

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
November 16, 2009**

President Tim Witzmann called the Regular Session of the Board of Education meeting to order in the District Office Board Room at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Members present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to move into Executive Session in accordance with Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(c) for the purpose of discussing compensation and benefit data of administrators, teachers, support staff and supervisory support staff employees. On Roll Call, all present voted "yes."

Gunther moved, with second by Moulton to close executive session at 6:45 p.m. All board members present voted "yes" to close the executive session and return to open session in the high school IMC.

Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard

President Witzmann read the rules for this portion of the meeting. No one came forward

Positive Recognition

Sherry Johnson, 2nd grade teacher, was recognized by elementary school principal Cherrie Wood as the 2009 Elementary Teacher of the Year. Wood stated Johnson is currently in her 16th year of teaching at Somerset Elementary. Johnson has also served as the elementary media specialist and previously taught both Kindergarten and 1st grade. She has served on many committees throughout the years, and served as assistant director for eight musical productions and was a forensics coach. Johnson thanked the board for the recognition, stating she felt very grateful and was happy and proud to call Somerset home.

Deb Cardell, 6th grade math teacher, was recognized by middle school principal Rick Lange as the 2009 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Cardell began her teaching career at Somerset Middle School in 2004. Before teaching in Somerset, Cardell taught at DeForest in Wisconsin, and Central Middle School in White Bear Lake. Cardell has served on several district committees including the Response to Intervention committee and MAPS testing committee. Cardell was also instrumental in developing SMART board use in the district, and helped train teachers on SMART boards and response systems. Cardell thanked Lange and the board, stating she was honored and humbled by the recognition, and that her work allows her to work with amazing people at the middle school.

Rebecca Olson, high school art teacher, was recognized by high school principal Shawn Madden as the 2009 High School Teacher of the Year. Madden stated because Olson was a recipient of the Kohl fellowship through Somerset's St. Anne School in 2005, she would not be eligible this year for that same recognition. Becky was a substitute teacher for Somerset schools for five years before being hired on at the high school art teacher. She is also the drama advisor for both middle and high schools, and has helped coach forensics. Becky thanked the board, stating she has an amazing job and enjoys working with the students and staff.

Cheryl Ek, special education teacher, was recognized by elementary principal Wood as the 2009 Specialty Teacher of the Year. Wood stated Ek was also this year's Compass Award recipient. Ek has been a learning disabilities teacher at the elementary school since 1984. Through those years she has always been conscientious, thorough, and has set a professional example for her colleagues. Ek truly cares for the students she serves and their well being as well as their families. Ek thanked the board for the many professional opportunities, good facilities and state of the art technology, stating she is grateful to work with such wonderful people.

Chuck Ennis, health care provider at the elementary school, was recognized by elementary principal Wood as the 2009 Support Staff Person of the Year. On a typical day Ennis may see 30 students per day. As the health care provider, Ennis is responsible for assuring student immunization records are current and parents are contacted regarding any additional health related issues from allergies to influenza. Ennis also conducts annual vision and hearing screenings. Ennis introduced his family, and thanked the board and administration, stating he enjoys working with students and watching them learn and grow.

Sophomore student Ontario Belter was recognized for her recent participation at state cross country. Coaches Diane Belter and Nathan Klinger listed Ontario's many accomplishments this year in cross country, stating she worked very hard to get to that point, and that she was easy to coach. Coach Belter stated that, although Ontario

enjoys running and training for meets, she is just as happy reading a book. Ontario then introduced her parents, Diane and Lane Belter, and thanked everyone for the recognition.

Meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Motion by Cranston, with second by Hansch, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of October 26, 2009 of the School Board
- B. Approve payment of October/November Board Bills
- C. Approve resignation of elementary school computer instructional aide Ruth Harleen
- D. Approve contract to replace middle school main breaker
- E. Approve five-year contract with Safe-Way Bus Company
- F. Approve early graduation requests

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Teaching & Learning Committee – 2010-2011 High School Course Offering Book: Cranston said the 2010-2011 High School Course Offering book was included in the board packet as a first reading. She said it was straight forward, with minor changes, and suggested board members talk directly with Principal Madden if they had any questions.

2010-2013 Information and Technology Plan: Cranston went on to state the 2010-2013 Information and Technology Plan was also included in the packet as a first reading. President Witzmann commented that he is the board representative for the Technology Committee, and that a lot of work goes into the very comprehensive technology plan. Witzmann stated the committee is looking forward to the plan being approved again.

ACT Data: Witzmann commented the booklet was a very comprehensive look at the data, and thanked Curriculum Director Berg for pulling it together. Cranston commented that the “Recommendation” portion of the booklet indicated to “Afford interested Somerset high school faculty the ability to review ACT practice exams...” Cranston said she would like to see teachers given the opportunity to review the data, and wondered if teachers had time for review. Berg indicated there is little time for teachers to review the data, and will bring the subject up at an upcoming professional development committee meeting. Colbeth concerned if the district is challenging the students enough; she felt teachers should evaluate where grade cut-offs are. Berg indicated this subject has been addressed at the committee level.

Facilities Committee / Middle School Playground: Moulton stated a “Community Committee” made up of parents of middle school students, requested a playground be installed at the middle school. Members of the group were present at the Facilities Committee meeting, and provided examples of playground equipment. They also discussed ways the group is raising money or have applied for grants for the equipment. Moulton said the Facilities Committee asked the group to continue to look at more grants, and to come back with information regarding grant funding. He said the group has already received donated dollars and labor. Lange stated the group will meet later this week with a Village of Somerset representative who has experience with age/grade appropriate playground equipment.

Information: Superintendent Rosburg briefly reviewed current enrollment, indicating enrollment continues to fluctuate slightly. He went on to state tentative committee meetings for Monday, December 7, 2009, included Human Resources Committee, Governance Committee, and Business Services Committee. Rosburg thanked Pupil Services Director Darren Kern for filling in for him while he was out of the office last week.

Board

CESA 11 Update: Cranston stated the WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) announced they are having a new statewide Title 1 network collaborative with CESA’s to provide Response to Intervention (RTI) professional development and training. CESA 11 will be given funds to hire someone to assist this district and others, to help get RTI up and running. The board was informed the purpose of RTI is to catch all grades of students before they need special education services.

Community Involvement - Big Idea Meeting: President Witzmann stated the meeting last week provided a good venue to discuss school space needs as a full board, and wanted to take the opportunity to review the minutes from that meeting with the board. He said he would like the board to give administrators some direction on proceeding. Witzmann asked board members and administrators to provide any additional options that should be considered that were not brought up at the Big Idea meeting.

Additional Elementary School Space Options:

- Increase class sizes
- Add classrooms to high school and have Jr. Kindergarten attend in high school space
- Build separate building that can be expanded (i.e., an early learning center)

Witzmann asked Rosburg to research costs for the following: portable structures (including installation requirements for water, electricity, etc.), building of additional classrooms to current building, and cost of off-campus rent. Hansch stated she felt the board should take a position on keeping Jr. Kindergarten classes. Witzmann suggested this may be discussed as an “Action” item at the December board meeting.

Additional Middle School Options: There were no additional options added to the current list.

Witzmann asked Rosburg to provide cost of two additional Computers on Wheels (COW) labs, as well as the cost of turning the Burgundy Room into a classroom. Witzmann stated he would like teachers polled on the three options provided at the Big Idea meeting. Lange stated they would probably want to see the same information that is being pulled together for the Board in order for them to decide. Witzmann indicated the middle school may be the building with the easiest solution for space needs next year. Lange stated that, for a short-term and immediate response, the purchase of two COW labs could help to delay a more permanent decision.

Additional High School Options:

- Portable structure at high school
- Addition to the high school building
- Cost for separate building structure i.e., a technology center, or art area, etc (a pull building); arts center

Witzmann asked Rosburg to provide costs for the above options.

