

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD JULY 22, 2025

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the John J. Hosmanek Educational Support Center. Mrs. Modder, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Board members present: Ms. Adams, Mr. Bryan, Mrs. Landry, Mr. Tierney, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Price, and Mrs. Modder. Mr. Bill Haithcock, Chief of School Leadership, was also present. Dr. Weiss was excused.

Mrs. Modder, 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.

There were no Awards or Recognitions.

There was no Student Ambassador present.

Mr. Haithcock gave the Superintendent's Report.

Mr. Price gave the Legislative Report.

Views and comments were made by the public.

Mrs. Modder gave remarks by the President.

Mr. Haithcock read the biographies and presented the following Administrative Appointments: Andrew Baumgart as Regional Coordinator of Middle Schools and Matthew St. Martin as Principal of Bullen Middle School.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

Consent-Approve items X(A) – Revised Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, Resignations, and Separations;

Consent-Approve item X(B) – Minutes of the 6/24/25 Special Meeting and Executive Session, 6/24/25 Regular Meeting, 7/10/25 Special Meeting, and 7/10/25 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;

Ms. Adams moved to approve the consent agenda as presented with the Revised Personnel Report. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haithcock, along with Ms. Rhonda Lopez, Principal of Chavez/Head Start Director, presented the 2025-2026 Head Start State Supplemental Grant, submitted by themselves, Ms. Heather Connolly, Regional Coordinator of Leadership and Learning Elementary, and Dr. Weiss.

Mr. Bryan moved to approve the 2025-2026 Head Start State Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$323,866. Second by Mrs. Landry. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haithcock presented the KUSD School Safety Committee Update submitted by himself and Dr. Weiss.

The Administration's recommendations included the following:

No Additional Cost:

- That KUSD update its practices mandating that all classroom doors, while the classroom is in use, will keep all classroom doors locked and closed unless that door is being used during ingress or egress.
- That all KUSD schools have a cell phone use procedure approved by the Office of School Leadership.
- That all KUSD schools develop protocols to use Raptor as the standard visitor management system, including the use of the "vendor" access software during the school day when students are present.
- That the KUSD Facilities Department start to conduct a multi-year study assessing the "hard corner" readiness in all KUSD classrooms.

Nominal cost:

- Until funding is identified, it is recommended that KUSD continue to maintain door monitors at the seven schools that do not have a controlled entrance in place. (Bose, Curtis Strange, Forest Park, Harvey, Jeffrey, Lance, and Whittier.)
- That KUSD begin work to put in place a policy that allows administrators and deans to use metal detecting wands to aid in searches of students when reasonable suspicion of a weapon exists. (The Office of School Leadership and secondary schools would purchase a metal detecting wand, if they do not already own one.)
- That KUSD enter into an annual contract with Safer Schools Together in order to receive Worrisome Online Behavior (WOB) reports. (Estimate \$22,000 per year.)
- That the KUSD Facilities Department and the Office of School Leadership submit a "Critical Incident Stabilization Grant" to the Wisconsin DOJ OSS, not to exceed \$120,000, in order to purchase additional cameras, monitors, door buzzers, swipe card entry systems and exterior door latch monitors to improve security at our building entrances.

- That KUSD investigate the cost to add safety film to the remaining entrances at our elementary schools. (Currently, the main entrances have safety film applied in alignment with WI DOJ recommendations.)

Mr. Price moved to approve the KUSD School Safety Committee's recommendations of the nine items with no cost or nominal cost, with the understanding that Administration bring options and costs back to the board for secured entrances of the remaining seven schools (Bose, Curtis Strange, Forest Park, Harvey, Jeffery, Lance, and Whittier) to the August board meeting. Second by Mrs. Landry. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Wendy Tindall, Chief Academic Officer, and Ms. Mary Hoover, Coordinator of English Language Arts Elementary, presented the English Language Arts K-5 Curriculum Review submitted by themselves and Dr. Weiss.

No action was taken on this item as it was an informational item.

