

**Arapahoe Public School Emergency Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Arapahoe Public School Conference Room**  
**Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Mission Statement**

Arapahoe Public Schools is equipped to motivate students in a safe and positive environment while preparing them to be successful and responsible citizens within a global society.

**Belief Statement**

The Arapahoe Public Schools believes that education must serve the individual pupil in light of his/her capacities and abilities as well as provide a suitable and well-balanced learning environment in the areas of physical, mental, emotional, cultural, social, moral and spiritual maturity.

**About the Agenda**

- 1) Opening the Meeting
  - a) Call to Order
  - b) Pledge of Allegiance
  - c) Nebraska Open Meetings Act
  - d) Roll Call
  - e) Excuse board member absences
- 2) Approval of agenda as presented
- 3) Discussion Items:
  - a) Discuss school closure as a result of the COVID-19
- 4) Action Items
  - a) Discuss, consider and take action on a **motion** to suspend policies that limit the superintendent's ability to carry out business during the COVID-19 epidemic, after the superintendent confers with the Board President in advance.
- 5) Adjourn

**\* Closed Session:** If during the course of the meeting, discussion of any agenda item should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

1. Protection of the public interest; or
2. The prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and if the individual has not requested a public meeting.
3. Negotiations

**Copy of Open Meetings Act:** The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. The Act is posted on the South wall of the meeting room.

**\*\* Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of the agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the board. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

**\*\*\*Action Item:** The board reserves the right to take action on an item listed on the board agenda.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC FORUM**

**Getting Started:** When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please stand and state your name to the board of education.

**Time Limit:** You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less.

**Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at Board meeting

**General Rules:** Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of the business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

**Arapahoe Public Schools**

or additional information, please contact David Jespersen by phone (402-471-4537) or email ([david.jespersen@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.jespersen@nebraska.gov)).

March 16, 2020

## NEBRASKA OFFERS GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS REGARDING COVID-19

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state rises, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is sharing additional guidance on alternate learning environments, nutrition, and assessment. In all recommendations, the priority remains the safety and well-being of all students, educators, staff, and community members.

### Alternate Learning Environments

By Monday, March 23, the NDE recommends that all schools across the state move to an alternate learning structure with students no longer reporting to a traditional school setting, until further notice. School districts should work regionally by educational service unit to develop an orderly plan to transition to an alternate learning environment by Friday, March 20, unless told to close sooner. Schools should be prepared to operate in the alternate learning environment for six-eight weeks, with a review of operations every two weeks, including plans for re-opening.

Local school districts have been preparing for potential closures for weeks and many have already implemented closures to address recent presumed positive or confirmed cases of COVID-19. The NDE advises districts to continue student learning using available resources. The NDE Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment has compiled virtual educational resources that are available on the e-Learning Days web page, and will continue to add resources as they become available.

### Nutrition

The NDE knows food insecurity for students who rely on school meals is a major concern when extended school closures become necessary. The NDE was granted approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for alternate meal service flexibility in the case of extended closures. This allows schools to serve students meals through USDA-approved meal service options, at approved sites within the community. All schools with a student population of more than 50 percent free and reduced priced lunch have the opportunity to provide meals through the Summer Food Service Program whether or not they have participated in the program. Those schools will first need to complete an application and questionnaire. Once approved, schools will be able to provide these meals to any student, regardless of their enrollment. Schools with a student population of less than 50 percent free and reduced priced lunch can provide meals to low-income students in their school on a limited basis through an application. For more information or to apply, visit the Nutrition Services page at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/nsl>.

### Assessment and Accountability

The NDE is aware of concerns regarding the state's assessment and accountability systems and the impact of COVID-19 and related closures on these policies. The NDE is suspending summative statewide assessment (NSCAS) for the 2019-2020 school year. This includes NSCAS – General, Alternate, and ACT. The NDE intends to pursue federal waivers for testing, accountability, and reporting requirements. The NDE is working with ACT to determine if all public high school juniors who would normally take the ACT as part of the statewide assessment may have the opportunity to take the ACT free-of-charge at a later date.