

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at CESA 4, 923 East Garland Street, West Salem. Chair Catherine Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Bauman, Larry Cyrus, Cindy George, Catherine Griffin, Dan Kotek, and Julie Meyers.

Excused: Jim Bagniewski, Micaela Conlon-Bue, Sara Cook, Lindsay O'Hair and Ryan Stubrud

Also present: Paul Fischer, Wayde Pollock, and Michelle Kotek, Matthew Bomkamp (auditor)

PUBLIC INPUT

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Larry Cyrus moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Personnel Contract Approval. (8.b.) removal of Dental Insurance Renewal (8.c.), and for two Resignations instead of one. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT – JOHNSON BLOCK – MATTHEW BOMKAMP

Catherine Griffin moved to approve the 2024-25 audit report as presented. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 4, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Julie Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2026 meeting. Dan Kotek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MARCH

Kevin Bauman moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for March. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Resignations

Julie Meyers moved to approve the resignation of Laura Veglahn, School Improvement Services Director effective June 30, 2026 and Tracy Herlitzke, WI Safe and Healthy Schools Training and Technical Assistance Director effective April 17, 2026. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approve Standard raise increase for 2026-27

Julie Meyers moved to table the agenda item and it will be brought up at the April 29th meeting once the insurance renewals are known. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discuss Annual Convention Meeting and Agenda

The seats of Kevin Bauman (N-O-W for Monroe County); Larry Cyrus (Cochrane-Fountain City for Buffalo/Trempealeau Counties) and Jim Bagniewski for the La Crosse School District seat will be up for election. Dan Kotek moved to approve the agenda and Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

1. We currently are in the process of filling 2 full time vacancies and 1 part time vacancy for the agency. With Laura Veglahn's departure to CESA 12, we have a full time Director of School Improvement Services position posted, as well as a full time WiMLSS position. The WiMLSS posting will be filling the position that was vacated in January due to Steph Seidel's departure. At the time of her resignation, the decision was made to post that position later in the spring for the 2026-2027 school year, rather than trying to fill it for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. We have 16 applicants for the School Improvement Services position, and 11 applicants for the WiMLSS position. The part time position that is posted is for a Special Education Improvement Services Consultant. The posting was necessary due to an increase in demand for those services in our districts. We will be looking for a candidate willing to work 40-80 days for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. The 10th annual **Paraprofessional Summit** will be held Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at CESA 4. Registration for this event is now open and seats are limited so it is highly recommended to register early! This event is a great opportunity for school districts throughout the CESA 4 region to support their Paraprofessionals. This year's keynote Speaker is Dr. Paula Knuth. Dr. Paula Kluth is the founding member and principal consultant for Inclusion Rules LLC. She is a consultant, author, advocate, and independent scholar who works with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities and to create more responsive and engaging schooling experiences for all learners. She is a former K-12 special educator who has served as a classroom teacher, co-teacher, and inclusion facilitator. Paula has also been a university professor and has taught courses on both inclusion and disability studies. The strategy-packed workshop will provide attendees with techniques and strategies that can be used in K-12 inclusive classrooms (e.g., visual supports, indirect communication, choices, natural supports).
3. CESA 4 will be hosting the WASB New School Board Member Gathering on Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Also, a reminder that our CESA 4 Annual meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026. A delegate from each of our 26 districts is asked to attend. This year Erin, Hansen, Tracy Hogden and Dawn Tauscher will be presenting on the Special Education Teacher Induction program. Michelle Kotek, CESA 4 Administrative Assistant, will be reaching out to districts within the week to inquire about each district's delegate that will be attending.

State News

Governor Evers has vetoed a portion of the Big Beautiful Bill that would have opted Wisconsin into the nationwide school voucher system. The program essentially redirects public school funds to private school tuition through tax incentives. It is the first-ever federal effort to fund private school scholarships through vouchers the federal government will pay individuals in exchange for donating towards organizations that award scholarships to attend private schools. Wisconsin is one of only two states who have announced plans to opt out of the federal program. States have until Jan. 1 of next year to make their final decision on participation.

Kevin Bauman approved the Administrator's Report as presented. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION UNDER WI STATUTE 19.85 1 [c] TO DISCUSS ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT

Larry Cyrus moved to table the agenda item until the April 29th board meeting. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CRACKER BARREL

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Health Insurance renewal
Dental Insurance renewal
Personnel Contracts
Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT

Julie Meyers moved the meeting adjourn. Dan Kotek seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4, West Salem.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek