

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, September 27, 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 the Superintendent's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the Superintendent's office.

Ms. Schmaling introduced the student ambassador, Addison Busby from Indian Trail High School and Academy, and she made her comments.

There were no Administrative and Supervisory Appointments.

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.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

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

Consent-Approve item X-B – Minutes of the 8/18/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 8/23/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 8/23/22 Regular Meeting, 9/6/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 9/12/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session, and 9/12/22 Special 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 August 2022 cash receipt deposits totaling \$164,596.25, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$31,889,687.54, be approved.

Check numbers 615187 through 615720 (net of voided batches) totaling \$7,752,097.60, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$3,988,689.70, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the August 2022 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$9,338,786.12, and net payroll check batches totaling \$983.48, be approved.”

Consent-Approve item X-D – Policy 5280 – Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) submitted by Mr. William Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership; 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 second reading at the September 27, 2022.”

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

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

“On August 14, 2020, amended federal Title IX regulations took effect. The U.S. Department of Education regulations cover 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 2020 Title IX regulations specifically with regard to sexual harassment. The regulations also require a significant training and staff development component. Over the past several months, KUSD has been in the process of updating these policies and procedures.

In June of 2022, the U.S. Department of Education released updated proposed regulations. While these proposed revisions to the Title IX regulations were released in

June of 2022, 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 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 2020 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.

One policy was not brought back for a second reading. At the August 23, 2022, board meeting, there was confusion about the inclusion of Policy 5110.2 – Nondiscrimination Guidelines Related to Students Who are Transgender and Students Nonconforming to Gender Role Stereotypes. The noticed topic is Title IX Update and the proposed edits to Policy 5110.2 are not necessary to become compliant with the 2020 Title IX regulations. To avoid further confusion on the topic, we have pulled Policy 5110.2 from the noticed agenda item of Title IX.

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve as a second reading, the revisions to policies 4110, 4111, 5110.1 and approve the creation of Board Policy 4111.1 and Board Policy 1710 at the September 27, 2022, board meeting.”

Mr. Meadows moved to add additional language under the “Retaliation Prohibited” section of policies 1710, 4111.1, and 5110.1 which states “The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution shall not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy”, add an “Application of the First Amendment” section to the same policies which states “The Board shall construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. In no case will a Respondent be found to have committed sexual harassment based on the expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment”, and approve revised policies 4110, 4111, 5110.1 and newly created policies 4111.1 and 1710 as a second reading. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Adams presented the Appointment of Superintendent of School and read the bio of Dr. Jeffrey Weiss.

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the employment of Dr. Jeffrey Weiss as the new Superintendent of Schools effective October 1, 2022. Mrs. Schmaling seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education, presented the Head Start Annual Report submitted by herself, Mr. Martin Pitts, Regional Coordinator of Leadership and Learning/Elementary; Mr. Haithcock; 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. 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.

Performance standards are the requirements mandated by Head Start, which is a federally funded program. Head Start required 45% of the enrollment to be in a full day program by August 2021. KUSD requested a waiver for this requirement with the submission of the grant application in April. Notification received in October stated that no waivers were approved, therefore, in January 2022, enrollment was changed at Chavez Learning Station to provide two full day classrooms and three half-day classrooms. This allowed the program to maintain the enrollments currently attending Chavez Learning Station and show our attempt to meet the full day requirement. Forty children attended a full day program from January through June.

In order to meet the 45% enrollment expectations for the 2022-2023 school year, full day program enrollment will be expanded to include one classroom at Bose Elementary School, one classroom at Brass Community School, one classroom at EBSOLA- CA and four classrooms at Chavez Learning Station. Enrollment in the elementary school classes will be 100% head start children, changing the previous practice of blending 4K and Head Start children in the same classroom. The full day students will be Head Start enrollments only. The half-day program will continue to enroll 4K and Head Start children in the same classroom.

Enrollment of 330 federal students was not met during any month this year. The highest monthly enrollment was 306 students (127 three year olds and 179 four year olds) during the 2021-2022 school year. Although cumulative enrollment was 365 children, throughout the year 51 students were withdrawn from the program. Nine of these children were in the program less than 45 days. The students withdrawn were mostly due to the families moving out of the district or area, parent choice to move to their boundary school with no Head Start program, transportation issues, or lack of attendance. There were 77 students enrolled in Head Start for a second year. There are 136 students leaving Head Start and entering kindergarten in the fall of 2022.

Currently, 240 students have been accepted into the program for the 2022-2023 school year as compared to 200 at the beginning of September last year. Families will continue to be recruited to participate in Head Start throughout the school year. Enrollment progress will be monitored through the monthly HS22 reports that are provided to the Head Start Policy Council and School Board.

Head Start was located at the following locations for the 2021-2022 school year: Bose Elementary, Brass Community School, Chavez Learning Station, EBSOLA-CA, Frank Elementary, Grewenow Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Strange Elementary, Vernon Elementary, and Wilson Elementary. There is a total of 33 classroom sessions that enroll Head Start students. There are no changes to the locations of Head Start for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Kenosha Unified Head Start Program reports student progress three times per year using Teaching Strategies GOLD™. School Readiness Outcomes (reported for 317 children) for Spring, 2021-2022 showed the most significant areas of improvement for the 2021-2022 school year are Literacy (36% increase in children meeting or exceeding expectations from Fall to Spring) and Math (32% increase). The highest area of achievement for Spring is Physical Development. This continues the trend from each reporting period this year and from this time for the last three years in which data was collected, (no data collected for spring, 2019-2020 due to the pandemic).

This is an informational report provided every six months.”

Dr. Ormseth and Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, presented the 2022-2023 Elementary School Multiage Waivers Request submitted by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Haithcock, and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“On July 30, 2013, revisions were made to Kenosha Unified School District School Board Policy 6432 – Class Size (Attachment A). See Attachment B, item Number (6) for the revision that was approved by the Board of Education pertaining to Policy 6432-Class Size.

In order to meet the guidelines for number six (6) of Policy 6432 for the 2022-2023 school year, the administration is requesting waivers for the following three (3) elementary schools: Grant Elementary, Prairie Lane Elementary, and Somers Elementary.

Based on an average teacher salary and benefits rate of \$95,000, the financial cost to Kenosha Unified School District to add five (5) teachers, if a waiver was not approved, would be \$475,000.00.

Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the class size waiver requests for Grant, Prairie Lane, and Somers Elementary Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.”

Mr. Battle moved to approve the class size waiver requests for Grant, Prairie Lane, and Somers Elementary Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approve.

Mr. Keckler presented the Proposed Changes to KUSD Policy 5210 – Entrance Age submitted by himself, Ms. Rhode, Mr. Haithcock, and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Kenosha Unified Policy 5210 establishes the entrance age for all students who wish to enroll within the district. Based on current state of Wisconsin statutes, the marker date of September 1, is used to identify the age of the student in relation to the expected grade level placement. This policy was last updated in the spring of 2011, and with recent impact from the COVID pandemic, as well as clarification on the historical district practices, some updated language has been provided to help clarify this process for staff and parents.

The last few years has shown a large fluctuation in early education enrollment practices for nearly every school district. Many parents kept students out of public education during the early years of the COVID pandemic, and grades 4K and K are not

required attendance ages/grade levels. Due to this increased evidence of delayed enrollment practices, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has worked to promote equalized enrollment based mainly from the age of the student for early education classes.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the proposed changes to KUSD Policy 5210 Entrance Age as a first reading at its September 27, 2022, regular School Board meeting, and then move the draft along to a second reading at its October 25, 2022, regular School Board meeting.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the proposed changes to KUSD Policy 5210 - Entrance Age as a first reading. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the KUSD Policy and Related Waiver Items for School Year 2022-23 submitted by Mrs. Housaman, Mr. Haithock, Mr. Keckler, and Dr. Ormseth, excerpts follow:

“Since the onset of the COVID Pandemic, KUSD has implemented approved waivers, both at the state and local level, for a variety of regulatory areas. Some examples were related to instructional minutes, attendance procedures, access to KUSD property and educator effectiveness evaluations. The vast majority of prior waivers have been resolved through either policy changes or changes to the COVID Pandemic strategies. This policy waiver is mainly to address the voluntary masking options for KUSD students and to allow students to have backpacks with them in class and during the day to help carry and protect related technology and ease of transporting other educational materials.

Waived areas would relate to the approved use of COVID style face coverings and use of backpacks throughout the day to minimize physical contact areas and locker congestion. Approved masks are ones that cover the nose and mouth. Full face masks (i.e. ski masks) are not acceptable nor approved. Administration will continue to monitor this practice to best address health related needs and might make subsequent adjustments. While this report is focused on masks for this school year, it is important to note that there is a group working on reviewing the full student dress code. The process is underway and will include staff, student and parent/guardian feedback being collected prior to recommendations being made to the Board of Education for consideration.

Any and all approved waivers and their respective changes will be communicated to all students, staff, and parents for the 2022-23 school year.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the listed waiver request for KUSD Policy 5431 Student Dress Code at the September 27, 2022, regular School Board meeting.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the listed waiver request for KUSD Policy 5431 - Student Dress Code. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Stevens presented Resolution 399 – National Bullying Prevention Month October 2022, 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.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve Resolution 399 – National Bullying Prevention Month October 2022. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Modder presented Resolution 400 – Italian Heritage Month October 2022, which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, in 1989, President George H. W. Bush and Congress first proclaimed Italian Heritage Month to celebrate the heritage, achievements, and contributions Italians have made to American culture; and

WHEREAS, October coincides with Columbus Day, which is celebrated on the second Monday of October; and WHEREAS, Kenosha is home to an Italian-American community that has long contributed to our city’s rich history; and

WHEREAS, Italian and Italian-American Heritage Month is held to salute the Italian and Italian American community and to exhibit appreciation for their culture and heritage that have immeasurably enriched our community, nation and world; and

WHEREAS, corresponding school activities held in October, as well as throughout the school year, will educate students about Italian 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 does hereby proclaim October as Italian Heritage Month in an effort to recognize and honor the contributions Italian and Italian-American people have made on our community, nation and world.

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 400 – Italian Heritage Month October 2022. Ms. Stevens seconded. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Meadows presented Resolution 401 – Polish Heritage Month October 2022, which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, in 1981, Polish American activists residing in Pennsylvania designated October as Polish Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, October coincides with the anniversary of Casimir Pulaski’s death and when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, Virginia in 1608; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 a proposal was made at the national Polish American Congress meeting to celebrate Polish Heritage Month nationwide; and

WHEREAS, by observing Polish Heritage Month, we raise awareness of and celebrate the Polish culture, traditions and contributions that have impacted business, law, education, politics, science, the arts and more; and

WHEREAS, celebrating events like Polish Heritage Month remind us of the rich and diverse heritage of our community and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Kenosha Unified School District does hereby proclaim October as Polish Heritage Month in an effort to recognize and honor the contributions Polish and Polish-American people have made on our community, nation and world.

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

Mr. Meadows moved to approve Resolution 401 – Polish Heritage Month October 2022. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented Resolution 402 – Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week October 2-8, 2022, 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 continually 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 2-8, 2022, 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 402 – Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week October 2-8, 2022. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Meadows dissenting.

Ms. Stevens presented the Donations to the District.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Stacy Stephens
School Board Secretary