

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the CESA office in West Salem. Vice Chair Jim Wright called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Bauman, Sara Cook, Larry Cyrus, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, Lindsay O’Hair, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, and Sarah Staff, Trevor Sprague, and Jim Wright.

Excused: Gerald Roethel

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Julie Meyers moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of Oath of Office for Trevor Sprague (La Crosse). Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

Paul Fischer had Sara Cook (School District of Cashton) who is replacing Dave Amundson and Trevor Sprague (School District of La Crosse) who is replacing Katie Berkedal read their Oaths of Office and welcomed them to the CESA 4 Board of Control.

READING AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 5 MEETING MINUTES

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APRIL

Sarah Staff moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for April as presented. Mary Jo Rozmenoski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE PERSONNEL CONTRACTS

Lindsay O’Hair moved to approved the contracts for:

Cheryl Anderson, 1.0 FTE Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Ellen Costic, 1.0 FTE Physical Therapist

Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVE RETIREMENT

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the retirement of Kaye Henrickson, Instructional Services Director at the completion of her 2022-23 contract. Kaye has been with CESA for 10 years. Sara Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVE CONCRETE REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL

Larry Cyrus moved to approve the concrete replacement proposal as discussed for \$9,350.00. Trevor Sprague seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. We held our last PAC meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. We recognized two retiring Superintendents, Jeff Arzt from Melrose-Mindoro, and Curt Bisarek from Hillsboro. We also welcomed Dr. Tom Thibodeau from Viterbo in to speak with our Superintendent group. As he always does, he left the group inspired and also reinforced with the group their role as not only district leaders but also community leaders. There was also a great conversation in our “Time to Talk” portion of the agenda about the various issues that are occurring in many, if not most of our districts. Specifically, we talked about the significant increase in vaping cases and as well as truancy issues districts are experiencing. Collectively we felt it would be beneficial to have deeper conversations as to how we can create partnerships at the county level to try to address this.
2. CESA 4 currently has an Occupational Therapist posting to address the need for increased services throughout our CESA 4 districts. We have also had several districts reach out inquiring about Speech and Language services. This is a high area of need and many districts are having to go to virtual Speech and Language services, which is less than ideal.
3. The Department of Public Instruction has received funding through an IDEA discretionary grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the grant funds is to develop a Special Education Induction program for new special education teachers. The funding will be used to train 3 of our CESA 4 staff to be coaches for 1st and 2nd year special education teachers in our CESA 4 districts. There is no cost for districts to participate, and each participant will receive \$1,500. CESA 4 is limited to 25 participants so we are highly recommending that districts get their eligible staff signed up as soon as possible.
4. After the Board of Control approved the 8% increase in our dental insurance plan at the April meeting, we received word from our agent, Janice Wavra, that Delta Dental agreed to lower the increase from 8% down to 6%.

5. The Legislative Listening sessions have recently wrapped up throughout the state. The Joint Finance Committee will now start meeting in Executive Session to vote on various provisions of the state budget. It is expected that public education will not be discussed in detail until the end of May. With that in mind, we are being encouraged to reach out to our local legislators with messaging around your district's story and how the proposed budget would impact your district. The JFC began meeting on Tuesday, May 2nd, and one of the first items of business was to remove 545 items Governor Evers included in his Executive Budget. Of note in regards to public education, that includes general schools aids surrounding four year old kindergarten membership, per pupil aid, aid for school based mental health, and several other categorical aid items. It is important to note that no mention was made to remove special education reimbursement and there appears to be bi-partisan financial support for the implementation of a foundational reading program. It will be important for districts to continue to monitor the JFC as they work through the state budget process.

State News

1. At our most recent CSN meeting in Madison, we received an update from Dr. Underly, John Johnson, and Tom McCarthy from DPI around the Wisconsin RtI (Response to Intervention) Center. The Wisconsin RtI Center is now officially dissolved and a plan is in place to move to an Equitable Multi-Level Systems of Support (e-MLSS) type model where the focus would be on a Response to Intervention approach surrounding academics and behavior. Each CESA would be given funding to hire a full time coach. We also have the ability to split the position between a current Director and the new employee. Our leadership team recently met to determine how we want this to look for CESA 4. DPI will also create a full time statewide position that will focus on data collection and analysis. It is important to be mindful of the fact that this is a one year position, but in all likelihood, it will become part of a long term plan centered around e-MLSS work.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to approve the report. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION UNDER WI STATUTE 19.85 [c] TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

Julie Meyers moved to go into closed session. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken: Kevin Bauman - aye; Sara Cook - aye; Larry Cyrus - aye; Catherine Griffin - aye; Julie Meyers - aye; Lindsay O'Hair - aye; Gerald Roethel - absent; Mary Jo Rozmenoski - aye; Trevor Sprague - aye; Sarah Staff - aye; and Jim Wright – aye.

Convened into closed session at 7:10 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Catherine Griffin moved to return to open session. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken: Kevin Bauman - aye; Sara Cook - aye; Larry Cyrus - aye; Catherine Griffin - aye; Julie Meyers - aye; Lindsay O'Hair - aye; Gerald Roethel - absent; Mary Jo Rozmenoski -

aye; Trevor Sprague - aye; Sarah Staff - aye; and Jim Wright – aye. Reconvened into open session at 7:20 p.m.

REPORT OUT

None

BOARD OF CONTROL MEMBER INPUT/CRACKER BARREL

- Dan Rossmiller has been named the new WASB Executive Director as of July 1, 2023. Dan will replace John Ashley.
- The WASB Essentials of Governance scheduled for May 10, 2023 at CESA 4 has been cancelled due to low registrations.
- The Fall WASB Regional Meeting will be Thursday, October 5 hosted by Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau School District.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Julie Meyers moved the meeting adjourn. Sarah Staff seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4 in West Salem.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek