

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD JULY 26, 2022

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, July 26, 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 7:00 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mrs. Schmaling, Mr. Price, Mr. Meadows, Mr. Battle, Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Modder, 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.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officer, presented the Jerry Awards, the Thespian Festival Invitation Awards, and the District-Wide Student Art Show Collection Awards.

There was one Administrative Appointment. Dr. Ormseth presented Mr. Erik Schlick as Interim Principal at Frank Elementary School.

Mr. Che Kearby, Coordinator of Social Studies and Educator Effectiveness, presented the Superintendent's Report. He gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled Leadership Academy 2022 which covered the following topics: Teaching & Learning beliefs, Leadership Academy theme: instruction is what we do and culture is how we do it, instructional task: students, content, & teachers, and next steps.

Mr. Price gave the legislative report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

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. Ms. Adams noted that a revised report was provided to board members.

Consent-Approve item X-B – Minutes of the 6/28/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session and 6/28/22 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. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“It is recommended that the June 2022 cash receipt deposits totaling \$459,851.31, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$53,925,964.27, be approved.

Check numbers 613247 through 614327 (net of voided batches) totaling \$5,013,345.99, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$4,129,966.55, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the June 2022 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$26,301,247.73, and net payroll check batches totaling \$531.51, be approved.”

Consent-Approve item X-D – Policy and Rule 3643 – Emergency School Closings and/or Learning Adjustments submitted by Mrs. Ruder and Dr. Ormseth, 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. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the policy was updated to allow for virtual learning. Unfortunately, this was not always well-received and attendance on the virtual days was typically lower than expected, requiring work to be repeated when school resumed. In addition, funding to maintain a 1:1 district is currently not available, make this option even more difficult to implement.

The policy has been adjusted to allow for the first two days to be true closures where no students or staff, other than specified facilities staff, report. It also outlines makeup requirements for staff.

Administration recommends that the board approve revised Policy and Rule 3643 – Emergency School Closings and/or Learning Adjustments as a second reading on July 26, 2022.”

Consent-Approve item X-E – Changes to Building Permit Fees and Regulations and Board Policy 1330 – Facilities Use submitted by Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities; Mr. Hamdan; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“It has been several years since building rental fees have been increased due in part to the temporary hold that was placed on permits during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of the impacts of inflation and the costs related to operating our buildings, an increase in building use permit fees is warranted starting in the 2022-23 school year. The primary change being proposed is an across the board increase of 4% to all rental fees. As in years past, the 4% increases involve either a round up or a round down to the nearest whole dollar amount. The choice of a 4% increase was based in part on actual cost increase in areas directly related to rental uses.

In addition to the 4% rental fee increase, there are several other changes being proposed with this revision. All of the changes are reflected in red on the attached draft of the Permit Fees & Regulations for the 2022-23 school year (Attachment 1). These changes include:

- Increasing the permit handling fee from \$20 to \$25. This fee covers the labor costs that KUSD incurs related to the processing of each permit. The \$20 fee has been in place for over a decade and has never been increased.
- Removal of the \$20 disinfecting fee that was temporarily added for the 2021-22 school year as permits were re-introduced as we began to come out of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Increases to the hourly rates charged for staff that directly support building permits. Staff members can include custodians, kitchen supervision, stadium managers, and field prep and managers for the high school baseball and softball fields. These rates are not increased annually and so when they are increased they are done to attempt to cover wage increases for a 2 or 3 year period. They include overtime where that is appropriate as well as the costs for the benefits for these positions.

One change is needed to the Board Policies and Rules related to building permits. That change is in Rule 1330 as it specifically referred to the dollar amount of the \$20 permit processing fee. The proposed change would be to remove the dollar amount and only refer to it as the permit processing fee so that the Rule does not need to be revised on future increases. A mark-up for the changes related to Rule 1330 is provided as Attachment 2 to this report.

At its June 28, 2022 meeting, the Board approved changes to the permit fees and regulations as described in this report as well as a first reading of revised Board Rule 1330. It is recommended that the Board approve revised Board Rule 1330 as a second reading on July 26, 2022.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the consent agenda which included a Revised Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, Resignations and Separations. Mr. Battle seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Finnemore presented the School Safety Grant Application – Digital Mapping submitted by himself and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“On December 5, 2021, the State Legislature passed 2021 Wisconsin Act 109 to amend a portion of 2017 Wisconsin Act 143, which is generally known as the school safety law. The original school safety law (Act 143) required school districts to submit the most recent blueprints of each school building to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS) as well as local law enforcement agencies. Many districts provided hard copies or scanned copies of the full size blue prints from when their schools were originally constructed. Those plans were developed for contractors to construct a building and were not drawn for the purposes of quick digestion of a site and building layout by first responders in an emergency situation. The new law was developed and adopted to support an initiative being promoted by the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association and others for school districts to have digital maps of their sites and floor

plans in a format that was both easily accessible and easy to understand for law enforcement and other first responders in the event of an emergency at a school.

Specifically, 2021 Wisconsin Act 109 allows school boards and the governing bodies of private schools to submit critical incident mapping data, in lieu of blueprints, to the relevant law enforcement agency and the OSS, and similarly requires the OSS to compile such data and maintain its confidentiality, subject to the exception allowing law enforcement access upon request. In addition, the act creates a DOJ grant program to assist school boards and governing bodies of private schools in submitting critical incident mapping data, and requires DOJ to accept grant applications from school personnel working jointly with local law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the school. The act further specifies that grant funds must be used for site-specific critical incident mapping data to enhance security and increase situational awareness for first responders, and that any mapping data created with grant funds must meet the following requirements:

- The data must be compatible with platforms and applications used by local, state, and federal public safety officials.
- The data may not require local, state, or federal public safety officials, school districts, or private schools to purchase additional software.
- The data must include information that can best assist first responders in an emergency, such as building numbers, floors, suite designations, room numbers, or other available relevant location information.

The act authorized the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF), in the 2021-23 fiscal biennium, to supplement DOJ's school safety appropriation with sufficient funds, not to exceed \$2,000,000 in the biennium, to implement the grant program, upon DOJ's request.

On July 1, 2022, the DOJ OSS announced the \$2,000,000 grant program that they developed in response to Act 109. The grant was written around a specific product developed by a company called Critical Response Group which is a New Jersey based organization started by former military special ops personnel. The product known as Collaborative Response Graphics (CRGs) combines accurate floor plans, high-resolution imagery and a gridded-overlay into one map.

The CRG software has been endorsed and supported by state-funded grants for schools in a number of states on the east coast and is now making its way to the Midwest with both Michigan and Wisconsin developing grant programs and Iowa working on a program as well. In several of the states, the funds allocated for their grant programs were sufficient to fund development of plans for every district in the state. The \$2,000,000 allocated in Wisconsin will cover less than 25% of the schools in the State. Therefore, as part of the grant announcement, the OSS identified two criteria they will use in the selection of what districts receive the grant funding. Highest priority will be given to districts currently not in compliance with the blueprint submittal component of Act 143. Once those districts' requests are funded, the remainder of the funds will be issued based on the grant submission date on a first-come first-serve basis.

The majority of school districts in the State of Wisconsin are in compliance with Act 143 and specifically with the blueprint submission requirement. Because of our size and the CAD capabilities of our Facilities Department, KUSD has developed and maintained more simplified site and floor plans for our schools that we provided to the OSS and our local law enforcement agencies which are much more user-friendly than the construction plans that many districts have currently submitted. We also provide the simplified electronic plans to all of our local law enforcement agencies in PDF format so that responding officers are able to pull them up on their screens in their squad cars. Therefore, we have been well ahead of the majority of districts in this area. That said, the plans we currently provide cannot compete with the CRG plans in terms of speed and efficiency of understanding a school's layout by law enforcement and other first responders in an emergency.

Chief David Smetana from the Pleasant Prairie Police Department (PPPD) saw a demo of the CRG software about two years ago when it was first being introduced to the police chiefs, and brought the firm to the Kenosha area to provide a demo to other local law enforcement agencies as well as KUSD. We all felt it was a significant improvement from what we were providing the police departments. Shortly after that, KUSD in conjunction with the PPPD, Kenosha Police Department and the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department submitted a Federal COPS grant to try to obtain funding for the software and the development of plans for all of our schools. Unfortunately, our grant application at that time was unsuccessful.

KUSD requires Board approval of grant applications that exceed \$25,000. The cost for development and implementation of the CRG plans for KUSD is estimated at \$148,975. The grant announcement drew a great deal of interest and applications from school districts. Feedback from the OSS was that requests would exceed the available funding within a couple of weeks of the July 1st announcement. Therefore, KUSD submitted a grant request that first week after the announcement for the \$148,975 with the understanding that we would not be able to accept any funding until Board approval was obtained. Knowing the stated intent of our State Legislation and the OSS with the adoption of Act 109, and that having these maps are endorsed by our local law enforcement, we felt that was the prudent step to take.

Administration recommends Board approval to apply and accept if awarded the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety Digital Mapping Grant in the amount of \$148,975 as described in this report."

Mr. Price moved to approve the application and acceptance if awarded the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety Digital Mapping Grant in the amount of \$148,975 as described in the report. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the KUSD COVID Guidelines submitted by Mr. William Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership; Mrs. Ruder; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

"The Board of Education periodically reviews the district's COVID response plan to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff members is being considered.

As the pandemic ebbs and flows, adjustments will be made to continue to uphold the safety measures in place while also striving to provide a welcoming learning and working environment for all.

