 2010, due to the Labor Day Holiday. Rosburg stated possible committee meetings in September include Governance and Facilities. The Board also agreed to move the October meeting back one week to Monday, October 25, 2010 to allow for budget preparation. Rosburg stated the district's Annual Meeting will be held on October 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and is hoping to have the meeting in the new district building. Rosburg ended his report summarizing the new building construction and it's near completion.

Board Report

CESA 11 Update: Cranston was unavailable to report. *Community Involvement:* Nothing new to share at this time. *Board Liaisons:* Board members received information regarding upcoming events. Witzmann encouraged school liaisons to attend.

Manager of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Report: Manager Trisha Sheridan reported that the transition of this position continues to go very well. She said district staff recently completed SmartBoard training with 58 staff members participating in the process. She indicated the CMS training (web site) was the most popular session with staff. Sheridan reported on mentor and mentee meetings taking place this week with 23 new staff members participating. Sheridan also reported that the elementary school's Assessment Committee will meet to review standardized assessments. The committee will look a bit deeper at assessment data to determine how the district can make positive changes in student achievement.

High School Report: Principal Shawn Madden reported that staff is looking forward to working with ten new instructors and two new aides at the high school this school year. With the recent retirements of several long-time teachers, many changes have been made in activity assignments, and Madden reported on which staff members will undertake those assignments. Madden said Alternative Education instructor Mr. Steffek will continue his communications with students and parents regarding building accommodations until the new learning center is ready for move in. Madden also reported on this year's Character Education criteria, stating all students will receive a "Knowledge is Power" message bracelet the first day of school in addition to agendas which will have information focusing on health, wellness and employability skills. Fall sports are underway, and Madden said he is looking forward to another good school year.

Middle School Report: Principal Sara Eichten reported that the middle school is completing many summer building projects including the recent library remodeling. Open House letters went out to students and parents

today. Eichten stated that—though it is early in the process—more students have enrolled in the middle school than withdrawn this year, with an increase of approximately 40 students from last year.

Elementary School Report: Principal Cherrie Wood stated staff is excited and ready for school to start. She said the elementary school will begin this year with 15 new staff. Wood said elementary staff enjoyed participating in SmartBoard training and being part of teams. Open House letters were mailed last week to parents. Jr. Kindergarten teachers met with Wood to discuss activities they will be doing due to the new building not being ready to open for 17 days of the start of the school year. She said there will be a variety of activities teachers will have to accommodate students the get to know their teachers and classmates while transitioning to the new building. Wood also reported that the district's emergency procedure manual is being reviewed with various staff and community members working on the manual including the Somerset Fire Chief.

Business Services & Operations Report: Director Avery was unable to attend tonight's meeting, however, Rosburg summarized the monthly and cash flow reports, and talked about the resolution process and action needed from the board tonight for that process to continued.

Pupil Services Report: Director Darren Kern reported the first meeting of the new Strategic Plan, which he will be managing during the process, will be held on September 9, 2010. The meeting will be the jumping off point to begin discussion about shaping the school district for next five years. In the area of Special Education, Kern provided an update on the Autism program and its impact on the district. Kern said the district has been recognized statewide for its successful work with autism, and the district is frequently referred to parents by doctors because of its success with students with Autism. Hansch asked what makes the Somerset School District so attractive to parents of students with Autism. Kern stated the district meets the "13 evidence-based practices" of Autism, and will provide a report of what those practices are at the next meeting. Kern went on to report on space and accommodations for special education department needs, indicating that—although very crowded—teachers are currently being grouped at the high school until the new learning center is open and they can move into their new space in the existing district office. Kern ended his report stating the district completed its ELL reporting requirements last year and the report was recently approved by DPI, so things are going very well in that area.

Action

Moulton moved, with second by Hansch, to approve the following: 1) 2010-11 Elementary, Middle and High School Student Handbooks; 2) 2010-11 Elementary, Middle and High School Teacher Handbooks, and; 3) Approve 2010-11 District Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Connor moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve the following: 1) Transportation Policy EEACC-R; 2) Grade Promotion Policy IKEA; 3) Alternative Education Program Policy IGBH, and 4) Anti Bully Policy. Colbeth stated the cyber bullying policy was added by the school district as required by the state. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to approve a Resolution Ratifying an Application for a \$1,000,000 State Trust Fund Loan from and the Issuance of Certificates of Indebtedness to the State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, and Making Certain Covenants Relating to the Qualified School Construction Bond Program. Avery stated this motion involves the final borrowing piece. Part of stimulus package geared toward school districts. He said this resolution allows the district to borrow at no cost to the district, and pay the loan back through operating dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Witzmann, with second by Connor, to appoint Brian Moulton as district clerk so that he may sign the Resolution on behalf of the Board Clerk due to her absence. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Hansch, to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk