RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE OSWEGO SCHOOL BOARD REGARDING STATE GUIDANCE

WHEREAS, the Lake Oswego School District is a learning community dedicated to creating a culture of belonging and educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Oswego School District prioritizes becoming an antiracist organization, creating a culture of belonging, achieving equitable academic outcomes, promoting health and resiliency, and teaching and practicing sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Oswego School District endeavors to make decisions that are informed by and centered around students; and

WHEREAS, there are undeniable educational and mental health setbacks to all students as a result of school closures, but disproportionately to students with disabilities, Black, Indigenous and students of color, students experiencing financial hardships, and students who haven’t yet mastered the English language; and

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

WHEREAS, our communities have requested students be permitted to attend in-person schooling if doing so can be done safely; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Dr. de la Cruz and her administrative team have already taken significant steps to advocate for and plan toward a safe, thoughtful and phased approach to returning students to school buildings; and

WHEREAS, best practices following science exist and are attainable in Lake Oswego School District to safely support the return of teachers, staff, administrators, and students in our care; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Oswego School District is committed to ensuring that the provision of special education services and accommodations for students experiencing disability is in full compliance with Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans for all students experiencing disabilities, including timely identification and assessment of at-risk students currently not identified and receiving services.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake Oswego School Board wishes to thank Governor Kate Brown for reevaluating the metrics that have been put into place to determine whether students may return to Oregon public schools; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake Oswego School Board encourages Governor Kate Brown to prioritize a return to school buildings for students bearing the disproportionate impacts of school closures across all grade levels, as noted above, through the establishment of an exception process, provided that appropriate health and safety protocols are implemented to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and are approved by the Local Public Health Authority; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake Oswego School Board encourages Governor Kate Brown to prioritize the return of all elementary students in grades K through 5, with an ultimate goal of returning all students to school, by establishing metrics that align with our neighboring states, or delegating authority to local school districts to decide when it is appropriate for these students to return to school.

ADOPTED this 19th day of October, 2020

[Signatures]

Board Chair

Board Member