

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
January 21, 2008**

President Allison Klis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call; members present: Allison Klis, Tim Witzmann, Marie Colbeth, Sharon Germain, Brian Moulton, Catherine Cranston. Absent: Mike Connor.

Upon approval of the agenda, Rosburg asked that Item 7A, #4 of the "Information" portion of tonight's agenda be moved up so that Chief Doug Briggs would not have to wait for that portion of the agenda. Colbeth moved to approve the agenda with the change in Item 7A, #4, with second by Cranston. Motion carried unanimously.

President Klis continued the meeting with groups or individuals wishing to be heard. No groups or individuals came forward.

President Klis recognized the Somerset Middle School for its AWSA "Exemplary Middle School" award. Klis asked middle school Principal Rick Lange to inform middle school staff of the board's appreciation of their award. Lange stated he is happy to accept the recognition, stating the award was earned by a lot of hard work by staff with a focus on the school's strategic plan.

Rosburg introduced Chief Doug Briggs of the Somerset Police Department. Briggs presented a speed radar monitor to the school district as a gift from the Somerset PD. He stated the gift was due in part from a grant through Wal-Mart, Anne Marie Foundation, and a donation from the Somerset PD. He stated the radar monitor serves as a reminder for motorists to keep vehicle speeds in check. Chief Briggs then handed the keys over to Rosburg, who thanked Briggs and the police department for their generous gift.

The meeting recessed at 7:09 p.m. Meeting was re-convened at 7:22 p.m.

Germain moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of December 17, 2007 of the School Board
- B. Approve Payment of December/January Board Bills
- C. Approve New 4-hr Day High School Special Education Aide
- D. Approve Increase of 1-hr daily from 4-hr to 5-hr position for HS Special Ed. Aide Robin Martell's position
- E. Approve Resignation of Kathy Murphy as Forensics Advisor for 2007-2008 School Year
- F. Approve Hiring of Jeanne Germain as New Forensics Advisor for 2007-2008 School Year

Motion carried unanimously.

Rosburg stated that the regular board of education meeting scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2008 is during spring break week, and that the board may want to consider moving the regularly scheduled board meeting date. After some discussion, the board re-scheduled the regular meeting of the board of education back one week to Monday, March 24, 2008.

President Klis reported on 1<sup>st</sup> readings of policies from the Governance Committee with review of ELL policy IGBD-R. She said the policies will be brought back for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Witzmann reported on the recent Facilities Committee meeting using a PowerPoint presentation showing building and remodeling options for facilities and how the committee decided upon a referendum recommendation. Colbeth asked what enrollment figures were used to come up with demographics. Rosburg stated third Friday's counts were used in conjunction with local census counts. Colbeth stated she is concerned with housing starts being significantly lower than in past years. Witzmann said the Facilities Committee relied upon the professionals of University of Wisconsin's Applied Population Laboratory to do the demographic forecasting and projecting and assumed they would be aware of the current trends in housing and growth in communities. Witzmann pointed out all of the options the committee considered while looking at different models provided by SDS Architects. He said the committee also heard comments regarding the options from community members who attended the Facilities Committee meetings.

Witzmann presented financing impacts of the referendum, stating financing information was provided by Lisa Voisin from R.W. Baird Company. He said three bond issuances were chosen to lessen the impact of property taxes. Colbeth asked what the Baird Company based their figures upon. Witzmann said Baird provided conservative figures, making reasonable assumptions based upon 3% growth projections. Board members asked about plans for communicating the referendum to the community. Witzmann said several options had been discussed and that another meeting may be held to focus on referendum communication.

Superintendent Rosburg reported on enrollment figures stating that total enrollment as of this week is 1,591 students in the district. He said a tentative schedule of upcoming board committee meetings is February 4, 2008 for Human Resources and Business Services committees. Rosburg then reported on technology, stating the district is looking at a three-year plan to include wireless Internet technology throughout the campus. He informed the board that the middle school IMC received a \$1,000 donation from the John Doar Foundation; Mr. Lange will be sending a thank you letter to the foundation regarding their generosity.

Cranston reported out on the board of education's two-way communication, stating that some of the board members attended many athletic events held during the past month.

Curriculum and Instruction Director Ron Berg reported there are multiple issues going on at each school building. He said the elementary staff has been chosen by the MAPs administration to be one of two Beta sites for MAPs training. He reported the middle school 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent component has added a career orientation piece to character education. He stated that high school Principal Madden is currently working with high school staff for additional character education training. Berg stated district alternative assessment tests were underway for special education students, saying these tests were separate from WKCE exams.

High School Principal Shawn Madden said there would not be a student council report this evening. He reported that high school staff is currently working on character education training. The high school recently received posters depicting "27 Qualities of Life" that will be displayed throughout classrooms and hallways of the high school.

Middle School Principal Rick Lange said the middle school library was pleased to accept a \$1000 gift donation from the John Doar Foundation, and that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students wrote thank-you letters to Mr. Doar. Lange reported that middle school gender classes are getting local attention. He said eleven visitors, including CESA staff and middle school principals from area schools districts recently visited with the gender classes. Lytha Lyons and Deb Cardell spent some time with the visitors explaining how the gender program got started. Guests then talked with some of the gender classroom students. Lange stated that, since this visit, he has received a request from two other schools to send teachers to visit with the gender classes.

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported the elementary school's community involvement is continuing to grow, stating that, with help from a P.I.E grant, the Red Feather Corporation, which produces snow shoes, allowed the school to buy a set of snowshoes for a classroom as part of their focus on wellness. Community involvement also involved community member "Mr. Wizard" who provided a presentation to students in relationship to their study on machine units. Wood also reported that nine computers were donated to ELL students and their families last fall, and another six were donated this year; she said the donor wished to remain anonymous. A group called Positive Alternatives talked with staff about "safe places" in the community for some of our students who are in crisis. Different businesses will have a particular seal they will place in their business windows which signals to students that it is a "safe" business. People at these businesses are trained to give assistance to students in need.

Rosburg reported for the Business Services department stating the district is doing well with funds and balances as depicted in the revenue chart. He pointed out that the Expenditure Report Summary was laid out in the same format as the revenue chart and said the district is on track there as well, however, funds may need to be redistributed at the end of the year to make budget adjustments. Rosburg reviewed the Cash Flow Report indicating what cash is available at beginning of month while reviewing the district's loans, investments,

payroll, bills, and short-term loans and what the report's end cash dollar amount showed. He stated the breakfast program is starting to generate funds.

Director of Pupil Services Darren Kern reported that the ELL group is participating in a study regarding the impact of technology on families. He said Special Education WAA tests were taken by students this month. Kern is working with staff to figure out additional ways in which special education students can be more involved in regular education units to help close the gap. He added that special education enrollment is currently at 200 students, with 17 students in the process of referral.

Sharon Germain stated tonight's board packets included recommendations regarding district support for 2008 WASB resolutions, which will be voted upon at the January assembly. Witzmann moved to give Germain the ability to vote for the Somerset Board of Education based on the 2008 WASB resolutions provided. Second by Cranston. Motion carried unanimously.

The board then moved on to approve the "Model Local Educational Agency Special Education Policy" as presented by the Governance Committee. Kern explained the DPI's process with this policy and highlighted some of the areas that were revised. Kern stated that he read through the model to make sure proposed changes were appropriate for the district. Klis moved to approve the "Model Local Educational Agency Special Education Policy" as presented, with a second by Germain. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed the referendum question with Rosburg explaining the intent of the two questions. Witzmann motioned to approve the initial resolution authorizing general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$35,434,000. Second by Moulton. Colbeth felt that the 1<sup>st</sup> question should have been the second, and vice versa. She stated her concerns about the referendum, knowing that something needed to be done at the elementary level, but could not support the referendum at this time due to current economic issues. Klis said she'd like to see the adjustment of the gymnasium removed, but would support an auditorium at a new high school building. Germain stated she would support a phy ed gymnasium rather than an events gymnasium. Witzmann said that the board's responsibility is to study issues and get them to the voters to make a determination. A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Klis-Yes, Witzmann-Yes, Colbeth-No, Germain-Yes, Moulton-Yes, Cranston-No, Connor-Absent. Motion Carried.

The next item discussed was to make a determination to go to election for the bonded amount. Klis motioned to approve the resolution providing for a referendum election on the question of the approval of an initial resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$35,434,000. Second by Germain. A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Klis-Yes, Witzmann-Yes, Colbeth-No, Germain-Yes, Moulton-Yes, Cranston-No, Connor-Absent. Motion Carried.

Rosburg provided the board with information on bid estimates and suggestions with regard to purchasing a new chiller at the high school due to failure of the existing chiller. He provided bid estimates received and suggestions regarding replacement or repair of the chiller, all previously reviewed by the Facilities Committee. Witzmann motioned to approve the district accept the bid of Certified, Inc. for replacement and removal of the high school chiller not to exceed \$116,000 with second by Moulton. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. with second by Witzmann. Motion carried.

Allison Klis, President

Sharon Germain, Clerk