

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 4, 2014

A regular meeting of the Kenosha Unified School Board was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Educational Support Center. Ms. Stevens, President, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. with the following Board members present: Mrs. Taube, Mr. Flood, Mr. Nuzzo, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Bryan, and Ms. Stevens. Dr. Mangi was also present.

Ms. Stevens, President, opened the meeting by announcing that this was a regular meeting of the School Board of Kenosha Unified School District. Notice of this regular meeting was given to the public by forwarding the complete agenda to all requesting radio stations and newspapers. Copies of the complete agenda are available for inspection at all public schools and at the Superintendent's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the Superintendent's office.

Dr. Bethany Ormseth, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary School Leadership, introduced Mr. Scott Plank, Coordinator of Fine Arts, who presented the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association State Conference Awards, the Wisconsin State Theater Festival Awards, and the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic Awards. The VFW Teacher of the Year Awards were then presented by VFW representatives.

There were no Administrative and/or Supervisory appointments.

Mrs. Coleman introduced the Student Ambassador, Paul Eggers, from Indian Trail Academy and High School, and he made his comments.

Mr. Bryan presented the Legislative Report.

There were views and comments by the public.

Board members made their responses and comments.

Ms. Stevens made her remarks.

Dr. Mangi presented the Superintendent's Report.

The Board considered the following Consent-Approve items:

Consent-Approve item XI-A – Recommendations Concerning Appointments, Leaves of

Consent-Approve item XI-C – Summary of Receipts, Wire Transfers, and Check Registers submitted by Ms. Heather Kraeuter, Accounting & Payroll Manager; Mr. Hamdan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Hancock, excerpts follow:

“It is recommended that the December 2013 cash receipt deposits totaling \$264,494.72 and cash receipt wire transfers-in totaling \$40,282,954.54, be approved.

Check numbers 502377 through 503364 totaling \$11,547,659.65, and general operating wire transfers-out totaling \$418,578.46 are recommended for approval as the payments made are within budgeted allocations for the respective programs and projects.

It is recommended that the December 2013 net payroll and benefit EFT batches totaling \$11,970,842.25 and net payroll check batches totaling \$9,513.17 be approved.”

Mr. Bryan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as contained in the agenda. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities, and Mr. Steven Knecht, Coordinator of Athletics/Physical Education, presented the Proposed Outdoor Athletic Facility Evaluation submitted by Mr. Knecht; Mr. Finnemore; Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“In fall 2000 the school board authorized the formation of a Sports Advisory Committee to evaluate all aspects of the Kenosha Unified School District athletics program. One of the four primary subcommittees formed as part of the sports advisory effort focused on athletic facilities. The subcommittee evaluated all aspects of the Kenosha Unified School District’s athletic facilities and was the primary driver of two major initiatives:

1. The inclusion of a high school competition track as part of the design and construction of Mahone Middle School
2. The successful 2005 referendum, which included athletic additions to both Bradford and Tremper High Schools

These additions focused on the interior athletic facilities as the subcommittee determined that this was a higher priority than outdoor facilities at that time. Since that time great strides have been made in improving the outdoor athletic facilities through a combination of general fund dollars, fundraising, donations, and the Indian Trail referendum project.

A small team of facilities and athletics personnel toured and evaluated the exterior athletic facilities of the district’s high schools and came up with a long-term conceptual plan for possible improvements. Conceptual aerial plans and a cost estimate are provided in Appendix A that detail the preliminary evaluation. This is considered to be a pretty comprehensive list of potential improvements that would bring the athletic facilities at all three boundary high schools to a common and complete state. The estimated cost for all of the improvements identified is approximately \$13,200,000 in today’s dollars. It is expected that a large portion of the funding would have to come through a referendum.

At its January 14, 2014, meeting, the Planning/Facilities/Equipment Standing Committee voted to forward this report to the School Board for consideration.

Administration recommends that the School Board approve formation of a new Sports Advisory Committee for the purpose of evaluating and making recommendations related to the outdoor athletic facilities at the three boundary high schools with the majority of the attention being focused on Bradford and Tremper.”

Mr. Nuzzo moved to approve the formation of a new Sports Advisory Committee for the purpose of evaluating and making recommendations related to the outdoor athletic facilities at the three boundary high schools with the majority of the attention being focused on Bradford and Tremper. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Stevens introduced School Board Policy/Rule 8850 – School Board Committees submitted by Mr. Flood, excerpts follow:

“Students are largest stakeholder in the district and should therefore have a large say in the districts issues. I am proposing these policy changes in order to support the strength of the student voice and opinion.

At the December 3, 2013 Personnel/Policy Standing Committee meeting, a motion was approved to forward proposed revisions to Policy 8850 to the school board for consideration as a first and second reading.

At the December 17, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting, revised Policy/Rule 8850 was approved as a first reading.

Policy 8850 – School Board Committees is presented for a second reading this evening.”

Mr. Flood moved to approve Policy/Rule 8850 – School Board Committees as a second reading. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Robert Hofer, Purchasing Agent, presented the Report of Contracts in Aggregate of \$25,000 submitted by Mr. Hofer, Mr. Haman, and Dr. Mangi, excerpts follow:

“School Board Policy 3420 requires that all contracts and renewals of contracts in aggregate of \$25,000 in a fiscal year shall be approved by the School Board except in the event of an emergency as determined and reported to the School Board monthly by the Purchasing Agent.

The following contracts/agreements have not been added to the Contract Management Database are being presented to the Board at this time for Board Approval:

Flippen Company – Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) and CKH Momentum – Professional development for staff.”

Mrs. Taube moved to approve the recommended contract/agreement in aggregate of \$25,000. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Flood presented Policy/Rule 8712 – School Board meeting Agenda Preparation and Dissemination submitted by himself, an excerpt follows:

“This change will reduce the feeling of being unprepared to vote by Board members.”

Mr. Flood moved to approve revised Policy/Rule 8712 – School Board Meeting Agenda Preparation and Dissemination as a first reading with the inclusion of “Insofar as possible” at the beginning of the second paragraph of the policy. Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Nuzzo dissenting.

Mr. Flood presented Policy/Rule 8720 – Special School Board Meetings submitted by himself, excerpts follows:

“Bob Nuzzo and myself tried this at a board meeting and were told that it was against policy. This will increase communication, transparency and accountability for the Board.”

Mr. Flood moved to table Policy/Rule 8720 – Special School Board Meetings until next month’s meeting. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Bryan presented Resolution 299 – Resolution Opposing Charter School Regulation Changes Assembly Bill 549 which read as follows:

“WHEREAS, public school districts in the State of Wisconsin accept and educate children regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or academic talents, as opposed to those institutions that are able to reject applicants based on low academic performance, discipline issues, special needs, or any number of other factors; and

WHEREAS, public schools in the State of Wisconsin are held to strict accountability standards in an effort to measure student achievement and academic progress, and recommends all schools that receive any public funding be held to the same standards; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature will convene in February, 2014, and may consider aggressive expansion of the charter authorizer program and elimination of instrumentality charter schools, against the wishes of the governing body of the School District; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District currently presents its students with a broad range of outstanding educational options, including instrumentality charter schools, specialty schools, and open enrollment, and is not, therefore, in need of expansion of the proposed charter authorizer modifications; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha’s instrumentality charter instructors are included in the district professional evaluation standards and opposes alternative evaluation procedures for non-instrumentality and magnet schools; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha’s instrumentality charters presently provide multiple successful options for parents and children and would be seriously jeopardized by this aggressive expansion; and

WHEREAS, the forceful expansion of charter and magnet schools that take any financial resources away from public schools and diminishes the great strides that have been made in those schools is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin public school funding is subject to mandated revenue limits driven by enrollment counts that will be negatively impacted by independent charter school enrollment expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education believes that any expansion of a state charter program in the District has the potential to reduce state aid distribution to public schools which will result in a corresponding increase in the District property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the School District Board wishes to maximize its available resources for the support of its operating programs, without the need to remove local control of instrumentality charter schools; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District is not in a position to evaluate or assess the benefits/detriments which magnet schools may create in other Wisconsin School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District does not wish to assert or present a position which might create harm or disadvantage to the educational options which are offered to their students by other Wisconsin School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha Unified School District Board of Education believes that each Wisconsin School District must individually determine whether an expansion of its charter program is beneficial, or detrimental, to its students and educational programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District opposes any legislation or other effort by the Wisconsin Legislature to aggressively expand the non-instrumentality charter program in the Kenosha Unified School District or any other program that would have an effect similar to that of a program, and encourages its elected officials to oppose the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District directs its Superintendent to take immediate action to alert the District's state legislators, Senators Robert Wirch and John Lehman and Representatives Peter Barca, Samantha Kerkman and Tod Ohnstad about the need to oppose aggressive charter legislation in the Kenosha Unified School District and the negative consequences on the school district and the public education system and to provide a copy of this resolution to them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kenosha Unified School District will encourage others, including parents, students and District taxpayers, to recognize the detrimental effect of a rapid and unfair charter expansion on public education in the Kenosha Unified School District and to contact elected legislators to convey the importance of supporting quality public education in the State of Wisconsin.”

Mr. Bryan moved to approve Resolution 299 – Resolution Opposing Charter School Regulation Changes Assembly Bill 549 as presented. Mr.