

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
Minutes
March 24, 2008**

Tim Witzmann called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members present: Marie Colbeth, Mike Connor, Catherine Cranston, Sharon Germain, Brian Moulton, and Tim Witzmann. Absent: Allison Klis.

Colbeth moved to approve the agenda, with second by Cranston: Motion carried unanimously

Witzmann opened the meeting to groups or individuals wishing to be heard. Margene Westmoreland, Cathy Moses, and Lynn Harstad from the Partners in Education (PIE) Group informed the board they are hosting their Annual Spring Extravaganza on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Elementary School and invited members to attend or make a donation. Witzmann thanked the group and commended them for all of the positive things the group has been doing.

During the Positive Recognition portion of the evening's agenda, Rosburg commended the Smart Board Pilot Project instructors for their hard work in getting the pilot project off the ground. He discussed the origins of the pilot project and said the trainers were invited this evening to give a demonstration of Smart Boards and how they are being used in the classroom. Rosburg said he was amazed at what the Smart Boards could do, and how they enhanced the learning process for students. Board members then moved into the computer lab to watch multiple demonstrations of the Smart Boards.

The board recessed at 7:45 p.m. The board reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

Colbeth moved to approve the consent agenda with second by Moulton:

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Session of February 18, 2008

Approve payment of February/March Board Bills

Accept resignation of Vonda Johnson, Alternative Education Aide

Approve Special Education Aide Michele Bauer's request to reduce hours from 7.0 to 5.5 hours per day

Approve increase to Special Education Aide Robin Martell's hours from 5 to 6.5 hours per day

Approve Youth Options Applications

Approve early graduation of Jeana Andrighetti, Jeff Burke, Calvin Wilson, Jackie Kieckhoefer and Ryan LaRoue upon completion of Term III on Thursday, April 3, 2008

Approve hiring of Ron Willett as High School Assistant Baseball Coach

Approve 2008-2009 School Calendar

Approve Family Means March 15, 2008 through March 14, 2009 Contract Agreement

Motion carried unanimously

Colbeth reported on the Business Services Committee meeting stating the committee had reviewed the preliminary 2008-2009 Budget. She said the preliminary budget gives the board a heads up on where the district is at in the budget process. Colbeth stated the budget process started in January and final budget approval will occur in October. She said budget figures were broken down better this year, making the budget easier to review.

Rosburg reviewed current school enrollment numbers stating there are 1,594 students enrolled, about 96 more students than last year. He said 77 new students have enrolled this year since the first day of school. He stated that, although new construction building starts are down, rental properties in the area continue to fill, and many of the new families moving into Somerset are moving into rental properties. Rosburg stated he received this information from the Wisconsin Rental Association and local realtors.

Rosburg said next month's committee meetings tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2008 are Business Services, Human Resources and Teaching and Learning. He said the Board Retreat will be held on Monday, April 28, 2008, and a draft agenda will be sent to the board for review prior to the meeting.

Elementary School Principal Cherrie Wood reported on happenings at the elementary building, citing three examples of what is going on with building goals. She said she was excited to see the work being done with the three Smart Board projects at the elementary building, noting that the elementary students enjoyed them. She said staff continues to work with community partnerships and most recently hosted a wildlife demonstration provided by Mr. Lowell Peterson who brought in some birdhouses and demonstrated to 4th grade classes how to build blue bird houses and to have an appreciation of wildlife. Xcel Energy also provided a demonstration. Wood said elementary staff recently received a grant to work with students on astronomy; teachers will be able to take a free course on teaching astronomy through the grant.

Rosburg reported for the Business Manager with a review of the cash flow chart for February, indicating funding dates, investments, short-term borrowing, and payroll figures. Rosburg also broke down the Expenditure Summary Report by grade level and program area, indicating available balances, stating some budget adjustments will be made. He said that the district is on track with the Revenue Summary, and is looking forward to another good audit. Asked about the progress of the high school building's chiller, Rosburg stated that they are hoping for completion of installation by the first part of May.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Ron Berg reported on the progress of several committees he is working with, including the Elementary Assessment Committee which has met regularly to design a new way to report progress or grade assessments at the elementary building. Berg stated that the High School Graduation Committee will meet to talk about policy effect of virtual school; the ESEA Committee will meet in April to compose a new ESEA plan which will become part of the district's Strategic Plan; three groups of math committees have begun to meet to look at math resources and talk about philosophies and beliefs. The committee will meet again next fall to select resources that fit. Cranston asked if a timeline had been put together for the Response to Intervention (RTI) program. Berg stated there was no timeline set for any of the buildings at this time. Cranston stated she has found RTI to be a worthwhile program. Witzmann asked about virtual schools; Berg said he and Principal Madden will be coming back to the board in the near future with policy information for virtual schools.

The Student Council Report was given by Hannah Newman, who stated the first Mr. and Ms Somerset High School pageant had recently been held; this pageant raised approximately \$730 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She thanked the various students who participated in the event. The junior class completed the design of the promenade back drop for the upcoming Junior Prom. A prom fashion show was held on March 11th during lunch periods, with a second show scheduled for March 28th. Senior graduation orders will be delivered in early April. Seniors are also making plans for their class picnic in May.

High School Principal Shawn Madden reported on February Student of the Month recipients and offered up his congratulations to the students and thanks to the staff who have supported this incentive. He stated some of the Character Education goals have been completed and a few more were added last month; he said the program will be assessed through various surveys and will get results of those surveys before the end of the school years.

Middle School Principal Rick Lange offered his congratulations to the art and music staff and students for their wonderful fine arts festival, stating there were many great performances by various music groups. He stated this venue has been wonderful exposure for the art and music programs. He reported that work continues on thematic units at the middle school with the Holocaust project underway. Local attorney Tim Scott recently gave a presentation on what life was like for a middle school-aged student during WWII. Investment banker Mike Schultz came in to talk about the 1929 stock market crash and happenings since then. More speakers will be brought in to discuss their experiences during WWII including home rationing, surviving the Holocaust, and working with the Dutch underground. Students will also be attending "The Diary of Anne Frank" performance at the Park Square Theatre. Witzmann said it was interesting to see the world conflict portion of the unit growing in presentations. Colbeth commented that the art and music festival has become bigger each year and was one of the only outlets for students who are not involved in athletics.

Director of Pupil Services Darren Kern said he was very proud of the Destination Imagination competitors this year as four out of seven teams received recognition and one team received prestigious recognition at their recent regional competition. He said four of the seven teams will be advancing to state level. He reported that the English Language Learner (ELL) program is currently at status quo, however, ELL program instructor Ms. Scheid will be holding the annual ELL parent night Monday May 12, 2008 from 6-8pm, and invited board members to attend. Kern felt this would be a great opportunity to meet parents of ELL students. He then addressed Cranston's earlier RTI question, stating a new law came from the federal government in 2004 which indicated states cannot require their districts to identify their students through a discrepancy model. The law did, however, leave an open end for districts to identify students, which is how RTI was developed. Kern said the district will be taking slow steps to be sure RTI is being done correctly, and stated the global timeline that the district will have something in place is four to five years. Kern said they are in the final round of Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training, stating the district is ahead in its timeline for training, which is a positive as the state is being aggressive about making sure all school districts provide this training for their staff. Kern reported that, as of today, the district has 208 students in Special Education, with twelve students in initial referral.

At the recommendation of the Business Services Committee, Colbeth brought forward lawn care contracts for board approval. She stated four Request for Proposals (RFP's) were received for consideration. Colbeth said the committee felt the current lawn contractor, Demulling Lawn Care services, has done a good job for the district while being cost effective. Colbeth moved to extend the district's lawn care contract to Demulling Lawn Care Services, with second by Moulton. Motion carried unanimously. Colbeth moved to approve a contract extension with Tru Green ChemLawn Services for weed control of the district's grounds, with second by Moulton. Motion carried unanimously.

Open enrollment applications were brought forward for board approval. Colbeth moved to approve enclosed open enrollment applications following past open enrollment practices, with second by Germain. She said committee members wanted some discussion in light of the High School Principal's situation of wanting to enroll his children in the district, but having difficulty selling his home in his current district. Colbeth wanted to know what board members felt about this situation. Board members discussed whether or not a lottery would need to be established if exceptions were made, and felt policy and laws on open enrollment would need to be re-visited, however noting that the official acceptance deadline date for open enrollment is April 11, 2008. The motion failed, with board members agreeing to discuss the matter further during committee night on April 7, 2008 at a special session at 7:00 p.m.

Colbeth moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. with second by Cranston. Motion carried.

Allison Klis

Sharon Germain