

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
December 19, 2011**

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

Hansch moved, with second by Gunther, to move to Executive Session in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1), (c) for the purpose of discussing compensation, employment, contract, and benefit data of an employee.

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

Positive Recognition: The board recognized Somerset Elementary Principal Cherrie Wood, who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Rosburg stated Wood has provided nine years of quality service to the elementary school and district, and gave a brief background of Wood's career in education. Rosburg stated the elementary building and population has grown under Wood's leadership. Elementary students have also transitioned from traditional learning to learning with various technology devices. Wood is also the district's emergency management team leader and has done a great job keeping the district up to date with emergency management plan procedures. Witzmann presented Wood with a certificate of appreciation and thanked her for her service.

Meeting was recessed at 7:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Somerset Middle School choir instructor Rachel Erickson brought in several students to present the newest music class at the middle school. The class teaches guitar lessons and is a new part of the music curriculum. Erickson stated the music department looked at curriculum holes that needed to be filled, and felt the guitar class would be a good fit. Erickson herself recently learned guitar through a course for instructors in Waunakee. Erickson stated the benefits of the class for students include enforcement of reading and hearing skills, as well as learning a life-long skill. The board thanked the guitar students for the mini concert.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of November 21, 2011
- B. Approve Minutes of Executive Session of November 21, 2011
- C. Approve Payment of November/December Board Bills
- D. Approve Hiring of Dawn Spafford as the District Census Taker for 2012 at a Cost of \$2,500.00
- E. Approve Hiring of Leslie Kier as Long-term Special Education Aide Substitute for the 2011-12 School Year
- F. Approve OSI Contract Renewal Contract for 2011-2012

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Human Resources Committee: *Handbook Review:* Chair Gunther asked board members to review the minutes provided. Cranston thanked the committee and staff members for all the work entailed with the employee handbook review. Gunther said it's been a great educational process and the committee is learning the day-to-day operations of the district.

Facilities Committee: *Review Community Survey Results:* Chair Moulton said the committee reviewed the results for capital maintenance in the survey with following recommendations: 1) Budget annual operational funds to complete capital maintenance projects; 2) Budget in 2012-2013 funds to replace the middle school boiler and AC/chiller project; 3) Budget in 2012-2013 funds (\$5-20,000) to prep and patch as needed the high school parking lot and middle school gym floor; 4) Budget in 2013-2014 funds to fully repair/replace the high school parking lot

and middle school gym floor; 5)Assess in 2011-2012 the condition of the middle school gym floor and determine whether it becomes a #1 priority in 2012-2013 rather than an #3-4 prior as listed above; 6)Do not pursue a new school building project at this time as survey results do not support this idea; 7)Consider price points under \$22M for a referendum in 2013-2014 to fund a classroom addition project to address the immediate space needs in the high school if progressive and innovative learning opportunities do not reasonably and appropriately address the space needs in our schools, specifically those at the high school; and 8)Do not pursue swimming pool or auditorium projects at this time as survey results do not support these ideas.

Superintendent Rosburg asked if the board supported the Facilities Committee proposal. Cranston was concerned with Item #7, stating she did not think the 2013-14 school year is far enough out to see innovative opportunities, feeling this may take more time. Moulton stated the Facilities Committee was not looking at providing bricks and mortar projects at this time, unless a change such as a new Stillwater Bridge would affect enrollment numbers. Moulton stated the board may need further community input if the innovative opportunities do not work. The discussion ended with board support of the Facility Committee's proposal from the Community Survey. Cranston would like the committee and district to monitor the innovative learning opportunities.

Teaching and Learning Committee: *Review Community Survey Results:* Chair Cranston reported district parents were very clear in the survey with what they want the district to move forward on. They were very open to progressive and innovative learning opportunities. Committee wants to move slowly on this and to not change what the district currently has. Committee supported the survey results for evening and after school courses; Saturday and charter school options were not strong in the survey. Cranston indicated the district should continue with on-line courses and hopefully expand them into the middle and elementary school levels. The committee was not clear on year-round school and what that would look like for the district. Cranston stated the district needs to know what kinds of year round-classes the community is interested in, and said the committee will explore possible options during 2012-13 school year. With regard to standards-based learning, (common core in the standards) the committee felt the district should continue to move forward in this area. The committee had a concern with flexible grouping and was not in favor of doing more in this area than what the district is currently doing. The board felt it would be helpful to put out another community survey with questions to help clarify some of the questions from the first community survey.

2012-2013 High School Course Offering Book: Cranston stated the high school's course offering book is being offered as a first reading. Questions may be directed to Principal Shawn Madden.

Business Services Committee: *Review Community Survey Results:* Witzmann spoke on behalf of Business Services Committee Chair Colbeth who was absent. Witzmann stated the Business Services Committee reviewed the results of the Community Survey and have the following recommendations: a.)Debt Payment: In 2014 a portion of the district's debt drops off, and in 2019 another portion of debt will be completed; defeasance consideration for taxes to be levied at those times possibly creating an escrow account. In 2014 the district will incur a potential of approximately \$1 million dollars. The board may want to consider options best for students at considerably lower amounts such as technology dollars and/or much lower price points for brick and mortar consideration in six months; b.) Capital Maintenance, Timing and Financing: Maximize when reasonable; b.i.) Budget and/or Referendum: The survey appeared to support taking care of necessary maintenance with committee supporting use of operational dollars at this time; c.)Space Solutions, Timing and Financing; c.i.)A School Building: The committee is recommending not considering this option at this time per the survey results; c.ii.)Addition(s) to School(s): The committee is recommending not considering this option at this time per the survey results; d.)Technology: Attempt to budget for progressive delivery and enhancement of student achievement with the use of technology, needed staff and training, planning, and possibly less mortar; e.)Property value impact: Real estate sites have ratings for school districts. The majority of people believe the school district impacts property value positively; school districts that are viewed as successful correlate to higher property value. The committee recommends reviewing of the ranking tools used by real estate agents and also asking the community what adds to the value of a school district. There were no questions from the board.

Review 2011 Final Audit Report: Witzmann indicated there was nothing noteworthy in the final audit report except for a few items identified for a district of this size that does not have the staff to utilize those efforts.

Witzmann thanked Rosburg, the office staff, and administration for doing a good job on the audit. Rosburg asked if any of the board members support Item b.i. of the capital maintenance projects indicating this is a stand-alone operational budget. Facility Chair Moulton reminded board members the middle school building is the oldest of the four district buildings, and there are items that will need to be repaired. Board members supported Item b.i. to manage necessary maintenance.

Superintendent Report: Rosburg stated enrollment was consistent with last month's numbers, and holding at 1,621. Tentative committee meetings slated for Monday, January 9, 2012 (moved back from January 2 due to the holiday) include Human Resources, Governance and Business Services Committees. Rosburg ended his report stating he and Witzmann had attended a WASB workshop in Wausau to learn more about teacher effectiveness. Rosburg and Witzmann agreed the workshop was informative and helpful.

Board Report: *CESA II Update:* Cranston reported the last CESA Board of Control meeting was attended by CESA employees that were upset with CESA's Board for reforming health care for CESA retiree's. With the new state laws coming into affect, the Board is trying to phase out retiree health care. The current health care benefit was an unfunded liability that could no longer be continued on CESA's budget. *Community and School Involvement:* Gunther attended and observed school age care and space needs with Rosburg. Gunther recommended board members visit school buildings when they are in session so see the workings of the school. Witzmann stated he would like to attend some of the PLC leadership training sessions. Rosburg stated members are welcome to attend those sessions. *2011 WASB Delegate Assembly Resolutions:* Resolutions will be shared with the board so members may give Moulton direction at the January meeting before he attends the state education convention.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Report: Curriculum Director Trisha Sheridan stated she was excited about upcoming PLC trainings. The PLC communities continue to work to identify essential learning targets for their content area. Teams working together to write the statements also are identifying teacher and student vocabulary issues and any professional development needs. PLC leaders are also receiving training on disciplinary literacy which, in Wisconsin, is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field. These abilities are important in all courses and subjects. Sheridan ended her report with a listing of the Wisconsin Foundations for Disciplinary Literacy. Board members were excited about the PLC trainings and would like Sheridan to keep them posted on the continued trainings.

High School Report: Student Council Representative Grace Becher reported on student council activities including ringing the Salvation Army bell, sponsoring an ugly sweater day, spending time at local hospitals cheering up patients, and setting up a holiday tree in the high school commons to collect gifts for those less fortunate. High School Principal Shawn Madden provided an update on the high school's virtual education program. He also congratulated the students selected for November's "Students of the Month." Madden went on to report the high school has a newly formed building scheduling committee that is working on the building's class schedules for the upcoming school year. Madden ended his building report with information from the school district's Police Liaison monthly report.

Middle School Report: Principal Sara Eichten's report provided information with regard to the recently held Winter Concert on December 15th. Middle school band and choir students played and sang some old favorites as well as music from around the world. The middle school raised \$850 in the annual Penny Wars competition; the money was used to adopt several families for the Salvation Army Christmas Love Baskets Program. Student Council members shopped for those gifts and prepared them for distribution. The middle school is forming a scheduling committee to look at new ways to provide intervention time in 2012-13. Staff members from across the building and levels will help build the schedule.

Elementary School Report: Principal Cherrie Wood reported that third grade students posted their third "Spartan Scoop" new report today, and encouraged board members to check it out on the district's web site. Wood reported on many activities at the elementary building that are underway including a first grade field trip to the Old Gem Theater to see "Christmas on the Prairie," high school students will be on hand next Monday to present a

band/choir concert, third grade students will have their annual Iditarod activities the following week, and the Kindergarten students will present their annual program to parents that week as well; third graders are also studying immigration to the U.S. Wood reported elementary teachers are adjusting instruction to make it more meaningful and fun. She provided several examples including the "Buddy Class" concept where students from different grade levels team up to practice reading to others. Wood's report ended with information regarding a teacher book study, with the first of the series recently completed, the teachers will now begin the second in the series. This is a staff development study that will help teachers prepare for changing the process by which English/Language Arts instruction is delivered.

Business Services & Operations: Director of Business Services, Dave Gerberding, provided the current Cash Flow chart for review. Gerberding stated the district is back in the black, which is typical of the cyclical nature of the cash flow. The Business Office has been busy this month with a fair amount of DPI reporting and getting contracts ready for bid. Year-end calendar processes are coming up with W2 and 10-99's and so forth. The Business Office is also moving into the budget cycle for 2012-13. The budget planning calendar from the district's annual meeting will be updated and presented at the next Business Services Committee meeting.

Pupil Services Report: Director Darren Kern's report included information with regard to the Response to Intervention (RtI) model, stating individual building committees met and settled upon a pyramid design model. The committees have also agreed the district will use the Performance Series as the universal screener to flag students for RtI intervention. The school district continues to receive students for the school's programs from other school districts, especially to the Autism program. Kern has received requests from many school directors to come and observe Somerset's programs so they may model them in their own districts; a testament to the great work done by all of Somerset schools' staff. The ACCESS for ELL test window is open and tests are being given; results will be reported in the spring. Kern's report ended noting the district is reviewing its Gifted and Talented Plan. Kern has been working on a schedule to include board members to review the plan.

ACTION

Governance Committee (2nd Readings): Connor moved, with second by Hansch, to approve the following policies as presented in one motion:

1. ACA / Harassment
2. IGDJ/ Interscholastic Athletics
3. IIAA / Learning Resources
4. IJA / Guidance Program
5. IKA / Grading Systems
6. JEC / School Admissions
7. JFC / Student Conduct
8. JG / Student Discipline
9. JI / Student Awards and Scholarships
10. KH / Gifts to Schools

Motion carried unanimously.

Teaching & Learning Committee: Cranston moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve the PLTW Crosswalk for Science Credit. Cranston stated this addition helps students get a science credit to take the class and provides DPI paperwork as evidence that the class was offered. No further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cranston moved, with second by Connor to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.