

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD MARCH 25, 2014

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Ms. Stevens, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mrs. Taube, Mr. Flood, Mr. Nuzzo, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Bryan, and Ms. Stevens. Dr. Mangi was also present.

Ms. Stevens, 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 at the Superintendent's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the Superintendent's office.

Ms. Susan Valeri, Director of Special Education, presented the STEP Program Staff at Boys and Girls Club Awards.

There were no Administrative and/or Supervisory appointments.

Mrs. Coleman introduced the Student Ambassador, Mikayla Petersen, from Bradford High School and she made her comments.

Mr. Bryan presented the Legislative Report.

There were views and comments by the public.

Board members made their responses and comments.

Ms. Stevens made her Board President remarks.

Dr. Mangi presented the Superintendent's Report.

The Board considered the following Consent-Approve items:

Consent-Approve item XI-A – Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, and Resignations as contained in the agenda.

Consent-Approve item XI-B – Minutes of the 2/20/14, 2/25/14, 3/7/14, and 3/8/14 Special Meeting and Executive Sessions and the 2/25/14 Regular Meeting.

Consent-Approve item XI-C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers submitted by Ms. Heather Kraeuter, Accounting & Payroll Manager; Mr. Hamdan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Joseph Mangi, excerpts follow:

"It is recommended that the February 2014 cash receipt deposits totaling \$2,106,638.54 and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$29,257,794.02, be approved.

Check numbers 504327 through 505568 totaling \$7,585,615.16, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$ 371,637.47 are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the February 2014 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$12,523,569.60 and net payroll check batches totaling \$4,854.71 be approved."

Mrs. Taube moved to approve the Consent Agenda as contained in the agenda. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Executive Director of Information Systems, Data Management, and Evaluation, presented Policy/Rule 5240 – Accommodation of Private School and Home Based Educational Program Students submitted by Mr. Keckler and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

"Policy and Rule 5240 – Accommodation of Private School and Home Based Educational Program Students provides limited enrollment options for Kenosha resident students who are enrolled full time in a private school or home based (homeschool) setting. Act 20 (2013) greatly expanded the opportunities for resident and non-resident homeschooled pupils. Act 20 and the new part-time attendance law (Wis. Stats 118.53) allow homeschooled pupils in any grade to attend any public school on a part-time basis. The previous rule was limited to just resident students in high school grades. A school district is required, space permitting, to allow resident and non-resident homeschooled pupils to take up to two (2) courses per semester at any public school. Pupils must satisfy the minimum standards for admission to a course offered by the school district. The school board of a district shall determine the minimum standards for admission to a course offered by the school district at each grade.

Kenosha resident students who are enrolled full time in a private school are still limited to part time KUSD enrollment at grades 9-12. This option was not changed by the recent legislation. All students participating under the revised rule will be factored into the district membership report for state aid reporting. KUSD Policy and Rule 5240 needs to align with the updated state requirements.

At the February 11, 2014, joint Personnel/Policy and Curriculum/Program Committee meeting, it was voted to forward revised Policy/Rule 5240 to the full Board for consideration. At its February 25, 2014, meeting the Board approved Policy 5240 as a first reading. Administration recommends that the School Board approve as a second reading proposed revisions to Policy and Rule 5240 – Accommodation of Private School and Home Based Educational Program Students as presented this evening."

Mr. Bryan moved to approve Policy/Rule 5240 – Accommodation of Private School and Home Based Educational Program Students as a second reading. Mr. Flood seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented Policy 6520 – Field/Co-Curricular Trips submitted by Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“Kenosha Unified School District lies in a unique location with many wonderful learning opportunities for students within the city limits as well as outside of the city and state limits. The Board of Education requested that the Department of Teaching and Learning review current School Board Policy 6520 - Field/Co-Curricular Trips to ensure it meets the needs of staff and students when considering an extended learning opportunity off school grounds. The request also included a close examination of Kenosha Public Museums in regards to their alignment with Kenosha Unified’s curriculum and standards.

Upon review, the current policy as written is properly worded in order for district staff to adequately address field trips and offer extending and enriching off campus learning opportunities for all students. Upon further review, the educational programs and services being offered by the Kenosha Public Museums meet Kenosha Unified standards and curriculum.

At the February 11, 2014 Joint Personnel/Policy & Curriculum/Program Standing Committee meeting, Administration recommended that wording in current Board Policy 6520 be retained and to encourage the many wonderful learning opportunities inside the city limits as well as outside the city and state limits for student growth and learning. Kenosha Public Museums would be an enriching and engaging opportunity for students as the current educational programs and services offered via the museums are aligned to current grade (kindergarten through eighth) standards and curriculum. The joint committee voted to forward Policy 6520 to the full Board for consideration of a minor word change in paragraph two. At its February 25, 2014, meeting, the School Board approved revised Policy 6520 as a first reading.

Administration recommends that the Board approve revised Policy 6520 – Field/Co-Curricular Trips as a second reading this evening.”

Mrs. Taube moved to approve Policy 6520 – Field/Co-Curricular Trips as a second reading. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Flood presented Policy 8720 – Special School Board Meetings submitted by Mr. Flood, excerpts follow:

“Mr. Flood’s Rationale: Bob Nuzzo and myself tried this at a board meeting and were told that it was against policy. This will increase communication, transparency and accountability for the Board.

At the January 25, 2014, regular board meeting, it was unanimously approved to table revisions to Policy 8720 until the February 25, 2014, meeting.

At the February 25, 2014, regular board meeting, it was voted to approve revised Policy 8720 as a first reading with the addition of “with the exception to any contradiction to any policy” added at the end of the fourth paragraph. The revised policy is brought forward for a second reading this evening.”

Mr. Flood moved to approve Policy 8720 – Special School Board Meetings as a second reading. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Patricia Demos, Community School Relations Coordinator, presented the Mary Frost Ashley Charitable Trust submitted by Ms. Demos; Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Media Relations; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“During the 2014-2015 school year, the District plans to further develop and strengthen the comprehensive parent education training program, family interactive learning experiences, and expand student learning opportunities through support with a high school group, strengthen the District’s Recognition Program, further develop the annual Alcohol Tobacco, and Other Drugs Awareness Student Recognition Brunch and Awareness week, and provide safe playground equipment for the elementary school with the oldest equipment. This comprehensive program is developed with the framework of Search Institute’s “40 Developmental Assets,” Joyce Epstein’s School, Family and Community Partnerships guide, and the District’s Transformation Design. The design plan includes improving student achievement, personalized learning, expanding collaborative partnerships with families, the community and industry as well as implementing Joyce Epstein’s “Ten Steps to Success: School-Based Programs of Family, School, and Community Partnerships” and securing resources to support student learning.

At the March 11, 2014, joint Audit/Budget/Finance and Curriculum/Program Standing Committee meeting, it was voted to forward this grant to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve this one-year grant proposal titled Framework for Healthy Youth Development: Expanding Family Learning and Student Engagement Program in the amount of \$110,000 for submission to the Mary Frost Ashley Charitable Trust.”

Mrs. Coleman moved to approve the one-year grant proposal titled Framework for Healthy Youth Development: Expanding Family Learning and Student Engagement Program in the amount of \$110,000 for submission to the Mary Frost Ashley Charitable Trust. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Belinda Grantham, Director of Pre-School, presented the Read to Lead Grant Request submitted by Ms. Grantham; Dr. Floyd Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary School Leadership; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“Approval from the Board of Education is requested to submit and implement the Read to Lead Development Fund Grant. The maximum funding possible for this grant is \$50,000.00. The grant is aimed at improving literacy and early childhood development. The purpose of this grant is to support literacy development of KUSD Early Education students and their families at one elementary location. This would be accomplished through the use of electronic readers coupled with literacy training for Early Education staff and for the parents in those classrooms.

Similar to the current Early Education “Take Home Book” program, families in the selected classrooms will be invited to take home an electronic reader (e-reader). The e-reader will be pre-loaded with age appropriate as well as challenging literature. The E-books

purchased for the e-reader will allow books to be read in either Spanish or English, depending upon the language spoken within the home. Challenging literature will be included as books downloaded on the e-reader to promote the development of increasingly complex vocabulary. The KUSD Library Media Consultant and Early Education Instructional Coaches will collaborate to determine which E-books are purchased for the e-readers.

Prior to taking an e-reader to their home, parents will be required to participate in training on the features of the e-reader, the care of the e-reader, and the liability assumed by the family when an e-reader is brought to their home. Parents will also need to commit to attending literacy training for parents. Literacy training for parents will focus on how to use stories on the e-reader to promote phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, knowledge of print, and comprehension. Parents will be able to use these foundational literacy skills to support their child's reading through the primary grades.

Establishing a foundation for literacy increases the likelihood that a student will be a "reader". The activities identified in this grant proposal will be monitored throughout the 2014-15 school year, with success evaluated at the conclusion of the school year. Based on the assessment results revisions to the plan will occur and consideration will be given to expansion of the concept to other Early Education sites.

At the March 11, 2014, joint Audit/Budget/Finance and Curriculum/Program Standing Committee meeting, it was voted to forward this grant to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve the Read to Lead Development Fund Grant as presented."

Mrs. Coleman moved to approve the Read to Lead Development Fund Grant as presented. Mr. Flood seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Grantham presented the Head Start Federal Grant and Cost-of-Living Adjustment Request submitted by Ms. Lisa KC, Assistant Director of Head Start; Ms. Grantham; Dr. Williams; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

"The purpose of the Head Start program is to provide comprehensive services in the areas of health, education, social/emotional development, and parent involvement for low-income preschool children and their families. This grant will service 330 high-risk children who will be three or four years of age on or before September 1, 2014. Funds will be utilized to serve the children and their families in all program component areas as required in the Head Start Act and through the Head Start Performance Standards.

At the March 11, 2014, joint Audit/Budget/Finance and Curriculum/Program Standing Committee meeting, there was agreement to forward the Head Start Federal Grant Request to the School Board for consideration. Since that time the Kenosha Unified School District Head Start Program has received notification of:

- An increase of \$105,349 in the base award amount to restore the reduction in funds created through sequestration.
- A Supplemental Federal Head Start Cost-of-Living Adjustment Grant award of \$25,987.

Approval from the Board of Education is requested:

- To submit and implement the Head Start Federal Grant for the 2014-2015 school year. The funding for this grant is \$1,999,031. The grant is designed to fund the operating costs of the Kenosha Unified School District Head Start Program.
- To submit and implement the Supplemental Head Start Federal Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Grant for the 2014-15 school year. The funding of this grant is \$25,987. As stated in the program instruction memorandum, COLA funds are to be used to increase staff salaries and fringe benefits to pay for higher operating costs. KUSD Head Start will use these monies to off-set the cost of employee salaries and benefits for the 2014-15 school year.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve the Head Start Federal Grant Request as revised in the amount of \$1,999,031.

Administration additionally recommends that the School Board approve the Supplemental Federal Head Start Cost-of-Living Adjustment Grant award of \$25,987.”

Mr. Bryan moved to approve the Head Start Federal Grant Request as revised in the amount of \$1,999,031 and the Supplemental Federal Head Start Cost-of-Living Adjustment Grant award of \$25,987. Mrs. Snyder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Equipment Use for Softball and Baseball presented by Mr. Steven Knecht, Coordinator of Athletics/Physical Education; Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“In an effort to continually service the safety needs of Wisconsin’s student athletes, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) is continuously working with coaches, athletic directors, and their medical advisory teams. Approximately five years ago, the WIAA added language to the bylaws stating that schools can issue protective equipment in the summer to their students with approval of their governing board for reasons of safety. At that time, the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education granted schools permission to hand out protective football equipment in the summer.

In April of 2013, the WIAA membership passed this new rule. Per this new rule, the governing body of Kenosha Unified School District must approve the distribution of school baseball and softball equipment to its students during the school year. All equipment has a cost to purchase and a cost to recondition. The rationale for having the governing body approve the equipment use is that it may have an impact on the athletics budget.

During an open gym, a pitching machine can be used which delivers a ball at speeds up to 80 miles per hour. It makes sense that the district provides appropriate tools for students to use and the proper safety equipment to protect them. Under current practice, students who attend an open gym that do not have their own equipment would not get the opportunity to participate in certain activities that require protective equipment. The cost for the use of district equipment is minimal compared to the risk a student faces without the equipment. This rule change is purely in the interest of safety for student athletes.

At its March 11, 2014, meeting, the Curriculum/Program Standing Committee voted to forward the following recommendations to the School Board for consideration: It is recommended that the Board grant approval for use of protective equipment for softball and baseball during the school year outside of the sport season and, additionally, it is recommended that the Board grant the superintendent and the coordinator of athletics/physical education the authority to approve the use of school equipment should future WIAA sports rules change that are in the best interest for the safety of our students.

Administration recommends that the School board approve the recommendations noted above regarding equipment use for softball and baseball.”

Mrs. Coleman moved to approve the use of protective equipment for softball and baseball during the school year outside of the sport season and that the superintendent and the coordinator of athletics/physical education have the authority to approve the use of school equipment should future WIAA sports rules change that are in the best interest for the safety of our students. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Ellevation Proposal submitted by Mrs. Sarah Smith, Coordinator of World Languages and Language Acquisition Program; Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“Ellevation© is a software company specifically designed to meet the needs of monitoring English Language learners for English-as-a-second language teachers. In 2011 Ellevation was formed when it merged with English as a Second Language Innovations (ESL Innovations). English as a Second Language Innovations was a company started in 2006 in North Carolina by an English-as-a-second-language coordinator. Currently, this group collaborates under the new title Ellevation; and its software is used in over 170 school districts across 25 states.

During the 2012-13 school year, there were English-as-a-second-language leadership committees formed to help solidify a program for English Language learners in the Kenosha Unified School District. The English-as-a-second-language leadership committees have expressed numerous concerns regarding the amount of time spent on paperwork versus time for teacher collaboration and student instructional time. The programming leadership branch of the English-as-a-Second-Language Leadership Committee investigated a variety of software programs to try to find which one would best fit the needs of the Office of World Languages and Language Acquisition Program. The committee looked at three different English-as-a-second-language programs, including Ellevation, Imagine Learning, and the Berlitz CyberTeachers program. The members of the programming leadership branch favor the Ellevation program and believe that Ellevation’s programming materials would be the best fit for Kenosha Unified School District’s English as a second language program. The committee members believe that Ellevation would support teachers with the best software to assign standard-aligned goals to their students and facilitate the teacher collaboration process regarding English Language learners. All of the information was shared with each member of the Office World Languages and Language Acquisition Program through email and a question-and-answer session at a department meeting. Committee members also shared the information learned from Ellevation’s software presentation with the Office of Information and Accountability. Due to the benefits described in the section which follows, Ellevation was found to be the software program to best meet the needs of the district. All of

Kenosha Unified School District's English-as-a-second-language teachers and the dual language teachers agree with purchase of the Ellevation program.

At its March 11, 2014, meeting, the Curriculum/Program Standing Committee voted to forward this report to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve the Ellevation software proposal as presented."

Mrs. Taube moved to approve the Ellevation Proposal. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis presented the Middle Schools Honors report submitted by Dr. Bethany Ormseth, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary School Leadership; Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

"A request was made at the Curriculum/Program Standing Committee for an update regarding middle school honors. This informational report contains a brief background of middle school honors, the 2013-14 first semester honors distinction and advanced math numbers, key findings from Hanover Research, and information regarding follow-up.

On Tuesday, March 11, 2014, the Curriculum/Program Committee recommended that the board authorizes exploration of the gifted and talented program; and expansion for grades 6, 7, and 8 be implemented as soon as possible. The Curriculum/Program Committee further recommended that the board authorize an expansion, at minimum, of the seventh and eighth grade honors English curriculum.

Administration recommends an exploration of a gifted and talented sixth through eighth grade middle school program for the 2015-16 school year.

Administration recommends a seventh and eighth grade honors middle school English course. The honors English course will have a well-developed curriculum meeting expectations for student growth and learning."

Mr. Flood moved to approve the exploration of a gifted and talented sixth through eighth grade middle school program for the 2015-16 school year and a seventh and eighth grade honors middle school English course for the 2014-2015 school year. The honors English course will have a well-developed curriculum meeting expectations for student growth and learning. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Hofer presented the Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$25,000 submitted by Mr. Robert Hofer, Purchasing Agent; Mr. Hamdan; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

"School Board Policy 3420 requires that all contracts and renewals of contracts in aggregate of \$25,000 in a fiscal year shall be approved by the School Board except in the event of an emergency as determined and reported to the School Board monthly by the Purchasing Agent.

The following contracts/agreements have not been added to the Contract Management Database are being presented to the Board at this time for Board Approval:

- Ellevation, LLC – English as a Second Language Software; and
- Solution Tree – Professional Learning Communities Institute Hybrid.”

Mrs. Snyder moved to approve the Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$25,000. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the Disaster Recover/Data Archiving Technology Upgrade submitted by Mr. James Hanrahan, Operations & Applications Support Coordinator; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“The Kenosha Unified School District is a very large organization with ever growing demands related to student, staff and operationally sensitive data. The responsibilities associated with this data covers educational value, management of resources and assets and critical employee information. The current backup option is limited in scope and is over six years old. Even with the emergence of external cloud (internet) storage utilization for some systems and files, the amount that requires internal management has grown exponentially over the last several years. If KUSD were to experience a catastrophic event, or similar data failure including major user error, the rough timeline to utilize the backup data would be 2 – 3 weeks as we currently do not have the device capabilities to implement the data into new systems. The Information Services Department is requesting to implement an adequate disaster recovery and data retrieval system for KUSD’s critical information.

Several options were explored and we received valid quotes from different vendors. The recommendation is to accept a 3-year contract, starting July 1, 2014, which includes discounts from both a state rate and multi-year agreement if approved prior to the quote deadline. The estimated one-time amount for implementation is \$85,000 with a \$15,000 annual maintenance cost. If approved within this timeframe, KUSD would save over \$40,000. This new Disaster Recovery system would allow the use of VMware technology with “point in time” activation for recovery within a few hours, rather than weeks. The new system would also improve our capacity to adhere to the state expectations for record retention and management as a public entity. The Wisconsin Electronic Records Management Standards and Requirements regulation [WI Admin Provision 12.05 (4) and (11)] states that a public organization utilize information systems that accurately reproduce the records they create and maintain and utilize information systems that can export records that require retention to other systems without loss of meaning. Wisconsin records retention and archiving expectations vary, mostly from one to seven years, though some are expected to be permanent.

Administration recommends that the Board approve of the Disaster Recovery and Data Archival budget assumption for fiscal year 2014-15.”

Mrs. Taube moved to approve the Disaster Recovery and Data Archival budget assumption for fiscal year 2014-15. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Bryan presented the Donations to the District as contained in the agenda.

Mr. Bryan moved to approve the Donations to the District as presented. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Coleman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder Busby
School Board Secretary