

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MARCH 27, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

The Board of Education of Unified School District 234, Fort Scott, Kansas, met in special session at their offices at 424 S. Main at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT (electronically): Jamie Armstrong, Kellye Barrows, Gary Billionis, Danny Brown, Lynette Jackson, David Stewart, James Wood

ALSO PRESENT: Present at the board office: Ted Hessong, Gina Shelton. Those present electronically were David Brown, Joy McGhee, Andrea Scott, Amber Toth, Stephanie Witt

OTHERS PRESENT: Present at the board office: Connie Billionis, Stephen Mitchell. Those present electronically were Jeff Armstrong, Angella Curran, Stephanie George, Krista Gorman, William Hall, Brenda Hill, Angie Kemmerer, Roberta Lewis, Lisa Mathew, Lori Nelsen. Jason Silvers and others were present by phone.

OPEN THE MEETING

President Stewart opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

President Stewart presented information on the format of the meeting as well as explained how the executive session would work.

ROLL CALL

There was a verbal roll call of the board members present.

CONSIDER APPLICATION TO WAIVE 2019-20 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Jackson, and carried by unanimous vote of 7-0 that the board approve the application to waive 2019-20 attendance requirements:

Application to Waive 2019-2020 Attendance Requirements



Date March 27, 2020

School District Name Fort Scott USD 234

Superintendent name Ted Hessong

Board President name: David Stewart

1. Who closed your schools? (Check all applicable)

- ☐ County Health Department
- ☐ Secretary of Health and Environment
- ☒ Governor
- ☐ Military Base Commander

2. How many hours was your school district open during the 2019-20 school year?

876.32 hours

3. How many hours are you requesting be waived from school term of 1,116 hours for the 2019-20 school year?

239.68 hours

NOTE

The Continuous Learning Plan Application must be completed and submitted as part of the waiver request.

All required documents must be emailed as a single package to CLPlan@ksde.org by Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Board Member Brown exits the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 19-10 FOR SUSPENDING BOARD POLICY IHF
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

It was moved by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mrs. Barrows, and carried by unanimous vote of 6-0 that the board approve the suspension of board policy IHF to the state requirement of 21 credits for graduation for the 2019-20 school year:

Unified School District 234

424 South Main
Fort Scott, KS 66701-2697

www.usd234.org

620-223-0800 Fax 620-223-2760

TED HESSONG
Superintendent



RESOLUTION 19-10 FOR SUSPENDING BOARD POLICY III F GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Be it resolved that all credit requirements above and beyond those minimum required credits set by the Kansas State Department of Education, which are contained in Board of Education Policy III F, adopted in July, 2016, be suspended for the graduating class of 2020. Students must meet all standards set out in K.A.R. 91-31-35, unless otherwise modified by the Kansas State Board of Education or the Kansas State Department of Education, to qualify for graduation in May 2020.

By: Gerald R. Bullis
Board Member

Paul [Signature]
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

Janice [Signature]
Board Member

Vel [Signature]
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Attest: Maria Shelton
Clerk, Board of Education

Board member Brown enters the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 19-11 REGARDING WAGE PAYMENTS DURING
EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

It was moved by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried by unanimous vote of 7-0 that the board approve the resolution regarding wage payments:

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424 South Main
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TED HESSONG
Superintendent



RESOLUTION 19-11 REGARDING WAGE PAYMENTS DURING EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

WHEREAS, the board is authorized to expend funds of USD 234 for purposes necessary in the conduct of the public schools as determined by the board;

WHEREAS, the board acknowledges that during an emergency closing, most district employees are instructed not to report for work;

WHEREAS, the board finds that a need exists to address wage payments for employees who are idled resulting from an order by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas State Department of Education resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020;

WHEREAS, the board determines that employees who are instructed not to report to work may suffer a loss of pay if the district or its attendance centers are closed;

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature has declared in House Substitute for Senate Bill 142 its intent that any school district applying for a waiver of the mandatory school term under K.S.A. 72-3117, and amendments thereto, shall continue to pay all current hourly employees during times of closure; and

WHEREAS, the board concludes that continuing wage payments to all regular employees, both salaried and hourly, who suffer a loss in pay due to an emergency closing serves the public purposes of maintaining morale, reducing turnover, and ensuring continuity of district staffing when schools reopen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Unified School District 234 authorizes continued wage payments to all regular employees, including regular salaried and hourly employees and employees under current contract with the board who are instructed not to report to work on days they would otherwise be required to be working during an emergency closing.

The authority granted by this resolution to continue wage payments to idled employees is effective for the period of March 23, 2020, through June 30, 2020, unless the board takes action to authorize payment during a longer duration.

CONSIDER LIMITING STAFF AND STUDENTS IN THE BUILDINGS FOR LEARNING PURPOSES IN SMALL GROUPS OF 10 OR LESS; 6-FEET APART; NO MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE IN A SCHOOL BUILDING

It was moved by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Stewart, and carried by unanimous vote of 7-0 that the board approve limiting staff and students in the building to the recommendations of the SEK Multi-County Health Department for Bourbon County.

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Superintendent Hessong and Business Manager Gina Shelton reported on the food service operations continuing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Member Billionis exits the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 2:28 P.M.

It was moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong, and carried by unanimous vote of 6-0 that the board go into executive session to discuss the employment of personnel for the 2019-20 school year pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and for the open meeting to resume in the board room at 2:45 p.m.

The executive session was required to protect the privacy rights of an identifiable individual.

Board Member Billionis enters the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

The board invited Superintendent Ted Hessong and Gina Shelton, Business Manager/Board Clerk, to attend the executive session.

OPEN SESSION – 2:45 P.M.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Wood, and carried by unanimous vote of 7-0 that the board approve the following employment matters:

- A. Resignation of Haley Troutman, Eugene Ware fourth grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year
- B. Resignation of Jill Couch, Eugene Ware fifth grade teacher, effective June 30, 2020
- C. Resignation of Emily Elliott, high school/middle school vocal teacher, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year
- D. Resignation of Thomas Russell, high school paraprofessional, effective March 12, 2020
- E. Employment of Tim Herman as a Eugene Ware/Winfield Scott custodian for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year

ADJOURN – 2:46 P.M.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk