

**RESOLUTION OF THE SUTHERLIN SCHOOL BOARD
REGARDING STATE GUIDANCE**

RESOLUTION #2021-03

WHEREAS, the vision of the Sutherlin School District is *“Developing lifelong learners who are knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens”* ;

WHEREAS, we believe our schools are essential to a vital, thriving community, and learning occurs in a safe and nurturing environment promoting each individual’s unique talents and abilities to be discovered, encouraged, and developed, with all students learning in different ways and at different rates, with high expectations coupled with motivation inspiring people to higher levels of performance;

WHEREAS, educating students well, including focusing on their mental, emotional, physical, and social wellbeing, while continuing to safeguard the health of our students, our staff, and our community is our highest priority, and there are undeniable educational and mental health setbacks to all students due to comprehensive distance learning.

WHEREAS, elementary students are mastering foundational learning skills that will be required for secondary grades and beyond, and the impact of prolonged distance learning may impede their ability to do so;

WHEREAS, students experiencing poverty and homelessness, students experiencing disabilities, and students learning a second language are being harmed disproportionately by comprehensive distance learning;

WHEREAS, teachers are the number one reporters of abuse and abuse reports are down significantly in our county and state due to comprehensive distance learning;

WHEREAS, connections with caring adults have been proven to play a significant role in healthy cognitive development of children and youth;

WHEREAS, pediatricians have weighed the substantial harm to children and parents from keeping schools closed and recommend offering in-person learning;

WHEREAS, our district is committed to creating a safe learning environment with appropriate safety measures for all;

WHEREAS, Sutherlin School District has created an online school option for all ages for families wishing to keep students at home;

WHEREAS, findings from other states and countries where schools reopened are demonstrating that schools are not super spreader events, but in fact, serve as guardians against transmission because social distancing and face coverings are adhered to, contact tracing is performed, and robust communication with local public health authority occurs, and there have been zero cases contracted in our schools;

WHEREAS, Sutherlin School District has proven our commitment to work with the Douglas County Douglas Public Health Network setting the example for Douglas County to ensure we are following all safety protocols and are able to quickly identify staff, students and cohorts who have been exposed to or are confirmed to have COVID-19, connect them with medical professionals, remove them and any “close contacts” from the school community, thereby helping slow the spread in the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sutherlin School Board of Education urges Governor Brown to reevaluate the metrics for reopening, incorporating scientific data emerging from within the United States and other countries where school reopening has not resulted in increased community spread of COVID-19; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sutherlin School Board urges Governor Brown to prioritize the return of all students in grades K-12, by establishing metrics that follow the science and align with many states and countries which have prioritized education first and foremost by reopening schools or delegating authority to local districts to decide when it is appropriate for these students to safely return to school.

Adopted this 21st day of December 2020.

Board Chair, Sutherlin School District 130

Justin Peterman, Board Chair
Michael Boehm, Board Vice-chair
Trixy Diamond, Board Member
J R Guthrie, Board Member
Jacob Masterfield, Board Member