

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at CESA 4, 923 East Garland Street, West Salem. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Jim Bagniewski, Larry Cyrus, Brad Dobbs, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, Lindsay O'Hair, and Gerald Roethel,

Sarah Staff (Blair-Taylor) has moved out of the district and is no longer eligible to be on the CESA Board.

Excused: Kevin Bauman, Sara Cook and Jim Wright

Also present: Matthew Bompkamp, Paul Fischer, Wayde Pollock, and Michelle Kotek

PUBLIC INPUT

Nick Griffin, West Salem Senior student, attending as part of his Panther Portfolio Project.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Julie Meyers moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Lindsay O'Hair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT – MATTHEW BOMKAMP

Lindsay O'Hair moved to accept the audit report as presented by Matthew Bomkamp for the year ended June 30, 2024. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Julie Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting. Catherine Griffin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JANUARY

Catherine Griffin moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for January. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Discussion on WASB Convention

- The Portrait of a Graduate: Future-Focused Career Readiness panel presentation featuring 2 CESA 4 directors along with DPI representatives was very informative and highlighted strategies to align education with workforce demands while meeting individual student needs.
- Retaining Educators through Peer Mentoring: DPI, McFarland and Reedsburg School Districts led this breakout. High Quality mentoring is a proven retention strategy. Information on building and sustaining mentoring programs were highlighted.

- Teacher Apprenticeship in Wisconsin- how the DPI and the Dept. of Workforce Development expect to grow the strategy to address shortage areas.
- Building Strong Foundations: Integrating Character Education for Career and Life Readiness. Random Lake School District shared their journey in partnership with Unytus to embody positive character traits to motivate students to carry those traits beyond the classroom.

Larry Cyrus mentioned that the WASB is looking for school board members to serve on the policy committee. It would be for a two-year term. Please let Larry know if you are interested or if anyone from your local district board is interested in doing this.

Review Services included in CESA 4 2025-26 Program and Services Catalog

Paul highlighted a few programs offered in the catalog of services offered to school district for 2025-26.

- S.M.A.R.T – multi-sensory approach to teaching and learning designed to develop and enhance critical readiness skills need to succeed in school.
- School Based Mental Health and Wellness – provides professional development on both individual practices that support student and staff wellness and systemic improvements that impact wellbeing for all.
- Principal Coaching
- Regional Career Pathways Collaborative
- Multilingual Learner Program: ESL
- Artificial Intelligence – systems change

Approval of Personnel Contracts

Julie Meyers moved to approve the contract for Rachel Aspenson, long-term substitute English Second Language teacher/assistant for La Crosse Central and Longfellow for the remainder of the year. A contract for Nick Reid as an Occupational Therapist for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. The BOC appreciation breakfast at the State Education Convention was well attended. The conversations and networking were much appreciated. In regard to the convention as a whole, I feel it was extremely beneficial as a from a CESA 4 perspective. I was able to make connections with the majority of our Superintendents. Many of the conversations that were had centered around the services that CESA 4 currently provides, as well as discussing some potential services that could be offered in the future. If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding the State Education Convention, please complete the survey that you should have received at the end of the week.
2. Sally Weber and Michelle Kotek have been working diligently to put the finishing touches on the CESA 4 catalog pages. The initial information regarding the catalog of services was emailed earlier this week and will be shared with our

Superintendents at our PAC meeting next Friday. Sally continues to streamline the catalog to make it more efficient for our Superintendents when they are completing their contract. The Superintendents are very appreciative for her efforts as it makes the process much more manageable for them. District visits will begin in late February and continue through the month of March.

3. We implemented the LiftoFF pilot program in early January. This project is based on the work that began as a conversation between CESA 4 administrators and directors as well as CESA 4 Superintendents last summer. The purpose of this pilot is to explore a variety of platforms that are available to our school districts that support a personalized learning approach. We have 8 school districts who have signed up to be a part of this pilot for the remainder of the school year. As a result, we have committed that two of our directors will be heavily involved in getting this project implemented in these 8 districts. They will be responsible for providing technical assistance and support as the work gets started. Once implemented they will be providing Comprehensive data analysis and feedback to participating districts. Throughout this process there will be monthly virtual leadership meetings to discuss progress, next steps, and grant opportunities. Finally, our directors will provide support for ongoing research, development, and emerging technologies aligned with the program goals that were previously identified. The initial feedback we have received has been extremely positive and we have already had districts that are not involved in the pilot, wanting to be a part of the work for next year. With that in mind, to address some capacity issues we are facing, we will be hiring a part-time school counselor that can cover some of the work that will need to be done due to the directors having to commit more time to this pilot. That posting is seeking to find an individual for up to 40 days, which will get us through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

State News

1. Candidates for the Department of Public Instructions State Superintendent position continue to campaign throughout the state. At this time, we have Jeff Wright scheduled to visit our PAC meeting in March. An invitation has been sent to Brittany as well, but as of this writing, we have not received a response from her. Dr. Underly visited our PAC meeting earlier this year and it was decided by the PAC sub-advisory that there was not a need to invite her a second time as she answered the questions our Superintendents had regarding her seeking another term during that visit.
2. I am certain that at this time all of you are aware of the executive orders that were put in place last week, as well as over the weekend. Those orders lead to a lot of concerns from our district leaders resulting in many of them reaching out to me. I have been working closely with DPI and actively working on analyzing the various executive orders signed by the president and determining how they could impact our school districts as well as the entire Department of Education. Those orders were rescinded by a Federal judge, however, the President and his cabinet indicated that they will be reviewing numerous departments, funding, and policies over the

next 60 days to determine a plan of action for each of those. Much discussion has been had in terms of the President's ability to even take this type of action without taking it to the two houses. We will continue to monitor the situation and send updates to our district leaders when we have them.

3. Another major impact that has occurred from the executive orders is in regards to Immigration policy and ICE raids. If you have read local news headlines you can see that many of our local districts put out statements regarding the safety and protection of their students. This has come about due to the fact that President Trump rescinded previous guidance documents that were in place in terms of "Protected Areas Designation." Those designations meant that ICE was not allowed to make arrests on immigration violations in places such as schools, places of worship, or any other places where children gather. With the rescinding of those guidance documents led to school districts unsure of their options. The response by school districts should be quite simple. Follow your board policy. Wisconsin state law grants school boards authority to establish rules governing the presence of persons in school buildings, and imposes penalties for those who violate those rules. It is recommended that school districts revisit their policies regarding this matter. If you utilize Neola, that policy would be Board Policy 5540 - Investigations Involving Law Enforcement and Other Governmental Agencies. If you subscribe to WASB, your district administrator can reach out to Bob Butler at WASB to discuss the applicable policy.

Brad Dobbs approved the Administrator's Report as presented. Catherine Griffin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CRACKER BARREL

Board member changes this spring.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Brad Dobbs moved the meeting adjourn. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4, West Salem.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek