

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Monday, August 30, 2021**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Public Inp1**

**Mayor to read the Proclamation naming September as Attendance Awareness Month.**

**Staff Contact: Kim Wright, City Clerk**

## **Proclamation of September as Attendance Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS** good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation,

**WHEREAS** taking attendance daily is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school,

**WHEREAS** taking a positive problem-solving approach to reducing absenteeism requires expanding attendance data to include reviewing chronic absence, availability of working contact information for families, access to technology and positive relationships,

**WHEREAS** promoting attendance requires noticing - as soon as possible - when students are starting to miss too much school in order to engage students and families, identify and offer needed support and early intervention resources,

**WHEREAS** research conducted indicates that monitoring when students miss 10% of learning opportunities in a month, or multiple days in a week, can help to identify students and families as well as schools in need of outreach and additional support,

**WHEREAS** improving attendance and reducing absenteeism takes schools, families and community partners working together to identify and address barriers contributing to students missing school,

**WHEREAS** partnering with students and families to monitor attendance as well as understand and address barriers to attendance requires building and sustaining caring relationships and regular communications with families,

**WHEREAS** reducing absenteeism requires taking a public health approach that begins with prevention and early intervention, and adopting trauma-informed approaches rather than responding with punitive action,

**WHEREAS** the impact of absenteeism expands the achievement gap that separates students if they face systemic barriers to showing up

**WHEREAS** SBPS should diligently track, calculate and share the data on how many students are missing school, lack working contact information or are challenged by connectivity so that we can evaluate whether learning opportunities are accessible for all students and assess whether attendance supports are making a difference,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **Scottsbluff Public Schools**, in partnership with the **City of Scottsbluff**, recognize September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school in order to ensure all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally and socially.