

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2023

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. via the Google Meet platform. Ms. Adams, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mrs. Schmaling, Mr. Price, Mr. Meadows, Mr. Battle, Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Modder, and Ms. Adams. Dr. Weiss 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.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officer, recognized the Tremper High School Theatre Arts Program Cast and Crew Earned Awards at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association State Theatre Festival and the Tremper High School Theatre Arts Program Cast and Crew Were Recognized at the Educational Theatre Association Thespy Competition.

Mr. William Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership, introduced the student ambassador, Eden Murray from Reuther Central High School, and she made her comments.

There were no Administrative or Supervisory Appointments.

Dr. Weiss 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 1/24/23 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 1/24/23 Regular Meeting, 1/31/23 Special Meeting, and 1/31/23 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. Jeffrey Weiss, Superintendent of Schools; excerpts follow:

"It is recommended that the January 2023 cash receipt deposits totaling \$112,448.28, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$37,262,654.24, be approved.

Check numbers 619249 through 620144 (net of voided batches) totaling \$4,935,020.34, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$4,015,716.08, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the January 2023 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$14,699,463.70, and net payroll check batches totaling \$6,746.86, be approved."

Consent- Approve item X-D – Policy 1600 – Visitors and Policy 1610 – Registered Sex Offenders submitted by Mr. Haithcock and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

"In an effort to better align with updated visitor protocols and new technology providing schools with the instant ability to identify registered sex offenders, administration has reviewed Policy 1600 - Visitors and Policy 1610 - Registered Sex offenders and has proposed updates to each.

In the Fall of 2022, KUSD implemented the district-wide use of the Raptor Visitor Management System. Raptor System protocols provide schools with the ability to immediately identify registered sex offenders. This new capability allows KUSD schools to more readily identify potentially dangerous individuals and significantly increase levels of safety for all stakeholders. The proposed updated policies reflect KUSD's current visitor management system and protocols.

Administration recommends the Board approves the proposed revisions to Policy 1600 - Visitors and Policy 1610 - Registered Sex Offenders as a second reading on February 28, 2023."

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the consent agenda, items A, B, C and D, as presented. Mr. Battle seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mrs. Schmaling and Mr. Meadows dissenting.

Dr. Weiss presented the Governance Core Book Discussion – Moral Imperative submitted by himself, excerpts follow:

"For the past several months, the school board has been reading and discussing the major concepts of good school governance that are illustrated in Governance Core by Davis Campbell and Michael Fullan. One of the cornerstones of effective governance is agreement on the moral imperative of the school district. The moral imperative is "...geared toward real, concrete educational goals for children. It is not so much a philosophical belief as it is a commitment to shared fundamental actions..." (19). The moral imperative provides the foundation for the development of district goals and strategic planning to reach these goals.

At the special board meeting facilitated by Dr. Dan Nerad on January 11, each board member shared words or phrases that they believe should be contained in KUSD's moral imperative. Board members' responses are below. There are also two options for the board to consider adopting as KUSD's moral imperative.

It is recommended that the school board choose either option below to serve as KUSD's moral imperative:

Option #1: ALL students will feel safe, cared for, and learn to high levels without exception.

Option #2: ALL students will have an equal opportunity to prepare for college and/or careers in a learning environment that is resource rich, safe, and welcoming.”

Mr. Price moved to approve Option #2 with the additional wording “with the support of highly qualified educators” after the word “careers” to read as follows: ALL student will have an equal opportunity to prepare for college and/or careers with the support of highly qualified educators in a learning environment that is resource rich, safe, and welcoming. Mrs. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Hamdan presented the LakeView Technology Academy Lease submitted by Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities; Mr. Hamdan; and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“At the regular meeting held on June 28, 2022, the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the relocation of the Lakeview Technology Academy to the new Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood (KIN) located on the former Chrysler engine plant site. A full copy of that board report is included as Attachment A for reference.

The current building housing Lakeview Technology Academy is owned by the Kenosha Area Business Alliance Foundation (KABAF) and leased to KUSD. We share the building with Gateway Technical College (GTC) with whom we have a sublease covering 35% of the monthly lease payment. This arrangement will continue once the school is relocated to the new KIN site. As stated in the approved board report, the monthly lease payment is scheduled to initially double and include escalators in future years. Attachment B is a summary of the proposed payment schedule.

It was also stated in that June 2022 report (Attachment A) that the administration would bring back to the Board a lease agreement for approval, a draft of which is included as Attachment C. Legal teams representing KABAF, the City of Kenosha, and KUSD are working to finalize mutually agreed upon insurance language that is highlighted in the document. Once this step is complete, the lease agreement will be ready for execution.

The new sublease between KUSD and GTC will also come to the Board for approval after KABAF/KUSD lease agreement is fully executed.

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the terms of the attached lease agreement between the Kenosha Area Business Alliance Foundation and the Kenosha Unified School District pending finalization of the insurance language.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the terms of the lease agreement between the Kenosha Area Business Alliance Foundation and the Kenosha Unified School District pending finalization of the insurance language. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Battle abstaining.

Dr. Bethany Ormseth, Principal at LakeView Technology Academy gave a LakeView Technology Academy – KUSD Pathways PowerPoint presentation which covered the following topics: Lakeview Technology Academy, current LakeView pathways, project-based learning, industry-grade equipment, LakeView points of pride, existing LakeView building, opportunity knocks, proposed expansion programming, KUSD pathways, “new” LakeView, local CNC needs, local automated manufacturing needs, KUSD student enrollment, and next steps/timelines.

Mr. Hamdan presented the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Grant Update submitted by Mr. Robert Neu, Director of Title Programs; Mr. Finnemore; Mr. Hamdan; and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“The purpose of this report is to formally request approval to modify the ESSER II grant plan in order to make the final allowable expenditures necessary to close out the grant by the September 30, 2023 deadline.

The district was awarded three rounds of ESSER funding. The public portion of the first round allocation (ESSER I) was \$4.66 MM and ended this past September 30, 2022. The second round allocation (ESSER II) is \$19.98 MM which must be spent by September 30, 2023. The third and final round allocation (ESSER III) is \$44.84 MM which we will have until September 30, 2024, to spend.

On June 22, 2021, the Board approved the administrative recommendation to direct \$15 MM of the ESSER II allocation to fund eligible facilities projects that would improve indoor air quality, ventilation, and comfort in classrooms.

On September 28, 2021, the Board approved the administrative recommendation to direct the remaining portion of the ESSER II allocation to fund other pandemic-related needs such as Reading and Math Intervention Specialists, Social Emotional Learning Intervention Specialists, Virtual Instructors, Technology Support Technician and dedicated long-term building substitute teachers.

As we quickly approach the end of the grant period for ESSER II, the administration is projecting just over \$1 MM of available funds primarily due to approved positions not being filled and dedicated building subs not participating in our health insurance plan offerings.

The Facilities Department has identified three smaller air-handling equipment projects serving specific areas at Washington Middle School, Frank Elementary, and Southport Elementary. These projects would have simpler designs and shorter equipment lead times that would allow them to be completed within the grant period. These are also projects that were identified with the help of our HVAC crew as being on the list of things that would otherwise need to be addressed within the next few years using district-funded major maintenance money.

The administration recommends that the Board approve modifications to the ESSER II plan to allow for approximately \$1,011,000 of additional funds to be used towards eligible facilities projects and direct the administrative team to make the necessary adjustments to spend down the remaining portion of the grant.”

Ms. Stevens moved to approve the modifications to the ESSER II plan to allow approximately \$1,011,000 additional funds to be used towards eligible facilities projects in order to spend down the remaining portion of the grant. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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

“The purpose of this report is to ensure community and school board awareness of the progress of the Kenosha Unified Head Start Program. This is an informational report provided every six months to the School Board. 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. Currently, there are 331 students in the program.

All Head Start programs are structured through a common framework with the following components: Program Design and Management, Family and Community Partnership, and Early Childhood Development and Health Services. This report will summarize activities in each of these components from July 2022 through December 2022.

Head Start enrollment as of December 31, 2022 was 331 students, which meets the federal enrollment requirement for this year. Currently, 193 of KUSD’s Head Start children are four years-old and 138 are three years-old. There are 171 students enrolled in full day sessions and 160 enrolled in half-day sessions. The program prioritized enrollment of four year olds in the full day option in order to better prepare students for kindergarten. There are 128 four year olds and 43 three year olds enrolled in full day sessions. There are 65 four year olds and 95 three year olds enrolled in half-day sessions.

During the summer months, 55 children were withdrawn from the Head Start program. Of those 55 students, 20 continued enrollment with KUSD by attending their boundary school with no Head Start program, 13 continued enrollment with KUSD at a choice or charter school, 14 moved out of the service area, 4 left KUSD to go to a private school and 4 left KUSD choosing not to enroll in any program. From September to December, 2022, 16 students were withdrawn from the Head Start program, Of these 16, 9 have moved out of the service area, 2 were placed in a different special education program, 3 were parent choice to stay home and 2 were for transportation issues. Staff continue to reach out and advertise the program in the community. Many enrollments come from word of mouth referrals from past participants.

Head Start Performance Standards require that every Head Start child have multiple health assessments to ensure that the child is healthy enough to learn. Children/families that are accepted into the Head Start program and do not have these health assessments receive support to guarantee these assessments occur within the first 90 days of the program. There have been challenges in the health area that the program continues to problem solve. One huge challenge has been getting the documentation from doctor and dentist offices to show children have received services. This is an important piece as the nurse is then able to identify

medical concerns that are not reported by families when they fill out registration information. The nurse will contact families and discuss these medical concerns and create medical plans to ensure the medical safety of the children while at school. The nurse also follows up with families about the medical concerns that they do share with the district as well. Another challenge has been keeping up with expiring physicals and working with the families to ensure children receive follow up medical care.

A partnership between Head Start and the Kenosha County Health Department provided an opportunity to offer a lead testing clinic in the uptown area in December. Twenty-two Head Start families brought their children to this clinic to have their blood tested for lead levels. They were able to identify two students with high lead levels and provide follow up care for them. This clinic also enabled Head Start to meet health requirements for our students.

Head Start also partnered with the Kenosha Community Health Center (KCHC) to provide dental care to our young students through the Seal A Smile program. This partnership has helped the program meet dental requirements with students, however it has increased the number in need of follow up dental care. Many students have been identified as needing work to fill cavities. The limited pediatric dentists available in our community are scheduling months out, thus providing a challenge in helping students get the dental follow up care they need.

Staff continue to work with the families to help the children get the health care that they need. Systems were adjusted to include the Family Service Providers as the main support for families in obtaining the medical and dental resources they need. Referrals were made to Kenosha County Health Clinic, Aurora Health Center, and Lakeside Pediatrics. KCHC designates one day a month for dental appointments just for Head Start students. Through a partnership with Gateway Technical College, student nurses have provided support in completing growth assessments, which include height, weight, and blood pressure assessments for those students who have not seen a doctor for a recent physical. All of these efforts help the program meet the Head Start medical and dental requirements.

This report is for informational purposes only.”

Mr. Haithcock and Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer, presented the Summer School 2023 Program Proposal submitted by Mr. Eitan Benzaquen, Principal of Hillcrest, Phoenix Project & Summer School Leader; Mr. Haithcock; Mrs. Housaman; and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“Kenosha Unified School District Summer School and recreation programs provide summer intervention and enrichment opportunities for the Kenosha community. For summer 2022 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.

Summer School was focused on addressing learning gaps for kindergarten through fourth grade students. Intensive reading and math intervention programs were designed, and

identified students were invited to participate in the six-week program. The student-to-teacher ratio for these programs was capped at 18 to 1 (15 to 1 in 2021 SY). We continued to utilize the Reading Instruction for Students to Excel (RISE) curriculum for all grade level reading intervention instruction. For whole group reading instruction the Summer Lit Camp program was again used. During Summer School math classes, students were able to continue their interaction with workplace activities and the Bridges Math Intervention program. Several elementary schools continued to use a regional site partner plan while others held programs at their respective buildings (Appendix A). Shuttle opportunities were used to transport students to their regional site from their neighborhood school. Summer School transportation was provided for students who qualified for transportation during the regular school year.

At the middle school level, identified students attended the six-week Summer School program for intensive reading and math instruction at their boundary middle schools. The Strategic Adolescent Reading Intervention (STARI) curriculum was purchased for use as the summer English Language Arts curriculum. Middle school students participated in a Mindset 88 Math Camp, which focused on students developing a positive attitude towards math and their individual math abilities. Both programs had an 18-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio (prior year was 15-to-1).

High school students were offered the following course options for summer 2022: credit recover, high school newcomer English language development, iowa assessments, jump start to high school, and physical education.

The Life, Learning, and Leisure program serves students with significant disabilities, in grades 1st through 12th. Students enrolled in this program take part in activities that support learning in the areas of personal care, social skills, communication and academic reinforcement.

The Employability Skills program is a collaboration among the Kenosha Unified School District, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services to provide at-risk children with opportunities that link academic and occupational standards to workplace skills and experiences. The classroom instruction focused on work readiness skills, including money and banking, social, higher education, resume writing and interviewing, conflict management, job seeking, safety in the workplace, and employer 90 expectation. After successfully completing the classroom instruction portion of the course and 68 hours of employment at various work sites, students earned a half elective credit.

2022 Fine Arts offerings returned to pre-COVID format. Band ensembles were offered for 5th through 12th grade; including parade marching with Rambler (middle school) / Blackwatch (high school) and color guard (MS/HS). Performances for students in the band ensembles were held at Indian Trail and at the Bradford Stadium with high levels of parent and community attendance. Orchestra lessons for beginners and ensembles for 5th through 12th grade were offered and culminated in a well attended concert in the Indian Trail fieldhouse. KYPAC returned this summer with performances of "Schoolhouse Rock" in the Mahone auditorium.

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 2023 (Appendix D). A shuttle bus will be provided from students' boundary schools to the host regional 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).

Administration recommends that the Board of Education grant approval to allocate funds for the 2023 Summer School program.”

Mr. Price moved to approve to allocate funds for the 2023 Summer School program. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, presented the School Year 2023-24 Alternative Instructional Calendar Update submitted by Mrs. Housaman, Mr. Haithcock, Mr. Keckler, and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“On March 22, 2022, the Kenosha Unified School Board approved the Instructional Calendars for the 2023-24 school year. Since that time, the alternative year calendar that applies to Frank Elementary received further feedback and review in regards to professional learning options, pacing of the quarterly curriculum, and enrichment week formats

There are no proposed changes to the months of December, January, April, May or June. Aside from the start of the school year, the majority of the proposed changes are just shifting existing days to better align with pacing of the quarterly curriculum and allocation of resources aligned to professional learning.

Administration recommends that the School Board review and accept the proposed revisions to the Alternative Year Instructional Calendar for 2023-24, at its February 28, 2023, meeting.”

Mr. Meadows moved to approve the proposed revisions to the Alternative Year Instructional Calendar for 2023-24. Mrs. Schmaling seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the Four-Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis submitted by Ms. Laura Sawyer, Data Analyst; Mr. Haithcock; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“The “Four Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis” report is a comprehensive examination of the graduation rates of the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) for the Graduation Class of 2022. This is the annual graduation report to the Kenosha Unified School Board as it examines each graduation class in terms of a “static” graduation rate, referred to as “Base Cohort”. All KUSD students who enter grade nine are tracked until the end of their class’s designated graduation cycle (four years later). No allowance is made for any students who enter that class as it progresses from the ninth grade until the twelfth grade and its eventual graduation. For example, first-time ninth graders who are in attendance on the Official Third Friday Count Day during School Year 2018-19 are tracked with respect to their educational progress until the end of summer school in August 2022. Therefore, the ninth graders of School Year 2018-19 become the Graduation Cohort Class of 2022 (School Year 2021-22).

Additionally, this report also examines the graduation rates in terms of progress made during the three years beyond a designated graduation year, that is, the five-year rate of the Graduation Class of 2021 and seven year rate of the Graduation Class of 2019. This process aligns to both the Wisconsin state statute for allowing for a free education until a student reaches age 20.

The number of students in the cohort group of SY 2018-19 was 1,605, including 171 students who transferred out during the period between 2018-19, and the graduating school year. When including "IOWA" graduates, 1,282 students graduated, resulting in a 4-year graduation rate of 89.2% for the Cohort Class of 2022. This is a slight increase from the 2021, 4-year rate of 88.8%. When excluding "IOWA" graduates 1,111 students graduated (77.3%), a decrease from the prior graduating class (79.2%). The Class of 2022 reported the greatest percentage of graduates using the High School Competency Diploma Option (15.6%); typically, the IOWA graduates average approximately 11%-12% of the respective graduating cohort. KUSD recognized 171 cohort 2022 Iowa graduates.

Two hundred twenty five students (15.6%) were classified as "DROPOUTS" when including the "IOWA" graduates as dropouts, and 54 students (3.8%) when excluding the "IOWA" graduates. The number of students classified as "CREDIT DEFICIENT" was 103 or 7.1%, a decrease of 1.7% from the 2021 rate of 8.8%. It should be noted that 38 of the 103 students who were "CREDIT DEFICIENT" are students with disabilities who are legally permitted to stay in school through the age of 21 if indicated on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Appendix C contains the graduation rates by student subgroups for the Graduation Class of 2021 at the completion of the fifth year in KUSD (summer 2022). The number of students who began this cohort group was 1,651. At the end of the five-year period, 1,203 students (79.7%) graduated when excluding "IOWA" graduates and 1,386 students (91.8%) graduated when including "IOWA" graduates, resulting in a decrease of 2.0% and an decrease of 2.4%, respectively, when compared to the end of the fifth year of the Class of 2019. When excluding "IOWA" graduates from the "GRADUATED" category and including them in the "DROPOUT" category, there were 265 students (17.6%) classified as "DROPOUT". When including "IOWA" graduates in the "GRADUATED" category and excluding them from the "DROPOUT" category, the "DROPOUT" rate increased to 5.4% (82 students). The 5-year graduation rate of 91.8% from the Class of 2021, is a decrease from 94.6% for the class of 2020. It should be noted that the cohort class of 2020 had multiple graduation waivers applied due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This supportive measure was very common across the state and nation.

This report is an informational item."

Mrs. Modder moved to accept the Four-Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis. Mrs. Schmaling seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Weiss presented the Date Change for November and December 2023 Regular Board Meetings submitted by himself, excerpts follow:

"School Board Policy 8710 – Regular School Board Meetings states:

“Annually at the organizational meeting, the School Board shall set the time and place of regular Board meetings. The schedule of regular meetings so made shall remain in effect until the fourth Monday in April of the following year, unless changed by a majority vote of the School Board during the year. The Board may also eliminate scheduled meetings as long as at least one regular School Board meeting is held each calendar month.”

At the April 25, 2022, Organizational Meeting, the following motion was approved:

Ms. Stevens moved that the School Board meetings continue to be held at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Educational Support Center and school sites to be determined. Mr. Price seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Administration recommends the following changes to the regular school board meeting schedule for 2023:

<u>Original Meeting Date</u>	<u>Proposed Meeting Date</u>	<u>Reason for Change</u>
November 28, 2023	November 14, 2023	Week prior to Thanksgiving recess; and
December 26, 2023	December 12, 2023	Two weeks earlier due to winter recess”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the changes to the regular school board meeting schedule for 2023 as presented. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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.

Ms. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder
School Board Secretary