

Westside Community Schools
Board of Education Resolution
Superintendent Authority - Pandemic Response

WHEREAS, Westside Community Schools (the "District") is facing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which poses health and safety risks for students, staff, and other members of the District's community; and

WHEREAS, the District has seen a troubling rise in cases of COVID-19 in the District and in the Omaha metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, sections 79-262, 79-526(1) and other provisions chapter 79 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes vests the District's Board of Education with the power to make rules and regulations and to take all reasonable steps necessary to secure the health and safety of those who enter the school environment and to secure the regular progress and attendance of children at school; and

WHEREAS, the current pandemic may make it necessary for the District to make certain unplanned expenditures, enter into contracts, and incur obligations for the preservation of the health and safety of the District and the school environment and to minimize the disruption to education services regardless of unrelated statutory limitations and requirements pertaining to appropriation, budgeting, or the manner of entering into contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to minimize disruption of the District's operations and provide the authority necessary for the Superintendent or his or her designee to take any actions necessary during the pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that in order to facilitate the ability to implement prompt reactions to the evolving pandemic, the Superintendent is hereby delegated the full power and authority by this Board to, in consultation with the Board President, close or limit access to programs, buildings, schools or the District as needed, to pay all claims, and to take any other action authorized by law while the pandemic poses a threat to the health and safety of the school community including, without limitation, to assign and utilize staff as necessary prior to, during, and after a closure, and to provide any leave, pay any compensation, and enter into agreements with staff, and to modify District handbooks, regulations and other documents (and to impose consequences for violations of such handbooks, regulations and other documents) for the purposes of (a) protecting the health and safety of the school community, (b) continuing the efficient operations of the District, (c) securing the regular progress and attendance of children at school and (d) ensuring staff return to work in the District in the event any building within the District, or part thereof, is forced to close to limit the spread of COVID-19 or any of its variants.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that all actions taken by the Superintendent, or his designee(s), in response to the pandemic situation to date are hereby ratified and approved.

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NOW, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that all District policies and regulations or other District documents inconsistent with this resolution or which would otherwise prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the pandemic are hereby waived and suspended.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that this delegation of authority is to continue in effect until the pandemic has been dealt with as determined by the Superintendent to the extent that the conditions no longer exist, or until modified or terminated by action of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it further resolved that in exercising the above authority, the Superintendent or his designee shall regularly inform the members of the Board of actions taken pursuant to the foregoing authority, which actions the Board may review and approve at subsequent regular meetings that the Board selects for such action by placing such matters on the Board's agenda.

Approved on August 30, 2021.