



## RESOLUTION 2021-22-2

### THE LOWELL SCHOOL BOARD DEMANDING LOCAL CONTROL OVER PANDEMIC-RELATED DECISIONS

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2021, per Executive Order 21-15, Governor Brown rescinded mandatory public health restrictions such as statewide mask mandates, capacity limits, physical distancing requirements. Executive Order 21-15 effectively restored control over such safety measures to local governments effective June 30, 2021, and extended the state of emergency declared under ORS 401.165 and Executive Order 20-03 until December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 21-15 also stated an expectation that all public schools will operate full-time, in-person, every school day, during the 2021-2022 school year, and that local school districts will comply with applicable statutes and administrative rules; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2021, Governor Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority ("OHA") to promulgate an administrative rule requiring all individuals to wear masks while engaging in indoor educational activities; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Governor Brown's directive, OHA enacted a temporary rule, OAR 333-019-1015, which is in effect until January 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2021, Governor Brown directed OHA to promulgate a rule requiring K-12 staff, contractors, and volunteers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the OHA regulations directed by Governor Brown have removed the ability of the Lowell School District ("District") to make local decisions on masking and vaccination based on local conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Lowell School District Board condemns these new mandates requiring masking and vaccination; and

WHEREAS, the new mandates present significant operational challenges for the District, including the potential loss of students and staff who oppose the mandates; and


WHEREAS, the operational challenges and potential staff shortages created by the masking and vaccination mandates may result in, among other impacts, an inability to operate full-time, in-person, every school day during the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with Executive Order 21-15; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Directors ("Board") believes it is in the best interest of the District to retain local decision-making authority over the education of our children and pandemic-related safety measures based on conditions in the local community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the educational needs of our students are put in jeopardy, the Lowell School Board requests the return of local control over pandemic-related safety measures to the District.

ADOPTED this 27th day of September, 2021.

X   
Michael J. Galvin  
Lowell School Board Chair

X   
Johnie Matthews  
Lowell School District Superintendent