

## **COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4**

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

Thank you to Dr. Shelly Severson who provided the tour of the recently renovated Forrest Street Elementary school and to the Black River Falls Food Service department for providing the dinner.

We welcome Jim Bagniewski, La Crosse School Board member to the Board of Control. Jim is replacing Scott Neumeister.

Board Members Present: Jim Bagniewski, Kevin Bauman, Sara Cook, Brad Dobbs, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, Lindsay O'Hair, Sarah Staff, and Jim Wright.

Excused: Larry Cyrus, Gerald Roethel

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. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **OATHS OF OFFICE**

Lindsay O'Hair, Hillsboro and Jim Bagniewski, La Crosse both took their oaths of office.

### **READING AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Brad Dobbs moved to approve the minutes of August 7th meeting. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR AUGUST**

Jim Wright moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for August. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **APPROVE RETIREMENT**

Lindsay O'Hair moved to approve the retirement of Anne Fimreite effective August 16, 2024 without imposing the liquidated damages clause. Sara Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **First Reading of Policy #2264 – Title IX**

Paul discussed the Neola policy #2264 regarding Title IX. The policy will come back to the October meeting for a second reading.

### **APPROVE NEOLA POLICY REVISIONS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS – Vol. 33, #2**

Julie Meyers moved to approve the Neola Policy Revisions and Technical Corrections – Volume 33, #2 (July 2024). Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **DISTRICT SUMMARIZATION OF PURCHASED SERVICES FOR 2024-25**

Wayde reviewed the summarization of services that the area school districts have purchased for 2024-25. Information was shared that included comparisons to the previous year of purchased services.

### **AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER**

#### **CESA 4 Activities and Regional News**

1. The PAC Sub-Advisory met in August to plan our PAC meetings for the year. It was a highly productive meeting that had great discussion about possible topics and speakers for the year. Potential speakers were identified and I am in the process of confirming dates for each of them to come to a CESA 4 PAC meeting. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Milwaukee Public School Systems financial crisis. This has led to Wisconsin legislators wanting an audit of the Department of Public Instruction. This in turn has led to an increase of record requests of financial statements for districts throughout the state. With this in mind, our first PAC meeting will be centered around this conversation and how we can better prepare our CESA 4 districts for this kind of scrutiny. The reality is that we are seeing significant turnover in the district's business services department. As a result, Superintendents are having to field questions regarding a district's financial statements, which is not their area of expertise. This presentation in September will give them some tools and tips to ensure they are better prepared to answer questions or at least gather the information requested. There was also significant interest from the group around policies and procedures that are coming into question. I have scheduled attorney Shana Lewis for our November PAC meeting so that she can share her expertise around a variety of topics. I have also scheduled Dr. Underly's visit for Friday, October 11th. Other areas of interest that were determined included the Office and School Safety and continued professional development around that. I am also scheduling Jim Morgan, a member of a non-profit organization MRA, that provides resources for businesses/school systems. His presentation will focus around the current realities of today's workforce, as well practices districts can utilize to attract and retain employees.

Sarah Staff left the meeting at 8 p.m.

2. The new Wisconsin Career Readiness Standards are essential for preparing all students, from kindergarten through 12th grade, with the skills they need to succeed in their future careers and life. These standards emphasize critical competencies such as communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and global and cultural competence. By integrating these skills into all classes, we can ensure that students are not only academically prepared but also equipped to navigate the demands of the modern workforce and society. I'm thrilled to announce that CESA 4 has been selected to create the Community of Practice around these standards for the entire state. We've received a \$25,000 contract to develop the necessary materials and establish a common language and understanding of the "why" behind these standards. This initiative will help educators across all districts consistently implement these career readiness skills, ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to develop the competencies needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. Our work will be pivotal in promoting equity and lifelong learning, preparing students for success in their careers, community involvement, and beyond.
3. I continue to hear of numerous districts planning to go to an operational referendum, capital referendum, or a combination of both, this fall or next spring. To date, I am aware of Sparta, Tomah, Alma Center, Bangor, La Crosse, LaFarge, Viroqua, Royall, and West Salem, all going to referendum this fall. This number is expected to increase for the Spring of 2025 election.
4. We wrapped up another successful Para Summit at CESA 4 in mid-August. This year we hosted 78 participants from 15 school districts. Topics this year included Autism 101, Keeping Your Cool in Challenging Situations, Compassion Resilience, AI in Education, Roles and Responsibilities for Paras, Love & Logic, Youth Mental Health, Youth Drug Trends, and Strategies for Building Trust and Relationships with Students. Numbers were down slightly due to 2 of our larger districts choosing not to send staff due to budgetary constraints.

Julie Meyers moved to approve the report. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **CRACKER BARREL**

Discussion on how districts are handling staffing shortfalls and student absenteeism.

Discussion on the date change for the December Board of Control meeting. Consensus of the group was to move the meeting to Monday, December 2, 2024.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Second reading of the Title IX policy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Jim Wright moved the meeting adjourn. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at CESA 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Kotek