

SOMERSET BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
May 18, 2015

Board President Brian Moulton called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Board members present include Brian Moulton, Robert Gunther, Mike Connor, Marie Colbeth, Nancy Dressel, Patty Schachtner and Tammie Wishard.

Connor moved, with second by Gunther to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Senior Forum: Review of K-12 Journey with High School Seniors. The senior panel consisted of Reed Baillargeon, Maggie Becher, Autumn McMeeken, Max Praschak, John Siggins, Lauren Skoglund, Logan Wiederin, Nicole Tetzlaff and John Sullivan. President Moulton explained that the senior panel was to answer the questions that were asked of them by the board openly and honestly. When asked if their high school experiences prepared them for the future, the students responded that they thought their experiences here did prepare them, but have not experienced anything out of high school yet. Max Praschak suggested having past graduates come to speak and share their thoughts. Youth options and an increase in AP classes has been a step in the right direction. Technology in the schools is a positive when it works and the consensus is that it is a positive part of learning. The students on the forum all shared the same sentiment in that the disrespectful students need to be addressed so that the teachers can effectively teach and the students can learn. The teachers, coaches, parents and fellow students as well as the many extra-curricular activities all helped to shape the students. The consensus is to have students attend board meetings and speak on a more regular basis.

Positive Recognition: The Board recognized John Siggins and Nicole Tetzlaff, Student Council Representatives to the School Board. Superintendent Rosburg thanked John and Nicole for their year of service to the school board. President Moulton presented each with a certificate and gift.

The Board recognized 2015 Scholar Athletes, Reed Baillargeon and Susan Schmitt. Director of Programs, John Walsh spoke of the outstanding job these students did at both academics and athletics. Reed Baillargeon spoke of the positive person that helped him and how that was part of the recognition banquet he attended in Baldwin and he thanked his parents. Susan thanked her parents and spoke of her attendance at the banquet. The students were each presented with a certificate.

The Board recognized Sara Eichten, 2015 AWSA Middle School Principal of the Year. Superintendent Rosburg spoke highly of the work Eichten has done and how fortunate we are to have her here. Jim Lynch from AWSA explained the rigorous process of being selected for this prestigious award. Eichten was presented an award from both Jim Lynch and President Moulton. Eichten thanked her family for their dedication, her parents, her aunt as well as her staff.

RMM Report to the School Board: Rimon Moses and Dan Johnson provided IT updates. The teacher's laptops will be collected right after school, reimaged and deployed to run smartboards, video applications and lab devices. Teachers will receive their new laptops with Gmail and will be able to train on the new devices in August. While the updating is taking place, the staff will not be left without laptops over the summer. Dressel asked about the new teacher laptops and if they will be thin clients, Moses answered that they will be regular laptops. Dressel also asked about the annual cost of VMWare. Moses explained it is tricky number to explain. He is going to get the information and provide to the board. Dressel asked about the thin client. Moses explained the challenging part is running the video component of it. Moses also shared that the federal government has approved Category two funding, Somerset will receive 75% of the \$95k. Moses recommended that Somerset use the dollars sooner than later.

Groups or Individuals Wishing to Be Heard: Moulton read off the rules for this portion of the meeting, several groups/individuals came forward:

- Somerset parent, Jerry Sullivan shared that this is his second time to speak at a board meeting on his topic. He introduced himself and spoke of his coaches' handbook proposal that he brought up to the board in March. He believes the coaches' handbook is very important and it is in the best interest of the students and would save the district money. He believes in a global coaching handbook and would take

approximately 110 hours to put together. He would like to see the 2015-2016 coaches handbook be put on hold until this is put in place.

- Sara Turner, parent of Somerset Elementary students, spoke of her concerns in regards to the grapevine message she heard about the elementary school raising class sizes. Her family chose Somerset in part due to its small class sizes. The increase in class sizes should have been communicated. Her perception is that by the board not sharing this, it has caused her to question the goals of the district. She would like to see a special session addressing this. Turner also explained that she would like the district to not share with the students teachers would be prior to school starting.
- Jill Hills, parent, came forward and spoke of the need for more communication and the need for more forums. She would like to see more family friendly times for meetings.
- Justin Dendinger, parent, stated that Somerset needs a coaches handbook that is in line with WIAA rules. Dendinger explained three key points he feels need to be addressed in regards to the coaching/sports handbook.
- Tim Maitrejean, parent, spoke of the basketball program and negative connotation with the boys' basketball program. A coaches handbook needs to be created.

The meeting was recessed at 8:06 p.m. and reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

Dressel asked that Item I, Approve Gallup Teacher Insight Contract for June 10, 2015 through June 9, 2016 for \$3,765.00 be moved to the discussion portion of the meeting.

Gunther moved, with second by Connor, to approve the Consent Agenda, with item I being moved to discussion:

- Approve Minutes of the Regular Session of April 20,
- Approve Minutes of Special Session of May 4, 2015
- Approve Minutes of the Executive Session of May 5, 2015
- Approve Minutes of the Executive Session of May 11, 2015
- Approve Payment of April/May Board Bills
- Approve Hiring of Elizabeth Gilles as the 5-6 Grade SLD Teacher for 2015-2016
- Approve Resignation of High School Coach Bill Powers
- Approve Resignation of Steph Briggs as a Teacher of Special Education
- Approve Gallup Teacher Insight Contract for June 10, 2015 through June 9, 2016 for \$3,765.00
- Approve WIAA Senior High Membership for 2015-2016
- Approve Annual Contract with WERMC for Rick Management Cooperative for 2015-2016
- Approve Withdrawal from LGPIF for State Property Insurance

Discussion

Facilities Committee: Middle School Tour: Gunther spoke of the tour of the middle school and there are items to be addressed at the middle school. Schachtner shared her conversation with Principal Eichten in regards to the ideas she had on some changes to the paint and look of the middle school. Eichten will continue to work on gathering the costs for this.

Human Resources Committee: Moulton provided an update on the work that has been done on the handbook, he expressed that they are at where they need to be with it.

Governance Committee: Connor explained the NEOLA process and where the policies are at. Colbeth shared that she would like to see the graduation policy looked at in regards to speakers at the ceremony.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Randy Rosburg provided an overview of current enrollment, stating the current enrollment is at 1,594. The next committee meetings are scheduled for June 1, 2015. Rosburg asked for board members to please check their availability for the upcoming graduation ceremonies and to please let Mr. Moore know. Superintendent Rosburg thanked the individual for the \$300.00 recurring donation on an annual

basis for JK and also thanked Belisle Excavating as they helped with excavating and donated sand for the playgrounds. The next Board of Education meeting will take place on June 15, 2015.

Board Report: *CESA II Update:* Superintendent Rosburg said the last CESA meeting did not take place as they did not have a quorum and that there is board member training taking place in June at CESA.

Community and School Involvement: Colbeth viewed the artwork that the Somerset students had displayed at the Phipps and thanked Becky Olson for taking the initiative on this. She was in attendance at Solo Ensemble and said it was excellent. Wishard thanked Mr. Moore for the Academic Awards Ceremony and hopes it will become an annual events. She shared it was a very inspiring and a wonderful event. Both Wishard and Colbeth expressed it was an honor to be a part of this. A thank you went out to Kelly Ott for all her hard work with this. Dressel attended a Title 1 reading event at the ES and conveyed it was a very valuable opportunity to be in the ES and see her own student's peers. She also attended a special education event that introduced students to the middle school. Dressel shared that youth track is a very positive event, the JK event at the ES was great and she was able to introduce herself and meet many parents. Dressel is happy with the opportunities that summer school has to offer. She heard from many parents that the registration process should be changed.

President Moulton helped with post prom as it was a great event for students to attend. He asked the student council reps if they would like to see it continued and they stated they would like it to continue. Colbeth asked the student council rep for their thoughts on prom taking place on the boats. Discussion ensued as to what the students could do with the funds they had. Many thanks were given to Kimberly Wiederin for putting the post prom event together. Schachtner thanked Colbeth and Donnelly for their work with the fundraising event for prevention and addiction. It is now going to be an annual event for AODA.

Employee Surveys: Moulton discussed the topic of an employee opinion survey and the many ways to accomplish this. Moulton clarified who the survey would include and that it is something that is to be done fairly quickly. Dressel found a resource on the WASB website that can facilitate this and did research and follow up on the topic. She also spoke of the school comparison that can be a part of this. Dressel had a conversation with School Perceptions and the survey they can provide and what it all entails. Schachtner spoke of a UWRF Extension program that can come in after the survey to help everyone head towards the same goal. Schachtner addressed the disrespect that was a common thread with the seniors that were part of the forum. Colbeth added that we need to also expect this type of respect from parents, we have a board policy for this and it needs to be enforced. The next step is that this will be brought to a committee so that a plan can be put in place.

Evaluation Instruments and Processes: Moulton indicated that the board would like this to be looked at and addressed quickly. Gunther shared that there is an evaluation process but there is no means of addressing the areas of improvement. Colbeth felt the board should go through Educator Effectiveness just as the staff is. The board will look at meeting on this topic next week.

Student Council Report: John Siggins and Nicole Tetzlaff spoke of the ninth annual Community Day which will be taking place on Friday, May 22, 2015. The freshmen and sophomores have wrapped up their testing, and the seniors are getting ready to graduate. Next up are nominations and elections for next year's student council with the board representative being announced shortly thereafter. The student council had a busy and productive year and are looking forward to next year.

Directors and Principals Report: Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Trish Sheridan, spoke of the big push to complete all of the testing. The testing was a huge undertaking by all of the schools on campus. Testing involves many details and a great deal of information, should there be any questions on it, Sheridan welcomed all in attendance to follow up with her.

ACTION
Governance Committee

Connor moved, with second by Wishard to approve updates to first set of NEOLA policies. Dressel expressed that it was difficult to go through all the policies and would like to see more time given to go through these. Schachtner and Colbeth echoed these thoughts. Wishard welcomed any other board member to attend the Governance meetings to go through these. Connor spoke of how changes can be made going forward and how NEOLA can help with the process and there was much help from staff that helped to make this process work. Motion passed unanimously.

Connor moved, with second by Dressel to approve technical updates to second set of NEOLA policies. Updates of a technical nature can be approved by the board in one reading. Motion passed unanimously.

Teaching and Learning Committee: Wishard explained that the Teaching and Learning Committee met just prior to this evening's board meeting with Open Enrollment being the topic. The Open Enrollment chart approved by the board at the January 2015 meeting has no classroom space available for special education students in grades K-12 with classroom space available in all other JK-12 grade levels.

Wishard moved, with second by Schachtner to approve all Open Enrollment requests out for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

Wishard moved with second by Colbeth to approve all Open Enrollment requests in for the 2015-2016 school year for students currently attending and who are changing buildings, currently attending with a 1st time request, students with siblings currently attending in our district, new applicants and a JK student as classroom space in special education is available in this grade. Motion passed unanimously.

Wishard moved, with second by Connor to deny Open Enrollment request in for the 2015-2016 school year for a seventh grade student as special education classrooms and programs are full. Motion passed unanimously.

Wishard moved, with second by Connor to approve Student Handbooks for 2015-2016 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

Gunther moved, with second by Dressel to discuss Consent item I, Approve Gallup Teacher Insight Contract for June 10, 2015 through June 9, 2016 for \$3,765.00. Dressel asked if using Gallup is a necessary screening tool and due to the state of the budget this expenditure needs to be looked at. Dressel explained that each budget item that is looked at, not matter how large or small, can be a step towards resolving the budget challenges. Her understanding is that 49 applicants took the test, with it being available to all applicants. Dressel asked for the opinion and input of the principals as well as the director of pupil services. High school Principal Chris Moore stated he could fill vacancies without the use of Gallup and information can be gathered from actually having the candidate come in and teach a class. Middle School Principal Sara Eichten indicted that there has not been a need to do much hiring at the middle school and that she would use Gallup as a screening tool and could hire without it. Elementary School Principal, Dr. Chris Kamrath has only used it once since being part of the district, he has used it in other districts and found it to be a worthwhile tool. Shannon Donnelly, Director of Pupil Services, stated something besides just the interview need to be in place. Donnelly also said WECAN is a great tool and provided a direct link to Gallup. Discussion ensued on the usefulness of WECAN and how it works with Gallup. Schachtner reiterated that with the budget as it is, all items need to be looked at. Research to be done as to whether a month to month options is available and if another tool would cost more. Gunther restated the motion, Approve Gallup Teacher Insight Contract for June 10, 2015 through June 9, 2016 for \$3,765.00. Upon roll call vote as follows, motion failed. Dressel; no, Colbeth; no, Gunther; no, Moulton; yes, Schachtner; no, Wishard; no, Connor yes.

Board Officers: After the April elections the board officer elections take place. Rosburg then began the process of electing the board officers for this term.

- Connor nominated Moulton for President. Wishard nominated Gunther for President. Colbeth then moved to close the nomination. After votes were tallied, Gunther was named President.
- Dressel nominated Colbeth for Vice President. Gunther nominated Moulton for Vice President. Dressel then moved to close the nomination. After votes were tallied, Colbeth was named Vice President.
- Colbeth nominated Wishard for Clerk. After receiving no other nominations, Colbeth then moved to close the nomination. Motion passed unanimously, Wishard retained the Clerk role.
- Moulton nominated Connor for Treasurer. After receiving no other nominations, Colbeth then moved to close the nomination. Motion passed unanimously, Connor retained the Treasure role.

Dressel moved, with second by Connor to adjourn at 9:54 p.m.

Bob Gunther, President

Tamara Wishard, Board Clerk