

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET  
September 17, 2007**

The Regular Session of the Somerset Board of Education was called to order in the High School Instructional Media Center by Board Member President Allison Klis at 7:07 p.m. Members present: Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Catherine Cranston, Brian Moulton and Tim Witzmann. Sharon Germain was absent.

Board Member Marie Colbeth mentioned that she would like a correction made to the August 20, 2007 minutes. President Klis suggested that the Approval of the August 20, 2007 minutes on the agenda be moved from the Consent Agenda Item V.A. to Action Item VIII, Item B. Tim Witzmann moved, with second by Mike Connor to approve the agenda with the change suggested. Motion carried unanimously.

President Klis opened the meeting to groups or individuals wishing to be heard. Seventh grade teacher Lorri Baillargeon came forward with a document listing research done on what helps student achievement, and what limits those achievements. She stated that, according to the document, large class sizes are the biggest challenges facing student achievement. She wanted the board members to know that Somerset's 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents are concerned about the size of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, and would like the board's help in trying to work toward accommodating the class. Superintendent Rosburg affirmed he has had several parents contact him with their concerns. President Klis stated that this issue will be looked at during the next board committee meetings.

Representatives from P.I.E. (Partners in Education), including President Margene Westmoreland, Vice-President Kathy Moses, and Treasurer Melissa Wright introduced themselves and informed the BOE of some of the special projects and grants the group has made available to the school district including grants for purchase of playground equipment at the middle school; bingo and brats Family Night Event, and several other fundraising events such as the Annual Spring Festival held at the elementary school. Kathy Moses mentioned that one of their current projects, in line with the communication/partnership goal of the district, is looking into electronic signs for the school district. She said prices they have received from various vendors were shocking, so she has contacted other area school districts to ask how they have been able to purchase the expensive electronic signs. She said some schools use sponsorships from local businesses to help purchase the signs, with businesses buying advertising time, which—in turn—helps pay for the signs. President Klis asked that the PIE group to leave their fundraising information with Mr. Rosburg for further viewing.

Positive Recognition was given for the new 2007-2008 staff members. President Klis asked each of the school principals and the pupil services director to introduce their new staff. New members included PT School Psychologist Kelly Lamon; Elementary Spec. Education Teacher Brian Lundgren; Middle School IMC Instructor Tracy McGee; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher Andrea Forrest 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Cory Kreibich; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Bryan Mulrooney; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Nathan Klinger; High School Alternative Education Teacher Karen Vermillion; Middle School Spec. Education Aide Sherrie Hosely; High School Spec. Education Aide Michele Bauer; Elementary/High School Spec. Education Aide Alice McKinney; Noon Recess Aide Lisa Sabby; Noon Recess/Crossing Guard Christine Leyden; High School Speech/Journalism Teacher Jeanne Germain; PSLO Officer Jerry Strohbush; Jr. Kindergarten Aide Janice Osterhues; Jr. Kindergarten Aide Robin Knudtson; Middle School Computer Aide Mary Jane Mielke; and High School Computer Aide Pat Everson.

President Klis recessed the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Witzmann moved, with second by Moulton, to approve today's Consent Agenda items B-H of the Consent Agenda and to remove Item V. A. "Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Session of August 20, 2007 of the School Board," to Item VIII.B. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the Special Session of August 30, 2007 of the School Board

- C. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of September 10, 2007
- D. Approve payment of August/September, 2007 Board Bills
- E. Approve 2007-08 Coaching & Advising Assignments
- F. Approve hiring of Jr. Kindergarten Classroom Aide/Lunch Recess Supervisor Angie Sporleder
- G. Approve hiring of Jr. Kindergarten Classroom Aide/Lunch Recess Supervisor Marla Silver
- H. Approve the resignation of Special Education Aide Rose Malmgren

President Klis noted that Discussion Item VI. A 1-4 in the board packet was included for review and has had its first reading by the Governance Committee.

Superintendent Rosburg reported that enrollment was at 1,588 with a few new students entering and a few withdrawing. He reminded the board that the third Friday count would occur this week. He also reminded committee members about the upcoming Human Resources, Facilities and Business Services Committee meetings in October. The Human Resources Committee and Facilities Committee Meetings were tentatively scheduled for October 1. The Business Services Committee meeting was tentatively moved to October 29<sup>th</sup> as some of the financial informational items would not be available until around October 15<sup>th</sup>. Board members agreed to hold the Business Services Committee meeting on October 22, 2007.

President Klis wanted to bring attention to incorporating board liaisons into the schools for two-way communication between the board and Somerset schools. She asked board members to let her know if they would like to sign up for any school building in particular. Board members agreed there should be one board member per building, with one alternate member.

Cranston reported that she attended the 1-2-3 program at their new facility. Pre-school teachers are very happy with the facility, and they couldn't be happier with the person who is helping them with the space; they asked Cranston to report to the Board of Education that they are very happy with their arrangement. Jennifer Belisle from 4 Seasons Child care has been helping them with their new facility. Cranston stated that parents are also excited and happy with the new space.

Colbeth mentioned that she had not heard from any parents regarding the large 7<sup>th</sup> grade class size. Rosburg stated he had heard from about three or four parents with their concerns. He said the parents asked if the BOE was aware of the numbers. Lange said he had received a phone call from one parent who was talking about coming to the board meeting to talk about this situation, but apparently wasn't able to make tonight's meeting. Student Council Representative Hanna Newman stated that one class she is in has 30 students; she's noticed each year that classrooms seem to be getting more crowded at the high school.

Ron Berg, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported that the first meeting of the Staff Development Committee will be this week where they will chart out training to include thematic units during the year's in-service dates. He stated that the Elementary Assessment Committee will be meeting next week to discuss how the district might look at changing report cards and other assessments. He said the High School Graduation Committee is scheduled to meet before the end of the month. Also, teacher mentors are being trained at UW River Falls to continue their mentoring with new teacher mentees. Berg noted that the testing push is on, and he is currently working with guidance counselors to put testing windows together. A "MAPs" (Measures of Academic Progress) committee has been formed to deal with the new testing tool; their next meeting is scheduled for October 2 where they will determine the full testing date window dependent upon technology and class file roster.

High School Principal Shawn Madden reported that the high school is off and running and has had a great beginning to the new school year. He then introduced high school student and new 2007-2008 student board representative Hanna Newman. Ms. Newman is an outstanding student and a positive role model. She is

involved with a variety of activities including NHS, Cross Country, Soccer, Forensics and more, and had the opportunity of going with Mrs. Kathy Murphy this past summer to Latvia. Madden mentioned that Ms.

Newman was also the first student he had the pleasure of meeting during his position's interview process. He stated that Ms. Newman will report on student happenings at the end of his report. Madden then went on to update the board on student enrollment at the high school, stating that there are currently 439 students, with 9 students attending the Alternative Education Program. He said that the Character Education curriculum this year has been enhanced with the implementation of student recognition through a variety of ways including business cards, AODA assemblies and programs, and "Student of the Month." This enhancement to the Character Education piece will align with the district's strategic plan as well as the high school's Character Education goals and objectives including fostering a caring school community, support academic achievement, and decrease disciplinary referrals.

Council Representative Hanna Newman thanked Mr. Madden and board members for the opportunity to represent 439 high school students. She then read from a handout from Mr. Walker which highlighted the many activities that students will be participating in this school year including student council meetings, fundraising meetings, and meetings with Josten Representatives for sophomore class rings as well as graduation cap and gowns. Chairman Klis said she would like to know what students think of new Character Ed Program; Hanna will report back to BOE with her findings. Witzmann welcomed Ms. Newman to her new position as student representative, and said the board wishes to encourage her in her perspective—that she should feel free to share students' ideas with the BOE.

Middle School Principal Rick Lange informed board members that the school year started off well with very good attendance at the "Welcome Back" night. Middle School staff is in the process of planning student-led conferences to be held the first week of October. Mr. Lange reported that the middle school building's HVAC project is completed and air systems seem to be operating appropriately. As cooler weather moves in, Don Haines will be monitoring temperature in classrooms. Haines has attended the first session of training, and will attend three more sessions – one in three weeks, one at semester time and one just prior to the end of the warranty. Lange then reported on enrollment at the middle school, stating that there are 448 middle school students as of today. He said there are five sections of fifth and eighth grade and four sections of sixth and seventh grade. Class sizes are in the low twenties in fifth grade and mid twenties in eighth grade. Sixth and seventh grade classes are at 27 to 29, with one sixth grade class at 30. This is a concern, particularly if any new students enroll. He felt that there needs to be considerations for reducing class sizes.

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported that first day is always a little chaotic, however, after that, it has been a wonderful start to the year and everyone is now back into the routine. She stated that 700 elementary students are enrolled. Students are working in responsive classrooms and are doing a great job. She stated that the elementary staff is doing an amazing job of moving 700 children around; traffic patterns are being looked at (logistical pieces) to keep halls from overflowing with students. Wood also mentioned that they have some fun events planned in the near future. She stated that parent teacher conferences coming up. First through 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be attending an assembly on October 4<sup>th</sup>; high school students will be providing music at the assembly. Six different committees have been addressing building goals since the August in-service day. Wood stated that class sizes are rising with Jr. Kindergarten teacher Donna Eiring having 29 and 31 students in her morning and afternoon classes; 117 Jr. Kindergarten students enrolled so far this year. Largest class size at the elementary thus far is 139 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The elementary staff is very appreciative of the district's paraprofessionals and all their help and work with students. Cranston stated that Character Education at the high school level builds on what Elementary school has worked on with the elementary students.

Director of Pupil Services Darren Kern reported that the Gifted/Talented pool of students has been developed and teams are meeting. Letters are being drafted to go out to those students who have been identified G/T. Kern stated that the English Language Learners (ELL) area has exploded from 40 students last month to 52. Some of these students are from migrant families and will be in the district for a short time. Christine Scheid is working with classroom teachers to assess these students. Kern stated that Ms. Scheid has given a nice translating site resource to teachers to help them communicate with ELL students' families. Kern then reported that Special

Education numbers are at 184 students. He said growth in the Jr. Kindergarten program reflects the growth in the Early Childhood area. Each of the case managers this year will be doing student led IEP's, which will help

students understand and take ownership of their goals and disabilities. Teachers are currently working to try to fund grants for sound amplification system as a pilot project; Kern stated that EBD and CD students are working on a bench project with Hudson's Phipps Center for the Arts and local artisans to make a bench to place somewhere within the community. Kern said the excitement and enjoyment the school district has with working with special education students is very evident, and he has been very impressed with that. Colbeth wondered if one ELL teacher will be enough for all of the ELL students. She asked Kern when the migrant students leave. Kern stated it is difficult to predict departure because of where families are working or what they are working on. Kern will be attending a WIDA Access ELL test training session so that he may help with ELL testing. Witzmann stated it's nice to hear about programs that are associated under Kern's Special Education realm; he felt the student-led IEP, where the student actually is involved in their own IEP conference, is a positive approach.

Business Manager Jan Carlson reported out on the cash flow report through October. She stated the district will go through November before short term borrowing. There was a balance of \$1,499,000 in the district's checking account at end of month when the state aid came. Carlson stated district buses are rolling and are doing fairly well and should be getting the students to schools on time. There have been some minor problems that they are hoping to resolve before the end of this week.

Superintendent Rosburg reported that special education aides have been brought forward when high need students come on board. He stated that the district recently enrolled one Kindergarten student who will need one-on-one assistance. The job description provided in the handout details the responsibilities of the new position. Colbeth moved to approve the elementary Special Education Aide position as presented in the handout; second by Cranston. Motion carried unanimously. Colbeth wondered who we have in place now for the student? Rosburg said a short-term sub is available until the position can be filled.

Colbeth concerned regarding the August 20, 2007 minutes where the second to the last paragraph states "Fund 250," but she said that should read "Function 250" in the minutes. Witzmann moved to approve a correction in the August 20, 2007 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last paragraph, second line to read "Function 250" and delete the word "Fund," with a second by Moulton. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Witzmann moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. with second by Colbeth. Motion carried unanimously.

Allison Klis, President

Sharon Germain, Clerk