

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at CESA 4, 923 East Garland Street, West Salem. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Bauman, Sara Cook, Larry Cyrus, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, Gerald Roethel, Sarah Staff and Jim Wright.

Excused: Lindsay O’Hair, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Trevor Sprague

Also present: Paul Fischer, Wayde Pollock, Matthew Bomkamp (Johnson Block Auditor) and Michelle Kotek

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Julie Meyers moved to approve the meeting agenda as distributed. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT – JOHNSON BLOCK (Matthew Bomkamp)

Sarah Staff moved to accept the audit report as presented by Johnson Block for the year ended June 30, 2023. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Julie Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2024 meeting. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JANUARY

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

NEW BUSINESS

Board Discussion on WASB Convention

- Consensus from those attending was that the delegate assembly went smoother
- Enjoyed the keynote presentations
- Artificial intelligence presentation was informative
- Tour of Milwaukee Parkside School Tour was very interesting

Review Services included in CESA 4 2023 – 2024 Program and Services Catalog

- Multilingual Learner Program/Dual Language Services
- Artificial Intelligence in Education
- Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.)
- Equitable Multi-Level System of Supports (EMLSS)

Approval of Resignation

Jim Wright moved to approve the resignation of Kelly Demers, School Psychologist, effective at the end of her 2023-24 contract. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. I was contacted by Congressman Derrick Van Orden's office, asking if we would host a meeting between Congressman Van Orden and our local Superintendents. He was looking for them to share the various issues that were impacting education. I consulted with all 26 of our district leaders, and nearly half indicated that they would be interested in attending. We were able to schedule the last minute meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd. We had a good turnout of Superintendents, but also CESA 4 employees who were in attendance due to our scheduled staff meeting. The main issues presented to the Congressman were around funding, staffing shortages, and mental health of students and staff. In regards to the funding, specific conversations were had around the fiscal cliff that will be impacting districts greatly, as well as the Special Education reimbursement rate. One district shared a story in which a new student with special needs had enrolled in their districts. The cost to meet the needs of that student was \$100,000, and with a reimbursement rate of 30+%, the district was forced to utilize nearly \$70,000 out of Fund 10. When the conversation turned to mental health, it was evident that more education was needed on the Congressman's part in order to better understand the issues we are seeing. One of the directors did connect with the Congressman's office following the meeting, offering some great literature and resources that focused on mental health. As of this writing, we have not heard back from the Congressman's office on some follow up that they assured would happen.
2. Sally Weber has been working diligently to put the finishing touches on the CESA 4 catalog pages. The initial information regarding the catalog of services was shared at our PAC meeting last Friday. In regards to catalog development, we will be receiving state and federal funding once again around the areas of EMLSS, ACT 20, and mental health, so there will be a significant focus in those areas by districts. EMLSS funding appears to be similar to what was received last year, while the funding for ACT 20 and the mental health initiative, Project Aware, has still not been released. District visits will begin in late February and continue through the month of March.
3. We are in process of selecting candidates for the School Improvement Services Director position, which is being vacated by Roger Fruit. We currently have 17 applicants, with the posting closing this Friday. After reviewing applications, we will be looking to complete interviews next Thursday and Friday. We also are meeting internally to discuss the vacancy that is being created by the resignation of one of our Student Services Directors. She had not been a full-time employee this past year, so we may look to fill it internally based on others workload.

Interviews are also being scheduled for Monday for the Accounting Specialist position that was vacated by Ethel Johnson in late December.

4. Attached to this report is information regarding local districts who are going to referendum this spring. You will see that there are three, and those are all operationally, asking district residents for permission to exceed the revenue limits.

State News

1. Prior to the State Education event in Milwaukee, CSN once again met the two days prior to the convention. These two days have traditionally been utilized to meet with the members of the Department of Public Instruction's cabinet. Along with Dr. Underly and Tom McCarthy, we met with Patti Williams, a member of the DPI Special Education Team, Keona Jones, who was with the Division of Student and School Success, and Susan Piazza, Director of Student Services and Wellness. Dr. Jones' update was around Title I services and Educator Effectiveness. She presented the dates for upcoming state tests and the accountability piece behind the assessments. Susan Piazza shared information regarding Project Aware, a five-year federal grant the department received focused around addressing the mental health crisis in the state. They were looking to utilize a regional approach in regards to implementing the work. After much discussion, the feedback she received from the CSN group was to utilize all 12 CESA's to implement the work. Finally, Patti Williams presented on the current EMLSS project. She provided updates, but also confirmed that it would be funded once again next year.
2. Initial feedback that we are receiving was that the State Education Convention was deemed a success. The majority of the keynote speakers were well received. I felt that the networking that took place, in regards to CESA 4 and the districts we serve, was impactful. While I did not converse with administrators from all 26 of our districts, those that I did have discussions or meetings with, I felt were productive and helped strengthen the relationships we already have. A piece of feedback that we will provide to the planning committee is the desire to have a location or locations, where attendees can gather in the event that they are not attending a session. Oftentimes there are random conversations or networking that happens and there is no place to gather that provides some privacy or space away from everyone else.

Jim Wright approved the Administrator's Report as presented. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CRACKER BARREL

Consumer Price Index is currently at 4.18 percent

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Artificial Intelligence presentation on how districts and teachers can use it.

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Bauman moved the meeting adjourn. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek