

SOMERSET BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
May 21, 2012

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m., after the Review of the K-12 Education Journey with high school seniors. Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present and include Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Robert Gunther, Mike Connor, Marie Colbeth, Kelly Ott, and Tom Walters.

Moulton moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve the agenda as presented. 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.

The Board recognized 2012 State Solo Ensemble Choir participants including Ashley Andrews, Hanna Barritt, Ashley Beasley, Jonathan Bucklew, Emily Colombo, Mary Fohrenkamm, Gavin Germain, Rachel Helgeson, Riley Jackson, Jonathon Karis, Tyler Kupczak, Kacie Larkowski, Cedric Mantovani, Kaitlyn Nichols, Quinn Perro, Kaitlin Raber, Hannah Rosentreter, Cassandra Schmidt, Jacob Scott, Zachery Siebenaler, Jessica Sisler, Tayva Strom, Malia Triebold, Natalie Van Dam, Luke Westmoreland, Mackenzie Wulfing, and Cody Waalen. Vocal music instructors are Rachel Erickson and Scott Perau. Perau said this year students were involved in 18 events, doubled from last year. Some of the student participants shared their experiences at state with the board. Board member Ott handed out certificates to the student, congratulating them for their success at state.

The Board recognized 2012 State Solo Ensemble Instrumental participants Sydney Branom, Mercedes Gilbertson, Elizabeth Jacobson, Emily Johnson, Kimberly Lynner, Emilee Martell, Beige McConaughy, Angelina Meuers, Aric Vanasse, Mackenzie Venhor, and Jamie Victor. Instrumental music instructor Andrew Emerson provided a recap of their competition experiences at state, saying the school district is lucky to have so many students involved, not only in music, but in many school. Twelve students participated at state and all did an outstanding job. Board member Colbeth presented each student with a certificate, stating she appreciated the parent involvement and support as well.

The Board recognized 2012 State FBLA participants Ashley Duggan, Megan Duggan, Aminah Henne, Kaylin Peterson, and Jessica Wishard. Advisor Gwen Hennessey said Somerset's FBLA group has been to nationals six years. Hennessey stated students involved in FBLA allows them to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to compete with other students at regionals, state, and ultimately at the national level. Board member Gunther presented the students with certificates and thanked them for their achievements. Some of the students shared their experiences at state, and thanked the board for their support.

The Board recognized 2012 State Forensics participants Danielle Anderson, Grace Becher, Maggie Becher, Ontario Belter, Megan Duggan, Mary Fohrenkamm, Gavin Germain, Kayla Hansch, Aminah Henne, Abreanna Koller, Carrie Kulibert, Tyler Lindquist, Emilee Martell, Autumn McMeeken, Natalie Van Dam, Mackenzie Venhor, and Luke Westmoreland. Advisor Jeanne Germain said there was great student participation this year with very good teams; students came back with five gold, five silver and three bronze state awards. Germain thanked the school board for their support, and also thanked Sara Turner for help with judging. Moulton thanked the parents and students for such a great representation of Somerset.

The Board also recognized 2012 State Music Listening Contest Participants Mara Erickson, Samuel Christensen, and Kennedi Kjellberg, as well as advisors Rosanne Erickson and Rachel Erickson. Rachel Erickson said three teams, two 6th grade and one 5th grade, competed at district level, where students had to answer 70 out of 70 questions correctly to make it to state level. The students in 5th grade made it to state and competed against three other teams, where Somerset came in 1st Place. Erickson thanked the board for all of their support with the band and choir programs. Board member Walters presented the students with a certificate congratulating them on their success.

The Board recognized 2012 Kohl Fellowship recipient Laurie Lasure, Speech and Language Pathologist. Pupil Services Director Darren Kern explained the qualifications of receiving a Kohl fellowship award, stating it

is only awarded to the very best teachers in their field. Lasure was awarded not only for her remarkable work at school, but also for her tireless community work. Kern stated that, although many teachers receive the nomination, not many receive the actual award. Lasure said she is excited about getting the scholarship as she always has new ideas for the program. President Witzmann congratulated Lasure and presented her with a recognition certificate.

The meeting was recessed at 7:45 p.m., and reconvened to the Learning Center Conference Room at 8:05 p.m.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of April 16, 2012
- B. Approve Minutes of Special Session of April 16, 2012
- C. Approve Minutes of Executive Session of April 16, 2012
- D. Approve Minutes of Special Session of April 23, 2012
- E. Approve payment of April/May Board Bills
- F. Approve resignation of Jennifer Nickowski, 5-8th Grade Special Education Instructor
- G. Approve resignation of Ayla Helland, 8th Grade Science Instructor
- H. Approve resignation of Brianne Mehlos, Elementary School Guidance Counselor
- I. Approve Gallup Teacher Insight Contract for June 10, 2012 through June 13, 2013 for \$3,656.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Governance Committee (1st Readings) of revisions to the following policies: AC-Nondiscrimination and AC-R-Discrimination Complaint Procedures, ACA-Harassment and ACA-R-Harassment Complaint Procedures, KLC-Complaints about School Personnel and KLC-R-Procedures for Handling Complaints about School Personnel, and Policy ADA-District Mission and Vision Statement. Committee Chair Connor stated the revisions bring the policies up to date and will be brought forward in June for a 2nd reading and approval.

Business Services Committee: Committee Chair Colbeth stated the report was for informational purposes only. Business Services Director Dave Gerberding's presentation of the 2012-13 Preliminary Budget was helpful and informative, however, Colbeth stated the district is still in the red; she indicated the district could be in the black with options which will require give and take on part of the staff and board. Some adjustments will need to be done and the board and administrative team will continue to work toward that goal.

Human Resources Committee: Committee Chair Gunther gave a quick overview, stating the committee established some bargaining goals for support staff and teachers and an action item later tonight will talk more about this subject.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Randy Rosburg provided an overview of current enrollment, stating numbers remained the same from last month at 1,634 JK-12 students, with some movement within the grades. Committee meetings (tentatively) scheduled for Monday, June 4, 2012, include the Business Services Committee for preliminary budget review. The Board/Admin Retreat is scheduled for Monday, June 11, 2012, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. One board member cannot make this meeting. Rosburg stated having all board members attend is important to the success of the retreat. Board members discussed other possible dates to hold the meeting; Rosburg will get back to the board to confirm dates.

Board Report: *Community & School Involvement:* Moulton spent time at the middle school to look at some of the bigger classes; this review made him realize that classrooms that have 27-28 students in them are crowded and distracting for both teachers and students. He said this is something the board will need to keep in mind as it continues to review the budget. Ott said she helped out with Post Prom again this year. Connor stated he attended the high school's music concert which he said was one of the best he's ever seen. *Board Officers & Committee Assignments:* Witzmann said he received feedback from board members about which committees they would like to be on, which was reflected in the committee list handed to them this evening, noting there still

needs to be a Community Education Representative from the board. The board then moved to nominate and elect officers this year. Brian Moulton was elected as Board President; Robert Gunther was elected as Board Vice President; Marie Colbeth was elected as Board Clerk; and, Mike Connor was elected as Board Treasurer. Board members thanked Tim Witzmann for doing a great job during all his years as President, especially through the recent challenging times. *Pea Soup Days Event:* Rosburg stated the Somerset Chamber of Commerce asked for financial support as well as three or four volunteers to help with an activity or event. Colbeth, Ott, Moulton, Gunther, and Walters offered to sign up for a two or three-hour window of time on Saturday, June 9. *Board Development:* Rosburg stated the first Monday in June the board will be asked to block out some time and set that agenda to discuss when the board may have their July retreat. Board members agreed that a retreat would be a good way to get together as a board for discussion purposes only, and will set aside 45 minutes on June 4th to discuss retreat options. A representative from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) will be on hand to help guide their discussion. New board members Walters and Ott said they recently attended a WASB session and learned a lot about being a school board member.

High School Report: Principal Shawn Madden stated his report was included in tonight's board packet, and wished to highlight the 130 graduating seniors that are listed. He also asked which board members would like to help out at the upcoming graduation ceremonies on June 3 and June 4 to distribute diplomas. Gunther and Witzmann will be on hand to help with the ceremony.

Middle School Report: Principal Sara Eichten said her report is also included in the board packet, but wanted to especially mention that the 7 & 8th grade concert will be held tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. in middle school gym. She also stated the final "Student of the Month" breakfast for this year will be held Thursday, and board members are welcome to attend.

Elementary School Report: Principal Cherrie Wood provided a handout of the elementary school report, which highlighted Career Day at the school. Wood stated that, through the years, the elementary school Career Day has become very popular with students and area business leaders have provided tremendous support.

Business Services & Operations Report: Director Dave Gerberding stated the April Cash Flow Chart was provided in the packet. He said the Business Office is presently wrapping up many year-end tasks, with hopes to close the end of the year accounts soon, and open the new-year accounts thereafter. Gerberding will also be attending a workshop at CESA 10 to discuss whether the school's accounting software program can be streamlined.

Pupil Services Report: Director Darren Kern provided a report which highlighted the three models for RtI (Response to Intervention). He stated this information will be further presented at the June board/admin retreat.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report: Director Trisha Sheridan provided a report highlighting where the district is currently at with the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) teams. Sheridan indicated the PLC teams are in the process of wrapping up the year and reviewing test data results. These results will be shared at the June board/admin retreat.

ACTION

Business Services Committee

Colbeth moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve the Farm District Land Proposal from Mitch Flandrick for the 30-acre District Parcel Adjacent/North of District Campus. Colbeth stated she was appreciative the proposal was sent out to several area farmers and included in the local newspaper. Rosburg clarified the per acre payment for rent, which is based on the average St. Croix County land/rent acre rate. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Walters, to approve the Updated Facility Use Fee Schedule. Colbeth stated she was pleased with the adjustments that were made and hopes it is a more workable and reasonable schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve the Demulling Lawn Care Contract for the remainder of 2012. Colbeth noted that the contract is extended only through 2012. Gerberding stated the contract will most likely be put out for bid in the fall or early winter so that it is ready to go for spring. Motion carried unanimously.

Teaching and Learning Committee: Witzmann stated the committee met today before the regular board meeting to review open enrollment applications. He indicated there was a lot of discussion with regard to the applications and the newly instituted state law with regard to open enrollment. Witzmann moved, with second by Gunther, to approve all incoming Open Enrollment applications and outgoing Open Enrollment applications with the exception of one individual to the Autistic program as that program is full. Colbeth said she does not support the recommendation and would prefer not to single out an individual. Gunther stated that adding another student into the autism program may require hiring an additional teacher, which is not supported by the current budget. Board members asked Pupil Services Director Kern about current staffing in the special education program. Kern explained special education caseloads are based on students that qualify within those special education areas. He indicated the district typically has three to five families move into the school district each summer in order to have their students attend the district's autism program, which has become popular since the recent statewide positive recognition of the program. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Connor-yes; Moulton-no, Gunther-no, Witzmann-yes; Ott-yes; Colbeth-no; and Walters-no. Motion failed 4 to 3.

Colbeth then moved to accept all Open Enrollment applications in and out. There was no second, and the motion failed. Some of the members were concerned about precedence from a legal standpoint and that—by law—the school district has to take action. Other board members stated they district needs to have guidelines to follow for consistency.

Witzmann moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve all Open Enrollment in and out applications. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Gunther-yes; Witzmann-no; Colbeth-yes; Ott- no; Walters-no; Connor-no; Moulton-yes. Motion failed 5 to 2.

Witzmann moved, with second by Ott, to approve all Open Enrollment in and out applications except for the autism student. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Roll Call Vote: Ott-yes; Colbeth – no; Witzmann-yes; Walters-no; Connor-yes; Moulton-yes, Gunther-yes. Vote passed and Motion carried 5 to 2.

Colbeth moved, with second by Witzmann, to move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1),(c) for the purpose of discussing performance and employment data of employee(s) over which the Board has jurisdiction or exercises authority; and 19.85 (1)(g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. On Roll Call vote, all voted “yes.” Motion carried unanimously. Witzmann moved, with second by Connor, to move out of Executive Session into Open Session. On Roll Call Vote, all voted, “yes.” Motion carried unanimously. Upon return to Open Session, Witzmann read the following statement on behalf of the Board: “Knowing this has been a challenging year on many fronts, the Board unequivocally supports the staff and administrative team as we move forward to carry out the goals of the district.”

Gunther moved, with second by Witzmann, to move into Executive Session in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1),(c) and (e) for the purpose of discussing bargaining strategy for union negotiations over 2012-2013 base wages, and distribution thereof, of teachers and support staff employees. Upon Roll Call Vote, all members voted, “yes.” Motion carried unanimously. Ott moved, with second by Colbeth, to return to open session to announce any action as necessary or appropriate.

Human Resource Committee: Gunther moved, with second by Ott, to approve supervisory support staff wage increases for 2012-2013.

Witzmann moved, with second by Colbeth, to adjourn at 11:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Brian Moulton, President

Marie Colbeth, Board Clerk