

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, via the Google Meet platform 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.

Ms. Robinson introduced the student ambassador, Kayla Mitchell from Harborside Academy, and she made her comments.

There were no awards or recognitions.

Dr. Ormseth introduced Ms. Ralonda Price as Interim Principal at Vernon Elementary School.

Dr. Ormseth 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 Ms. Adams.

Ms. Adams gave an overview of the District's Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Board of Education Goals as provided in the agenda.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

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

Consent-Approve item XI-B – Minutes of the 8/24/21 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 8/26/21 Regular Meeting, 9/21/21 Public Hearing on the Budget, 9/21/21 Annual Meeting of Electors, and 9/21/21 Special Meeting.

Consent-Approve item XI-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 August 2021 cash receipt deposits totaling \$101,497.05, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$26,205,431.75, be approved.

Check numbers 605201 through 605698 (net of voided batches) totaling \$3,984,786.72, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$3,787,345.15, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the August 2021 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$9,325,007.99, and net payroll check batches totaling \$1,712.17, be approved.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth introduced the Better Together 2021-22 Plan (monthly agenda item) submitted by 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.”

No board action was taken at the July 27, 2021 regular board meeting.

The board approved updates to the 2021-22 Better Together Plan at the August 26, 2021 regular board meeting.

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

Mr. Price moved to approve the changes to the Better Together Plan outlined in Attachment A included in the agenda packet. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth introduced the Head Start Semi Annual Report submitted by Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education; Mr. Martin Pitts, Regional Coordinator of Leadership and Learning/Elementary; Mr. William Haithcock, Interim Chief of School Leadership; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“The purpose of this report is to ensure community and School Board awareness of the progress of the Kenosha Unified Head Start Program. This is an informational report provided every six months. Head Start is defined as a program that works with the most identified at-risk 3 and 4 year-old children and their families.

The Head Start Program has the capacity to serve 389 enrolled children. Three hundred thirty of these children are funded through the Federal Head Start Grant. Fifty-nine of these children are funded through the state Head Start Supplemental Grant.

All Head Start programs are structured through a common framework with the following components: Program Design and Management, Family and Community Partnership, and Early Childhood Development and Health Services. This report will summarize activities in each of these components from January 2021 through June 2021.

Results of this review show most areas in compliance and many strengths of the program. It also shows one area of noncompliance in program governance. A correction plan will need to be completed within 120 days to show how the program will engage the policy council in the direction of the program including program design and planning of goals and objectives.

The review also noted that a parent on the council became an employee of the program which presented a conflict of interest. This has been corrected as the parent/employee resigned from the policy council. The review also noted an area of concern in regards to the health services stating that the grantee effectively monitors and maintains timely information on children’s health status and care but improvement is needed. The percentage of children with up to date health and dental care was much lower this year in comparison to prior years. The COVID 19 pandemic has presented challenges in this area.

Performance Standards are the requirements mandated by Head Start, which is a federally funded program. Head Start is requiring 45% of the enrollment to be in a full day program by August 2021. A waiver for this requirement was requested with the submission of the grant application in April. Another requirement is to license all 11 facilities with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, which has been completed. Fingerprinting of all Head Start staff has been completed.

This report is for informational purposes only.”

Ms. Rohde was present and answered questions from board members.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$50,000 submitted by Mrs. Sarah Shanebrook-Smith, Coordinator of Language Acquisition Programs; Mr. Robert Hofer, Purchasing Agent; Ms. Susan Mirsky, Coordinator of Literacy; Mrs. Julie Housaman, 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 contracts/agreements have not been added to the Contract Management Database and is being presented for board approval: Viterbo University in the amount of \$202,500 for the Reading teacher licensure program and Cardinal Stritch University in the amount of \$147,00 for the English as a Second Language (ESL) licensure program.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the contract/agreement with Viterbo University for the Reading teacher licensure program and the contract/agreement with Cardinal Stritch University for the ESL licensure program. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth introduced the Building Our Future Partnership Affirmation submitted by Mr. Hamdan and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“On February 28, 2017, the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) Board of Education unanimously voted to approve the recommended proposal to establish a new program within the KUSD Community Services (Fund 80). This program was the five-year proposal (Attachment A) with the corresponding five-year budget assumption (Attachment B) to support a partnership with the Building Our Future (BOF) organization established through the United Way of Kenosha.

The approved financial commitment was established as \$50,000 per year for five years beginning in the fiscal year 2017-18 and ending in the fiscal year 2021-22. The district has received the pledge letter and invoice for the fifth installment to cover the 2021-22 fiscal year (Attachment C).

The administration recommends that the Board review and affirm the continuation of the partnership/funding for Building Our Future and approve the \$50,000 payment as the fifth installment for the 2021-22 fiscal year.”

Ms. Tatjana Bicanin, Executive Director of Building Our Future, was present and gave an overview of the program to board members.

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the continuation of the partnership/funding for Building Our Future and approve the \$50,000 payment as the fifth installment for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mr. Battle and Ms. Robinson abstaining.

Mr. Hamdan presented the Federal Stimulus Plan Update submitted by himself and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“The purpose of this report is to provide a follow up to the comprehensive overview of the Federal Stimulus funding available to our district which was last presented to the Board of Education at the June 22, 2021 meeting. The previous report included an internally created spending timeline (Attachment A) and planning calculator (Attachment B) to help visualize spending buckets across all the known grants. These documents have been updated to reflect the most current information available.

There are currently four separate one-time funding sources:

- 1) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) Grant - \$4.66 MM;
- 2) Governor’s Education Emergency Relief (GEER) Fund - \$2.9 MM;

- 3) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Grant - \$19.98MM; and
- 4) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Grant – projected \$45MM, once finalized, this grant will require public input/consultations in addition to other requirements such as a mandatory set-aside of 20% to address learning loss.

The district currently has a plan for the ESSER I grant that was approved within the adopted 2020-21 budget by the Board at the October 27, 2020 meeting. Since that time, a new grant called the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) has been made available to KUSD through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which could be utilized to cover certain expenditures such as internet hotspots for students that we had previously planned for under ESSER I. The administration is proposing to modify the original ESSER I plan to be able to take advantage of the ECF grant and free up funds to do the following:

- Pay the tuition costs necessary to allow 75 teachers to obtain their 316 Reading licenses (\$203,000);
- Pay the tuition costs necessary to allow 35 teachers to obtain their English as a Second Language (ESL) licenses (\$147,000);
- Provide additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as needed (\$200,000); and Set aside funding to cover excess Summer School expenses as needed

The administration is proposing the following items be approved and incorporated into the GEER plan:

- Funding to continue supporting student 1:1 technology (\$1,450,000);
- Reading/Math Intervention Specialists, 5.0 teacher FTE (\$518,725) (Attachment C);
- Mental health supports, virtual student/family assistance (\$300,000);
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) timesheet hours (\$100,000); and
- Remaining (\$531,275) to be determined later.

The administration is proposing the following items be approved and incorporated into the ESSER II plan in addition to the previously earmarked \$15,000,000 for facilities upgrades in schools to improve air quality and ventilation:

- Reading/Math Intervention Specialists, 10.0 teacher FTE (\$1,141,460) (Attachment C);
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Intervention Specialists, 4.0 teacher FTE (\$456,584)(Attachment C);
- Virtual Instruction, 9.0 teacher FTE (\$933,705) (Attachment C);
 - There are an additional 4.0 teacher FTE that have been repurposed using district local funding to support virtual instruction (Attachment D);
- Dedicated Building Subs, 41 long-term substitute teachers (\$2,713,027) (Attachment C); and
- Technology Support Technician, .75 AST FTE (\$59,329) (Attachment C).

The administration recommends that the Board approve the proposed ESSER II plan, GEER plan and modifications to the previously approved ESSER I plan.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the proposed ESSER II plan, GEER plan, and modifications to the previously approved ESSER I plan. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth introduced Revision of Policy 5471 – Corporal Punishment/Use of Physical Force submitted by Ms. Stacy Guckenberger, Coordinator of Special Education and Student Support, Ms. Jenny Schmidt, Director of Special Education and Student Support; Mrs. Housaman; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpt follow:

“The Wisconsin Statute 125- Seclusion and Physical Restraint was revised. The new pupil restraint and seclusion law went into immediate effect upon the signature of Governor Evers and is now in Wisconsin Statute Chapter 118 General School Operations at §118.305. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the current school board policy did not align with the new changes to the statute. The circumstances for the use of seclusion or physical restraint remain the same; they are prohibited unless a student’s behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of the student or others, and it is the least restrictive intervention feasible. Unless expressly noted, requirements apply to all students, with or without disabilities and individualized education programs (IEPs).

The revisions to Policy 5471 - Corporal Punishment/ Use of Physical Force will include updates from the legislative action of statute Act 118 (Appendix A).

Seclusion and physical restraint are atypical, extraordinary forms of behavioral intervention that may only be used in compliance with applicable law and Board of Education Policy. In accordance with the change in legislation, District Policy 5471- Corporal Punishment/Use of Physical Force is being revised to align to new state statute Act 118 standards (see Appendix A). Policy 5471 will now be referred to as Appropriate Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint.

It is recommended that the Board approve revised Policy 5471 – Appropriate Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint as a first reading at the August 24, 2021 regular school board meeting.”

Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Guckenberger answered questions from board members.

Mrs. Modder moved to approve revised Policy 5471 – Appropriate Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint as a first reading. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Garcia presented Resolution 381- National Hispanic Heritage Month 2021 which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, in 1968 President Lyndon B. Johnson first proclaimed National Hispanic Heritage Week to pay tribute to the contributions of Latinos and Latinas in American culture and the work of early Spanish explorers and settlers; and

WHEREAS, this timeframe included the anniversaries of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on September 15, as well as Mexico's independence on September 16; and

WHEREAS, the recognized contributions grew and as such Hispanic Heritage Week was expanded to National Hispanic Heritage Month, which has been celebrated from September 15 through October 15 since 1989; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha Unified takes great pride in its diverse student population, with Hispanic students playing a vital role and representing nearly 29.6% of the total student population (per 2020-21 Third Friday report); and

WHEREAS, by observing National Hispanic Heritage Month, we raise awareness of and celebrate the culture and traditions of people whose ancestry can be traced to Spain, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean islands; and

WHEREAS, corresponding school activities held in September and October, as well as throughout the school year, will educate students about Hispanic cultures, traditions and contributions that have impacted business, law, education, politics, science, the arts and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kenosha Unified School District's Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to proclaim September 15 to October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

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 381- National Hispanic Heritage Month 2021. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Battle presented Resolution 382 – National Bullying Prevention Month 2021 which read as follows:

"WHEREAS, bullying is unwanted physical, verbal, written, indirect and electronic behaviors that involve an observed or perceived power imbalance and may be repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated; and

WHEREAS, bullying occurs throughout our community, including in neighborhoods, on playgrounds, at schools, in homes and through technology, such as the internet, social media and cellphones; and

WHEREAS, children who witness or who are victims of bullying often feel less secure, more fearful and intimidated; and

WHEREAS, bullying can have lifelong negative consequences for both those who are victims of bullying and those who bully others; and

WHEREAS, families, schools, youth organizations, colleges, workplaces, places of worship and other groups are responsible for empowering and protecting their members and promoting cultures of caring, respect and safety for everyone; and

WHEREAS, it is time for our community to do its part to help end bullying in Kenosha.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Kenosha Unified School District does hereby proclaim October as the annual observance of National Bullying Prevention Month as a symbol of our commitment to the ongoing, year-round struggle against bullying.

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

Mr. Price moved to approve Resolution 382 – National Bullying Prevention Month 2021. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Stevens presented Resolution 383 – National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2021 which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, the week of September 5-11, 2021, is National Suicide Prevention Week, and September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which is intended to help raise awareness that prevention is possible; treatment is effective; and people do recover; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people ages 10–34 and the 10th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in these challenging times messages of hope and healing are more needed than ever; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha Unified students, staff and families should be able to access high quality prevention, support, rehabilitation, and treatment services that lead to recovery and a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified Board of Education publicly places our full support behind educators, coaches, advisors, parents/guardians, mental health professionals, health care professionals, police officers, and others as partners in supporting our community; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of preventing and overcoming mental health challenges, suicide attempts and loss, and substance abuse are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and our community at large; and

WHEREAS, we must encourage relatives, friends, co-workers, and providers to take the time to check on the wellbeing of family, friends and neighbors, recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate services and supports; and NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kenosha Unified School District’s Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to proclaim September 5-11 as National Suicide Prevention Week and September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

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 383 – National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2021. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Housaman presented Resolution 384 – Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week October 3 – 9, 2021 which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, Kenosha Unified School District’s locally elected board members play a vital role in governing the policies of our excellent public education system and ensuring the district meets state standards for the purpose of attaining the district’s vision of becoming Wisconsin’s top performing urban school district that is highly regarded for continuously exceeding all expectations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education are dedicated to children, learning and the community, and devote many hours of service to public education as they continually strive for improvement, excellence and progress in education; and

WHEREAS, school board members are charged with representing our local education interests by serving as the voice of our community while ensuring compliance with state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, school board members selflessly devote their knowledge, time and talents as advocates for our school children and community’s future; and

WHEREAS, each of our board members want nothing more than to see each student graduate prepared for success, no matter what the future may hold for them.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Kenosha Unified School District recognizes and salutes the members of the Kenosha Unified Board of Education by proclaiming October 3-9, 2021, as Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week.

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 384 – Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week October 3 – 9, 2021. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Modder presented the Donations to the District.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Stacy Stephens
School Board Secretary