

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLATTE-GEDDES SCHOOL
DISTRICT #11-5 BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020**

President Jess Sondgeroth called a special meeting of the board of education of the Platte-Geddes School District #11-5 to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020 in the Library at the Platte-Geddes High School. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Jess Sondgeroth, Heather VanDerWerff, Roxi Summerville, Duke Starr, Ross Van Zee, Dennis DeBoer, Ross Varilek (via phone)

Members absent: None

Others present: Supt. Joel Bailey, Business Manager Kathy Holter, Kathy Boltjes, Kenny Antonsen, Tammy Darling, and Jason Huizenga

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None

Approve Agenda

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. Starr approving the agenda as printed. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

The teachers, paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, office staff, custodians, and principals deserve a tremendous amount of credit for the work that is being done as the district continues to maneuver uncharted waters. Students and parents also need to be commended for their patience and understanding as a new normal is sought.

The district will continue with the practice of providing E-learning and educational packets for all students. The school lunch program will continue through the duration of the school closing. After four days, an average of 95 meals per day are being served. This is a great service provided for families and the feedback on the quality of meals has been excellent.

With the downturn in the economy because of COVID-19, the 2% increase to K-12 Funding is in limbo. The South Dakota Legislature will likely hold a special session by the end of June to address financial uncertainty caused by the pandemic and to potentially remake the coming years spending plan passed earlier this month. As a result, contract negotiations will have to wait until we know what the legislators have allocated for public schools.

Public schools and higher education should see some financial relief with the passing of the CARES Act. Some items included in the bill are:

- Education Stabilization Fund includes \$13.5 billion earmarked for K-12 schools
- \$14.25 billion for high education
- \$3 billion for governors to use at their discretion to assist K-12 and high education

The legislation also states that any state or school district getting money from the stabilization fund, "shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus."

The district's school board election is also in limbo as a bill is being considered today as to whether or not elections will need to be postponed until June.

Classified Staff

Considerable discussion was held concerning compensation for classified staff during this time of school closure. Several options were presented to the board for consideration. Motion D. DeBoer, seconded R. Van Zee offering classified staff the following terms of employment:

- **Paraprofessionals:** 21 unworked paid hours per week. Paraprofessionals have the option of working up to an additional 14 hours per week or take up to 14 hours per week of paid leave, if available. Amount of days paid per week will correspond with the current school calendar. Paraprofessionals will be given the choice of taking paid leave for March 17 and 18. The 21 unworked paid hours will begin the week of March 23-27. Any additional hours worked that week will be paid up to 35 hours for the week. Board approved terms will begin the week of March 30th.
- **Administrative Assistants:** 60% of normal work week unworked hours paid per week. Administrative Assistants have the option to work additional hours or take paid leave

not to exceed their regular work week hours. Amount of days paid per week will correspond with the current school calendar. Hours worked for March 16 and 17 will be based on actual hours worked or paid leave taken. Board approved terms will begin the week of March 23rd.

- **Custodians:** No change to their hours. Custodians will be paid for actual hours worked.
- **Bus Drivers:** Pay based on their average hours per month.

Because the district is not terminating employment of classified staff, the district will continue to provide benefits including: health insurance, dental insurance, SD Retirement, and paid holidays. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Accept Resignation of 6-12 Vocal Music Teacher, Ms. Joni Willoughby

Motion D. Starr, seconded D. DeBoer accepting the resignation of Ms. Joni Willoughby as 6-12 Vocal Music Teacher and authorizing the administration to advertise the position. Supt. Bailey thanked Ms. Willoughby for her time at the district. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. DeBoer to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

President

Business Manager