

REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD  
HELD JANUARY 24, 2017

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Mrs. Coleman, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. with the following Board members present: Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Kunich, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Falkofske, Mr. Wade, and Mrs. Coleman. Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis was also present.

Mrs. Coleman, 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.

Mrs. Tanya Ruder, Chief Communication Officer, presented the Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival Award recipients, the Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors Music Project participants, and thanked mentors in honor of National Mentoring Month.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis introduced and thanked the Chinese visitors who have been at Nash and Stocker Elementary schools for the past two weeks.

There were no Administrative or Supervisory Appointments.

Mr. Falkofske introduced the student ambassador, Emily Vallis from Harborside Academy, and she made her comments.

Mr. Wade gave the legislative report.

Views or comments were made by the public.

Board members made their responses/comments.

Mr. Kunich moved to modify the order of the agenda items and address Discussion/Action item XII-B – Building Lifelong Trust and Discussion/Action item XIII – B – Policy and Rule 8870 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings next. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Coleman introduced Policy and Rule 8870 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings submitted by Mrs. Coleman and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“School Board Policy 8870 was created in 1997 to provide an avenue for citizen comments at school board meetings which was last revised in February 2015. Attached is Policy 8870 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings with some recommended revisions for review.

Initial suggested revisions to the policy were sent to Board members by administration on November 21 and November 29 for individual review, feedback, and/or suggested changes.

The following revisions to the policy are being recommended:

- that the term “citizen” be defined as a District resident, Kenosha County resident, a student currently enrolled in the District, a parent of a student(s) currently enrolled in the District, and/or a current or former District employee;
- that citizen comments and/or questions at Board meetings be related only to topics on the board posted agenda;
- that the option to call the Superintendent’s Office to request to be placed on the list of speakers be removed;
- that prior to speaking, citizens be required to state their name, address, status as a district resident and the agenda topic that they will be speaking on;
- the addition of a process for verifying the legitimacy of a citizen if suspicion arises; and
- the addition of an option for the Board President or acting chairperson to revoke a citizen’s privilege to participate in the “Views and Comments” portion of the Board meeting if the participation is irrelevant, repetitive, or abusive or otherwise causes disruption to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

It is recommended that the Board approve revised Policy and Rule 8870 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings as a first reading at the January 24, 2017, regular school board meeting and as a second reading at the February 28, 2017, regular school board meeting.”

Board members expressed their view and made their comments.

No action was taken on this item.

Dr. Bethany Ormseth, Chief of School Leadership, presented the Building Lifelong Trust program submitted by Dr. Kurt Sinclair, Principal at Bradford High School; Dr. Ormseth; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“The Kenosha Police Department approached KUSD to collaborate on a program connecting high school students with Kenosha police officers in the Fall of 2016. The design of the program facilitates conversation and dialogue between KUSD high school students and the Kenosha Police Department. The program titled, Building Lifelong Trust (BLT) written by the Kenosha Police Department and the program is broken down into seven distinct lessons. The recommendation is for BLT to be scheduled at Bradford High School, second semester of the 2016-2017 school year with expansion to Tremper, Indian Trail and Reuther during the 2017-2018 school year. BLT has the approval and support of Kenosha Police Department Chief, Dan Miskinis.

The program includes up to 12 students. The program runs 7 weeks concurrently (Attachment A). The students meet with police officers one time per week. The program will run during non-instructional time. The officers conducting the program will be the school resource officer and Officer Felicia Labatore, who represent the Kenosha Police Department. There is no cost to the district for this program.

Bradford High School administration and Kenosha Police Department representatives will hold parent meetings prior to the start of the program. Parents have the opportunity to review the lessons and must give permission for their child prior to participation. Parents or students can opt out at any time during the 7 week course.

Student volunteers for the BLT program will be solicited from the student body. Final participants will be chosen based on student schedule availability. Parents of this group of students will be contacted for an informational meeting, review of lesson plans, permission slips, etc. Bradford High School and the Kenosha Police Department will collect feedback from students after the completion of the program. This feedback and evaluation process will drive program adjustments.

At the January 10, 2017, meeting, the Curriculum/Program Standing Committee voted to forward this report to the board of education. Administration recommends approval of this program.”

Board members expressed their view and made their comments.

Board members suggested the addition of curriculum on Miranda and citizen rights, that contact be made with the bar association, district attorney, and/or an attorney for feedback, and that information on the ACLU study be provided.

Mr. Kunich moved to approve the Building Lifelong Trust program as presented. Mr. Wade seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Kunich, and Mr. Wade. Noes: Ms. Stevens, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Falkofske, and Mrs. Coleman. Motion failed.

Mrs. Coleman passed the gavel to Mrs. Snyder.

Mrs. Coleman moved to bring back the Building Lifelong Trust program at next month’s meeting, or at the most expedient time as possible, with the incorporation of the suggested revisions discussed. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

There were no remarks by the Board President.

There was not a Superintendent’s Report.

Board members considered the following Consent-Approve items:

Consent-Approve item XI-A – Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of Absence, Retirements, Resignations and Separations.

Consent-Approve item XI-B – Minutes of the 12/12/16, 1/10/17 and 1/12/17 Special meetings, 12/13/16 and 1/12/17 Special Meetings and Executive Sessions, and 12/13/16 Regular Meeting.

Consent-Approve item XI-C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers submitted by Mrs. Lisa Salo, Accounting Manager; Mr. Tarik Hamdan, Chief Financial Officer; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“It is recommended that the December 2016 cash receipt deposits totaling \$151,594.27, and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$41,788,522.03, be approved.

Check numbers 544801 through 545948 totaling \$13,169,473.97, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$170,244.07, are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the December 2016 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$15,230,848.41, and net payroll check batches totaling \$11,858.02, be approved.”

Mr. Wade moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the agenda. Mr. Kunich seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Ormseth presented the Graduation Committee Recommendations submitted by Mr. Bryan Mogensen, Coordinator of Athletics, PE, Health, and Senior Center; Mrs. Julie Housaman, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Ormseth; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“In the spring of 2015, concerns about the inequities within the way courses are transcribed, course offerings and the calculation of weighted grade point averages were brought to the attention of school leadership. Administration identified these concerns to be valid and requested the formation of a committee to review the graduation process. The recruitment for committee members began in September 2015. The committee work began in September 2015.

The committee identified concerns and obstacles. These identified concerns and obstacles became the foundation for the committee work. The recommendations generated by the committee evolved from discussion and research. There were four categories of recommendations: weighting of grades, graduation recognition, communication/scheduling/course offerings, and afterschool offerings.

The recommendations included in this report align with the desire to have a fair system and these recommendations target specific practices that make the current system unfair. Any recommendation or decision that comes before the Board of Education should be viewed through this lens. For example, the proposal for a student

athlete to waive a physical education class in place of a core class is still yet to be determined by the board.

Physical education classes are unweighted classes, meaning, there is not an honors option. Therefore, if we allow student athletes to replace this unweighted course with an honors or AP course, it would be unfair. To make it fair, student athletes must be required to replace the unweighted physical education class with another unweighted class. This is just an example of possible decisions that could impact the fairness to all students.

Should the board of education vote on any PE waiver, the board should consider the following statement, "If the school board votes to allow an approved PE waiver for those student athletes who participate in a WIAA sport, students must successfully complete an unweighted class from a core content area (math, science, social studies, language arts, or health). This statement was reviewed at the January 10, 2017, school board Curriculum/Program standing committee.

At the January 10, 2017, meeting, the Curriculum/Program Standing Committee voted to forward this report to the board of education. Administration recommends approval of the following recommendations:

- AP Courses will carry more weight in weighted GPA calculation;
- Phase in Laude recognition system beginning with the Class of 2022;
- Communication guidelines as presented in this report;
- Allow students to audit one credit per year through identification of course as audited; and
- Afterschool honors course offerings will be transcribed but zero credit tied to the course."

Mrs. Stevens moved to approve the Graduation Committee Recommendations as presented. Mr. Kunich seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis introduced Policy 6700 – Extracurricular Activities and Programs submitted by Mr. Mogensen, Mrs. Housaman, and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

"The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), filed a complaint against Kenosha Unified School District alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. More specifically the complaint alleged that the district discriminated against female students at Tremper and Bradford High Schools by denying them an equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. On October 24, 2012, the Kenosha Unified School District signed a Resolution Agreement to resolve the complaint filed. In response to this finding, Policy 6700 was last updated on November 15, 2016.

On November 17, 2016 Kenosha Unified School District received notification from the OCR that additional wording should be added to Policy 6700 to clarify that a request for additional levels of competition in an existing sport is made under this policy.

Additionally the District is asked to submit a plan to OCR that explains how it will demonstrate compliance to ensure that the interests and abilities of students who are

members of the underrepresented sex have been met by the present athletic program for the 2017-2018 school year. In order to meet this criterion the District has extended the October 1, 2016, deadline for submitting requests for new programs or requests for additional levels of competition in an existing program to February 1, 2017. This has been communicated to the high school students and their families via school newsletters and social media.

At its January 10, 2017, meeting, the Personnel/Policy Committee voted to forward revised Policy 6700 to the School Board for consideration. Administration recommends that the School Board approve revised School Board Policy 6700—Extracurricular Activities and Programs as a first reading on January 24, 2017, and a second reading on February 28, 2017.”

Mr. Kunich moved to approve revised School Board Policy 6700—Extracurricular Activities and Programs as a first reading. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis introduced the Four-Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis submitted by Mrs. Renee Blise, Research Coordinator; Mr. Kristopher Keckler, Chief Information Officer; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, excerpts follow:

“Administration presented the first cohort analysis of graduation trends to the Kenosha Unified School Board beginning with School Year 1994-95. This cohort analysis is the twenty-first annual report to the Kenosha Unified School Board. It provides a “base cohort” illustrating the progress of students from their initial enrollment as a ninth grader on the Official Third Friday Count Day in SY 2012-13 until the end of summer school four school years later in August 2016. Additionally, the graduation “base cohort” of the Class of 2015 was examined in terms of its progress during the year following its designated graduation year (fifth year) along with the Class of 2014 after two years (sixth year).

The cohort graduation rate presented in this report is slightly different than the rate published by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Beginning in 2009-10, DPI reported a 4-year cohort graduation rate which includes all students who have been assigned to a Wisconsin public school cohort and were last enrolled in the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) during the 4-year time period, whether or not the student began in KUSD in their ninth grade year.

At its January 10, 2017, meeting the Curriculum/Program Standing Committee moved approval to forward this report to the full board. Administration recommends that the school board review and accept the 2015-16 Four Year Graduation Rate – Cohort Analysis Report.”

Mr. Keckler gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled KUSD Cohort 2016 Report which covered the following topics: graduation rates (after 4 years), graduation rate by ethnicity (including Iowa), base cohort after 4 years (including Iowa), and school graduation rates (after 4 years) all students.

Mr. Keckler answered questions from Board members.

Mr. Kunich moved to accept the report. Mr. Falkofske seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Keckler presented the Open Enrollment Allocations for the 2017-1018 School Year submitted by Mrs. Blise; Ms. Luanne Rohde, Director of Early Education Programs; Ms. Susan Valeri, Chief of Special Education and Student Support; Dr. Ormseth; Mr. Keckler; and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis, 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 2017-18 Open Enrollment period is from February 6 to April 28, 2017. 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 2017-18. DPI has communicated that the District’s affirmation must specifically delineate both regular education seats by specific grade level and special education seats by program and/or service type.

KUSD Policy 5260 requires that 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 district) have a right to complete the current year and apply for open enrollment the following year. Even though these are current KUSD students, they are counted as new applications for our state reporting.

The Offices of Educational Accountability, School Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Special Education/Student Support and Early Education met on multiple occasions to gather, refine and allocate information in regards to the number of available spaces for School Year 2017-18 within the Kenosha Unified School District. After review of the available data and enrollment projections, this cooperative team with the endorsement of the Superintendent of Schools makes the recommendation contained in Appendix A (regular education) and Appendix B (special education) to the School Board.

Administration recommends that the Kenosha Unified School Board affirm and approve the space availability for open enrollment students for school year 2017-18. Recommendation is for a total of 205 spaces, 23 of which are designated for selected special education programs service/types as noted below.”

Mr. Keckler answered questions from Board members.

Mr. Kunich moved to approve the Open Enrollment Allocations for the 2017-1018 School Year as presented. Mr. Wade seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Snyder presented the Donations to the District.

Mrs. Snyder moved to approve the Donations to the District. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kunich seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Stacy Schroeder Busby  
School Board Secretary