

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
November 21, 2011**

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Present were board members Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Robert Gunther, Marie Colbeth, and Marin Hansch. Absent was Mike Connor.

Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the agenda. 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 meeting then moved to the High School MPR for the Positive Recognition portion of the meeting.

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood introduced 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Kelly Larson as the 2011-12 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Wood said Larson is very deserving of this award; Larson is very dedicated to students of all ages and throughout many venues. Larson continues to adapt and grow as a teacher while taking additional responsibilities and challenges within the district and the community, always with the interest of students in mind. Larson is married to high school phy ed instructor and football coach Bruce Larson. The Larson's have three children; two children attend Somerset High School and the oldest child is a 2005 graduate of Somerset High School.

Middle School Principal Sara Eichten introduced music teacher Rachel Erickson as the 2011-12 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Eichten said Erickson brings music to life at the school district; she has a passion and excitement for music that is brought into the classroom as well as throughout the entire community. Erickson is dedicated to both staff and students which have helped the district's music program become a success. Erickson's husband, Wade, is a math teacher at Somerset High School and they have two daughters that attend school in Somerset.

High School Principal Shawn Madden introduced high school speech and journalism instructor Jeanne Germain as the 2011-12 High School Teacher of the Year. Madden said Germain is an outstanding teacher and exemplifies academic excellence in the classroom. She has a tremendous amount of passion for her subject areas. Germain instills confidence in her students to overcome public speaking fears and understands the importance of infusing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Germain and her husband, Ted, both graduates of Somerset High School have a son who is a senior at Somerset High School and a daughter have a daughter who graduated from Somerset in 2009 and a son who is a Somerset Senior.

Pupil Services Director Darren Kern introduced speech and language pathologist Laurie Lasure as the 2011-12 Special Education Teacher of the Year. Kern stated Lasure was nominated as she is an amazing teacher; Lasure cares and is very supportive of her students as well as the community. Lasure is an advocate for students and takes pride in the community she serves. When Lasure is not at school teaching, she spends much of her time researching and planning new ideas to help students. Lasure's husband, Ken, is an elementary principal at Spring Valley School District. They have two sons who attend college.

Middle School Principal Sara Eichten introduced middle school secretary Susan Richardson as the 2011-12 Support Staff Employee of the Year. Eichten stated Richardson is a worthy recipient of this award as she is the go-to person for all staff at the middle school. Susan has worked in the district as the middle school secretary since 1999, and has been instrumental in helping students, parents, and visitors as well as staff. Susan and her husband, Barry, have two children that are graduates of Somerset School District.

High School Choral Director Scott Perau introduced State Honors Choir Participant, Hannah Rosentreter, daughter of Douglas and Donna Rosentreter. Perau stated Rosentreter worked hard to get to State Honors Choir, and participated at a very high and difficult level. Colbeth presented Rosentreter with a certificate, and thanked her for representing Somerset so well.

Board member Moulton introduced the 2011 State Football Team participants including Head Football Coach Bruce Larson, as well as assistant coaches Coaches Robert Seibel, John Rivard, Tim Germain, Dean Hoff, Joe Hutter, Jeremy Kerg, Justin Larson, Cory Lindenberg, Kendrick Livers, Terry Otradovec, Dave Praschak, Dave Rivard, Cory Lindenberg, and Dave Folkert, Moulton commended the coaches and the team for their hard work and perserverance throughout the season. Moulton stated the team provided an exciting season, and congratulated

them on winning the state's silver football award in Division Four football. Coach Larson then thanked all of the student athletes and introduced the assistant coaches.

Meeting was recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m. in the high school's IMC.

Gunther moved, with second by Cranston, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve minutes of the Regular Session of October 24, 2011
- B. Approve minutes of Special Session of November 7, 2011
- C. Approve minutes of Executive Session of November 7, 2011
- D. Approve payment of October/November Board Bills

Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** Human Resources Committee Meetings: Chair Gunther stated the committee completed discussions on what is coming out of the contracts with teachers and support staff, and began review of the employee handbook. Gunther asked board members to review the minutes for further information from past meetings.

Governance Committee Meeting: Cranston spoke on behalf of Chair Connor, stating the policies that are up for reading tonight are not new, but have had small language changes and were reviewed as part of the pupil non-discrimination process. Policies reviewed included ACA /Harassment; IGDJ/Interscholastic Athletics; IIAA / Learning Resources; IJA /Guidance Program; IKA /Grading Systems; JEC /School Admissions; JFC /Student Conduct; JG /Student Discipline; JI /Student Awards and Scholarships; and KH Gifts to Schools.

Community Survey Results, Summary, and Recommendations: Witzmann discussed reviewing next steps of the results and recommendations of the survey. Rosburg indicated there was nothing urgent coming out of the results or recommendations that the district would need to act on now. Rosburg added he will pull results items from the survey that are committee related (i.e., Facilities, Teaching & Learning, etc.) and will bring them forward for committee discussion. Witzmann stated sharing the results could involve hosting another Big Idea meeting to inform and seek input from the community.

