

Several Board policies, employee hires and annual summer agenda items were adopted by the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its July 23 meeting.

The most contentious of the approved policies involved non-discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities. The policy was updated based on recent changes to federal law and drew a comment from both sides during open forum. Other approved policies included conflicts of interest, travel-related expenses, student code of classroom conduct, use of social media, volunteers and public records.

Other action items included approval of the 2024-25 legal services contract, an independent hearing officer and the 2024-25 academic standards. All of the items are traditionally voted on by the Board in July. Board members questioned the amount of hours the District expended in legal services during the past year and asked for a closed session meeting to review a breakdown.

Four administrative hires were approved with Jason Ebert chosen as Director of Facilities, Valerie Hurm hired as Director of Pupil Services and Tim O'Brien and Kristin Krull-VanderHeiden selected as middle school associate principals.

Middle school teaching hires included Cailey Wheeler, Mackenzie Mathies, Tiffany Wacaser, Lauren Visser, Michelle Cummings, Jennifer Weber, Josi Anderson, Amanda Buechel, Justine McDermott, Holly Stanley and Heather Bartelt. Jennifer Walter and Nathaniel Blood were hired at the high school. Michele Collins was hired at Horace Mann, Lisa Cummings was added at Tullar, Adrienne Kennedy was selected at Coolidge and Shannon Jelinski was approved at Clayton. Non-teaching hires included Amanda Dobslaw as an elementary help desk technician, Peg Feltz as a high school administrative assistant, Kelly Popp as an educational assistant at Tullar and Madeline Durie as an educational assistant at Lakeview.

Resignations were approved for Laura Kauth at Horace Mann and Natalie Shea at the high school.

The meeting was the first for new superintendent Dr. Steve Harrison, who provided a reflection on his first three weeks on the job during the superintendent's report. He also recognized Alliance and principal Garrett Zimmerman on being named one of 12 recipients statewide of a \$900,000 expansion grant that will be used over the next five years.

The next meeting is set for August 6 at 6 p.m.