

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
March 22, 2010**

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order in the District Office Board Room at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. Members present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch, with Marie Colbeth arriving at 6:20 p.m. Also present was Randy Rosburg.

Moulton moved, with second by Connor, to approve the agenda. On roll call, all members present voted yes.

Connor moved, with second by Cranston, to move into Executive Session in accordance with Wis. Statute 19.85(1)(a)(c) for the purpose of discussing performance compensation and benefit data of administrators, teachers, support staff and supervisory support staff employees. On roll call, all present voted yes. Meeting went into closed session.

Connor moved, with second by Gunther, to move into open session at 6:20 p.m. Upon roll call, all present voted yes.

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

Positive Recognition: The Board recognized 2010 State Wrestling Participant Gabriel Flandrick, son of Mitch Flandrick and Michelle Baillargeon. Gabe's father is also the high school's head wrestling coach. Coach Flandrick provided some background on Gabe's wrestling career including the hard work and dedication that Gabe has given to the activity for many years. Gabe introduced his parents, and then talked a bit about his experience participating at the state level. Witzmann presented Gabe with a certificate, thanking him for his hard work and participation at the state level.

The Board recognized 2010 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Excellence Scholar Recipient Johanna Smith. High School Principal Shawn Madden said the district is very proud of Smith's accomplishment. Smith was nominated and chosen based on her outstanding scholastic achievements. Smith will attend a banquet in Eau Claire where she will be presented with the scholar award. Smith won a full scholarship to Purdue University, and was asked to tell the board a bit more about it. Smith stated the scholarship covers all costs for undergrad through PhD. Smith introduced her mom, Debbie Smith, and sister Dayna who is currently attending Columbus University. Colbeth presented Smith with a certificate recognizing her efforts.

The Board recognized food service employees including Debbie Revalee, Jelaine Germain, Deb Dolezal, Julie Johnson, Kristi Kampsula, Ryan Roettger, Amy Stewart, Sally Viellieux, and Niki Weidinger. Rosburg thanked them for their impact in providing nutritional breakfasts and lunches to Somerset school students. Rosburg stated the nutritional breakfasts and lunches the food program provides is an integral part of a student's every day health and wellness. Witzmann presented each with a certificate, thanking them for their dedication to the school lunch program.

The meeting recessed at 7:16 p.m., and reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of February 15, 2010
- B. Approval of Minutes of Special Session of March 1, 2010
- C. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of March 8, 2010
- D. Approve payment of February/March Board Bills
- E. Approve hiring of Kitzi Klinger as long-term substitute for Amber Vrieze for the 2009-10 school year
- F. Approve hiring Mollie Leiser as early childhood special education teacher for the 2010-2011 school year
- G. Approve mid-year resignation for retirement of Brad Nemec, District Athletic Director
- H. Approve resignation for retirement of Raymond Standke, Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Science Teacher
- I. Approve resignation for retirement of Kathryn Murphy, High School Language Arts Teacher

- J. Approve resignation for retirement of Pam Powers, High School Family & Consumer Education Teacher
- K. Approve resignation for retirement of Roger Zolldan, Middle School Music Teacher
- L. Approve hiring of Brad Nemec, Summer School Director
- M. Approve hiring of Sandy Nemec, Summer School Secretary
- N. Approve 2009-2010 spring coaching and advising assignments
- O. Approve National Insurance Services/Madison National Life Insurance Co. as district's life/ltd insurance carrier
- P. Approve Family Means contract renewal for 3-15-10 through 3-14-11 for Employee Assistance Program
- Q. Approve Youth Options Applications
- R. Approve early graduation of students Mariah Beaupre, Ariana Colombo, Alisha Dybedahl, Casey Land, Allana Lippman, and Coty Reinhardt

Motion carried.

Discussion

Teaching & Learning Committee

Compass Learning Odyssey Software: Cranston said several teachers visited Cumberland School District to look at their assessment system. Cranston said the visit was informational only, but was reviewed as an option in assessing Somerset students. Eichten added the Somerset School District is not yet ready to go district wide with this type of software as staff are still investigating what it has to offer, as well as what other programs are available.

