

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lopez Island School District #144
March 11, 2020
School Library
5:00 p.m.
Special Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Link:

http://lopezislandsd.ss19.sharpschool.com/news/what_s_new/special_board_meeting_3_11_20

Following the recommendation of the San Juan County Health Department and LISD school measures to control the coronavirus, public involvement in the meeting will be by computer or phone conference utilizing this link. Thank you for understanding of the need for this measure.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

Called to order at 17:08. Attended by Board Chair John Holding, Board Member Jenny Poole, Superintendent Brian Auckland, LEA President Kendra Lewis and Representatives from the Lopez Library and Family Resource Center. Board members Carol Steckler & Chris Greacen, and Secondary Principal Dixie Budke attending remotely.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

III. BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update & Discussion

Superintendent Auckland reported on current LISD actions in cooperation with the SJC Health Dept., CDC, and WA Health Organization with a constant stream of updates & changes occurring. All public events and Seattle trips are currently cancelled. Working with WIAA to manage spring sports (golf and track). Japan trip has been cancelled and the France trip is still being monitored, with the potential to cancel growing. Anyone with a fever should stay home for 72 hours (based on SJC recommendations). Mark Tompkins from the SJC Health Dept. reports that testing is being done, but so far, no confirmed cases in San Juan County. Also discussed the potential for school closures in the county and procedures around testing.

Chair Holding spoke about some of the issues/concerns around closing school and still supporting our families with meals and other services.

Questions from the community:

KS - Parent expressing concern over dismissiveness of community and inquired about potential lobbying to the legislature for school support.

MS - Inquired about financial help from county for those not insured. The WA insurance commissioner has waived copay and deductible payments for COVID19 testing for those with insurance. There is an emergency open enrollment for health insurance. The LIFRC can help people sign up for insurance, and can tap into funds to help those without insurance.

JF - PTSA Secretary inquired about SJC Health Dept. recommends for school cleaning measures.

Suggestion of establish a task force of parents to strategize support the school. What can the community be doing?

RT - Offered to answer questions regarding France trip and golf team. Reports that President Trump just banned all travel to Europe for 30 days.

BP - Parents are asking if absences will be excused if they want to keep students home proactively.

Answer: yes – sign a pre-arranged absence form at the school. If the school closes would we have to

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make up days? School days will only need to be made up to the extent that makeup days would extend to 19 June. Beyond 19 June there would be no more makeup days.

Update from Lopez Island Family Resource Center:

Executive Director Barbara Schultheiss reports that LIFRC is following similar process as the school, and will follow recommendations of the same health authorities in regards to closures. Still able to provide assistance to families over the phone for provided services. Plans are being made to work with high-risk individuals for home drops as needed.

Update from Lopez Island Library:

Operations Manager Claudia Rempel reports the library is working understaffed since many volunteers are in the high-risk population and are staying home. Library patrons are encouraged to not go to the library if sick at all. Extra cleaning measures are in place. Programs are canceled. Available by phone or email to connect with requests for materials/resources with delivery possible. Considering closure if school closes. Willing to assist students with independent study resources/reference materials, etc. as needed.

Chair Holding proposes a formal statement from the board to present a county wide school closure if/ when any school closure becomes necessary. Move by Holding to present Resolution 19/20-04:

In this time of the coronavirus epidemic, it is the sense of the Lopez Island School Board that the best interests of our county and island communities will be served by having any actions regarding school closures discerned and coordinated across all four of the San Juan county school districts, and in collaboration with San Juan County Health Department. We appreciate the coordination by the superintendents of the school districts up to this point. We feel a united plan regarding school closures as that becomes necessary will best serve our districts and communities. We encourage our sister island school districts to express a similar intent and for all of us to instruct our superintendents to closely collaborate on any school closure plans.

Board member Greacen seconds the motion with improved verbiage to avoid jumping to a decision. Unanimously approved after a brief discussion. To be distributed to county superintendents as soon as possible.

Board member Greacen would like to see parent task force established. Chair Holding is concerned about establishing leadership without further discussion.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

V. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

VI. REVIEW OF TASKS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Board member Steckler moved to adjourned, Chair Holding seconded. Unanimously adjourned at 18:57.

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