Additional Pupil Services: There were no additional options added to the current list. Colbeth wondered about moving the district administrative offices out of the high school building and using the space for special education classes.

Witzmann would like the board to meet in December to discuss options and costs, but was concerned about the lack of time for administration to get the information between now and December 7th. Rosburg felt most of the cost information could be available by the December 7th meeting date.

School Liaisons: Connor stated he attended the district’s recent soccer field ribbon cutting ceremony, commenting it was nice to have soccer fields on campus. He then said he attended the district’s Veterans Day program at the high school and middle school, stating Curriculum Director Ron Berg did an outstanding job pulling the program together. The guest speaker at the Veterans Day program was a 2000 graduate of Somerset High School and the students enjoyed listening to the young soldier who had done several tours since graduating from high school.

High School Student Council Report: Student Council President Johanna Smith reported the senior class had recently voted on their graduation motto, song, colors, flower and picnic chaperone. The juniors have selected their prom theme for 2010, and ideas are coming in regarding the promenade set and theme song. The juniors have also recently completed their fundraising campaign, earning \$1,530 that will be used toward prom.

High School Principal Report: High School Principal Shawn Madden reported on high school students of the month, thanking the students for their efforts, and staff for their continuing dedication and support of Character

Education. Madden said he attended a volunteer opportunity with the special education group to the Feed My Starving Children organization in Eagan, MN, which oversees packaging of food to send to third-world countries. Madden stated it was a humbling and rewarding experience. Witzmann commented that the schools Empty Bowls project instills similar awareness of the world famine issue.

Middle School Report: Middle School Principal Rick Lange echoed Connor's earlier sentiments regarding the Veterans Day Program, stating he appreciated Somerset American Legion's participation. Lange stated there were 13 color guards this year, which is more than any other previous year. Lange then reported on a presentation regarding cyber bullying hosted by middle school counselor Kate Rorabeck and school police liaison officer Jerry Strohbush. Lange said the presentation was well attended and will be presented regularly. Lange reported the middle school band and choir concert is scheduled in December, and the 7th and 9th graders will hold a winter semi-formal dance—a precursor to high school homecoming and prom dances for middle school students.

Elementary School Report: Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported author and story teller Katie McKai will be on hand tomorrow for an all-school presentation of "Pumpkin Town," one of McKai's books. Wood stated McKai's presentations get students excited about writing. Wood went on to report the elementary teachers are looking at RTI implementation and will be visiting Chetek schools to look at how they've implemented RTI. In the area of Character Development, the 2nd graders have been invited to sing at the Somerset Senior Center. In Career Development, Wood provided a handout to board members of pictures depicting 16 career clusters which are made into posters and put throughout the elementary school as a reminder to students of career choices.

Business Operations: Business Manager Robert Avery was not available for tonight's meeting, however, Superintendent Rosburg stated the cash flow chart was provided for the board's review, along with an enrollment analysis Avery put together with a narrative and supporting graphics depicting historical enrollment data and projections. Rosburg stated the board may contact himself or Avery for further information.

Director of Pupil Services Report: Darren Kern, Director of Pupil services, was unavailable for tonight's meeting. An informational handout of ELL and Special Education enrollment numbers was provided to the members.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Report: Curriculum and Instruction Director Ron Berg presented a sample MAPs test on the Smart Board for board members to participate in, while explaining how students interact with the test. Hansch asked when teachers have time to review results. Berg stated they reviewed results at the October 16 in-service day, and will review results again in February or April. Witzmann asked Berg if this was enough time for teacher review. Berg asked the teaching staff in the audience, and they replied that is was not enough time. Witzmann stated that, though the data is good to have, allowing staff to address student needs relating to results of the test is needed. Berg said finding time for all initiatives that the district has is a challenge.

Governance Committee

Connor moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve the Homeless Model Guideline. Connor reported a first reading of guidelines was presented at the recent Governance Committee meeting. He said procedures have been in place for a year, and the guidelines reflect the current policy. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Hansch moved, with second by Witzmann, to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk