

SOMERSET BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
October 26, 2009

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order in the District Office Board Room at 6:15 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Members present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston, Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch.

Motion by Hansch, with second by Moulton, to approve the agenda. Board discussed changes in the consent agenda item 6E (snow removal contract) and item 6F (interest rate adjustment 1.2234 for short term borrowing resolution). Motion by Hansch, with second by Moulton, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hansch, with second by Moulton, to move to Executive Session in Accordance with WI State Statutes 19.85 (1)(a)(c) for deliberations concerning litigation of a former employee, for deliberations concerning district facilities, and for the purpose of discussing performance and employment of a teacher. Roll call was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting reconvened in Open Session in the High School Instructional Media Center at 7:00 p.m.

Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard

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

Positive Recognition

Safe-Way Bus Company was recognized by the Board of Education for National School Bus Safety Week. Randy thanked the bus company for their hard work, safety, on-time performance. Board members agreed that bus drivers have a lot of influence on the students. Owner Dan Stiles thanked the board and administration for the recognition, stating the bus company has a very good relationship with the school district which helps all students be successful.

Meeting recessed at 7:12 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

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

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of September 21, 2009
- B. Approve payment of September/October Board Bills
- C. Approve Youth Options Applications
- D. Approve Winter Coaching Assignments for the 2009-2010 Season
- E. Approve Contract for Snow Removal
- F. Approve Short-Term Borrowing Resolution
- G. Memorandum of Understanding with St. Croix County Public Health Dept. for Mass Clinic Operations

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Governance Committee: Mike Connor reported for the Governance Committee, asking Pupil Services Director Darren Kern to provide a brief on Homeless Model Guidelines for board members. Kern stated the Governance Committee was presented with a first reading of the guidelines to accompany the district's homeless policy. The guidelines will come before the November board meeting for a second reading and approval.

Learning Center at Star Prairie Hall: Don't have a lot of information yet about this. The committee is interested in learning more.

Facilities Committee Meeting: Moulton summarized the meeting's discussion on the "Draft North Access Road Project Agreement." Ryan Sicard attended this meeting representing the Village of Somerset Board as Chairperson of their Public Works Committee. Facilities Committee members felt the language in the original agreement was too vague, therefore the agreement is being re-worked; Facilities Committee will review it again in November. A developer that owns property next to the school believes Kohler Avenue and School Street are private, not public

driveways. Superintendent Rosburg talked with the Village of Somerset attorney and is in continuing conversations with the developer and legal counsel on this issue.

Business Services Committee: President Witzmann reported for the Business Services Committee stating some of the items addressed were approved tonight in the "Consent Agenda." Fall 2009 enrollment numbers were discussed, as well as the carry-over of Summer, 2009 Capital Projects and the carry-over of fiscal dollars from those unfinished projects. RFP's for audit and legal services may be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

Information

Superintendent Randy Rosburg reviewed current district enrollment numbers, stating numbers are a bit down this year from last year. Rosburg indicted tentative committee meetings slated for November 2, 2009 include: Teaching & Learning Committee @ 5:30 p.m., Human Resources Committee @ 6:00 p.m., and the Facilities Committee @ 6:30 p.m. Rosburg reminded board members that the WASB Convention will again be held in January, 2010 in Milwaukee, with the Dynamics performing at the general assembly. Board members are to inform the District Office by the end of the week if they would like to attend.

Board

CESA 11 Update: Cranston reported that CESA 11 had a special recognition last month honoring all their retirees and long-term employees. CESA 11 continues contract negotiations with their certified staff.

Community Involvement: Big Idea Meeting will be held on November 9, 2009. President Witzmann explained the meeting will be an informal way to have dialogue with the community for discussions on options for school space needs next school year.

School Liaisons: Connor said he is participating with the school district for the Veterans' Day program in November. Moulton attended high school parent/teacher conferences and spoke with teachers regarding their concern of decreasing classroom space.

Curriculum & Instruction Report

Curriculum: Curriculum and Instruction Director Ron Berg reported that the science department is reviewing the science curriculum and how it is offered within the district. He and several teachers will be attending a national science conference later this week and will be looking at infusing ideas into the science curriculum.

Assessment: WKCE testing has started this week; results will be brought forward to the board at a later date.

Strategic Plan: Teachers and administrators reviewed recent MAPs test results during the in-service day.

High School Report

High School Principal Shawn Madden recognized students of the month recipients, thanking the high school staff and character education team for their work in this area. Madden also thanked the Partners in Education (PIE) group for their event held at the high school which had a nice turnout. Madden reviewed upcoming high school events including WKCE testing, career exploration with a representative from WITC, Veterans Day program, and the drama department's presentation of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* to be presented mid-November. Other upcoming highlights include Mixed Blood Theater's presentation on a story about Asperger's syndrome. Congratulations and best wishes to Ontario Belter who will be participating at state for cross country, Johanna Smith who was named national commended scholar, and the football team which made the playoffs. Madden reported that the "Watch Dogs" group is still forming with the recent addition of two parent volunteers.

Middle School Report

Middle School Principal Rick Lange stated that, as part of the district's Teaching & Learning goals, a Careers in Academic Progress and Social Skills (CAPSS) encore class was added to 7th and 8th grade class last year. This class is being team taught by the middle school counselors, and covers study skills, career education and academic goal setting. Lange also reported Homework Club is underway and well attended. Advanced math is being offered for grades 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and WKCE testing started today for 8th graders. Character Education is taught at the start of every day; and students write character-building words of the week as part of this education. The Linus Project, part of the community involvement goal, just completed another successful year with 130 student hand-made blankets donated to area hospitals.

Elementary School Report

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported on goals elementary staff is working on. Wood said surveys are provided to guest presenters and field trip hosts for feedback on students' behavior; staff uses the results to evaluate how students are behaving. As part of the community goal, the senior citizen "Kitchen Band" played for students, a well-attended "Grandparents Day" was held for 2nd graders, and 2nd graders have been invited to have lunch with senior citizens. Staff reviewed student test scores during in-service day as part of the district's Teaching & Learning goal. Staff is also looking at developing common assessments across grade levels. Parent teacher conferences were held last week with a good turnout. Wood provided data on previous years' student accidents at the elementary school indicating student accidents are down compared to two years ago, and staff continues doing a great job keeping students safe.

Business Manager Report

Business Manager Robert Avery reported on year-to-date cash flow; he also reported on the official Third Friday count for district enrollment, stating there was a slight decline from last year. The district continues to see an increase in state aide to do increase of student enrollment in previous years. Avery also provided information regarding the tax levy and tax rate issue. President Witzmann stated the information provided would be discussed more at length later in the agenda as the board will be taking action on the item.

Pupil Services Report

Director of Pupil Services Darren Kern reported on the special education self-assessment session which the department recently participated in, stating the purpose of the self assessment was for verification and validation of special education activities. A recent letter from the WI Department of Public Instruction informed the school district the assessment had been successfully completed. Initial planning stages of Friendship Games (Olympic style event for K-8 grades for special needs students) will be held on May 21st. Kern reported the school district will participate in a pre-school screening activity known as "Child Find," in which the school has an obligation to find two- and three-year-old children in the community to see if they qualify for special needs. "Access for ELL" tests have been ordered; Kern stated this is a time consuming effort as each test ordered is based on specific needs of the ELL student. Access for ELL testing will begin in December.

Teaching & Learning Committee

Cranston moved, with second by Moulton, to approve new half-time Junior Kindergarten teaching position. Superintendent Rosburg stated this issue was discussed at the committee meeting, however, since then Third Friday enrollment numbers have come in. With current Jr. Kindergarten enrollment and the number of classroom aides supporting those teachers, the administration recommended that an additional half-time Jr. Kindergarten teacher not be added at this time; monitoring enrollment of this class will continue. Administration will report back to the board at a later date if enrollment in this class increases. The motion was defeated.

Governance Committee (2nd Reading)

Connor moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve Policy IGBD-R, Procedures for English Language Learners along with the ELL Parent Supplement, ELL Reclassification Supplement, and ELL Student Selection Guideline components. Connor stated the first reading was done a year ago; there was no second reading of the policy, thus the committee agreed to bring it forward to the full board tonight for its second reading and approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Facilities Committee

Moulton moved, with second by Hansch, to approve the naming of the district's north access road to "Spartan Drive." Moulton said many different names were provided by students for committee review, however two of the three schools came up with "Spartan Drive" several times. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Services Committee

Motion by Colbeth, with second by Gunther, to approve an additional Jr. Kindergarten 4th Bus Route. Colbeth stated students were on bus routes too long. Superintendent Rosburg shared information reviewed by administrators stating the district is surpassing required teaching minutes for Jr. Kindergarten classes. Therefore, by reducing each

class 15 minutes, this will allow students to be on a bus route less time, while continuing to satisfy the required program minutes. With this new information provided, the board agreed a fourth route was no longer needed, therefore, the motion was unanimously defeated.

Motion by Colbeth, with second by Witzmann, to approve Revised Jr. Kdgn Mid-Day Bus Route Rates. Avery stated the rates were not originally provided in the transportation contract. The transportation company agreed that when costs were lowered last year, the issue would be re-visited this year, the revised rates are based on an agreement with Safe-Way Bus Company. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Colbeth, with second by Witzmann to approve Substitute Support Staff Wage Practice. Avery provided a review of the wages, stating the current pay for nursing aides was what spurred the review of wage data. Avery indicated substitute wages have only increased once in the last five years. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Colbeth, with second by Gunther, to approve the 2009-2010 Budget as presented. Avery provided a detailed report for board review. Avery stated that, after the June preliminary budget report, the Governor signed a state budget resulting in a dramatic reduction in state aids and the potential for a dramatic increase in property taxes. Administrators reviewed areas to create savings and reduce costs to offset those revenues, resulting in a balanced budget. Avery's report highlighted where additional revenues were found and expenditure cuts made. Avery stated administration and board have done what they could to lessen the impact on taxes, while still providing quality education. Avery will provide this information for the newspaper and in the district's newsletter. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Administration

Witzmann moved, with second by Cranston, to approve a Two-hour Special Education Aide at the Elementary School. Kern explained that nearly all of the special education aides work in the lunchroom and playground supervising recess. A couple of students are out of compliance during this two-hour window where there are no aides available. He stated staff is doing their best to group and combine kids during this time. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Motion carried.

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk