

REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the John J. Hosmanek Educational Support Center. Ms. Adams, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. with the following Board members present: Mr. Meadows, Mrs. Modder, Mr. Battle, Mrs. Schmaling, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Price and Ms. Adams. Dr. Weiss and Ms. Schroeder were 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. Ruder presented the Statewide Musical Theater Awards (Jerry Awards) and the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Dr. Weiss gave the Superintendent's Report.

Mr. Price gave the Legislative Report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

Mr. Meadows made a motion to extend the time allotted for views and comments. Seconded by Mrs. Schmaling.

A motion to amend was made by Mrs. Schmaling to extend the time allotted for views and comments with a one minute limit per speaker. Seconded by Mr. Price. The motion to amend was defeated 4-3.

Board members then voted on the original motion to extend. Motion defeated 4-3.

Mr. Meadows introduced the student ambassador, Rogelio (JJ) Castro from Reuther Central High School, and he made his comments.

Remarks by the President were made by Ms. Adams.

There were no administrative or supervisory appointments.

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 8/22/23 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 8/22/23 Regular Meeting, and 8/31/23 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. Jeffrey Weiss, Superintendent of Schools; excerpts follow:

“It is recommended that the August 2023 cash receipt deposits totaling \$383,252.43, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$20,440,421.29, be approved.

Check numbers 626000 through 626703 (net of voided batches) totaling \$8,562,739.96, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$4,273,788.50, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the August 2023 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$9,384,840.32, and net payroll check batches totaling \$3,560.77, be approved.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Schmaling seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Weiss and Mr. Keckler, Chief Information Officer, presented the KUSD Rightsizing Committee and Project Update submitted by Dr. Weiss and Mr. Keckler, excerpts follow:

“The Kenosha Rightsizing Committee (KRC) had a September 25, 2023 meeting, just one day prior to the September 26, regular School Board meeting. The primary goals of both of these meetings will be the presentation of the recently completed 10-year forecast (attached) and utilization analysis. Methodology and additional data points will help the members and public understand how the resident study areas will change over time and impact KUSD enrollments. Part of this analysis is the student yield rates related to new housing developments. Based on past enrollments from the last 10 years of housing growth and planned developments, KUSD could expect to gain 56 students for every 100 new single-family homes and just 19 students for every 100 new apartments. These figures would be distributed across 13 grade levels and diluted by requests for nonboundary enrollments. The KRC also reviewed the Board approved August 31, 2023, initial rightsizing parameters and how those will shape potential scenarios.

Administration has scheduled the following three community presentations and feedback options:

- October 17, 2023, Indian Trail Auditorium, 5:30 pm; and
- October 18, 2023, Tremper Auditorium, 4:00 pm, and
- October 18, 2023, Reuther Auditorium, 6:30 pm (bilingual).

To help ensure staff awareness, all KUSD principals attended a Rightsizing update presentation given by the Superintendent (September 12, 19, and 20). Building principals will also share this presentation with their respective building staff no later than the end of September. All ESC staff had opportunities to attend this presentation on multiple occasions.

Administrative Recommendation: This item is primarily informational, but the Board may take action as noticed in the full agenda.”

No motions were made, as this was an informational item.

Mr. William Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership, and Ms. Rhonda Lopez, Principal of Chavez/Head Start, presented the Head Start Semi-Annual Report, submitted by Dr. Weiss, Mr. Haithcock, Ms. Lopez, and Mr. Martin Pitts, Regional Coordinator of Leadership and Learning/Elementary. 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. Head Start is defined as a program that works with the most identified at-risk three and four 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 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. This report will summarize activities in each of these components from January 2023 through June 2023.”

No motions were made, as this was an informational item.

Mr. Battle presented Resolution 413 – Resolution in Recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month 2023, 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.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve Resolution 413 – Resolution in Recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month 2023. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Schmaling presented Resolution 414 – Resolution in Recognition of Italian Heritage Month 2023 which read as follows:

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

**WHEREAS**, Italians and Italian-Americans have made great contributions to America's society economically, culturally, and politically; 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.”

Mr. Price moved to approve Resolution 414 – Resolution in Recognition of Italian Heritage Month 2023. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Meadows dissenting.

Mrs. Modder presented Resolution 415 – Resolution in Recognition of Polish Heritage Month 2023 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.”

Mrs. Modder moved to approve Resolution 415 – Resolution in Recognition of Polish Heritage Month 2023. Ms. Stevens 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. Mrs. Modder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member announcements were made by Mr. Meadows, Mrs. Schmaling, Mrs. Modder, and Mr. Price.

Mrs. Modder moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Denise Ewing  
School Board Secretary