

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD JANUARY 24, 2023

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 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 7:04 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mr. Price, Mr. Meadows, Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Modder, and Ms. Adams. Dr. Weiss was also present. Mrs. Schmaling and Mr. Battle were excused.

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.

Mr. Price introduced the student ambassador, Ella Springer from Harborside Academy, and she made her comments.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communications Officer, presented the Bradford High School Cast and Crew of Decision Height Wins Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association Awards and the Bradford High School Production of Means Girls Selected to Perform on the Showcase Stage at Wisconsin Interscholastic Theatre Festival Award.

There were no Administrative or Supervisory Appointments.

Dr. Weiss gave the Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Modder and Mr. Price gave the legislative report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

Ms. Adams noted that the 45 minute time limit for views and comments had expired.

Mr. Price moved to extend the time for views and comments by the public. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

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 12/13/22 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 12/13/22 Regular Meeting, and 1/11/23 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 December 2022 cash receipt deposits totaling \$186,732.16, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$54,451,107.52, be approved.

Check numbers 618278 through 619248 (net of voided batches) totaling \$5,727,224.27, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$4,104,374.41, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the December 2022 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$18,113,513.30, and net payroll check batches totaling \$13,448.28, be approved.”

Consent-Approve item X-D – Policy 6432 – Class Size submitted by Mr. William Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership; Mrs. Ruder; and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“Policy 6432 - Class Size has not been updated since 2013. With looming budgetary constraints, declining enrollment, and fewer teachers entering the profession, the policy has been reviewed to ensure it is realistic and sustainable in our current day situation.

While at first glance it may appear to have a lot of stricken language, the main updates were made to remove items that no longer exist, such as the SAGE program reference and the use of educational support professionals to lessen large class size impacts. Neither of these items have been in place for many years, and as such, have been removed. This does not impact the use of special education educational support professionals, that practice will remain.

We also took the time to streamline the maximum class size listings to make it easier to read and understand. A review of current class size averages was done to determine what room, if any, would be available for adjustments to class size limits without having a major impact on classrooms. As such, the following minor increases and adjustments are recommended at various grade levels:

- K-1 = unchanged (max size of 22);
- 2-3 = increase by 2 (max size increase from 22 to 24);
- 4-5 = increase by 1 (max size increase from 25 to 26);
- Split level elementary classes = increase by 2 (max size increase from 20 to 22);
- Secondary academics = increase by 1 (max size increase from 29 to 30); and
- Maintains ability to have larger band, choir, orchestra and theater class sizes.

In all cases, reasonable effort will be made to stay below the numbers outlined above, and quite often fall well below the maximum levels. However, in rare instances, they may also exceed the numbers. Class sizes are based on the student population of each school and ebb and flow from year-to-year, especially in areas with transient populations. The numbers above provide a guide that help the district plan staffing each year, and also allow flexibility to address areas of need if they should arise.

Administration recommends that the board approve the proposed revisions to Policy 6432 - Class Size as a second reading on Jan. 24, 2023.”

Consent-Approve item X-E – Policy 8712 – School Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Dissemination submitted by Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“Board President Ms. Adams requested Policy and Rule 8712 be brought forward for proposed revisions as a first reading at the December 13, 2022, regular school board meeting.

The proposed policy revisions are intended to add clarity, increased accessibility to agendas and additional opportunity for board member and student ambassador comments.

It is recommended that the board approve the suggested revisions to Policy and Rule 8712 as a second reading on Jan. 24, 2023.”

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

Dr. Weiss introduced the Governance Core Book Discussion. Dr. Weiss and board members shared passages from Chapters 4 and 5 that resonated and/or gave them pause.

Mr. Hamdan and Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer, gave a Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Proposals PowerPoint presentation which covered the following topics: KUSD annual total enrollment, 2023-24 projections resulting in \$9.6M deficit, 12/13/22 approved reductions (\$3.09M), 1/24/23 recommended reductions (\$6.7M), Wilson Elementary data, capacity information, Wilson Elementary boundary information, current Wilson Elementary enrollments by grade and resident boundary school, teacher attrition reduction (-\$1.5M), district contributions to staff HSA (-\$2M), ESSER funds proposal (-\$1.5M), and administration’s recommendation for the following:

1. Reduce number of schools saving \$1,200,000;
 - Close Wilson Elementary;
2. Reduce ESC staffing saving \$500,000;
3. Reduce staffing districtwide through annual attrition and right-sizing adjustments saving \$1,500,000;
4. Reduce district HSA contributions by 50% to \$300 single, \$600 family and cover cost using TID or 2022-23 staffing variance funds (one-time payment in June 2023, rather than two payments like the past);
 - Eliminate district HSA contributions in FY 2023-24 saving \$2,000,000; and
5. Utilize \$1.5M of one-time funds for district funded expenses saving \$1,500,000;
 - Must be restored in Fund 10 in 2024-25.

Mr. Meadows moved to approve the proposed budget cuts brought forward by administration. Mr. Price seconded. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Haithcock presented 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 first reading on January 24, 2023 and a second reading on February 28, 2023."

