

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
August 17, 2009**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Marie Colbeth, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch. Absent were Mike Connor and Catherine Cranston.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard**

Witzmann read off the rules of this portion of the meeting. No one came forward.

**Positive Recognition**

*School District Maintenance and I.S.S. Employees:* Rosburg stated the recent transition of maintenance contracts was a smooth transition; he has received many good comments from people about how well maintained the school buildings are. Rosburg said the maintenance and custodial people cooperate and work together well. High School Principal Shawn Madden thanked the high school crew for their tremendous job and good ideas for enhancements and improvements. Middle School Principal Rick Lange said the middle school crew does an excellent job. He said this year was the first year the middle school has had contracted custodial staff and it has gone well, with teachers appreciating all their help. Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood thanked the elementary crew for doing a wonderful job, stating their building has never looked better. She said the crew works without complaining, and the teachers are very appreciative of their efforts. Rosburg then introduced ISS manager and supervisor Julie Lynch.

Witzmann recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

Colbeth moved, with second by Hansch, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of July 20, 2009
- B. Approve payment of July/August Board Bills
- C. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Denise Siggens
- D. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Kathleen Yager
- E. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Angie Sporleder
- F. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Lesley Pankonien
- G. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Janice Osterhues
- H. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Robin Knudtson
- I. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Kristina Ballard
- J. Approve notice of nonrenewal for Lora Sorenson
- K. Approve hiring of Jeanne Germain as high school Speech/Journalism teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- L. Approve hiring of Kari Madden as elem school Special Education teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- M. Approve hiring of John Schultz as high school special ed/alternative ed aide for 2009-2010 school year
- N. Approve hiring of Jamie Koscinski as middle/elem school special ed aide for the 2009-2010 school year
- O. Approve resignation of Special Ed Aide/Alternative Ed Aide Erin L. Baillargeon
- P. Approve recommendation to decrease Lisa Hohler, elementary school office aide hours from 7.5 to 6.25
- Q. Approve Fall 2009-2010 Coaching and Advising Assignments
- R. Approve 2009-2010 A'viands Food Service Contract

**Discussion from Business Services Committee:**

*2009-2010 Preliminary Budget Variables, Levy History and Options:* Colbeth said there were many variables discussed regarding the budget, and hoped the board could come up with alternatives and options that everyone can discuss. Avery reviewed some of the budget issues as a result of recent state budget changes. Avery said the Business Service Committee is evaluating how the district can address that shift by reducing the budget as opposed to shifting the burden on tax payers. Avery indicated student enrollment will have an impact on the budget as well, but the district won't know until mid-September and mid October with equalization aid. Avery said he will present preliminary budget from June at the September Annual Meeting.

### **Discussion from Facilities Committee**

*Renewable Energy (Geothermal, Hot Water Solar):* Moulton said Harty Mechanical was present at the Facilities Committee meeting where they provided information on renewable energy. Harty will also provide a no-cost preliminary feasibility study, which will help to determine savings and payback based on existing equipment and usage at the middle school.

*Capital Maintenance Projects:* Avery said what was shared at the Facilities Committee meeting was an updated list of incomplete projects from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. He said the list will be brought back for further discussion and a future Facilities Committee meeting.

### **Information**

The superintendent reviewed information on enrollment numbers, stating the numbers listed represent an estimate of current enrollment. The third Friday count will be taken on September 18, which will be the official student count. September Committee meetings to be held on Monday, August 31 (different dates than normal because of the Labor Day Holiday) include Teaching and Learning Committee at 5:30 p.m. and the Facilities Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. The board agreed to hold the committee meetings on Monday, August 31, 2009. Rosburg then asked that the October Board of Education meeting be moved back one week to Monday, October 26, 2009, to give the district's business office additional time for budget preparation. The board agreed to move back the regular meeting date to October 26, 2009. Rosburg also reminded members the Annual Meeting will take place on September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School IMC.

### **Board Report**

*CESA II Board Update:* There was no update as Cranston was unavailable this evening.

*Community Involvement:* Witzmann stated there have been a few community happenings such as the recent Seibel Golf Tournament which had many community members on hand.

*Board Liaisons:* Because school has not yet started there was nothing to report from liaisons at this time.

### **Curriculum and Instruction Report**

Ron Berg, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, was unable to be in attendance but will have an update for the board at the next board of education meeting.

### **Elementary School Principal Report**

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood indicated there was a good size Junior Kindergarten class again this year, and that--with current enrollment numbers-- there will be 28 students per each class of the four sections. She said the first few days of school will be spent developing routines with all students. She said the elementary students' first day back will be September 1<sup>st</sup> with the rest of the Somerset schools.

### **High School Principal Report**

Madden reviewed current enrollment numbers and sections at the high school. Madden told the board that the "Six Pillars of Character Education" was included in packet, and this information is what high school teachers will be using for nominating students for the high school's "Student of the Month" program. Madden provided members with ergonomically green and healthy backpacks and water bottles as symbols of the continuing wellness program at the district. Fall high school sports are underway, and Madden wished them a successful season.

### **Middle School Principal Report**

Lange reviewed current enrollment numbers and sections at the middle school, stating there are now five sections in all four middle school grades. He said staff have not yet had to make any changes in accommodations in terms of class sizes, but that 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be a bit larger this year. He said the 4<sup>th</sup> graders coming in next year will be quite a bit larger. Lange stated the middle school Open House is set for August 26<sup>th</sup>, and there will be grade level meetings with parents and students every hour throughout the night. Lange also stated that, as part of the staff in-service day in August, and as part of the community involvement goal, some staff will be touring the Somerset community and will be stopping at various Somerset businesses including Preco and the Big Bad Toy Store. Lange stated this tour

will work well with community partnerships, and is a way to connect staff with community organizations.

**Business Manager Report**

Business Manager Robert Avery reported on transportation routes that about to be finalized. He said the business office was able to reduce one of regular education bus routes. Information will be mailed out this week to families in the Somerset Meadows residential development to confirm the development is now part of the walking area as, with the development of the district's north access road, it is within the mile limitation in board policy. Avery also reviewed the Cash Flow & Budget Report with members.

**Pupil Services Update**

Pupil Services Director Darren Kern said tonight's board packet included a new format for reporting special education, ELL and G/T numbers, as requested by the board. Kern then went on to state that lack of space in the elementary school and high school has caused a challenge for the Pupil Services Department to find appropriate special education classroom space. He stated that a small space in the elementary library is now being used for a special education class, noting this is not an ideal situation for those students. Kern stated that the high school has very large special education case loads starting out this year, and stated the scenario is similar to the elementary school, in that--even if the district was to add a special education teacher--there is no adequate space in the high school building to accommodate another special education classroom. Kern wanted to be sure the board was alerted to the space concerns for special education classrooms as school gets underway.

**Action**

Witzmann stated this was the second reading of the school handbooks, and that there being no further discussion on them, he felt they should all be approved at the same time. Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the 2009-10 High School Teacher Handbook; the 2009-10 Middle School Teacher Handbook; the 2009-10 Elementary School Teacher Handbook; and the 2009-10 District Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Hansch, to approve Standards-Based Report Cards. Motion carried unanimously.

Moulton moved, with second by Gunther, to approve Elementary School Trimesters vs. Quarters. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk