

**RESOLUTION/PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR TO RESCIND  
JULY 29, 2021 K-12 MASK MANDATE AND SUPPORT THE  
RETURN TO LOCAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DECISION-MAKING  
UNDER THE JUNE 25, 2021 RECOVERY ORDER.**

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2021 Governor Kate Brown issued a Recovery Order which shifted public school districts to a more traditional, local decision-making model so that communities can make the health and safety decisions that serve their students best.

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2021 Governor Kate Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to create a rule to require masks indoors for K-12 schools statewide for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2021 the Helix School Superintendent announced the following:

*Prior to the Governor's announcement of a new law requiring masks indoors for schools, we were ready to make masks optional. We believe in local control and a family's ability to make choices to support their child. This belief has not changed.*

*While many in our community may disagree with the new requirement, as a public school district, we are unable to violate the state law. We will continue to evaluate plans that support local options and give staff, students, and families choice when allowed by the state and our local situation. Above all else, please know that our goal as a district is, and will continue to be to have every student in the building every day.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Helix School District Board objects to the July 29 mask mandate for K-12 schools and supports the June 25 Recovery Order that returns governance to a local decision-making model so that communities can make the health and safety decisions that serve their students best. The board also supports an operational safety plan based on local metrics which will allow "students and staff the **option** to wear face-coverings (masks). The district would not require the use of face-coverings by students or staff, while welcoming those who would like to use face-coverings."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board recognizes we want our schools to be safe and welcoming to all students, staff, and parents. The mask mandate divides the community and compels many families to consider withdrawing students from in-person instruction. The board's goal is to keep students in school and supply them with the best academic, athletic/activities and wrap around support services possible, while keeping students, staff, and families safe. We want students to be able to experience school, smiling, grinning, and even frowning. We want students to be able to communicate and

express themselves openly and freely. We welcome respect, and support students and staff who feel safer and more comfortable with masks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until the Governor rescinds the mask mandate, the board directs its schools to use its outdoor spaces for learning and activities as much as reasonably possible.

The above resolution/petition statements were approved and declared adopted on 17th day of November 2021.



Board Chair Signature



Superintendent Signature