REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD JULY 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Ms. Adams, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mr. Price (virtual), Mr. Garcia, Mr. Battle, Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Modder, Ms. Robinson, and Ms. Adams. Dr. Ormseth was also present.

Ms. Adams, 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 asked Ms. Robinson to step forward and repeat the Oath of Office. Ms. Adams swore in Ms. Robinson who was appointed to the board at the July 1, 2021 special board meeting.

There was not a student ambassador present.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officer, presented the Wisconsin State PTA Reflections Creative Arts Competition Awards.

Dr. Ormseth presented the following Administrative Appointments: Ms. Michelle Santelli as Principal at Southport Elementary School and Ms. Wendy Whitley as Principal at Dimensions of Learning (DOL) Academy.

Dr. Ormseth gave the Superintendent's Report.

There was not a legislative report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

Remarks by the President were made by Ms. Adams.

Ms. Adams reviewed the District Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Board of Education Goals provided in the agenda.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

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

Consent-Approve item XII-B – Minutes of the 6/15/21 Special Meeting and Executive Session, the 6/15/21 and 7/1/21 Special Meetings, and 6/22/21 Regular Meeting.

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

"It is recommended that the June 2021 cash receipt deposits totaling $1,205,250.55, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling $49,056,169.87, be approved.

Check numbers 603194 through 604349 (net of voided batches) totaling $3,662,381.38, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling $3,686,127.70, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the June 2021 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling $24,920,530.58, and net payroll check batches totaling $7,324.44, be approved."

Consent-Approve item XII-D – Policy 6300 – Curriculum Development and Improvement and Policy 6610 – Selection of Instructional Materials submitted by Mr. Scott Plank, Coordinator of Fine Arts; Mr. Bryan Mogensen, Coordinator of Athletics/Physical Education; Mrs. Susan Mirsky, Coordinator of English Language Arts; Mrs. Jennifer Lawler, Coordinator of Mathematics; Ms. Cheryl Kothe, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education; Mr. Che Kearby, Coordinator of Educator Effectiveness and Social Studies; Mrs. Housaman, Chief Academic Officer; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"In November 2015 the board approved updates to Kenosha Unified School District Board Policy 6300 to include a systematic curriculum development cycle and Policy 6610 to establish a seven-year curriculum review cycle. The updates transformed the curriculum selection process from a matter of textbook purchasing into a process of continuous improvement. The revised process incorporates ongoing review and revision of curriculum and instruction.

In the 2019-20 school year, members of the Office of Teaching and Learning participated in a five-part professional learning series focused on the selection, adoption, and implementation of high-quality instructional materials provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in conjunction with Instruction Partners. This learning affirmed that it is critical to select high quality instructional resources, provide initial and ongoing training, and support teachers with targeted coaching in order for them to implement district curriculum successfully and equitably.

Instruction Partners has delved into significant action research and identified the critical elements for successful implementation. The organization developed a structure for districts to follow. The Instruction Partners structure, known as the Curriculum Implementation Framework, includes three phases and outlines each phase step by step. The secondary English Curriculum Team, secondary Math Curriculum Team, and Elementary Curriculum Team have or are engaged in using the framework. Given the positive outcomes generated from use of the tools, the proposed update to Kenosha Unified School District Board Policy 6300 will include a three phase systematic curriculum development framework (Appendix A) and Policy 6610 will include a seven-year curriculum review cycle (Appendix B).

School board Policy 6300 (Appendix A) has been updated to include a proposed curriculum development framework that includes the essential steps involved in selecting, preparing for, and using new instructional materials. While the existing curriculum development cycle has been effective, the new framework decreases the selection time from a three-year to a two-year process so that the instructional materials are selected prior to writing the curriculum and assessments. This time frame ensures greater coherence between the curriculum documents 34 and the resources. The new framework is composed of three phases: 1) selecting high quality instructional materials, 2) preparing to teach with the materials, and 3) learning how to use them effectively.

The Curriculum Development Framework supports effective teaching and learning in every classroom. Using this framework, teams of teachers and administrators will work collaboratively to examine student performance data, to design and implement instruction, and to monitor results. It includes the examination of current curricula and student achievement data to determine necessary improvements, when concepts and standards should be taught, and when and how they will be assessed. Analysis of student work and assessments provide the necessary data to drive ongoing curriculum review, revision, and renewal. The process helps ensure that the curricular expectations of the district and its schools are rigorous, relevant, and public. In addition, it guarantees that the curriculum is aligned with appropriate state and national standards and is preparing and inspiring students to realize their potential.

School Board Policy 6610 (Appendix B) includes the proposed seven-year curriculum review cycle and indicates where each curriculum area falls within the cycle. While an established cycle is practical, it must also take into consideration responsiveness to the continuously changing global community and academic expectations and standards. As such, the department of teaching and learning includes the adoption cycle for the past school year, the current school year and the upcoming school year. In addition, the immediate needs of students and teachers alike must be addressed as the curriculum is implemented. This process will assure that curriculum is revised or developed in a cycle that will facilitate effective and fiscally responsible use of district resources. Budget allocations for materials, textbooks, and professional learning can be focused on the successful implementation of the revisions to existing resources or the adoption of new program resources.

The curriculum review process is a dynamic endeavor that responds to the needs of specific school communities. The development of this thorough process is a credit to the commitment of district personnel. As each area is approached for review, the Office of Teaching and Learning and the curriculum design, implementation and writing teams comprised of district staff, keep the specific needs and interests of the teachers and students in the forefront of their planning. Perhaps the most important elements of the curriculum review process are the knowledgeable and thoughtful ways in which teachers implement curricula in each classroom to meet student needs, abilities, interests, and aspirations.

Administration recommends that the school board approve the following two recommendations:

1. The school board approves the replacement of the current five phase curriculum review cycle with a three phased curriculum implementation framework as a second reading on July 27, 2021.

2. The school board approve administration's recommended updates to the 2020-2023 Curriculum Review Cycle located in Policy 6610 as a second reading on July 27, 2021."

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the consent agenda which included the revised Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, Resignations and Separations. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Better Together 2021-22 Plan (monthly agenda item) submitted by Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer; Mr. William Haithcock, Interim Chief of School Leadership; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"At the June 15, 2021 special board meeting, the board approved the following motion: "Mr. Battle moved to approve the updated version (June 15, 2021 – 3 p.m.) of the Better Together 2021-2022 Plan with face coverings/masks as optional for all students and staff starting June 16, 2021 and the removal of Administrative Regulation 4229 – Employee Face Coverings and Scrubs. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved."

On October 16, 2020, the district implemented the KCDH thresholds for determining when to move a school or the entire district to virtual learning. The following indicators were established to trigger a transition to all virtual learning (please note: all metrics are subject to change based on new guidance from public health officials):

- >3% positive cases in a school within the last 14 days (based on the cumulative total of in-person staff and student COVID-positive cases divided by the total in-person staff and student population);

- A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (large community event or local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the community such that the KCDH directs KUSD to close buildings; and

- Staff absences, due to individuals personally testing positive or being required to self-quarantine as a close contact, reach a level that has the potential to compromise the safety or fidelity of the learning environment. These three thresholds remain.

Since the end of the 2020-21 school year, KUSD has recorded only three positive COVID cases, all students on the following dates: 6/24, 6/28, and 6/30.

KUSD Virtual Learning Program and Kenosha eSchool The total number of elementary age students applying for entry into the 2021-2022 KUSD Virtual Learning Program by the cut-off date of June 28, 2021 was 52. The breakdown by grade level was as follows:

- Kindergarten – 5
- Grade One – 8
- Grade Two – 11
- Grade Three – 7
- Grade Four - 11
- Grade Five - 10

Kenosha eSchool received 82 initial applications for the 2021-22 school year. Some families opted to drop their application or failed to complete orientation. As of July 7, 2021, we have 63 applications for Kenosha eSchool for the 2021-22 school year.

There is no new recommendation at this time."

Mr. Garcia presented Resolution 378 – Resolution of Appreciation to Dan Wade which read as follows:

"WHEREAS, Dan Wade was elected to the Board of Education of the Kenosha Unified School District in April 2014, and served faithfully and with honor for seven years; and

WHEREAS, he held the positions of Board President, clerk, treasurer, legislative representative and member during his tenure on the Board; and

WHEREAS, during his terms on the Board he chaired the Planning/Facilities/Equipment, Curriculum/Program, and Audit/Budget/Finance committees, as well as served on the Personnel Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his term the Board approved the first KUSD Employee Handbook in 2014; approved the hiring of a new superintendent in 2014; adopted the Board and Superintendent Team Charter in 2014; implemented ALiCE response to violent intruder events in 2015; approved a new teacher salary structure in 2016; adopted ALiCE curriculum for all students in 2016; approved the submission of a $900,000 school safety initiative grant that was awarded in 2018; approved the renovation of the Bradford planetarium in 2018; approved new salary structures for all hourly employees in 2019; established Board Smart Goals in 2020; worked on and approved over the course of a one and a half year process Policies 4111 – Employee Anti-Harassment, 5110.1 – Student Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Education, 5110.2 – Nondiscrimination Guidelines Related to Students Who Are Transgender and Students Nonconforming to Gender Stereotypes and 5111 – Bullying; approved a Commitment to Equity in 2020; navigated a global pandemic through the approval and regular review of the Return 2020 plan; supported the KUSD Commitment to Equity in 2020; and approved the Better Together 2021-22 plan in 2021; and

WHEREAS, he has been an advocate for the staff, students, families and taxpayers of the Kenosha community as he worked to ensure all students were provided excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha Unified School District formally acknowledges and extends profound appreciation to Dan Wade for his years of service and continued support of educating the children of our community; and BE IT

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a true copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education, and that a signed copy be presented to Dan Wade in recognition of his service to the Kenosha Unified School District."

Mr. Garcia moved to approve Resolution 378 – Resolution of Appreciation to Dan Wade. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the NEA Local President Release Grant – Addendum to Teacher Contract submitted by Mr. Kevin Neir, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, and Dr. Ormseth, excepts follow:

"From December 2019 – 2020, Ms. Tanya Kitts-Lewinsky, President of the Kenosha Education Association (KEA), informed the District that the KEA had been invited to apply for a three-year part-time release grant for the union president through the National Education Association (NEA). This grant allowed the President to reduce their teaching contract to 0.5 FTE and allowed them to engage in KEA activities during the 0.5 release time. The intended benefits of those activities include improved communication, educator morale, collaboration and problem-solving, teacher retention and public relations.

From July 2021 – 2022. Ms. Kitts-Lewinsky continues in the role as President of the KEA. The NEA grant allows for the President to reduce their teaching contract to 0.5 FTE for the 2021-2022 school year and allows Ms. Kitts-Lewinsky to engage in KEA activity during the 0.5 release time.

The attached Appendix A is the proposed Addendum to Teacher Contract.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed Addendum to the Teacher Contract between the Kenosha Unified School District and Ms. Kitts-Lewinski for the 2021-2022 school year."

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the proposed Addendum to the Teacher Contract between the Kenosha Unified School District and Ms. Kitts-Lewinski for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Report of Contract in Aggregate of $50,000 submitted by Mr. Robert Hofer, Purchasing Agent; Ms. Jenny Schmidt, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Housaman; Mr. Hamdan, and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"School Board Policy 3420 requires that "all contracts and renewals of contracts in aggregate of $50,000 in a fiscal year shall be approved by the School Board except in the event of an emergency as determined and reported to the School Board monthly by the Purchasing Agent."

The following contract/agreement has not been added to the Contract Management Database and is being presented for board approval:

- Kenosha County Health Department for school nursing services to enable students with health condition to participate in school in a safe manner in the amount of $967,531.50.

The Purchase/Contract Rationale is attached."

Ms. Steven moved to approve the contract/agreement with the Kenosha County Health Department for school nursing services to enable students with health conditions to

participate in school in a safe manner in the amount of $967,531.50. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Act 55 – Notice of Academic Standards submitted by Mr. Duane Sturino, Coordinator of Science; Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education; Mrs. Susan Mirsky, Coordinator of English/Language Arts; Mrs. Jennifer Lawler, Coordinator of Mathematics; Mr. Che Kirby, Coordinator of Educator Effectiveness and Social Studies; Mrs. Housaman; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"On July 12, 2015, the Wisconsin 2015-17 State Budget Bill, Act 55, was signed into law. It requires Kenosha Unified School District to provide the parents and guardians of all enrolled students with notice of the academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history that have been adopted by the school board and that will be in effect during each school year. Accordingly, the district academic standards that will be in effect in these specific content areas for the 2021-22 school year are listed below. Electronic links to the detailed version of the applicable standards are provided pursuant to section 120.12(13) and section 118.30(1g)(a)1 of the state statutes.

Additionally, with regard to emphasizing content-area literacy in all subjects, the Kenosha Unified School District has adopted the Common Core Standards for Disciplinary Literacy. A link to this additional resource is: http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/literacy-all-subjects.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the annual declaration and parent notice of the district's student academic standards that will be in effect for the 2021-22 school year at the July 27, 2021, board meeting."

