

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON June 1, 2020 AT 8:00 AM. (NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the **June 22, 2020 meeting).**

Members Present: Stephen August, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Vice Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Bill Perkins, Lorna Ryan and Jennifer Ritch-Smith; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Hayden Platteter, Tanner Hennin

Others Present: Eric Varney

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson August called the meeting to order at 8:03, conducted a roll call and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson August stated that the Board is obligated to conduct an annual evaluation before Superintendent Manuel's contract is up for renewal. The Board will meet and have this process completed before July 1st.

CONSIDER TWO DIPLOMAS FOR 2020 GRADUATION

Superintendent Manuel reported that he and Morse Principal Eric Varney have discussed the current circumstances and how it impacts the students that had a plan in place to graduate before we had to go to remote learning. One option for consideration is offering the state set diploma in addition to the Morse diploma for those that meet the state requirements but fall short on meeting the Morse diploma requirements.

Morse Principal Varney stated that it is important to start where we were in the grading practices once we knew that distance learning would be longer than two weeks. We looked at the two week sample that we had on how the students were doing and put together a grading practice that used their mid-semester progress report grade as their baseline score and allowing them to improve from there as we continued with distance learning. Mr. Varney stated there are always some students that accelerate at the end of the school year and do better as we approach the close of school. Mr. Varney reported that we usually have many ways of helping our students get across the finish line and succeed but we do not have some of those tactics available with distance learning. It has been more difficult to connect with some of those students while teaching remotely. Two weeks ago, we formed a plan for about a dozen seniors that were at risk of not meeting the Morse requirements to graduate. We offered to bring them into school safely to help them complete their work and while some of these students have been successful there are a few that have fallen short of meeting the 23 credits needed for a Morse diploma. Some of these students, however, have met the standards for a state set diploma. Mr. Varney reported that other districts have decided to offer a state minimum requirement diploma as well as their school diploma this year.

Superintendent Manuel stated that students that have not met the 23 credits needed for a Morse diploma but have met the requirements for a state set minimum diploma would receive the state diploma.

Mr. Varney acknowledged that our goal is always to get students to the Morse diploma, and this is not a modification of the standards set for Morse graduates.

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Ryan

VOTE: Board (7-0)

TO: Approve awarding a state set minimum diploma in addition to a Morse diploma for the 2019-2020 academic school year.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Perkins

VOTE: Board (6-0)

TO: Adjourn at 8:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Manuel, Ed.D.
Superintendent