

JUDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACT IN PLACE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DURING AN EMERGENCY CLOSURE

WHEREAS, the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees (Board) recognizes that the State of Texas and the United States Government have declared a disaster and emergency regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19 (hereafter "COVID-19") and its potential spread;

WHEREAS, the territory included in Judson Independent School District is within the areas declared a disaster and an emergency area;

WHEREAS, on or about March 13, 2020, the President of the United States first declared a national emergency and the Governor of the State of Texas declared a statewide disaster regarding COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that COVID-19 is an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency of urgent public necessity, that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and that additional emergency declarations may follow in the coming days and weeks;

WHEREAS, the Board and Administration are following advice and directives from federal, state and local authorities in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore desires to ensure that the school district and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the District closed campuses from student attendance for an additional week from March 16-20, 2020 following the District's closure for Spring Break from March 9-13, 2020 and may determine a need exists to implement further suspension of classes and other district business in response to the health needs of our families and our community;

WHEREAS, the District's public purpose is served by promoting conscientious health choices, including individual quarantines as may be necessary when classes resume, and to continue compensation of staff members during such times;

WHEREAS, the District's public purpose is served by working with students, families, and staff to the extent possible to support continued learning and providing food during times of school suspension and/or quarantine;

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to retain its employees, reduce turnover, increase morale, help employees focus on work-related matters while at work, and facilitate the return to duty of employees if schools are closed and believes that an additional public purpose exists in doing so;

WHEREAS, the Board supports future decisions the Superintendent may make under the authority of this Resolution regarding the continuation of wage payments to all regular employees, contractual and non-contractual, salaried and non-salaried who suffer a loss in pay due to an emergency closing, as continuation of wage payments as feasible will serve the public purposes of maintaining morale, reducing turnover, and ensuring continuity of District staffing when schools reopen; and

WHEREAS, the Board supports future decisions the Superintendent may make under the authority of this Resolution, as provided at DEA (LOCAL), as such expenditures may serve the public purposes of maintaining morale, providing equity between idled employees and employees who provide emergency-related services, and recognizing the services of essential staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes the public purposes described above are further fulfilled by allowing the District's focus to remain on the COVID-19 crisis, the Board herein suspends all local policy "business day" deadlines for any days where students are not attending school yet the District remains open to provide oversight, instruction, food services and other services to the students and community; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes the public purposes described above are fulfilled by efficiently and effectively making certain delegations, as described more fully herein, to the Superintendent to address this ever-changing emergency situation in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of its students, staff, community, and the citizenship at-large; and

WHEREAS, the Board continues to provide controls and oversight for the District expenditures and authority granted to the Superintendent herein through requiring that the Superintendent report to the board all actions taken under this grant of authority.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees finds a substantial public purpose exists in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore in ensuring that the school district and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19.

In furtherance of these public purposes, the Board of Trustees makes the following delegations to the Superintendent and designee(s):

1. The authority to act in the place of the Board under Policy DEA (LOCAL) and thus make all decisions regarding payment of employees during an emergency closure, to implement the provisions of Board Policy DEA(LOCAL), and to make determinations regarding the purpose and parameters of any such payments;
2. The authority to make decisions regarding the compensation of exempt and non-exempt employees during an emergency closure, including premium payments to certain employees, and to implement those decisions;
3. The authority to alter the Judson ISD 2019-2020 school calendar by changing and/or adding school/instructional hours and work/school days as necessitated by any emergency closure or related concerns;
4. The authority to act in the place of the Board under Policy BE (LOCAL) to schedule, reschedule and/or cancel regular and special Board meetings, in consultation with the Board president;
5. The authority to act in place of the Board under Policy DEC (LOCAL) regarding employee leave and thus create guidelines and make decisions regarding absences, leave time, leave days, and compensation of any employee who is quarantined as a result of COVID-19 and/or who tests positive for COVID-19 and who presents appropriate medical documentation regarding themselves and/or an immediate family member, in compliance with Texas and federal law;

6. The authority to seek any necessary waivers from the Texas Education Agency without further action of the Board of Trustees regarding missed instructional days/hours, low attendance, or any matters related to the emergency closures as part of this Resolution;

7. The authority to declare a catastrophe and take all actions as appropriate in accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 552.233, regarding temporary suspension of the Texas Public Information Act;

8. The authority to act in place of the Board under Policies CH, COA and CV (Local) regarding procurement and thus procure, negotiate, and execute contracts for goods and services that are necessary to mitigate, prevent, restore, and repair damage caused to District equipment, personal property, and facilities or to protect the safety of students and staff, related to COVID-19 and its potential spread. Such authority being necessary to prevent delays posed by competitive procurement of contracts that will prevent or substantially impair the conduct of classes or other essential school functions and activities; and

9. In the event other waivers or immediate actions are needed, the Superintendent is authorized to take other action and to submit/apply for other waivers in accordance with guidance and instructions from the national and state authorities and/or agencies.

The authority granted by this resolution is effective for the closure from March 16, 2020 until May 8, 2020 unless the Board takes action to authorize continuation for a longer duration.

The above Resolution is passed and adopted this 19th day of March 2020 by the Board of Trustees.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



President, Board of Trustees



Secretary, Board of Trustees