

Wellman-Union ISD
Emergency Board Meeting
March 20, 2020

PRESENT: James Harlan, President; Barrett Brown, Vice-President; Ryan Dill, Aaron Martin, Jace Moore, Gabe Neill; Bridget Brown, Principal; Ben Prowell, Principal and Superintendent David Foote.

ABSENT: Ed Rodriguez, Secretary

Let the record show that a quorum of board members is present, that this meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Motion by Gabe Neill second by Jace Moore to approve the Resolution relating to Emergency Modifications to Policies, Closures of District Schools and the Expenditure of Public Funds during the Governor-Declared State of Disaster to mitigate effects of COVID-19.


Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Barrett Brown second by Jace Moore to adjourn meeting.

Motion Carried 6-0

The president declared the meeting adjourned.

Signed:  _____, President

 _____, Secretary

**A RESOLUTION RELATING TO EMERGENCY
MODIFICATIONS TO POLICIES, CLOSURE OF DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND
THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS
DURING THE GOVERNOR-DECLARED STATE OF DISASTER
TO MITIGATE EFFECTS OF COVID-19**

At a lawfully called Emergency Board meeting on March 20, 2020, as authorized by Texas Government Code § 551.045, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Wellman-Union Consolidated Independent School District (“WUCISD” or the “District”) does hereby make the following Resolutions regarding the emergency modification of Board Policies, closure of District schools, provision of alternate methods of instruction, the expenditure of public funds, and other matters incident and related thereto:

WHEREAS, the District was made aware on March 11, 2020, that the World Health Organization declared the spread of the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, issued a proclamation declaring a “National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak”; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Texas on March 13, 2020, certified that COVID-19 posed an imminent threat of disaster, and in accordance with the authority vested in the Governor by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas (the “Disaster Declaration”); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 could be spreading in the state and its presence in the WUCISD community cannot be currently ascertained; and

WHEREAS, the County, the State, Texas governmental bodies and businesses have taken precautions to protect their citizens, workers, and patrons from circumstances in which COVID-19 may easily spread, including without limitation, suspending operations or continuing to operate through remote methods such as telecommuting; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Trustees wishes to delegate any and all authority to the Superintendent of Schools during this period of declared global pandemic and statewide disaster to make decisions that will be in the best interests of the District and its student, parents and employees and place the District in the best position to resume its normal operations with its students, parents and staff as soon as it is safe to do so;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the statements contained in the preamble of this Resolution are true and correct and adopted as findings of fact and operative provisions hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District’s Board of Trustees delegates to the Superintendent of Schools any and all authority to modify the District’s locally-adopted Board policies at his sole discretion that he deems to be in the best interests of the District for a period of 45 days following the adoption of this Resolution, or until the March 13, 2020 Disaster Declaration is lifted or expires, in order to react to the situations that may be present in the District during the state-declared disaster period in order to mitigate the public health risks of COVID-19;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegated authority to the Superintendent of Schools to modify any and all Board policies set forth above includes, without limitation: closing District schools, establishing methods of remote instruction, making emergency procurements in accordance with Texas Education Code §44.031(h) and providing paid leave to exempt and/or non-exempt employees in addition to the leaves and absences currently permitted under Board Policy, should the Superintendent determine that such actions would protect the health and safety of District students, employees and/or their families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's Board of Trustees makes the following finding regarding the expenditure of public funds for any pandemic-related personnel expenses incurred by WUCISD in order to maintain and/or resume its normal operations at its facilities as soon reasonably possible and as the Superintendent determines that school closures are needed and subsequently safe to open, should he determine that a modification to the ordinary workplace attendance be required:

FINDING: Expending public funds for additional employee paid leave related to the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19 is reasonable because of the following:

- (1) The predominant purpose of providing the additional paid leave is to mitigate against the spread of a virus that constitutes an imminent threat to the health and safety of District, students, employees and their families, not to benefit unaffected private parties;
- (2) The District will retain sufficient control over the distribution and use of the pandemic-related additional leave to ensure that the public purpose is accomplished; and
- (3) The District will receive the significant benefit of being able to quickly resume its operations at its facilities with all or most of its highly trained and experienced staff following the passing of the COVID-19 threat and, thereby, continue to provide instruction and services to students as they received before the COVID-19 outbreak; and

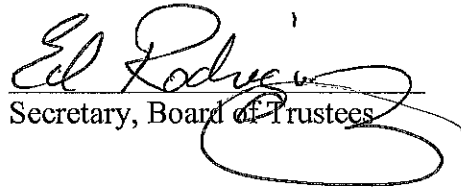
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to keep a list of the modifications he makes to Board Policies and report those modifications to the Board at the time such modifications are made and at the first Board meeting following the exercise of the delegated authority herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and District administration to take any and all action necessary to carry out the wishes of the Board as expressed in this Resolution, and the delegation of authority as set forth in this Resolution shall expire at the end of 45 days following the adoption date of this Resolution or until the March 13, 2020 Disaster Declaration is lifted or expires; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution meets the requirement set forth in Board Policy DEA(LOCAL) for payment to employees during a time of emergency if the Superintendent determines that it is in the best interests of the District.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so resolved.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 20th DAY OF MARCH, 2020.


Secretary, Board of Trustees


President, Board of Trustees