2010-2011 Staffing: Avery stated the information provided was an update to the committee on where administration is with discussions on staffing needs. The list will be prioritized and brought back to the committee in April. Avery indicated the budget for the staff recommendations will go before the Business Services Committee and to the full board in April.

Business Services Committee

2010-2011 Budget Development: Colbeth stated Avery provided good descriptive handouts for the budget development and was provided to the board for informational purposes.

QSCB Financing Option: Avery indicated he received an update on the QSCB financing option, stating the allocation was approved in the Senate and signed by the President. The allocation is in process of being distributed from the Dept. of Education, with WI DPI working on the allocation. Avery expects to bring a resolution to the board soon.

Facilities Committee

Capital Projects: Moulton provided a recap on current district capital projects, stating the middle school's main electrical breaker is completed, nine asbestos locations at the school have been cleaned up, and Belisle Excavating is patching blacktop around the campus.

Standalone Building Update: Moulton introduced John Huenink and Gary Zifco from Kraus-Anderson. Huenink presented four possible standalone building site locations throughout the campus. K-A felt Site #4 behind the high school building was the best building site due to parking access, utilities, and busing. Building size is now an 8,000 square foot facility (originally 6,000 square feet) due to areas needed for mechanical systems. Preliminary pricing indicates the structure is 15 percent over budget; K-A will work to get the price back to \$1 million dollars. The building location next to the metal shed creates an option to look at a Butler-type building or more of a residential frame building. Huenink stated the timeline goal is to have SDS Architects, Inc. complete drawings in two weeks. Alternate building footage (for future building expansion) will also be bid. K-A plans to have solid bids in by the April 19th board meeting. The project will be advertised throughout western Wisconsin and the Twin Cities area.

Information

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Rosburg stated enrollment numbers have fluctuated slightly, but mostly remain the same as prior months. Tentative committee meetings slated for Monday, April 5, 2010 include Facilities Committee, Business Services Committee, Governance Committee, and Teaching & Learning Committee. Board of Canvassers will meet April 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Cranston and Avery offered to assist. Board Retreat is scheduled for Monday, April 26, 2010, from 5-9:00 p.m. Rosburg stated the board will hear from administrators on reporting out of goals.

Board Report

CESA 11 Update: Cranston stated the current CESA Administrator has retired, and a search firm has been hired. All applications have been reviewed and paired down. The hiring committee will meet to pair applications down further with plans to interview two candidates soon.

CESA Board/Adm Joint Mtg: Will be held March 23, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. Rosburg and Hansch will be in attendance.

Community Involvement: Witzmann stated he had the opportunity to work in one of the concession stands recently. Cranston attended a Wisconsin hockey tournament with the two Somerset hockey coaches. Hansch has been attending the Somerset Memorial Scholarship Fund committee meetings, stating their annual fundraiser will be held on April 17.

School Liaisons: Nothing to report at this time.

Curriculum & Instruction Report: Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ron Berg stated the annual data retreat will take place on April 12; staff will review test data and community data. This process will help provide information for the April 26 Board Retreat. In the area of curriculum, Project Lead the Way high school course has been filled for this term, with plans to fill two courses next year. In the area of strategic planning, the district is looking at more exposure to foreign languages and this spring will be using Rosetta Stone web-based language software as a pilot project. Twenty-five user slots will be available for K-12 teachers to learn two languages for 90 days. Teachers may choose two of 27 languages. Berg indicated creating cultural awareness with students through languages can be part of thematic instruction. Cranston would like teachers to give a five-minute report to the board on how the software program works.

High School Report: Student Council Board Representative Johanna Smith provided a report on student council activities including preparations for Junior Prom and the senior class picnic. The "Penny Wars" fundraiser raised \$83.75 for the WI Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, sophomores completed their fund raising project to help pay for their junior prom next year, and the student council's annual Cystic Fibrosis Foundation fundraiser brought in \$875.00. High School Principal Shawn Madden recognized February Students of the Month, thanking them and staff for continued character education support. Madden went on to report in the area of teaching and learning, the academic awards ceremony will take place on March 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. Madden added that district health care staff work on health and wellness is going strong with hopes for winning a Governor's Health Award again this year. Staff is hoping for a gold or platinum award. Madden ended his report stating spring sports are underway and wished student athletes and coaches good luck.

