

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE PLATTE-GEDDES SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #11-5 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020**

President J. Sondgeroth called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Platte-Geddes School District #11-5 to order at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 12, 2020, in the Library at the Platte-Geddes High School. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Superintendent Joel Bailey, Business Manager Kathy Holter, Secondary Principal Patrick Frederick, Elementary Principal Jennifer Knecht, Mark Burket and Jason Huizenga. Via Zoom: Kelli Timmerman, Kylie Hoffman, Ashley Frederick, Phyllis Daum, Susan Hoffman, Trisha Frandsen, Erin Walstad

**Additions or deletions to this agenda**

In consideration for Mr. Mark Burket's time, it was requested that the COVID-19 Report be moved up on the agenda following the Conflict of Interest Disclosures and Consideration of Waivers.

**Approve agenda**

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

**Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion R. Summerville, seconded R. Varilek approving the following consent agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020
- Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2020
- Authorize Payment of Claims for October 20, 2020
- Approve Report of Cash Transactions dated 09/30/2020

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**Public Participation**

None

**Routine Business**

**Conflict of Interest Disclosures and Consideration of Waivers**

None

**COVID-19 Report**

Mr. Mark Burket, CEO of Platte Health Center Avera, was present to give an update on the present COVID-19 situation in the area. The positivity rate in the community has increased from 27% to 42% over the last week and a half. Fortunately, there aren't many school aged children testing positive. Hospitalizations have increased but have not yet reached or exceeded the thresholds.

Mr. Burket asked for continued diligence in combating the virus. When our communities reach their peak and at what level that peak will be is yet to be known, but any mitigation measures that can be implemented will help in keeping our students, staff, and communities safe.

**Superintendent Report**

The district received notification from SD Child & Adult Nutrition Services that the Seamless Summer Option/Summer Food Service Program Waiver has been approved. Nationwide Waiver #56 allows area-eligible sites to provide meals to children 18 years and younger at no charge and claim at the free rate of reimbursement. This waiver is applicable to use through December 31, 2020. Additional waivers were also approved which would allow the district to provide grab 'n go lunches and allow the parent/guardian to pick up meals in the event that remote learning is implemented.

The transition to Level 2 of the Return to Learn Plan has gone well. All items on the fruit and veggie bar are now placed in the kitchen and are served by the kitchen staff for grades K-5.

Supt. Bailey thanked the entire staff for everything they have done and rising to the challenge during these uncertain times.

Currently, there are approximately 50 students who have been quarantined as a result of being a close contact. The majority of these close contract have taken place outside of school hours.

The federal government has made the Abbot BinaxNOW COVID Antigen Card available for distribution to South Dakota public and non-public schools. Through a coordinated effort between the SD DOH and SD DOE, the SD BinaxNOW testing program will begin this week. The tests will be used on students and staff who present symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. Student testing will only occur after appropriate consent is received from the parent/guardian of the symptomatic student.

#### **Business Manager Report**

The district received the first installment of the Coronavirus Relief Funds on September 25 in the amount of \$225,000.00. The remaining \$25,000.00 will be sent in November.

Calculation for the CARES ESSER Grant private school equitable participation has been changed from the enrollment method to the Title I Method. The Title I Method counts children who are low-income students residing in the LEA's participating Title I school and attendance area. As a result of this change, Dakota Christian School's allocation will increase by approximately \$2,500.00.

#### **Elementary Principal Report**

Mrs. Knecht reported that school at the elementary building is going great. The students are doing very well. They are happy, they love being in school, they are in a routine, and school feels very normal to them.

Parent Teacher Conferences were held virtually on Thursday, October 8. They were held via phone conference, Zoom, or email communication. Conferences were extremely well attended and the virtual method proved to be a very successful means of meeting with parents during this difficult time of not visitors in the buildings.

Mrs. Knecht gave an update on the number of remote learners. The school year began with four remote learners but has now increased to 36. This increase is mostly due to close contacts with a positive COVID-19 case, mainly occurring outside out school. Teaching remote learners combined with teaching students in the classroom provides challenges for the teachers, but they are rising to the challenge and are doing very well. Remote learners joining in from home has been going great and she thanked Mike Neugebauer for the work he has done to make the process smooth for students and staff.

#### **Secondary Principal Report**

Mr. Frederick also reported that Parent Teacher Conferences went very well. As with the elementary, conferences were conducted via email, phone, and video conferencing. Overall, the level of participation was higher than normal in-person conferences.

On October 12, the district will be offering flu shots to those students who have parental permission. It will also be offered to all staff.

After moving to Level 2 of the Return to Learn Plan, things appear to be flowing in a smooth manner. Staff and students have not missed a beat with the face mask mandate and other changes. Mr. Frederick commended the students, staff, and parents for the positive response the newly implemented changes. He thanked everyone who has played a role in doing what they can to keep staff and students healthy and safe.

#### **Core Educational Coop Report**

R. Van Zee reported on the recent Core Educational Cooperative meeting.

#### **Return to Learn Plan**

The changes that were made by moving to Level 2 of the Return to Learn Plan have been successful so far. Students in grades 6 through 12 have been complying with the mask mandate and the majority of spectators at athletic events have been respectful and have complied with wearing masks.

With community spread increasing at a fast pace and the number of students quarantined due to close contacts, Supt. Bailey recommended that the district implement a mask mandate for all grade levels, now to include kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Knecht supported the recommendation based on the number of students recently affected. Motion R. Summerville, seconded D. DeBoer mandating masks for all students, K-12, based on the current positivity rate in the area. The mandate will go into effect on Tuesday, October 13. The board of education will revisit the topic at the November Board Meeting. Stipulations regarding remote learning will remain as approved at the September 30<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **First Reading of Amended, Deleted, and New Policies**

K. Holter explained that several policies have been revised, deleted or created due to the 2020 Legislative Session. A listing explaining the changes was included with the board packet. Policies receiving first reading included: ACAA: Sexual Harassment, DIBGA: Custodial Funds, DIC: Financial Reports and Statements, DIE: Audits, BDDG: Minutes, DB: Budget, DH: Bonded Employees and Officers, DI: Fiscal

Accounting and Reporting, DIB: Types of Funds, DFG: Insufficient Checks and No Accounts Checks, DDA: Gifts and Donations to District, DJC: Bidding Requirements, BHAA: Board Member Education, BHA: New Board Member Orientation, BHB: Board Member Development Opportunities, BHD: Board Member Compensation and Expenses, JECG: Education of Students in Foster Care, JFB: Education of Homeless Children, DHA: Internal Controls Policy, JFGA: Law Enforcement and Department of Social Services Student Interview Policy, IGA: Basic Instructional Program, IGBA: Special Education and Related Services, JECB: Open Enrollment, JEDB: Student Dismissal, JEG: Exemptions from School Attendance, JFC: Student Conduct, JFCC: Student Conduct on School Buses.

**Appoint Delegate Assembly Representative and Alternate**

Motion D. DeBoer, seconded R. Varilek tabling the appointment until the November School Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**Set Time/Date for November Board Meeting**

The November School Board Meeting will remain as scheduled on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

**Adjournment**

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. DeBoer to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 a.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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**President**

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**Business Manager**