

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

Resolution No. 2021-38

A Resolution Regarding Student Health, Safety and Wellness

WHEREAS, the Center of Disease Control, the Indiana State Department of Health, and Dr. Vavilala of the Lake County health Department are all recommending that masks be worn by students K-12 regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, The Board of School Trustees is aware that mask wearing by students can affect public health, because 1) children are more susceptible to the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus, 2) children who become infected are a source of transmission to others with whom they come into close contact, 3) vaccinated individuals can become infected and serve as a source of transmission to others, and 4) quarantine of students exposed to close contact, or suspension of in person learning, can have an adverse effect on the academic, social and emotional health of students; and

WHEREAS, new guidance by the Indiana State Department of Health permits avoidance of the 14 day quarantine for asymptomatic students in close contact with a student in their class who tests positive, if all students in the class were masked; and

WHEREAS, the upward trend of positive cases locally has led the state to alter the classification for Lake County, and other school districts in the area have experienced large numbers of students absent due to quarantine; and

WHEREAS, local school boards have the authority by law to adopt policies regarding control of COVID-19 in schools, including policies more stringent than requirements of the state or the county; and the responsibility to act protect the health and safety of the students in their care; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees of the School city of Hobart finds that circumstances have made it necessary for action to be taken to protect the health and safety of students, and to protect the viability of in person instruction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART, that it hereby ratifies all actions taken by the Superintendent to accomplish these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is specifically authorized to impose a mandatory mask requirement for all students in all classrooms in the district, and to keep such mandate in effect until such time as a lowered local positivity rate is maintained for at least two consecutive weeks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that communication regarding any such action should identify it as action taken by the Superintendent and the Board of School Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Trustees recognizes with pride,

the exemplary work of Dr. Peggy Buffington and her daily vigilance in confronting the effects of this virus on our students, and the leadership she has shown in this regard, both inside and outside the district.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2021

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Terry D. Butler, President

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Karen J. Robbins, Vice President

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Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

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Sandra J. Hillan, Board Member

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Frank Porras, Board Member

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Donald H. Rogers, Board Member

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Stuart B. Schultz, Board Member

ATTEST:

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Rikki Guthrie, Secretary