WHEREAS, our core values and beliefs are that Redmond School District has the duty to foster the growth, potential and academic progress of each student and that every employee of the district plays a vital role in the lives of Redmond students;

WHEREAS, Redmond School District strives to ensure warm, welcoming and safe schools for everyone by embracing differences and respecting diversity;

WHEREAS, we believe that public schools belong to the community and that the board must work to serve stakeholders through transparent decision making regarding decisions that impact district direction;

WHEREAS, educating students well, including focusing on their mental, emotional, physical, and social well-being, while continuing to safeguard the health of students, staff, and community is our highest priority, and many students are experiencing educational and mental health setbacks due to a lack of adequate in-person instruction;

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

WHEREAS, connections with caring adults have been proven to play a significant role in healthy cognitive development of children and youth;

WHEREAS, our district is committed to creating a safe learning environment with appropriate safety measures for all;

WHEREAS, Redmond School District has created an online school option for all ages for families wishing to keep students at home;

WHEREAS, all Redmond School District employees have had an opportunity to get COVID-19 vaccinations;

WHEREAS, Redmond School District has successfully brought students back to in-person instruction and have not experienced recent spread of the virus in our schools;

WHEREAS, Redmond School District schools that are reopened are demonstrating that they are not creating spreader events, but in fact serve as guardians against transmission because mask wearing, sanitizing, and contact tracing is performed;

WHEREAS, Redmond School District has proven our commitment to work with Deschutes County Public Health to ensure we are following all safety protocols and are able to quickly identify staff, students, and cohorts who have been exposed to or are confirmed to have
COVID-19, connect them with medical professionals, and remove them and any “close contacts” from the school community, thereby helping slow the spread in the community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Redmond School District School Board urges Governor Brown to reevaluate the requirements for reopening schools to allow all students in grades K-12 the option to return to in person instruction full time no later than April 15th, 2021 by adjusting the Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) requirements for cohort and social distancing for schools in counties where:

· school employees had the opportunity to complete the vaccination protocols;
· safeguards of sanitizing, facemasks, and social distancing of 3 feet are strictly enforced;
· there is no confirmed spread within the school;
· the local public health authority has approved the school’s blueprint.

ADOPTED this 17th Day of March, 2021

Director Rick Bailey  Motion

Director Travis Bennett  Second

Passed March 17, 2021

Tim Carpenter, Board Chair