

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING MARCH 16, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in an emergency session, pursuant to law on March 16, 2020.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Ralph DiCesare, Dawn Reeves, Jen Held and Jeff Bowlin together with Superintendent, Tom Wood, and Business Manager, Jill Gavin.

I. Welcome – Board President

Mrs. Bunch called meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

II. Public Comments

III. New Business

A. Review Coronavirus 19 Information

Mr. Wood provided an update and guidance from the Department of Education and Governor Reynolds. The State Legislature is working on a bill that will forgive time missed due to the current crisis, and the Governor has pledged to sign it. They will review the instructional time requirement of 180 days or 1080 hours and more information will be given during today's news conference. We will work to keep the last day of school as close as possible to the current scheduled date.

The Department of Education is suggesting that graduation be under local discretion to determine whether the students have completed sufficient course content to consider the units complete. The district will provide as much latitude for students to graduate on time as possible. The district's plan is to keep graduation as planned.

Mr. Moser will allow the students extra time to meet the necessary requirements. Teachers will be expected to communicate with students/parents during the week of March 23 and provide online resources, activities, and websites for kids to continue learning. More information will come from building principals on this.

The DE has also provided new guidance for Accountability and Assessment. They will consider one-year waivers of the assessment requirement for those schools impacted by extraordinary circumstances due to COVID-19. They will also consider a one-year waiver of the requirement to identify a school for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The district has announced that we will provide grab-n-go meals starting March 23 and the food pantry will remain open for anyone in need.

B. Discuss/Approve Payroll for Hourly Employees

Certified Staff are paid on an annual salary and the district will continue to pay without interruption. Classified staff is paid on an hourly basis. Hourly employees are usually not paid when they are not assigned hours and/or do not work the hours they are assigned. If school will be closed for a prolonged period of time, the school board may choose furloughs for classified staff such as classroom associates. A furlough is a non-paid leave of absence. If employees are furloughed, they may be eligible for unemployment compensation. Districts can then pay for unemployment compensation from the management fund. Otherwise, the school board may take action to make pay available to hourly employees during a closure. Our recommendation is to continue pay for hourly employees.

Mr. Bowlin motioned to approve the continuation of payment to hourly employees, seconded by Mrs. Held. Roll call: 5 ayes.

IV. Adjournment

Updates and communication will continue to come through emails from Mr. Wood and the building principals. The School Board and Administration requested that staff please take precautions and follow CDC recommendations, not extend vacations or make plans that expose them unnecessarily, avoid large gatherings, and limit your own kids' interactions with friends, trips to the mall, and other hang-outs.

Mrs. Held motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bowlin. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 5:10 p.m.