

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
MINUTES  
February 18, 2008**

President Allison Klis of the Somerset Board of Education called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present included Allison Klis, Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Catherine Cranston, Sharon Germain, and Tim Witzmann. Brian Moulton was absent.

Colbeth moved to approve the agenda with second by Germain. Motion passed unanimously.

President Klis opened the meeting to groups or individuals wishing to be heard. None came forward.

During the Positive Recognition portion of the meeting, High School Principal Shawn Madden recognized Class of 2008 Valedictorian, Greta Leemkuil. Greta is the daughter of Helen and Dirk Leemkuil. Mr. Madden stated Greta's scholastic performance and quest for excellence was outstanding, as was her academic record. Greta plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and major in Journalism or English. Greta introduced her parents and was presented with a certificate of recognition by Catherine Cranston, who congratulated Greta on her achievement. Greta thanked the board for their recognition.

Mr. Madden recognized Class of 2008 Salutatorian, Cambrya Belter. Cambrya is the daughter of Diane and Laine Belter. Mr. Madden stated Cambrya is a well rounded, hard-working, and exceptional student, as well as an outstanding athlete. Cambrya plans to attend Jamestown College in Jamestown North Dakota and major in Education. Cambrya introduced her parents and was presented with a certificate of recognition by Marie Colbeth who commended Cambrya on her many accomplishments. Cambrya expressed her thanks to the board.

The meeting was recessed at 7:05 p.m. Meeting was reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

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

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of January 21, 2008 of the School Board
- Approval of Minutes of the Special Session of February 4, 2008
- Approve payment of January/February Board Bills
- Approve hiring of Matthew Steffek, High School Alternative Education Teacher
- Approve 1:1 Middle School Special Ed Aide position for 7-hour/day
- Approve hiring of Kim Barta, 4-hr/day High School Special Education Aide
- Approve Spring Coaching Assignments
- Approve Post-Prom Facility Sponsorship and \$1,300 Facility Fee
- Approve CESA #11 Shared Services Contract for 2008-2009 School Year

Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Connor reported on the Governance Committee's review of Board Policy LBCD, "Non-Public School Student Participation" pertaining to non-public school students wishing to take courses at Somerset public schools. Current policy states non-public school students wishing to take courses in Somerset schools may submit a letter of application by July 1<sup>st</sup> with a final decision by the school one week prior to starting school. Committee members felt one week prior to the start of school was very late in the process and would like to give the schools more time to process the applications. Committee is reviewing the possibility of having a final decision on applications made no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Rosburg reported on current student enrollment numbers, stating enrollment was down a bit from last month. He said tentative committee meetings scheduled for March 3, 2008 included the Business Committee. He reminded the board that the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting had been rescheduled to March 24, 2008, due to the school district spring break. Rosburg also asked members to include Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> on their calendars for the board retreat, where they will review the current strategic plan and goals, and work with administrative members to establish new building goals for next year. He stated the retreat usually takes place from 5:30 p.m. through 8:30 p.m.

Superintendent Rosburg also reported on the smart board technology pilot project. He said the results of the January assessments found smart board users wanting to expand into other classrooms; administration is working on how some or all of the requests could be made possible. Mr. Rosburg said most of the teachers are using the district website and Internet as another teaching tool. He said infusing technology at a greater level into teaching fits well with the district's strategic plan.

President Klis reported that many of the board members have been out in the community attending various events. Sharon Germain said she was on hand at recent middle school conferences to answer questions from community members regarding the upcoming referendum. She said most people who approached her were supportive of the referendum. Those that were not said they supported the schools, but they didn't want higher taxes, and it's their only opportunity to say "No" to government.

High School Principal Shawn Madden congratulated this month's high school students of the month. He said the students exhibited many quality characteristics including kindness, leadership and patience. He also thanked staff for their role in helping with character education. He also stated the National Honor Society recently held its induction ceremony, which was well attended. Student council representative, Hannah Newman, was unavailable to report on student council activities this evening.

Middle School Principal Rick Lange reported middle school staff continue to work on building goals and all grade levels are working on their "Our World" thematic units. He stated teachers worked with EFG consultant Barbra Barnes this afternoon and received constructive feedback from her with regard to the thematic units. The middle school will host "World Day" at the end of the school year; all the grades will get together to combine their thematic unit projects at this event.

Superintendent Rosburg reported for Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood. Mr. Rosburg said elementary staff worked with consultant Ms. Barnes earlier in the day to review their thematic units; he said progress being made is very positive, with staff aligning their thematic units to relevancy and rigor. Mr. Rosburg said elementary staff appreciated being able to work on their units.

Superintendent Rosburg reported for Business Services with a review of the Revenue Summary, Expenditures, and Cash Flow Chart reports. Mr. Rosburg said the district's budget is on track, adding that additional funds remain, even half-way through the school year, to cover expenses. Board members commented they appreciated the format of the reports. Mr. Rosburg added that the acquisition transition between Anchor Bank and S & C Bank is going smoothly. Business Office staff will spend time working with bank representatives to make sure the process continues to work smoothly for all district bank accounts.

Director of Pupil Services Darren Kern reported that record numbers of Somerset Gifted and Talented teams will be competing in the regional Destination Imagination competition in Chippewa Falls on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth is offering three on-line courses that CESA 11 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade district students may take; these courses include Science and Science Fiction. Seventh and 8<sup>th</sup> grade G/T students may take Controversial Science and Lewis and Clark courses. Each course costs \$300 per course; the fee is reduced to \$10 for free and reduced eligible students. Mr. Kern said the special education alternative assessment testing is complete and went very well. He informed members that special education students are currently working on their "Bench" projects, which is a new collaboration between the community and the Phipps Center for the Arts. Mr. Kern said there are several goals to this project for participating students including learning life skills, cooperation skills, and civic responsibility.

Curriculum & Instruction Director Ron Berg reported that the ESEA Committee had its mid-year meeting. He said 20 different action items were reviewed; 18 of the 20 are currently underway and will be completed by May. Elementary staff is planning to re-design elementary report card assessment formats; he said the Elementary Assessment Committee has done tremendous work in this area and will be bringing

their design forward for Board review in the near future. Mr. Berg said EFG consultant Barbara Barnes was very impressed with the thematic projects being worked on by all three schools. She felt the projects were well done with tremendous quality. Ms. Barnes is currently working with only seven other school districts in the nation in addition to Somerset. She has provided free web pages for district use from her web site. She may visit with the district again this fall.

Board members discussed the Teaching and Learning Committee's review of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade gender study program and its positive results. Ms. Cranston stated she appreciated all the program documentation that teachers provided regarding the gender classes. Members discussed other schools throughout the nation that are doing similar programs. Ms. Germain moved, with second by Ms. Colbeth, to approve continuation of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade gender-based classes with the option of program expansion as long as the gender-based classes continue. Motion approved unanimously.

Board members then reviewed the Maintenance Experts Custodial Contract for 2008-2009. Mr. Rosburg said the current custodial contract covers just the elementary and high school buildings. In light of upcoming retirements from the middle school's three custodial personnel, Mr. Rosburg met with two Maintenance Experts staff and Program Director Brad Nemeck about what the future cleaning/custodial needs of the district would entail. He proposed using the same maintenance structure at the middle school that is currently used at the elementary and high school buildings. A district maintenance supervisor for the elementary school would need to be hired to oversee building maintenance needs. Mr. Rosburg said a Maintenance Experts custodial contract would be in place for all three buildings, with Maintenance Experts providing the cleaners and the school district providing supervision. Board members said they liked how the maintenance and cleaning positions were divided amongst the buildings and staff. Mr. Rosburg said the new Maintenance Experts contract would go into effect for one year, renewable by both parties. Ms. Colbeth moved, with second by Ms. Klis, to extend the 2008-2009 Maintenance Experts Custodial Contract to encompass all three school buildings. Motion approved unanimously. Ms. Colbeth moved, with second by Mr. Witzmann, to post the new elementary maintenance position. Motion approved unanimously.

Colbeth moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. with second by Witzmann. Motion carried.

Allison Klis, President

Sharon Germain, Clerk