

The Board of Education of the Hitchcock County Schools met for a special board meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Hitchcock County Jr/Sr High School. Present were board members Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, Scott, Rippen, and O'Byrne. Also present were Superintendent Sattler, Principal Tines, Ms. McCarter, Peggy Fyn, and several staff members and school patrons.

President Scott called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Notice of the board's adherence to the Nebraska Open Meeting Law posted on the east wall of the cafeteria was given.

Item 4 of Action/Discussion Items – discuss, consider and take action to delegate authority to Superintendent Sattler to determine which employees are essential and who may be required to report for certain duties at certain times at certain locations notwithstanding school closures, if any was moved to between Item 1 and Item to of the Action/Discussion Items. Moved by Rippen; seconded by O'Byrne to approve the March 17, 2020 Special Board Meeting Agenda as amended. Aye votes O'Byrne, Rippen, Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, and Scott; nay votes none.

President Scott welcomed all visitors. He asked that any comments be limited to three minutes each. Jennifer Baker and Wayne Merrill addressed the board concerning classified pay.

President Scott asked Superintendent Sattler to address the board and visitors about actions taken, or to be taken, as a result of COVID 19. Superintendent Sattler apprised the board of statements made by the Nebraska Department of Education, the NSAA, and the school lawyers. President Scott asked if the NDE had published any guidelines to follow. The school is currently getting more information from the school lawyers. The Nebraska schools are closed for at least three weeks based on Governor Ricketts request. Hitchcock County Schools will be closed through April 5th as of the meeting. Teachers are sending home enrichment opportunities at the elementary and the 7th-12th grades are adding website links to the school webpage. with usable websites. President Scott asked that the school plan for the worst; hope for the best.

Moved by Scott; seconded by Rippen to move into executive session at 6:22 PM to discuss essential personnel. Aye votes Hagan, Kolbet, Rippen, Marks, Scott, and O'Byrne; nay votes none.

Moved by Kolbet; O'Byrne to move out of executive at 6:51 PM. Aye votes Kolbet, Rippen, Marks, Scott, O'Byrne, and Hagan; nay votes none.

President Scott read the COVID 19 Resolution. **WHEREAS, the school district is preparing for the possible closure based on the statewide outbreak of COVID-19; and WHEREAS, the board of education wishes to minimize disruption of the school district's operation; NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the superintendent, in consultation with the Board President, is authorized to pay all non-discretionary claims and take any other action authorized by law during the school closure, which the board will approve once the board resumes regular operations. NOW, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the superintendent is authorized to assign and utilize staff as necessary prior to, during, and after a closure, and to provide any leave and enter into agreements with staff for the purposes of protecting the health and safety of the school community, continuing the efficient operations of the school district, and ensuring staff return to work in the school district in the event of a closure.** Vice President Rippen asked Superintendent Sattler if he is willing to make the decisions covered in the Resolution. Mr. Sattler is willing. Moved by Rippen; seconded by Kolbet to approve the COVID-19 Resolution as presented. Aye votes Marks, Scott, O'Byrne, Rippen, Hagan, and Kolbet; nay votes none.

Superintendent Sattler relayed the expectations being discussed by NDE and KSB Law. The NDE will need to reduce the instructional hours for students dependent upon the length of school closures. Staff

will report and make plans for learning opportunities at home for students. The administration, staff, and board members need to keep the lines of communication open. Flexibility is necessary, this is a nationwide dire situation. Moved by Scott; seconded by Rippen to authorize Superintendent Sattler to adopt and amend certified hours and contract days as required for the remainder of the school year if it is mandated for school to be closed. Aye votes Hagan, Kolbet, Marks, Scott, O'Byrne, and Rippen; nay votes none.

Superintendent Sattler presented the board members with the "Return to Work Agreement" for classified personnel. The board members reviewed several options. Moved by Hagan; seconded by Kolbet to adopt the proposed return to work agreement with option C – "the district will provide full paid leave at the employee's regular rate and expected hours per week, but not for any regular overtime, during the closure"; with option A – "the District will continue the employee's health, dental, and other benefits through the district's closure pursuant to the same terms as those benefits have heretofore been provided", as amended. Aye votes Kolbet, Marks, Scott, O'Byrne, Rippen, and Hagan; nay votes none.

David Wimer thanked the board for standing behind the bus drivers. Principal Tines thanked the board for all of their support. Superintendent Sattler once again thanked the board members.

President Scott adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Craig Scott – President

Casha O'Byrne - Secretary