

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEL NORTE COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGARDING MASK MANDATES FOR STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Del Norte County Unified School District Board of Trustees has the duty to adopt policies necessary and proper for the efficient administration of the affairs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board strongly values preserving student and staff safety, and also strives to balance that safety with the needs of students to fully engage in an in-person learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges its responsibility to require all students equal access to the educational programs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees acknowledges the growing mental health crisis among children and will in all decisions weigh the need for normalcy, acknowledging DNCUSD's responsibility to protect not only the physical health of our students, but also the social, emotional, and mental health of our students;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees are strong proponents of individual responsibility and personal choice, such that students, their families, and staff members can generally make their own decisions about their personal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are now available for students five years of age and older for those that choose to obtain them as guided by the students' wishes and that of their parents and guardians, and COVID-19 vaccines have been available to District employees, many of which have elected to get vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, testing for COVID-19 and other mitigation measures are readily available at numerous locations throughout the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has implemented numerous safety mitigation efforts to decrease transmission of COVID-19, including installing MERV-13 filters in all schools since September 2020 and that school maintenance has opened up air exchange systems so classrooms are receiving as much outside air as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that cloth masks "provide the least protection," the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) no longer recommends cloth masks, and even the Los Angeles County Unified School District banned the use of cloth masks, acknowledging they are ineffective to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the airborne viral pathogen which causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that a surgical mask is "loose-fitting" and "does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is not considered respiratory protection;" and

WHEREAS, much information regarding masks is obsolete given the new information regarding cloth and surgical mask efficacy, and may lead to students, teachers and staff falsely relying upon masks for protection from infection; and

WHEREAS, the State has failed to provide any clear data regarding mask efficacy in California schools, benchmarks for determining masking effectiveness and elimination, or support for masking (other than protecting others at home, protecting students from bullying if they choose to wear masks, or protecting administrators from having to enforce complex masking guidance), the DNCUSD Board of Trustees cannot support a policy, with no proven safety benchmarks or outcomes, that impacts student access to a full and complete education; and

WHEREAS, mask guidance and mandates have changed in relation to K-12 settings, and students are no longer required to wear masks outdoors, when eating or drinking, or arriving or departing campus; and

WHEREAS, no COVID-19 outbreaks have been directly linked to indoor, classroom-based transmission; and

WHEREAS, exclusionary enforcement of mask policies results in disruption, division, and confrontational behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom as announced that California has moved from pandemic to endemic response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, CDPH and Governor Newsom have not responded meaningfully to any past attempts at communication on this topic. As such, DNCUSD Board of Trustees is performing its duty to do what seems necessary for the academic and social-emotional well-being of our students; and

WHEREAS, the burden of proof regarding mask efficacy to continue masking school age children lies with the State, and it has failed to establish the effectiveness of continued student masking with any recent peer-reviewed studies.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Del Norte County Unified School District will continue to provide respiratory N95 masks to teachers, staff and students on a daily basis and will promote the availability and efficacy of one-way masking with N95 masks;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Del Norte County Unified School District will not adopt or implement mandatory COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic students as a replacement for adopting a one-way mask policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Del Norte County Unified School District Board of Trustees recommends personal and parent choice with respect to whether or not students should wear face coverings while at school, regardless of vaccination status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Del Norte County Unified School District Board of Trustees recommends personal choice with respect to whether or not staff should wear face coverings while at work, regardless of vaccination status, when allowable through Cal/OSHA regulations ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the DNCUSD Board of Trustees understands the goals of the Governor and the CDPH to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Board believes that the Governor's K-12 student mask mandate has not maintained alignment with changing CDPH guidance, CDC recommendations, and school transmission metrics and in opposition to the clearly stated and funded educational and social-emotional goals of the State and the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DNCUSD Superintendent is directed to transmit this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom; Director and State Public Health Officer CDPH, Dr. Tomas J. Aragon; Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health and Human Services; Del Norte County Board of Supervisors; Del Norte County Public Health; Assembly member Jim Wood; and Senator Mike McGuire to communicate our concerns.

Approved on this date \_\_\_\_\_ at the DEL NORTE COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL District Board of Trustees Meeting

Ayes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don McArthur, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlaine Mazzei, Clerk