

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at Golden Frog Restaurant, 112 North Shore Drive, Fountain City. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Bauman, Larry Cyrus, Cindy George, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, and Lindsay O’Hair.

Excused: Jim Bagniewski, Micaela Conlon-Bue, Sara Cook, Gerald Roethel, Ryan Stubrud

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Lindsay O’Hair moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 6, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Kevin Bauman moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2025 meeting. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR AUGUST

Julie Meyers moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for August. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

District Summarization of Purchased Services for 2025-26

Paul reviewed the services that the CESA 4 districts have purchased to date with comparisons made to the previous fiscal year.

Approve Personnel Contract

Julie Meyers moved to approve the part-time contract for Tammy Leis as School Counselor for the Tomah School District. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. We recently held a start-of-the-year agency meeting as a follow-up to our Agency Retreat in July. We no longer meet in August due to staff having numerous commitments to

districts for their start of the school year professional development. In previous years, that meant our first agency meeting for the school year wasn't until the 3rd Monday of the month. As part of our work this summer, and in an effort to improve agency communication, we added this additional meeting. The meeting also allowed us to prep for CESA U, which will be taking place next Tuesday and Wednesday at the Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau. The result of our most recent meeting included fine-tuning our Collective Commitments and the setting of 4 goals for the agency for the 2025-2026 school year. This will provide us with some direction and accountability as we move forward.

2. I had the opportunity to meet with Allyson Fergot, a reporter from WKBT Channel 8. She requested a meeting to discuss the state budget that was passed earlier this summer. The discussion ranged from the impact of the Special Education Reimbursement increase, declining enrollment and its impact on public education funding, the school voucher program and its impact on public education, and several other topics related to school funding. She had also met with the C-FC school district to discuss their budget shortfalls and the potential impact it would have on their district. She was very versed on the topics we discussed and wants to be an advocate for public education through her reporting position at WKBT. I have not been informed of the air date, but I will certainly share it when I receive that information.
3. We recently met with the Directors who are responsible for delivering our ALPSS program. We currently have four confirmed candidates for the ALPSS program, with a 5th candidate in the process of applying. Of these candidates, two would be in our K-9 General Education licensure program and 3 in our K-12 Cross-Categorical Special Education program. As we continue to evaluate our licensure program in terms of fiscal responsibility, one key point to note is that this past year, a significant amount of time and resources were devoted to transitioning staff from one learning platform (Canvas) to another (Google Classroom). This was done because the cost of the platform being used had a significant increase, and we decided to move to a platform that was free of charge. To do that, it required taking all of the modules that staff had created, downloading them from the previous site, and finally, uploading them to the new learning platform. This was cumbersome and time-consuming because the files from the initial platform had to be manually uploaded to the new platform. That process was completed in the spring, and all modules have been uploaded to the new platform. As a result, no additional time will need to be spent on this, which will lead to lower costs for the program in 2025-26.

State and National News

1. The Department of Public Instruction shared its Strategic Plan, which was developed based on feedback from surveys and public listening sessions conducted as part of this work over the past year and a half. As a result of that input, the department has identified four priority areas that will form the basis of its strategic plan. Those four areas are:
 - **Innovative Education:** To ensure every learner is engaged, challenged, and seen in their educational journey.

- **Educator Recruitment and Retention:** To build and sustain strong, stable staff in every school and library across the state.
- **Learner and Educator Mental Health:** To provide essential support for both students and staff, recognizing that wellness is fundamental for learning.
- **Modernized DPI:** To make the department clear, helpful, and responsive to the needs of its partners.

Keep these in mind as your own district looks to update or create its own strategic plan. Each district needs to develop its own Strategic Plan based on its local needs. Still, it is essential to know and understand what areas DPI has prioritized because that usually means that is where their funding priorities in the state budget will be as well.

Julie Meyers approved the Administrator's Report as presented. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CRACKER BARREL

WASB Fall Regional Meeting -Thursday, October 9 at Onalaska Middle School, 711 Quincy Street, Onalaska.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Bauman moved the meeting adjourn. Lindsay O'Hair seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4 in West Salem.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek