

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

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at Bangor Middle/High School Commons, 700 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Bangor. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Bauman, Micaela Conlon-Bue, Sara Cook, Larry Cyrus, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, Lindsay O’Hair, Gerald Roethel and Ryan Stubrud.

Excused: Jim Bagniewski and Cindy George

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

Before the start of the meeting, Dr. David Brokopp, Bangor School District Superintendent, gave a tour of the recently renovated areas of the Bangor School District buildings.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Julie Meyers moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **READING AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Kevin Bauman moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 meeting. Lindsay O’Hair seconded the motion. Motion carried. (October 1, 2025 meeting was cancelled).

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

Sara Cook moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for September and October. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss and Approve Boiler Replacement Proposal**

Paul shared information on the replacement of the boilers. Two NTI boilers – 285,000 BTU would be wall hung with firetube heat exchangers at a cost of \$47,975.00. Ryan Stubrud moved to approve the boiler replacement proposal as presented. Micaela Conlon-Bue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

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

1. The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance annual conference recently took place in Stevens Point. In an attempt to be more centralized in the state, we chose to move the

conference from Wisconsin Dells to Stevens Point. The move was very well received and as a result we saw an increase in registration, both from our members, but also from our vendors. We went from 37 vendors last year to 52 vendors this year. In terms of attendees, last year we had 97 people registered to attend. This year there were 137 attendees. Based on the positive feedback regarding the dates and location, we extended the contract with the Convention Center for an additional three years.

At this conference, we also recognize various members of WiRSA who were nominated, and ultimately chosen, to receive awards based on their roles in a district and the impact they have made in their rural school district. I am pleased to inform the CESA 4 Board of Control that this year, Gerry Roethel was chosen as the WiRSA School Board of Education member of the year. He has served on the Westby School Board for 11 years and on the CESA 4 Board of Control for 10 years.

2. At our October PAC meeting, we hosted two local legislators, Jill Billings and Steve Doyle. We had four originally lined up to attend but Governor Evers announced a last-minute stop in Viroqua for the grand opening of the Northpoint Housing Development. This resulted in Senator Pfaff and Representative Johnson not being able to attend. As part of our meeting with Representatives Billings and Doyle, the Superintendents went around the room to share their stories of their districts. A resounding topic that came up was in regards to school vouchers and the impact that they continue to have on public schools. Our Superintendents pointed out that many of them don't even have students attending private schools, and they are still losing funding from their own budgets to support these vouchers. It was also pointed out that districts receive no information regarding where students who are not enrolled in their local public school, actually attend school. It could be a private school, it could be homeschooled, they currently have no avenue in which to receive that information. One example I can share from a district that is on our Board of Control is Brookwood. In 2023, they levied \$40,000 which is approximately 4% of the district's levy. In 2024, they levied \$225,000, which is approximately 17% of their tax levy. In 2025, they levied approximately \$337,000, which is approximately 28% of their tax levy. Needless to say, it is more important than ever to share your district's story in terms of voucher impact on your district. The Representatives in attendance that day were genuinely shocked how much this has increased over the past 3 years.
3. This is the time of year when school districts start planning for the upcoming spring elections. WASB recently released the "Guide for Candidates" handbook. This was mailed to all school districts that are WASB members. The guidebook is designed to be used as a resource tool for school board candidates that are seeking election in the spring. There are important dates that are coming up in regards to the spring election. The first is November 25th, which is the deadline for newspaper publication of a type A Notice of Election. December 26th is an important deadline for incumbents if they do not intend to run for re-election, as that is the due date to file notice of non-candidacy. The deadline for all candidates to have all ballot access documents turned in is January 6, 2026.

### **State News**

1. The Federal Government shutdown has not significantly impacted Wisconsin educators at this point in time. Most of the federal funds for the 2025-2026 school year are

forward funded, meaning school districts received the funds at the beginning of the school year. There are some local districts that will be impacted in that there will be a delay in the Impact Aid they receive from the Federal Government. Impact Aid is meant for districts serving children who reside on Native American reservations or other federal properties. Another potential concern is federal aid for child nutrition programs, which include school meals. The programs operate on a 30-day reimbursement cycle. The Department of Public Instruction has indicated that they will pay districts for claims from September and anticipates funding will remain available through December, but officials are awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2. The State Education Conference is scheduled for January 21-23, 2026. Registration is now open! The CSN group will once again be having a Board of Control appreciation breakfast on Wednesday, January 23rd at the Hilton Hotel. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Also, it is important to note that your attendance is not required. There are sessions happening at that time and if you would rather attend the session and not attend the breakfast, that is perfectly fine!

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

### **CRACKER BARREL**

Larry Cyrus wanted to let his fellow board members know that any feedback regarding the Wisconsin School Board Association is welcome and he will take it back to the organization.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Discussion and Approval of Budgets for 2025-26  
Discussion and Approval of Recommended Pricing for 2026-2027  
Review and Discussion of Agency Administrator Evaluation

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ryan Stubrud moved the meeting adjourn. Lindsay O'Hair seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4 in West Salem.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Kotek