



Resolution #2021-03

In Support of Expedited COVID-19 Vaccinations for Educators

WHEREAS, as of January 26, 2021, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has infected over _____ individuals in the United States and has resulted in more than _____ deaths across the country including _____ in California and _____ in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, our strong public education system, which is essential to the individual and community well-being of our society, is facing unprecedented challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic and lack of clear national, state, and local direction or resources. These challenges include, but are not limited to, the academic and social-emotional toll on students and staff; the logistics and expense of new health protocols and expanded hiring to support smaller cohorts; and

WHEREAS, despite these and other significant challenges, the teachers and staff of WESD have worked above and beyond expectations to create and implement a model of instruction that offers robust, in-person learning to all WESD families who desire it, despite the significant burden on staff including extra work hours, quickly learning new technologies, developing work strategies that comply with health and safety protocols, and sacrificing their own work-life balance so that WESD could open in-person learning beginning in October 2020 and remain open as long as risks are being effectively mitigated even as the pandemic surges; and

WHEREAS, vaccines are proven to be the most effective strategy to reduce and eliminate the spread of infectious diseases and are an important and necessary tool for eradicating disease; and many of the steps our nation has taken to safeguard our communities against COVID-19 have been conditioned upon the development and ultimate availability of a vaccine; and

WHEREAS, now that effective, safe COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by the FDA, federal and state leaders must create a fair, equitable and efficient distribution system. As essential workers, education and child care workers have been prioritized by the state of California in Phase 1b Tier 1, with “education and child care workers” being defined as “all staff in pre-k, elementary, middle, and high schools. Note: all staff means any employee of these institutions or their contractors, including occupations such as teachers, teacher assistants, administrators and those involved in any administrative work such as billing, bookkeeping, etc., food service, IT & cybersecurity, security and incident management, custodians and janitors, librarians, library technicians, and waste management.” However, Phase 1b Tier 1 is only available to “some counties depending on local vaccine availability;” and

WHEREAS, given the unique and critical role that our K-12 public education system plays in the functioning of our community, society, and our democracy, and the sacrifices the WESD staff have made to open and keep schools open, it is critical that education and child care workers, along with all members of Phase 1b Tier 1 as defined by the state, be vaccinated as soon as possible in EVERY county.

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT the Woodside Elementary School District calls on the State Legislature, the Governor, the California Department of Public Health, and the Public Health Officer of San Mateo County, to ensure that education and health care workers in ALL COUNTIES of California, indeed all the groups listed in Phase 1b Tier 1, have access to COVID-19 vaccines without delay, and also provide clear communications about how education and child care workers are to receive their vaccines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Woodside Elementary School District Governing Board directs the Superintendent's Office to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: the Superintendent of San Mateo County, the San Mateo County Public Health Officer, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Governor of California, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, State Senator Josh Becker, Assemblymember Marc Berman, and the California School Boards Association (CSBA). Passed and adopted by the Board of Education of the Woodside Elementary School District this 26th day of January 2021 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Dated this 26th day of January, 2021

Steven Frank, Secretary of the Governing Board
of the Woodside Elementary School District of
San Mateo County, State of California