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

Mr. Meadows moved to approve the KUSD COVID Guidelines as outlined in Attachment A. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer, presented the Act 55 – Notice of Academic Standards submitted by Mr. Duane Sturino, Coordinator of Science; Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education; Ms. Susan Mirsky, Coordinator of English/Language Arts; Ms. Jennifer Lawler, Coordinator of Mathematics; Mr. Kearby; 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 2022-23 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.

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 2022-23 school year at the July 26, 2022, board meeting.”

Mr. Price moved to approve the annual declaration and parent notice of the district’s student academic standards that will be in effect for the 2022-23 school year. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, presented the Annual Restraint and Seclusion Report submitted by Mrs. Laura Sawyer, Research Analyst; Ms. Jenny Schmidt, Director of Special Education and Student Support; Mr. Keckler; 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 Office of Civil Rights Cyclical Data Collection (CRDC) on physical restraint and seclusion. Wisconsin Act 118 (2019) enacted additional requirements, such as providing parents 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 and 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. School districts are also required to submit this annual report to DPI by December 1 for each previous school year. 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 but the 2021-22 school year had expected increases.

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 2021-22 school year, KUSD had 30 incidents of mechanical restraint, 200 incidents of physical restraint, and 38 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.”

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

“For the past nineteen 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 2022-23 Proposed Annual Budget for the SWSA, the projected participating member school districts with payment schedule, and the 2021-22 Annual Report for the SWSA.

Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached resolution and membership in SWSA for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in the amount of \$3,200 and authorization of Board Officers and District Administration to execute any and all documents related to the renewal.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the attached resolution and membership in SWSA for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in the amount of \$3,200 and authorization of Board Officers and District Administration to execute any and all documents related to the renewal. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the ESSER III Funding submitted by Mrs. Housaman; Mr. Haithcock; Mr. Keckler; Mr. Hamdan; Mr. Robert Neu, Director of Title Programs; and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“ESSER III, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grant program authorized under American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, provides additional money for local educational agencies (LEAs) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. ESSER III supplements ESSER I, created by the CARES Act in March 2020, and ESSER II, created by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act in December 2020.

LEAs receiving funds under ESSER III are required to reserve no less than 20 percent of their allocation for the purpose of addressing learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. These interventions must respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students.

After further review of identified themes and needs of the district, the following position and programs, and estimated costs, are presented for School Board approval:

- Elementary Regional Coordinator – \$180,000 – FY 2023;
- After school programming - \$305,000 – FY 2023;
- Peace learning circles - \$5,000 – FY2023;
- Contracted professional development for math recovery - \$100,000 – FY 2023; and
- Elementary teacher professional development for math tier one instruction.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve this additional FY 2023 portion of the proposed ESSER III plan estimated at \$1,000,000.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve this additional FY 2023 portion of the proposed ESSER III plan estimated at \$1,000,000. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Hamdan presented the Fiscal 2022-2023 Budget Update submitted by himself and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“The administration is providing the Board of Education with an update on the projected budget position for the upcoming FY 2022-23 budget given the most current information that we have available to us (Attachment A). At the May 24, 2022 meeting, we shared a revised projected deficit of approximately \$15.7 MM and we are now sharing some of the recommended reductions that are needed to help close that gap. While our work is not yet completed, the projected deficit is now projected to be \$2.5 MM when factoring in the proposed staff reductions delineated in Attachment B. Please note that when looking at staffing numbers, only the district operational funded (non-grant/charter) positions are factored into the budget position. While we are temporarily offsetting staff reductions with one-time stimulus grant funds, we are making the necessary changes in our district-funded positions.

Declining student enrollment combined with a lack of inflationary increases in the State revenue limit formula will continue to impact our revenue limit authority and our ability to realize budget growth next year and beyond.

This preliminary projection assumes the following major items:

- Continued declining enrollment of 600 less FTE in the next third Friday count;
 - Projected revenue loss will be \$6.3 MM in revenue limit authority and \$440 K in per-pupil aid;
- Health insurance premium increases by 9.6% along with restructured 4-tier options;
 - Updated from 11% renewal due to a 1.4% adjustment following prescription drug plan formulary change;
- Change in part-time staff benefit eligibility to ACA 30-hour per week rule;
- Change in district funded HSA contributions from \$750/\$1,500 to \$600/\$1,200;
- Salary schedule advancements for all FTE staff; and
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases of 4.7% for all FTE staff.

The administration recommends that the Board acknowledge and approve the updated budget projection and adjustments for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The administration will continue to refine the budget and will provide additional updates as needed.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve the updated budget projection and adjustments for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, that administration continue to refine the budget, and provide

additional updates as needed. Mrs. Schmaling seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Stacy Stephens
School Board Secretary