

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

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held virtually on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. Ms. Adams, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mr. Price, 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.

There was not a student ambassador present.

There were no awards or recognitions.

There were no administrative and/or supervisory appointments.

Dr. Ormseth gave the Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Modder gave the legislative report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

Mr. Price moved to extend the time for views and comments. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Views and comments continued.

Remarks by the President were made by Ms. Adams.

Ms. Adams noted that the District Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Board of Education Goals were 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 7/27/21 Special Meeting and Executive Session and 7/27/21 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 July 2021 cash receipt deposits totaling \$402,801.47, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$3,412,140.57, be approved.

Check numbers 604350 through 605200 (net of voided batches) totaling \$9,148,755.86, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$4,209,820.44, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the July 2021 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$15,192,421.53, and net payroll check batches totaling \$3,514.28, be approved.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth introduced 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:

“On June 15, 2021, the board approved the following motion during a special board meeting:

“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.”

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the changes outlined in Attachment A.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the recommended Better Together Plan changes as outlined in Attachment A of the August 26, 2021 agenda packet with a revision changing masking to required for all students, staff, and visitors while inside a district building. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Price, Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Modder, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Adams. Noes: Mr. Garcia and Mr. Battle. Motion passed.

Mr. Price moved to continue the meeting past 10 P.M. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth introduced the Medical Insurance RFP Review. Mr. Chris Smessaert of Hays Companies gave a PowerPoint presentation which covered the following topics: overview of current medical plan, medical plan benchmark overview, future medical plan considerations, and proposed medical RFP timeline.

Mr. Battle moved to approve the proposed medical RFP timeline as presented. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mrs. Modder abstaining.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Negotiations of the Kenosha Education Association for the 2021-2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement and Base Wage Increase for Employee Groups Other than Teachers submitted by Mr. Kevin Neir, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer; Mr. Hamdan; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“On August 17, 2021, the District’s and Kenosha Education Association’s negotiations teams met to exchange initial bargaining proposals and reached a tentative agreement of a base wage increase of 1.23 percent effective July 1, 2021, which will be distributed across the board to the members of the bargaining unit represented by the Kenosha Education Association. The collective bargaining agreement shall be in effect July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The KEA indicated a ratification vote would take place by August 23, 2021.

Contingent on ratification by the Kenosha Education Association, Administration recommends the Board ratify the attached 2021-2022 collective bargaining agreement, which results in a total base wage increase of 1.23 percent across the board effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Administration also recommends the board approve a total base wage increase of 1.23 percent across the board to be effective July 1, 2021 for all regular full-time equivalent employees not represented by the Kenosha Education Association.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Kenosha Education Association which results in a total base wage increase of 1.23 percent across the board effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and also approve a total base wage increase of 1.23 percent across the board to be effective July 1, 2021 for all regular full-time equivalent employees not represented by the Kenosha Education Association. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreements with the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie submitted by Mr. William Haithcock, Interim Chief of School Leadership, and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Kenosha Unified School District has contracted with the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie for school resource officer (SRO) services for many years. The current agreements are expiring, and Administration is bringing forward agreement renewals for school years 2021-22 through 2023-24 for board consideration and approval.

The agreement with the City of Kenosha (Appendix A) provides four (4) on-duty police officers (SROs) for placement at sites designated by the School District. KUSD will pay the City of Kenosha for services provided by four (4) SROs at their individual daily rate of pay and benefits for the actual days the police officers work in the schools as SROs.

The agreement with the Village of Pleasant Prairie (Appendix B) provides one (1) on-duty police officer (SRO) for placement at school sites within the Village. The primary placement site shall be LakeView Technology Academy; however, the SRO will dedicate two-four hours per week each to Prairie Lane Elementary School, Pleasant Prairie Elementary

School and Whittier Elementary School during the course of a typical school work week. KUSD will pay the Village of Pleasant Prairie for services provided by one (1) SRO at their individual daily rate of pay.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize agreements between KUSD and the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie and for the purpose of hiring School Resource Officers for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the agreements between KUSD and the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie for the purpose of hiring School Resource Officers for the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Gang Prevention Education Program submitted by Mr. Haithcock and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“The Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha (BGCK) and the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) have enjoyed a partnership for more than 20 years working collaboratively to address the issue of gang involvement and delinquency issues in our community. The district provides financial support the BGCK needs to monitor, supervise and mentor youth in gang prevention groups, while working on anger management, team building, job skills development, gang resistance, and social and delinquency issues.

The Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha has supervised and mentored 50 youth in gang prevention programs at our middle and high schools. The Year End Report (Attachment A) is included in this report. The goals and results from the past year are included. Even through the pandemic, the staff at the Boys and Girls Club continued to connect with our students and staff through home visits, Zoom meetings, Facetime and Google Duo.

A description of the program, and goals for the Gang Prevention Education Program are included. (Attachment B). The partnership with KUSD, the juvenile justice office and the Boys and Girls Club is invaluable.

The final document in this report is the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment C) between Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha and the Kenosha Unified School District.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kenosha for a Gang Prevention Education Program in the 2021-2022 school year.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kenosha for a Gang Prevention Education Program in the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Battle seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Provisions Governing the Transportation of Students Attending Public and Private Schools for the 2021-2022 Year submitted by Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities; Mr. Jeffrey Marx, Transportation Supervisor; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Administration recommends school board approval of the Provisions Governing the Transportation of Students Attending Public and Private Schools for the 2021-2022 Year. (These provisions relate to Board Policies 3511 and 3514).”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the Provisions Governing the Transportation of Students Attending Public and Private Schools for the 2021-2022 Year. Ms. Robinson 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. Susan Mirsky, Coordinator of Literacy; Mrs. Julie Housman, Chief Academic Officer; 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: Learning A-Z in the amount of \$156,009 to provide elementary teachers with an on-line resource to support reading instruction.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve the contract/agreement with Learning A-Z in the amount of \$156,009 to provide elementary teachers with an on-line resource to support reading instruction. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the KUSD Policy and Related Waiver Items for School Year 2021-2022 submitted by Mrs. Housaman, Mr. Haithcock, Mr. Keckler, and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Since the onset of the COVID Pandemic, KUSD has implemented approved waivers, both at the state and local level, for a variety of regulatory areas. Some examples were related to instructional minutes, attendance procedures, and educator effectiveness. With the approved “Better Together Plan”, along with the severe decrease in COVID related cases and quarantine scenarios, administration is looking to request fewer waivers for the start of the 2021-22 school year. These requests are only for local policy waivers, and only require local Board approval. These waiver requests are to allow school staff and students to proceed in a manner that allows for reduced physical interactions and impact.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the listed waiver requests for the 2021-22 school year at the August 26, 2021, regular School Board meeting:

- KUSD Policy 1330 - Facilities Use;
- KUSD Policy 1350 - Equipment Use by Community Groups;
- KUSD Policy 1600 - Visitors;
- KUSD Policy 3622 - Access to School Buildings and Grounds;
- KUSD Policy 5120 - Student Enrollment Reporting;
- KUSD Policy 5210 - Entrance Age;
- KUSD Policy 5431 - Student Dress Code; and
- KUSD Policy 6456 - Graduation Requirements.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the following waiver requests for the 2021-22 school year:

- KUSD Policy 1330 - Facilities Use;
- KUSD Policy 1350 - Equipment Use by Community Groups;
- KUSD Policy 1600 - Visitors;
- KUSD Policy 3622 - Access to School Buildings and Grounds;
- KUSD Policy 5120 - Student Enrollment Reporting;
- KUSD Policy 5210 - Entrance Age;
- KUSD Policy 5431 - Student Dress Code; and
- KUSD Policy 6456 - Graduation Requirements.

Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Expulsion Independent Hearing Officers submitted by Mr. Haithcock and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Administration brings forth a recommendation concerning the appointment of Hearing Officers to assist the District with any expulsion hearings for the upcoming school year. Hearing Officers are paid \$100 for the first hour and \$25 for every 15 additional 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. The two people being recommended for the 2021-2022 school year are Nancy Wheeler and Christopher Hauser.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize the appointment of Nancy Wheeler and Christopher Hauser as Hearing Officers for the purpose of expulsion hearings during the 2021-2022 school year at the rate of \$100 for the first hour and \$25 for every 15 additional minutes after the first hour not to exceed \$300 per hearing. It is also recommended that the Board approve Resolution 379 – Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsions During the 2021-2022 school year.”

Mrs. Modder presented Resolution 379 – Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsion During the 2021-2022 School Year, which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 120.13(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes, a school board may adopt a resolution authorizing independent hearing officers appointed by the school board to determine pupil expulsions from school under Wis. Stat. §§ 120.13(1)(e)2. through 120.13(1)(e)4.; and

WHEREAS, such a resolution authorizing the use of an independent hearing officer to determine pupil expulsion is effective only during the school year in which it is adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Kenosha Unified School District desires to authorize the use of independent hearing officer to determine pupil expulsions for the 2021-2022 school year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT that, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 120.13(1)(e), the Board of Education authorizes independent hearing officers appointed by the Board of Education to determine pupil expulsion matters for the 2021-2022 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall, by motion, appoint one or more individuals who, in the judgment of the Board, are qualified to serve in the capacity of an independent hearing officer under Section 120.13(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes; and, thereafter, the Superintendent or any administrative designee of the Superintendent may select any individual who has been so appointed to hear and determine, subject to the Board of Education's review of any expulsion order, any pupil expulsion matter that arises in the school year in which this Resolution is effective.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers, employees, and agents of the Kenosha Unified School District are authorized and directed, to the extent consistent with applicable law and Board of Education policy, to do any and all things reasonably necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education approve Nancy Wheeler and Christopher Hauser as Expulsion Independent Hearing Officers for the 2021-2022 school year as filed with the secretary to the Board of Education.

This Resolution was adopted by the Board of Education and is recorded in the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on the 26 day of August, 2021."

Mrs. Modder moved to authorize the appointment of Nancy Wheeler and Christopher Hauser as Hearing Officers for the purpose of expulsion hearings during the 2021-2022 school year at the rate of \$100 for the first hour and \$25 for every 15 additional minutes after the first hour not to exceed \$300 per hearing and to approve Resolution 379 – Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsions During the 2021-2022 School Year. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Annual Restraint and Seclusion Report submitted by Ms. Laura Sawyer, Research Analyst; Mr. Keckler; Mrs. Jenny Schmidt, Director of Special Education and Student Support; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"By October 1, Wisconsin requires each school district to report the district restraint and seclusion data annually, to the school board. Districts must submit the number of incidents of physical restraint and seclusion, the total number of students involved in the incidents, and the number of students with disabilities who were involved in the incidents. The report to the school board contains the same data as required in the U.S. Department of Education and the Civil Rights Cyclical Data Collection (CRDC) on physical restraint and seclusion. Wisconsin Act 118 (2019) enacted additional requirements. Some of the changes include requiring parents to be provided with a copy of the written incident report, clarifying that the notice and reporting requirements apply to incidents involving law enforcement officers, prohibiting the use of prone restraint, revising the required training components, requiring school staff to hold a meeting after each incident of seclusion or restraint to discuss topics specified in the Act, conducting an IEP team meeting within ten school days of the second time seclusion or restraint is used on a student with a disability within the same school year, and requiring each governing body to

submit an annual report to DPI by December 1. This law applies to both students with and without disabilities.

With approximately half of KUSD students receiving virtual only instruction during the 2020-21 school year, the number of overall instances was significantly lower than pre-COVID years.

Districts are required to report on two (2) types of restraint: mechanical and physical, and seclusion, detailing both the number of students (by disability status) and number of incidents. For example, the use of handcuffs by police officers would constitute a mechanical restraint and schools are required to fully document identified instances. Both a summary report and a full building level report are attached. For the 2020-21 school year, KUSD had 7 incidents of mechanical restraint, 104 incidents of physical restraint, and 116 incidents of seclusion.

The use of handcuffs by school resource officers (police) and other police officials while on school property or during school functions have been identified as mechanical restraint. Those cases would be the direct result of the state expectation to ensure that any police involved use of handcuffs or other restraint are documented and reported. Police officers receive their own training and tactics related to the decision or need to apply some form of restraint. The use of vehicle safety restraints, as intended, during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle are not mechanical restraints.

This report is for informational purposes only.”

Mrs. Modder presented the Donations to the District.

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the donations to the district as presented. Ms. Robinson 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 with the exception of one 4.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 P.M.

Stacy Stephens
School Board Secretary