

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD MARCH 26, 2013

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Mrs. Snyder, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following Board members present: Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Taube, Mr. Gallo, Mr. Nuzzo, Mr. Bryan, Mrs. Coleman, and Mrs. Snyder. Dr. Hancock was also present.

Mrs. Snyder, President, opened the meeting by announcing that this was a regular meeting of the School Board of Kenosha Unified School District No. 1. Notice of this regular meeting was given to the public by forwarding the complete agenda to all requesting radio stations and newspapers. Copies of the complete agenda are available for inspection at all public schools and at the Superintendent's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the Superintendent's office.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Media Relations, presented the National Merit Scholarship Finalists, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Regional Spelling Bee Award, Wisconsin Band Directors Association Performance Award, Wisconsin Choral Directors Association Performance Award, Wisconsin Choral Directors Association Young Choral Directors Award, WIAA State Wrestling Tournament Award, and the A.C.E. Award.

Ms. Alicia Hribal, Principal at Vernon Elementary School, and Christine Geyer, Instructional Coach, presented a PowerPoint school presentation covering the three areas of focus—classroom and instruction, working collaboratively in professional learning environments and community/culture/character.

There were no Administrative or Supervisory appointments.

Mrs. Coleman introduced the Student Ambassador, Jerron Baldwin, from Bradford High School, and he made comments.

Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Taube and Mr. Nuzzo shared information regarding their discussions with legislators in Madison on March 13, 2013.

Mrs. Stevens moved to make an exception to board policy and delay Remarks by the President, Superintendent's Report and the Consent Agenda and add as much time as necessary for Views and Comments by the Public. Mrs. Taube seconded the motion. Motion failed. Gallo, Nuzzo, Coleman and Snyder dissenting.

There were views and comments by the public.

Mrs. Snyder made her remarks.

Dr. Hancock gave her Superintendent's Report which included a video clip regarding the power of vulnerability. She thanked the board for their support over the last several years in light of the challenges the District has faced and she noted all of the significant initiatives from past and present that support students which were scrolling on the screen.

The Board then considered the following Consent-Approve items:

Consent-Approve item X-A – Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, and Resignations.

Consent-Approve item X-B – Minutes of 2/28/13 and 3/12/13 Special Meetings and Executive Sessions and 2/28/13 Regular Meeting.

Consent-Approve item X-C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers and Check Registers submitted by Ms. Heather Kraeuter, Accounting Supervisor; Mrs. Tina Schmitz, Chief Financial Officer; and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“It is recommended that the February 2013 cash receipts deposits totaling \$630,298.74 and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$27,607,098.66, be approved.

Check numbers 491250 through 492303 totaling \$11,218,920.13, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$389,643.17, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the February 2013 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$10,813,016.83, and net payroll check batches totaling \$3,599.54, be approved.”

Mr. Bryan moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Susan Valeri, Director of Special Education and Student Support, presented Policy/Rule 6421 – Programs For Students With Disabilities submitted by Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Valeri and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“The Kenosha Unified School District is required by state and federal law to follow all of the included requirements in Policy 6421. This policy (6421) describes the district's commitment to serving students with special education needs. The district's Transformation Plan encompasses servicing all students, ensuring every child experiences high quality personalized learning success. As noted in this policy, the word “program” has been eliminated. The new wording will be reflected through the word “services.”

Services and procedures the district is required to provide by state and federal law are noted below:

- Services for Students with Disabilities (Policy 6421)
- Child Find Activities (Policy 6421.1)
- Least Restrictive Environment (Policy 6421.2)
- Individualized Education Program (Policy 6421.3)

- Due Process Procedural Safeguards for Special Education Students and for Students Referred for IEP Evaluation and Their Parent/Guardian (Policy 6421.4)

In addition, the five different policies (noted above) and their respective requirements will be incorporated into one policy—6421. A link to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for these required services will be provided in this policy.

After review by the standing committees and a first reading by the Board, it was determined that a word was inadvertently left out of the policy. That word is shown in red in the second paragraph of the policy. That is the only change from what was approved as a first reading by the Board.

At their February 12, 2013, meetings, the Personnel/Policy and Curriculum/Program Standing Committees voted to forward revised Policy 6421, Services for Students with Disabilities and the recommendation for elimination of policies 6421.1, 6421.2, 6421.3, and 6421.4 to the School Board for a first reading and second reading. The Board approved the recommendation for a first reading at its February 28, 2013, regular meeting. Administration recommends that the School Board approve revised Policy 6421 including the addition of the word “find” in the second sentence of the second paragraph and the recommendation for elimination of policies 6421.1, 6421.2, 6421.3, and 6421.4 as a second reading this evening.”

Mrs. Stevens moved to approve as a second reading revised Policy 6421 and the recommendation for elimination of policies 6421.1, 6421.2, 6421.3, and 6421.4. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Head Start Federal Grant Request for the 2013-2014 School Year submitted by Ms. Belinda Grantham, Director of Early Education, Ms. Kim Kurklis, Interim Principal—Chavez Learning Station, Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“Approval from the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education is requested to submit and implement the Head Start Federal Grant for the 2013-2014 school year. The funding for this grant is \$1,999,031. The grant is designed to fund the operating costs of the Kenosha Unified School District Head Start program.

The purpose of the Head Start program is to provide comprehensive services in the areas of health, education, social/emotional development, and parent involvement for low-income pre-school children and their families. This grant will service 330 high-risk children that will be 3 or 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2013. Funds will be utilized to serve the children and their families in all program component areas as required in the Head Start Act and through the Head Start Performance Standards.

The following additional positions have been proposed:

- One full-time equivalent instructional coach
- One-half full-time equivalent family engagement specialist

These positions will be added to better serve Head Start staff and families. The salaries and benefits for these positions will be attributed to the Head Start grant.

Included in this Instructional Coach position will be the responsibilities of the Head Start disability coordinator. The Head Start disability coordinator responsibilities were divided and absorbed by other positions when the previous disability coordinator became the interim principal of the Chavez Learning Station. The responsibilities of the Head Start disability coordinator have proven too involved to be added to other positions. For this reason Head Start is electing to re-establish the role.

A national Head Start current initiative is to build relationships with families that support family wellbeing, strong parent-child relationships, and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike. The family engagement specialist will support this initiative.

These two positions will strengthen and enhance the Head Start program. The instructional coach will be able to support staff, ensuring that Head Start children receive the very best education. The family engagement specialist will support parents, guiding them toward increased engagement in their child's education at home, school, and in the community.

Evaluation Plan

- The Head Start program meets a community need for the services that it provides. This will be evident through the maintenance of a Head Start waiting list of families that qualify for the program.
- Student outcomes are monitored within the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework in eight developmental domains. The progress of every child is reported to parents/guardians three times during the school year. The outcomes measured are aligned with Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and Common Core Standards.
- Semiannual program report to the policy council and school board to monitor the program
- Program plan report to the Head Start Region V office in Chicago
- Head Start monthly reports (HS 22) to the policy council and school board
- Quarterly calls to the Head Start Region V office in Chicago
- The Head Start program conducts an annual self-assessment in January to determine strengths and areas that are in need of improvement.
- An annual report is available to the community and all stakeholders providing statistics, services, and budget information.

At its March 12, 2013, meeting, the Curriculum/Program and Audit/Budget/Finance Committees voted to forward this grant request to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve the 2013-14 Head Start Federal Grant request.”

Mrs. Taube moved to approve submission of the 2013-2014 Head Start Federal Grant Request as presented. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Physical Education Program Grant Application submitted by Mr. Steven Knecht, Coordinator of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, and Recreation, Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“In 2008 Kenosha Unified School District received a federal grant named the Carol White Physical Education Program Grant (PEP Grant). At the time, Kenosha Unified School District received \$839,388 (over a three-year period) that was used to focus on the rebuilding of the physical education curriculum. The money purchased the Sports, Play & Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) curriculum, equipment for the SPARK curriculum, and training for how to apply the SPARK curriculum. It has recently been announced that this grant is going to be offered again to 75 different school districts nationally who will receive an average of \$479,000 each to improve physical education and health in school districts.

Kenosha Unified School District has ascertained the expertise of a professional grant writer who was the same grant writer that the district used in 2008 when the grant was received. This grant writer, Mr. Mike Russell of Advanced Fitness Solutions, will be paid through the grant should it be awarded to the district and only if the grant is awarded to the district. Advanced Fitness Solutions will analyze all of the data collected through the grant so that a district summary report may be done at the end of the grant term. Kenosha Unified School District's reputation with the federal government and this particular grant writer from the first PEP Grant has targeted the district as a strong candidate for receiving this grant again.

In order to continue with the momentum created by the previous PEP Grant, application for funding under the same federal program is preferred. The funding will be used to expand the scope of the current kindergarten through twelfth grade physical education program and provide district students with additional opportunities for physical activity during the school day. Additionally, the type of student assessment that is conducted throughout the district will be expanded by purchasing items such as (but not limited to) pedometers and heart rate monitors. These tools will assess growth and will be used in conjunction with a Web-based system where students, parents, and teachers can monitor growth.

In order to increase the amount of physical activity available to students, elementary classroom teachers will be trained in the delivery of Brain Breaks. Brain Breaks are short five-minute sessions that are delivered in the classroom by academic teachers. During these Brain Breaks students will be physically active to help improve brain function. Physical education teachers at each school site will help classroom teachers acquire the skills needed to deliver these breaks.

In addition to what has been previously mentioned, the Office of Physical Education and Health will work in cooperation with the Office of Food Services to add an important component of this project. The project will provide resources to the Office of Food Services so they can help expand messages related to healthy food choices and eating. The messages will be simple and stay within the guidelines set by the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. An example of this would be purchasing new school lunch trays that have positive nutritional messages written on them.

Finally, the scope of student assessment within the physical education program will be expanded. Student activity levels will be evaluated using available technology, student body

mass index (BMI) will be measured, eating behaviors will be measured, fitness levels will be assessed using the same criteria throughout the district, and student attitudes towards physical activity will be measured (sixth through twelfth grade secondary level only). The expanded student assessment will provide students and parents with an accurate picture of the fitness levels and eating behaviors so that appropriate changes can be made.

In 2008, when the Kenosha Unified School District was awarded the PEP Grant the first time, there were no district resources required to be committed. However, a 20 percent in-kind match was made. The majority of the matched amount was made through allotted staff time (including a project leader) and time staff volunteered for training. Kenosha Unified School District would again focus on matching their in-kind funds in this similar way.

At its March 12, 2013, meeting, the joint Curriculum/Program and Audit/Budget/Finance Committees voted to forward this grant to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve the Carol White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant.”

Ms. Stevens moved for approval to submit the Carol White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant. Mrs. Taube seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Gallo presented the Donations to the District as contained in the agenda.

Mr. Gallo moved to approve the Donations to the District as contained in the agenda. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Views and Comments by the Public resumed at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 P.M.

Kathleen DeLabio
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent