

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH BEND SCHOOL BOARD OPPOSING STATEWIDE INDOOR K-12 MASK MANDATE AND DEMANDING LOCAL CONTROL

WHEREAS, a mandatory statewide K-12 indoor mask mandate was issued by Governor Kate Brown on July 29th, 2021 just one month after issuing Executive order No 21-15 ending the statewide mask mandate; and

WHEREAS, the justification for the new mandate was based solely on CDC recommendation without regard to the physiological, psychological, and developmental impacts that masks have on our youth; and

WHEREAS, the Coos County Board of Commissioners wrote a letter to Governor Brown on August 1, 2021 stating the following in the first paragraph:

“We are writing this letter to express our concerns about the mask mandate for K-12 schools for the 2021-22 school year. We are strongly opposed to this one-size-fits all approach to public health. We believe that these decisions should be made at the local level, taking into consideration the local issues and constraints. In late June, we were assured by your office that all future COVID-19 restriction decisions would be made at the local level”; and

WHEREAS, a majority of North Bend school district parents responding to a survey made it known they desire to be back in school 5 full days per week without masks regardless of age; and

WHEREAS, the COVID Infection-Fatality rates are extremely low for ages 5-9 (0.001%), 10-14 (0.001%) and 15-18 (0.003%). Suicide is the leading cause of death for ages 10-24 in the State of Oregon in 2020 (CDC National Center for Health Statistics); and

WHEREAS, the growing number of parents of school aged children in the North Bend School District have expressed their intention to seek other avenues of education for their children if the mask mandate isn't rescinded which will result in an irreparable budget shortfall for the 21-22' school year; and

WHEREAS, the North Bend School Board opposes the mask mandate and strongly believes that it is the Parents choice whether their student should wear a mask or not.

WHEREAS, the North Bend School Board directs the North Bend Superintendent to advocate for Governor Kate Brown to return local decision making to local school districts and advocate for Parents choice whether their student should wear a mask or not.

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Education has issued “Enforcement of OAR 333-079-1015 Masking Requirements in Schools dated August 2021. This document details punitive enforcements including fines for failure to enforce, willful negligence and daily penalty for continued non-compliance. Teachers face potential sanctions from a letter of reprimand to suspension or revocation of their licenses. Education is provided to our students by a team comprised of Teachers, Administrators and the School Board. This enforcement document is very divisive to the team, which is the purpose of this document, and creates risk for teachers if the mask mandate is not followed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Bend School Board opposes the mask mandate and heavy-handed enforcement measures and we demand Governor Kate Brown return local decision making to local school districts.

ADOPTED this _____ August, 2021

Sample motion:

I move to approve Resolution 2021-10 as set forth above.