

REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD  
HELD JANUARY 25, 2022

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 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 7:06 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.

Mr. Price introduced the student ambassador, Christopher Portillo from Bradford High School, and he made his comments.

There were no awards or recognitions.

There were no Administrative 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 allotted for views and comments. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Remarks by the President were made by Ms. Adams.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

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

Consent-Approve item X-B – Minutes of the 12/14/21 and 1/4/22 Special Meetings and Executive Sessions, 12/14/21 Regular Meeting, and 1/3/22 and 1/4/22 Special Meetings.

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. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“It is recommended that the December 2021 cash receipt deposits totaling \$173,192.63, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$44,647,354.61, be approved.

Check numbers 608253 through 608924 (net of voided batches) totaling \$4,747,675.93, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$3,876,419.22, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the December 2021 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$19,242,647.01, and net payroll check batches totaling \$7,032.34, be approved.”

Consent-Approve item X-D – Proposed Removal of Policy 5610 - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, WI Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship submitted by Ms. Kim Fischer, Regional Coordinator of Secondary Schools; Mr. William Haithcock, Interim Chief of School Leadership; Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“During the 2016-17 school year, administration presented the proposal for switching from a student rank system to a tiered Laude system for all KUSD high school students. This project revised the weights applied for various high school courses (honors, AP, dual credit, etc.) and worked to promote individual achievements rather than student competition. The majority of high schools in the United States do not report rank, but establish achievement levels based on weighted GPA scores. Ultimately, the KUSD School Board approved this proposal and the implementation began with the following grade 8 cohort group. That group is the current grade 12 cohort with a 2022 graduation date. These achievement levels appear on student transcripts and diplomas.

The current KUSD Policy 5610 - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship established the criteria for recognizing the top student rank positions, and the process for identification for a state sponsored scholarship. The next act would be to remove this policy as it no longer applies. High school staff will still have access for pertinent rankings and share those with external institutions when necessary (i.e. scholarships). Any related scholarships based on ranking will be reviewed and a process established for school administration to determine respective placement and awards. The Counseling section of each school website will retain the documentation and explanations of the respective Laude program and conditions, as well as all directions and explanations related to students applicable for scholarships that require student rank data.

At its December 14, 2021, meeting the Board of Education approved the proposal to remove KUSD Policy 5610 - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship as a first reading. Administration recommends that the School Board accept the proposed removal of Policy 5610 - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship as a second reading at its January 25, 2022, meeting.”

Consent-Approve item X(E) – Policy 2251 – Evaluation – Administrative, Supervisory and Technical Personnel and Policy 4380 – Employee Evaluations submitted by Mr. Kevin Neir, Interim Chief Human Resource Officer; Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officers; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“In 2014, all Wisconsin school districts and charter schools (established under section 118.40[2r] or [2x]) were required to begin using Educator Effectiveness to evaluate teachers and principals to fulfill statutory requirements to evaluate personnel, as noted in PI 8.01. This tool has been successfully implemented in KUSD, but the associated policies have not been updated to align with the use of this required tool.

In an effort to ensure alignment to state requirements and to clarify evaluation cycles for other employee groups, both Policy 2251 - Evaluation - Administrative, Supervisory and Technical Personnel and Policy 4380 - Employee Evaluations have been reviewed and adjusted.

It is recommended that rather than having two separate policies, we combine them and outline the various requirements for each employee group to prevent any contradiction between the two policies. This led to the deletion of Policy 2251 and the updates outlined in Policy 4380.

Administration recommends that the Board approve the deletion of Policy 2251 - Evaluation - Administrative, Supervisory and Technical Personnel and updated Policy 4380 - Employee Evaluations as a second reading on Jan. 25, 2022.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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

The board approved updates to the 2021-22 Better Together Plan at the September 28, 2021 regular board meeting.

No board action was taken at the October 26, 2021 regular board meeting.

The board approved updates to the 2021-22 Better Together Plan at the November 16, 2021 regular board meeting.

No board action was taken at the December 14, 2021 regular board meeting.

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

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the changes to the Better Together Plan outlined in Attachment A. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Mr. Garcia moved to make masks optional. Mrs. Adams called the motion out of order.

A vote was taken on Mrs. Modder’s motion to approve the changes to the Better Together Plan outlined in Attachment A. Motion carried. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Battle dissenting.

Board members recessed at 8:32 P.M. and reconvened at 8:39 P.M.

Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities, presented the 2022-2023 Capital Projects Plan submitted by Mr. John Setter; Project Architect; Mr. Finnemore; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Board Policy 3711 requires that a major maintenance project list be developed annually by the Department of Facilities Services and that the list be reviewed and approved by the School Board for action no later than April 1 of each year. This report includes the proposed major maintenance and energy savings projects plan for 2022-23.

Historically during times of rapid enrollment growth this report also includes the capacity projects as required by Board Policy 7200; however, there are no capacity projects proposed for the coming year.

The overall major maintenance budget is \$2,000,000. In addition, we have a budget of \$500,000 within our utilities/energy budget to fund capital projects each year. The energy project funds were generated from measured savings from previous energy projects over a 10-year period. Energy savings generated from projects the past several years have been placed back in the general fund for other district expenditures.

The 2022-23 capital projects plan is provided as Attachment A to this report. The plan is a continuation of the overall major maintenance plan initiated 21 years ago, and the energy savings project program started 19 years ago. The major maintenance plan includes a proposed contingency of \$55,000 or 2.75% of the available budget for projects that will be performed this year. Board Policy 3711 recommends that a contingency of not more than 5% be reserved at the beginning of each year; contingencies have ranged from 0.86% to 4.25% over the past 21 years.

As part of the report associated with the 2017-18 capital plan, we noted that for a 6-year period we will be using almost all of the major maintenance funds at Bullen, Lance, Tremper and Bradford. This will be the final year of that 6-year plan, and the funds will be for the last remaining project which is the Bradford renovation. This was discussed in great detail during the Committee and Board meetings that lead to the approval of those projects at the April 25, 2016, School Board meeting, and the selection of the performance contractors at the June 28, 2016, School Board meeting. Performing the major maintenance work at these schools at the same time that the majority of the building is being retrofitted with new mechanical systems, lighting and ceilings is proving to be a very efficient and economical way to accomplish a number of pressing maintenance and renovation needs.

Administration recommends Board approval of the 2022-23 Capital Projects Plan as described in this report.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve the 2022-23 Capital Projects Plan as described in the report. Mr. Garcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer, presented the Summer School 2022 Program Proposal submitted by Mrs. Patricia Clements, Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Education and Summer School; Mrs. Housaman; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Kenosha Unified School District Summer School and recreation programs provide summer intervention and enrichment opportunities for the Kenosha community. For summer 2021 the kindergarten through eighth grade academic programs were held in person and provided identified students the opportunity to work in small reading and math intervention groups. At the high school level, in-person credit recovery and physical education courses were offered as well as virtual physical education and health courses through Kenosha eSchool.

The Office of Recreation Summer Activities for Children and the Summer Music Program offered in-person activities. Whenever possible these activities were held outdoors with indoor activities following the coronavirus (COVID-19) safety guidelines.

Proposed 2022 Summer School Program:

#### CALENDAR

- Elementary and Middle School
  - Teacher workday: Thursday, June 16, 2022
  - Session: Monday, June 20, 2022, through Thursday, July 28, 2022 (23 days)
  - No school: Monday, July 4, 2022
  
- High School
  - Teacher workday: Friday, June 10, 2022
  - Session 1: Monday, June 13, 2022, through Friday, July 1, 2022
  - Session 2: Tuesday, July 5, 2022, through Monday, July 25, 2022
  - No school: Monday, July 4, 2022

The elementary program will focus on foundational skills in reading and math for identified students. The proposed student-to-teacher ratio is 18 to 1 with a smaller ratio for reading and for math during intervention blocks. The elementary sites will be both single and combined sites for summer 2022 (Appendix D). A shuttle bus will be provided from students' boundary schools to the host summer school sites.

The middle school program will focus on foundational skills in reading and math for identified students. The student-to-teacher ratio will be 18 to 1 with an emphasis on strategic personalized intervention work (Appendix E).

The following fine arts programs will be offered: fifth grade beginner band and orchestra programs, Rambler Band and The Band of Black Watch marching bands, KYPAC, and incoming fifth through eighth grade summer choir.

Registration for the following Office of Recreation programs will be done on a first-come basis for a designated day and time: summer playgrounds, basketball, tennis, baseball/softball, soccer, swim lessons, and weight training.

Life, Learning, and Leisure provides summer programming opportunities for students with significant disabilities in first through twelfth grade. This program incorporates activities that provide learning and recreation experiences. In-person programs will be held at Stocker Elementary School, Mahone Middle School, and Tremper High School following the recommended social distancing guidelines.

Additional funding is necessary to implement the 2022 summer program plan, and extended learning opportunities are a qualified expenditure in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III) budget.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education grant approval to allocate \$158,855 of stimulus funds to increase the number of Summer School teachers and provide transportation for the 2022 Summer School program.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education grant approval to allocate an additional \$10,000 from Fund 80 for the rental of the University of Wisconsin—Parkside—for the KYPAC program.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve the allocation of \$158,855 of stimulus funds to increase the number of Summer School teachers and provide transportation for the 2022 Summer School program and to allocate an additional \$10,000 from Fund 80 for the rental of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for the KYPAC program. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, presented the Open Enrollment Allocations – 2022-23 School Year submitted by Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education Programs; Mrs. Jennifer Schmidt, Director of Special Education and Student

Support; Mr. William Haithock, Interim Chief of School Leadership; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) stipulates that each resident school district allocate open enrollment spaces during their January board meetings. The 2022-23 Open Enrollment period is from February 7, 2022, to April 30, 2022. Along with the posted 3-month open enrollment window, applicants may also apply to a non-resident district using the designated Alternative Open Enrollment Application during the current school year if the applicant can demonstrate that he/she meets certain criteria. Appendix A contains a listing by grade of available open enrollment regular education spaces for School Year 2022-23. Each District must delineate both regular education and special education seats by grade level, program and/or service type.

The state open enrollment statute and KUSD Policy 5260 - Full Time Open Enrollment requires that a current open enrolled student re-apply just once, which is during the transition from elementary to middle school, or if they first enrolled during middle school, then they must reapply during the transition from middle school to high school. Also, tuition waiver students (those who start the year in KUSD but move out of district) have a right to complete the current year and apply for open enrollment the following year. Even though these are current KUSD students, they are counted as new applications for state reporting. The Offices of Educational Accountability, School Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Special Education/Student Support and Early Education met on multiple occasions to determine available spaces for School Year 2022-23.

Administration recommends that the Kenosha Unified School Board affirm and approve the space availability for open enrollment students for school year 2022- 23. Recommendation is for a total of 185 spaces, 22 of which are designated for selected special education programs service/types as noted in Appendix A & B.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve 185 spaces, 22 of which are designated for selected special education programs service/types, for open enrollment students for the 2022-23 school year as noted in Appendix A and B. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Robinson presented Resolution 388 – Black History Month 2022 which read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kenosha Unified School District's Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to proclaim February 2022 as Black History Month.

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

Ms. Stevens moved to approve Resolution 388 – Black History Month 2022. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Modder presented the Donation to the District.

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the Donation to the District. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Stacy Stephens  
School Board Secretary