

**Salmon School District #291**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Special Board Minutes**  
**April 16, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chuck Overacker at 6:01 p.m.

Present via telecommunications were Chairman Chuck Overacker, Vice Chair Juniper MacFarlane, Trustee Richard Natelson, Trustee Kellen Miller and Trustee Tammy Dahle. A Quorum was present. Also present were Superintendent Chris Born and Director of Finance, Planning, and Program Evaluation, Eileen Holden and Board Clerk Chaylin Olson.

**Regular Session**

Chairman Chuck Overacker led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Action Items**

**Approve Agenda**

Trustee Natelson motioned to approve the agenda. Trustee Dahle second. Passed 5/0.

**New Business**

**Possible School Closure/Opening**

Superintendent Born explained that on Wednesday Governor Little made an announcement extending the stay at home order until April 30<sup>th</sup>. This means that the schools will remain in a soft closure until at least then. Superintendent Born told the Board that this morning the Idaho State Board of Education had met and made the same call as the Governor to keep schools in soft closure until the end of April. He further explained that last week the State said they would come up with parameters for possibly reopening. Superintendent Born explained that he had spoken with the District 7 Health Department in Idaho Falls to make sure Salmon wasn't going to be placed under the same blanket as the rest of District 7. They assured him that through the hospital they would make it a local decision. He told them that this meant Salmon School District is closed until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and could possibly start the 14-day period to meet those conditions. Superintendent Born explained to the Board that the earliest Salmon Schools would open would be the 14<sup>th</sup> of May if they can meet those conditions.

Vice Chair MacFarlane asked who would be creating those conditions. Born replied that the Health officials of Idaho would be creating the parameters but that they had yet to be created.

Trustee Natelson asked about the possibility of waiting to open the school and starting in July. Born told Natelson it could be a possibility, but they would have to go to the SEA and modify not only the Master Agreement but also waive several of their Board policies. Trustee Natelson expressed his concern for the students who may be lagging behind on their learning.

Superintendent Born told the Board members that another thing to be considered is during the summer months not only do a lot of teachers have summer jobs, but the schools also become construction zones. The summertime is when the maintenance crew does a lot of their work.

Trustee Dahle explained that she has a high school student and felt her child was getting a great education given the circumstances. She told the other Board member that the teachers had been in constant contact with her student, so she did not feel that her child's education was being compromised by receiving it online. Trustee Dahle told them that she understood Trustee Natelson's concern but as far as the high school she believed the learning is being continued.

The Board asked a couple of teachers who were attending the meeting for their opinion on how the online schooling system was going and they had mixed opinions.

Chairman Overacker asked Superintendent Born to give the Board a report on how teachers feel their classes are progressing at the April 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Superintendent Born told the Board that he recommended to not open for the rest of the school calendar year even if they meet the criteria. He told them rather than opening he would recommend doing a few key events such as High School Graduation, Kindergarten Graduation, the Awards Ceremony, and prom. He told the Board that they may have to put stipulations in place and asked them to think of ways to reduce exposure while still having the events and bring those ideas to the next meeting.

Superintendent Born asked Jeanie Gentry from the Hospital if she would like to add anything. She told the Board that as of today there were no positive cases in Lemhi County. She told them that it was only a matter of time before they had a case. Gentry told the Board that the Hospital is planning on going back to its regular operations in June.

Principal Russ Bradshaw and Principal John Hamilton offered to gather the information on the teachers for the Board.

Superintendent Born recommended to table the school closure/opening.

Vice Chair Macfarlane asked if they should be talking about next school year yet. Superintendent Born told her that he and the other superintendents in the region believe this is only the first wave and that more will be coming their way. He told the Board that the teachers adapted fast to the changes.

Trustee Dahle wanted everyone at the meeting to know that they aren't trying to delay the decision, just that the Board ~~just~~ wants to make sure they are fully educated on the situation before they decide anything. She wanted them to know that their top priority is the kids and they want to make sure they are making the right call for them. Trustee Dahle then thanked the teachers and the District Office staff for all of their hard work during this trying time.

Superintendent Born told the Board that since March 6<sup>th</sup> there had only been three days that he or Director Holden had not met with the other superintendents in region 6. They are all united in what they are doing. Each District may modify what the others are doing to match their Districts the best.

Trustee Natelson motioned to table the school open/closing until the April 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Trustee Miller seconded. Passed 5/0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Chuck Overacker, Chairman

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Date

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Chaylin Olson, Board Clerk

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Date