

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR ABBOTT TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICIAL EXPERT VACCINE ALLOTMENT PANEL'S DEFINITION OF NON-HEALTHCARE FRONTLINE WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Denton Independent School District Board of Trustees (Board) recognizes that the United States Government, the State of Texas and Local Health Authorities have declared a disaster and emergency regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19 (hereafter "COVID-19") and its spread across the State and Nation and continue to extend these declarations;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that COVID-19 is an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency of urgent public necessity, that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and that additional emergency declarations have been and will continue to be issued in the coming days, weeks and months;

WHEREAS, the Public Schools of the State of Texas impact millions of students and personnel and have a profound effect on educational, social, economic and public health issues and are integral to the general welfare of the State;

WHEREAS, the Public Schools of the State of Texas are charged with the task of caring for, educating, nourishing and providing extra-curricular activities to millions of Texas students no less than 5 days a week thus allowing a vast number of parents the opportunity to engage in gainful employment to support and nurture wholesome home environments for our Texas students;

WHEREAS, the Public Schools of the State of Texas are dependent on dedicated school personnel from administrators, teachers, educational and professional specialists to clerical, maintenance, transportation, child nutrition, security and other support staff to conduct the day to day operations of our schools and ensure the mission goal of the efficient delivery of instruction;

WHEREAS, Denton County Public Health has been an essential partner with Denton ISD and is instrumental in maintaining the safety of staff and students, and we recognize that our healthcare workers have responded heroically to the challenges brought forth by COVID-19, and nothing contained herein should be misinterpreted to diminish that heroism;

WHEREAS, our District and our personnel as well Districts across the State have responded to the challenges brought forth by COVID-19 regarding the delivery of instruction;

WHEREAS, the Board, having a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community, therefore, desires to ensure that the School District and community be prepared to the fullest extent possible in light of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, it appears that through the significant efforts of the public and private sectors, effective vaccines may soon be available to administer to our citizens in an effort to thwart the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and return our lives to a semblance of normality and stability;

WHEREAS, the State of Texas convened a team of external and internal subject-matter experts into the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP) to develop vaccine allocation strategies as recommendations to the Texas Commissioner of Health including guiding principles for the equitable distribution of the vaccine across the State which appropriately prioritize making vaccines available to **FRONTLINE WORKERS** and vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, in order to balance the educational, health and economic issues described above, the Governor of Texas, the Texas Commissioner of Education and the Texas Education Agency prescribed

guidelines and directives to Public School Districts to currently make available live instruction to those students who request it and to continue to aggressively phase in live instruction for all students in the near future;

WHEREAS, the Board and Administration are following advice and directives from federal, state and local authorities in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Texas Public School District personnel are essential to the day to day operations of a District as described above and critical for the resumption of live, face to face instruction;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees finds a substantial public purpose exists in requesting the Governor and EVAP for all Public School District personnel to be designated Non-Healthcare **FRONTLINE WORKERS** as that term is defined by EVAP and as essential Non-Healthcare **FRONTLINE WORKERS** be given appropriate priority following healthcare and first responders in the State wide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

The above Resolution is passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2020 by the Board of Trustees.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Barbara Burns
President, Board of Trustees

Douglass Chadwick
Secretary, Board of Trustees