

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD AUGUST 23, 2022

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, August 23, 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: 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 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 Administrative and Supervisory Appointments.

Superintendent's report was delivered by Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer, regarding Summer School. A summer school video was also shown.

Mrs. Modder 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 7/26/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session and 7/26/22 Regular Meeting, 8/8/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session, and 8/17/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session.

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 July 2022 cash receipt deposits totaling \$192,056.40, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$928,694.61, be approved.

Check numbers 614328 through 615186 (net of voided batches) totaling \$7,241,890.36 and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$4,058,632.33 are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the July 2022 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$14,584,474.08 and net payroll check batches totaling \$809.41 be approved.”

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

Mr. Hamdan and Mr. Erik Kass from PMA Securities, LLC presented the Debt Service Review submitted by Mr. Hamdan, excerpts follow:

“During the last joint standing committee meeting held on June 14, 2022, a request was made for the administration to provide the Board of Education with a review of the outstanding debt service for the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD).

The administration has invited our financial advisors from PMA Securities to directly engage the Board with a presentation addressing:

- The existing debt profile of the District;
- Debt Defeasance (Pre-Payment) Options; and
- Debt Refinancing Opportunities.

Mr. Erik Kass is the Director of Public Finance for PMA Securities and will lead tonight’s presentation and discussion on this informational item.”

Mr. William Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership, and Ms. Tara Panasewicz, Chief Executive Officer for the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, presented the Gang Prevention Education Program 2021-2022 Year End Report; 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 to the BGCK to help monitor, supervise and mentor youth in gang prevention groups. This mentoring also addresses teambuilding, job skills development, anger management, gang resistance, social skills, and delinquency issues.

The Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha has supervised and mentored 50 case managed youths in gang prevention programs at our middle and high school levels. In addition, there are approximately 115 students that participate in weekly youth empowerment group sessions known as prevention group facilitation at Lincoln MS, Bullen MS, and Frank Elementary School. In these sessions, we use a BGCK approved curriculum that covers such things as anger management, good decision-making, coping mechanisms, role modeling, goal setting, as well as financial literacy. The Year End Report (Attachment A) is included in this report. The goals and results from the past year are also included.

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 BGCK is invaluable.

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

The final document (Attachment D) is additional data charts showing results of the 21-22 program.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha for a Gang Prevention Education Program in the 2022-2023 school year.”

Mr. Price moved to approve the entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha for a Gang Prevention Education Program in the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth and Attorney Christine Hamiel from Attolles Law, s.c. presented the Title IX Update submitted by Dr. Ormseth; Mr. Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership; Mrs. Housaman, Chief Academic Officer; and Mr. Neir, Interim Chief Human Resource Officer; excerpts follow:

“On August 14, 2020, amended federal Title IX regulations took effect. The U.S. Department of Education regulations covers sexual harassment, sex discrimination, and sexual assault in education programs and activities. Every school district was required to review and modify various policies and procedures in connection with implementing the new Title IX regulations specifically with regard to sexual harassment. The regulations also involved a significant training and staff development component. In June of 2022, the U.S. Department of Education released updated proposed expectations. KUSD was already in the process of updating these policies and procedures.

These proposed revisions to the Title IX regulations were released in June of 2022, but there is a lengthy period for revisions and comments. The final rule changes are not expected for quite some time. Therefore, the 2020 version of the Title IX regulations will remain in effect for at least the start of the 2022-23 school year. Amended regulations will likely not take effect until the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. Updates to multiple policies were necessary to ensure KUSD’s compliance with the current federal Title IX regulations. In addition, updates to the complaint procedures and staff training requirements were completed to ensure KUSD aligned with the federal regulations. Below is a table of attachments and a summary of changes:

Board Policy 4110: Updated to direct employees who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment to the newly created Title IX Board Policy. (Attachment 6)

Board Policy 4111: This policy previously incorporated a process for general harassment and Title IX sexual harassment. All connections to Title IX have been pulled out of this policy and a stand-alone Title IX policy created. Policy 4111 has been modified to address harassment outside the Title IX rules.

Board Policy 5110.1: Updated to include anti-harassment language and cross-references updated. A student complaint procedure was created, similar to the employee complaint procedure.

Board Policy 5110.2: Policy modified to incorporate reference to Title IX policy, legal references, and cross-references.

Board Policy 4111.1 (Newly Created): Outlines the employee discrimination and non-Title IX harassment complaint procedure. These procedures would follow standards set in Board Policies 4110 and 4111. Note: These procedures do not apply to claims of Title IX sexual harassment as those claims will be handled through Board Policy 1710.

Board Policy 1710 (Newly Created): The newly created board policy includes legal requirements, definitions, complaint procedures, appeal procedures, and District procedural requirements for Title IX.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve as a first reading the revisions to policies 4110, 4111, 5110.1, 5110.2 and approve the creation of Board Policy 4111.1 and Board Policy 1710 at the August 23, 2022 board meeting.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve Policies 4110, 4111, 5110.1, 5110.2, 4111.1 and 1710 as a first reading. Mr. Price seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities, presented the Provisions Governing the Transportation of Students Attending Public and Private Schools for the 2022-2023 Year, submitted by himself and Mr. Jeff Marx, Transportation Supervisor, excerpts follow:

“Administration recommends school board approval of the Provisions Governing the Transportation of Students Attending Public and Private Schools for the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 Year. Mr. Battle seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Haithcock presented Policy 5280 – Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) submitted by himself and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of December 2015. The Wisconsin EHCY program addresses the

needs of students experiencing homelessness in LEAs throughout the state by supporting homeless liaisons and by distributing funds from the U.S. Department of Education. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) designates two statewide EHCY Coordinators to provide training and technical assistance, review and create policies and procedures, and monitor LEAs for program compliance to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are able to attend and fully participate in school. Funding is distributed to LEAs through a competitive grant process.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction currently requires updates to the existing KUSD policy. The proposed changes include more specific language on page one, including a clear definition of “homelessness”. Additional pages in the policy include an established definition of “student rights” and clarification of the dispute process. The adaptations to this policy will bring us into compliance with current regulations.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the attached updates to Policy 5280 - Education for Homeless Children and Youth as a first reading.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve Policy 5280 as a first reading. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the NEA Local President Release Grant – Addendum to Teacher Contract submitted by Dr. Ormseth and Mr. Neir; excerpts follow:

“December 2019 – 2020: Tanya Kitts-Lewinsky, then 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.

Ms. Kitts-Lewinsky has since resigned from her role as KEA president and the District was informed by Ms. Katherine Andrysiak-Montemurro in July of 2022 that she will be assuming the role of KEA president for the remainder of the grant.

The NEA grant allows the President to reduce their teaching contract to 0.5 FTE for the 2022-2023 school year and allows Ms. Andrysiak-Montemurro 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 Katherine Andrysiak-Montemurro for the 2022-2023 school year.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the NEA Local President Release Grant – Addendum to Teacher Contract. Mrs. Modder seconded.

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

Mr. Haithcock presented the Expulsion Independent Hearing Officers and Resolution 395 - Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsions for the 2022-2023 School Year, excerpt follows:

“Administration brings forth a recommendation concerning the appointment of Hearing Officers to assist the District with any expulsion hearings for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. Hearing Officers are part time employees that are called upon when needed for expulsion hearings and 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.

Christopher Hauser handled the majority of the expulsion hearings from the 2021-2022 school year and will continue to serve as our main hearing officer. Mrs. Titus and Mr. Rupnow, who were added as KUSD hearing officers in April of 2022, will continue to serve as backup/secondary hearing officers for the 2022-2023 school year and thereafter.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education re-authorize the appointment of Christopher Hauser, Gayle Titus, and Michael Rupnow as Hearing Officers for the purpose of expulsion hearings for the 2022-2023 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 395 – Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsions for the Remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year.”

Mr. Price presented the Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsions for the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 Christopher Hauser, Michael Rupnow, and Gayle Titus as Expulsion Independent Hearing Officers for the 2022-2023 school year as filed with the secretary to the Board of Education."

Mr. Battle moved to approve the appointment of Christopher Hauser, Gayle Titus, and Michael Rupnow as Hearing Officers for the purpose of expulsion hearings for the 2022-2023 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 also approve Resolution 395 – Resolution to Authorize Independent Hearing Officers to Determine Pupil Expulsions for the Remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Adams presented Resolution 396 – Resolution in Recognition Hispanic Heritage Month 2022, 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 2021-22 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 396 - Resolution in Recognition Hispanic Heritage Month 2022. Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Battle presented Resolution 397 - Resolution in Recognition of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2022, which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, the week of September 4-10, 2022, 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 4-10 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.”

Mrs. Stevens moved to approve Resolution 397 - Resolution in Recognition of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2022. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 P.M.

Jessica Doyle-Rudin
Executive Assistant