

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at the CESA #4 Office, 923 East Garland Street, West Salem, Wisconsin.

Chairman Dave Amundson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: David Amundson, Dawn Comeau, Larry Cyrus, Jane Halverson, Julie Meyers, and Mary Jo Rozmenoski.

Via Zoom Connection: Jen Rasmussen and Kaye Henrickson via Zoom Connection.

Excused: Kevin Bauman, Aaron Nemec, Gerald Roethel, Sarah Staff, and Jim Wright

Also present: Dr. Kehl Arnson, Wayde Pollock, and Michelle Kotek

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Jane Halverson moved to approve the meeting agenda with the change in Presentation to Licensing Project with Kaye Henrickson and Jen Rasmussen. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

LICENSING PROJECT: KAYE HENRICKSON AND JEN RASMUSSEN

With school districts having difficulty filling some positions in certain licensure areas, CESA #4 is investigating becoming a licensing agency similar to the program CESA #9 offers to its school districts. There would be an application process and approval needed by the WI Department of Public Instruction before CESA #4 could offer the program. Superintendents and principals have both provided feedback on the current and/or future needs and also the areas of critical staff shortages (library media specialist, Career and Tech Education, math/science at the middle and high school levels to name a few). The goal of the program would be a shorter time commitment for the individual to work towards the certification and that the district would sponsor the person in return for an agreed upon commitment to stay employed working in the district in the new role. CESA #4 would support the district's candidate in the needed on-line courses, field experience and completion of the student teaching. The program would allow for recruitment and retention of qualified, certified educational staff and for districts to fill local needs.

READING AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 7, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Jane Halverson moved to approve the October 7, 2020 meeting minutes as distributed. Dawn Comeau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVE THE VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Julie Meyers moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for the month of October. Dawn Comeau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve LaValle, Neola Account Representative for CESA #4 met with Kehl in early October to go over the recommended changes to the Bylaws and Policies for CESA #4. Jane Halverson moved to approve the policy updates as presented. Dawn Comeau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

- As a service to all of our districts designed to improve sharing and communication about responses to COVID in each district; I built a simple Dashboard for our CESA #4 region. Districts have loaded current information, and will discuss this together at our PAC meeting. Superintendents have responded that it is a good idea to have the information available as they make decisions for their communities. We will update the information every two to three weeks to stay current with the ever-changing COVID landscape.
- We have successfully on-boarded all nine of the new employees for the WISH Center as a part of the “Cares Act for Mental Health” funded through the Federal CARES Act/ESSER to providing training and technical assistance. Tracy Herlitzke did an excellent job but it was a true team effort with all of the new staff going through benefits and technology set-up which required help from many of our support staff. The group seems very talented, experienced and eager to start working on this new project.
- Our Audit was completed during the third week of October. Wayde will schedule our audit report to the Board once they have completed the full report. We especially thank Wayde for preparing the audit report, and for Yvonne and Ethel’s support through the process responding to auditors and providing additional reports throughout their time here. Thank you!
- State School Board Convention registration is open for January 20-22 and will be 100% virtual. Keynote speakers include: former Packer Donald Driver, National School board Association Director Anna Chavez, and as in the past the Governor will be invited to speak if available. <https://wasb.org/meeting-and-events/convention/>
- We have a new project starting this year with Charter School Support and Services for CESA #4 schools. Kaye Henrickson, Amanda Langrehr and I are on the project to provide support to our districts who already have charter schools as well as help districts who are exploring interest in starting a charter school. The flyer for the first offering – a learning network is attached.
- Congratulations to our CESA #4 districts who successfully passed 100% of the ballot referendums yesterday (Alma, Black River Falls, Blair-Taylor, La Farge, and Westby).
- I was pleasantly surprised last week as an article about my promotion to CESA #4 popped up from an Atlanta, Georgia newsfeed. I believe it was originally written in May but just came up now. Since it mentions CESA #4, I wanted to share the article with you.

Former Smyrna High School Principal Takes New Job in Wisconsin: A former Campbell High School Principal will resign from his current role and start a new job in July.

By Andrea V. Watson, Patch Staff, May 14, 2020

Smyrna-Vinings, GA Patch

SMYRNA, GA ---An educator whose accolades include being named Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, and Citizen of the Year for the City of Smyrna at Campbell High School, will be leaving a Wisconsin school district for a nonprofit.

According to the La Crosse Tribune, Dr. Kehl Arnson will leave the Viroqua Area School District at the end of the current school year to take on a new job with nonprofit Cooperative Educational Services Agency (CESA #4).

Arnson will fill the role of Agency Administrator with CESA #4 in West Salem, Wisconsin. It's one of twelve nonprofit Cooperative Educational Service Agencies created in 1964 by the Wisconsin legislature. According to its website, they facilitate communication and program implementation with each other and with the Department of Public Instruction. Because they work on a regional cooperative basis, CESAs are able to economically and efficiently provide programs and services requested by local school districts and other public entities. He will begin his position with CESA #4 on July 1.

He was recognized in 2006 while he was a high school principal in Smyrna at Campbell. He worked at the metro Atlantic school in various roles from 2001 – 2009. Arnson first joined the Viroqua School District in 2016 as district administrator, reports the Stevens Point Journal.

ADJOURNMENT

Jane Halverson moved to adjourn. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek