

A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2024

A special meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, in the Board Room at the John J. Hosmanek Educational Support Center. The purpose of this meeting was to hold a public hearing on the Recommendation of Nonrenewal of Administrator Contract of Ms. Jessica Tuttle, to consider a motion to adjourn to closed session, and to deliberate concerning a case which was the subject of a quasi-judicial hearing before the Board, for the purpose of considering and deliberating over the District Administration's Recommendation to Terminate the employment of a professional staff member and the response, if any, by the professional staff member and the professional staff member's representatives.

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Adams, Mr. Price, Mrs. Modder, and Ms. Stevens. Mr. Meadows and Mr. Battle were excused. Dr. Weiss, Mr. Neir, Attorney Christine Hamiel from Attolles Law, s.c., Ms. Susan Taylor, court reporter, and Ms. Jessica Tuttle, Communications Specialist and defendant, were also present.

Ms. Adams, President, opened the meeting by announcing that this was a special meeting of the School Board of the Kenosha Unified School District. Notice of this special meeting was given to the public by forwarding a copy of the notice to all requesting radio stations and newspapers.

Attorney Hamiel opened the hearing by explaining the procedure and began by having the Board, Administration, and Ms. Tuttle introduce themselves for the record. She explained that the board must base findings solely on things presented in this hearing.

Dr. Weiss gave the opening statement for the Administration.

Ms. Tuttle gave an opening statement in her defense.

Mrs. Kristine Schmaling arrived at 5:24 p.m.

Mr. Neir was sworn in by the court reporter as the first witness. Exhibits A-F were distributed. Mr. Neir gave testimony regarding exhibits A-F.

Ms. Tuttle was given time to ask questions of Mr. Neir.

The Board was given time to ask questions of Mr. Neir.

Ms. Tuttle then presented her case. She handed out two packets, one entitled "Supporting Documents" and the other "Letters of Support" from various district personnel.

The Administration was given time for rebuttal.

The Board then asked questions of Ms. Tuttle.

Attorney Hamiel gave one final opportunity for anyone to ask questions.

Dr. Weiss then gave the closing statement for the Administration.

Ms. Tuttle gave her closing statement.

Mr. Price made a motion that the board move into closed session. Second by Mrs. Modder. Motion carried unanimously. The board and Attorney Hamiel moved to the small boardroom at 6:30 p.m. for deliberation.

Mrs. Schmaling made a motion to move back to open session. Second by Mr. Price. Motion carried unanimously. The board moved back to the main boardroom in open session at 6:52 p.m.

Mrs. Modder made a motion to approve Administration's recommendation of non-renewal of the administrator (AST) contract and employment of Ms. Jessica Tuttle. Second by Ms. Stevens. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Stevens spoke for the board and offered Ms. Tuttle their support, including writing letters of recommendation, and anything needed to help her during this transition and wished her well.

Mrs. Modder made a motion to move into closed session. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously. The board moved into closed session at 6:59 p.m. and took a recess.

Ms. Adams reconvened closed session for a termination Hearing at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Adams, Mr. Price, Mrs. Modder, Mrs. Schmaling and Ms. Stevens. Dr. Weiss, Mr. Neir, Attorney Christine Hamiel from Attolles Law, s.c., Ms. Susan Taylor, court reporter, Ms. Christine Steiner, defendant, Attorney Nicholas Fairweather, and Mr. Rick Jossart, Ms. Steiner's partner, were also present.

Attorney Hamiel explained the process that both parties will present their case.

Dr. Weiss gave the opening statement for the Administration.

Attorney Fairweather gave the opening statement in defense of Ms. Steiner.

Mr. Neir was sworn in by the court reporter as the first witness. Exhibits A-F were distributed. Mr. Neir gave testimony regarding exhibits A-F.

Attorney Fairweather cross-examined the administration's testimony.

The Board was given time to ask questions of Mr. Neir.

Attorney Fairweather then presented the defense of Ms. Steiner by using the same documents, exhibits A-E of the Administration's packet, to make their case. The court reporter swore in Christine Steiner as a witness to answer questions.

The Board then asked questions of Ms. Steiner and Attorney Fairweather.

Attorney Hamiel gave one final opportunity for anyone to ask questions.

Dr. Weiss then gave the closing statement for the Administration.

Attorney Fairweather gave the closing statement for the defense.

The Board and Attorney Hamiel moved to the small boardroom for deliberation.

Mrs. Modder made a motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene in open session. Second by Mr. Price. Motion carried unanimously. The board moved back to the main boardroom in open session.

Mrs. Schmaling made a motion to approve Administration's recommendation of the termination of the administrator (AST) contract and employment of Ms. Christine Steiner effective June 30, 2024. Second by Ms. Stevens. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mrs. Modder. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Denise Ewing
School Board Secretary