

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at Castle Hill Supper Club, Merrillan. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Bauman, Larry Cyrus, Brad Dobbs, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, Gerald Roethel, and Jim Wright.

Excused: Lindsay O'Hair, Sarah Staff, Sara Cook, and Scott Neumeister

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Julie Meyers moved to approve the meeting agenda as distributed. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JUNE 5 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Kevin Bauman moved to approve the minutes of the June 5th Organizational meeting. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JUNE AND JULY

Larry Cyrus moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for June and July. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE PERSONNEL CONTRACT

Julie Meyers moved to approve the contracts for 2024-25 for Shannon Seibon, part-time Occupational Therapist. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WASB Resolution Development Discussion

Paul reminded the board that the deadline for individual boards to submit resolutions for consideration need to be submitted to WASB by September 15.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. We recently completed a 4 day long ALPSS retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to review the program to ensure we are meeting the needs of our candidates, as well as our districts. There were several updates made to the various handbooks. Those include the handbook for candidates, the handbook for schools/districts, and the handbook for the School Based Advisors. We also reviewed the feedback that we have received from the candidates who have completed the licensing program. After a great deal of discussion, we made the decision to move the licensing program from a 12 month program, to a 16 month program. The candidates felt that getting through the various modules, along with the student teaching piece, was just too much to complete in 12 months. Once that decision was made, the team was able to lay out the seminar schedule for those 16 months. Overall, we want to increase the number of participants in the program as we have not seen an increase since its inception. The team will also begin with the planning and scheduling for the recently approved Special Education licensing program. We look to kick that off after the first of the year.
2. CESA U planning continues to take place. We once again will be utilizing AESA to assist with the 2 days of staff development that focus specifically on service agencies. There will be a great deal of time dedicated to the customer service piece of our agencies, and how we can improve upon that. The team of Directors from CESA 4 that will be attending will be reviewing the strategic planning work that we did this spring. We will be developing a timeline in which we can implement the goals that were set forth as part of that work. By the conclusion of CESA U, we should have the year planned out in terms of the work that we want to accomplish by the end of the school year. I will give you a wrap up of CESA U at our October meeting.
3. In July, your districts should have received an updated funding allocation for School-Based Mental Health Services. The 2023-25 State Budget, WI Act 19, changed how funds are distributed under the School Based Mental Health Services Grant program, from a competition to a per pupil allocation to all school districts and Independent Charter Schools (ICS). The Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated that the \$25 million per year of funding under Act 19 will provide about \$31 per pupil, based on 2022-23 revenue limit membership and ICS enrollments. The aid payments in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 are based on actual enrollments. This program will be funded on an annual basis per state statute unless changed by future legislation. While the funding is intended to be used to support student mental health in the year the funding is provided, the funds can be carried over and spent in a subsequent year.

Alma	\$7,458.34	Alma Center	\$16,797.76	Arcadia	\$42,241.91
Bangor	\$20,526.93	BRF	\$55,310.50	Blair-Taylor	\$21,087.95
Cashton	\$17,886.81	CFC	\$17,886.81	DeSoto	\$16,533.75
GET	\$46,004.08	Hillsboro	\$15,345.69	Holmen	\$133,458.04
Indep.	\$16,434.74	La Crosse	\$194,345.79	LaFarge	\$8,085.37
Mel-Min	\$23,893.08	NOW	\$19,866.90	Onalaska	\$88,212.99
Royall	\$16,302.74	Sparta	\$100,885.56	Tomah	\$102,073.62
Viroqua	\$34,717.57	West Salem	\$56,993.58	Westby	\$35,542.61
Whitehall	\$24,322.10	Won- UC	\$12,771.58		

State and National News

1. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction recently released the results for the Forward Exam. There are a couple of changes that are important for districts to know as they begin to review the results. First, the cut score benchmarks were changed this year. That's an additional change on top of the renamed benchmarks that were announced earlier this year. Second, the results include an individual reading score. Tom McCarthy sent resources to district leaders so that they are able to interpret the results accurately. It is also important to note that with the change in the English and Math academic standards, updates to the exams were needed. As a result, the data from this year's test can not be compared to previous years, as it is an entirely new exam.
2. With the passing of Senator Herb Kohl, the Foundation recently announced that there will be major changes coming. Previously the Herb Kohl Foundation awarded scholarships to successful applicants. Moving forward, the Herb Kohl Education Foundation, will shift their work by being the "vocal champion" for those in the field of education. While scholarships will no longer exist, the Teacher Fellowship and Principal Leadership award will continue to be given to deserving recipients. The nominations for those awards will be opened later this fall.

Brad Dobbs moved to approve the report as presented. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BOARD OF CONTROL MEMBER INPUT/CRACKER BARREL

WASB – workshop – October 2 at Sparta – Herrman Elementary School – CESA 4 will not reschedule their monthly meeting in light of that.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Bauman moved the meeting adjourn. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Forrest Street Elementary, 720 Forrest Street, Black River Falls (with a tour of the recently renovated building to take place)

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek