

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD DECEMBER 8, 2020

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 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, Taylor Wilmot from Indian Trail High School and Academy, and she made her comments.

There were no awards or recognitions.

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. Mrs. Modder noted the names of individuals who submitted views and comments electronically and indicated that they would be posted on the district website.

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 11/17/20 Special Meeting and Executive Session, and 11/17/20 Regular 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 November 2020 cash receipt deposits totaling \$200,129.15, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$3,237,238.20, be approved.

Check numbers 597461 through 598062 (net of voided batches) totaling \$3,770,500.78, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$3,649,920.72, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the November 2020 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$13,606,349.68, and net payroll check batches totaling \$11,665.39, be approved."

Mr. Wade moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officer, presented Policy and Rule 3643 – Emergency School Closings and/or Learning Adjustments submitted by Mrs. Ruder and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

"Policy 3643 was developed to give the Superintendent and/or their designee guidance when determining whether or not to close schools due to inclement weather and/or emergencies/crises. The rule currently outlines the operations of the district if and when school is closed due to inclement weather and/or emergencies/crises. This information is shared with staff, students and families in the annual district wall calendar, online and via social media.

With the onset of COVID-19 and the Safer at Home order enacted in April 2020, KUSD transitioned to become a 1:1 district with all students having a personal device, as well as offering hot spots to those who may not have internet in their homes. The district also expanded the number of staff who have personal devices since spring.

In addition, the district has rolled out a robust in-person and virtual offering for students that supports learning no matter what our staff, students and families are faced with. With the start of the year, families were offered an option to choose whether they wanted in-person or virtual learning. With the pandemic, the district has been able to use this new approach to shift schools to all virtual learning on a case-by-case basis as needed.

Given this new learning approach, the district believes it is now prepared to provide a continuity of learning for students even on inclement weather days and/or in the instance of emergency situations depending upon the severity of the situation. As such, the policy has been updated with a new set of procedures that outline what will occur in KUSD should we be faced with inclement weather, as well as what will occur should we have an extremely severe emergency/crisis situation.

This also led to an update of the staff reporting requirements. On any given inclement weather day, we have specified staff who are required to report to ensure our parking lots can be cleared, buildings are not experiencing any issues due to the weather, etc. We have also added a procedure that outlines a shift to virtual learning during inclement weather and noted where and when students and/or staff are to report depending upon the procedure enacted. We also added a fourth procedure and requirement that would fully close schools

if we are faced with a widespread loss of internet or if we are experiencing an extremely severe emergency/crisis.

Lastly, we have updated the title of the policy and rule to align with the learning shifts that may be implemented.

Administration recommends that the board approve revised Policy and Rule 3643 – Emergency School Closings and/or Learning Adjustments as a second reading on Dec. 8, 2020.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve revised Policy and Rule 3643 – Emergency School Closings and/or Learning Adjustments as a second reading as presented. Mr. Garcia 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.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Head Start Federal Grant Funds Budget Revision Request submitted by Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education; Mr. Martin Pitts, Regional Coordinator of Leadership and Learning; Ms. Susan Valeri, Chief of School Leadership; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“Approval from the Board of Education is requested for a budget revision to move funds in the Head Start Federal Grant. Approval is requested to move \$88,000 to the equipment budget line to provide funds for maintenance work on the heating units at Chavez Learning Station, a federally owned building.

According to federal law, the governing body is required to approve of budget revisions. Maintenance work is required to be done on the HVAC system at Chavez Learning Station. These funds will be used for providing and installing a new Trane RTU to replace an old, worn out unit and all of the peripheral work needed to install this unit. The cost for this work to be done is estimated to be between \$80,000 and \$88,000. Chavez Learning Station is a federally owned building that houses the head start program.

Administration recommends that the school board approve the request to make these budget revisions in the amount of \$88,000 in the Head Start Federal Grant for the 2020-2021 school year.”

Ms. Rhode (virtual) answered questions from board members.

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the request to make these budget revisions in the amount of \$88,000 in the Head Start Federal Grant for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Student Data Analytics Contract submitted by Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“Two years ago, Kenosha Unified worked to implement a student data analytics program with eduCLIMBER. Unfortunately, eduCLIMBER has not met the supportive or

configuration needs of the district. This was due to many factors, mainly of which their platform was not as customizable for so many different users and locations, including dealing with student mobility. This past summer, another RFP was communicated to see if there was another option for KUSD to use, while hopefully not incurring any additional costs beyond the prior annual expenses. After a final review of all submissions, and virtual presentations for the final three selections, Kenosha Unified recommended that the BrightBytes analytics platform from BrightBytes Inc. be awarded KUSD RFP# 5246 Student Data Analytics Platform. The skills that were learned by KUSD staff are transferrable to BrightBytes, and the ultimate goal of integrating a quality analytics application is what drove this recent RFP and subsequent recommendation.

With the BrightBytes platform, KUSD not only will experience a cost savings, but also have a nationally recognized and award winning partner with which to build and expand a better product with greater vendor support. Their submitted quote lists an annual \$3 per pupil cost, and locked in for three years. Compared to the existing product of \$4 per pupil, for one year, with partial increases each year. The cost of the product was just one area that BrightBytes outperformed the other products. After the initial review of all submissions by a review team, a refined group of three vendors were each given the invitation for a virtual presentation. These virtual presentations were recorded and links shared with an expanded group of KUSD users and positions. A follow-up anonymous survey was then provided to capture the feedback. In each of the designated areas, and the overall score, BrightBytes was the clearly preferred product.

The expected partnership with BrightBytes will address a detailed and supported adoption timeline over multiple months. The preparation work will also consist of continual coaching and customization aligned to national, state, and local goals. Aside from these goals, the associated BrightBytes platform will cover not just academics, attendance, and assessments, but intervention management, school culture, college and career readiness, and early warning diagnostics.

BrightBytes continues to work with over 25,000 school districts, including multiple state-wide contracts spanning the last ten plus years, some larger than Kenosha Unified. A sample list of large partners follows:

- Bibb County, GA - 25,000 students
- Shelby County, TN - 111,000 students
- Fort Worth, TX - 511,000 students
- Kentucky Department of Education - 685,000 students
- Colorado Department of Education - 863,000 students
- Florida Department of Education - 2.7 million students

The BrightBytes analytics platform is built in partnership with the following research partners: The American Institute of Research (AIM), the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) and the University of Pennsylvania. BrightBytes combines an expanded data warehouse with predictive analytics to curate real-time data dashboards and early warning thresholds. All of these features will empower the KUSD instructional staff to better serve each student with efficient use of resources and services.

The KUSD Contracts in Aggregate of \$50,000 is listed as Appendix A and the purchase rationale is listed as Appendix B.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the purchase contract with BrightBytes to utilize their student data analytics program for the next three years.”

Mr. Wade moved to approve the three-year purchase contract in the amount of \$175,000 with BrightBytes to utilize their student data analytics program. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Hamdan and Mr. David Maccoux (virtually), Principal Auditor at CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, presented the Annual Financial Report which included the independent auditors’ report, management’s discussion and analysis, basic financial statements, district-wide financial statements, fund balance statements, required supplemental information, additional independent auditor’s report for basic financial statements, and federal and state awards.

Questions from board members were answered by Mr. Hamdan and Mr. Maccoux. No action was taken on this item as it was provided for informational purposes.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Expulsion Independent Hearing Officers submitted by Ms. Susan Valeri, Chief of School Leadership; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“At the September 3, 2020, regular school board meeting, Administration brought forth and the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Nancy Wheeler and Ms. Jacalyn Zimmerman as Hearing Officers to assist the District with any expulsion hearings for the 2020-21 school year. Since that meeting, Ms. Zimmerman is unavailable to assist the district as a hearing officer. Therefore, Administration is recommending the appointment of Mr. Christopher Hauser as an expulsion independent hearing officer.

Mr. Hauser has an extensive background in the education field having held the following positions: Teacher, Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Supervisor, Principal, Regional Director of School Support, Regional Superintendent, and Interim Deputy Superintendent. Mr. Hauser recently retired from Milwaukee Public Schools and was provided expulsion hearing officer training previously through them.

Hearing Officers are paid \$100 for the first hour and \$25 for every additional 15 minutes after the first hour not to exceed \$300 for each hearing. Hearing Officers are part time employees that are called upon when needed for expulsion hearings. An expulsion hearing officer training will be provided by Attorney Christine Hamiel from Von Briesen & Roper.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize the appointment of Christopher Hauser as a Hearing Officer for the purpose of expulsion hearings during the 2020-2021 school year at the rate of \$100 for the first hour and \$25 for every additional 15 minutes after the first hour not to exceed \$300 per hearing.”

Mr. Wade moved to appoint Christopher Hauser as a Hearing Officer for the purpose of expulsion hearings during the 2020-2021 school year at the rate of \$100 for the first hour

and \$25 for every additional 15 minutes after the first hour not to exceed \$300 per hearing. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Che Kearby, Coordinator of Educator Effectiveness and Social Studies, presented the KUSD Educator Effectiveness Waiver for School Year 2020-21 submitted by Mr. Kearby; Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Valeri; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“On April 27, 2020, the Kenosha Unified School Board approved a series of requests for local and state accountability waivers. These waivers were a direct result of the COVID19 Pandemic. In June, the Wisconsin Department of Instruction (DPI) issued the returning to school guidance, Education Forward, https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Education_Forum_web.pdf. This document was established to help school districts navigate the changing landscape for learning, as well as being mindful and flexible of regulatory factors. To provide broad support, DPI launched their COVID-19 flexibility application (<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/forms/pdf/f1396.pdf>). This online application will allow each district to submit several waivers at once, and even permit districts to amend the application as the year goes on for any future requests, as this particular request is a prime example.

Chapter 118.38 of the Wisconsin State Statutes outlines the legal authority for school boards to request and for DPI to grant waivers from certain state laws and administrative rules. Under this provision, school boards can request a waiver from DPI of any school board or school district requirement outlined in Chapters 115 to 121 of the State Statutes 36 or in related administrative rules.

The law requires the local school board to hold a public hearing (virtually if needed) in the school district and requires the school board to specify in its request for a waiver its reason for requesting the waiver. Once approved, waivers will be effective for one year, and renewable for additional one year periods. At this time, administration would ask the KUSD School Board to endorse a waiver consideration for the following state regulation:

- Educator Effectiveness Cycle: Wis. Stat. § 115.415

The Wisconsin Legislature developed the 20 Wisconsin Education Standards found in Wisconsin Administrative Code sec. PI 8.01, which establishes minimum expectations for each school district. Standard 17 requires each school district to evaluate all licensed school personnel in their “first year of employment and, at least, every third year thereafter.” Wis. Stat. § 115.415 requires the specific process by which all Wisconsin districts meet the requirements listed in PI 8 for principals and teachers--the Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness (EE) System. The full annual cycle is listed in Appendix A below. This waiver request was developed based on feedback from teachers and district administrators.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will waive the requirements to complete an Educator Effectiveness Cycle for educators who are cycled for their Supporting and their Summary Year in 2020-21, thereby waiving the requirements to meet PI 8.01 and Wis. Stat. § 115.415 for 2020-21. The

proposed changes will be communicated to all staff in the Torch (Appendix B) and principals will share the KUSD Educator Effectiveness Staff Overview at a school staff meeting.

Per state law, the district will need to hold a public hearing under s.118.38 (1) (b) and document the date of the public hearing to receive a waiver. (The public hearing can be virtual or teleconferenced). KUSD is currently working on the respective DPI form but the status of this waiver approval is “pending” until the completion of the public hearing and local board approval.

For this particular waiver, the state statutory requirement for holding a public hearing still remains. The associated resolution allows a district to formally process the respective waiver request after the notice and session of the public hearing.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the Educator Effectiveness waiver request for the 2020-21 school year at the December 8, 2020, regular School Board meeting.”

Mr. Wade moved to approve the Educator Effectiveness waiver request for the 2020-21 school year. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Modder presented Resolution 371 – School Board Resolution for the Waiver of Certain School Board or School District Requirements Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Sections 118.38(1) and (1m), which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1) and Wis. Admin. § PI 8.01(4) authorize school boards to request the Department of Public Instruction to waive any school board or school district requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121 or in the administrative rules promulgated by the Department under the authority of those chapters; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b) requires that before requesting a waiver, a school board shall hold a public hearing in the school district on the request for a waiver of any requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §§ 120.12(1) and 12.44(2) authorize the Board of Education to have the possession, care, control and management of the property and affairs of the school district; and WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since Mid-March, 2020, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.10, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has issued multiple executive orders declaring a public health emergency in all counties of the state as a result of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID19) while also attempting multiple initiatives to address, reduce, and prevent further spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. On December 8, 2020, the Kenosha School Board of Education held a public hearing, in satisfaction of Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b), concerning a request for waiver of the requirements identified herein; and

2. In compliance with Wis. Stat. §§ 118.38(1) and (1m), and for the reasons set forth herein, the Board of Education hereby directs the District Administrator or her designee to apply, on behalf of the Board, to the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) for the waiver of the following:

a. Waiver of the requirements to complete an Educator Effectiveness Cycle for educators in their Supporting and Summary Year in 2020-21, including waivers of the requirements to meet PI 8.01 and Wis. Stat. §§ 115.415 and 121.02(1)(q) for the 2020-21 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board of Education’s approval of this action and of the authority granted 42 herein at a duly-noticed meeting of the Board held on December 8, 2020.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve Resolution 371 – School Board Resolution for the Waiver of Certain School Board or School District Requirements Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Sections 118.38(1) and (1m). Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Valeri presented the 2021 WASB Proposed Resolutions submitted by Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“The Superintendent and Leadership Council reviewed the 2021 WASB proposed resolutions and make the following recommendations:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
21-01	One-Cent Sales Tax for School Infrastructure, Technology and Tax Relief	Support
21-02	Broadband Access	Support
21-03	Enrollment Hold Harmless	Support
21-04	Instruction on Indigenous Tribes	Support
21-05	Special Education Flexibility to Address Emergencies	Support
21-06	Assessment and Report Card Waivers	Support
21-07	Rehiring Retired Teachers and Staff	Support
21-08	Superintendent Evaluations	Support
21-09	Comprehensive School Safety Legislation	Support
21-10	School District Mascots, Logos and Imagery	Support

It is recommended that the School Board provide direction to its delegate relative to the 2021 WASB proposed resolutions noted above and give the board delegate discretionary latitude to vote on amendments or other resolutions.”

Ms. Adams moved to approve administration’s recommendation to support the proposed 2021 WASB resolutions and give the board delegate discretionary latitude to vote on amendments or other resolutions. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Stevens presented Resolution 372 – National Mentoring Month, January 2021, which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, a number of organizations in the Kenosha community have partnered with the Kenosha Unified School District to offer a variety of mentoring programs that are designed to support student learning and success; and

WHEREAS, relationships that students build with caring mentors offer valuable support; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, mentoring provides the skills needed to build strong, positive relationships with family, friends and community members; and WHEREAS, mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Kenosha Unified School District does hereby proclaim January 2021 as the annual observance of National Mentoring Month and recognizes those who volunteer their time to help in our mission of providing excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.

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

Ms. Stevens moved to approve Resolution 372 – National Mentoring Month, January 2021. Mr. Garcia 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). Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder Busby
School Board Secretary