

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET

Regular Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2007

The Regular Session of the Somerset Board of Education was called to order in the High School Instructional Media Center by Board President Allison Klis at 7:02 p.m. Other members present: Marie Colbeth, Sharon Germain, Brian Moulton, Tim Witzmann and Mike Connor. Catherine Cranston was absent.

Colbeth moved, with second by Witzmann, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

President Klis opened the meeting to groups or individuals wishing to be heard. Ron Baillargeon, resident of the Town of Somerset, came forward with a complaint about the publishing of school district agendas and minutes. He cited Wisconsin statutes 120.11(4), 120.15(5) and 985.03(2) which identify the posting and publishing requirements for such documents. Baillargeon expressed anger that minutes from meetings held earlier in the year had been published late. President Klis thanked Mr. Baillargeon for his comments and reminded him of the two-minute per person public comment period. He refused to stop addressing the Board. He reported his anger that the meeting agenda had not been posted to the website and that he was unable to obtain a copy at two of the public locations at which the agenda is sent for posting. District secretary Jeanne Germain confirmed that the agenda had been sent to seven locations for posting, which is four more than the statutes require. He complained about the district newsletter, claiming the information to be inaccurate and the document to be too costly. He threatened to bring charges against the district. Board Treasurer Marie Colbeth addressed Mr. Baillargeon, stating that she felt his accusations were excessively harsh and unfairly targeted at district secretary Jeanne Germain, Board President Allison Klis and Board Clerk Sharon Germain. She stated the Board's goal is to improve communications with all district residents and procedures regarding the sharing of the agendas and minutes. President Klis stated that the policy of the Somerset School District is to publish minutes after they have been approved, but that the Board would review this policy. Baillargeon stated that the Town of Somerset publishes unofficial drafts of their minutes within a week of their meetings.

Middle School Principal Rick Lange introduced District Health Provider, Dawn Spafford for positive recognition. Mrs. Spafford and Middle School Special Education Teacher, Jennifer Nickowski received the Governors School Health Silver Award for their efforts in directing the district wellness program. Mrs. Nickowski was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Lange outlined some of the various activities they had organized including walking programs, weight-loss programs and arranging for a personal trainer to work with staff members. Certificates of recognition were presented in honor of their prestigious award.

Klis recessed the meeting at 7:16 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Witzmann moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve Items V.A-M of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of July 16, 2007 of the School Board
- B. Approval of Minutes of the Special Session of August 6, 2007 of the School Board
- C. Approve payment of July/August Board Bills
- D. Approve hiring of Kelly Lamon, Part-time (.50 FTE) School Psychologist
- E. Approve hiring of Karen Vermillion, Alternative Education Teacher
- F. Approve hiring of Brian Lundgren, Elementary Special Education Teacher
- G. Approve hiring of Lisa Sabby, Noon Recess Supervisor
- H. Approve hiring of Christine Leyden, Crossing Guard/Noon Recess Supervisor
- I. Approve hiring of Jerry Strohmusch, PSLO
- J. Approve hiring of Nathan Klinger, 4th Grade Teacher
- K. Approve hiring of Gail Kerr, Long-Term Elementary School Substitute Teacher

L. Approve hiring of Lora Sorenson, Long-Term Middle School Substitute Teacher

M. Approve moving 2007 October Regular Session from October 15th to October 29th.

Motion carried unanimously.

District Administrator Randy Rosburg gave the enrollment report, which showed a total enrollment of 1578 students enrolled as of August 15, 2007. This is up by 86 students since the end of the 2006-07 school year. Due to the Labor Day weekend, September committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007. Tentative meetings planned include Business Services, Governance and Facilities. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Instructional Media Center. Rosburg asked the members of the board to consider where, on future meeting agendas, they would like to report out regarding communications with district residents.

Business Manager Jan Carlson shared the current cash flow report. She reported that bus routes for the coming school year are in progress and meetings with the bus company will be held this week. Her goal is to send letters to parents by the end of this week. Carlson had met with the building principals earlier in the month to establish guidelines for district fundraisers. These guidelines will be sent to the board for their review.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ron Berg, reported on inservice activities planned over the course of the next two weeks in preparation for the 2007-08 school year. He then presented the 2006-07 Assessment Report for the Board's review. He cautioned that in some cases, comparing the district to state data is misleading due to differences in the subsets of students tested. Differentiated instruction has been infused into the curriculum at all levels to address gaps found in certain student subsets such as socio-economic status and/or gender. The new MAPS testing software will provide individualized and timely reports of student's progress, which will also lend to more focused instruction to meet their needs. Board Vice President Tim Witzmann questioned how individual students were assessed before. Berg clarified that the Terra Nova tests had provided this data in the past but the lag time between the test dates and the publishing of the results limited the amount of individualized instruction possible. Berg also clarified that the MAPS program will be used on all students in grades 2-10, using the portable computer labs now available in all three schools.

High School Principal Shawn Madden reported that he had been meeting individually with the high school staff to introduce himself and to get to know them. The high school is busy preparing for the school year. Fall sports are underway. One teaching position is left open at this time, that of the High School Speech/Journalism Teacher. Madden will be moving into the school district as soon as his home in Elmwood sells. He and his family are looking forward to becoming a part of the Somerset Community.

Middle School Principal Rick Lange reported that the Middle School is ready for the start of inservice activities on Wednesday. The calendar will be finished tomorrow and copies will be made available at next month's board meeting. HVAC contractors, Vonasek & Schieffer are working to get everything in order. The driveway will be reopened for the busses and the playground will be available. Safety issues are being addressed, but things are looking good right now. The Open house will be held on Tuesday, August 23, from 4:30 – 8:30 with teachers in their classrooms from 4:30 – 6:45 and then parents will attend a presentation by Corwin Kronenburg from 7:00 – 8:30. We will have volunteer staff supervise the middle school students in the gym and commons area while their parents attend the presentation. A group of seven teachers spent a wonderful week in Platteville at the Middle School Seminar with Mr. Lange. This year's project was to develop a

citizenship curriculum to extend the initiative already in place at the elementary. They used the same eight categories of friendship, decision-making, respect, responsibility, etiquette, differences, cooperation, and character and developed 160 activity packets for grades 5-8.

Elementary School Principal, Cherrie Wood, reported that the last open teaching position had been filled under the Consent Agenda. The addition of this teacher will help reduce class sizes in the 4th grade. A computer lab is being remodeled to accommodate this new class. Two Junior Kindergarten Classroom aides/Noon Supervisors will be hired at the September Board meeting to assist with the four large sections of Junior Kindergarten. Wood thanked Jan Carlson and the business office staff for their assistance in getting the new school supplies ordered and delivered on time. She also thanked the custodial staff for their assistance in moving several teachers to new rooms and getting the building ready for the new school year.

Director of Pupil Services Darren Kern reported that the number of students receiving special education services has not changed from last year, however, not all new students may be properly identified until school begins. 3 St. Anne's students will receive services this year. Of the 37 students enrolled in the ELL program last year, 60% advanced at least one level of proficiency. 2 students of Hispanic origin have since been classified as language proficient. Kern attended a DPI hearing on the proposed new guidelines for identifying G/T students. He will keep the Board updated on this matter.

Connor moved, with second by Germain to approve the following policies as presented:

1. CCA Organizational Chart
2. CCAA Organization Functional Chart
3. KBA District and/or School WebPages

Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Witzmann to approve the 2007-08 High School Teacher Handbook, the 2007-08 Middle School Teacher Handbook, the 2007-08 Elementary School Teacher Handbook, and the 2007-08 District Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Germain, to approve the proposed Action Steps for 2007-08 Teaching & Learning Goal, the 2007-08 Character Education Goal and the 2007-08 Community Involvement Goal. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Moulton, to approve the Transfer of Funds from 2006-07 Budget, contingent upon adding specific line items in Function 250. Motion carried unanimously.

Colbeth moved, with second by Connor, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.