

Community School District of Fort Dodge, Iowa
Minutes of Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
April 27, 2020 (virtual meeting)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, Fort Dodge Community School District, Fort Dodge, Iowa, was called to order by President Cochrane at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Fort Dodge Community School District's Central Office, with Secretary Utley present.

Members present: Mr. Cochrane

Members present via teleconference: Mr. Hansen, Ms. Shimkat, Ms. Tracy, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Kent

Members absent: Mr. Springer

Administration present: Superintendent Ulrich and Board Secretary Utley. Others present via teleconference: Director of Financial Services Hansel, Director of Communications Lane, Director of Elementary Education Anderson, Director of Secondary Education Doebel, Supervisor of Information Technology Pearson, Director of Human Resources Negus, one mass media representative, and other interested parties.

Moved by Shimkat, seconded by Hansen, to reinstate Adriana Utley as Board Secretary, authorizing her to sign District checks and bank accounts. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Kent, seconded by Hansen, to approve the Board agenda as presented. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Tracy, seconded by Shimkat, to approve the following consent agenda items: 4.1) approval of minutes of the April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting; 4.2) approval of personnel; 4.3) approval of open enrollment requests from Jaime Lawson, for Beau Brandow, requests open enrollment from the Ft. Dodge Community Schools to the Eagle Grove Community Schools for the 2020-2021 school year; 4.4) approval of contracts with Frontier Communications (Phone System Upgrade Contract); Star Energy Fuel Contract; Cooperative Sharing Agreements for 2020-2021 with Saint Edmond, Southeast Valley Community School District, Manson Northwest Webster Community School District, Humboldt Community School District, Eagle Grove Community School District, and Webster City Community School District; Certified Testing Services, Inc.; and Your Own United Resources, Inc.; 4.5) approval of fundraising request – none were submitted; 4.6) approval of gifts received from two anonymous donors; 4.7) approval of out of state travel – none were submitted; and 4.8) allow for payment the attached listing of bills from the general, management, physical plant, equipment, capital projects, activity, and nutrition funds. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Communications/Announcements

None.

Public Hearing

6:02 p.m. President Cochrane called for a public hearing on the 2019-2020 Certified Budget Amendment. There were no written comments from the public. President Cochrane closed the hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Action Items/Presentations/Discussions

Moved by Kent, seconded by Shimkat, to adopt the 2019-2020 Certified Budget Amendment. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Shimkat, seconded by Wagner, to approve the extension of Food Service Management Agreement with Taher, Inc. of Minnetonka, MN. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Tracy, seconded by Wagner, to accept the monthly financial reports for February 29, 2020, through March 31, 2020. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Shimkat, seconded by Hansen, to adopt Resolution for Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy. On a roll call vote the following voting AYE: Hansen, Tracy, Wagner, Cochrane, Kent, and Shimkat. Voting NAY: None. ABSENT: Springer. Motion carried.

Resolution 2020-15
Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Ch. 279.8 authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting policies for their own governance; and

WHEREAS the Board may, by formal action suspend or rescind board policy as deemed necessary, appropriate or in the best interests of the District; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency and on March 15, 2020 Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Iowa until April 13, 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds declared a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency under the authority granted through Iowa Constitution, Art. IV, §§ 1, 8 and Iowa Code §§ 29C.6(1), 135.140(6), and 135.144 and directed implementation of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Iowa Emergency Response Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, most hourly non-exempt employees will be unable to report to work due to the District's closure and certified contract employees may be asked to work at remote locations to help provide continuity in educational services; and

WHEREAS, it fulfills a public purpose to continue to pay District hourly and classified non-exempt employees during this closure to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19, to promote morale and to help retain current employees following the closure; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Iowa Legislature passed and the Governor signed SF 2408 granting waiver of the instructional time requirements in Iowa Code Ch. 279.10 for all public school districts closing before April 12, 2020 in order to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19; and granting Governor Reynolds the ability to waive instructional time requirements for any public school district which closes on or after April 12, 2020 to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2020 Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended extended closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Iowa through the 2019-2020 school year to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2020 Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Education further recommended a waiver of instructional time requirements for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year for school districts continuing to provide continuous learning through approved options; school districts will be required to submit to the Department of Education a Return to Learn Plan by July 1, 2020 describing ways the district intends to address disruptions to learning; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Education issued COVID-19 Guidance: Provision of Continuous Learning. This guidance allows school districts to provide either voluntary educational enrichment opportunities to students or required educational services. Voluntary educational enrichment opportunities provided to students where participation by students is not required and will not be graded other than voluntary completion of concurrent enrollment courses and credit recovery. Required educational services include educational services provided to students who are required to participate. Student work may be graded and credit may be awarded. Equity must be provided for and AEA services resume, to the extent possible, for required educational services. Competencies attained through either voluntary or required educational services may be considered if done on a voluntary basis they may only be considered after school returns to session.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Dodge Community School District School Board hereby suspends provisions of its board policies and/or whole policies, as identified by the District Superintendent or designee, if such suspension is necessary to implement written guidance from state or federal agencies relating to containing COVID-19 for the duration identified by the Governor of the State of Iowa, or as otherwise determined by the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent will consult with and report to the Board as feasible and appropriate regarding the emergency closure and efforts to implement written guidance from health and government agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent is authorized to close any school facility without further action by the Board of Directors through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Such closure shall continue during the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic until such time as the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate health and government authorities, deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent shall follow all Iowa Department of Education guidance requiring the submission of a Return to Learn Plan for the District by July 1, 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent is authorized, based upon the needs of the District and guidance from health and government agencies, to direct staff assignments during District closures, including but not limited to essential employees who must report to work, employees who may be reassigned, and employees whose services are not needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that access to public school grounds and public school buildings of the District may be limited as directed by the Superintendent during District closures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified, exempt employees will remain employed during the school closure and until the number of days expressed in the contract have been fulfilled, unless otherwise approved by the Board. Days that contracted employees do not report for duty either onsite if deemed an essential employee; or from a remote location for all other employees due to closure, do not constitute a fulfilled contract day except to the extent those days are forgiven by the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in light of this District-wide emergency closure, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to place hourly and classified non-exempt employees on paid administrative leave and to continue to pay them until the number of days expressed in the contract have been fulfilled during the period of school closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District has elected to provide voluntary educational enrichment opportunities to students in the district during this period of school closures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the interest of public health and/or to comply with federal or state health department recommendations or guidance, the Board encourages the public to attend or listen to its open public meetings via telephone or video conference and the Board may also limit public comment to written comments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board reserves the right to adjust board meeting dates, times, and locations during the district-wide emergency closure in a manner consistent with the Open Meetings law, and notes that any or all board members may attend board meetings electronically as permitted by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument. This resolution will remain in full force and effect until it is rescinded or amended by subsequent action of the Board.

Adopted and approved this 27th day of April, 2020.

By: Stuart Cochrane
Board President

Attest: Adriana Utley
Board Secretary

Moved by Wagner, seconded by Shimkat, to approve District Chromebook purchase of 700 Lenovo 500e G2 devices in the amount of \$238,504.00 and 340 Lenovo 100e devices in the amount of \$76,054.60. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Shimkat, seconded by Tracy, to approve the purchase of K-5 Illustrative Math Early Adoption Professional Development and Curriculum. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Communications/Updates

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Ulrich commented on the following: (1) plans are being finalized to distribute student belongings to families; (2) final date for staff in classrooms will be May 15, 2020; (3) last contract day for teachers will be June 1, 2020, as a virtual check-out day; (4) a waiver for Upper Des Moines has been approved to use the Middle School in the fall for their back to school bash; (5) the New Central Office and Maintenance Facility Project is on schedule; (6) the Dodger Stadium Turf Replacement Project started early with the hope to have a late summer graduation ceremony. The date and details will be forthcoming. Member Shimkat stated that if having a late summer graduation ceremony is not possible, printing graduation programs for seniors and families would be nice.

Board updates: No update.

Adjournment

Moved by Wagner, seconded by Shimkat, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Adriana Utley
Board Secretary

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