

LAMONI SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
High School Room 411, 6:00 p.m.

School Board of Directors

Chip Millslagle, President
Michele Dickey-Kotz, Vice President

Larry Heltenberg
Kris Stevenson

Nate Pierschbacher
Lisa Jones, Board Secretary/Treasurer

Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Lamoni School Board of Education met in Regular Session on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 in Room 411. Lamoni School Board President Chip Millslagle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Lamoni School Board Directors present: President Chip Millslagle, Vice-President Michele Dickey-Kotz, Larry Heltenberg, Kris Stevenson

Absent: Nate Pierschbacher

Others in attendance: Superintendent Chris Coffelt, Board Secretary Lisa Jones, Principal Alan Dykens, Amy Sellars, Jon Hampton, Stacy Jones, and Ryan Martin.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved:

- The Board moved to approve the agenda **Motion by Heltenberg, second by Dickey-Kotz** Motion carried unanimously. March minutes, financial reports and summary of Bills.
- The April 2020 consent Agenda to exclude approving student graduation list until a later time, **Motion by Dickey-Kotz, second by Stevenson**. Motion carried unanimously.
- Financial reports for General Fund, Management, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Activity Reports, Scholarship Reports, Lunch Reports, Entrepreneurship and summary list of monthly bills were presented to the Board.

General Fund	\$ 42,385.14	School Nutrition	\$ 3,165.76
PPEL	\$ 849.20		

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board moved to approve the 2020-2021 District Calendar. **Motion by Heltenberg second by Stevenson**. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board moved to approve a Continuous Learning During COVID-19 Pandemic Resolution **Motion by Dickey-Kotz second by Heltenberg**. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution – Continuous Learning During COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Ch. 279.8 authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting policies for their own governance; 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, 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 from March 16 to April 10, 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 13, 2020 to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Education, which has the authority to establish and interpret graduation requirements, and to oversee other crucial aspects of public education is providing written guidance to Iowa school districts on issues related to COVID-19, including but not limited to student attendance, distance/online learning, high school credit, meal distribution, and other issues; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Iowa Department of Education issued guidance requiring schools choosing to close yet provide educational services to consider equity of access for all students as well as the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020 the United States Department of Education issued guidance stating that compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act should not prevent any school from offering educational programs through distance education during the pandemic yet stopped short of dismissing the requirements of equity of access and a free appropriate public education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020 the Iowa Department of Education issued guidance reiterating that required educational services provided by a district during the pandemic require its approval while voluntary educational enrichment opportunities provided by a district do not; and

WHEREAS, the March 27, 2020 Iowa Department of Education guidance included a School Closure Learning Continuity Readiness Rubric shared by the Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative for consideration by districts when making a decision between required educational services and voluntary enrichment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Iowa until April 30, 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, each Iowa school district has unique considerations for equity of access, free appropriate public education, staff readiness, student readiness, family dynamics, and pandemic impact on its community; and

WHEREAS, the Lamoni Community School District has considered the options available for continuous learning and the viability and impact of each for our students, families, and staff; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lamoni Community School District Board of Directors hereby adopts the Iowa Department of Education's option of Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities to include contact with district teachers as practical for the duration identified in the Governor's State of Public Health Emergency declaration of March 17, 2020, or as otherwise determined by the Board.

This resolution can be preempted by any federal law, particularly the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of April, 2020.

By: Donald "Chip" Millslagle, Board President

Attest: Lisa Jones, Board Secretary

- The Board moved to approve the following Pandemic Pay Resolution. ***Motion by Dickey-Kotz, second by Pierschbacher.*** Motion carried unanimously.

PANDEMIC PAY RESOLUTION

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 the 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 SS 1, 8 and Iowa Code SS 29C.6(1), 135.140(6), and 136.144 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, on April 2, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Iowa until April 30, 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, most hourly non-exempt employees will be unable to report to work due to the District's closure and certified contracted 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 all District employee their regular contracted and customary pay during this closure through April 30, 2020, or until the end of the 2019-2020 school year if the closure is extended further, to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19, to promote morale and to help retain current employees following the closure; and

WHEREAS, if an employee's work is needed for the continuity of learning and/or District operations, that employee may be required to report for duty onsite or from a remote location after receiving notice the prior day. This will be at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools or his designee; 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

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Education, which has the authority to establish and interpret graduation requirements and to oversee other crucial aspects of public education is providing written guidance to Iowa school districts on issues related to COVID-19, including but not limited to student attendance, distance/online learning, high school credit, meal distribution, and other issues; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lamoni 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 related to containing COVID-19 for the duration identified in the Governor's State of Public Health Emergency declaration of March 17, 2020 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. 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 or designee 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 hourly and contracted employees will remain employed during the school closure and until the number of days expressed on the contract have been fulfilled. Days that contracted employees do not report for duty onsite or from a remote location, due to closure may be forgiven by the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent is hereby authorized to pay hourly and contracted salaried employees their customary and regular pay, during the closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the employees who are on sick leave during the temporary closure will have their sick leave reduced accordingly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that employees who report an illness on days they are asked to report to work (onsite or remotely) will have their sick leave reduced accordingly. Furthermore, the District has the right to request a doctor's note stating the absence is necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED employees who refuse to report to work (onsite or remotely) when asked will not be compensated for that day(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board reserves the right to adjust board meeting dates, times, and locations during the district-wide closure in a manner consistent with the Open Meeting 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 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.

Board Member Heltenberg moved for its passage and adoption.

Board Member Dickey-Kotz seconded the same.

After discussion and on roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of passage and adoption of the above resolution:
Dickey-Kotz, Heltenberg, Stevenson

The following members voted against the same:

None

Adopted and approve this 8th day of April, 2020

By: Donald "Chip" Millslagle
Board President

Attest: Lisa Jones
Board Secretary

- The Board moved to approve the FY 2020-2021 Tax rate of 18.4369/\$1000 and approved the 2020-2021 Budget. **Motion by Heltenberg, second by Stevenson.** Motion carried unanimously.
- The board approved the following resolution in order to receive the scale down or 101% budget guarantee. Resolution: RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Lamoni Community School District, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. **Motion by Dickey-Kotz, second by Heltenberg** Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- District Superintendent Chris Coffelt reviewed Lamoni Community School District's COVID-19 response as a result of the school closure ordered by Governor Reynolds through April 30. The District assembled a Task Force that has responded to four priority areas, including: Connection, Communication, Continuity of Services and Control/Prevention. The School Board was provided highlights of District/Staff actions in each area and discussed considerations as the District moves forward and continues to respond to state and federal guidance.
- FY21 Budget including potential district property tax levy, were reviewed by the school board. The Board will work to maintain, rather than increase, the district property tax levy in spite of a decline in student enrollment this year, increased special education and health insurance costs, and continued suppressed state supplemental assistance rates. The FY21 budget must be certified by April 15, 2020.

UPCOMING DATES

Electronic School Board Meeting, Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular School Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 8, 2020 6:00 p.m.; Public hearing for FY21 Budget amendment with regular school board meeting to follow. Meeting to be held in High School Room 411.

ADJOURN

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. **Motion by Stevenson second by Dickey-Kotz.** Motion carried unanimously.