# Treynor Community School District Board of Directors Special Meeting January 5, 2022

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call
- 2. Amend and/or Approve Agenda
- 3. Discussion/Information/Review Items
  - A. Job Openings Update
  - B. Covid-19 Information/Update
  - C. Review/Discuss Mandated Employee Vaccination/Testing Policy
- 4. Adjourn

#### Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Treynor Community School District met in special session on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 5:00 p.m., in the Board Room located in the Superintendent's Office, Treynor High School, 102 E. Main St., Treynor, IA 51575.

#### Call to Order & Roll Call

President Vorthmann called the special meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., and roll was taken. The following board members were present: President Vorthmann, Vice President Stogdill, Mr. Christensen, Mr. Dreyer, and Mr. Winchell.

## Amend and/or Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Stogdill, seconded by Dreyer, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Discussion/Information/Review Items

# Job Openings Update

Superintendent Hopkins reviewed the most current vacancy update with board members. He has conducted one interview for the full-time custodian position and has received interest in other positions as well.

# Covid-19 Information/Update

As of today, January 5<sup>th</sup>, there are five student absences due to Covid in the HS/MS building. The elementary nurse was out of the district, so elementary absences could not be obtained. There are 2-3 support staff members absent.

## Review/Discuss Mandated Employee Vaccination/Testing Policy

On December 17, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the stay on the federal government's rule requiring covered employers to ensure workers are vaccinated against the coronavirus or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.

"OSHA can now once again implement this vital workplace health standard, which will protect the health of workers by mitigating the spread of the unprecedented virus in the workplace," the agency said.

To give employers time to comply, OSHA will not enforce any requirements under its Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) until January 10. Additionally, the agency "will not issue citations for noncompliance with the standard's testing requirements before February 9, so long as an employer is exercising reasonable, good-faith efforts to come into compliance with the standard," according to an OSHA update.

Thus, standards that would have taken effect on December 6, such as vaccination verification rules and indoor masking requirements for unvaccinated workers, will begin on January 10. Weekly COVID-19 testing policies for unvaccinated workers must be implemented by February 9 if the rule is upheld.

The directive is expected to cover more than 80 million private-sector workers who work for employers with over 100 employees, including public school districts. On Friday, January 7, 2022 the Supreme Court will hear expedited oral

arguments regarding judicial stays facing two federal vaccine mandates concerning COVID-19: OSHA's ETS on COVID-19 for employers with 100 or more employees and the Healthcare Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Interim Final Rule (the "CMS Rule") covering certain health care providers.

Brett Nitzschke of Lynch Dallas, P.C., the District's attorney, produced and sent Superintendent Hopkins a proposed board policy to comply with the OSHA emergency temporary standard (ETS). Board members reviewed each page of the proposed policy and two employee accommodation request forms: 1) disability/medical accommodation, and 2) religious accommodation.

Superintendent Hopkins told board members he was able to speak to all employees who were present on Tuesday morning at the staff breakfast and explain what the Board would be reviewing and preparing.

It was consensus of board members that if the Supreme Court does not step in and this policy comes to fruition, masks and testing should be paid for by the District. Possible solutions for testing were discussed. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor, a telehealth provider, and self-testing done in the superintendent's office were among the solutions suggested. Superintendent Hopkins will be speaking to the attorney to clarify questions raised during this first reading of the Board Policy. The board will consider approval of the policy during their regular meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022, if the Supreme Court has not enacted a judicial stay. No action will be taken to begin collecting vaccination status from employees until after a second reading and approval of the Policy.

# Adjourn

A motion was made by Christensen, seconded by Winchell, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Approved on February 14, 2022

Board President

Board Segretary