

SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING, MARCH 17, 2020

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met electronically in a special emergency session, March 17, 2020, at 2:30 p.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 AN UNFORESEEN EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

Dennis Grue made a motion that the Board of Trustees of Manhattan School District declare an unforeseen emergency in accordance with Sections 20-9-801 through 20-9-806, MCA, due to the community and school health concerns related to COVID-19 and authorize the administration to take the necessary steps to execute declaration and inform the public and government agencies of this declaration. Ethan Severson seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFICIENCY AND OFFSITE INSTRUCTION

Mike Swan moved to approve the following two authorizations:

Proficiency: The superintendent is authorized to work with district staff in making determinations regarding pupils who are proficient in courses in which the pupils are enrolled without regard to the aggregate hours of instruction provided. The superintendent is directed to make a final determination of proficiency for each pupil for each enrolled course, using district assessments, including class grades at a minimum, and reporting a full-time equivalent conversion of ANB for such pupils, based on the scheduled time ordinarily provided through the aggregate hours of instruction for such courses.

Offsite Instruction: The superintendent is authorized to work with district staff in providing instruction for pupils of the district. Such instruction may include any method or methods identified as appropriate by the superintendent, including but not limited to offsite instruction as defined and referenced in sections 20-1-101(5); 20-1-101(14); 20-7-118; and 20-9-311(11), MCA. Dennis Grue seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS:

DISCUSSION ON TEMPORARY SCHOOL CLOSURE

Superintendent Blessum and the administrative team reviewed the procedures being put into place for offsite instruction, operations, food service, athletics, and how this information will be communicated to the community going forward.

A special thank you was extended by the Board to our administrative team and the entire school staff for their efforts in working through the changes necessary during this emergency school closure.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

Board Approved April 14, 2020