

Swan River School District #4
1205 Swan Hwy
Bigfork, MT 59911

March 15, 2020

The Swan River School Board of Trustees met in an emergency special session on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria to discuss school closure due to COVID-19. Brooke Johnston, Board chair presided over the entire meeting.

TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Brooke Johnston, Dan Elwell, Luke Adamson, Nels Hammack and Linda Stewart
TRUSTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Principal Marc Bunker, District Clerk Dee Johnson and list of attendee's attached

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

A: School closure

Brooke opened the meeting stating that Governor Steve Bullock made the announcement earlier today that all schools K-12 will be shut down effective immediately through March 27, 2020 until further notice due to the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus. There will be questions to be answered and worked out asap on education, meals, etc.

Luke Adamson made a motion to close school through the 27th which includes spring break already scheduled for closure.

Second: Dan Elwell

Public comment: Rene Thornberry expressed her thoughts and feels that this is ridiculous and no worse than the flu. Feels like everyone is living in fear and school shouldn't be shut down. Rene was reminded that this is an order from the governor of the state and that the school board has no choice in the matter. Stephanie Tinney wondered if parents and kids should come by the school for text books or whatever else they may need out of their lockers and desks. There were other questions and comments on school work, meals, etc. Marc will meet with Staff to determine a plan for distance learning if it comes down to that and will meet with kitchen staff on

meal plans. Marc would also like to send out a survey on the needs of devices at home for students, who has computers at home, internet, will chrome books need to be checked out? Dan asked if there is a timeline to start education at home. Marc will meet with teachers tomorrow to come up with a plan. Brooke worries about staff coming in to the school, especially if their health is already compromised. Some staff on hand expressed that they would like to come in and come up with a plan. Still waiting on decision from Governor Bullock on waiving hours to make up for this week closure. Marc would like teachers and admin in this week as much as possible working and preparing for after spring break plan if this extends. Shelley Emslie asked about people using the building and Marc stated that all activities scheduled will be cancelled and those people will be notified.

Motion was made by Luke Adamson to close until march 27 until more information is released. This was seconded by Dan Elwell
Passed unanimously

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Motion: Dan Elwell
Seconded: Luke Adamson
Passed unanimously

Brooke Johnston, Board Chair

Dee Johnson, District Clerk

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March 23, 2020

The Swan River School Board of Trustees met in special session via Zoom conferencing on Thursday, March 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to further discuss school closure due to COVID-19. Brooke Johnston, Board chair presided over the entire meeting.

TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Brooke Johnston, Dan Elwell, Luke Adamson, Nels Hammack and Linda Stewart
TRUSTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Principal Marc Bunker, District Clerk Dee Johnson, and various audience members on devices

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

A: Board consideration of current circumstances related to COVID-19 for possible declaration of unforeseen emergency pursuant to 20-9-801 through 20-9-806, MCA

Due to current circumstances with directive from Governor Bullock the board declares the unforeseen emergency pursuant to 20-9-801 through 20-9-806

This directive closes schools through March 27, 2020 until further notice

Motion to approve: Dan Elwell

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

B: Board of trustees authorize administration to provide offsite Instruction

The board authorizes administration to provide offsite instruction to students

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

C: Board of trustee's direct administration to identify proficiency of students in the district and to include proficient students in the district's ANB count as allowed by 20-9-311 (4) (d)

Board of trustees approves item C: per 20-9-311 (4) (d)

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Nels Hammack

Passed unanimously

Questions from public about allowing offsite learning:

Brooke explained that currently this is not allowed but the action item now allows offsite learning by directive from Governor. Marc also explained that data is being collected via survey to determine the needs of families in regards to electronic devices or other means of remote learning. Again, this is set to continue through march 27 but we are planning for continuance if necessary.

Model plan being worked on by Marc and teachers for submission to Governor by end of day Friday. Question asked about a trial period and Marc stated that while we are unsure how long this will continue and may evolve; he feels teachers will be ready to go starting Monday march 30 after spring break.

Dan asked Marc to explain about the different requirements for grade levels. Marc explained that K-3 require by law less instruction time than 4-8, as well as proficient students require less time.

Brandy Opfar asked what program the teachers will be using and Marc stated that different programs will be used and encouraged teachers to use what works best for them.

Brandy offered any help with putting information or links on the website.

The board will meet again via zoom @ 4:00 p.m. on march 26, where Marc along with teachers will have the model plan for Governor ready to go by closing on Friday and possibly adopt policy 3650

Brooke will send email to staff with Zoom link and a remind message will go out to parents.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Brooke Johnston

Passed unanimously

Brooke Johnston, Board Chair

Dee Johnson, District Clerk

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March 26, 2020

The Swan River School Board of Trustees met in special session via Zoom conferencing on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to further discuss

school closure due to COVID-19. Brooke Johnston, Board chair presided over the entire meeting.

TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Brooke Johnston, Dan Elwell, Luke Adamson, Nels Hammack and Linda Stewart

TRUSTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Principal Marc Bunker, District Clerk Dee Johnson, and various audience members on devices

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

A: Consideration and action on the district's COVID-19 plan of action for submission to the Governor's office

Marc and Certified staff have discussed and come up with an updated plan of action for submission to the Governor's office.

There are 4 areas asked to address: Provide education, meals as needed, special education needs and guidance counseling.

Chromebooks will be checked out to families in need. A technology survey was sent out and so far about 15 families will need to utilize chromebooks. About 5 families do not have internet and packets will be provided. Question of Instructional time at home being flexible. Teachers will provide instruction and understand the importance of flexibility at home. No certain requirement of hours per day for instruction.

Motion to approve plan of action to submit to Governor's office

Motion: Luke Adamson

Second: Linda Stewart

Passed unanimously

B: Consideration and action to adopt Model Policy 3650 Pupil online personal information protection

Motion to approve MTSBA recommended policy # 3650 which in summary states that 3rd party involvement will be required for interaction online to protect student and teacher.

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

Possible meeting again next Thursday. Dan asked about keeping classified busy and Marc will work on plan and schedule with possible jobs of cleaning, helping with meals, helping teachers, helping administration etc. Governor is determining which business's will be considered essential. If determined schools are not then school shuts down completely, no packets, no meals etc.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Motion: Luke Adamson

Second: Dan Elwell

Passed unanimously

Brooke Johnston, Board Chair

Dee Johnson, District Clerk

