

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – BOARD OF CONTROL
November 1, 2023

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance Conference took place October 22-24th in Wisconsin Dells. CESA 4 had several presentations selected around Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and the Mental Health Framework. Our very own Abby Fernan, Christy Tainter, and Jenny Riggle did 5 different presentations over the 2 day conference. The feedback they received was overwhelmingly positive from the audience, which consisted of building principals, superintendents, school board members, and agency administrators from other CESAs. From their presentations, several districts have reached out to inquire about the services they could provide their districts. The intention for them to present was not to market themselves or CESA 4, but to share the wealth of information they have that can positively impact student learning. The fact that districts are interested and want to implement this in their districts is an added bonus.
2. Some issues have come up recently with the HVAC. Michelle has reported to work to find that the air handler was not running and there was an error message on the system. We had Buchner come out and look at the air handler. They are not 100% sure of the issue so we are going to monitor it for another month to see if it sends another error code and continues to have issues. Their suspicion is that it is a defective Variable Frequency Drive on the air handling unit. It is the original air handling unit from when the building was built, but we do know that the VFD has been replaced before, we just don't have the year that was done. The boilers themselves were replaced in 2009. We have an estimate from Buchner that we may bring to the December BOC meeting if we continue to have problems with the VFD. That estimate came in at \$3,091.
3. In early October I attended the AESA (Association of Educational Service Agencies) central region symposium that was held in Madison. This brought service agencies together from 6 Midwest states that included Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The symposium moves to a new state each year, and this year was Wisconsin's year to host. The purpose of the symposium was to network with service agencies throughout the AESA central region. Each state presents the various work that they are doing and highlights what programs are doing well. If it resonates with a particular state, oftentimes there are additional follow up questions and networking to learn more about a particular project. For instance, Nebraska shared a dashboard that they use statewide that is real time data that can be used when working with districts.
4. This is the time of year when school districts start planning for the upcoming spring elections. WASB recently released the "Guide for Candidates" handbook. This was mailed to all school districts that are WASB members. The guidebook is designed to be used as a resource tool for school board candidates that are seeking election in the spring. There are important dates that are coming up in regards to the spring election. The first is November 28th, which is the deadline for newspaper publication of a type A Notice of Election. December 22nd is an important deadline for incumbents if they do not intend to run for re-election, as that is the due

date to file notice of non-candidacy. The deadline for all candidates to have all ballot access documents turned in is January 2, 2024.

State News

1. At our October CSN meeting, we had the opportunity to meet with Representative Kitchens (R) -Sturgeon Bay, who is the Education Committee Chair. We talked about several education related bills, but spent the most of our time discussing Act 20, the bill around early literacy instruction. We shared with him a couple of concerns regarding the new bill. First and foremost, a list of “qualified vendors” has been developed, and CESAs were not listed. That isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but we wanted to be sure that they understood the work that CESAs are able to do. After a lengthy discussion, it was clear that their understanding was that a select number of CESAs were ready to do the work, but not all. After clarifying that for him, he was encouraged and reinforced the need for CESAs to be a part of the work. He also voiced his pleasure in the fact that all CESAs present were eager and ready to work together to make this implementation a success. We also expressed our concern regarding the retention of 3rd graders if they do not meet benchmarks for reading. Representative Kitchens indicated that he would take that under advisement. Overall, we felt the meeting was a great success. This was the first time in a very long time that a Republican representative sat at the table with the CSN group. Representative Kitchens indicated that he hopes that this is only the beginning of our partnership. He also encouraged every CESA to host legislative breakfasts so they can meet with the superintendents in their region. If we send him the dates of the meetings, he indicated he will assist in making sure that they are there.
2. The WISH Center recently released information regarding the [Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference](#). This is a statewide conference that will be held in Wisconsin Dells on December 7th. The conference will once again focus on work around mental health and equity. If you have school counselors, school psychologists, principals, or staff interested in these topics, this would be a great one day conference.
3. As you all know, the Department of Public Instruction, released the final allocations of General Aid for all school districts in the middle of October. All of you have seen the numbers for your district, and more than likely, used that information to certify your budgets at your annual meeting. I have prepared the general aid information for all 26 school districts in CESA 4. I would like us to review that information and share the story of the district’s you represent. You will notice that the increases or decreases are pretty consistent throughout the 26 districts. It is important to be aware of the finances of your own district, but also those in our region. As you all know, general aid is determined by prior year spending as well as enrollment numbers that are a result of each district’s 3rd Friday count in September. I thought this would be a good learning activity to hear the story of each of our Board of Control districts so we can hear the various ways general aid is impacted.

Next Board of Control Meeting – Wednesday, December 13 , 2023