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A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR JANET MILLS AND MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTOR DR. NIRAV SHAH PRIORITIZE SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF VACCINES

WHEREAS, the Brunswick School Board recognizes that Governor Janet Mills has declared a State of Civil Emergency regarding COVID-19, and that the Maine Center for Disease Control is currently engaged in implementing an accessible, flexible and equitable vaccination effort;

WHEREAS, Public schools in Maine are charged with the care, education, and nourishment of their students; have a profound effect on hundreds of thousands of students and their families; and are an integral part of the health, safety and economic stability of our communities;

WHEREAS, the Brunswick School Department has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic while conducting the day-to-day operations of our schools and ensuring the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person;

WHEREAS, the School Board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community to ensure that our schools are fully prepared to most effectively face the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 health emergency;

WHEREAS, the Maine Center for Disease Control is responsible for prioritizing the availability of vaccines to "certain critical frontline workers" and vulnerable populations in Phase 1b of the State's vaccination effort;

WHEREAS, staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of the schools in the Brunswick School Department and critical for in-class instruction; and

WHEREAS, other states have prioritized school district employees in their vaccine distribution plans so that all students can return to school for in-person instruction five days a week; and

WHEREAS, the School Board requests that Governor Janet Mills and Maine CDC Director Dr. Nirav Shah prioritize Maine PreK-12 school employees as “certain critical frontline workers” for purposes of immediate vaccine allocation in Phase 1b.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Brunswick School Board finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that the Governor and the Maine Center for Disease Control designate all PreK-12 school personnel as “certain critical frontline workers,” and FURTHER, as “certain critical frontline workers,” they be given immediate priority in Phase 1b of the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Adopted on this the 10th day of February, 2021, by the Brunswick School Board.