

## **RESOLUTION No. XXXX**

### Resolution to Prepare for Full-Time Reopening of In-Person Learning for the 2021-22 School Year

#### **RECITALS**

- A. On April 13, 2021, Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero stated that the District expects to fully reopen for five days a week of in-person instruction when the new school year starts on September 1, 2021.
- B. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Portland Public School's decisions have been guided by public health and emergent science, and PPS will continue to follow public health guidelines.
- C. This spring PPS brought K-12 students back to the classroom in a hybrid educational model, with in-person learning opportunities for students and families who felt comfortable returning to the classroom, while retaining a robust comprehensive virtual learning option for those students and families choosing to remain in remote learning.
- D. The ability to reopen our schools safely was the result of months of work and preparation by staff to welcome back students and staff to our buildings as safely as possible, including implementing numerous health and safety, operational, and instructional practices and protocols, while adjusting to new information about Covid-19 and how it is spread.
- E. In addition, throughout the pandemic PPS educators have made extraordinary efforts to provide a high level of instruction during truly unprecedented circumstances. From quickly pivoting to online learning during spring 2020, to preparing and executing on a fully remote learning option, to re-engaging with our students in a hybrid model, PPS educators have shown their agility, professionalism, and deep commitment to our students.
- F. Given that many students will remain unvaccinated at the start of the 2021-22 school year, and that masking and social distancing may still be required by the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education, it is likely that PPS will need to prepare for a variety of scenarios to achieve full-time, five days a week of in-person instruction.
- G. PPS buildings are, on average, 80 years old and often more limited in space, making it harder to implement all of the current Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) guidelines. If certain safety measures are still in place this fall, PPS may need to look for creative ways to accommodate students who wish to return full-time including finding additional space or considering indoor/outdoor learning environments in order to return to five days a week of in-person instruction.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. The Portland Public School Board commits to partnering with the Superintendent to find the solutions that will allow for a return to full-time, five days a week in-person instruction starting the first day of the 2021-22 school year.
- 2. The PPS Board's top priority is to safely reopen, and understands that the district must also adhere to federal and state guidelines and take other appropriate steps to mitigate transmission of Covid-19 among teachers, staff, administrators, and students.
- 3. Given uncertainty around the prevalence of Covid-19 in late summer, the Board directs the Superintendent to develop a comprehensive plan for returning to in-person schooling that transitions all students back to full-time in-person learning in a safe and equitable manner. The Superintendent will regularly update the Board on the status of reopening, with the understanding that the State of Oregon may not issue official guidance until July 2021.

4. Regardless of the conditions for returning in the fall to in-person learning, the PPS Board directs the Superintendent to plan to provide a comprehensive virtual learning option for those students and families who are unwilling or unable to return to in-person learning for health reasons. The district will provide a virtual learning option at least until Covid-19 vaccines are widely accessible to school-aged children.
5. To facilitate the accessibility and uptake of vaccines, especially in the most impacted communities of color, the PPS Board directs the Superintendent to continue working with the Oregon Health Authority, Multnomah County, Multnomah Education Service District, and our community partners to educate students and families about vaccine safety and to improve distribution systems, including the potential use of schools as vaccination sites.
6. Further, in recognition of the significant impact that educational disruptions have on student academic, social, and emotional well-being, the PPS Board encourages the Governor, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Department of Education to revise the Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) guidelines as soon as possible to reflect the current state of knowledge about disease transmission; adjust to progress in vaccine uptake; and accommodate the complexity of planning and implementation in large, urban districts.