

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD JANUARY 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Mr. Duncan, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mr. Battle, Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Modder, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Adams, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Duncan. Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis was also present.

Mr. Duncan, 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.

Ms. Adams introduced the student ambassador, Summer Zilisch (virtual) from Tremper High School, and she made her comments.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officer, presented the United Soccer Coaches of America Academic All American Team Award to the Tremper Girls Soccer Team.

There were no Administrative and/or Supervisory Appointments.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis gave the Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Modder gave the legislative report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

Remarks by the President were made by Mr. Duncan.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

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

Consent-Approve item X-B – Minutes of the 12/8/20 and 1/6/21 Special Meetings and Executive Sessions, 12/8/20 Regular Meeting and 1/6/21 Special Meeting.

Consent-Approve item X-C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers submitted by Mrs. Lisa Salo, Accounting Manager; Mr. Tarik Hamdan, Chief Financial Officer; and Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

"It is recommended that the December 2020 cash receipt deposits totaling \$131,858.67, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$40,431,409.41, be approved.

Check numbers 598063 through 598736 (net of voided batches) totaling \$3,281,396.87, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$3,786,249.93, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the December 2020 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$20,458,946.93, and net payroll check batches totaling \$10,222.87, be approved."

Mr. Wade moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Board members provided their views and comments on the Return 2020 Plan. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer, presented the Adult Spectators at WIAA Indoor Events submitted by Mr. Bryan Mogensen, Coordinator of Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Senior Center; Mrs. Housaman; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts followed:

"On October 27, 2020, administration brought forward for Board approval a plan to implement winter and spring seasonal sports without adult spectators for indoor events. The Board approved administration's recommendations at this meeting.

On November 17, 2020, the Board voted to transition to all virtual instruction beginning November 3, 2020 through January 8, 2021. In addition, winter sports were delayed until January 4, 2021. Following WIAA guidelines that require athletes to practice for 5 days prior to participation in competition, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) commissioner scheduled KUSD high school teams for conference competitions as of January 11, 2021. In accordance with the winter and spring seasonal sport plan, adult spectators have not been permitted to attend events.

Coordinator of Athletics, Bryan Mogensen, gathered information from multiple surrounding school districts regarding their spectator policy for winter sports.

On January 22, 2021 Dr. Jen Freiheit responded to an administrative inquiry about the safety of having adult spectators at indoor athletic events with this guidance:

"Obviously no spectators is the safest option. Given our lower case numbers as of late, if an extremely limited number of spectators (1-2 max) could be TIGHTLY controlled and enforced (meaning no gathering before during and after games, mandatory masks over noses, wide spacing between parties, etc.). Of course if our numbers go back up, the school community needs to realize and be amendable to going back to no spectators."

Based on the updated guidance from the health department, the ability for adult spectators to attend indoor athletic events in surrounding districts and the established adult

Indoor Spectator Protocols administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the following:

- Allow two adult spectators (18 years of age or older) per athlete for KUSD teams only during regular season events.
- Allow two adult spectators (18 years of age or older) per athlete per home and away teams, regardless of where the competing team is located for the WIAA tournament series.”

Mr. Battle moved to allow two adult spectators (18 years of age or older) per athlete for KUSD teams only during regular season events and to allow two adult spectators (18 years of age or older) per athlete per home and away teams, regardless of where the competing team is located for the WIAA tournament series. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis introduced the District Services Survey and Employment Engagement Survey. Dr. Melissa Matarazzo, Senior Director at Studer Group, and Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Rolling Out Results for Improvement* which covered the following topics: district services survey results, departments above 4.0, district services survey results rollout, employee engagement survey, employee engagement results, what can we celebrate, what can we focus on for improvement, and employee engagement results rollout.

Dr. Matarazzo and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis answered questions from board members.

Mrs. Ruder presented the Revision of Policy 1510 – Advertising/Promotions submitted by Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“In late October 2020, board members were contacted by a citizen who questioned the removal of a political sign from school property and requested a copy of the school board policy associated with the removal of the sign. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the sign was not removed by staff, but rather by a citizen.

As a follow up to the inquiry, Policy 1510 – Advertising/Promotions was reviewed. In an effort to prevent further issues from arising surrounding this topic, additional language was added to prohibit any advertising that is political in nature on school buildings and/or on district property.

It is recommended that the Board approve revised Policy 1510 – Advertising/Promotions as a first reading at the January 26, 2021, regular school board meeting and as a second reading at the February 23, 2021, regular school board meeting.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve revised Policy 1510 – Advertising/Promotions as a first reading. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the New Course Proposal: Indian Trail High School and Academy – Business Academy submitted by Mrs. Housaman and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis excerpts follow:

“Indian Trail High School and Academy and the Office of Teaching and Learning are proposing, for Board of Education approval, the addition of three courses as detailed below. The attached appendices include the Course/Program Change Proposal forms.

Innovation Lab will be the capstone course for the Business Academy and allow students to experience a real-world experience in preparation for graduation. Students will create and manage a virtual company during this year-long course.

Law and Order in Business will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the legal elements involved in business. Key course components include: tort law, contract law, agency and employment law, cyber law and e-commerce.

Business Management will provide students with the core components of every business and an understanding of how these components determiner the success or failure of a business.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the proposal for the aforementioned Business Academy courses.”

Mr. Wade moved to approve the proposal for the Business Academy courses noted in the report. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the New Course Proposal: Indian Trail High School and Academy – Communications Academy submitted by Mrs. Housaman and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“Indian Trail High School and Academy and the Office of Teaching and Learning are proposing, for Board of Education approval, the addition of three courses as detailed below. The attached appendices include the Course/Program Change Proposal forms.

Introduction to Broadcasting will give students an understanding of basic journalism skills including, but not limited to reporting, interviewing, editing, and writing. It will provide students with an understanding of how to produce news and feature segments and podcasts.

Podcasting will give students an understanding of multiple facets in the journalism field. Students will conduct research, plan, script, and produce a podcast segment.

Photojournalism will give students an understanding of how to tell the story of a news event through images and words. Students will use photographs to document the history of an event, interview subjects, and write captions to give further information surrounding the story contained in the photo.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the following three new course proposals: Introduction to Broadcasting, Photojournalism and Podcasting at Indian Trail High School and Academy – Communications Academy.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the three new course proposals for Introduction to Broadcasting, Photojournalism and Podcasting at Indian Trail High School and Academy – Communications Academy. Mr. Wade seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Open Enrollment Allocations – 2021-2022 School Year submitted by Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education Programs; Mrs. Jenny Schmidt, Director of Special Education and Student Support; Ms. Susan Valeri, Chief of School Leadership; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) stipulates that each resident school district allocate open enrollment spaces during their January board meetings. The 2021-22 Open Enrollment period is from February 1 to April 30, 2021. Along with the posted 3-month open enrollment window, applicants may also apply to a non-resident district using the designated Alternative Open Enrollment Application during the current school year if the applicant can demonstrate that he/she meets certain criteria. Appendix A contains a listing by grade of available open enrollment regular education spaces for School Year 2021-22. DPI has communicated that the District’s affirmation must specifically delineate both regular education seats by specific grade level and special education seats by program and/or service type.

KUSD Policy 5260 requires that a current open enrolled student re-apply just once, which is during the transition from elementary to middle school, or if they first enrolled during middle school, then they must reapply during the transition from middle school to high school. Also, tuition waiver students (those who start the year in KUSD but move out of district) have a right to complete the current year and apply for open enrollment the following year. This agenda item, once approved by the board, serves to confirm the Kenosha Unified School Board will guarantee approval of all valid open enrollment applicants of currently attending students and siblings, unless said applicants are found in violation of valid denial reasons. Even though these are current KUSD students, they are counted as new applications for our state reporting.

The Offices of Educational Accountability, School Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Special Education/Student Support and Early Education met on multiple occasions to determine available spaces for School Year 2021-22. After a review of the historical data and enrollment projections, this team, with the endorsement of the Superintendent of Schools, makes the recommendation contained in Appendix A (regular education) and Appendix B (special education) to the School Board. Administrative Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the Kenosha Unified School Board affirm and approve the space availability for open enrollment students for school year 2021-22. Recommendation is for a total of 195 spaces, 40 of which are designated for selected special education programs service/types as noted in Appendix A and Appendix B.”

Mr. Wade moved to approve the space availability for open enrollment students for school year 2021-22. Recommendation is for a total of 195 spaces, 40 of which are designated for selected special education programs service/types as noted in Appendix A and Appendix B. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the Four Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis submitted by Mrs. Laura Sawyer, Data Analyst; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“The “Four Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis” report is a comprehensive examination of the graduation rates of the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) for the Graduation Class of 2020. This is the annual graduation report to the Kenosha Unified School Board as it examines each graduation class in terms of a “static” graduation rate, referred to as “Base Cohort”. All KUSD students who enter grade nine are tracked until the end of their class’s designated graduation cycle (four years later). No allowance is made for any students who enter that class as it progresses from the ninth grade until the twelfth grade and its eventual graduation. For example, first-time ninth graders who are in attendance on the Official Third Friday Count Day during School Year 2016-17 are tracked with respect to their educational progress until the end of summer school in August 2020. Therefore, the ninth graders of School Year 2016-17 become the Graduation Class of 2020 (School Year 2019-20). Additionally, this report also examines the graduation rates in terms of progress made during the two years beyond a designated graduation year, that is, the five-year rate of the Graduation Class of 2019 and six-year rate of the Graduation Class of 2018. This process aligns to both the Wisconsin state statute for allowing for a free education until a student reaches age 20 as well as the current state developed school report cards which incorporate both four-year and six-year graduation data.

The cohort graduation rate presented in this report is slightly different than the rate published by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Beginning in 2009-10, DPI reported a 4-year cohort graduation rate which includes all students who have been assigned to a Wisconsin public school cohort and were last enrolled in KUSD during the four-year period whether or not the student began in KUSD in their ninth grade year. In addition, DPI does not count the completion credentials such as a HSED or a certificate of completion unless their Board of Education deems it as a regular high school diploma. DPI’s graduation rate has been a reported factor in two priority areas of the annual Accountability School and District Report Card: the four-year and six-year cohort graduation rate is used in the Closing Graduation Gaps calculation as well as in the graduation score of the On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness calculation. However, DPI’s WISEdash (online data reporting) portal reports four-year, five-year, six-year and seven-year graduation rates. This KUSD cohort report will continue to present data respective to the four-year, five-year and six-year graduation rates.

Over the past ten years, the number of students in each graduating class has ranged from approximately 1,600 to 1,800. However, the Class of 2020, based on 9th grade enrollment of 1,567 students represented a noticeable decrease in the cohort year. This was mainly due to an expected declining cohort class.

The number of students who began the cohort group in SY 2016-17 was 1,567, including 154 students who transferred out during the four-year period. When including “IOWA” graduates, 1,317 students graduated, resulting in a graduation rate of 93.5% for the Class of 2020. When excluding “IOWA” graduates 1,168 students graduated (82.9%), a slight increase from that reported in the past four graduating classes. The Class of 2020 reported the greatest percentage of graduates using the High School Competency Diploma Option (11.8%), which is a slight increase from last year’s figures.

The global COVID-19 pandemic impacted all educational settings in March 2020, including the graduating cohort group. Like most Wisconsin school districts, Kenosha Unified approved and applied a local waiver, which was also endorsed at the state level for allowance of students and their ability to meet their respective graduation requirements. Based on recent data, 279 KUSD students utilized this option for coursework, which totaled 813 half-credit courses being waived. The approved waiver option terminated at the end of the 2020 calendar year, and any students who have yet to graduate do not have the waiver option moving forward as they work to earn their diploma.

This report is an informational item.”

Mr. Keckler answered questions from Board members.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented Policy and Rule 8712 – School Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Dissemination, excerpts follow:

“At its November 17, 2020, School Board meeting, the Board approved a motion “to accept and implement the board goals contained in the summary report” (attachment A).

In order to implement Smart Goal #1 – Alignment of Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals, it is necessary to revise School Board Rule 8712 (Attachment B) by adding two items to the monthly regular school board meeting agenda. The added agenda items are:

- Review of District Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Board of Education Goals;
- and
- Evaluation of Board of Education’s Adherence to its Operating Principles.

An additional revision is offered to paragraph 3 of the policy to update where the board agenda is available for public viewing which is on the District’s website. The new wording states, “Complete agendas for regular Board meetings shall be distributed to each Board member, local news medium, and will be available on the District’s website.”

Administration recommends that the board approve revised Policy and Rule 8712 – School Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Dissemination as a simultaneous first and second reading on January 26, 2021.”

Ms. Adams moved to approve revised Policy and Rule 8712 – School Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Dissemination as a simultaneous first and second reading. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Modder presented Resolution 373 – Public Schools Week 2021 which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, public education is at the foundation of our nation with 90% of America’s children attending public schools; and

WHEREAS, public schools are where students become educated citizens who are prepared to contribute to society, the economy, and citizenry of our country; and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal lawmakers should prioritize support for strengthening public schools and empower local education leaders to implement, manage, and lead school districts in partnership with educators, parents and other local education stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal lawmakers should support counseling, extracurricular activities, and mental health supports that are critical for student engagement and learning; and

WHEREAS, high-quality public schools that are inclusive and safe are where children learn to think critically, problem solve, build relationships, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, stable, predictable, and adequate funding for public schools is necessary to ensure students have the resources needed to succeed and high-quality educators before them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kenosha Unified School District's Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to proclaim February 22-26, 2021, as Public Schools Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a true copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education."

Mrs. Modder moved to approve Resolution 373 – Public Schools Week 2021. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Adams presented Resolution 374 – Black History Month 2021 which read as follows:

"WHEREAS, the origination of Black History Month stems back as far as 1915 when a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois took place to highlight the progress made since the destruction of slavery; and

WHEREAS, every U.S. president since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month as a means to celebrate the achievements of black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, it is extremely important to reflect on, recognize and celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of black Americans throughout history, not just in February, but throughout the entire year; and

WHEREAS, by observing Black History Month, we raise awareness of the continuing struggle for freedom and equal opportunity, and bring focus to racial barriers to equal education in public schools and work towards closing racial achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, corresponding school activities held in February and throughout the school year will encourage students to strive for the best education as a means to fulfill their potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kenosha Unified School District's Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to proclaim February 2021 as Black History Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a true copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education."

Mr. Adams moved to approve Resolution 374 – Black History Month 2021. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis introduced the Worker's Compensation Reauthorization of Self-Insurance submitted by Mr. Neir, Mr. Hamdan, and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

"On July 1, 2003, the District approved using Community Insurance Company for its Worker's Compensation program. In order to establish the self-insured program a resolution was approved at the May 27, 2003, School Board Meeting, the May 23, 2006, School Board Meeting, the March 24, 2009, School Board Meeting, the March 27, 2012, the March 24, 2015, and again at the February 27, 2018 School Board Meeting.

The Wisconsin Administrative Code requires each political subdivision to re-authorize their self-insurer status once every three years.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve Resolution No. 375 (attached) to continue the Worker's Compensation Self-Insured Program."

Mr. Wade presented Resolution 375 – Reauthorization of Self-Insurance, which read as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District is a qualified political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Act (Act) provides that employers covered by the Act either insure their liability with worker's compensation insurance carriers authorized to do business in Wisconsin, or to be exempted (self-insured) from insuring liabilities with a carrier and thereby assuming the responsibility for its own worker's compensation risk and payment; and

WHEREAS, the State and its political subdivisions may self-insure worker's compensation without a special order from the Department of Workforce Development (Department) if they agree to report faithfully all compensable injuries and agree to comply with the Act and rules of the Department; and

WHEREAS, the School Board at its January 26, 2021, meeting may approve the continuation of a self-insured worker's compensation program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Kenosha Unified School District does ordain as follows:

(1) Provide for the continuation of a self-insured worker's compensation program that is currently in effect.

(2) Authorize Jennifer Miller to forward certified copies of this resolution to the Worker's Compensation Division, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development."

Mr. Wade moved to approve Resolution 375 – Reauthorization of Self-Insurance. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Adams presented the Donations to the District.

Ms. Adams moved to approve acceptance of the gifts(s), grant(s) or bequest(s) as per Board Policy 1400, to authorize the establishment of appropriate accounts to monitor fiscal activity, to amend the budget to reflect this action and to publish the budget change per Wisconsin Statute 65.90 (5)(a). Mr. Wade seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Wade moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder Busby
School Board Secretary