

The Allen Parish School Board met in special session at the Allen Parish School Board Office in Oberlin, Louisiana, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Cathy Farris, President; Carolyn Manuel, Vice-President; Gregory Monceaux; Sally Moreaux; Karen Reed; and Kevin Tyler

Absent: Jason Turner

The meeting began with the invocation given by Karen Reed.

Motion by Gregory Monceaux, seconded by Carolyn Manuel, unanimously carried to change the date of the April board meeting to April 20, 2020. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 1, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Carolyn Manuel, seconded by Kevin Tyler, unanimously carried to accept alternate #2 in the amount of \$312,000 from E. L. Habetz Builders, Inc. for the Kinder High School Improvement Project. Alternate #2 is to replace the window walls in renovate the seven classrooms on the south side of the east and middle classroom wings.

Motion by Gregory Monceaux, seconded by Karen Reed, unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

ALLEN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY

COVID-19

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2019, officials in China alerted the World Health Organization (“WHO”) to several cases of an unknown respiratory illness primarily concentrated in the City of Wuhan, Hubei Province; and

WHEREAS, after further investigating the illness and ruling out the recurrence of other previously known viruses, officials, on January 7, 2020, announced the discovery of a new virus belonging to the coronavirus family of viruses (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, over the following weeks, the Chinese government began to report additional cases of the virus, evidencing a propensity of the virus to spread throughout China and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by January 30, 2020, approximately eighteen countries, outside of China, were reporting cases of the virus, causing the WHO to declare the virus a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern;” and

WHEREAS, over the following weeks, the virus continued to spread to nations around the globe, infecting thousands of individuals; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a “Global Pandemic;” and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Louisiana declared a “Public Health Emergency” over the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency due to the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to combat the spread of the virus, the Governor, on March 13, 2020, ordered the closure of all public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana, beginning on March 16, 2020 and ending on April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many children depend on the services of the Allen Parish School Board (“School Board”) for essential services such as the provision of healthy meals; and

WHEREAS, while the cancellation of school will hopefully serve to combat the spread of the virus, such cancellation may put children at risk of not receiving enough healthy meals during the prolonged closure; and

WHEREAS, the spread of the virus and its impact on the everyday lives of the School Board's students, faculty, staff, and their family members requires the School Board to take unprecedented steps to combat the spread of the virus and to serve the children of Allen Parish; and

WHEREAS, the sudden closure of all schools until April 13, 2020, or later has also caused confusion and concern to employees of the school district about their ability to continue to be able to support their families through receipt of compensation from the School Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the above recitals considered, the School Board desires to utilize its assets in the fight against the coronavirus, as more fully set forth below.

AND NOW, CONSIDERING THE FOREGOING, THE SCHOOL BOARD HEREBY DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT DECLARED, that the Allen Parish School Board hereby declares a public emergency due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that, notwithstanding any policy or rule to the contrary, the School Board hereby confers emergency powers upon its Superintendent of Schools, for purposes of leading the School Board's response to the outbreak. Such emergency powers include, at the sole discretion of the Superintendent:

- (1) The authority to enter into any agreement or contract, without any further Board approval, for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, or services for sanitation, cleaning, technology, and other Covid-19 related services and supplies on behalf of School Board.
- (2) The authority to supply and arrange for the delivery of meals to all children of the parish, eighteen (18) years of age or younger, at no costs to the child or his/her family.
- (3) The authority to continue to pay school employees their regular compensation during the period schools are closed.
- (4) The authority to adjust curriculum, work schedules, compensation, and staff assignments without any further Board approval.
- (5) The authority to adjust the school calendar.
- (6) The authority to apply to BESE, LDOE, and/or USDOE, or any other governmental body for waivers of regulations or requirements, the compliance of which is impacted by COVID-19.
- (7) The authority to apply for waivers, grants, reimbursements, aid, and other Covid-19 related matters on behalf of the School Board.
- (8) The authority to provide non-mandatory, supplemental educational resources to students.
- (9) The authority to take any other action reasonably necessary to implement the above directives.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that the Superintendent is required to report, in writing and at reasonable intervals, to the School Board as to the amount of expenditures made pursuant to this Declaration, as well as, the actions taken by the Superintendent pursuant to this Declaration.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that, in accordance with the Governor's declaration, any bidding requirements of the Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2212 et seq.) applicable to any purchases related to the School Board's response to the coronavirus outbreak are hereby suspended.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that this Declaration shall remain in effect until withdrawn by the School Board.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that notice of the provisions contained herein shall be published in the official journal of the Allen Parish School Board within ten (10) days hereof.

THIS DECLARATION is adopted by the Allen Parish School Board, at a Special Meeting held on the 18th day of March 2020 in Oberlin, Louisiana.

Yeas: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (Turner)

Kent Reed, Board Secretary
Allen Parish School Board

Cathy Farris, Board President
Allen Parish School Board

Superintendent Reed gave an update on the Coronavirus crisis. The Board was informed on decisions on how our schools were effectively closed due to this crisis. Topics of discussion were employee work schedules; food service decisions and schedules; maintenance workers and construction projects; technology workers; academic opportunities for our students; return to school during our spring break; pupil progression plan; graduation ceremonies and LHSAA issues. Also discussed, was a proclamation passed by Governor Edwards to waive the following laws: LEAP statewide testing and pupil progression; school and district accountability systems and VAM data in educator evaluations; minimum number of days a teacher must work in a school year; teacher performance evaluations and compulsory attendance law for students.

Motion by Gregory Monceaux, seconded by Kevin Tyler, unanimously carried to adjourn.

Cathy Farris, President
Allen Parish School Board

ATTEST:

Kent Reed, Secretary
Allen Parish School Board