

SOMERSET BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
September 17, 2012

Board President Brian Moulton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Board members present were Brian Moulton, Robert Gunther, Mike Connor, Tim Witzmann, Tom Walters, Marie Colbeth and Kelly Ott.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to approve the agenda as presented in the handout with minor wording changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Groups or Individuals Wishing to Be Heard: There were no groups or individuals wishing to be heard. Moulton did not read off the rules for this portion of the meeting.

Positive Recognition: New staff members were recognized during the Positive Recognition portion of the meeting. Attending tonight's meeting were new staff members: Rachel Everson-Fink, Speech Pathologist- Long Term Substitute; Erin Formella, High School Social Studies Teacher; Angie Sporleder, Elementary Special/Regular Education Aide, Penny Westerlund, Occupational Therapy. Each staff member introduced themselves with a brief background. Moulton welcomed the new staff and thanked them for coming.

Board members recognized 2012-2013 Compass Award Recipients Kathy Brakke, High School Special Education Instructor; Tami Fetter, Kindergarten Instructor and Dawn Peer, Eighth Grade Math Instructor. Superintendent Rosburg explained the importance and significance of the Compass Award. President Moulton then presented each recipient with a certificate and thanked them each for their hard work and dedication to the district.

Meeting was recessed at 7:12 p.m. for refreshments; meeting was reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of August 20, 2012
- B. Approve Minutes of the Annual Meeting of September 10, 2012
- C. Approve Payment of August/ September Board Bills
- D. Approve Extra-Curricular Jazz Band Advisor Position
- E. Approve 2012-2013 Coaching and Advising Assignments)
- F. Approve Hiring of Dan Pearsall as High School Alternative Education Aide
- G. Approve Resignation of Nancy Dressel as Somerset High School Library Media Specialist

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Governance Committee: Committee Chair Connor stated the proposed changes to Policy IKFAA-High School Graduation Requirements were discussed. Connor explained that the graduation requirements for math and science have increased by one credit for current sophomores.

Teaching and Learning Committee: Committee Chair Witzmann reviewed the new bridge, 2016-2017 and the impact on the Somerset School District. Witzmann spoke on the impact of the new bridge and how do we, as a school district, prepare. Superintendent Rosburg explained an informational graph which showed historical student enrollment versus the February 2007 demographic projections. Rosburg then stated that the third Friday count is still coming and that the third Friday count back in 1991 was 830. The third Friday count from last year was 1,628. The unofficial current enrollment is now at 1,601. Rosburg explained how growth was calculated. The 2007 demographic study was conservative over the actual growth. Hazel Reinhardt is putting together information that will be sent to Rosburg. Rosburg stated the Hudson and New Richmond are both doing studies with Hazel Reinhardt as well. Rosburg then explained the campus growth plan for the high school. Gunther asked if the high school addition would be to the east side. Rosburg responded that it would possibly be back of the lunch area or off of the front as there are a variety of addition options. Ott then asked what the intent would be of an addition to the elementary school. An option of an addition for early childhood, junior kindergarten and first grade were possibilities. Walters asked of the possible addition would be added to the parent pick-up area is now, Rosburg agreed. Ott asked what the capacity of a new high school would be if one were to be built. One

option discussed by Rosburg was a high school with the capacity of 500-700 with the ability to double the capacity as it would be two stories. Witzmann comment on the huge increase in enrollment that he had seen and that the assumption was we would have seen even more students. Due to the downturn in the economy we did not see the student growth as planned. Witzmann then asked if it was time to do a demographic study and ask the community. Ott then asked who would pay for the demographic study. Rosburg stated it would be \$5,000.00 and that this was not in the budget. Gunther asked how accurate the study would be and Rosburg explained that it was reflected on the demographic study chart which showed that the projections were higher than the growth. It was then noted by Connor that the study was done without the new bridge. Witzmann stated the bridge is coming and Ott made note that she would like to see what data is used as there is not much industry in Somerset and how much will people actually pay for gas and how far will they drive. Ott then asked if we plan to build a school for 500 students when the demographic study says 1,000 and she would like to see a community study done on the website that would be kept simple and we should push the fact we have a website with an area for community comments. Witzmann stated that a demographic study shows the school district is diligent and planning for the future as well as making us aware that we need to act. Witzmann stated that he believes it is time for the school board to do a study and to use the money to pay for it from the fund balance. Gerberding then stated that there is currently \$1.7 million in the fund balance. Ott asked how long a study would take and Rosburg replied they take 3-9 months. Colbeth stated the town of St. Joseph is not doing a demographic study and she would like to know of other options and their costs. Colbeth would like to see the money spent pursuing academic options and not on another study. Gunther asked if there were other demographers available to do the study. Rosburg replied he was aware of Hazel Reinhardt or Applied Populations Lab. A study costs about \$5,000.00. The board will need to decide what approach to take. Walters and Ott asked about student enrollment to which Rosburg directed them to the student enrollment handout. Shawn Madden stated the enrollment at the high school was 464 and the capacity is 400. Colbeth asked if the virtual students and youth options students are in his count to which he stated they were. Witzmann stated the Learning Center helped to ease the overcrowding at the the high school as the virtual students are housed at Learning Center. He also stated this was a good fit as it helped at the elementary as well due to the early childhood and junior kindergarten programs being there as well. Ott asked that if classrooms were added at the high school, how would we pay the teachers and at what point are teachers able to teach a class and not just manage it. Her concern as she stated is in paying the teachers and that the money should be spent on the teachers. Rosburg then addressed the bond rating of the school district as Walters had asked about it at the annual meeting. The school district could request another bond rating but there would be a cost involved and in order to obtain a higher rating, additional funds would have to be added to the fund balance. In closing of the discussion, Witzmann asked how we direct the administration to do something. Colbeth stated it was now just informational. Rosburg stated and board members agreed that this will be brought back to the Teaching and Learning Committee in October.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Randy Rosburg provided an enrollment summary and that this Friday is the third Friday count. Next Thursday we may have the updated numbers. The next school board meeting will be moved to October 29, 2012. This will allow Gerberding to work on the budget thus allowing the school board to set the levy. Rosburg then went on to speak of the ruling of the judge throwing out Walker's bargaining law; this was addressed in his handouts that were given to board members for their awareness. Rosburg then went on to speak of the CESA meeting he attended in which he spoke to them about the performance compensation in a collaborative effort and the process around it. Witzmann asked if others gave feedback and Rosburg explained that not many other districts were using it yet. The board thanked Rosburg for doing the presentation at CESA.

Board Report: *CESA Update:* Walters spoke of the meeting that he attended at CESA and invited all board members to a CESA meeting on September 26. Walters spoke of a video that was presented at the CESA meeting which was then shown to those in attendance. The video, "Every Child a Graduate" was done by DPI Superintendent Tom Evers. Evers would like to see students graduate and be ready for the global economy. The

same video was shown to Somerset staff at the start of the school year. *Committee and School Involvement:* Connor spoke of attending the open house on August 29 at the elementary school and that it was evident the teachers were excited about the school year and passionate about teaching. Connor stated Darren Kern's presentation that evening was very well done and he should consider presenting it to the school board. Ott then stated that due to not many parents attending the high school open house, it would be hard for them to understand the new standards and that Somerset, amongst other schools in the state, will not look as good as in the past. Witzmann asked student representative, Grace Becher her thoughts on the video. Becher responded that she loved the opportunities she had as a student at Somerset and that she is part of Project Lead the Way. She mentioned there are students taking advantage of the AP classes offered and that Youth Options prepares students for what is to come.

Business Service and Operations Report: Dave Gerberding addressed the cash flow chart and that the fund 39 payments will be sent out this week for the 10/1/12 deadline. The cash flow borrowing is due 10/26/12. These are both significant outlays of cash. Gunther asked if the other expenditures were rising or falling, are we remaining constant on a monthly basis? Gerberding answered that the cash flow charts show this on a monthly basis.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Report: Director Trisha Sheridan gave an overview of district assessments. Sheridan stated the second month of ACT testing was just completed at Somerset with 70 students taking the test. Somerset will be a test site for the rest of the year with the capacity of 120 being able to test at one time. For 2011-12, the ACT test scores went up .7% and the participation rate went up as well with only Osceola having more participation. The math scores were the only scores that did not increase and actions are in place to help this. Sheridan stated the PLC's were underway as was the Biotechnical Project Lead the Way Class which was funded in part by the Ann Marie Foundation. Ott asked whether the ACT scores would go down due to DPI Superintendent Tom Evers wanting the ACT to be mandatory. Sheridan stated we are ready for it, have room for improvements and that this is all exciting.

Student Council Report: Principal Shawn Madden introduced Senior Grace Becher, student council representative for the board. Becher spoke of homecoming week October 8-12 with the festivities culminating at the dance on October 13. Jostens met with students to discuss class rings, graduation robes, and announcements. Becher also spoke of Red Ribbon week which is Drug Awareness Week in which activities are done to promote healthy choices and monies raised go to charities.

High School Report: Principal Shawn Madden stated the Plan and Explore test scores are above the national average and that this is a credit to the teachers. The new schedule at the high school is underway and things are going well with some work still being done on the new bell tones. Becher was asked by Ott what her thoughts on the new schedule were. Becher replied it took some getting used to, especially for seniors. Madden invited the board to attend the Freshman Retreat on 9/18/12. Connor stated he attended last year and it was a great experience. Madden then addressed his handout in regards to the CAPE Program. He said the orientation had a good turnout and from that there are many volunteers for the program already. He then spoke of the police liaison report. Madden also stated he is now on Twitter and to go to the school website to see how to follow him. Walters asked Becher her thoughts on the crowding at the high school. She stated some classes were over capacity, stating Consumer Ed as an example, and that some had extra seats. The halls could be a bit crowded if all students were in them at the same time.

Middle School Update: Principal Sara Eichten was absent. Rosburg answered Walters question about the condenser, stating the project should be completed soon. Witzmann asked if it was now time to thank all involved with the middle school playground project and have closure on it. Rosburg will discuss with Business Services to see where exactly we are at on it.

Elementary School Update: Principal Darren Kern stated all grade levels had 90% or better turnout at the open house and he was able to meet face to face with 25% of the families. Kern stated he is on Twitter and also

posts updates to the school website. On September 7 the high school football players were at elementary school to talk to students about playing fair. Kern stated it was a great highlight for the students. On September 20, Author Katie Mcky will bring her energy and enthusiasm to the Elementary School for interactive presentations with students.

Pupil Services Report: Director Shannon Donnelly spoke of the recent training she led staff in and was grateful for the opportunity. DPI is rolling out a transition with students and their IEPs which will be done through a portal on the DPI website. There will be some learning involved with this and Donnelly hopes the process will be smooth. Donnelly then spoke of the Emergency Steering Committee. Witzmann asked about the state guidelines on fire and tornado drills. Rosburg replied the fire drills are monthly and tornado drills are once per year in April. Other types of crisis testing are up to the district. Witzmann encouraged the schools to do the testing during lunch or a time that is not the normal test time.

ACTION

Human Resources Committee: Approve proposed changes to 7.05 Extra Curricular Pay Language. Connor asked if this takes into account the 2% pay raise, Gunther said yes it did. Gunther motioned to approve, Ott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Connor moved, with second by Walters to adjourn at 8:57 pm.

Brian Moulton, President

Marie Colbeth, Board Clerk