Mrs. Modder moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 1600 - Visitors and Policy 1610 - Registered Sex Offenders as a first reading. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the Open Enrollment Allocation 2023-24 School Year submitted by Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education Programs; Ms. Jenny Schmidt, Director of Special Education and Student Support; Mr. Haithcock, Mr. Keckler, and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

"The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) stipulates that each resident school district allocate open enrollment spaces during their January board meetings. The 2023-24 Open Enrollment period is from February 6, 2023, to April 28, 2023. Along with the posted 3-month open enrollment window, applicants may also apply to a non-resident district using the designated Alternative Open Enrollment Application during the current school year if the applicant can demonstrate that he/she meets certain criteria. Appendix A contains a listing by grade of available open enrollment regular education spaces for School Year 2023-24. Each District must delineate both regular education and special education seats by grade level, program, and/or service type.

The state open enrollment statute and KUSD Policy 5260 (Full-Time Open Enrollment) require a current open-enrolled student re-apply just once, which is during the transition from elementary to middle school, or if they first enrolled during middle school, then they must reapply during the transition from middle school to high school. Also, tuition waiver students (those who start the year in KUSD but move out of the district) have a right to complete the current school year and apply for open enrollment to attend the following year. Even though these are current KUSD students, they are counted as new applications for state reporting. The Offices of Educational Accountability, School Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Special Education/Student Support, and Early Education have provided the following recommendations for available KUSD spaces for School Year 2023-24.

Administration recommends that the Kenosha Unified School Board affirm and approve the space available for open-enrollment students for the school year 2023-24. The recommendation is for 185 spaces, 19 of which are designated for selected special education programs service/types as noted in Appendix A & B."

Ms. Stevens moved approve the recommended 185 spaces, 19 of which are designated for space selected special education programs service/types, for open enrollment students for the the 2023-24 school year as noted in Appendix A & B. Mr. Meadows seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Haithcock presented the Community Liaison Partnership Kenosha County Department of Human Services submitted by himself and Dr. Weiss, excerpts follow:

“The Kenosha County Department of Human Services; Division of Children & Family Services (DCFS) and the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) have been in partnership for over 20 years working together collaboratively to address the needs of KUSD students who a.re struggling within the community, with school attendance and also struggle in school with behavior. The district uses Fund 80 dollars to maintain this partnership with DCFS who in tum contracts with Community Impact Programs {CIP) who provides school liaisons to help supervise and mentor these students. Participating students are referred to the program by parents or school staff. They receive supportive services as outlined in the program specifications (Exhibit 2 and 3). Those services include assisting students with problem solving, academic challenges and other relationship building skills.

Through this Purchase of Service Contract (Attachment A), seven school liaisons are currently placed at Bullen Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, Washington Middle School, Tremper High School, Bradford High School, Indian Trail High School and Reuther Central High School. The liaisons work one to one with up to 15 students at any given time. Typically, the hours of work for this position vary, Monday through Friday during school hours. However, school liaisons are expected to work occasional evening and weekend hours outside of the school day to provide activities and accommodate the needs of the student. A requirement of the position is also for liaisons to be available via. cell phone throughout the day, unless other arrangements for coverage have been made.

Another one of the goals (Exhibit 4) for the School Liaison Program also includes plans for increasing parental involvement. Therefore, this partnership with KUSD and DCFS is invaluable to our students and their families.

Additional documents within this packet include the approved budget of the program {Exhibit 1) and an explanation of the confidentiality agreement {Exhibit 5.) Please note that for the first time in the documented history of this program, the financial cost of the program is increasing \$32,000 per year. This cost increase is due to a combination of staffing challenges and inflation. All costs will continue to be covered through Fund 80.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve re-entering into this purchase service contract with the Kenosha County Department of Human Services, Division of Children & Family Services in the amount of \$241,800. This program will be brought forward to be reviewed and approved annually by the KUSD Board.”

Mrs. Modder moved to re-enter into the purchase service contract with the Kenosha County Department of Human Services, Division of Children & Family Services in the amount of \$241,800 and that this program be brought forward to be reviewed and approved annually by the KUSD Board. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Adams presented Resolution 406 – Black History Month 2023 which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, the origination of Black History Month stems back as far as 1915 when a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois took place to highlight the progress made since the destruction of slavery; and WHEREAS, every U.S. president since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month as a means to celebrate the achievements of black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, it is extremely important to reflect on, recognize and celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of black Americans throughout history, not just in February, but throughout the entire year; and

WHEREAS, by observing Black History Month, we raise awareness of the continuing struggle for freedom and equal opportunity, and bring focus to racial barriers to equal education in public schools and work towards closing racial achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, corresponding school activities held in February and throughout the school year will encourage students to strive for the best education as a means to fulfill their potential. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kenosha Unified School District’s Board of Education does hereby adopt this resolution to proclaim February as Black History Month.

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 406 – Black History Month 2023. Mrs. Modder 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. Price seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder
School Board Secretary