

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE ERA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGARDING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY  
DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Era Independent School District (“District”) is authorized by Texas Education Code § 11.151 to govern and oversee the management of the public schools in the District;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a statewide emergency, and, later that same day, the President of the United States declared a national emergency regarding COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas extended the order for closure of all schools through the end of the 2019-2020 school year;

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes that COVID-19 is an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency of urgent public necessity, that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore desires to ensure that the school district and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the Board seeks to retain its employees, reduce turnover, increase morale, help employees focus on work-related matters while at work, and facilitate the return to duty of employees if schools are closed and believes that an additional public purpose exists in doing so; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes the public purposes described above are fulfilled by efficiently and effectively making certain delegations, as described more fully herein, to the Superintendent to address this ever-changing emergency situation in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of its students, staff, community, and the citizenship at-large.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Trustees finds a substantial public purpose exists in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore in ensuring that the school district and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19.

In furtherance of the public purposes so stated in this Resolution, the Board of Trustees makes the following delegations to the Superintendent and designee(s) in order to efficiently and effectively prepare the school district in response to the declarations of emergency announced by the State of Texas, as well as in preparation for the potential declarations of emergencies by other local, state, and/or national and international officials:

1. The authority to act in the place of the Board under Board Policy DEA (Local) and thus make all decisions regarding payment of employees during an emergency closure, to implement the provisions of Board Policy DEA (Local), and to make determinations regarding the purpose and parameters of any such payments;
2. Final authority for employment of contractual personnel;
3. The authority to alter the District's 2019-2020 school calendar by changing and/or adding school/instructional hours and work/school days as necessitated by any emergency closure or related concerns;
4. The authority to create guidelines and make determinations regarding absences, leave time, leave days, and compensation of any employee who is quarantined as a result of COVID-19 and/or who tests positive for COVID-19 and who presents appropriate medical documentation regarding themselves and/or an immediate family member, in the sole discretion of the Superintendent or designee(s), in compliance with Texas and federal law;
5. The authority to seek any necessary waivers from the Texas Education Agency without further action of the Board of Trustees regarding missed instructional days, low attendance, or any matters related to the emergency closures as part of this Resolution;
6. The authority to declare a catastrophe and take all actions as appropriate in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 552.233 regarding temporary suspension of the Texas Public Information Act;
7. The authority to procure, negotiate, and execute contracts for goods and services that are necessary to mitigate, prevent, restore, and repair damage caused to District equipment, personal property, and facilities or to protect the safety of District students and staff, given that the emergency of COVID-19 and its potential spread constitutes an unforeseen emergency/matter of urgent public necessity, and the delays posed by competitive procurement of contracts necessary to restore, replace, and/or repair equipment, personal property, and/or school facilities will prevent or substantially impair the conduct of classes or other essential school activities;
8. In the event other waivers or immediate action is needed, the Superintendent is authorized to take other action and to submit/apply for other waivers in accordance with guidance and instructions from the national and state authorities and/or agencies;
9. The authority to suspend the timelines for complaints/grievances under Board Policies DGBA (Local), FNG (Local) and GF (Local);
10. The authority to suspend the policies pertaining to retention/promotion, grading, class rank, and contest/competition, including but not limited to those found in Board Policies EIA (Local), EIC (Local), EIE (Local), and FMF (Local); and

11. The authority granted by this resolution is effective for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year unless the Board takes action to authorize such delegations for a longer duration.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of **April, 2020** by the Board of Trustees for the Era Independent School District.

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By: Jeffrey Stevens, Board President

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Attest: Jeff Brown, Board Secretary