

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
September 21, 2009**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board President Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Tim Witzmann, Brian Moulton, Marie Colbeth, Catherine Cranston, Mike Connor, Robert Gunther and Marin Hansch.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moulton moved, with second by Connor, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard**

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

**Positive Recognition:**

*New Employee Recognition:* Superintendent Rosburg commenced introductions of new staff and board members. President Witzmann said the district was excited to welcome the new staff members and thanked them for coming.. New staff include: Brianne Brickner 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher; Kristin Flater, Elementary School IMC Specialist; Jennifer Grambort, High School Business Ed Teacher; Mollie Leiser, Long-Term Early Childhood Teacher; Jessica Linkletter Long-Term 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts; Brianne Mehlos, Elementary Guidance; Tammy Schroeder, Elementary Math; Lora Sorenson, Long-Term High School ASL Teacher; Melissa Terbeest, K-4 EBD Teacher; Kelly Walczak, Long-Term High School IMC Specialist; and Erin Wilson, High School Science Teacher.

*2009-2010 Compass Award Recipients:* Superintendent Rosburg introduced Cheryl Ek, special education instructor at the elementary school, and middle school principal Rick Lange as this year's Compass Award recipients, stating they were chosen by their peers for providing guidance and leadership. Rosburg indicated a third person also was chosen as a Compass Award recipient, but declined the award. Ek thanked the board, stating it was an honor to teach in the district, and was excited to work with the new staff as well as staff with experience. Lange jokingly wondered if he was bestowed the honor because of his advanced age, then thanked everyone for presenting him with the award. President Witzmann presented both with a certificate and thanked them for their hard work.

*Positive Recognition for Autism Project:* Sonya Stewart, teacher of elementary special education and CD/autism, was recognized for her outstanding work. Pupil Services Director Darren Kern said Stewart rose to the top during the special education department's participation in the recent autism project. Kern stated Stewart was willing to take on added responsibilities of practice, modules, and training, and put in countless additional hours in this effort. Stewart thanked the board and staff for providing professional development opportunities.

Meeting recessed at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of August 17, 2009 of the School Board
- B. Approve Minutes of the September 14, 2009 Annual Meeting
- C. Approve payment of August/September Board Bills
- D. Approve resignation of school crossing guard Elizabeth Vazquez
- E. Approve hiring of Christine Leyden as middle school special education aide for the 2009-2010 school year
- F. Approve hiring of Kathy Kirkman as school crossing guard
- G. Approve Graduation Date of Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the High School Gymnasium
- H. Approve Alternative Education Graduation Date of Monday, May 24, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
- I. Approve Fall 2009-2010 Coaching and Advising Assignments

Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion**

*Teaching and Learning Committee:* Cranston said enrollment numbers would be discussed more in detail by Superintendent Rosburg, and indicated committee discussion focused mostly on class accommodations. Cranston said some of the larger classes, for instance the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, will be moving up to the high school and may create a challenge for space accommodations. Committee asked that discussions remain on-going to deal with school classroom sizes.

*Facilities Committee; Krause Anderson:* Moulton said staff from Krause Anderson Contractors gave an informational presentation about their services. The committee was looking for ideas of what other companies are available for contracting, fair prices, and other services in comparison with other contractors. *Project Update:* Moulton recapped various district facility projects including the north access road, trail, middle school masonry repair, middle school circular pump replacement, middle school food service exhaust fan, soccer fields and irrigation system and asphalt repair. Moulton said naming of the north access road was also discussed, stating the committee deferred naming to the full board. Regarding the middle school power outage, Moulton said Viking Electric has focused on the main switch and is working on a formal bid to replace the existing piece. The Village of Somerset board has been invited to attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> Facilities Committee meeting to discuss the north access road driveway

### **Information**

Superintendent Rosburg stated the current and unofficial third Friday count numbers are included in the packet. He indicated a lot of informational pieces go in to the calculation of the official Third Friday count. He stated the week before there were 1,600 students enrolled, compared to the year prior of 1,608. Rosburg stated committee meetings slated for Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> include Business Services, Facilities and Governance. Board members agreed to start the Governance committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the Facilities Committee and Business Services Committee meetings following thereafter.

### **Board Report**

*CESA 11:* Cranston said main discussion at CESA 11 focused on the large professional development academy that was held in River Falls. CESA had a special “Thank You” to the Somerset district for allowing them to use their smart boards. *Community Involvement:* Hansch and Connor attended a student benefit on Saturday, noting the overwhelming support of the community, school staff and students. *School Liaison Update:* Nothing to report from the elementary or middle schools. Moulton will be on hand at high school parent teacher conferences. Witzmann asked principals to let board liaisons know what activities come up at the schools that would provide opportunities to be out and about with parents, staff and students.

#### *Elementary School Principal Report*

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood said she had statistical data for the board, stating 699 students were registered during the Welcome Back day. Of those, 646 had parents who attended; 341 attended in the afternoon, and 305 attended at night. Fifty-three families were no shows, which Wood stated was up quite a bit from only six families last year. Photos were taken in the afternoon and also on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming activities include a benefit for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student, MAPs testing, Pinwheels for Piece, staff training on epilepsy, and several upcoming field trips. Wood stated parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for October 12.

#### *High School Principal Report*

High School Principal Shawn Madden introduced Student Council President Johanna Smith who reported on high school student council activities including preparation for homecoming activities, senior orders for caps and gowns, and senior fundraiser. Madden then provided a brief update on mentor lab enhancements for students, stating which high school mentor teachers were responsible for the various computer lab supervision of students. Cranston asked how the Watch Dog project is going, and how it will be presented to get people to volunteer. Madden said staff are looking over the district volunteer list, and project coordinator Jerry Sullivan is contacting people on that list.

#### *Middle School Principal Report*

Middle School Principal Rick Lange said the school year started well with good attendance at the “Welcome Back” session. He said students and staff are working on various projects including the 7<sup>th</sup> grade thematic project on ecosystems and their upcoming field trip, the Linus project, and various other activities. The middle school has started MAPs testing, and student led conferences will occur on October 13 and 15. Lange indicated there were no building accommodations needed to be done this year, but next year an extra classroom may be needed. Preliminary discussions have started regarding accommodations.

#### *Business Manager Report*

Business Manager Robert Avery reviewed the current Cash Flow report, pointing out some of the larger sources of revenues received in August. Avery also highlighted transportation issues, stating there was some feedback about

students walking from Somerset Meadows. Avery stated the new driveway connection to the Meadows Development enabled bus routes to be reduced from 14 to 13 routes; savings from the reduction will be used to pay for cost of the driveway construction. Avery said the district is currently running three JK mid-day routes, with more students riding this fall than last Spring, and spread out more geographically. The Business Services Committee will be asked in October to approve a recommendation to add a fourth JK route. Contract negotiations with Safe-Way Bus Company are going well; Avery expects to come back to the board for contract renewal approval in November. Lastly, Avery provided a Tax Levy update, stating the district lost a significant amount in state aids, which could represent a shift for local home owners. Avery identified other options to keep the levy where it was last year.

#### *Director of Pupil Services Report*

Pupil Services Director Darren Kern stated the new GT math series has been an overwhelming success at all levels. This year's GT focus will be more on reading. Kern also stated the recent Special Education self assessment process reviewed six errors which were mainly technical in nature; the Special Education Department is currently working to repair those errors. Kern stated, as Homeless Liaison for the district, he noted the district has many homeless families this year compared to last year. Kern said this situation presents unique circumstances for the district, and is trying to find ways to support the homeless students as well as trying to connect with different agencies for support. The board asked to see the McKinney/Vento statement of criteria for homeless in their weekly update.

#### *Director of Curriculum & Instruction Report*

Ron Berg, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, said the district is looking at implementing a very unique music program. Berg said the statewide comprehensive musicianship curriculum requires musicians to be both performers and comprehensive. The high school choir and band instructors developed a course from curriculum standards; Berg indicated it will take a year to implement. *Instruction:* Berg stated the district reading committee is looking at a common writing program for the district, and is taking steps to make it a district-wide program. *Assessments:* Berg stated all three schools are now implementing MAPs assessments; results will be reviewed at the October board meeting. Cranston asked Berg to provide some MAPs testing at the October meeting so that members may get an idea of the test itself. Berg also stated that he has been meeting with Principal Wood regarding infusing an international foreign language at the elementary level, but they are still in the process of reviewing this area.

#### **Action**

##### **Facilities Committee**

Moulton moved to approve a name for the North Access Road. After some discussion, the board decided to have middle and high school students suggest names and put them in a jar for the Facilities Committee to review. One board member asked if the name would replace Sunrise Drive. Superintendent Rosburg didn't think so as it was a private drive, but would check into it. There being no second to the motion, the motion died. Students' naming suggestions will come back to the Facilities Committee at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

President Witzmann moved, with second by Cranston, to approve the Education for Employment Plan Certification/Transmittal. Superintendent Rosburg stated the attached plan works with the Carl Perkins grant, which ties into the district's career education strategy. The program has been in place for many years. DPI required it to be reviewed and updated as needed. CESA 11 updated the plan, but was late in getting it to the district, thus the reason for not having it reviewed at committee level. The plan is personalized for each school with no cost involved, other than what had been previously included in CESA 11's shared services contract. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Hansch, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried.