

**CIMARRON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION SEEKING NMPED RECONSIDERATION OF COVID-19 TOOLKIT
AND MANDATES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, New Mexico school districts are continuing to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and each Board of Education must act at a local level in the best interests of their school community during this difficult time and based on the unique COVID-19 circumstances in their immediate area;

WHEREAS, currently there is not a vaccination against COVID-19 available for students aged 12 or younger;

WHEREAS, the long-term impacts of students wearing face coverings is not well understood, has the potential to negatively impact their social and intellectual growth, and has the potential to stigmatize students and staff based on their vaccination status;

WHEREAS, the Cimarron Municipal Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) greatly values each parent’s ability to make medical decisions on behalf of their student;

WHEREAS, the Board also greatly values the ability for its staff to make the best decisions for themselves and their families;

WHEREAS, Board Policy B-0200 grants the Board the authority to develop educational policies for the School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved this 18th day of August, 2021, by the Cimarron Municipal Schools Board of Education that we recognize the importance of allowing parents and staff members to make medical decisions relating to the wearing of facial coverings and that mask mandates may have unintended consequences that are detrimental to the educational environment in schools. To ensure the ongoing support of students, educators, and communities through this worldwide pandemic, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) reconsider its mandates contained in its COVID-19 Response Toolkit (July 26, 2021, version) and that NMPED revise its mandates and Toolkit after considering and recognizing the following:

1. That school districts keep their focus on continuing vigilant and hygienic cleaning practices at school sites, rather than shifting resources to facial covering enforcement.
2. That school districts continue to support the health, safety, and well-being of all students and educators within their districts, and not adopt practices that identify and stigmatize students and staff based on their vaccination status.

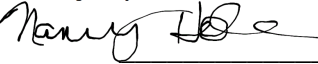
3. That parents should have the ability to make medical decisions in the best interests of their students, this includes whether or not the student would wear a facial covering, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
4. That faculty and staff members of the District should have the ability to make their own medical decisions in their own best interests and the interests of their family to decide whether to wear a facial covering regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
5. That, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA § 22-5-4, school districts through their local decision making authority be permitted to adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which includes the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success of students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department support and recognize each local Board of Education's decision making authority, including the ability and responsibility to make the decision of whether masks will be required to be worn at their local school sites based on the conditions present in their immediate local area

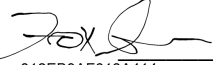
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive local community input as it reconsiders the mandates contained in its COVID-19 Toolkit.

This resolution was adopted by the Board in open session at its Regular Board Meeting on August 18, 2021.

SIGNED:

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Nancy Hooker, Board President

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Fox V. Guinn, Secretary