

REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
January 19, 2015

Board President Brian Moulton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Present were board members Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Bob Gunther, Brian Moulton, Kelly Ott, Tammie Wishard and Tom Walters.

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

Positive Recognition: The board recognized Dawn Spafford, Middle School Health Care Provider, as the Silver Ring Award recipient for her 25 years of service to the Somerset School district. President Moulton thanked her for all she does to keep the students healthy and safe and presented her with an award.

The board also recognized the adult school crossing guards; Laura Bambach, Pat Everson, Jonathan Grant, Lora Greener, Robin Knudtson, Jennie Mangine and Julie Schultz. President Moulton thanked the crossing guards and recognized that it is Adult Crossing Guard Awareness Week and presented them with an award.

The board also recognized High School Football Coach, Bruce Larson as the 2014 NFL Don Shula Head Coach of the Year. Board President Moulton introduced Coach Larson and spoke of all he has achieved. Superintendent Rosburg introduced Coach Larson's wife and children and thanked them for their support. Rosburg also thanked the coaches, assistant coaches and student athletes. Also noted was that the win at state this year was Coach Larson's 200th win. Rosburg introduced Coach Larson who thanked his family, coaches, students and community. Larson explained that coaching empowers students and he is grateful to be part of that. He stressed that the support he has gotten while being at Somerset has been amazing.

Meeting was recessed at 7:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:45 p.m. at the District Office.

Amy Arnold of RMM Solutions provided an IT update. Arnold provided an update of the progress that has been made since the last presentation. Arnold spoke of the new engineer that is working with the school and shared he is an excellent fit. RMM has been working with the IT staff to clean up applications that are on the server that are no longer being used. This clean-up effort will help to open up valuable server space, eliminating the need for between four to seven servers. Arnold shared that the number of tickets that are coming in has dropped, laptop leases are being looked at and how to save money in this area all are topics under review. Arnold introduced the new HP rep who will help to get the best process for the school on leases. Arnold also provided an update on e-rate and the changes that have come into play this year

Groups or Individuals Wishing To Be Heard: Moulton read off the rules for this portion of the meeting. Keith Wright, Somerset resident, spoke of the issues of diversity in the schools. He stressed that his son has not been treated fairly. He stressed the importance of Martin Luther King Day and this would be the perfect time to speak of diversity. The board responded that they will look at this and take the steps necessary to correct this.

Also came forward to speak was Jill Hills, she spoke of her concern on hearing class sizes may be increased. She stressed that class sizes are good right now and by making class sizes larger we are taking this out on the kids.

Gunther moved, with second by Connor, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of December 15, 2014
- B. Approve Minutes of Special Session of December 22, 2014
- C. Approve Payment of December/January Board Bills
- D. Approve Open Enrollment Out of Somerset to McFarland
- E. Approve 2015-2016 School District Calendar
- F. Approve Post-Prom Facility Sponsorship and \$1,570.00 Facility Fee
- G. Approve Hire of Brenda Rivard, Middle School Special Education Aide.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: *Governance Committee:* Committee Chair Mike Connor spoke on the review of the NEOLA second draft policies. Committee recommends the approval of the policies if the policies are back. The policies are not yet back from NEOLA. This will come before the board in February.

Business Services Committee Meeting: Committee Chair Marie Colbeth thanked Dave Gerberding, Business Services Manager, for his hard work on the budget. Colbeth stated that with the way the budget is now, there will be changes that are uncomfortable. Colbeth is hopeful and positive that even if class sizes do increase, we can still support this and good can come of this. It is a balancing act and Colbeth asked for questions as the questions help to put things in place. President Moulton also thanked Dave for what he has put together.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Rosburg stated district enrollment is at 1599, which is up and the numbers are going up slowly and steadily. The committee meetings are scheduled for Monday February 2, 2015, the information on these meetings will be sent out as the date gets closer. Superintendent Rosburg spoke of the District Goals. Particularly the objective of the board members hosting community meetings and what the forum/topics would be. Rosburg asked the board to start thinking about this and determining what would be the most beneficial. The board asked the audience members what they would like to see and what would work best. It was determined that later in the evenings would work and possibly even a Saturday morning. Patty Schachtner suggested hosting one at the same time as the Saturday morning Power Up session. Common Core math was suggested as well as suicide, drug prevention and bullying.

Board Report: *WASB Resolutions:* Colbeth stated the resolutions looked to be in line. *CESA 11 Update:* Tom Walters spoke of IT concerns and bandwidth issues with CESA. The monthly CESA meeting was done via Zoom this past month and it worked well. The contracted services book will be coming in February and will go to committee in March.

Community and School Involvement: Ott shared that post prom is coming and parents are always welcome to help out. Ott also spoke of the Scholarship Committee and Vegas night is April 11. With the money that has been made so far, there may be enough for one more scholarship.

Colbeth attended a wrestling meet and was impressed with how grateful the wrestlers were to have community members in attendance. Girls' basketball is doing well and their games are fun to attend as well. Colbeth also spoke of how wonderful the state choir performance was. Walters spoke of how well the first year Robotics group is doing.

Student Council Report: Student Council Representative Nicole Tetzlaff provided the Student Council Report. Seniors are starting to make college decisions, juniors are gathering ACT scores and many are looking at school acceptance guidelines. Underclassmen are starting the course registration process for next year. Polar Daze will be taking place the week on February 16-20 (tentative dates) with many fun activities. Practice for the spring play has begun, Robotics has been busy and Forensics and Yearbook have been working hard as well.

Directors' and Principals' Report: Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Trisha Sheridan provided updates. This is a busy time of year, much rethinking and refocusing happens in January. Educator Effectiveness is being discussed, District RTI, and consistency are all important issues. The first Aspire testing results are in. Legislation has changed some of the dates on this, it is now given in spring and fall. ACT is not truly prepared to give good, clear data. The data is being shared and gives a predictor score of where the students will score when taking the ACT. Every child gets a college and career ready score, Sheridan and other directors have been going over the results. Sheridan shared that the Somerset scores were very good and is looking forward to getting the comparables. Data is being discussed and how recordable data can be looked at. There are three arenas that can be looked at: student learning, student development and professional practice. Middle school instructor, Lorri Baillargeon, asked how the keyboarding scores are as how well a student keyboards could have significant impact on how well as a student does on a test. Sheridan answered that Somerset is starting early and young with this and second grade students are exposed to this. It is being looked at CESA as well as with other directors. Dr. Kamarth, Elementary School Principal, will send home with the elementary students the keyboarding information that is available for students to practice this at home.

Action: Ott moved with Second by Walters to keep the Open Enrollment Chart as is from 2014-2015. Ott expressed that smaller classes have better results with more teacher interactions. Ott explained the students in the middle, the so called gray area, may not get heard if class sizes get larger. Open Enrollment is looked at differently here than some other states. Ott stressed that from her experience, small class sizes were beneficial to her children. Middle school instructor, Lorri Baillargeon stressed that while progress is being made to get students to achieve, we need to get students to achieve these goals before we add more students to the classroom. The number of students in a class directly impacts how much time it takes to complete. She shared an example of the students in her class and how she looks at each essay question. More students would cause this task to take much longer. Board member Tammie Wishard shared that her own student made a phenomenal turnaround when coming to Somerset due in part to the small class sizes. Ott asked Gerberding if the class sizes were changed, how this would offset the deficit. Gerberding responded that it is difficult to answer. For the revenue limit it would flatten a bit. There are many factors that come into play in this. Since enrollment is declining, the effects of increasing a few students would lessen the revenue to a point. We need to increase the membership count before we go positive on the three year average. Rosburg explained the chart and the DPI appeal process. Rosburg also stressed that the JK enrollment appeals are different. Moulton stated there is much controversy on this topic, we need to be realistic about classroom sizes. Colbeth stressed that class size is not the soul factor, it is more than class size that needs to be considered. Gunther asked Sheridan, will the proposed chart negatively impact student achievement? Sheridan responded that putting kids in the workshop model and putting kids in the driver seat is what it means to engage kids. Having a teacher that makes an impact is important. The numbers on the enrollment chart are numbers that do not reflect anything we have done, they are based on sage numbers. She shared she always had between 22-24 students when she taught in Somerset. There needs to be logical thought on how we can help all kids do their best within budget limits. Sheridan explained that it is premature to be worried about class sizes as we are looking at numbers on a chart.

Ott reiterated that her motion is to keep the chart as is for 2014-2015. Upon roll call vote, motion failed. Walters Yes, Wishard Yes, Connor No, Moulton No, Gunther No, Colbeth No, Ott Yes.

Patty Schachtner asked how many building permits have come through for the Somerset. Gunther asked how this impacts open enrollment. She stressed this could make a difference in the fall. Rosburg explained the analysis that was done shows people that are coming into the district are buying preexisting homes, not building new homes.

Discussion held on how many spaces are available for Open Enrollment. Baillargeon explained her understanding of the chart and how open enrollments can impact class sizes. Rosburg stressed the importance of using statistically accurate numbers.

Colbeth moved, with second by Gunther to approve the 2015-2016 Open Enrollment Chart. Upon roll call vote motion passed. Wishard No, Ott No, Walters No, Connor Yes, Moulton Yes, Gunther Yes, Colbeth Yes.

Ott moved, with second by Walters to move to Executive Session in Accordance with Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1), (c) for the purpose of discussing performance of the district administrator. All voted yes in roll call vote to move to Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. Discussion was held on the performance of the district administrator. The board agreed to allow the district administrator's contract to roll forward. Wishard moved, with second by Gunther to move out of Executive Session. All voted yes to move out of Executive Session at 10:49 p.m.

Connor moved, with second by Gunther, to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. Motion carried.