Middle School Principal: Middle School Principal Sara Eichten reported on character education, stating student led conferences were recently held. Eichten said staff felt these types of conferences provide a nice avenue for parents to dialog with their student during the conference. Eichten went on to report the playground committee recently received \$900 from the Ann Marie Foundation. The committee has been busy selling t-shirts and raffle tickets for raffle of Adirondack chairs (built by Mr. Mark Barron). In the area of thematic units, Eichten stated the Holocaust unit was underway; various speakers have visited to talk with students about the history of the Holocaust. Fifth and 6th grade thematic units are also underway. Eichten stated the middle school hosted the annual Fine Arts Festival on March 4th which was very well attended. The Destination Imagination group will be competing at Regional's in Chippewa Falls, and April 1st is the annual middle school talent show. April 1st staff will be working on goal setting and planning world day during in-service.

Elementary School Report: Elementary School Principal, Cherrie Wood reported on Junior Kindergarten registration held March 12, stating 85 students registered, with five students unable to come in that day. Wood indicated this is the largest registration of Jr. Kindergarten registrations to date. Kindergarten registration will be held on April 1st. As part of the character education unit, surveys completed by guest speakers, field trips to businesses and organizations will be reviewed. Report cards went home to parents on March 12th for the second trimester. MAP testing for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades will take place in May. Staff will be working on building goals during the April 1st in-service. Witzmann asked Wood if she was planning for five sections of Jr. Kindergarten and six sections of Kindergarten based on current enrollment numbers next year. Wood stated yes, however, she said there were still many unknowns and continues to review several classroom options.

Business Services & Operations Report: Director of Business Services and Operations Bob Avery reported on

the monthly cash flow, stating budget development is in administrators' hands and is due back to him on April 7. Avery will consolidate the budget information to bring forward in May for review and in June to be adopted as a preliminary budget. Avery stated tax collections for 2010 to date have provided more than \$4.7 million dollars. Based on last year's data, the district is at the same place it was last year in revenues. The third quarter budget to actual report and staffing needs will be reviewed at the April Business Services committee meeting.

Pupil Services Report: Director of Pupil Services, Darren Kern, reported the district is going through a routine Title III audit (English Language Learner), similar to the special education audit last year. ELL Parent Night will be held April 29 at 5:00 p.m. Board members are welcome to attend. In the area of special education, Kern stated there has been a piece of proposed legislation dealing with seclusion and restraint; he stated the legislation is very involved and not school friendly. Kern indicated the language make not be taken up this legislative session, however, it will resurface next year and he will be watching for further news. This Saturday the "Keys to Success Conference," will be held at Osceola Middle School. This is an annual conference which will cover several key education initiatives. Special Education Friendship Games have received an enormous response with 400 kids planned to participate. It is estimated 75 – 100 volunteers will be need on May 21 for this event. Rain date is May 28. Hansch asked at are ELL students considered "proficient"? Kern said an "Access for ELL" test is taken with results ranging from 0 to 6, with Level 6 being English proficient. At Level 5, based on certain criteria, students can be exited out of the program.

Governance Committee

Connor moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve revisions to Policy IKFAA High School Graduation Requirements (2nd Reading). Connor stated the committee reviewed the revisions and the biggest change was in the community service area, which was re-written for 80 hours total for the four-year high school career. Also, students will no longer need to provide a portfolio. There being no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Human Resources Committee

Gunther moved, with second by Hansch, to approve revisions to Special Education Aide job description. Kern stated points 11 through 17 were added to bring more specificity to the job description as it was fairly generic before; the revised description includes more detail in daily activities. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Teaching & Learning Committee

Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to approve open enrollment applications for 2010-2011. Cranston stated the committee reviewed all of the open enrollment applications and, as consistent with past practice, have brought forward the applications to be approved. There being no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Cranston moved, with second by Connor, to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk