

REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
January 16, 2012

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

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 for this portion of the meeting. No one came forward.

Positive Recognition of Spartan Silver Ring Award Recipients: The board recognized three Spartan Silver Ring Award recipients (for 25 years of service at Somerset School District): Donna Eiring, Nancy Klaas and Bruce Larson. Witzmann stated it was a great pleasure to recognize them for this service. Superintendent Randy Rosburg thanked each of them, stating they are valued instructors who bring quality and enhancement to education in Somerset. Rosburg then asked each of them to relate how education has changed over 25 years. Witzmann presented each instructor with a certificate of recognition, stating they all have made a big difference in students' lives.

The board also recognized the new 2012-2013 Elementary School Principal, Darren Kern, who currently serves as the district's Director of Pupil Services and Special Education. Kern stated he is excited to move into a building that he is familiar with, and is appreciative of the opportunity.

The board recognized Somerset School District's adult school crossing guards including Sheri Cunningham, Cody LaVenture, Gerry LaVenture, Tyler LaVenture, Ross LaVenture, Heather McConaughey, Michelle Perry, and Julie Schultz. Middle School Principal Sara Eichten stated that, every day and no matter the weather conditions, the crossing guards are outside making sure kids get to school safely. Crossing guards are valuable for the school district especially during mornings when it is very dark outside and poor visibility. Connor presented each of the crossing guards with a certificate of appreciation, thanking them for their commitment to safety.

The meeting was recessed at 7:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

Connor moved, with second by Hansch, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of December 19, 2011
- B. Approve Minutes of Executive Session of December 19, 2011
- C. Approve payment of December/January Board Bills
- D. Approve Police Officer Joel Trepczyk as Somerset School Police Liaison for the 2011-2012 School Year
- E. Approve Winter Coaching Assignment for 2011-2012 School Year

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Human Resources Committee: Committee Chair Gunther stated the committee is making positive progress on the employee handbook. Rosburg and middle school instructor Lorri Baillargeon are working together to transition the language from the meetings into the employee handbook. The committee hopes to have the handbook completed sometime in February.

Governance Committee (1st Readings): Committee Chair Connor stated four policies are being brought forward for their first readings, and will come before board next month for approval. Any questions regarding the policies may be addressed to Connor or Rosburg.

1. Policy DXX Disposal of School Property
2. Policy JXX Concussion RTP
3. Policy JHCD-R Guidelines Regarding Administering Medication to Students
4. Policy JXX Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

WASB 2012 Resolutions: Witzmann stated the direction of the board is appreciated to help Brian Moulton as he attends the WASB Education Convention this week. Colbeth asked members what the board position is of Resolution Item #12-07 with regard to school vouchers. Colbeth felt the option of providing public or private level education should not matter if the goal is to teach children. She felt the district's goal should be to support all children for successful education whether they are in public or parochial school. Cranston stated the argument is tax payer dollars going to parochial schools or for specific religious schools, which she was not in favor with. Colbeth stated she was also not comfortable with "density" for transportation and aid. Witzmann thanked her for sharing her concerns, indicating the charter issue will probably have a lot of discussion at the WASB convention. Witzmann asked Moulton to listen to all of the WASB discussion to make sure he is making informed decisions. Colbeth was also concerned with the WASB resolution concerning funding of statewide student information system. She wanted to know where dollars are coming from, and did not think the board should support this resolution.

Business Services Committee: Chair Colbeth turned over the discussion to Business Services Director Dave Gerberding, who stated the board will be acting this evening on the 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget Numbers. Gerberding stated the preliminary budget provides initial information on budget numbers the district can predict now. Gerberding added that, using conservative estimates, the district is looking at an initial deficit of \$81,000, however this is a very preliminary prediction, which does not take into account other variables, such as employee retirement, insurance, etc.

Information

Superintendent Rosburg stated student enrollment is up slightly with six more students from last moth. He indicated the Third Friday Count is still being worked on to become an official count. He said the Third Friday Count gives the district a number to start with and use as its revenue base; the Third Friday Count in January allows school districts to make modifications. Rosburg ended his report stating tentative upcoming committee meetings for February 6, 2012 include Business Services and Human Resources.

Board Report: *CESA II Update:* Cranston stated that, since she is not running for re-election, the board will need to think about replacing her on the CESA board if desired. If not, the assignment will automatically go to the next district in the system which is New Richmond. Somerset School District has been on the CESA board for 27 years. CESA recently received a large technology grant which will be used as a pilot project for three school districts. CESA is also revamping staff development, and is adding a large conference room at their facility. Board members stated they would like to place a Somerset board member on the CESA board, but may not have a name until April or May. Rosburg will check with CESA's administrator to see if they can wait until April or May to bring in a person from the Somerset Board. Witzmann thanked Cranston for her involvement with the CESA board for so many years.

Community and School Involvement: Colbeth would like an electronic sign in the front of the school building to highlight upcoming events. Rosburg stated the high school is producing a video cast each week that is uploaded to the web site which will tell all of the events that are coming up that week, this video can also be sent directly to interested individuals via e-mail. In addition, the Middle Border web site also lists upcoming school events. Hansch agreed that having an electronic sign would help the community know what's happening at the schools. Connor stated he attended the Kindergarten Christmas program which was an outstanding and well attended event.

High School Report: Student Council Representative Grace Becher stated the student council has been very busy and productive. Members recently visited Gillete Children's hospital and delivered over 100 presents to the hospital. Toys were donated and purchased throughout December, and funds were also raised. Becher said the Student Council plans to continue this new tradition. Polar Days planning continues for mid-February for events.

High School Principal Shawn Madden referred board members to the Police Liaison Report in their packet, stating if there were any questions, they may contact him. The "Fuel up to Play 60" health initiative is supported by the Green Bay Packers, WI Dairy Council, Action For Healthy Kids and is a national movement that promotes healthy

choices for students. The goal of Fuel up to Play 60 is to inform kids of all ages to get active for at least one hour a day. The high school nominated six students to be student ambassadors who will promote the positives of a healthy lifestyle. The end of term two is on Friday, January 20th. No school for students on Monday, January 23rd for Teacher In-service Day. On Monday, January 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room will be sharing the EXPLORE results with 9th grade parents and students. During the presentation parents and students will gain greater knowledge of the ACT and ACT's College and Career Readiness system. The decathlon team participated in regional competition in Rice Lake, placed 2nd and qualified to advance to state level.

Middle School Report: Middle School Principal Sara Eichten stated teachers are working on PLC's in all content areas. She said it is a lengthy process and a lot of discussion is happening in order to identify the essential learning for students. The middle school Scheduling Committee is currently meeting on a weekly basis to revamp the MS schedule; they are working to incorporate 30 minutes of intervention time each day. In addition they want to try to create a bell schedule that can be used building wide instead of the three different schedules currently used. On January 27 students will travel to Trollhaugen for the semester character education field trip. Debbie Stevens' sixth grade healthy living classes make fleece hats each year for a sewing project. Each year many students make more than one hat and those extra hats are able to be donated to those in need. To date those classes have donated over 100 hats. Recipients of the hats have included Grace Place, West CAP, St. Croix Family Resource Center in Baldwin, and care packages for those participating in Alcoholics Anonymous. Thirteen teams competed in the first round of the middle school battle of the books on Thursday, January 12.

Elementary School Report: Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported the elementary school is currently working to put the state adopted common core standards into child friendly language. This work is part of the elementary school's Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Each of these PLC's includes all the teachers at a grade level. The elementary school has met to develop a building schedule for the upcoming year. The schedule includes time for teachers to collaborate, grade level teachers to share students if they choose to level across the grade, and a block of time for interventions to fit with the implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI). Parent and teacher conferences will be held at the elementary school on January 24th and 26th. Students are participating in many fun learning activities this month, including Readers Theatre on Friday the 13th, puppet play presentations, on the 20th and 27th, and citizenship naturalization ceremony on the 20th. Students will soon have a 100 day celebration, see a traveling planetarium, and create Haiku poetry. Joel Trepczyk is the new police liaison officer for Somerset. His arrival was well received.

Business Services & Operations: Director Dave Gerberding stated the district is deep in the budgeting process. He stated the Cash flow chart was also provided for board review. Gerberding ended his report saying the district received its state aid payment in December.

Pupil Services Report: Director Darren Kern reported that ACCESS testing for ELL students is complete. Results will come back to in the spring. The autism program continues to grow; Kern receives at least one phone call of inquiry from parents of children with autism every other week. Response to Intervention (RtI) continues to develop. The basic decisions of the model have been made and there will be a brief progress monitoring in-service in February. The Friends Helping Friends group continues to create great opportunities for disabled and non-disabled students to interact. The group meets each week to develop new opportunities for interaction. Transition Parent Information day is February 16th. At this meeting, parents will be given important information regarding services that are available to students as they transition from school to adult life.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment: Director Trisha Sheridan noted the district is in the winter testing session of the performance series. Sheridan provided a brief overview of why the district switched from MAPs for student testing to Performance Series, stating the online computer adaptive assessment of the Performance Series provides diagnostic information about students for teachers. Teachers attended webinar training sessions, and Performance Series trainers provided informational sessions. Sheridan stated the Performance Series is very intuitive and reflective of MAPs, but much easier to navigate. She added this series also provides great informational components to communicate to parents. The Performance Series is based upon scale scores that can be watched over time. Sheridan stated the average testing session, which is web-based, takes about one hour and is

inaccessible to students outside of school hours. BoE are welcome to get a dummy login if they want to try to take the tests PLCs are looking at this data. Trish said Performance Series will be used as a screening tool, and is available for grades three through eight.

Action

Teaching and Learning Committee: Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the 2012-2013 High School Course Offering Book as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Services Committee: Colbeth moved, with second by Cranston, to approve the 2012-2013 Budget Development Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Survey: Witzmann moved, with second by Connor, to approve the Board of Education Recommendations from Results of the Community Survey. Witzmann stated the information provided this evening was the process and review by each of the board committees and are being brought forward this evening to the full board for review and approval. Gunther asked how long the board will stand by these recommendations. Rosburg stated it is up to board members to make that determination. Gunther asked to clarify point #7 with regard to the term “price points” which he felt seemed to be contradicting. Colbeth stated she did not think the intent of this statement was for the district to go to referendum 2013-2014. Board discussed the intentions of the recommendation for point #7 and asked that it be amended to read, “If progressive and innovative learning opportunities do not reasonably and appropriately address the space needs in our schools, specifically those at the high school, consideration will be given to price points under \$22M for a referendum in the future to fund a classroom addition project to address the immediate space needs in the high school.” Witzmann moved to approve the Recommendations from Results of the Community Survey, as amended in Point #7, with second by Connor. Motion carried unanimously. Rosburg stated the recommendations also mention “Meet and Greet” meetings, and the board will want to talk about those at the committee level to determine when the district might hold those events.

Action

Cranston moved with second by Colbeth, to move to Executive Session in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1), (c) for the purpose of discussing compensation, contract, and benefit data of administrative employees. On Roll Call, all voted “Yes.”

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk