

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

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at Badger Crossing, 909 Front Street, Cashton. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Sarah Staff

Also present: Paul Fischer, Wayde Pollock and Michelle Kotek

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Jim Bagniewski moved to approve the meeting agenda as distributed. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **READING AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Julie Meyers moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2024 meeting. Lindsay O'Hair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Wayde Pollock reviewed the September and October Financials. Jim Wright moved to approve the vouchers for September and the Vouchers and Financial Statement for October. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Monthly Health Insurance Financial Summary**

The latest information was shared with the board as to how the plan is trending thus far in the year.

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

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

1. Recently myself and several CESA 4 Directors attended the Wisconsin Rural Schools conference. The directors had submitted proposals and were selected to present at five different breakout sessions. In one session, two of our directors presented with two

local Superintendent's in regards to Emerging Technology and Structural Changes needed in public education. In another session a director presented was on the Youth Vaping crisis we have in our state and country. The remaining sessions focused around utilizing AI Technology in education and the various tools that exist that can positively impact student learning as well as teacher efficiency. The conference also had a special session on the "State of School Finance" that was presented by Anne Chapman, the Research Director from WASBO. There was some information that I felt needed to be shared which reinforces the need for greater advocacy for public education. The first is that currently in Wisconsin, 83% of students attend public schools, 13% attend private schools, 3% are homeschooled, and 1% attend independent charter schools. The important statistic here is that of the 123,447 students attending private schools, 52,062 receive vouchers. Private school vouchers are expanding and continue to take funds away from our public schools. Finally, when it comes to per pupil allocations, voucher schools (grades 9-12) saw an increase of \$3,342 from the previous year. Voucher schools (grades K-8) saw an increase of \$1,494. Public schools saw an increase of only \$325 per pupil.

2. In an effort to keep you informed of our Strategic Planning work, I wanted to provide you with an update. At our most recent agency meeting, the work groups that I informed you about last month, met in five different groups. Each of these groups had identified a problem statement and then gathered in small groups to work towards a solution. This is a long-term project and we estimate it will take the groups several months to come to consensus with a solution. The five areas identified as part of the work groups were Referrals, Data Collection, Sharing District Work, Business Services, and Regular Communication and Its Impact on Culture. I am optimistic that this work will continue to move forward in a positive direction. The leadership and collaboration I am having with our Implementation Team has truly been impactful.
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 26th, which is the deadline for newspaper publication of a type A Notice of Election. December 27th 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 7, 2025. Finally, we recently learned that the WASB Fall Legal Advocacy workshop that was scheduled for November 12th at CESA 4 has been canceled due to low participation.
4. The WISH Center will once again be hosting their "Building the Heart of Successful Schools" conference. The dates for the conference are Wednesday, December 4 through

Thursday, December 5th. Dr. Brian Drinkins will be the keynote speaker. He will be sharing information regarding the development of emotional intelligence in both students and adults. There will also be several breakout sessions throughout the two days.

### **State News**

1. For the first time in my three years as the Agency Administrator at CESA 4, I recently met with the entire Department of Public Instruction cabinet. As a CSN we have been requesting this meeting so that we can get to know our partners in education at a deeper level. Over half of the cabinet members sitting around the table I had never met. This was a great first step to build relationships with the department. The meeting included the sharing of their Strategic Planning work that has been taking place over the past 18 months. They have gathered information, data, trends, etc. and are now prepared to move the work forward. They shared with us their four areas of focus that we identified through their town meetings and feedback from the survey. Those should be released in the coming weeks. Also, the department shared with us their asks for the upcoming Biennium Budget. The proposal will include a \$3.1 billion budget. Budget items that were highlighted included Youth Mental Health (\$304 million), Universal School Meals (\$294 million), Special Education (60% reimbursement rate), Early Literacy (\$42 million), and Recruitment and Retention of educators (\$59.5 million).
2. The State Education Conference is scheduled for January 22-24, 2025. Registration is now open! The CSN group will once again be having a Board of Control appreciation breakfast on Wednesday, January 22nd at the Hilton Hotel. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Brad Dobbs moved to approve the report. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **CRACKER BARREL**

Handout was shared with the results from the 10 school districts in the CESA 4 region who had referendum questions on the election ballot. Six of the ten districts had their referendums pass.

Larry Cyrus encouraged members if they had any ideas they would like shared with the WASB, to please let him know.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Jim Bagniewski moved the meeting adjourn. Lindsay O'Hair seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting: ***Monday, December 2, 2024*** at 6:30 p.m. at CESA #4.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Kotek