

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL IMC  
August 18, 2008**

The Somerset Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:03 p.m. President Witzmann reminded the board the meeting had been called to order in Executive Session. Colbeth moved, with second by Germain, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Brad and Sandy Nemeč were recognized for their work with the Somerset Summer School Program. Rosburg said the summer school program had another successful summer with the largest number of student participation to date. He commended the Nemeč's on the success and popularity of the program. Rosburg felt this was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the Nemeč's for all their hard work with the program, stating they have been running the program for 21 years. Witzmann agreed that the summer school program is very well run and offers great opportunities for students. Board member Germain presented Brad and Sandy with certificates thanking them for their work, stating the board is very appreciative of the service they provide to the community.

Michael Connor was recognized for his upcoming induction into the Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame on September 6, 2008. Rosburg stated the New Richmond News had a nice article regarding Connor's induction. Rosburg said Connor is well known and well recognized for his accomplishments throughout the state; he is very thoughtful about kids and his service to the board, and is very deserving of this recognition. Mike thanked the board members and gave a brief history of how he came to live in Wisconsin and becoming involved with hockey and the school board. Board member Colbeth presented Mike with a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for all his hard work for the community.

Meeting was recessed at 7:12 p.m. Meeting was reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by Germain, with second by Colbeth, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of July 21, 2008 of the School Board
- Approve payment of July/August Board Bills
- Approval of Resignation of ES Spec Ed Teacher Brian Lundgren
- Approval of Darren Kern, Director of Pupil Services
- Approval of Jeanne Germain, Speech and Journalism Teacher, for the 2008-09 School Year
- Approval of Denise Siggins, Junior Kindergarten Aide, for the 2008-09 School Year
- Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Denise Siggins
- Approval of Kathleen Yager, Junior Kindergarten Aide, for the 2008-09 School Year
- Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Kathleen Yager
- Approval of Graduation Date of Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the High School Gymnasium
- Approval of Alternative Education Graduation Date of Monday, June 8, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Germain presented on behalf of the Governance Committee regarding student volunteerism, stating the committee sent the policy back to the high school principal to change the policy wording from "volunteer" to "community service." High School Principal Shawn Madden will include the changes in the policy and bring it back to the board for further review and approval. Germain stated the Governance Committee also reviewed the co-curricular placement within the committee structure. She said the committee recommended to pull it from Governance and for future review by the Human Resources Committee.

Superintendent Rosburg reported on current enrollment numbers, stating numbers continue to vary with families moving in and out of the area. He said the school district's Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School IMC. The meeting will be posted in the local paper per requirements. Rosburg also stated upcoming committee meetings tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 2, 2008 include the Business Services Committee at 5:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room. Rosburg reported the district received a check for

\$9,024.00 from Focus on Energy as a rebate on the high school chiller. He said the board meeting for October was moved back one week to October 27, 2008, due to budget and audit certification.

Witzmann stated board member Cranston was unable to be on hand to report on the CESA 11 update this month. He reported, however, on board community involvement, stating a Somerset Basketball Association golf tournament was slated for Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. He thought it would be a good opportunity for members to get together with the community. Witzmann reminded members to inform the board when they become aware of community events throughout the district.

Business Manager Bob Avery summarized the Cash Flow and Budget Report, stating he felt the recent audit went well. Avery brought the board's attention to the budget comparison document, informing them how the document compares with what the district's budget looked like at the beginning of year and how it currently stands. He said the numbers may change as the auditors make their final adjustment entries.

Avery also reported on the district's lunch program, stating he has researched lunch accounts after noticing the district had many outstanding lunch balances. He said the district is looking at implementing strategies to effectively cut off accounts without taking food away from students until lunch balances are paid. Avery stated communication efforts are underway with families to receive payment to the district. He said the district will start working with a state "direct certification" program which is a program that informs the district which families automatically qualify for free or reduced lunch fees. Avery said the certification program has a direct impact on state monies the district receives. Avery also stated that the district will no longer allow families' lunch balances to become negative balances. Colbeth stated that she would like to see families receive written statements of what is owed; she felt it may be too easy for people to forget the automatic phone messages they receive as payment reminders. Witzmann stated he appreciated the thought process and options Avery has for handling the situation.

