

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at CESA 4, 923 East Garland Street, West Salem, Wisconsin.

Dave Amundson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dave Amundson, Kevin Bauman, Catherine Griffin, Lindsay O'Hair, Gerald Roethel, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, and Jim Wright

Via Zoom: Sarah Staff

Excused: Julie Meyers, Katie Berkedal, Larry Cyrus

Also present: Paul Fischer, Wayde Pollock and Michelle Kotek

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the meeting agenda as distributed. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER

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

NEW BUSINESS

Board Discussion/Input on WASB Convention Resolutions for CESA 4 Delegate

Paul reviewed the various resolutions. Catherine Griffin will be voting on behalf of the CESA 4 Board of Control.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – Paul Fischer

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. I was contacted by Kathleen Fry from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. She is the School Administration Consultant for DPI and contacted me regarding the pending vacancy of the School District Boundary Appeals Board (SDBAB) due to Dave Amundson's upcoming retirement from the Cashton School Board. Each CESA typically appoints one member to the SDBAB for a two-year term. David Amundson has served on this board, representing CESA 4 for many years. With Dave's retirement, he will be ineligible to serve on the SDBAB and we need to appoint a new person to serve on the SDBAB. Dave represents a small school district, so ideally his replacement would represent a district of similar size. If anyone on the CESA 4 Board of Control is interested in filling the position, please let me know.
2. At our most recent agency meeting, we have established the language for the CESA 4 mission statement. A small group of us will be getting together to finalize the wording of the mission statement. There were some great conversations regarding how we as an agency can fulfill the mission through the work we do with the 26 school districts in CESA 4.
3. As a reminder, the CESA Board of Control appreciation breakfast will be held at the State Education Convention on Wednesday, January 18th from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The breakfast will be held in the Wright Rooms A and B at the Hilton in Milwaukee.
4. We are nearing the completion of the final edits for the CESA 4 catalog for districts. We will be bringing the catalog to the Board of Control at our February meeting for the final approval. Once it is approved, the meetings with districts, along with myself and some of the CESA 4 Directors will begin to take place. We are already hearing of some potential staffing changes for next year. Once we know what exactly those are, we will bring them to the BOC for approval. I can tell you that the need for mental health/school psychologists continues to be in high demand and we may need to hire additional staff.
5. ALPSS Update: Kaye Henrickson and Jen Rasmussen will be submitting paperwork to the Department of Public Instruction on January 19th that will allow us to expand our ALPSS program to include a K-12 Cross-Categorical Special Education licensure. With this initial submission, we are looking for feedback from DPI regarding the proposal. Our goal and hope is to be able to offer this starting the fall of 2023.

State News

1. Due to inclement weather, our December CSN meeting was held virtually via Zoom. One of the biggest discussions we had as a group was with John Johnson, Deputy State Superintendent with the Department of Public Instruction. John emphasized once again

the need for districts to spend down their ESSER funds due to the scrutiny that they are under at the state level.

2. The ESSER fund balances are being used as an argument that school districts don't need additional educational funding due to the fact that they are carrying large balances in their ESSER funds. Along with the ESSER funding, we discussed potential pathways that will lead to a larger pool of Special Education Teachers. They recognize the shortage and are working on ways in which to license potential SPED teachers more efficiently.

We received an update regarding CESA purchasing (a program through CESA 2). It was another successful year, with CESA netting a \$148,658 profit. This is up from \$138,000 in 2021. The CESA purchasing program is not utilized a great deal by CESA 4 school districts so I will be visiting this topic at an upcoming PAC meeting to reinforce the benefits of the program. By utilizing certain vendors, districts can see a reduction in some of their costs.

Finally, as a CSN group, we have asked for a special meeting with Dr. Jill Underly and the Department of Public Instruction cabinet team during the State Education Convention in January. We would like to discuss with them the concerns and feedback that we are hearing from our school districts in regards to frustrations with the Department of Public Instruction.

We are hoping to have a discussion as to how they can better utilize CESA's to get information out, and communicate with, school districts throughout the state. I used my December PAC meeting to get input from our local Superintendent's so that their voices can be heard at this meeting. The meeting is tentatively set to take place on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 at the CESA 1 office in Pewaukee. I will keep you informed as to the outcome of the meeting.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the report. Lindsay O'Hair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S MID-YEAR EVALUATION REPORT

Paul Fischer shared with the Board a 6 month summary of how the meetings with his statewide peers, superintendents, and CESA 4 employees have gone.

BOARD OF CONTROL MEMBER INPUT/CRACKER BARREL

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Johnson Block to give audit report at the February 1st meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Wright moved the meeting adjourn. Catherine Griffin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek