

**Seattle School District #1  
Board Resolution**

**Resolution No. 2019/20-29**



**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington suspending Board policies to facilitate implementation of emergency measures in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 28A.320 RCW authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting, revising, and suspending local board policies;

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties of our state under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, and directed implementation of the plans and procedures of the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

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

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, Superintendent Denise Juneau announced that, effective March 12, 2020, Seattle Public Schools would be closed for a minimum of 14 days;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President declared a national state of emergency and Governor Inslee ordered closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Washington State until April 24, 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), which has authority to waive instructional hours and school days, to interpret graduation requirements, and to oversee the allocation of resources for nutrition, transportation, and other crucial aspects of public education is providing written guidance to Washington 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;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Seattle 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 OSPI relating to containing COVID-19 for the duration identified in the Governor's order of March 13, 2020 and a subsequent order of school closure, if any.

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

**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 is authorized, based upon the needs of the District and the guidance from health and government agencies disseminated by OSPI, to direct staff assignments during District closures, including but not limited to essential employees who must report to work, employees who may be reassigned or directed to work remotely, 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 in light of the district-wide closure, the Board declares an emergency in which advertising for bids and competitive bid procedures may result in material injury or damage to the public interest of the district. The Superintendent is granted the authority to waive the requirements of RCW 28A.335.190 requiring advertising for bids and competitive bid procedures for purchases which may be necessary due to the emergency. The Superintendent will document the reasons prompt remedial action is necessary to prevent physical injury to persons or to property of the school district.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board confirms that an "emergency" exists within the meaning of Superintendent Procedure 6221SP, that the Superintendent has all emergency contracting authority provided for in Superintendent Procedure 6221SP, that the requirement of Board ratification of any contracts entered into pursuant to that authority is waived, and that the Superintendent may, during the pendency of the emergency, accept direct financial support, grants, services, supplies or equipment without prior Board approval.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the interest of public health, the Board encourages the public to attend its open public meetings electronically, including via live streaming on television and/or the internet or by phone when these electronic means are provided, and suspends public comment at Board meetings until such time that it is reinstated by the Board President in consultation with the Executive Committee based on the guidance of our public health officials. 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.

**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.


ADOPTED this 18th day of MARCH, 2020

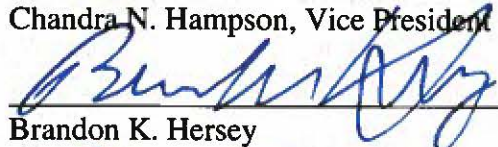
  
Zachary DeWolf, President

  
Leslie Harris, Member-at-Large


  
Eden Mack

  
Lisa Rivera-Smith

  
Chandra N. Hampson, Vice President

  
Brandon K. Hersey

  
Liza Rankin

ATTEST:   
Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Seattle School District No. 1  
King County, WA