

CESA Administrator's Report to the Board – March 6, 2023

CESA 4 Activities and Regional News

1. New Board Member gathering and Annual Meeting: The WASB new school board member gathering at CESA 4 has officially been scheduled for Wednesday, April 17. I have not seen a confirmed time, but I will share it once I have it. We highly encourage new board members elected in April to attend the meeting. The CESA 4 annual meeting is set to be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. I have scheduled Directors from CESA 4 to share the presentation on Mental Health that was shared at the Board of Control meeting earlier this year. The Board of Control so well received the presentation that it would be great for new board members. We are also working on our annual report. We are changing the layout of this a bit and moving to a digital format that will be more interactive. We are very excited about this change!
2. At our PAC meeting on Friday, we hosted three legislators that serve many CESA 4 districts. Senator Brad Pfaff, Representative Loren Oldenburg, and Representative Jill Billings attended the Legislative Breakfast. The first portion of the morning started with breakfast and conversations between the legislators and the superintendents. We then moved into a question-and-answer session. I had prepared 8 questions for the legislators to respond to. The questions asked were: Can you provide an update on the recently concluded legislative session? What are the issues that they hear are facing public education? Will the funds created for ACT 20 be a one-time budget priority, or are there plans for additional funding in the future? What is the status and perspective of the current legislation related to required community-based pre-kindergarten programming? Can you provide an update on the "decoupling" issue related to voucher funding? Has there been any further discussion regarding the Special Education reimbursement rate? What do you see as budget priorities for the next biennial budget? The final question was regarding the new maps created for their districts. It did impact each of them quite significantly. There was a great deal of conversation about community-based daycares. The needs vary greatly from more urban districts compared to rural districts. Overall, the morning was a great success, and I received a great deal of positive feedback from the legislators and the superintendents and their desire to do this annually.
3. I am nearing the halfway point of my district visits. Overall, they have gone very well. I am hearing two things from the majority of the districts. First, they are facing a fiscal cliff regarding their district visits. Most districts will look to an operational referendum to exceed their revenue limit authority. The services we provide are needed now more than ever. Along with that comes districts determining what they can or can't afford regarding services. Overall, the feedback regarding their satisfaction with the services they are receiving from our agency has been highly positive. They have been very complimentary of the staff we have.
4. The WISH Center received a vaping grant from the WI Dept. of Health Services to provide presentations to schools, administrators, and student service staff on best practices for vaping prevention and intervention. We also will be adding a cohort of schools to our School SBIRT project to focus on implementing alternatives to vaping suspension and policy updates. The [press release](#) was sent two weeks ago by DHS.

State News

1. Last week, the Assembly adjourned for the remainder of the session after completing a week of floor sessions where the body acted on over 200 bills. The Assembly voted on several bills impacting our school communities, including providing continuing funding for the Office of School Safety, various licensing and educator preparation programs measures, and bills impacting timelines and the fiscal appropriation attached to Act 20 (literacy legislation).

Ultimately, AB 1069/SB 990 ended up being amended to eliminate the requirement to administer the first assessment of the new statewide reading screener in the 2024-25 school year. The Assembly made an additional change regarding training providers. The last-minute, late-night change by the Assembly means the Senate will need to concur on the changes when they meet for the last time in early March before the amended bill can be sent to the Governor for his signature.

Below is a list of bills that have passed both houses and are awaiting the Governor's signature and a list of bills that will need the Senate to sign off on them before they can be sent to the Governor at the end of the legislative session:

Awaiting action by the Governor:

[SB-313](#) Fail to Stop for Bus (James, Jesse) Increased penalties for failing to stop for a school bus. *Passed, (Voice Vote)*

Awaiting Action from the Senate:

[AB-210](#) Wearing Tribal Regalia (Joint Legislative Council) Pupils wearing traditional tribal regalia at a graduation ceremony or school-sponsored event. *Passed, (Voice Vote)*

[AB-214](#) Teaching License (Joint Legislative Council) A lifetime license that authorizes an individual to teach an American Indian language in an American Indian language program and modify rules promulgated by the Department of Public Instruction. *Passed, (Voice Vote)*

[AB-779](#) Apprenticeship Awards (Oldenburg, Loren) Apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship completion awards, career and technical education incentive grants and completion awards, technical preparation programs in school districts and technical colleges, creating an individual income tax credit for completing an apprenticeship program, rejection criteria for part-time open enrollment applications, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures. *Passed, 62-35*

[SB-990](#) Literacy Training (Stroebel, Duey) Mandatory early literacy professional development. *Assembly Amendment 1 Added, Passed as Amended, (Voice Vote) Must return to Senate for concurrence on Amendment.*