

REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
February 16, 2015

Board Clerk Tammie Wishard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Present were board members Tom Walters, Marie Colbeth, Kelly Ott and Tammie Wishard. Absent were Brian Moulton, Mike Connor and Bob Gunther.

Ott moved, with second by Walters, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard: Wishard read off the rules for this portion of the meeting. Jill Hills, parent of elementary students, asked what the board communication policy is regarding the school board elections. Acting board president Wishard responded that the New Richmond News places candidate information in the paper and actual candidate information cannot be placed on the school district website. Superintendent Rosburg added that the website and Facebook are used to communicate the polling locations and other general voting information. Board Member Kelly Ott spoke of a forum with school board members that will be held on March 30, 2015 at the Somerset Public Library. Susie Kadlec, high school instructor shared that Carolyn Spoerl, high school instructor, and the students that are involved with the service learning projects are doing an excellent job with many hours of work put in and it is a good opportunity for the students.

Positive Recognition: The Board recognized 2015 Valedictorian, Susan Schmitt, daughter of John and Kathleen Schmitt. High School Principal Chris Moore stated that Susan is very active in numerous high school activities including; service learning projects, editor of the yearbook and countless hours of volunteer work at many organizations that are all grateful for her help. Susan has attended Badger State and her future plans are to attend UWRF. The board presented Susan with a certificate and congratulated her on her achievement.

The Board recognized 2015 Salutatorian, Lauren Sandy, daughter of Kenneth and Kristin Sandy. Principal Moore shared that Lauren is also very involved in school activities and that being involved equals being successful. Lauren has spent many hours volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Feed my Starving Children and Ronald McDonald Cooks for Kids to name a few. Lauren is the recipient of a scholarship from Michigan Technological Institute and plans to attend school their after graduation. The board presented Lauren with a certificate and congratulated her on her achievement.

The Board recognized the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association 2015 State Convention Performers and Advisor, Mr. Perau. Mr. Perau explained the process in which school are chosen to participate and stated it is great honor to be chosen. The students all worked hard and rose to the challenge. Perau thanked Mr. Jason Erickson for volunteering to drive one of the instruments to the conventions which took place in Appleton, WI. Perau also thanked the Somerset Lions for donating the cost of tickets for the students to attend a concert that took place during the trip. Perau expressed his gratitude to Rachel Erickson, elementary and middle school instructor, for preparing the students in their early school years. The School board members presented each member with a certificate.

The Board recognized the 2015 State Danceline Participants and Coaches Hailley Leverty and Tara Montgomery. Sarah Colling spoke on behalf of the coaches and team and said the kickline finished 11th and this was their best year yet. Colling also shared that Gabbie Vogel received the highest all state dancer recognition by placing in the top seven soloists in the state. The board presented Colling with certificates for the dancers.

The meeting was recessed at 7:23 p.m. and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.in the learning center conference room.

Amy Arnold of RMM Solutions provided and IT Update. Arnold spoke of simplifying the network and doing due diligence to make sure servers are not in use before decommissioning. RMM has a VMWare expert, this engineer will look at the 51 servers the district has. The environment is complex, once the VMWare and servers have been gone through and reduced, the cost will go down as well. Wishard asked about Office 365. Arnold explained it is VM on servers and is in the cloud. Arnold stressed that RMM does not want to decommission a server and have it cause something to go down. Being discussed as a team is looking at Office 365 and Google for Education. Further discussion as a team will occur. BYOD versus One to One is being looked at as well, there is no exact or right

answer on this. Walters asked about the SAN servers and explained they are working well. One server did go down and the SAN server did what it was supposed to do.

Jeanne Germain and Kay Vater, Gifted and Talented Instructors, gave a presentation on the Gifted and Talented Program. Vater explained the PETS program which ties into the Badger test. Vater also explained the upcoming math test and the students that are preparing for it are very excited. Also upcoming is a trip to SMC and a presentation on site from 3M. Vater also spoke of a high school student that comes to the elementary school to work with a nine year old on physics. A high school student is also coming to the elementary school to work with the GT students on a book writing project. Vater described that visiting other schools and seeing their GT programs has been a great learning experience. Germain opened by saying she loves middle school students and looks forward to working with them. Her 5th and 6th grade math students are working on a project that entails starting a business. The 5th and 6th grade authors are writing mysteries that will be submitted to a contest. The older students are learning to code which is a free program offered from MIT. Germain is also prepping the eighth grade students for high school registration. The 7th and 8th grade readers are participating in a free program at CESA. At the high school level, there are job shadowing opportunities as well as looking at additional opportunities for the high school students. Germain also spoke of a student doing a SLP possibly at ES to raise tolerant and compassionate students. Shannon Donnelly, Director of Pupil Services, shared they have exceeded all expectations and are doing a great job.

Ott moved, with second by Colbeth, to approve the Consent Agenda with change in the wording on item D. The word Resignation is to be changed to Retirement.

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of January 19, 2015
- B. Approve Minutes of the Executive Session of February 2, 2015
- C. Approve Payment of January/February Board Bills
- D. Approve Resignation of Kathy Brakke, Special Education Instructor, at the end of the 2014-2015 School Year
- E. Approve Hiring of Tracy Thurber for Third Grade Long Term Substitute
- F. Approve Brad Nemeck as the Director of Summer School 2015 with a Stipend of \$6,000
- G. Approve Hiring Sandy Nemeck as the Secretary for Summer School 2015
- H. Approve Board Canvassers for the April 7, 2015 General Election
- I. Approve Open Enrollment Out from Somerset to St. Croix Falls

Motion Passed Unanimously with change in the wording on item D, the word Resignation being changed to Retirement.

Discussion:

Teaching and Learning Committee: Committee Chair Ott spoke of her attendance at the State Convention and shared wellness tips and gadgets that she brought back. Ott also spoke of the different sessions that each board member attended. Ott would like to see more health and wellness discussions take place. Walters spoke of one of the key note speakers and how engaging he was and how he was not afraid to try anything new. Involving community members, staff and all interested parties is the proper way to go about referendum planning. Ott also spoke of bullying issues that had been brought up at a prior meeting. Ott shared that bullying is being addressed, there has been an article in the New Richmond News. Ott also spoke of an open forum that can take place in which sharing and collaborating can occur. She would like a date to be set and asked staff that would be involved to set a date and start ball rolling. A parent asked about the diversity piece of it. Ott said that diversity would be a part of this as well. The parent then asked what would come of the group? Ott wants open dialogue so all can speak and stress their thoughts. Ott spoke of the policy that the board has in place and would like open dialogue to happen. Colbeth said it is about bringing awareness to the table. This will be addressed further at the Teaching and Learning committee which will take place the first Monday in March. Patty Schachtner asked if it would be easier to go through the youth survey which has already been completed by the students. Superintendent Rosburg stated this will be part of the process. Parent Jill Hills asked the parent that spoke of the diversity issue if anyone had followed up with her. Hills thought it was unsatisfactory that a month had gone by. Colbeth reiterated that the superintendent and principal had spoken to this parent on numerous occasions and dialogue is occurring. Ott stressed they want to work towards these situations occurring. Nancy Dressel shared that she would like to see the youth risk survey results so that parents can be more involved.

Information: Superintendent Rosburg stated student enrollment is 1,598 which is up a bit from last year at this time. The date of the upcoming committee meetings is March 2, 2015. Rosburg also spoke of the erroneous Infinite Campus message that was sent out inadvertently today. IT determined that Somerset, KY should have been the district to receive this. Rosburg spoke on behalf of absent Dave Gerberding, Director of Business Services and Operations, on how the deficit came to be what it is. Rosburg briefly walked through the pieces of it and stated it would be shared and made public on Tuesday. There are still variables that are being looked at at the Government level. The variables that bring the deficit to \$780K are being looked at by the school district. Rosburg spoke of meetings in which all staff were invited to attend in which they could share budget ideas. Response was good and many ideas were shared via the meetings, emails and individual meetings with Rosburg. Early retirement, classroom budgets, fewer bus routes are all topics that were brought up. Rosburg will craft a letter and send to WI state government to ask legislators to make decisions that will be good for all students. This letter will be sent to all staff as well.

The upcoming board community meetings are scheduled for:

2/19/15, Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:00pm-7:30pm, Kelly and Tom

3/21/15, Middle School Open Gym, 9:00am-11:30am, Tammie and Tom

4/11/15, Somerset Public Library, 10:00am-11:30am, Tammie and TBD

The board members in attendance will check their schedules to determine when they can attend.

Board Report: *CESA II Update:* Walters spoke of the CESA service contract as well as the budget for the state and how it will impact schools. Walters would like cost savings to be looked at in light of the Governor's budget proposal. *Community and School Involvement:* Walters spoke of four teams that are going to state from Robotics and as a cost savings they will be sharing a bus with Menomonie. The Somerset team did well and showed excellent sportsmanship. Ott thanked SMC for their sponsorship and Kraus Anderson for donation the competition box. Walters thanked Eric and Becky Olson for their many hours and hard work. Wishard thanked the New Richmond News for the write up in the paper. Ott spoke of the community input meetings and the recurring comments that have been expressed were that parents want more communications and want to be involved in decisions prior to them being made. Colbeth shared a big challenge with this is getting the information out to parents, particularly those that are not in attendance at the meetings. Walters spoke of Boarddocs and how it could help with this. Wishard shared that the schools that use it love it and it makes things easier but there is a cost to it. Ott shared that parents think the website is difficult to use. She would like to see parents share more specifics in what can be corrected.

WASB Convention Report & Recap: Will be brought back at the March meeting due to Moulton being absent.

Student Council Report: Student Council Representative John Siggens shared that the student council has been very busy and productive. Student Council has been planning the Polar Daze Celebration. It is taking place this week, February 16-20. There are many events being planned including dress up days, talent show and other fun activities. The juniors are working on prom planning. The seniors are working on their senior video and college preparations. Course registration is under way and the spring play is in full practice mode to be ready for the March performance. Winter athletics are wrapping up regular season play.

Directors' and Principals' Report: Eichten spoke of the middle school play that is this weekend. Much learning for staff has happened this month in regards to Badger testing. Staff have been preparing students for this test and prepping them for the stamina that is needed for this rigorous testing. Moore spoke of ACT and WCKE testing that the juniors will be taking and how to make a good testing environment. Ninth and tenth grade students will be attending colleges on testing day and seniors will be volunteering at Feed my Starving Children. Ott and Colbeth asked of the cost of these trips and would it make more financial sense to send the students that are testing off site? Trish Sheridan, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, shared what other districts in the area are doing and that Baldwin is only school in area that will not have school on testing day. Wishard shared that this is a good opportunity for students to be able to visit colleges. Sheridan also added that the district is preparing for the new battery of tests. The focus has been getting the engagement and thought to be that this type of thinking needs to take place every day, not just on test day. Also discussed was the Professional Development Day on February 6 which offered numerous opportunities for staff. Thirty staff members attended a speaking event by Rick Wormelli that took place in Menomonie. Mr. Wormelli's presentation was engaging and provided much information.

Action

Teaching and Learning Committee: Ott moved, with second by Colbeth to Approve Laude System. Ott shared that a parent spoke with her about this and was worried about tradition. Moore shared that he had spoken to this parent as well. To recap, they are looking at ways to include and recognize more students in the graduation ceremony. The purpose of the Laude System is to recognize students for the rigor of their academic program as well as their successes in that program. The Laude System will be initiated with the class of 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

Governance Committee: Ott moved, with second by Wishard, to Approve NEOLA Final Draft Policies. Walters would like the board to wait until all are in attendance. Ott wants to move forward as those that are absent have been part of past discussions. Motion passed with three yes votes and one no vote by Walters.

Ott moved, with second by Wishard, to approve the Adoption of NEOLA Policy Resolution. Superintendent Rosburg explained the resolution and that the board needs to decide on the date to be included on the resolution. April 1, 2015 is the effective date as decided by the board. Motion passed with three yes votes and one no vote by Walters.

Ott moved, with second by Walters to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Tamara Wishard, Clerk

Marie Colbeth, Board Member