

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #4

The Board of Control met on Wednesday, April 29, 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, Sara Cook, Larry Cyrus, Cindy George, Catherine Griffin, Julie Meyers, and Ryan Stubrud. (Westby seat currently vacant)

Absent: Micaela Conlon-Bue and Lindsay O'Hair

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Ryan Stubrud moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Bagniewski arrived at 6:32 p.m.

READING AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 1, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Julie Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2026 meeting. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APRIL

Ryan Stubrud moved to approve the vouchers and financial statement for April. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment and removal of agenda item 7 a. from the meeting minutes.

Approval of Retirement

Julie Meyers moved to approve the retirement of Karla Proksch, part-time physical therapist at the end of her 2025-26 contract. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Approval of Personnel Contracts

Sara Cook moved to approve Ryan Vogler as School Improvement Services Director for 2026-27 and Greg Johnson as Instructional Services Director for 2026-27. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Approval of Dental Insurance Renewal 2026-27

Ryan Stubrud moved to approve the Delta Dental Insurance self-funded plan effective July 1, 2026 with no increase in premium and a change in plan design. Cindy George seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Health Insurance Renewal 2026-27

Kevin Bauman moved to approve the Health Insurance Renewal. Ryan Stubrud seconded the motion. Motion carried

Approve Standard raise increase for 2026-27

Sara Cook moved to approve the standard rate increase for employees' salary at 2.63 percent for 2026-27. Julie Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD – PAUL FISCHER

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. The Tomah Area School District, in partnership with the Sparta Area School District, recently held a luncheon recognizing the Month of the Military Child. April is recognized as the Month of the Military Child, honoring the roughly 1.6 million children in military families for their resilience, sacrifices, and unique challenges. Established in 1986, this observance highlights the impact of frequent moves, school changes, and parental deployments on children. The luncheon included musical selection from the Tomah High School choir, a Jr. ROTC member from Tomah High School, and acknowledgements from Dr. Jill Underly from the Department of Public Instruction. As part of her address, she formally announced the Purple Star award to 17 schools throughout the state. The Purple Star award is given to schools who have shown significant commitment to supporting military-connected students and families. Of those 17 schools recognized, 9 were from the Tomah Area School District, and one was from the Sparta Area School District.
2. At our April PAC meeting we hosted Mr. Tom Kidd. He spoke to our Superintendents regarding the important role that they have in leading the 26 school districts in the CESA 4 region. He followed that up with the fact that these leadership roles come with great responsibility, which can sometimes mean a large amount of stress. Mr. Kidd reinforced with the Superintendents the importance of self-care and the importance of taking care of themselves, as well as the districts they serve. His message was well received and appreciated by our group of Superintendents. Speaking of Supt. meetings, May brings our last Supt. meeting of the year. At our May meeting, we will recognize the one Superintendent who will be retiring. Dr. Mike Hanson, from the Tomah Area School District is retiring at the end of the year. We wish him the best of luck in his retirement. We will also be hosting Damien LaCroix, the new Executive Director for the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA). He will share the vision he has for WASDA as he assumes the role on July 1st.
3. We recently completed our annual audit with the Department of Public Instruction for our ALPSS program. The annual audit is a requirement for any type of EPP (Educator Prep Program). As part of the audit, a member of the DPI Licensing team meets with the Directors from the ALPSS program to review the documents that outline how the program needs to be run. I am happy to report that the audit went very well and the CESA 4 team passed the audit with flying colors. The team has been busy advertising

and recruiting candidates for the upcoming year. To date we have had one candidate submit the required documentation to begin the enrollment process into the program. I have also been informed that there is a lot of interest being shown, so we are hopeful we can get to an appropriate level of students so we can continue with the ALPSS program at CESA 4.

4. The Portrait of a Graduate listening session will be taking place Thursday, April 30, 2026 at CESA 4 starting at 6:00 p.m. The Department is looking to gather input and information from all interested stakeholders, including school counselors, teachers, administration, school board members, and local business partners. The event is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend!

State/Federal News

1. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) extended the ADA Title II web accessibility compliance deadlines by one year in an April 2026 interim final rule. Public entities with a population of 50,000 or more now have until April 26, 2027, and smaller entities/special districts have until April 26, 2028, to comply. This extension impacts all state and local government entities, including public universities and K-12 institutions, allowing them more time to achieve compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Several bills were signed into law during the final legislative session in March. One that districts are aware of is Act 42. Act 42 requires all district school boards to adopt a policy prohibiting students from using personal wireless communication devices during instructional time by July 1, 2026. The policy must include the definition of “wireless communication device” included in the act and school boards must provide each student with a copy of the policy annually. A key piece that hasn’t been discussed as much is that by October 1, 2026, each school board must submit its wireless communication device policy to the DPI. By October 1, 2027, and every October 1 thereafter, school boards must also notify the DPI whether changes were made to the prior school year’s policy and, if so, submit the updated wireless communication device policy to the Department.

Kevin Bauman approved the Administrator’s Report as presented. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Ryan Stubrud moved to go into closed session. Catherine Griffin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Jim Bagniewski - aye; Kevin Bauman – aye; Micaela Conlon-Bue - absent; Sara Cook – aye; Larry Cyrus –aye; Cindy George - aye; Catherine Griffin – aye; Julie Meyers - aye; Lindsay O’Hair - absent; and Ryan Stubrud - aye. Adjourned into closed session at 7:05 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Ryan Stubrud moved to return to open session. Kevin Bauman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Jim Bagniewski - aye; Kevin Bauman – aye; Micaela Conlon-Bue - absent; Sara Cook – aye; Larry Cyrus –aye; Cindy George - aye; Catherine Griffin – aye; Julie Meyers - aye; Lindsay O’Hair - absent; and Ryan Stubrud - aye. Returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

Sara Cook moved to approve the Administrator contract with a 2.63 percent increase in salary. Jim Bagniewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CRACKER BARREL

Overview of the school board member gathering that CESA 4 hosted on April 23.
School elections

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Annual meeting – delegates invited from all 26 school districts followed by the organizational meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Bauman moved the meeting adjourn. Cindy George seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at CESA 4, West Salem. Organizational meeting will immediately follow the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Kotek