

The Newburg United School Board met in special session via Zoom on March 26, 2020. President Scott Hunsakor called the meeting to order at 7:00 am. Present: Nathan Boll, Karlene Wyman, Jason Blada, TJ Streich and Sommer Zimmer. Absent: none. Also present: Superintendent Jason Kersten, Elementary/High School Principal Bob Beaudrie, Business Manager Darcy Lamoureux and Dave Heintzleman.

**Approve Negotiating Unit**– Zimmer moved the school board has investigated the petition filed by the Newburg United Staff requesting that the Association be recognized as the Representative Organization for the Negotiating Unit and has determined the Newburg Staff does represent a majority of the teachers within that unit. The board recognizes the Newburg United Teaching Staff as the Representative Organization for a minimum of one year beginning March 27, 2019, seconded by Wyman.  
Roll Call Vote: Boll-yes, Blada-yes, Wyman-yes, Streich-yes, Zimmer-yes, Hunsakor-yes. MCU

Boll volunteered to take the seat on the Negotiating Committee vacated by Pease. Full board agreed.

**Letter of Resignation** – Supt. Kersten read a letter of resignation from Sheryl Moen who will be retiring after the 2019-20 school year. Streich moved to accept resignation, seconded by Boll.  
Roll Call Vote: Blada-yes, Wyman-yes, Streich-yes, Zimmer-yes, Boll-yes, Hunsakor-yes. MCU

**Hot Lunch Meals** – Supt. Kersten reported that during our distance learning we will only be offering a lunch meal because that is all we offered before, and meals will only be provided on those school days as designated on our school calendar. We have someone riding along on one delivery route due to the high number of meals to deliver and so that someone else knows the route. Randi Streich started her employment today to help Ada in the kitchen and Travis will be doing janitorial work for the rest of the school year. The two aides and janitors have all been helping package & deliver meals at times. Supt. Kersten said most schools are only offering a cold sandwich, fruit and milk for lunch so our students are fortunate to be receiving meals baked from scratch. We have applied for a grant with No Kid Hungry to help defray some of the lunch expenses. The state hasn't decided if schools will get any reimbursement for miles driven delivering meals.

**Coaching Salaries** – Supt. Kersten reported that some schools are still paying the coaching salaries for the spring sports that have been cancelled, some are only paying the weeks they conditioned or the week(s) for prep work. Westhope discussed paying coaches 50% of the salary because coaches had signed a work agreement, but the board chair hasn't signed them yet. Bottineau is possibly looking at paying coaches only if they had coached in previous years. Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood is looking at not paying coaches. Supt. Kersten said he has a hard time paying coaches for not doing any coaching while we have community members being laid off. Discussion followed. Board members felt that the full salary should not be paid but some compensation should be made since they had made plans to coach and because coaches are hard to find. Supt. Kersten said he will talk to Westhope & Bottineau some more regarding this once our Distance Learning Plan has been submitted and he has some free time and will report back to the board at our April meeting.

**Ancillary Staff Wages** – Supt. Kersten reported that Governor Burgum has approved to pay our state aid for an additional seven school closure days. In total, we received 12 days from March 16<sup>th</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>. By doing so, the Governor is hoping that school districts will continue to pay their hourly employees. Supt. Kersten reported that the board already agreed to pay hourly staff their full wages for school calendar days through March 25<sup>th</sup> at our previous special meeting. Supt. Kersten said the Governor has closed schools until further notice and paid the 7 additional days to give us time to create a Distance Learning Plan. Supt. Kersten said he feels the hourly staff should be paid their full hours through March 31<sup>st</sup> since we received our state aid. He said some schools are assigning duties to hourly staff and paying them their full hours even if they don't work the full number of hours. If they don't come in, they will

not get paid or could use their personal/sick leave. Supt. Kersten told the hourly staff that what is equal isn't going to be fair during this pandemic. He also told them that their job descriptions might be changing, and they will be required to fill in where needed. Discussion followed. Mr. Beaudrie reported that those staff coming into the school to work are invaluable at this time and there is no way we could provide meals without all of them. Lamoureux recommended that all hourly staff be paid their normal hourly day, for the 2019-20 school calendar days, through this payroll period that ends on April 10, 2020 and reevaluate at the April meeting. Streich moved to approve Lamoureux's recommendation, seconded by Zimmer.

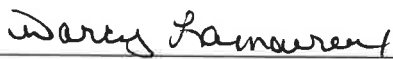
Roll Call Vote: Wyman-yes, Streich-yes, Zimmer-yes, Boll-yes, Blada-yes, Hunskor-yes. MCU

**School Board Association Resolution** – Lamoureux reported that ND School Board Association is recommending that we adopt their resolution granting emergency powers to the Superintendent to be able to have greater flexibility to respond quickly and appropriately to our evolving crisis. We can set an end date to this resolution which Supt. Kersten recommended doing so. Boll moved to adopt the NDSBA school board resolution granting emergency powers to the Superintendent as is but adding an end date of our July 2020 annual School Board meeting date, seconded by Streich.

Roll Call Vote: Streich-yes, Zimmer-yes, Boll-yes, Blada-yes, Wyman-yes, Hunskor-yes. MCU

**All School Reunion** – Supt. Kersten reported that Penny Biermann has told him they still plan on having the All School Reunion but will reevaluate weekly. Supt. Kersten said he feels it should be postponed due to the COVID-19 issues and unknowns. If the school is used for the reunion, it will have to be completely sanitized again. Supt. Kersten said he doesn't want to overreact or underreact. Hunskor said we are currently under community gathering restrictions and it is unknown if these will be lifted by June. Discussion followed regarding cleaning costs and exposing our employees to this social gathering and the fact that it is just too early to tell. The decision to allow the All School Reunion to access the school was tabled until the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 am



Darcy Lamoureux, Business Manager



Scott Hunskor, Board President