

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET**  
**February 18, 2013**

Board President Brian Moulton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Present were board members Kelly Ott, Brian Moulton, Robert Gunther, Mike Connor, Tom Walters, Marie Colbeth and Tim Witzmann.

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

**Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard:** Moulton read off the rules for this portion of the meeting. Mr. Carl Schilling introduced himself and asked that the school board look at the policy that addresses the use of school property. His interpretation of the policy is that the use of school facilities must be purchase in four hour increments. The example he gave as that of students wishing to use the piano at the middle school. He suggested the board look at the policy and discuss the option of being able to purchase blocks of time that could be used in any increments for the use of school property. President Moulton thanked Mr. Schilling for his suggestion and the policy will be looked at an upcoming committee meeting.

**Positive Recognition:** The Board recognized 2013 Valedictorian, McKell Kay Larson, daughter of Bruce and Kelly Larson. Superintendent Rosburg is glad to have the privilege to announce McKell Larson as Somerset High School's Class of 2013 Valedictorian. McKell has the highest weighted GPA in the class of 2013. McKell worked very hard throughout her high school career in both academics and athletics. McKell plans to attend UW Eau Claire and pursue a degree in education. McKell introduced her parents and thanked them for all their support. She also thanked the school district for the great education she received while a student at Somerset.

Superintendent Rosburg also introduced 2013 Salutatorian, Emilee Sage Martell, daughter of Bruce Martell and Heidi Haugen. Emilee's academic and extra-curricular performance throughout her high school career has been outstanding. Participating in NHS, music and academic decathlon are a few of Emilee's achievements. After graduation Emilee plans to major in Biology and English, her college choice is undecided. Emilee introduced her parents, brother and sister and thanked them, as well as the school district, for all of their support and time they spent helping her to achieve this honor. Moulton presented both Larson and Martell with certificates, thanking them for their hard work, saying they have very bright futures.

Superintendent Rosburg introduced Nancy Dressel and Randy Wiederin present in the audience, as candidates for the April 2, 2013 School Board Election.

The meeting was recessed at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of January 21, 2013
- B. Approve Minutes of the Special Session Meet and Greet of January 14, 2013
- C. Approve Minutes of Special Session of January 14, 2013
- D. Approve Payment of January/February Board Bills
- E. Approve Hiring of Brad Nemeč to Operate Traditional 2013 Summer School Program at a Stipend of \$5,500.00
- F. Approving Hiring Sandy Nemeč as the Secretary for Summer School 2013
- G. Approve hiring of Carol Switzer for the Combined Elementary Noon Recess Supervisor/Special Education Bus Aide
- H. Approve a .5 FTE Increase of Special Education Aide Time for Remainder of the 2012-2013 School Year for One-on-One Student Learning
- I. Approve 2012-2013 Spring Coaching Assignments
- J. Approve Renewal of Hockey Cooperative Team Sponsorship with Osceola and St. Croix Falls School Districts for 2013-15 School Years
- K. Approve Open Enrollment Exception to Somerset from New Richmond

**Discussion:**

*Business Services Committee:* Committee Chair Colbeth stated the committee is in the normal 2013-2014 budget development process. She added that working on the budget is a yearlong process. Colbeth also spoke of the Return to Work Language for Worker's Compensation. She stated that this supports the workers and is also cost saving for the district. Director of Business Services and Operations, Dave Gerberding added it is a teamwork approach that is worked on closely with the employee and their medical provider. Colbeth spoke of the Liability of Volunteers discussions that were a part of the committee meetings. A new procedure will be implemented relating to volunteers in the district who have previously received \$1 volunteer contracts from the district. Through discussion with the district risk management consultant, confirmation was given that our liability carrier does not require the \$1 volunteer contracts in order for the liability coverage to include volunteers. A volunteer is covered by district liability insurance.

*Teaching and Learning Committee:* Committee Chair Witzmann addressed the Professional Development and Timeline. He addressed the amazing work that Trish Sheridan, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment is doing with this as well as the work of the PLC's and RtI. Looking at timelines for college and career readiness was one of the topics to which Witzmann stated Somerset is ahead of the curve. Superintendent Rosburg added that many beneficial things are a part of this initiative and they all benefit the students. Witzmann also spoke of the 2013-2014 Budget Development adding that the budget talks in the committee meeting were looked at from a teaching and learning perspective. It is a continuous process with many unknowns.

*Governance Committee:* Committee Chair Connor spoke of the WASB Recoding and Overview of District Policies. This will provide an index and ease of use when looking at policies. WASB has a large database of information that we can use to access information. It is now a matter of recoding and updating the information WASB has provided. Also discussed were the Board Evaluations, Policy AFA. The question presented to the board was whether they want to open the board evaluations up to others (administrators, teachers, community members) thus making it a full 360 review. This is a discussion only item so in April it can be addressed accordingly. Colbeth stated that if it is opened up to others, much feedback could be gathered, helping the board to learn and improve. Witzmann added that last year it was an internal survey and opening it up to include external participants as well would be a good idea.

**Information:** Superintendent Rosburg stated student enrollment is 1,635 which is up slightly with eleven more students from last month. Rosburg said the dates of the upcoming committee meetings for March 4, 2013 include Business Services, Facilities, Human Resources and Teaching and Learning. Rosburg stated there was nice turnout at the Special Session, held prior to the regular session on 2/18/13. This included a tour and discussion of the middle school to discuss referendum related topics. A similar meeting will take place at the High School on March 18. There will be a meet and greet session with board members at RCU this Thursday for community members to meet with board members and have open discussion on any topics. Rosburg stated the referendum videos are in the works and a gave a thank you to Jeanne Germain, Journalism Instructor and Kristen Flater, Elementary Media Specialist for their help with this project. Rosburg also thanked those that helped with the referendum postcard that was just recently mailed and also spoke of the referendum calendar with more upcoming meetings scheduled.

**Board Report:** *CESA II Update:* Walters spoke of his attendance at the last CESA meeting at which sequestration was the main topic of discussion. He stated the CESA board is making plans as to what to do if sequestration comes to fruition.

*Community and School Involvement:* Walters spoke of the choir competition that took place at the middle school last week. He added that the students from Somerset were very professional and really stepped up when it came to helping with this event. Other board members also added that there were many opportunities to attend and be a part of the past few weeks. Including; the benefit for Moriah Everson, middle school dance, the high school basketball game as well as the wrestling sectionals that took place at the Somerset High School. Conferences have also been attended by various board members at which the attendance has been good and the comments on the referendum have been positive. Gunther added that he attended a Human Resources conference hosted by WASB. Gunther stated the main topic was the Affordable Care Act and learned that Somerset is just like the other districts and is facing the same challenges as to others. Ott spoke of attending Trish Sheridan's PLC meeting and that it would be good to let the community know how in depth teaching has become and meeting all goals is tough.

**WASB Resolutions:** Walters spoke of the WASB conference he attended in January. He added that CESA 11 was the best represented group there. He took place in the discussions and voted at the delegate level. He spoke of the breakout sessions he attended and thanked the district for letting him attend and hopes the opportunity is available next year as well.

**High School Report:** Student Council Representative Grace Becher stated the student council has been very busy and productive despite not having a set time to meet. To work around this, they have been meeting in the morning and doing the best they can. Polar Daze are planned for the week of March 3. Fundraising efforts are underway with all the classes.

**Directors' and Principals' Report:** Middle School Principal Sara Eichten addressed the great results that are being seen with RtI and that students are making great strides. The interventions are working well and the attitudes of the teachers and students are very positive. Superintendent Rosburg added that many students at the high school have been able to move out of RtI and positive results like this have not been seen before. Due to RtI, the number of students being placed in special education has been cut in half. Thus allowing the special education staff to really focus on smaller amounts of students. Colbeth thanked Sheridan and Rosburg for their and all others effort that has gone into this as the achievements of the students is the best reward. High School Principal Brad Nemeck spoke of the lockdown drill and exercises stating they were interesting and informative and that being a part of this provided useful information and foresight. Shannon Donnelly addressed the emergency management teams and that they are going through the plan documents word by word. She also spoke of the table top exercise with St. Croix County. This was done to look at gaps in the process and that is was the next step in the process to assess Somerset's plan. Somerset is in the process of holding lockdown drills just like a fire or tornado drill would be held. It is a process that will take time but is something she would like all staff and students to be educated on.

#### **Action**

**Business Services Committee:** Gunther moved, with second by Witzmann to approve Douglas Petition to detach from Somerset School District & Reattach to Hudson School District. Moulton discussed guidelines the district follows, whether the property is contiguous or whether an island is created. Theresa Douglas was in attendance and addressed why the detachment from Somerset would be in the best interest of her family, stating that music and arts are her children's niche and Hudson is better suited to meet those needs. She then thanked the board for hearing her concerns. Walters asked Gerberding how the tax base works in cases of detachment. Gerberding answered that if Somerset were to approve the detachment, the tax base would go to Hudson. Ott asked Rosburg if the Hudson School District had met and discussed this. Rosburg answered that Hudson had discussed this at their board meeting and it was denied. Rosburg then clarified the border lines for the Douglas property. The property around the Douglas property is undeveloped land that is part of the Somerset School District. Connor asked if the land could be swapped with another family, Rosburg stated that in the past there were families that had done this. There was not an opportunity to swap land brought forward in this instance. Rosburg added that he and Gerberding have spoken at length in regards to these types of detachments and that the Somerset School Board is not in a position to give away these tax dollars and they are both fully in support of keeping the tax dollars in the Somerset School District while keeping in mind that there are multiple interests involved. Witzmann agreed that he is hard pressed to support these types of detachments in which islands are created and tax dollars are lost. Moulton added that it is good to be consistent to which Ott added she is not in favor of creating an island. Upon voting, board members present voted "No," with Colbeth abstaining. Motion denied.

Gunther moved, with second by Witzmann to Approve Nelson Petition to detach from Somerset School District & Reattach to Hudson School District. Moulton asked if there were any members present from the Nelson family, to which there were none. Rosburg then explained the boundaries of the Nelson detachment petition. Rosburg added that after discussing with Gerberding, it is in the best interest of the Somerset School District to keep the tax dollars in the Somerset School District and that if the family were to file an appeal in the case of a denial, it would then be Madison, WI's decision to give away the local tax dollars, not that of Somerset. Upon voting, board members present voted "No," with Colbeth abstaining. Motion denied.

**Facilities Committee:** Moulton moved, with second by Gunther to Approve High School Music and Food Service Addition. Moulton spoke of Deb Revalee, Food Services Director and Andrew Emerson, Band Instructor being

present at the committee meeting and that the feedback they provided was insightful. Rosburg spoke of the referendum and that if funds were available, they would go to IT. Rosburg spoke of Superintendent Dr. David Gundlach from the OshKosh school district who would do an IT audit of the Somerset School District which would take approximately two to three hours of time to put the proposal together. Ott added that she would like others to provide audits as well. This was echoed by Colbeth, who would also like to see two to three others to look at this and put proposals together. Ott felt that a quality assessor could provide good feedback and wants a few companies to come in and provide presentations. Witzmann stated his concern with that would be trying to get companies that were willing to provide us that service without trying to sell us something and that a background in education is needed. Witzmann answered Colbeth's question as to whether the decision of who to bring in be left to Superintendent Rosburg. Witzmann stated that he thought Heartland would be a conflict of interest and trust should be placed in Rosburg that he is doing the legwork on this and is getting a good resource. Witzmann added that he supports Rosburg's choice of who to bring in. Connor said a second look is good. Witzmann then explained how the IT consortium groups in MN work and having an educator provide the assessment would be just as knowledgeable as an IT professional. Colbeth prefers to have someone from the IT industry provide this as there would be benefits to be found in this. Walters added that his understanding is that we would have an audit done and he would like to go outside to get the perspective of others. Rosburg answered Ott's question as to what other school districts do by saying that some go with Heartland as they do not charge for the audit as products or services are then purchased from them. Rosburg took part in discussions at the WASB conference in regards to this topic and it was stated many times that it is not in the best interest of the school district to have a vendor do the audit as the expectation is that the district will then purchase that vendor's product. Colbeth asked Gerberding what the cost of the financial audit was to which Gerberding answered \$40K. Ott stated this should go to the Business Service Committee for continued discussion. Upon voting, board members present voted "Yes." Motion Passed Unanimously.

Moulton moved, with second by Gunther to approve Referendum Communication Plan. Colbeth stated she is in favor of a three to five year window, not the five to ten that is listed. Discussion also ensued on the referendum postcard that had just been sent. Moulton added he thought the postcard was done well and drew positive attention. Upon voting, board members present voted "Yes." Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Governance Committee: (2<sup>nd</sup> Readings):**

1. Approve Proposed Changes to Policy KBA; Social Media  
Connor moved, with Second by Witzmann to approve Proposed Changes to Policy KBA; Social Media, Motion Passed Unanimously.
2. Approve Proposed Changes to Policy GBD-R; Selection of Impartial Hearing Officer  
Connor moved, with Second by Witzmann to approve Proposed Changes to Policy GBD-R; Selection of Impartial Hearing Officer, Motion Passed Unanimously.

**Approve Board Canvasser for the April 2, 2013 General Election:** Moulton moved, with second by Ott to approve Board Canvasser for the April 2, 2013 General Election. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Ott moved, with second by Colbeth to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

Brian Moulton, President

Marie Colbeth, Clerk