



Resolution in Response to Health Emergency

The _____ School District provides essential services to students, their families and the community. The School Board and the district administration are working closely with local and state health authorities to do what is necessary to support the health and safety of students, employees, and the surrounding community. That said, there are many difficult choices that must be made in the coming weeks – sometimes with little time and incomplete information. Some of these decisions may need to be made quickly, without the benefit of Board deliberation and the typical decision-making process.

The School Board recognizes that it must exercise its governance role flexibly to enable the superintendent and his or her staff to fully participate in providing solutions to the many concerns created in this emergency. Therefore, the Board RESOLVES:

1. To meet as many times as necessary during this health emergency by teleconference, videoconference or other legal means so that essential decisions that require Board approval may be made as quickly as possible.
2. To support the superintendent and his or her staff who are making difficult decisions for the district without the luxury of long deliberation and precedent. The Board directs district employees to do what is necessary and good for the community based on the best information at the time, within the limits of the law.
3. To practice good governance communications by:
 - a. Directing all concerns and questions regarding district decisions to the superintendent or the persons designated by the superintendent so that the concerns can be resolved quickly and accurately.
 - b. To rely solely on the Board President and the superintendent or designee to provide information to the public regarding the district response to the emergency. Board members will not attempt to summarize information on personal social media platforms or other forms of communication, but instead will direct all community members to official district communications. If a Board member believes additional communication is necessary, the Board member will contact the Board President to request that the district address the specific issue.
4. To suspend Board policy as necessary to adequately respond to the emergency. If the superintendent encounters a policy that may impede necessary action, he will request the Board to vote to suspend the policy. If in the superintendent's opinion there is no time to call a Board meeting, the Board authorizes the superintendent to operate as if the policy is temporarily suspended after first obtaining approval by the Board President, or the Vice President in the absence of the President, who will inform the Board of the decision as soon as possible. The Board recognizes that it does not have the authority to suspend state or federal law and relies on the superintendent to verify with district attorneys to distinguish between law and policy.

5. To exercise patient leadership. The Board recognizes that the community is concerned and has many questions. The Board has many questions too. Not all of these questions can be answered immediately and district staff cannot answer Board questions as quickly as they would like to do so. The Board will be patient and asks the same of the community.