

Emergency Suspension of Policy Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, Section 10-16.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-16.7) requires school boards to direct, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district;

WHEREAS the School Board has adopted Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, which authorizes the board to adopt, revise, and temporarily suspend board policies;

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted Policy 4:180, *Pandemic Preparedness*, which acknowledges school closure in response to a pandemic and designates the Superintendent to act as a liaison for the School District to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and the community;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Illinois Governor Pritzker declared all counties in Illinois as disaster areas pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act (20 ILCS 3305/7) and directed implementation of the State's Emergency Operations Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President declared a national state of emergency and Governor Pritzker ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois until March 30, 2020, in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Governor Pritzker extended the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois until April 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), which has authority to administer attendance and school calendar requirements, to interpret graduation requirements, and to oversee the allocation of resources for nutrition, transportation, and other crucial aspects of public education is providing written guidance to Illinois school boards and their districts on issues related to COVID-19, including but not limited to student attendance, e-learning, meal distribution, transportation, special education, and other issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board suspends subheads and/or other provisions of its board policies and/or whole policies, as identified previously by the Board or if not previously identified by the Board, as identified together by the Board President and Superintendent, if such suspension is necessary to implement Executive Orders of the Governor and/or written guidance from ISBE relating to COVID-19, including any subsequent orders by the Governor to close schools, if any.

Section 2: The Superintendent will consult with the Board President, and as soon as practicable, but in any event prior to the emergency closure and efforts to implement written guidance from local, State, and federal health and government agencies, report to the Board regarding such emergency closure and efforts to implement written guidance.

Section 3: The Superintendent is authorized, after consultation with the Board President and notification to the Board, to close any school building or District facility without further action by the

Board. Such closure shall continue during the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic until such time as the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate local, State, and federal health and government authorities, deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.

Section 4: The Superintendent is authorized after notifying the Board President, based upon the needs of the District and the guidance from local, State, and federal health and government agencies, to direct staff assignments during District closures, including but not limited to essential employees who must physically report to work, and employees whose services are not needed.

Section 5: Access to the District's school grounds and school buildings or facilities may be limited as directed by the Superintendent during District closures relating to COVID-19.

Section 6: In the interest of public health, and in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-07 and subsequent guidance issued by the Illinois Attorney General, the Board may conduct open public meetings remotely via telephonic or electronic means, providing opportunity for public access and comment in accordance with the COVID-19 guidance of the Attorney General. The Board reserves the right to adjust board meeting dates, times, and locations during the District-wide emergency closure(s) in a manner consistent with the Open Meetings Act and issued COVID-19 guidance from the Illinois Attorney General, and notes that any or all Board members may attend board meetings remotely.

Section 7: Execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument. The Board intends that the Board President has the authority to bind the Board and District and will sign this Resolution after the Board adopts it, but any signature line in this Resolution not signed by the Board President or Board Secretary may be deemed through email communications as an intent to enter into this Resolution with the same force and effect as an original executed signed document pursuant to the Illinois Electronic Commerce Security Act (5 ILCS 175/1).

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Attested by: _____, Board President

Attested by: _____, Board Secretary