

REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD  
HELD JANUARY 29, 2013

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, January 29, 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 7:02 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, introduced Mrs. Nana LoCicero who presented information and gave recognition to the Visiting Educators from Huairou, China.

Mr. Kurt Sinclair, Principal at Bradford High School, gave a PowerPoint school presentation which covered the following topics: Core Values, Data Driven Dialogue, Serving Students, Using Data to Sort Students, Activities, What are the Core Values that Guide Us?, and a video which represented the core values established.

There were no Administrative or Supervisory appointments.

Mrs. Taube introduced the Student Ambassador, Monserratt Gonzalez-Gamez, from Indian Trail High School and Academy, and she made her comments.

Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Coleman, and Mr. Bryan each gave a brief Board Member Professional Development Update.

Mr. Bryan moved to extend the length of time for views and comments by the public to one hour and fifteen minutes. Mrs. Taube seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mr. Nuzzo dissenting.

There were views and comments by the public.

Mrs. Snyder made her remarks which included a PowerPoint presentation in relation to the employee handbook timeline/process.

Dr. Hancock gave the Superintendent's Report which included a "What's in Store – Planning for 2013-2014" PowerPoint presentation.

The Board took a recess at 9:04 P.M. and reconvened at 9:14 P.M.

Consent-Approve item X-C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers and Check Registers was pulled from the consent agenda.

The Board then considered the following Consent-Approve items:

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

Consent-Approve item X-B – Minutes of 12/18/12 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 12/18/12 Regular Meeting, and 1/14/13 Special Meeting.

Mr. Nuzzo moved to approve the consent-approve items as revised. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Snyder presented Resolution No. 292 – Resolution Opposing Voucher Expansion which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, public schools in the State of Wisconsin are held to strict accountability standards in an effort to measure student achievement and academic progress, unlike private and parochial schools which are not required to give state assessments or publish student achievement data; and

WHEREAS, public school districts in the State of Wisconsin accept and educate children regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or academic talents, as opposed to those institutions that are able to reject applicants based on low academic performance, discipline issues, special needs, or any number of other factors; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature reduced public education funding for the 2011-13 biennium; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature will convene in January, 2013, and may consider the expansion of a voucher program; which might include expansion of the voucher program in the Kenosha Unified School District, against the wishes of the governing body of the School District; and

WHEREAS, there is no consistent evidence to demonstrate that students who utilize vouchers make better academic progress; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha’s instrumentality charters presently provide multiple successful options for parents and children and would be seriously jeopardized by a voucher system; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District currently presents its students with a broad range of outstanding educational options, including charter schools, specialty schools, and open enrollment, and is not, therefore, in need of expansion of the voucher program which currently exists; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a voucher program that takes any financial resources away from public schools and diminishes the great strides that have been made in those schools is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education believes that any expansion of the voucher program in the District has the potential to result in an increase in the District property tax levy, in order to support such an expansion; and a corresponding potential loss in state aid to the District; and

WHEREAS, the School District Board wishes to maximize its available resources for the support of its operating programs, without the need to accommodate or implement an expansion of its voucher program; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District is not in a position to evaluate or assess the benefits/detriments which voucher programs may create in other Wisconsin School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District does not wish to assert or present a position which might create harm or disadvantage to the educational options which are offered to their students by other Wisconsin School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education believes that each Wisconsin School District must individually determine whether an expansion of its voucher program is beneficial, or detrimental, to its students and educational programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District opposes any legislation or other effort by the Wisconsin Legislature to expand a voucher program in the Kenosha Unified School District or any other program that would have an effect similar to that of a voucher program, and encourages its elected officials to oppose the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District directs its Superintendent to take immediate action to alert the District's state legislators, Senators Robert Wirth and John Lehman and Representatives Peter Barca, Samantha Kerkman and Tod Ohnstad about the need to oppose voucher legislation in the Kenosha Unified School District and the negative consequences on the school district and the public education system and to provide a copy of this resolution to them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District will encourage others, including parents, students and District taxpayers, to recognize the detrimental effect of a voucher system on public education in the Kenosha Unified School District and to contact elected legislators to convey the importance of supporting public education in the State of Wisconsin."

Mr. Bryan moved to approve Resolution No. 292 – Resolution Opposing Voucher Expansion with the recommended change of the third "its" in the tenth paragraph to "a". Mrs. Taube seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Sheronda Glass, Executive Director of Business, presented Policy/Rule 1240 – Access to Public Records submitted by Mrs. Glass and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“Policy and Rule 1240 – Access to Public Records designates the Superintendent of Schools as the legal custodian of records. The policy also defines a “record” and provides guidance regarding records requests and records retention. Recommended changes to the policy include clearly stating that District records shall be retained for periods of time specific in the Wisconsin Records Retention Schedule for School Districts provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and updating position titles in the “Legal Custodian(s) of Records” portion of the rule.

At the December 4, 2012 Personnel/Policy Standing Committee meeting, a committee member requested that this item be returned to the Committee in January to allow time to compare the policy with the Wisconsin Records Retention Schedule for School Districts and Wisconsin State Statutes. There were no objections from other Committee members or Administration. At its January 8, 2013 meeting, the Committee voted to forward the proposed revisions to Policy 1240 to the School Board for a first and second reading.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve revisions to Policy and Rule 1240 - Access to Public Records as a first reading this evening and a second reading at the February 26, regular school board meeting.”

Mr. Bryan moved to approve Policy/Rule 1240 - Access to Public Records as a first reading this evening and as a second reading at the February 26, regular school board meeting. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Executive Director of Information & Accountability, presented Policy/Rule 5260 – Open Enrollment – Full Time submitted by Mr. Keckler and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“Policy and Rule 5260 – Open Enrollment - Full Time addresses the state mandate of providing open enrollment opportunities to nonresident students. As the practice of open enrollment has grown over the past several years, especially in the area of virtual charter school enrollments, school districts have experienced cases of habitual truancy. State Statute 118.16 speaks to the school attendance enforcement and notification procedures for all students. Updated guidelines, as communicated from the Department of Public Instruction, declare that termination of open enrollment students due to habitual truancy must now be included in any district open enrollment policy. The definitions, notifications, and interventions that currently apply to resident students will now be consistent and apply to open enrolled students.

At its January 8, 2013, meeting, the Personnel/Policy Committee voted to forward the proposed revisions to Policy 5260 to the School Board for a first and second reading. Administration recommends that the School Board approve revisions to Policy 5260 – Open Enrollment - Full Time as a first reading this evening and a second reading at the February 26, 2013, regular school board meeting.”

Mr. Nuzzo moved to approve Policy/Rule 5260 – Open Enrollment - Full Time as a first reading this evening and as a second reading at the February 26, 2013, regular school board meeting. Mr. Gallo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities, presented the Simmons Field Lease Termination submitted by Mr. Finnemore and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“Attached is the proposed Lease Termination Agreement developed by the City with input from KUSD and others. If approved by all parties, this agreement would terminate both the lease between the City and KUSD, and also the sublease between KUSD and Kenosha Post No. 21 of the American Legion. Similar to the original agreement and lease, the lease termination does not include any financial considerations between any of the parties.

This report was reviewed by the Planning, Facilities and Equipment Committee at its January 8, 2013 meeting, and the Committee unanimously recommended that the report be forwarded to the full Board for consideration.

Administration recommends Board approval of the termination of the Simmons Field lease and associated sublease as described in this report.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the termination of the Simmons Field lease and associated sublease. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the Open Enrollment Allocation – 2013-2014 School Year submitted by Renee Blise, Senior Research Analyst; Ms. Belinda Grantham, Director of Early Education Programs; Ms. Susan Valeri, Director of Special Education and Student Support; Ms. Karen Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary School Leadership; Mr. Daniel Tenuta, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary School Leadership; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) stipulates that a district must allocate open enrollment spaces during their January board meetings. This allocation requirement is two months sooner than in previous years. The Open Enrollment period for the state runs from February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Similar to last year, the open enrollment application window was expanded from the historical three (3) weeks to three (3) months. Along with the usual open enrollment window, applicants can also apply for immediate admittance into a non-resident district (i.e. KUSD) during the current school year if the applicant can demonstrate that he/she meets certain criteria.

Attached in Appendix “A” is a listing by grade of available open enrollment seats for both regular and special education for School Year 2013-14. DPI has indicated that the District’s affirmation must specifically delineate both regular and special education seats by grade and not just an overall number of available seats.

In terms of available spaces for School Year 2013-14 within the Kenosha Unified School District, the Offices of Educational Accountability, School Leadership, and Teaching and Learning (Special Education/Student Support and Early Education) met on multiple occasions to gather, delineate and refine information related to this issue. After

review of our available data and enrollment projections, this collaborative team with the endorsement of the Superintendent of Schools makes the recommendation contained in Appendix "A" to the School Board for formal affirmation. The affirmation is only applicable to space availability for School Year 2013-14.

Administration recommends that the Kenosha Unified School Board affirm and approve the space availability for open enrollment students (both regular and special education) as noted herein for School Year 2013-14."

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the space availability for open enrollment students (both regular and special education) as noted for school year 2013-14. Mrs. Taube seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Glass presented the Adoption of the Employee Handbook submitted by Mr. Edward Kupka, Interim Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Glass, and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

"Effective July 1, 2013, the collective bargaining agreements between Kenosha Unified School District, the Kenosha Education Association and Local 2382 (Secretaries' Union) will expire. Therefore, with the implementation of Act 10, which prohibits unions and employers from bargaining over conditions of employment other than base wages, the Administration is recommending the adoption of a district-wide employee handbook.

The handbook development was a comprehensive process which included a district-wide employee feedback survey, five handbook subcommittees including health insurance, benefits other than health, hours of the workday, staffing and compensation and a District Leadership Handbook Committee. These committees were comprised of employees from all bargaining groups across the district. Their charge was to provide feedback on proposed handbook language to the lead committee. The Lead Committee, comprised of Ms. Mary Snyder, Bob Nuzzo, Atty. Susan Love and the Leadership Council, gathered the feedback/information and drafted a handbook.

It should be noted that in June 2012, the Board of Education adopted a "transition" handbook for SEIU, Service Employees Union. The adoption of this Employee Handbook will cover all employees effective July 1, 2013.

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Education adopt the proposed district-wide Employee Handbook."

Mrs. Glass gave a PowerPoint presentation which included a comparison of information included in the 2005 personnel guidebook vs. the proposed 2013 employee handbook.

Mr. Nuzzo moved to approve the Adoption of the Employee Handbook. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

Mrs. Glass introduced Attorney Susan Love from Buelow, Vetter, Buikema, Olson, & Vliet, LLC and both Attorney Love and Mrs. Glass responded to questions from Board members.

Mr. Nuzzo moved to call the question.

Roll call vote. Ayes: Mr. Gallo, Mr. Nuzzo, Mrs. Coleman, and Mrs. Snyder. Noes: Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Taube, and Mr. Bryan.

The motion to call the question did not follow parliamentary rules and should have been called out of order.

Ms. Stevens moved to defer action on the Adoption of the Employee Handbook. Mrs. Taube seconded the motion.

Roll call vote. Ayes: Ms. Stevens , Mrs. Taube, and Mr. Bryan. Noes: Mr. Gallo, Mr. Nuzzo, Mrs. Coleman, and Mrs. Snyder. Motion failed.

Roll call vote on Mr. Nuzzo's original motion to approve the Adoption of the Employee Handbook: Ayes: Mr. Gallo, Mr. Nuzzo, Mrs. Coleman, and Mrs. Snyder. Noes: Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Taube, and Mr. Bryan. Motion carried.

Mrs. Snyder 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. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

The Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers submitted by Ms. Heather Kraeuter, Accounting Supervisor; Mrs. Tina Schmitz, Chief Financial Officer; and Dr. Hancock was presented, excerpts follow:

"It is recommended that the December 2012 cash receipts deposits totaling \$235,740.12 and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$39,822,388.74, be approved.

Check numbers 488691 through 489939 totaling \$13,040,069.98, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$320,497.34, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the December 2012 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$12,395,493.57, and net payroll check batches totaling \$9,457.33, be approved."

Mr. Bryan moved to approve the Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Stevens dissenting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder Busby  
School Board Secretary