Mrs. Tindall presented Act 55 – Notice of Academic Standards, submitted by herself, Ms. Hoover, Mrs. Stacy Cortez, Coordinator of Elementary Math and Science, Mr. Che Kearby, Coordinator of Secondary English Language Arts and Social Studies, Mrs. Jennifer Lawler, Coordinator of Secondary math and Science, Ms. Lopez, and Dr. Weiss.

Ms. Adams moved to approve the annual declaration and parent notice of the district's student academic standards that will be in effect for the 2025-26 school year. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tarik Hamdan, Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Kevin Neir, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented the Educational Support Professional (ESP) Tier 3 Compensation Review submitted by themselves and Dr. Weiss.

Mrs. Landry moved to approve an increase of \$1 to each level (step) on Tier 3 of the ESP salary schedule for the 2025-2026 salary table. This change will be incorporated in any future changes the Board may approve to the full ESP salary table. The Fiscal impact to this recommendation would be approximately \$290,000, with some of the costs being covered by non-operational funding sources. Second by Mr. Bryan. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hamdan and Mr. Neir presented the Holiday Reinstatement for 10-month, benefit-eligible, non-contracted employees, submitted by themselves and Dr. Weiss.

Ms. Adams moved to reinstate the benefit of the day before Christmas Day and the day before New Year's Day for 10-month, benefit-eligible, non-contracted employees as it had been prior to its removal. The fiscal impact to this recommendation would be approximately \$139,000 with some costs being covered by non-operational funding sources. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hamdan presented the 2025-2026 Budget Update as submitted by himself and Dr. Weiss.

No action was taken on this item as it was an informational item.

Mr. Hamdan presented Negotiations with the Kenosha Education Association (KEA) for the 2025-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement and Base Wage Increase for Employee Groups other than Teachers as submitted by himself, Mr. Neir and Dr. Weiss.

Mr. Bryan moved to approve, contingent on ratification by the KEA, a total base wage increase of 2.95% across the board for all members of the bargaining unit represented by the KEA as well as all regular full-time equivalent employees not represented by the KEA, effective July 1, 2025, with the exception of the AST group to be tabled and discussed at the August board meeting. Second by Ms. Adams. Motion carried 6-1 with Mrs. Modder dissenting.

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution Urging Immediate Action by Federal Representatives to Demand the Release of Withheld FY 2025 Federal Education Funds. Motion to approve made by Mr. Price. Second by Ms. Landry. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haithcock presented the Approval of Expulsion Independent Hearing Officers submitted by himself and Dr. Weiss.

Mr. Price moved to approve the appointments of Therese Freiberg, Gayle Titus, and Michael Rupnow as Hearing Officers for the purpose of expulsion hearings for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$100 for the first hour and \$25 for every 15 minutes after the first hour, not to exceed \$300 per hearing. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hamdan presented the Renewal of Southeastern Wisconsin School Alliance (SWSA) Membership submitted by himself and Dr. Weiss.

Mrs. Landry moved to approve the resolution and membership in SWSA for 2025-2026 fiscal year for \$3,700 and the authorization of Board Officers and District Administration to execute any documents related to the renewal. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hamdan presented Revisions to Finance-Related Policies: Policy and Rule 1500 – Solicitations/Fundraising, Policy and Rule 3321 – Student Activity Funds, Policy and Rule 6740 – Student Fundraising Activities, Administrative Regulation 6740 – Fundraising Permission Form, and Policy and Rule 6741 – Raffles, as submitted by himself, Mr. Haithcock, Mrs. Lisa Salo, Accounting Manager, and Dr. Weiss.

Mr. Price moved to approve the revisions to Policy and Rule 1500 – Solicitations/Fundraising, Policy and Rule 3321 – Student Activity Funds, Policy and Rule 6740 – Student Fundraising Activities, Administrative Regulation 6740 – Fundraising Permission Form, and Policy and Rule 6741 – Raffles, as first and second readings. Second by Ms. Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no Donations to the District.

Board members made announcements.

Mrs. Landry moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Price. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Denise Ewing
School Board Secretary