Avery then provided some background on the district's energy management contract and is looking at ways to save money in this area. He will be working with well-qualified CESA 10 staff who will inform the district of how it's doing with energy savings efforts. Bob finished his report stating that the district received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army with regard to recent donations provided by the high school's FACE students. The Salvation Army was very appreciative of their efforts.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Ron Berg provided a curriculum update. Berg reported that, in conjunction with a three-year CME grant, course movement has occurred at the high school level to cross reference courses such as Physics and Algebra with real world examples to enhance the courses to have more real-world influence. Training has occurred throughout the summer for staff with regard to SmartBoard technology. Berg stated over half of the district staff have been trained during the summer on SmartBoard use, and thanked the board for their support. Mentors have been assigned to six new teachers. Twelve dates have been scheduled throughout the 2008-2009 school year for staff development. Berg stated he was excited that the school district will be able to offer staff development to support staff this year. Witzmann asked to see the staff development plan in the September board packet. Berg went on to report that Junior and Senior ACT results were in, and he will be compiling an article for the local newspaper regarding those results.

Rosburg reported for High School Principal Shawn Madden. Witzmann stated his concerns with high school students being unable to log into the new STI software to see their schedules and will not be able to see schedules until the Open House. He felt this may burden the high school guidance staff with short notice for assisting students. Rosburg stated the program was newly web-based, but that student schedules were based on their selection of courses last school year. Witzmann stated the students were unable to use their former passwords to get into the program; Rosburg said he will look into why students were having difficulty with their passwords. He stated high school guidance counselors are working this week assisting students with scheduling concerns. Colbeth stated she would like to see students receive passwords earlier so they can see their schedules earlier.

Middle School Principal Lange said he is doing the scheduling right now for middle school students, and that it is an ongoing process; however, Lange stated he receives phone calls almost daily from middle school students stating they looked at their schedule on-line one day, and the next day it was changed. He said the schedule viewing feature was shut down to avoid confusion with schedules while they were still being made. Lange also stated the district was limited to the timeline of when the software provider could make the switch to the web based program. Lange went on to report that the middle school's Open House is set for August 27<sup>th</sup>, where the school will be hosting grade-level meetings three times during the evening. Teachers will be available to meet with parents and students in between those meetings. Building construction continues at the middle school, with the contractor planning to complete the work before the start of school. Lange stated the new Maintenance Experts custodians are working out well.

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood stated the elementary building has been cleaned and halls and classrooms look great. SmartBoards are being installed and they are hoping installation will be completed by the middle of next week. Teachers are excited to come back, and some have been at school for Responsive Classroom training. A new sand pit has been installed in the playground for student creativity. The Welcome Back session will be held on the first day of school to accommodate parents to allow for more time to meet with teachers to receive important student paperwork such as emergency contacts and health information as soon as possible. A traditional Welcome Back night will be held on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for those families who are unable to attend the day session. Wood stated over 700 elementary students will be starting the school year, with more new families enrolling daily. In addition to the expanded Welcome Back session, the elementary school will be expanding parent teacher conferences this year to include two nights and a morning. Parents will be surveyed to see if the new accommodations have worked out for them. Witzmann agreed the district should look at additional conference options, especially with the increasing enrollment at the elementary level. Wood stated she spoke with five families who were unhappy with the Welcome Back schedule, but said she has also talked with many more families who understand the purpose of the change, and feel comfortable with it. Traffic is also an issue, especially with the first few days of school. Wood introduced parent volunteer Tom Walters, who helps to direct traffic during the first several days of the school year. Witzmann thanked Walters on behalf of the board for volunteering his time. Witzmann wished all the principals and administrators good luck for the first day of school.

Germain stated the Teaching & Learning Committee reviewed the district handbooks for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. Germain motioned, with second by Colbeth, to approve the 2008-09 High School Teacher Handbook, the 2008-09 Middle School Teacher Handbook, the 2008-09 Elementary School Teacher Handbook, and the 2008-09 District Student Handbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Rosburg gave a brief background regarding the St. Croix County Truancy Policy and Procedures Committee, stating every fourth year the largest school district in the county is charged with hosting a county truancy policy. This year the Hudson School District Superintendent asked that all county school districts approve a blanket policy for all schools to follow throughout the county. Local school districts' truancy policies remain in line with the county's policies. Governance committee reviewed. Motion by Germain, with second by Colbeth, to approve the St. Croix County Truancy Policy and Procedures. Motion passed unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Germain, to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Motion passed.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk