

REVISED 2/28/2022

Board Resolution 22:170 Local Decision Making Authority

WHEREAS, on June 25th, 2021 Governor Kate Brown issued a Recovery Order which returned Public School Districts to a local decision-making model, so that communities/school districts could implement COVID safety protocols directly in relation to State, Federal, and Local Public Health Authority (Deschutes County) recommendations, and;

WHEREAS, on August 10th, 2021 Governor Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Education to reinstitute the prior Mask Mandate by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) in response to the arrival of the Delta-COVID Variant without providing target metrics, or timelines, and;

WHEREAS, the single-factor analysis COVID policies issued by the State resulted in ineffective and harmful lockdowns, depression, anxiety, a mental health crisis, and an unprecedented increase in teen suicide, yet failed to stop or significantly slow COVID infection, and;

WHEREAS, recent studies on the effectiveness of mask policies have been inconclusive or shown little-to-no statistical significance between the 15 states with mandates and the 35 without, they have succeeded in creating continual conflict and hostile school environments for students, teachers, and administration, leading to a loss of instructional time, student education gaps, teacher burnout, a drop in enrollment statewide of over 30,000 students, and;

WHEREAS, the CDC/OHA's recent announcement that cloth/paper masks do not provide protection against aerosolization of Omicron viral particles precipitating many hospital systems across the U.S. to change their Mask requirements for public visitation to require KN/95 masks that are well-fitting, which are unavailable in sizes to fit most school children, and;

WHEREAS, the recent announcement by Dr. Anthony Fauci explaining that the majority of "COVID patients" in the hospital are actually there "with COVID and not because of COVID" Has created a profound lack of confidence in the efficacy of CDC/OHA policy Mandates, among students, as well as many Staff and Local Community Members, and;

WHEREAS, this surge of breakthrough cases necessitated the CDC's reclassification of the term "vaccinated" to include "booster," AND the rescinding of the use of PCR testing as the primary means of COVID positive case identification due to the admission that the tests could not differentiate between Delta/Omicron COVID and the Seasonal Flu, and;

WHEREAS, the recent arrival of the Omicron Variant has shown increased mutations that have reduced the efficacy of vaccines to prevent infection and transmission of the virus, causing the number of break-through cases to surpass 2.5 million by December 31 st, 2021 with Omicron infecting both vaccinated and unvaccinated in nearly equal capacities, and;

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WHEREAS, Governor Brown's mask mandates discriminated and marginalized parents and students desiring to make their own medical decisions, withholding services, instructional time, and in-person access to public education, and;

WHEREAS, prior to COVID, public school districts successfully handled the mitigation of seasonal, endemic illnesses such as the common cold, seasonal flu, etc. without the use of contact tracing, mandatory quarantine, test-to-stay, and the understanding that students can and will get sick attending school, and;

WHEREAS, the Redmond School District Administration has been consistently adjusting its communications to keep the COVID mitigation protocols relevant and substantive for the changing behavior of each viral variant, and;

BE IT RESOLVED: We the members of the Redmond School Board, being locally and duly elected public officials, who have sworn an oath to the Oregon State and U.S. Constitution hereby asserts its right to return to local control regarding COVID mitigation plans/policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board recognizes that this action is necessary for the restoration of confidence and continued collaboration of parents, students, staff, and community stakeholders in the continued mitigation of COVID risks. The board hereby directs the Superintendent and Administration to produce an updated Omicron COVID plan taking into account recommendations from state, federal and local authorities that affords parents/guardians the ability to direct the use or non-use of masks, face Shields for their student(s). The Board recognizes that COVID is a fluid and endemic virus and reserves the right to return to, adjust and modify this resolution if needed for the preservation of public confidence and trust.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board recognizes the authority of the parent / guardian in the direction of the use / non-use of masks, face shields pertaining to their student and their choices for their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board directs the Superintendent and Administration to implement the updated Omicron COVID plan on or before March 19th, 2022, based on Oregon Health Authority's termination of the masking rule in K-12 settings.

The above resolution is hereby approved and declared adopted on 28th day of February, 2022.

Shawn Hartfield - Board Chair