

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET**  
**May 17, 2010**

Members re-convened in open session. Moulton moved, with second by Connor, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Positive Recognition**

The board recognized Johanna Smith for her two years of service as student representative to the board. Smith is the daughter of Rennie & Debra Smith. Witzmann explained how the board is made up, including Smith's job as student representative. Witzmann thanked Smith, stating she is an outstanding student and citizen. Other board members expressed their admiration and thanks. Smith was presented a certificate of appreciation for her work.

The board recognized 2010 State Forensics participants Grace Becher, Ontario Belter, Aminah Henne, Emilee Martell, Elizabeth Ottman, Johanna Smith, and Rachel Verdeja. Advisor Jeanne Germain provided some background on coaching Forensics, including this year's forensics topics at state. Germain stated fourteen members were on the team, with seven members going to state, and then introduced each of the participants and their topics. Moulton presented the students certificates, thanking each of them for representing Somerset in such a positive way.

The board recognized 2010 State Solo Ensemble Choir participants Brittney Anderson, Dana Carlson, Briana Crichton, Riley Jackson, Jessica Lammers, Jacob Lang, Cedric Mantovani, Elizabeth Ottman, Alicia Post, Amanda Prax, Haley Ritter, John Russell, Johanna Smith, Natalie Strese, Cody Waalen, and Luke Westmoreland. Vocal music instructor Rachel Erickson stated the students had an exceptional successful year with 19 students participating at state. Twelve students received #1 ratings, and seven students received #2 ratings. An "Exemplary Performance" award went to Dana Carlson. Colbeth presented certificates to the students, commenting that it was exciting to see the students perform at the recent "Encore" performance and their support of one another.

The board recognized 2010 State Solo Ensemble Instrumental participants Jeremy Bucklew, Dana Carlson, Emilee Martell, Beige McConaughy, Elizabeth Ottman, Johanna Smith, and Aric Vanasse. Instrumental music instructor Andrew Emerson introduced the students, stating two groups made it to state this year. Emerson said this year's state participants are very young, so he expects they will continue their success in years to come. Emerson stated a duet performed by Freshman Emilee and Beige at state was only one point away from achieving a #1 rating which is very rare. Somerset's saxophone ensemble did an outstanding job and received a perfect score. Hansch thanked the students for representing the school as she handed them achievement certificates.

The board recognized 2010 State Destination Imagination participants Austin Beasley, Michalea Bender, Anna Branum, Brian Dolezal, Frank Johnson, Arron Joppru, Josh Kelly, Sam Linden, Rhys Linke, Nick Maitrejean, Tony Mussehl, Savanna Nasgovitz, Ethan Pike, Nathan Sandy, Simon Schoenborn, and Gabbie Vogel. Advisors Rosanne Erickson introduced the students, stating they had a fabulous year, with lots of new members. She stated the students performed well at regionals and were phenomenal at state, explaining some of the creative problem solving each of the teams performed. Cranston presented certificates to the students, stating it was great to have so many students representing Somerset at state.

Meeting was recessed at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7: 53 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of April 19, 2010 of the School Board
- B. Approve Minutes of special session of April 26, 2010 of the School Board
- C. Approve payment of April/May Board Bills
- D. Approve hiring of Karen Magler, Elementary School Health Care Provider, for the 2010-11 school year

- E. Approve Spring 2009-2010 coaching and advising assignments
- F. Approve Fall 2010-2011 coaching and advising assignments
- G. Approve renewal of annual TeacherInsight contract for one year for \$3,380

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion**

#### **Business Services Committee**

*QSCB Funding:* Colbeth said more QSCB funding paperwork was turned in to WI Department of Public Instruction, but it will be mid-June before the district will learn when and if it will receive the allocation as there are more applications than allocations. Business Manager Avery presented other options to the committee if the district does not receive the allocation.

*2010-11 Budget:* Colbeth stated she appreciated how Avery laid out the budget to make it very clear for committee members. More budget detail will be available next month as the committee discusses budget adjustments.

#### **Facilities Committee**

Colbeth stated the committee reviewed the Somerset Village Storm Water Utility Plan, which has not yet been approved at the village level. Rosburg stated he sent a letter of concern of the proposed storm water fees to Village Trustees, stating they responded well to the letter, and more meetings at the village will be held for further discussion. Moulton provided a recap of the district's capital maintenance projects including painting of the district's parking lot and other parking lot maintenance work, track resurfacing, and upgrade of music equipment at the high school.

### **Information**

Superintendent Rosburg stated enrollment numbers have been down slightly since the beginning of the school year. Committee meetings tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2010 include Teaching and Learning Committee and Business Services Committee. Rosburg reported on the Race to the Top MOU, stating the second round has arrived, and the district will respond to that round. Rosburg said the RTtT dollar amount has increased to \$100/per student or up to \$80,000. Rosburg ended his report with the sad news of the recent death of former board member Rex Dalzell who had served 12 years on the Somerset Board of Education. Rosburg said Dalzell was very progressive and community minded. Connor added Dalzell was instrumental in bringing about hockey and the ice arena to the Somerset community.

### **Board Report**

*CESA 11 Update:* Cranston reported that final CESA 11 director interviews will be held May 25<sup>th</sup>. The regular CESA 11 meeting will be held June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Headstart Policy Council, of which Cranston is a member, will also meet before the regular CESA meeting. CESA's Annual Meeting is slated for June 7<sup>th</sup>; Cranston asked if a board member would be able to attend the committee meetings on her behalf that evening so that she may attend the annual meeting.

*Community Involvement:* Connor attended the recent community party for Somerset School District staff retirees at the American Legion, stating it was a full house and everyone had a nice time.

*School Liaisons:* Nothing to report.

*Board Committee Assignments:* Witzmann talked with everyone about committee assignments; all are comfortable with their currently assigned committees. Hansch is unable to continue as liaison with the Somerset Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee as she is unable to make meetings due to her work schedule. Witzmann said if someone is willing to serve on that committee, they are to let him know.

**Curriculum & Instruction Report:** Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ron Berg reported that in the area of curriculum, the Project Lead the Way high school course will be changing next year due to student interest. Enrollment in the class necessitated some shifting, so two more classes were added for next school year. In the area of instruction, SmartBoard training for staff will be provided over the summer as staff is interested in learning more, about the use of SmartBoards. In the area of assessment, the district is in the midst of maps assessments. Results of the tests will turn into goal setting. Spring results will be given to teachers next fall.

**High School Report:** High School Principal Shawn Madden stated the board will see a recommendation for a new student representative to the board next month. Madden went on to report the recent students of the month, reading off some of the Character Education requirements for this award. Community clean up day was moved to May 14<sup>th</sup> because of rain. Madden said the new date proved to be a great weather day, and students worked hard to clean up and beautify the community. Footings are now in place for the Spartan Sculpture, which is anticipated to be completed by graduation day. Events for the seniors' last week of school include the senior picnic, graduation rehearsal, and Sunday's graduation ceremony. Colbeth and Moulton will assist with distribution of diplomas for Sunday's ceremony. Connor and Cranston will assist with distribution of diplomas at the alternative education graduation ceremony the following Monday.

**Middle School Report:** Middle School Principal Sara Eichten reported on the completion of the installation of the middle school playground last weekend. Eichten stated there was still some minor work to be completed, however, the majority of work was done. She thanked everyone involved, adding that it was a wonderful community effort. The playground committee hosted a party that evening, and received \$2,000 in donations for the playground. Eichten stated the teachers' association will match \$1,500 of that donation. Eichten thanked Michele Hoffbeck, Lisa Hohler, Melanie Germain, and Kim Belisle for their hard work to get a playground installed at the middle school. Eichten went on to report the "Hoops for Hearts" day was celebrated last Friday, and the event raised \$1,300 for the American Heart Association. World Day plans were finalized last Friday from thematic units, and teachers set building goals for next fall. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> band and choir concert will be held tomorrow.

**Elementary School Report:** Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported the elementary school recently held its career education fair; many community members attended different sessions of which students rotated. Teachers followed up the event to discuss what worked or what didn't work to help with planning for next year's event. Fourth graders will be going to the middle school on May 19<sup>th</sup> for orientation. The Bell Museum is coming to the elementary school to visit 1<sup>st</sup> graders; this time they are bringing honey bees to study. Fourth graders are studying geology. Sports day is slated on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Wood stated elementary teacher Bob Seibel coordinates this effort and does a great job. Staff continues to work to prepare for the next school year, with re-assignments of classrooms, completion of all encore master schedules, and year-end goal meetings.

#### **Business Services & Operations Report**

Director of Business Services and Operations Robert Avery reported the WI Department of Public Instruction's food service audit came out very well with only two recommendations for the district, which Avery stated were simple fixes. Avery attended the Somerset Village Storm Water Runoff meeting, and indicated proposed fees may not happen for a while as the village continues to research their plan. The Cash Flow Report was not available, but will be mailed out to board members this week.

**Pupil Services Report:** Pupil Services Director Darren Kern stated board members will receive an e-mail from him regarding the district's Strategic Plan, which Kern will facilitate for the next five-years. Kern indicated he is looking for a couple of board members who may be interested in helping on the plan. Friendship games will be held Friday; Kern stated hundreds of volunteers have signed up to help with the event, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Kern went on to report on special education student numbers, stating the numbers have grown over 20% in three years. Kern indicated the complexity of the special education student population is changing and growing in all areas; Kern stated Autism cases are growing rapidly at the district, which coincides nationwide as well.

#### **Business Services Committee**

Colbeth moved, with second by Cranston, to approve renewal of the A'viands food service contract amendment. Colbeth stated the committee was pleased with the service provided by A'viands. She stated the food bid is put out every three to four years; however the process is reviewed each year. Colbeth said it made good sense to continue with the one-year renewal contract. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Facilities Committee**

Moulton moved, with second by Gunther to approve modification to the three-year capital projects plan, of which Moulton discussed earlier in the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Teaching and Learning Committee**

Cranston moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve forgiving the December 9, 2009 inclement weather day for students and staff. Witzmann stated this issue is always challenging when looking at making up days, however, staff worked remotely from home that day, and some were able to work at their district building. Motion carried unanimously.

Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the 2010-2011 District Wide Goals. Witzmann commented the goals will provide good direction for the district next year. Motion carried unanimously.

Cranston moved, with second by Hansch, to approve weighted grades for rigorous high school courses that are Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other externally validated post-secondary programs. Cranston stated there was much discussion at the committee level regarding the issue of rigor at the high school level, and that it is good for the district to move in that direction. Motion carried unanimously.

Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to approve 5<sup>th</sup> grade gender-based classrooms for the 2010-11 school year. Cranston stated this program has been very successful and no changes will be made. She said families still have a choice in deciding if they want their student in a gender-based classroom at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Motion carried unanimously.

Cranston moved to adjourn, with second by Colbeth, at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk