

REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
MINUTES
July 20, 2009

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll call was taken. Present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch. No members were absent.

Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the agenda. Witzmann stated there was a change to Agenda Item V. CC to Approve Payment Application Number 1 in the amount of \$13,206.41 from Belisle Excavating, Inc. for the North Access Road & Campus Improvement Project. The change was due to an updated memo Superintendent Rosburg received after the posting of the agenda for an increase of the payment to \$26,318.78 instead of the \$13,206.41 as posted. The change reflects the agreed upon contract amount, and is a result of the job moving forward more rapidly than was anticipated. Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Witzmann presented board member Mike Connor with a Wisconsin Association of School Board (WASB) plaque representing Connor's 20 years of school board service. Witzmann thanked Connor, stating Connor's experience on the board has been extremely valuable district wide. Connor thanked the board for the recognition, saying he has enjoyed serving the Somerset School District.

The board recessed the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

Cranston moved, with second by Colbeth to approve the Consent Agenda. Witzmann commented that it is typical to see a larger consent agenda this time of year due to filling employment vacancies.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of June 15, 2009 of the School Board
- B. Approve payment of June/July Board Bills
- C. Approve resignation of high school business education teacher Paul Nowaskey
- D. Approve one-year leave request for high school ASL teacher Linnea Natwick for the 2009-2010 school year
- E. Approve hiring of Denise Siggins, Jr. Kndgn Aide, w/add'l student supervision for the 2009-2010 school year
- F. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Denise Siggins
- G. Approve hiring of Kathleen Yager, Jr. Kndgn Aide, w/add'l student supervision for the 2009-2010 school year
- H. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Kathleen Yager
- I. Approve hiring of Angie Sporleder, Kindergarten Aide, for the 2009-2010 school year
- J. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Angie Sporleder
- K. Approve hiring of Lesley Pankonien, Kindergarten Aide, for the 2009-2010 school year
- L. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Lesley Pankonien
- M. Approve hiring of Janice Osterhues, Kindergarten Aide, for the 2009-2010 school year
- N. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Janice Osterhues
- O. Approve hiring of Robin Knudtson, Kindergarten Aide, for the 2009-2010 school year
- P. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Robin Knudtson
- Q. Approve hiring of Kristina Ballard, Kindergarten Aide, for the 2009-2010 school year
- R. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Kristina Ballard
- S. Accept Somerset Youth Athletic Association donation of \$2,000.00 towards soccer fields
- T. Accept Somerset Youth Athletic Association donation of \$3,866.00 towards weight room equipment
- U. Accept OSI The Training Room donation of \$1,217.01 towards soccer fields
- V. Approve hiring of Brianne Brickner as a 1st grade teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- W. Approve hiring of Jessica Linkletter as 5th grade language arts teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- X. Approve hiring of elementary math teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- Y. Approve hiring of high school business education teacher for the 2009-2010 school year

- Z. Approve hiring of Lora Sorenson as long-term high school American Sign Lang. teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- AA. Approve preliminary notice of nonrenewal for Lora Sorenson
- BB. Approve hiring of Kelly Walczak as long-term high school Media Specialist beginning 8-24-09 through 12-23-09
- CC. Approve Payment Application Number 1 in the amount of ~~\$13,206.4~~ \$26,318.78 from Belisle Excavating, Inc. for the North Access Road & Campus Improvement Project
- DD. Approve 2009-10 Coaching & Advising Assignments

Motion carried unanimously.

Teaching and Learning Committee Discussion

2008-09 Annual Assessment Report: Catherine Cranston asked Curriculum & Instruction Director Ron Berg to discuss some highlights of the report. Berg stated the report included two years of MAPs results, noting two different kinds of tests were scored. Berg stated WKCE tests came out well overall. Cranston said the Teaching & Learning Committee noted the lower test scores in the subject of math at the primary level, and indicated the committee felt the best intervention for this will be the elementary Title 1 math teacher position. Berg noted Language Arts in 8th grade had a low score for the first time in six years, and said instructors are looking at possible reasons. Berg said he will come back with more information on this concern at a later date. Berg said that good news from the assessment shows increased scores in high school math, and felt it has been helpful for the district to have added Algebra and pre-Algebra to the middle school curriculum.

2009-10 High School Teacher and Student Handbooks: Cranston noted there were no major changes to any of the handbooks, and minor changes were highlighted. Board members were appreciative of the highlighted areas and summary pages.

Standards-Based Elementary Report Cards: Cranston thanked the teaching staff who worked on the standards based elementary report card project, stating they deserved many thanks for taking on such a difficult task. Cranston said the report is very detailed and comprehensive, and will help to give parents much helpful information.

Elementary School Trimesters vs. Quarters: Cranston said the Teaching & Learning Committee supports trimester reporting as it would fit better with the new type of report cards. Elementary school conferences are scheduled before the first report cards go out. Sample report cards went home with students at the end of last school year. Colbeth stated she would like to see this type of report card implemented at the middle and high school levels as it is more realistic reporting.

Business Services Committee Discussion

Transportation: Board member Moulton spoke on behalf of the Business Services Committee, summarizing their discussion regarding the 2009-2010 Bus Transportation Rates; Moulton stated the committee discussed a 2% increase in the transportation contract for 09-10 and the committee recommended negotiations on a five-year contract, which is addressed as an action item on the agenda.

2009-2010 ISS/Maintenance Experts Cleaning Rates: Moulton said the committee reviewed a 3.5% contract increase and wanted to be sure that increase was passed down to workers' wages. Business Services will be looking at the wages from the company to be sure the workers are getting the increase.

2009-2011 Health Insurance Rates: Moulton said the committee discussed the increase of 6.5% in health insurance rates for a two-year contract. Moulton informed the board that for Year 2 the 6.5% is not capped (up to 6.5% for Year 2).

2009-2010 Revenues of Preliminary Budget: Moulton said the committee reviewed preliminary budget information for 2009-2010. He then asked Business Manager Avery to share some of the issues. Avery stated current budget predictions will cut school aid by almost 6.8% below projections (state average is 3.1%). The net effect is a burden on the tax payers, unless the school district reduces its budget, thereby changing variables. Avery stated two key issues came out of committee discussion: How change in enrollment can change district revenue dollars by \$100,000, and the impact of equalized value coming from property taxes is lower than expected.

Superintendent Information

Superintendent Rosburg reported on the Enrollment Summary of 2008-09 school year stating the summary was pulled together for a yearly comparison, and noting that current enrollment numbers are down. Committee meetings tentatively slated for Monday, August 3, 2009 are the Business Services Committee and the Facilities Committee. Rosburg wrapped up his report stating the district received an \$18,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for the district's mentor program. Rosburg said the mentor program has been very beneficial to the district's new educators, and thanked Ron Berg for his leadership in this area.

Board Report

CESA II: Cranston provided an update on CESA 11 stating CESA is sponsoring a very large professional development opportunity called STAR Academy. Cranston said a CESA representative mentioned to the CESA board that Somerset is ahead of curve as far as technology and training, and was impressed to hear of the recent SmartBoard training that Somerset teachers are providing for staff.

Community Involvement: Rosburg stated today's Seibel golf outing was a nice event and that the school district was represented well.

School Board Liaison: Witzmann said he spoke with most all of the school board members regarding school liaison opportunities. Moulton has agreed to be the high school liaison, Connor will be the middle school liaison, and Witzmann will be the elementary school liaison. Cranston volunteered to be an alternate if needed. Liaison reporting will be added to the board agenda each month.

Pupil Services Director Report

Superintendent Rosburg reported on behalf of Pupil Services Director Darren Kern who was absent this evening. Rosburg stated Kern supplied updated ELL, GT and Special Education numbers for the board in their packets. Colbeth asked if the numbers could be laid out similar to the enrollment report so that members may compare month by month. Rosburg said he will contact Kern with this request and thanked the board for their ideas.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Report

Ron Berg, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided an update on the 2008-09 School Assessment Report which he said was updated slightly from the report the Teaching and Learning Committee reviewed earlier in the month.

Strategic Plan Update: Berg stated there are four plan strategies, however two of them have been emphasized, including community involvement and career information. The August teacher in-service days are planned as well as in-service days throughout the year. Witzmann asked if the district has data about where graduates go after high school. Rosburg stated the district has tried to get this information in the past, but it has been difficult to secure the information due to students moving or not returning the surveys. Witzmann said research has been done on the correlation between school programs at the high school level and what careers students choose. Berg said this may be a good year for the district to look at graduation data with the new careers piece.

Elementary School Principal Report

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood said that, with the approval of tonight's consent agenda, the hiring at the elementary school is complete and she is happy and appreciative of the board's support of aides. Wood asked board members to consider what the district will do if the elementary continues to grow in numbers, and wondered where the tipping point is. Witzmann agreed the elementary school is full and continues to grow at critical mass compared to the other school buildings, and will keep options in mind.

High School Principal Report

Rosburg reported for Principal Shawn Madden who was not in attendance. Rosburg stated most of the vacant teaching or aide positions have been hired. The high school building is ahead of schedule for cleaning, and Belisle excavating continues their work on campus road enhancements.

Middle School Principal Report

Rosburg reported on behalf of Principal Rick Lange who was absent. Rosburg stated the masonry work on the middle school roof is working well. The building is also ahead of schedule for building cleaning. Summer school classes will end this week, new hires are in place, and Lange and Sara Eichten have begun transitional planning for the middle school principal position.

Business Manager Report

Request for Proposals: Avery stated an RFP was sent out for vehicle servicing, with Spartan Auto Quick Service selected. Avery stated another RFP was sent out to three companies regarding the middle school circulation pump, with two bids received and coming in under budget.

Year-end Audit: Avery said auditors will be in the district at the end of July; the district received an audit prep list of 40 items needed before auditors arrive on-site.

Capital Projects: Avery shared aspects of the capital project document depicting a three-year plan. Avery stated unexpended dollars will go into a fund balance and will appear as expenditure items in this year's budget. With those changes, the district budgeted nearly \$540,000 for capital items. Avery stated the 2009-10 budget will be officially adopted at the October board meeting.

Action Items

On behalf of the Business Services Committee, Moulton moved, with second by Cranston, to approve 2009-2010 Food Services Prices. Lunches will go up ten cents and breakfast will increase by five cents. Second lunch entrées will be increased from \$1.15 to \$1.50. Motion carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Business Services Committee, Moulton moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve Negotiations of a Five-Year Contract with Safeway Bus Transportation, 2010-2015. Moulton asked if a five-year transportation contract is typical. Avery said it was, and the district will be negotiating items such as fuel, insurance, etc. Motion carried unanimously.

Connor moved, with second by Moulton to Move to Executive Session in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1), (c) for the purpose of discussing performance, compensation, and benefit data of administrators, teachers, support staff, and supervisory support staff employees. Roll Call: Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor of the motion. Board moved into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m.

Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to move back to open session. Roll Call: Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor of the motion and the meeting moved into open session.

Hansch moved, with second by Gunther, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk