

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at Castle Hill Restaurant, Merrilan, Wisconsin.

Dave Amundson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dave Amundson, Kevin Bauman, Larry Cyrus, Catherine Griffin, Lindsay O’Hair, Gerald Roethel, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Sarah Staff and Jim Wright.

Absent: Katie Berkedal

Excused: Julie Meyers

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Sarah Staff moved to approve the meeting agenda as distributed. Lindsay O’Hair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Larry Cyrus moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for February as presented. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Neola Policy Revisions Volume 32, Number 1 dated January 2023

Lindsay O’Hair moved to approve the Neola Policy Revisions as discussed. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

First Reading of the Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens and Religious Activities and Observances Policies and second reading/approval will be done at the April meeting.

Approval of CESA 10 – Environmental Services contract for 2022-23

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the contract that provides services to the area 20 school districts in our CESA region. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion and Approval of Contract for Technology Upgrades to Conference Rooms

Paul Fischer discussed the proposals from Advanced Multimedia Solutions (La Crosse) and Audio Video Pros (Onalaska). Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the contract with Advanced Multimedia Solutions in La Crosse and Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Personnel Contracts

Jim Wright moved to approve contracts for:

Katie Belitz, School Psychologist - 1.0 FTE for 2022-23

Aurora Gonzalez, Multilingual Learner Director - 1.0 FTE for 2022-23

Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. New Board Member gathering and Annual Meeting: The WASB new school board member gathering at CESA 4 has officially been scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, from 7 - 9 p.m. We highly encourage new board members that are elected in April to attend the meeting.
2. The CESA 4 annual meeting is set to be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. I have scheduled Mike Barry from the Wisconsin Association of Business Officials to do a presentation to the group. His presentation will center around School Finance 101. It is apparent that board members, and especially new board members, don’t understand on how school finance works. I have seen his introductory presentations and feel that this will be a great presentation for our annual meeting. We are also working on our annual report. We are changing the layout of this a bit and moving to a digital format that will be more interactive. We are very excited about this change!
3. At our PAC meeting on Tuesday, John Johnson, the Deputy State Superintendent, provided an update on where things are at with the state budget. Dr. Underly and Mr. Johnson was to be in person, but it was moved last minute to a virtual meeting. That certainly impacted the conversation by not having personal interaction. John reiterated that mental health remains a high priority on both sides of the aisle. We did discuss early literacy and the emphasis that is being placed on that for a statewide system implementation. We don’t know what that looks like yet, but there is a big push for that. When asked about 4K, there seems to be a lot of support around fully funding a 4K program. It is driven not only by academics, but also due to the lack of daycare throughout the state.

4. **RtI Center Update:** The plan at this point is to fully dismantle the Wisconsin RtI Center. Without having a fiscal agent, DPI felt it was best to start over and reallocate the funds. In the meantime, they intend to support the few districts that were actually receiving services from the RtI Center. Again, a specific plan hasn't been determined, but from what we are hearing, CESA's would receive some of the funds that were earmarked for the RtI Center. Those funds would allow us to provide services to those districts with the current staff that we have.
5. **Long Term Planning:** There are a few items that we should keep in mind when it comes to long term planning related to the CESA 4 facilities. There will come a time in the near future that we will need to address our roof. The northwest corner of our building has already had some areas in which there has been some patch work done. Eventually we are going to need to address that by replacing the current shingles/roof. We also need to be mindful of the length of life in regards to our boilers. We are at a point where we are starting to have some issues with them and will need to eventually replace them, likely within the next few years.
6. **Building Maintenance:** Within the past few weeks we had an issue with one of our doors not locking as it should. Michelle received a call over a weekend from the West Salem Police Department, indicating that a door was open. After looking at the door lock system by a professional, it was determined that a replacement of the core was necessary. It was also determined that since one of the cores was being replaced, it made sense to have them all replaced. The work was completed this morning.
7. As of this writing, I, along with some of the directors, have met with 7 of our 26 CESA 4 districts in regards to the CESA 4 service catalog. By weeks end, that number will be at 10 school districts. The meetings have been very productive and great conversations are taking place. It has been great having the directors along on the visits as it has led to discussions about work needing to be done in the future, based on the work that is being done currently. I am confident that this is going to lead to additional contracts being issued to districts that have not historically been heavy users of CESA 4 services.

State News

8. If you have not seen information regarding the WASB Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 22nd, I highly recommend that you look into it. WASB has set aside the entire day so that school boards and District Administrators have the opportunity to discuss the impact the proposed 2023-2025 state budget will have on public education. The morning will consist of a presentation by WASB to legislative leaders from both parties. WASB will highlight what they feel are the priorities of the state budget proposal to the panel of legislators. The afternoon will consist of WASB setting up meetings with school districts and their local legislators. School members and administrators will be given the opportunity to have direct conversations with the legislators that serve their regions. If local school districts plan on attending, it is important to have conversations with your school board members and

administration as to the priorities you want to identify for your district. It is always recommended to highlight a “story” or share with them your district’s needs. When they can make personal connections to a budget item, it helps them see the reason why a particular item should be included, or excluded, from the budget.

Larry Cyrus moved to approve the report. Jim Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BOARD OF CONTROL MEMBER INPUT/CRACKER BARREL

Mary Jo Rozmenoski shared that John Ashley, WASB Executive Director, is retiring June 30. WASB will be interviewing for his replacement in April.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Sarah Staff moved the meeting adjourn. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Frog Restaurant, Fountain City.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek