

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

Board President Brian Moulton called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Present were Brian Moulton, Robert Gunther, Mike Connor, Tim Witzmann, Kelly Ott, Tom Walters and Marie Colbeth.

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

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

Positive Recognition of the 2013 State Wrestling Participants: The board recognized the following students for competing at the 2013 State Wrestling Tournament: Gabriel Flandrick, son of Michelle Baillargeon and Mitch Flandrick; Robert Le Roy, son of John and Kristine Le Roy; Maxwell Praschak, son of David and Sarah Praschak. Also recognized were Head Coach Mitch Flandrick and Assistant Coach Trent Larrieu. The wrestlers introduced their parents and commented on their positive experiences at state. Larrieu stated the wrestlers all worked very hard this year, never complained and always kept going. Moulton presented them with certificates thanking them for a successful season.

Meeting was recessed at 7:08 p.m. and reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of February 18, 2013
- B. Approve Minutes of Special Session of February 18, 2013
- C. Approve Minutes of Special Session of March 4, 2013
- D. Approve Payment of February/March Board Bills
- E. Approve 2013-2014 CESA 11 Shared Services Contract
- F. Approve Family Means 2013-2014 Contract
- G. Approve Post-Prom Facility Sponsorship and \$1,500.00 Facility Fee
- H. Approve Renewal of Girls Hockey Cooperative Team Sponsorship with Amery, Clear Lake, New Richmond and Osceola School Districts for 2013-15 School Years
- I. Approve Hiring of Stephanie Briggs for Middle School Special Education Short Term Substitute Teacher
- J. Approve Hiring of Kathleen Heiss for Middle School Special Education Aide
- K. Approve Hiring Krisann Saalborn for Middle School Part Time Special Education Aide
- L. Approve Resignation of Donna Eiring, Junior Kindergarten Instructor
- M. Approve Resignation of Alton Duerkop, Elementary School Music Instructor
- N. Approve Resignation of Teri O'Rourke, Middle School

Motion carried unanimously.

President Moulton introduced Nancy Dressel and Tammie Wishard present in the audience, as candidates for the April 2, 2013 School Board Election.

Action:

Approve Hiring of Christopher Moore as the High School Principal for the 2013-2014 School Year.

Moulton moved with second by Ott to Approve Hiring of Christopher Moore as the High School Principal for the 2013-2014 School Year. Motion Carried unanimously. Colbeth spoke of how excited staff and students at all campuses were with the hiring of Mr. Moore. Gunther shared that Mr. Moore's prior school was Mahtomedi and that he was very impressed with how the campus was run. Connor also stated he was blown away by all of Mr. Moore's accomplishments. Moulton thanked Moore for going through the interview process. Moore introduced his family and shared that he is looking forward to starting his new position in Somerset.

Discussion

Business Services Committee: 2013-2014 Budget Development: President Moulton asked Dave Gerberding, Director of Business Services and Operations, to discuss the 2013-2014 Budget Development. Gerberding stated that he and members of the Somerset administrative team along with staff from other districts met with Senator Harsdorf to discuss Governor Walker's proposal for the state biennial budget and examined the per member increase and the effects on area schools. Colbeth asked for an explanation as to the reasoning behind Rosburg's request that vouchers should be removed from the budget discussion. Rosburg indicated there is strong support of the idea of having the voucher discussion occur outside of the budget and that there is value in some level of vouchers for some districts and those discussions should occur outside of the budget. Gerberding also explained the CESA 11 2013-2014 Shared Services Contract. Through Gerberding's collaborative work with the CIA Director and Pupil Services Director, cost savings have been identified.

Strategic Review of Instructional Plan: Also discussed was the Strategic Review of Instructional Technology Plan. Superintendent Rosburg stated there will be three to five outside firms that will provide reviews/audits of the district's IT plan and hopes the firms will have them available by April. Ott expressed that she would like to see the results be presented to the full board, not just the committee. Walters spoke of a local IT company that he has been in contact with. They were willing to provide a conference call to those in the district and on the board in which he would explain the components of IT. Witzmann inquired as to whether we have an RFP. Rosburg answered that he explained to the vendors what exactly the district is looking for. The vendors in turn told Rosburg that a strategic review would be much more involved and would incur a greater cost. Rosburg explained that the district is, like many other districts, trying to review what we have, renew and configure the existing components as well as determine the IT strengths the district currently has. The district's technology plan is up to be reviewed this summer.

Governance Committee: WASB Overview of District Policies: Committee Chair Connor explained that the WASB has reviewed the district's policies. Those that have been suggested by the WASB to be reviewed and modified will be looked at in April at the committee level or in six months.

Board Evaluation Policy: Gunther asked Connor for an explanation of the Board Evaluation Policy. Connor explained that the policy will be updated to include a 360 review every other year. The 360 review will include three each of the following groups of people: community members, business people, support staff, supervisory support staff, teachers, student board representatives, administrators and other board members. Further discussion to take place at the April committee meeting and then to the full board in April for a first reading.

Policy KG, Facility Use and Fee Schedule: Ott asked about the current fee schedule and whether a family could purchase a small block of time to use school equipment, versus having to purchase a full four hour block. The example Ott gave was that if a family would like to use the school's piano for a student to practice on this should be a separate section of the policy and have its own classification. Rosburg added that the fee schedule is mainly for sports and the rest is for community education. Rosburg then suggested the possibility of a community survey to see what the community members want as this would be an opportunity to gauge interest and then restructure.

Information

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Rosburg stated enrollment information was included in the packet, showing a total enrollment of 1,646 students as of March 2013. This number is up from the 1,635 number of February 2013. Witzmann asked how this increase impacted the already crowded high school. Rosburg responded that it adds to the crowding that the high school is already experiencing. Upcoming board committee meetings and a Special Session / Board Retreat have been scheduled for April 8th. April 8th was chosen as the Monday in April for BOE committee meetings as April 1st is part of the Easter Holiday.

Board Report

CESA II Update: Walters presented the board and administrators with small gifts that he obtained from the hotel while attending the WASB conference in Milwaukee. Walters recapped the last CESA meeting stating it was short and that in the future ITV may be used for the CESA meetings. This would eliminate those in attendance having to drive a long distance for a short meeting. Walters also spoke of a new bus that CESA purchased and that it was a large expenditure on their part. Walters stated that CESA was receiving positive feedback on the 2013-2014 Shared Services Contract and that breaking out the services was appreciated by the districts.

Community and School Involvement: Colbeth spoke of a phenomenal choir concert she attended here. Discussion then followed on the attendance at the referendum meetings. Colbeth has been hearing that the community would like to see an increase in ACT scores. Current numbers show that eighty percent of Somerset students are taking the ACT whereas some districts only have thirty nine percent of students taking it. Ott stated that the high percentage of students taking the ACT could be lowering the average scores. Focus should be placed on the mid-level students that are taking the test. Colbeth stated that the high percentage of students at Somerset taking the ACT is indicative that Somerset is doing something right in that so many kids want to go to college and are taking steps to prepare for it. Colbeth asked if communication could be made in regards to the ACT via the Spartan Spotlight articles. Rosburg answered that it could. Connor spoke of his attendance at the conferences that recently took place at all three schools. He said it was an enjoyable experience and there were many engaging conversations about the referendum. Connor felt the conversations he was a part of were much more positive than negative. Witzmann added that the community was supportive of the referendum and they could see and understand the need for it. Gunther asked if the board had ever spoken at the local senior centers. Rosburg explained that it had been done in the past and could be followed up on again for the current referendum. Rosburg also spoke of the upcoming meeting at the Sportsman on March 27 at 7:00 a.m. and extended an invitation to any board member that was able to attend. Connor then wrapped up the conversation of the referendum by adding that this is a mandate of the people, and that he is optimistic that we are doing what the community wants.

Student Council Report: Student Council Representative Grace Becher recapped the events from Polar Daze and the talent show stating there was a great turnout for the events. Student Council is currently looking at a leadership night at the Excel Energy Center, similar to the event that took place last year. Prom planning is underway with a date set for April 27. Planning for the annual Community Day is also underway with a date slated for some time in May. Becher also added the high school is excited about the new principal and looking forward to having Mr. Moore come on board.

Directors and Principals Report: Elementary School Principal Darren Kern thanked the Hoyt family for their generous donation to the SAC program and added that it was much appreciated and the school is grateful for the donation. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Trisha Sheridan spoke of RtI. The results are great and the process is going well. However, more time is needed to be devoted to this hard work. It is a work in progress and substitutes are being provided so teachers can work towards the assessment piece of this. Time and resources are needed for this and opportunities to work on this in the summer are being looked at. Kern explained that once getting over the steep learning curve, the results that are being seen with RtI are excellent. Sheridan spoke of Somerset being an ACT test site and that 349 students have been tested since becoming a test site. Only Osceola tested more students than Somerset last year. Connor spoke to recent college graduates and in the course of their studies, experienced PLC's and RtI. The graduates expressed that they wished all schools did this. Donnelly spoke of co-teaching and team teaching and how to infuse common core work into the special education staff.

Ott moved, with second by Colbeth, to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried.

