

The Newburg United School Board met in special session March 18, 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 and Business Manager Darcy Lamoureux.

Hot Lunch Meals – Supt. Kersten reported that because our District does not qualify for the Summer Food Service Program, we currently will not receive any reimbursements for the hot lunch meals served while school is closed. A waiver has been requested from USDA and the state has been asked for hot lunch money, but nothing has been confirmed. On March 17th we served meals to 14 kids. Kersten asked the board if they want to continue to provide meals, at the Districts expense, because the school closure may potentially last for some time and the number of students fed will probably increase the longer this goes on. Discussion followed. Boll moved to continue to provide free meals during the school closure to students ages 0-18 on the days we have school for the 2019-20 school calendar and to pay for the staff meals on March 17th & 18th with the stipulation that this may be reevaluated at a later date depending on the length of the school closure, seconded by Wyman.

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

Ancillary Staff Wages – Supt. Kersten reported that Governor Burgum has waived the March 16th -20th, 2020 school closure days and said they will not have to be made up. The state will pay all our state aide for this period with the hope that school districts will pay their hourly employees. Supt. Kersten reported we are obligated to pay our licensed teachers and salary positions, but hourly employees pay is at the board's discretion. Supt. Kersten said if we pay all hourly staff no matter if they are here or not we might run into problems because the custodians, cook and others might not want to work because they can be at home and still get paid. He also asked the board to consider if an hourly person comes in and doesn't work their normal hours in a day would they get paid for the full amount or just the hours they worked. He said all our hourly staff have been given the option to come in and work to get their hours and have been doing so except two people that didn't work on March 16th while we were making plans for the closure. Discussion followed. Streich moved that all hourly employees should be paid their normal hourly day, for those school days on our 2019-20 school calendar, through this payroll period that ends on March 25, 2020 with the stipulation to reevaluate. Also, if an employee calls in sick, they will be required to use a sick leave day to receive their pay. Motion seconded by Wyman.

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

Student Activities - Supt. Kersten reported that he is not allowing any students to be in the building during the closure. NDHSAA has suspended all spring sports and activities. Both Westhope & Newburg are not allowing any open gyms or captains practices. Supt. Kersten reported on possible issues the board might have to address in the future, such as: Postponing prom, fundraising monies collected for events that might be cancelled and will coaches be paid if we do not have spring sports. He also said we should draft some procedures to implement if the Superintendent, Principal or Business Manager were to get sick. He has spoken to Mr. Bratrud from Westhope and they both agreed that each school would help each other out if need be if the boards were okay with it. Discussion followed and the board gave approval.

District's Plan on Educating Students During the COVID-19 School Closures – Supt. Kersten reported that all Superintendents had a conference call with Governor Burgum and State Superintendent

Beasler and he didn't feel like we received a lot of specific direction from them on how to move forward. Since then, the state has provided a template to follow when drafting our instructional plans and were informed that we are not required to submit our plans to the state for approval. Our staff met yesterday to draft plans on how to educate the students during our closure. Some of the items that will be used are:

1. High School teachers will be using Google Classrooms
1. Using IXL & E-Spark
1. Elementary teachers will be putting together packets with worksheets and online sites to visit
1. We are working to get all the email addresses for the parents to be able to send out correspondence.

Supt. Kersten said that our staff has been wonderful to work with and have been very willing to come together to get this done. He reported that educating our Special Ed students is still in question but that Peace Garden Special Services (PGSS) has given Mrs. Kitzman some direction on things she should be doing. PGSS is also looking at how to handle speech pathology services and will possibly be using Zoom, Facetime or Skype for both Special Ed and Speech services.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 am



Darcy Lamoureux, Business Manager



Scott Hunsakor, Board President