

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET**  
**February 20, 2012**  
**Minutes**

Hansch moved, with second by Colbeth, to come out of Executive Session and move into Open Session. All members present voted, "yes." Motion carried unanimously.

Board members present President Tim Witzmann, Mike Connor, Bob Gunther, Brian Moulton, Marie Colbeth, and Marin Hansch. Absent was board member Catherine Cranston.

**Groups or Individuals Wishing to Be Heard:** Witzmann read off the rules for this portion of the meeting. A request by Phil & Jamie to move, under IX Action, Item 1, Approve Myers Petition to detach from Somerset School District Reattach to Hudson School District, to be heard at this time. Witzmann asked if it would be ok to hear it after the positive recognition portion of the Agenda. All present agreed.

**Positive Recognition:** The Board recognized 2012 Valedictorian, Zach Edward Ott. High School Principal Madden is glad to have the privilege to announce Zachary Ott as Somerset High School's Class of 2012 Valedictorian. Zach's scholastic performance and quest for academic excellence was outstanding throughout his high school career. After graduation, Zach plans to pursue a degree in mechanical and/or civil engineering. He has narrowed his college options to the University of Colorado, Iowa State, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, or the University of California-Berkeley. Zach introduced his parents, David and Kelly Ott.

Principal Madden also introduced 2012 Salutatorian, Stephanie Marie Berg, daughter of Sandy & Todd Torrey and Eric Berg. Madden said Berg's scholastic performance throughout her high school career has also been outstanding. After graduation, Berg plans to pursue a degree at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN and obtain a degree in the field of science. Berg has a great passion for science and chemistry. Witzmann presented both Ott and Berg with certificates, thanking them for their hard work, saying they have very bright futures.

The Board recognized Diane Belter, High School Cross Country and Track Coach. Bill Roll recognized Belter for her 17 years coaching, 13 of those years as head cross country coach, eight years in track and field (two of those as head coach). Belter has been named District 1 Coach of the year twice, has had four teams qualify for State, and has had over 100 state individual track & cross country State participants. Witzmann appreciated Belter for all of her heart and soul that she placed in the program, thanking her for the lessons she taught the kids not only on the track but the lessons they learned on the team as a whole.

The meeting was recessed at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:41 p.m.

Gunther moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the Myers Petition to detach from Somerset School District & Reattach to Hudson School District. Witzmann discussed guidelines the district follows, whether the property is contiguous or whether an island is created. Phil and Jamie Myers were in attendance. The Myers' state the property is closer to Houlton, which creates a convenience for them to open enroll the children into the Hudson School District. They would like to revisit landowner's choice, that the property is contiguous with Hudson currently and disagrees that it creates an island. The Myers' met with Hudson School District last week, and—although that school district had concerns about their district's bussing and enrollment numbers—Hudson did approve this movement. Myers states information was brought forth that there is currently an island of the Hudson district within the Somerset School District. A map was brought forth to the board members showing the east side of the property currently adjoins Hudson. Witzmann states it is normal practice not to approve property detachments, and that—through open enrollment—the Myer's have the option of their student attending Hudson. Myer

states that they received notice from Hudson regarding reapplying for open enrollment for their student and that space may be a concern; they have not received confirmation that Hudson will approve the open enrollment request. Colbeth asked if the Myers spoke with someone about a trade or a swap. Phil Myers indicated that, due to time constraints, they have not. The Myers are concerned about a possible split in their family as their son currently attends Hudson Elementary and does not have to re-enroll at this time. Witzmann said the board is sympathetic with the Myers, however, there is precedence set for property detachments. Witzmann indicated there is an appeal process at the state level should the Myers want to appeal any decision made this evening. On roll call vote, board members present voted "No," with Colbeth abstaining. Motion denied.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of January 16, 2012
- B. Approve Minutes of Executive Session of January 16, 2012
- C. Approve payment of January/February Board Bills
- D. Approve maternity leave for Michelle Paulisich for the 2012-13 school year
- E. Approve hiring of Nelisena Johnson as a long-term substitute teacher for Amber Vrieze
- F. Approve 2012-2013 School Year Calendar
- G. Approve June 6, 2012 as District Wide Data Retreat Day
- H. Approve hiring of Brad Nemece to operate traditional 2012 Summer School program at a stipend of \$5,500.00
- I. Approve hiring of OT and OT aide for the 2012-2013 school year
- J. Approve 2011-2012 Winter Coaching Assignments
- K. Approve 2011-2012 Spring Coaching Assignments

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Discussion**

*Human Resources Committee:* Committee Chair Gunther stated the committee is finished with the employee handbook. The committee will now go back to the teachers and support staff handbooks and look for items missed and try to get a second reading in April. The special session will look at the compensation piece and hopefully come forth with a first reading. Board members thanked everyone for the time that has been put into the handbook. Board members also thanked Lorri Baillargeon for her time and dedication. Baillargeon stated the teaching staff greatly appreciated the opportunity to be involved with the process. The special session to discuss teacher compensation options was tentatively set for March 5, 2012, at 7:00 pm.

*Facilities, Business Services, Governance and Teaching & Learning Committees:* The Board discussed Meet & Greet dates, times and locations to discuss the Community Survey Beliefs and Recommendation information with community groups. Rosburg will supply packets of information for Board members to hand out at meetings. Rosburg will compile a calendar of dates, times and who is attending which meeting, and will e-mail the information to all Board members.

*Governance Committee:* Connor stated the first reading of the Advertising Proposal only included athletics. The Committee was asked to change this wordage to "Activities" to cover all events in the District. Connor asked that the 2<sup>nd</sup> page, subject line be changed to "Activities" instead of "Athletics."

*Teaching & Learning Committee:* Hansch inquired about the four clubs that are asking to become activities, asking for further definition of the clubs. Roll states one of the activities will be an after school club, middle school jazz band and the need to budget for the advisor stipend. He spoke of pros and cons

of a club becoming an activity, stating the main difference between a club and activity is in the area of enforcement of the extra-curricular code of conduct. Bringing a club under board control allows following board rules and enforcement, and gives the school district the opportunity to proceed with oversight, back ground checks, etc. Witzmann asked about travel policies and fund raising and how this will be impacted. Roll states they currently do one fundraiser and there is very little travel. Extra-curricular music activity currently fundraises as a group, and this will not change. Moulton asked when considering if determining when a Club should become an Activity if there is a timeframe for how long the Club has been active. Roll indicates there is no hard, fast time limit. He said Spartan Page Turners and HS Jazz Band have been around two or more years; Friends Helping Friends encompasses special education students and curriculum, and allows creation of “neat” relationships.

**Information:** Superintendent Rosburg reports school enrollment is current at 1,627 students as of Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Rosburg also indicates the possibility of switching up the committee meetings scheduled on March 5, 2012, to assure time for discussion of teacher compensation.

**Board Report:** *CESA 11 Update:* The district is still in need of a board member to volunteer for the CESA 11 Board; Witzmann asked if there was anyone who would like to be on that board. Colbeth states it is conflicting with her schedule. Witzmann is hopeful one of the new board members will take on that role.

*Community and School Involvement:* Colbeth stated she was able to attend a wrestling match for the first time, and she enjoyed it very much. Witzmann attended the Somerset vs. New Richmond basketball game, and thought it was an excellent effort by the high school boys. He said he was excited to see the large attendance at the game, and felt the fans and students conducted themselves in a very positive manner. Connor also attended the game, stating he enjoyed the college-like atmosphere.

*WASB Convention Report:* Moulton indicates the resolution with regard to school vouchers got caught up on discussion longer than any other question. He said the convention was good and was a great experience. Moulton indicated there were many workshop sessions to choose from, and that it was good for him to understand and see that Somerset School District is heading in the right direction and is in good shape.

**Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Report:** Director Trish Sheridan notes the PLC groups will be meeting this Wednesday; board members are invited if available. Sarah Eichten and Darren Kern will be providing information at the PLC meeting. Additionally, EXPLORE informational night was a great success with all freshman teachers and counselors and 100 parents in attendance. This was a very positive initiative in trying to bring parents, teachers and students together.

**High School Report:** Student Council Representative Grace Becher stated the student council has had a rather busy month. They held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Polar Daze” which wound down with a Friday Pep Assembly and Talent Show with 15 performers. There were also various dress-up days, comfy day, sci-fi day, Formal Friday and Somerset Super Fan day. The freshmen were busy with candy grams for the Valentine’s Day fundraiser, Compatibility Surveys and the juniors are deep into their planning for Prom. High School Principal Shawn Madden congratulates the following “Students of the Month” for January 2012: Freshman Lauren Sandy and Reed Baillargeon, Sophomores Hailey Meyer and Gaelin Elmore, Juniors Emiliee Martell and Dante Germain and Seniors Samantha Wolff and Luke Peters.

**Middle School Report:** Middle School Principal Sara Eichten wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming Fine Arts Festival this Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be many fantastic musical and

artistic displays throughout the school. The middle school will be performing “The Legend of Katastrophe Kate” on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 students are involved. Eichten asked if any of the Board members would be interested in judging in the annual talent show which takes place April 5<sup>th</sup>; Moulton indicated he would like to be a part of the judging again, stating he had seen a lot of great acts the last time he judged. Middle school student council activities include a February 27 trip to Trollhaugen after school for snow tubing, and a Food Drive the week of March 5-9<sup>th</sup> to “can” Mrs. Eichten and fill her office with food. Middle school conferences will be held February 21<sup>st</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Eichten also reports the middle school received a “Thank You” from one of the recipients of their blankets made by middle school students through the Linus Project.

**Elementary School Report:** Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported the elementary is always a busy place and this past month has been no exception. Parent teacher conferences were held on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with parent participation at 98%. February 3<sup>rd</sup> was also the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, which is always cause for celebrations. The students danced for 100 seconds, estimated items in the 100’s and also participated in a food drive for 100 items. Students donated 1,090 food items in one day. February 6-10 was the birthday of Dr. Seuss; a celebration will be held at the end of the trimester with a short assembly and Readers Theatre of Dr. Seuss books which will be performed for the students by the staff. Teaching staff continues to work on alignment of English/Language arts and math standards.

**Business Services & Operations Report:** Director of Business & Services Operations Dave Gerberding states the district continues to be deep in the budgeting process. Gerberding discussed the Cash flow chart and indicates the district received January tax settlements and February tax settlements have begun to arrive.

**Pupil Services Report:** Director Darren Kern reports ACCESS Testing for ELL’s is complete and the tests have been shipped to the scoring company. Results will be available this spring. The pilot project for Indicator 13 has been placed on hold by DPI; this report is used to report the district’s transition goals for special education students ages 16 and up. Basic framework of the Response to Intervention model has been developed; work continues to complete this model. The committee established to review the current Gifted and Talented model has held its first meeting. The next few weeks will be spent conducting research on best practices and models in Gifted and Talented education. Special Education Teacher Abbie Bohatta hosted a transition program for parents of special education students making the transition from school to adult life. The event was a great success and will be repeated in the future. Somerset is one of the few districts that keep these students in District for learning compared to other districts.

## **Action**

**Business Services Committee:** Colbeth moved, with second by Gunther, to approve 2012-2013 Capital Maintenance Projects in amounts not to exceed \$300,000. Colbeth appreciates the district’s process for budgeting and likes the ability for flexibility if needed. Motion passed unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Hansch, to approve CESA Shared Services Contract for 2012-2013 school year. Sheridan was able to track down and identify areas the district could get similar or same services with less or no expenditures. Motion passed unanimously.

**Facilities Committee:** Motion by Moulton, with second by Hansch, to approve the 2012-2013 Capital Maintenance Projects. Motion passed unanimously.

Moulton moved, with second by Gunther, to approve replacement of high school lunch tables. Moulton discussed the current dangers present with continued use of the existing tables at the high school, there is a great need to move this to a higher priority for replacement. Motion passed unanimously.

Gunther moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve replacement of the high school parking lot and parking lot stairway in 2011-2012 if funds are available. Colbeth asked about the need to replace the steps. Rosburg states they are cracking and the plow truck also is catching on the cracks. Motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Approve Policies
  - a. Policy DK Disposal of School Property
  - b. Policy JHCE Concussion RTP
  - c. Policy JHCD-R Guidelines Regarding Administering Medication to Students ...
  - d. Policy JBA Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Connor moved, with seconded by Colbeth, to approve policy items A through D as read. Motion passed unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to approve open enrollment space for special and regular education students in district classrooms, Act 114, from Governance Committee. Wording now states, "The nonresident school board shall determine the number of regular education and special education spaces available within the school district in the January meeting of the school board, except that for the 2011-12 school year the board shall determine the number of regular education and special education spaces available within the school district in the February meeting of the school board." In this year, the act was passed after the timeframe of the size determination. This has now allowed a more structured/defined basis for decisions. Motion passed unanimously.

**Teaching & Learning Committee:** Motion by Hansch, with second by Witzmann, to approve allowing DPI to determine if the Family and Consumer Science crosswalk course satisfies the guideline requirements and grant as a Crosswalk course for Science credit. Hansch states this is a win-win for district and for students. Trish Sheridan and Kelly Emerson have worked hard on this project. Motion passed unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Gunther, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Motion passed.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk