



Board Special Meeting Response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 18, 2020, 3:15 – 3:45 p.m.

By Teleconference: 206-800-4125 (Conference ID: 896 197 078#)

Physical Location (Audio to be provided): John Stanford Center, North Entrance,
2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

Director DeWolf called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. Directors DeWolf, Hampson, Harris, Hersey, Mack, Rankin, and Rivera-Smith participated by phone.

The meeting was staffed by Superintendent Denise Juneau, Greg Narver, Sherri Kokx, Erinn Bennett, Ellie Wilson-Jones, Tina Loeffelmann, JoLynn Berge, and Clover Codd.

Response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Action Item: Board Resolution 2019/20-29 suspending Board policies to facilitate implementation of emergency measures in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Director DeWolf noted that Directors were participating by phone consistent with state and local health orders and that members of the public had also been urged to participate by phone.

Director DeWolf moved adoption of Board Resolution 2019/20-29 suspending Board policies to facilitate implementation of emergency measures in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Director Harris seconded.

Director DeWolf noted that Director Hampson would be offering an amendment.

Director Hampson moved Amendment 1 to Board Resolution 2019/20-29, which would replace the last sentence of the second to last paragraph of page two with the following language: “The Board reserves the right to adjust board and committee meeting dates, times, formats, and locations during the district-wide emergency closure, including reserving the right to conduct meetings entirely on the phone or through the internet, in a manner that is accessible to the public electronically and consistent with the mandate in the Open Public Meetings Act that the actions of public agencies be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly, and notes that any or all board members may attend board meetings electronically.” Director Harris seconded Amendment 1.

Chief Legal Counsel Greg Narver provided background on the resolution, which was based on a model developed by the Washington State School Directors’ Association for school districts statewide to use in addressing the emergency related to the novel coronavirus. He noted that the resolution would address some situations already in progress, such as the closure of schools, staff working remotely, and closure of the John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence. He stated that other measures were also included in the resolution and may not be needed but were being included given rapidly changing

circumstances. Mr. Narver summarized provisions of the resolution, including language related to contracting, communication between the Superintendent and the Board, and changes related to Board meeting processes, including making meetings accessible remotely.

Director DeWolf asked if Directors had any questions or comments. Director Mack asked for clarification on whether the resolution would sunset. Director Mack and Mr. Narver discussed and confirmed that the resolution would apply during the duration of the Governor's orders regarding school closures. Director Mack confirmed the resolution would not be an ongoing suspension of policies.

Director DeWolf asked whether a subsequent action would be required at the end of the emergency to close off the resolution. Mr. Narver stated that the Board could take action confirming that the suspensions of the policies had been lifted.

Director Rivera-Smith asked for confirmation on whether the resolution would be effective so long as an emergency is declared or when the school closure is over. Mr. Narver confirmed his interpretation that the resolution would apply during the school closure.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 passed unanimously.

Director DeWolf moved the adoption of Board Resolution 2019/20-29 as amended. Director Harris seconded.

The motion to adopt Board Resolution 2019/20-29 as amended passed unanimously.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.