**Information:** Superintendent Report: Rosburg stated district JK-12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment is at 1,621 this month. Tentative committee meetings for Monday December 5, 2011 include Teaching and Learning and Facilities Committees to discuss survey results, Human Resources Committee to discuss the employee handbook, and Business Services Committee to discuss audit information and survey results. Rosburg reminded members the State Education Convention will be held in January. Brian Moulton will be attending on behalf of Tim Witzmann.

**Board Report:**

CESA 11 Update: Cranston reported the CESA Board of Control met through various ITV locations in the area, including the high school's ITV room. CESA will also host the January meeting via ITV. Cranston said two main things came out of the meeting: Legal counsel from WASB will be in Turtle Lake on December 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to Noon to talk about the employee handbook, teacher effectiveness, and compensation. CESA's Connie Erickson is also working with districts on staff development, and is looking to expand items schools need for shared services.

Community and School Involvement: Several members attended the high school drama Seussical the Musical stating it was well attended and fun to see. Board members appreciated how the different school department such as choir, band, and drama, collaborated to make the play a success. Cranston volunteered as a character for the Lions Club haunted house event, playing the part of the first teacher in Somerset, Rita Vanswah.

Pupil Services Report: Director Darren Kern, stated the annual ELL "Access" test is slated for December 1<sup>st</sup>. This test measures for ELL efficiency; test results will be shared with the board in the spring. Co-teaching has been an overall success, with some areas of frustration with student groupings and behavior based on student mix. Kern

stated co-teaching increases exposure to grade-level content for students that have IEP's, and helps to close the grade-level gap. December 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Spec Education Day. Pupil Services is gathering a committee together to review the current Gifted/Talented plan. Kern would like to have a board member or two involved in the process. Plans are to have about seven to ten meetings from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to review the process. Cranston would like to be involved in the process; however the time does not work with her schedule. She stated she could be involved through Google Docs. Kern will keep members posted on this process.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Report: Director Trisha Sheridan provided a brief update on PLC's, stating the process is going very well. CESA's Trisha Graves will be on hand tomorrow to help PLC leaders learn to move toward curriculum mapping. The Performance Series adaptive online assessment was given to grades 3-8. The WKCE testing has just concluded in grades 3-8 and grade 10. Sheridan stated she was happy to see signs around town from vendors supporting the students during the testing process. The EXPLORE test, part of the ACT suite of assessments, was used in grade 9. Results from will be available in two weeks. Sheridan stated teachers help prepare students for the ACT tests, as well as available help courses such as the Zaps course. Cranston asked that WKCE test results be reviewed on the SmartBoard when they become available.

High School Report: Student Council Representative Grace Becher reported on recent "Red Ribbon" events held at the high school. Students were also busy creating supportive signs throughout the district for the athletic teams. The Council is in the planning stages of "Polar Days" and is looking to hold the events in February. The Sophomore Class has been busy with their new coffee shop fundraiser. High School Principal Shawn Madden reported on "Students of the Month" congratulating them and staff for their support of character education. The music department was recently awarded a grant from the St. Croix Valley Foundation, which will help with the purchase of two euphoniums. High school instructor Heidi Haugen is the new Academic Decathlon Team advisor. Haugen successfully led her team to competition at Turtle Lake and will compete further at UW Barron in Rice Lake. The play, "Seusical the Musical" was a tremendous success and showcased the talent of the student participants.

Middle School Report Middle School Principal Sara Eichten and acting middle school Principal Brad Nemeck provided their report which indicated middle school students successfully completed WKCE testing which occurred from October 26-November 18. The middle school had six student winners selected by the St Croix Co District Attorney's office for the "Stop Drugs" poster contest. Each of the students will receive a \$100 Savings Bond for their artwork. Middle school students were visited by several active and retired military personnel on Veteran's Day. The band and choir performed for the student body and guests. Twenty students were awarded certificates for their display of the Pillar Character Traits. The students and their families were invited to breakfast at the middle school.

Elementary School Report: Principal Cherrie Wood said she works with amazing staff, reporting that many staff and students were absent the past several weeks due to illness, and other staff pitched in to cover other's classes and areas of work. On November 11<sup>th</sup> students completed their scheduled WKCE assessments; staff is awaiting test results. Two student assemblies were held on November 14<sup>th</sup>; the assemblies helped students learn about rhythms and music from around the world. Students in Mrs. Caspersen's class created a video news show called the Spartan Scoop, which was sent to all the teachers to share with their classes. Spartan Scoop features news events, a contest question, student birthdays, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business Services & Operations Report: Director Dave Gerberding reviewed the Cash Flow chart, stating there is a negative balance at the end of the month; some checks were held until after the district received its borrowed dollars that were approved at the October board meeting. Gerberding ended his report stating there will be a wrap of the audit at the next Business Services Committee and will be shared with the full board in December.

Colbeth moved, with second by Gunther, to move to Executive Session in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1), (f) for the purpose of preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems. Motion carried unanimously.