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the annual declaration and parent notice of the district's student academic standards that will be in effect for the 2021-22 school year. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Renewal of the Southeastern Wisconsin School Alliance Membership submitted by Mr. Hamdan and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"For the past eighteen years, the District has participated in the Southeastern Wisconsin School Alliance (SWSA) which provides school leaders and parents with objective, non-partisan information, and training needed to be strong advocates for educational excellence. The SWSA serves over 30 urban and suburban school districts with a combined enrollment of more than 220,000 students.

The mission of the Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance is to advocate for the benefit of all students by driving education policies supporting strong public schools to ensure world-class practices, economic vitality, and community well-being.

The SWSA supports the mission through the following tiered approach:

- Develop and implement key strategies to advocate for sound education policy;
- Raise the impact of SWSA by identifying and developing mutually beneficial partnerships;

- Continue to strengthen the SWSA business model by supporting school districts and their communities; and
- Leverage research to drive educational practice and advocacy.

The SWSA meets at least once a month and the annual membership fee is $3,200. Attachment A is the letter from the fiscal agent, the required resolution to be approved by the Board in order to participate in the alliance, and the 66.0301 Agreement which authorizes the School District of South Milwaukee as the fiscal agent to manage the SWSA funds. Attachment B is the 2021-22 Proposed Annual Budget for the SWSA, the projected participating member school districts with payment schedule, and the 2020-21 Annual Report for the SWSA.

Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached resolution and membership in SWSA for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and authorization of Board Officers and District Administration to execute any and all documents related to the renewal."

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the resolution and membership in SWSA for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and authorization of Board Officers and District Administration to execute any and all documents related to the renewal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Hamdan presented the Fiscal 2021-2022 Budget update submitted by himself and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"On July 8, 2021, Governor Tony Evers signed the 2021 – 2023 State of Wisconsin Biennial Budget into law. While we await clarification and WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) interpretation on some of the approved budget items, the administration is providing the Board of Education with an updated projection of the district's budget position for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 with the information that we currently have available to us (Attachment A).

Before signing the 2021-2023 budget, the Governor used his line-item veto authority to make 50 changes (see Attachment B) to the version that was passed on to him via the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF), the Assembly, and the Senate. However, the items relevant to K-12 education remained essentially the same and fall far short of the Governor's original proposal.

The most concerning item for the KUSD budget is the lack of any kind of inflationary increase for the next two years. This is commonly known as the allowed per member change in the revenue limit formula which is now set at $0 for the fiscal year 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Even the Per Pupil Categorical Aid (PPCA) outside of the revenue limit formula, which currently provides districts $742 per student in the current 3-year average membership calculation, will be frozen for the next two years. For districts experiencing a prolonged state of declining enrollment, this will result in a loss of funding.

Legislators have made it clear that they believe local school districts should be utilizing their Federal stimulus funds for their budgetary needs before we can expect

additional support from the State. While we may be forced to temporarily entertain this misguided logic, it is imperative that we never lose sight of the looming fiscal cliff that we will be forced to confront when these temporary Federal funds go away. With that in mind, the Governor has also announced that he will be earmarking $100 MM of State level Federal stimulus funds for K-12 education. No details are available regarding the distribution method of those funds, but the Governor has indicated that there will be "no strings attached."

There are some positive elements in the budget that are certainly welcomed. There will be a significant increase in general aids that will be distributed to districts via equalization aids that will lower tax levies. Early estimates place this number in the range of $3.5 MM for KUSD, however, that will not be finalized until October 15, 2021. There will also be more funding available for Special Education Categorical Aid so that the State can try to reach the 30% reimbursement rate by FY23 from the target of 28.2% in FY21 and FY22. While the increase in reimbursement rate is relatively small, the amount of costs attributed to Special Education is so large that it could translate into around $1.4 MM of freed up funding that was required to be transferred from our General Fund.

In addition to legislative changes, variance in the projected student enrollment count will have a direct impact on our revenue limit authority as we previously demonstrated at the Board meeting on May 25, 2021.

This updated preliminary projection assumes the following major items:

- Continued declining enrollment at 140 less FTE in the next 3rd Friday count;
- Health insurance premium increases by 9.5%;
- Salary schedule advancements for all regular FTE staff; and
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases of 1.23% for all FTE staff.
    - For illustrative purposes only as this item has yet to be determined.

This update is being provided to the Board of Education as an informational item only. The administration will continue to monitor the situation and will provide additional updates as needed."

Mrs. Modder presented the Donations to the District.

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the donations to the district as presented. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Adams presented the Evaluation of the Board of Education's Adherence to its Operating Principals and asked board members to rate the success in achieving the goals of the meeting. All ratings given by board members were 5s.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Kathleen DeLabio
Executive Assistant