

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Ms. Stevens, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mrs. Taube, Mr. Flood, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Bryan, and Ms. Stevens. Dr. Hancock was also present. Mr. Nuzzo was excused.

Ms. Stevens, President, opened the meeting by announcing that this was a regular meeting of the School Board of Kenosha Unified School District. 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 Wisconsin School of Recognition Award. She also indicated that the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMAATS) Award would be presented at next month's meeting.

Dr. Hancock announced the appointment of Adam Sulko as Assistant Principal at Bradford High School effective August 28, 2013 and Tarik Hamdan as Interim Chief Financial Officer effective July 24, 2013.

Mrs. Coleman introduced the Student Ambassador, Alexa Zakutansky, from Tremper High School, and she made her comments.

There was no Legislative Report.

There were views and comments by the public.

Board members made their responses and comments.

Ms. Stevens made her remarks.

Dr. Hancock gave the Superintendent's Report which focused on Goal #1-Student Achievement of the Transformation Plan. Mr. Daniel Tenuta, Principal at Kenosha eSchool; Dr. Bethany Ormseth, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary School Leadership; and Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Executive Director of Information Systems, Data Management & Evaluation; assisted Dr. Hancock in a PowerPoint presentation which covered the following topics: 1) the Timeline; 2) the Facts; 3) the External Factors; 4) Strategies A-D of Goal #1: Improve Student Achievement; 5) SMART Goals; 6) SMART Goal Professional Development; 7) New State Mandated Assessments; 8) the District Report Card; and 9) What's Next?

Consent/Approve item C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers and item D – Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$25,000 were pulled from the consent agenda.

The Board then considered the following Consent-Approve items:

Consent-Approve item XI-A – Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, and Resignations as contained in the agenda.

Consent-Approve item XI-B – Minutes of the 8/27/13 and 9/10/13 Special and Executive Sessions, 9/12/13 Special Meetings (2 sets), 8/27/13 Regular Meeting, and 9/12/13 Annual Meeting of Electors as contained in the agenda.

Mr. Bryan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. Mr. Flood seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Susan Valeri, Director of Special Education and Student Support, presented Policy/Rule 5280 – Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) submitted by Ms. Pamela Black, Coordinator of Special Education and Student Support; Ms. Valeri; and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“This Policy was last adopted in May of 2004 and no longer aligns with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction directives regarding students who are identified under the McKinney-Vento Act. The revision of Policy and Rule 5280 is a requirement for receiving an annual grant from DPI for the purpose of the District’s implementation of our responsibilities to homeless children and unaccompanied youth.

At its September 10, 2013, meeting, the Personnel/Policy Standing Committee voted to forward Policy and Rule 5280 to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve revised Policy and Rule 5280 – Education for Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth (EHCY) as a first reading this evening and as a second reading at the October 22, 2013, regular board meeting.”

Mr. Bryan moved to approve revised Policy and Rule 5280 – Education for Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth (EHCY) as a first reading this evening and as a second reading at the October 22, 2013, regular board meeting. Mr. Flood seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler distributed and presented the Updated Preliminary Third Friday Enrollment numbers. He noted that the enrollment numbers are still preliminary and will not be finalized until after next Friday as efforts are still being made to verify absences. An anticipated recovery of 85-90% is expected. He indicated that classroom sizes have and will continue to be monitored.

Views and comments from Board members were made in response to Dr. Hancock’s PowerPoint presentation given earlier during the Superintendent’s Report in regards to the Update of Goal #1 – Student Achievement of the Transformation Plan. Dr. Hancock reiterated her recommendation of “What’s Next” which consisted of the following:

- Establish committees to convert the strategic plan into a long-range plan that is aligned with school board policies;
- Analyze the Transformation Plan and board policies;
- Improve/design an enhanced strategic plan for KUSD containing more clearly defined measures related to SMART goals;
- Build the future strategic plan based on feedback and audit results;
- The board and administration need to align board policies to carry out strategies within the plan;
- The board needs to develop goals for expanding and implementing the future plan;
- The established committees need to create a plan to educate stakeholders on the plan to create ownership and buy-in (current and future); and
- Utilize the recommendations from the curriculum audit for strategic planning.

Mr. Keckler presented the Student Information System Transition submitted by himself and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“The state of Wisconsin and DPI had a multi-year plan to implement a statewide student information system (SSIS). Representatives had spent over a year developing a detailed RFP (May 2012) to advance a competitive bid process for the selection of a statewide system for Wisconsin schools. A team evaluated systems based upon the criteria in the RFP and issued a letter of intent to award the project to Infinite Campus (February, 2013). This past June the Joint Finance Committee made an unprecedented decision to recommend the elimination of funding for the project. Governor Walker signed the biennial budget in July, removing funding for the SSIS. The expectation from DPI to utilize a state-compatible system still exists.

Like many Wisconsin districts, Kenosha Unified’s current student information system does not readily meet the current and expected growing data requirements. The selection of a new platform needs to occur to begin the long transitional period, including accurate data conversion, piloting, and functional deployment for the 2014-15 school year.

Information Services took the additional steps to contact the vendors with the two highest scores from the state RFP, Infinite Campus and Skyward. Multiple meetings were held with representatives from both companies, including demonstrations and access to trial accounts that were shared with representatives from multiple KUSD departments. Members from Information Services, Teaching & Learning, Special Education, Finance, and building level representatives have reviewed the features. The reasons to move forward with Infinite Campus are consistent with the results of the state RFP results. Infinite Campus outscored Skyward in 29 of the 32 evaluation areas.

There are two main expense components to this transition. The first is the data conversion of our electronic student records, with training on the new platform for implementation. Expiring Cy Pres funds will be allocated for all transitional costs associated with this project. The second major expense will be the annual maintenance costs. The current budget lines items for our related services will transition to the Infinite Campus expected annual costs. KUSD should also experience a continued overall cost savings with the increase usage of automated reporting tasks.

Administration recommends that the School Board approves the adoption of the state sponsored RFP and the proposed transition to a new student information system with Infinite Campus.”

Mrs. Taube moved to approve the adoption of the state sponsored RFP and the proposed transition to a new student information system with Infinite Campus. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Snyder presented the Donations to the District as contained in the agenda.

Mrs. Snyder moved to approve the Donation to the District as presented. Mr. Flood seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

The Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers along with the Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$25,000 were presented and Administration answered questions from Board members.

Mr. Flood moved to approve the Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers and the Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$25,000 as presented. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Taube moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Snyder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder Busby
School Board Secretary