

## **SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 27, 2020**

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met electronically in special session, April 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Rob Brownell, Dennis Grue, Brand Robinson, Mike Swan, Ethan Severson, and Matt White.

Superintendent Jeff Blessum, High School Principal Jason Slater, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, and Clerk Ann Heisler were present throughout the entire proceedings. Guests attended the meeting electronically.

## **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Brownell recognized the visitors in attendance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items. No comments were made or received by email.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS:**

### **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AT MANHATTAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Brand Robinson moved that the Board of Trustees declare an unforeseen emergency within the meaning of that term as set forth in Title 20, Chapter 9, Part 8, to become immediately effective and to continue through June 30, 2020. This motion is based on COVID-19 risks; in recognition that the Governor's waiver of student instruction time will expire on May 7; and in recognition that the Governor's April 22, 2020 Directive implicating Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 specify that elected school boards and their districts that adopt their own declaration of emergency will continue to receive all state funding, including transportation funding. The motion was seconded by Dennis Grue and it carried unanimously 6-0.

### **STATUS OF MANHATTAN PUBLIC SCHOOL TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

Superintendent Blessum read a statement to the Board about the COVID-19 situation and that the administrative team has been meeting often about the recommended next steps to either open schools or continue with online instruction. He said that the student/staff safety, health, and welfare is of the utmost importance at this time. The school needs time to plan to have a successful opening in the Fall, so with that, Mr. Blessum made a recommendation to keep Manhattan Public School closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and to continue with off-site learning through online instruction.

Matt White made a motion to keep Manhattan Public School closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and continue with online instruction. Dennis Grue seconded the motion. After additional discussion and comments from the principals, teachers, and members of the community, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

## **BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY**

High School Principal Jason Slater gave the Board an update on the status of our 2020 high school graduation and some of the options being considered. The best option would be to have somewhat of a normal ceremony on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm with restrictive entry to honor social distancing and livestream the event. There will be contingency plans in place in case the situation changes. Mr. Slater will keep everyone posted as the details are available.

A community member asked about holding baccalaureate at the school and whether that is still a possibility given that it is not a school sanctioned event. Mr. Slater will determine what the options are for this to see if we can make it work.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

**Board Approved May 12, 2020**