

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 6:30 PM

Boone Central High School Library
605 South 6th St.
Albion, NE 68620

1. Open the Meeting - Call to Order

1.1. Nebraska Open Meetings Law

The Open Meetings Act was available for review.

1.2. Publication of the Meeting

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication to the public and to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance.

2. Roll Call

3. COVID-19 Report

Superintendent Hardwick provided the Board with an update on the most recent details and information pertaining to the Coronavirus pandemic impacting schools in Nebraska.

Discussions were focused on certified and non-certified staff wages and benefits, contract days and work arrangements, continued education and enrichment opportunities for students, and anticipated information that may potentially require an extended closure.

4. Discuss, consider and take any and all appropriate action as a result of the Coronavirus/COVID-19:

4.1. Certified Staff Employment Negotiated Agreement Amendments or Addendum

No action was taken regarding the certified staff employment negotiated agreement amendment or addendum.

4.2. Classified Staff Employment Agreement or Amendment

No action was taken regarding the non-certified staff employment agreements.

4.3. Certificated and Professional Staff Employment Agreement or Amendment

No action was taken regarding the certificated and professional staff employment agreements.

4.4. Board Policies and Governance - Staff Employment

No action was taken regarding the board policies specific to staff employment.

4.5. Board Policies and Governance - Student Attendance

No action was taken regarding the board policies specific to student attendance.

4.6. Delegate authority to Superintendent and Board Officers to pay certain claims and take other specific actions during any school closure due to COVID-19

Motion to approve COVID-19 resolution as read. Passed with a motion by Justin Frey and a second by Ed Knott.

Karrie Fogleman: Yea, Justin Frey: Yea, Ed Knott: Yea, Kathleen Rolf: Yea, Tim Stopak: Yea, Darren Wright: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

WHEREAS, the Boone Central School District is preparing for the possible closure based on the statewide outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the board of education wishes to minimize disruption of the school district's operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the superintendent, in consultation with the Board President, is authorized to pay all non-discretionary claims and take any other action authorized by law during the school closure, which the board will approve once the board resumes regular operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the superintendent is authorized to assign and utilize staff as necessary prior to, during, and after a closure, and to provide any leave and enter into agreements with staff for the purposes of protecting the health and safety of the school community, continuing the efficient operations of the school district, and ensuring staff return to work in the school district in the event of a closure.

Approved on March 17, 2020.

- 4.7. Delegate authority to Superintendent to determine essential employment duties and hours during school closure due to COVID-19

Motion to delegate authority to Superintendent to determine essential employment duties and hours during school closure due to COVID-19, to approve continued employment and payment for all non-certified staff that is scheduled for regular hours during the week of 3/16 through 3/27 at 100% of the regular pay rate for those individuals, and for the superintendent to have authority to determine mandatory and non-mandatory reporting of staff members during that time. Passed with a motion by Darren Wright and a second by Tim Stopak.

Karrie Fogleman: Yea, Justin Frey: Yea, Ed Knott: Yea, Kathleen Rolf: Yea, Tim Stopak: Yea, Darren Wright: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

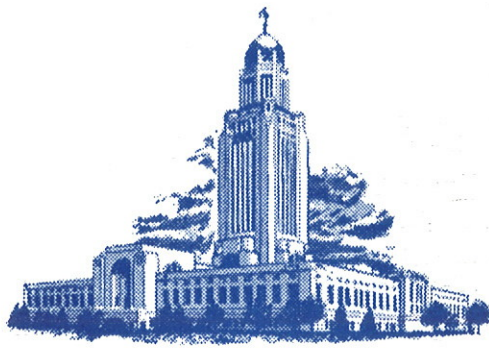
5. Adjournment

A Special Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 25th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Boone Central High School Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chairperson

Superintendent



STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20—03
CORONA VIRUS – PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIREMENT LIMITED WAIVER

WHEREAS, In order to provide flexibility to assist in meeting the emergency conditions and subsequent impacts brought on from COVID-19, a state of emergency was declared in Nebraska on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska is committed to providing seamless government operations to the people of Nebraska throughout the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, state and local governmental boards, commissions and other public bodies must comply with the Open Meetings Act so that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of participating in meeting of public bodies; and

WHEREAS, for public health purposes, meetings and gatherings have now been limited to no more than 50 people and may be further limited if the presence of COVID-19 warrants;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Nebraska, hereby issue this limited waiver of certain requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.


Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby order the following:

1. This executive order applies to all governing bodies as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1409 (1) and to all public meetings as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1409 (2).
2. All governing bodies may meet by videoconference or by telephone conferencing or by conferencing by other electronic communication so long as there is made available at such meeting access to members of the public and to members of the media.

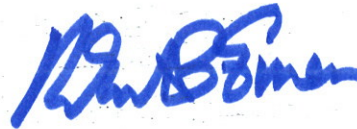
3. The advanced publicized notice and the agenda requirements for meetings that are set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411 and the remaining provisions of Nebraska's Open Meeting Act shall continue to be complied with by all governing bodies and are not waived by this executive order.
4. This waiver shall apply to all public governing body meetings that occur from today through May 31, 2020.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 17th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:



Pete Ricketts, Governor



Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State



Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The Principals and teachers are required to maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

Attendance and Absences

Circumstances of Absences – Definitions

The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.

School Excused - Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a *School Excused* absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:

- Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent must provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness, court, death of a family member, or suspension.
- Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.

Not School Excused - Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:

- Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, vacations, and medical appointments.
- Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.

Absence Procedure – In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.

- A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written or verbal parental excuse, is issued by the Principal's office.
- Students will be given one day to complete make up work for each day of excused absences. This does not apply in the case of suspensions, exclusions, or unexcused absences. The responsibility of obtaining assignments is that of the student. If the absence is for a school activity, the student's work is due upon return. Tests and long-term projects may be required to be completed in advance.

Mandatory Ages of Attendance - A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students - Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit

stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Student - Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools - A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview - The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in Boone Central Schools or resides in the Boone Central School District and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form - Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools) - A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism - Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the superintendent or such person(s) who the superintendent designates to be the attendance officer (hereafter, "attendance officer"). The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to address the problem of excessive absenteeism. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed below under "Excessive Absenteeism" and "Reporting Excessive Absenteeism."

Excessive Absenteeism - Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter which are Not School Excused shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day (or hourly equivalent) basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, school officials will have verbal or written communication with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child.

When a student continues thereafter to have absences which are Not School Excused and the absences are of concern due to the effect of the absences on the student's academics, the student's attendance history, the time of the school year, the reasons for the absences, or other circumstances, one or more meetings will be held between the school (a school attendance officer, a school administrator or his or her designee, and/or a social worker), the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

- Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child.
- Educational counseling;
- Educational evaluation;

- Referral to community agencies for economic services;
- Family or individual counseling; and
- Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney - The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per year. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to making the referral to the county attorney. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. " 79-201 and 79-209

Date of Adoption: July 20, 2015