

## 2021 Resolutions/Legislative Committee Report

The NMSBA Resolutions/Legislative Committee membership is comprised as follows: each region elects one member; each Region President appoints one member; and the State President appoints one member from each region. The President-Elect of the Association serves as Chair of the Committee.

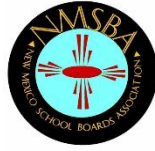
The duties of the Committee, pursuant to Article BV Standing Committees, Section 1 of the NMSBA Bylaws, are to review current positions and new resolutions; suggest amendments, deletions, or additions where needed; prioritize them for publication to present to the legislature; and to promote legislation which benefits education in general and is consistent with the beliefs and positions (resolutions) of the Association.

The election of region representatives to the Committee was held at the 2020 Fall Region Meetings. The elected members serve a two-year term. Each Region President made appointments to the Committee and these representatives serve a two-year term as well. State Presidential appointed members serve a one-year term and were appointed by Olivia Calabaza to the Committee in September 2021.

The Call for Resolutions with a copy of the 2021 Legislative Platform was sent via e-mail to all local school board members and district superintendents on August 9, 2021 and was made available on the NMSBA website. The deadline for submittal of resolutions was September 13, 2021. Thirty-three (33) resolutions were submitted for review. The Resolutions Committee meeting notice and all resolutions were sent to Committee members for review prior to their meeting.

The Committee met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at the CES Offices in Albuquerque with Pauline Jaramillo, NMSBA Past President, presiding. A quorum was present and the Committee reviewed and acted on each resolution. It should be noted that several resolutions addressed priorities that were previously approved by Delegate Assembly and do not require action. Other resolutions did not call for legislative action and were forwarded to the appropriate agency for review.

A summary along with the resolutions and Committee recommendations are provided and will be acted on at the NMSBA Delegate Assembly, Friday, December 3, 2021 during the NMSBA Annual Convention which will be conducted at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque.



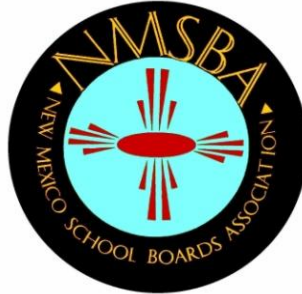
## 2021 Resolutions/Legislative Committee

**Marvyn Jaramillo, President-Elect (Mesa Vista)  
Committee Chairperson**

	<b><u>Region Member</u></b> <b><u>Elected</u></b> <i>2 year term</i>	<b><u>Region President</u></b> <b><u>Appointee</u></b> <i>2 year term</i>	<b><u>State President</u></b> <b><u>Appointee</u></b> <i>1 year term</i>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>Levi Peseta</b> (Dulce)	<b>Stephanie Vicente</b> (Zuni)	<b>Robyn Hoffman</b> (Farmington)
<b>Region II</b>	<b>Sharon Dogruel</b> (Pojoaque)	<b>Donald Valdez</b> (Chama)	<b>Mary Mascarenas</b> (Penasco)
<b>Region III</b>	<b>Christine Ludi</b> (West Las Vegas)	<b>Linda Montoya</b> (West Las Vegas)	<b>Tony Rubin</b> (Wagon Mound)
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>Barbara Petersen</b> (Albuquerque)	<b>Olivia Calabaza</b> (Bernalillo)	<b>Wynne Coleman</b> (Rio Rancho)
<b>Region V</b>	<b>Sharon West</b> (Fort Sumner)	<b>Inez Rodriguez</b> (Portales)	<b>Terry Martin</b> (Clovis)
<b>Region VI</b>	<b>Dymorie Maker</b> (Lovington)	<b>Mona Kirk</b> (Roswell)	<b>Ron Singleton</b> (Carlsbad)
<b>Region VII</b>	<b>Luther Light</b> (Ruidoso)	<b>Laura Salazar-Flores</b> (Gadsden)	<b>Jennifer Viramontes</b> (Gadsden)
<b>Region VIII</b>	<b>Ralph "Toy" Sepulveda</b> (Cobre)	<b>Frank Cordova</b> (Cobre)	<b>Mary Lou Cameron</b> (Deming)

9/8/21

# **NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2022 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**



## **SECTION I – SUMMARY LISTING**

## **SECTION II – RESOLUTIONS (33)**

### **CATEGORY & NUMBER**

<b>ADEQUATE FUNDING</b>	<b>(13)</b>
<b>LOCAL CONTROL</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>OTHER RESOLUTIONS</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>NON LEGISLATIVE</b>	<b>(9)</b>

**300 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 204  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501**

**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**  
**Resolutions Committee Recommendations Summary**

**2022 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

***ADEQUATE FUNDING***

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Board Input into Federal Pandemic & Infrastructure Funding (Rio Rancho)          | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 2. Direct Federal Funds to High School Career Technical Education (Rio Rancho)      | No Action Needed |
| 3. Hold Harmless for Declining Enrollment Arising-COVID-19 (Rio Rancho)             | No Action Needed |
| 4. No Reductions in SEG Funding because of Federal Funding (Socorro)                | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 5. Preserve the Financial Reserves in School Districts (Socorro)                    | No Action Needed |
| 6. Provide Competitive Salaries for Support Staff (Rio Rancho)                      | No Action Needed |
| 7. Provide Sufficient Student Transportation Funding (Rio Rancho)                   | No Action Needed |
| 8. Stabilize Salary Increases for Certified Staff, Consider Compaction (Las Cruces) | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 9. Support Funding for Bus Contractors, Purchase Activity Bus (Las Cruces)          | No Action Needed |
| 10. Support School Mental & Behavioral Health Services Funding (Rio Rancho)         | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 11. Support STEM & Career Technical Ed Increased Funding (Socorro)                  | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 12. Support Sustainable Funding for Community Schools (Albuquerque)                 | No Action Needed |
| 13. Support Youth Mentoring Programs & Social Emotional Services (Socorro)          | <b>APPROVE</b>   |

***LOCAL CONTROL***

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 14. Rescind & Repeal all Mask Mandates & Allow Individuals to Choose (Animas) | <b>TABLED</b>    |
| 15. Support Board Authority & Oppose Restrictive Executive Action (Dora)      | <b>TABLED</b>    |
| 16. Support Local Control & Flexibility in Decision-Making (Farmington)       | No Action Needed |

***OTHER RESOLUTIONS***

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 17. Amend Math Graduation Requirements & Drop Algebra 2 (Lovington)          | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 18. Expand Nepotism Waiver to Include Board Relatives (Roswell)              | No Action Needed |
| 19. Expand Nepotism Waiver to Include Board Relatives (Pojoaque)             | No Action Needed |
| 20. Fund Nat'l Board Certified Teacher Stipend & Expenses (Farmington)       | No Action Needed |
| 21. Study & Fund Virtual Learning Opportunity Options and Resources (Albuq.) | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 22. Support College & Career Readiness Expansion (Albuquerque)               | <b>APPROVE</b>   |
| 23. Support K-5 and ELPT Program Flexibility (Socorro)                       | No Action Needed |
| 24. Per Diem Rate for Elected Officials (Bernalillo)                         | <b>APPROVE</b>   |

***NON-LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS***

Resolutions listed below are similar in content; **they do not request Legislative action**, but rather are directed specifically to NMPED and/or the Executive. Committee Recommendation: **Forward to NMPED and/or the Executive without a recommendation for discussion and collaboration during the interim**

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 25. Seek NMPED Recognition & Enhancement of Board Authority (Alamogordo)   | Forward with No Rec |
| 26. Seek NMPED Recognition & Enhancement of Board Authority (Artesia)      | Forward with No Rec |
| 27. Seek NMPED Recognition & Enhancement of Board Authority (Carrizozo)    | Forward with No Rec |
| 28. Seek NMPED Recognition & Enhancement of Board Authority (Elida)        | Forward with No Rec |
| 29. Seek NMPED Recognition & Enhancement of Board Authority (Roswell)      | Forward with No Rec |
| 30. Seek NMPED Recognition & Enhancement of Board Authority (Socorro)      | Forward with No Rec |
| 31. Seek NMPED Reconsideration of COVID-19 Toolkit Mandates (Cimarron)     | Forward with No Rec |
| 32. Support Board Authority & Oppose Restrictive Executive Action (Animas) | Forward with No Rec |
| 33. Support Board Authority & Oppose Restrictive Executive Action (Clovis) | Forward with No Rec |

**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**  
**2022 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

**ADEQUATE FUNDING**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 1**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Board Input into Uses of Federal Pandemic and Infrastructure Funding**

*WHEREAS*, the federal government has recognized that a substantial financial investment has been needed and will continue to be required for public education institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide educational and health related services, and upgrade classrooms and schools so they are safe, clean, and well-ventilated; and

*WHEREAS*, since the beginning of the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education has provided \$190 billion in pandemic aid to public education through the CARES Act, ARP-ESSER Act, and other measures, with about \$1 billion of that going to New Mexico; and

*WHEREAS*, while according to the AP, 90% of funding went directly to local districts, the remaining funding is allocated at the state’s discretion; and

*WHEREAS*, the recently-passed Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Act (INFRA) will provide additional billions in revenue to states; and

*WHEREAS*, school facilities constitute a vital form of infrastructure, in that high quality schools and educational programs support economic development by attracting business to the state and preparing our young people to become contributing members of society; and

*WHEREAS*, the influx of INFRA funding provides an opportunity to target investment in school facilities supporting career-technical education and other programs that support students and attract business; and

*WHEREAS*, local school administrators and school boards best understand the needs of their diverse communities and can provide useful input on how funds should be used to support the programs, facilities, and services that would best benefit their students and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education requests the Governor, state legislature, and Public Education Department to provide a vehicle for and include input from local school districts and charter schools as it plans to allocate federal funding.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Program is an initiative for “Improved Collaboration” (page 4, column 2). As requested in the resolution, add language to expand collaboration “to provide a vehicle for and include input for federal funding”.*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 2**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Direct Federal Funds to High School Career Technical Education**

*WHEREAS*, in recent years New Mexico has faced a depressed economy and job market, with a resulting lack of opportunity for students leaving high school and college; and

*WHEREAS*, some of our best and brightest young people choose to leave the state in pursuit of opportunities elsewhere due to a lack of good, well-paying jobs in New Mexico; and,

**WHEREAS**, developing and expanding the New Mexico workforce and economy and providing opportunities for our high school and college graduates requires a rethinking of the current educational structure; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the expansion of career-technical programs provides an opportunity for students to pursue well-paying jobs in essential fields requiring specialized post-secondary training but not a four-year college degree; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting students in career-technical fields should include the development of apprenticeship and dual-enrollment career pathways; partnerships with post-secondary institutions and the business sector, and staff development and training; and,

**WHEREAS**, providing career/technical programs requires safe, functional, and specialized classroom facilities with appropriate equipment to support teaching and learning; and,

**WHEREAS**, the unprecedented influx of state and federal funding provides an opportunity for the state to invest in career-technical infrastructure and programs in those school districts and charters interested in providing these opportunities for students; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in career-technical facilities is a largely non-recurring expense; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in career-technical education supports the state’s educational and economic development goals and is a good long-term investment in New Mexico’s future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to provide funding and support for career-technical education, which may include adjustments to state statute and regulation and provision of adequate and ongoing funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that emphasis should be placed on programs and student financial assistance that support current and future job-market needs such as IT or cyber-security, or support trades and professions where current shortages exist such as HVAC certification, construction trades, and teaching.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the state and the legislature are strongly encouraged to direct available federal, capital outlay, and other one-time, non-recurring funding to the development of facilities to support high school career technical programs and public school career pathways.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Program, “Career and Technical Pathways” (page 2, column 1).*

*NMSBA supports funding and legislation to establish career and technical pathways, financial assistance, job opportunities and internship programs for high school students.*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 3**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Hold Harmless for Declining Enrollment Arising from COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, Article XII of the Constitution of New Mexico declares that a uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Constitution of New Mexico further requires the attendance of school age children; and,

**WHEREAS**, federal laws similarly require that states and school districts provide educational services particularly to students with identified physical, mental, and behavioral disabilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, schools and districts continue to incur additional expense to clean and sanitize facilities, provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, provide for care rooms and other healthcare services beyond the norm, meet the state’s COVID case tracking protocols, upgrade building ventilation systems, and provide a virtual option for students/parents who do not want their children attending schools in person; and

**WHEREAS**, while student enrollment levels are beginning to recover, concerns about ongoing health risks to their families, disagreement over state-mandated policies about requiring masks for students, and the ability of

schools to provide educational services during the pandemic continues to prompt some parents to remove students from public schools, depressing enrollment, and,

**WHEREAS**, school districts and charter schools receive most of their funding based on student enrollment, making it likely that they will continue to experience a decline in revenues at a time when it costs more to educate each student; and,

**WHEREAS**, continued uncertainty about the progression of the virus, its impact on children’s health, availability of vaccines for children, and parental disagreement with state and district policies on masks make it likely that this situation will continue indefinitely.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to hold school districts and charter schools harmless from the prior year enrollment provisions of the funding formula and to fund districts with declining enrollment based on 2019-20 school year enrollment levels for the duration of the COVID public health emergency.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Program (page 2, column 2) “Operating Budget Hold Harmless”. NMSBA supports legislation that hold public schools harmless from reductions to operating budgets due to declining enrollment during the pandemic which guarantees schools receive no fewer SEG revenues than prior year pre-pandemic levels.*

**No Action Needed.**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 4**

**Submitted By:** Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **No Reductions in SEG Funding because of Federal Funding received from the CRRSSA and ARP Programs**

**WHEREAS**, The Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA §22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing education policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has provided funding to keep schools open and operating safely through the CRRSSA and ARP programs, these funds are earmarked for very specific needs and allowed uses;

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Legislature has, in the case of the CARES federal funding, reduced each school districts SEG funding by 41% of the amount the CARES funds that was provided to the district because “schools were getting an influx of federal money” and the state money could be used elsewhere besides schools,

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Legislature will decide, once again, to reduce SEG funding to the schools because of the CRRSSA and ARP programs and that the shortfall in operational money the district has which the district has wider latitude in spending, will cause great harm and financial instability to New Mexico School Districts,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by the Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature not reduce funding to the schools because of the distribution of earmarked federal money.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Platform is position “Operating Budget Hold Harmless” (page 2, column 2). As requested in the resolution, add language to “not reduce funding to schools because of federal funding”.*

**Recommend Approval**



## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 5**

**Submitted By:** Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Preserve the Financial Reserves in School Districts**

**WHEREAS**, The Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA §22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing education policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Legislature doesn’t recognize the need for school districts to keep a “reserve fund” on hand to ensure financial stability while awaiting reimbursement from numerous funds both state and federal. The time between submission of documents asking for reimbursement and the actual distributions of funds back to the district can range from 30-120 days, and

**WHEREAS**, the district has financial liabilities such as accounts payable, and payroll that continue while the reimbursement process goes forward,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by the Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature recognize that this reserve fund is a necessary business practice to insure financial stability, and that there should be no attempts to “claw back” funds from districts to meet other financial liabilities that the state might consider more important.

### **Committee Recommendation:**

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains position “Operating Reserves” (page 2, column 2).*

*NMSBA supports legislation that preserves and protects operating reserves (cash balances) without penalty at the local level.*

**No Action Needed**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 6**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Provide Competitive Salaries for Support Staff**

**WHEREAS**, in order for schools to be able to function safely and successfully, students must be able to reliably get to school, and must have safe, clean, functional classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, students who cannot get to school or who do not feel safe once they get there are handicapped in meeting their educational goals; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers with large class loads rely on educational assistants to effectively educate students, and especially those with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, if buildings cannot be kept clean, functional, and sanitized, they are not safe places for students and staff and may even have to be temporarily closed until they are made safe; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers and school administrators rely on employees in these support roles in order to successfully deliver educational services; and

**WHEREAS**, these employees include but are not limited to custodians and maintenance staff, bus drivers and transportation support staff, security officers, and educational assistants; and

**WHEREAS**, these positions historically have been difficult for school districts to fill, even without a labor shortage; and

**WHEREAS**, private sector salaries for comparable positions frequently are higher than those that can be offered by school districts and charter schools with current state funding levels; and

**WHEREAS**, despite attractive educational benefit packages, qualified applicants and employees therefore often choose other employment options outside education, or if already employed leave educational employment for the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, in some cases, school districts and charters invest considerable resources into hiring, training, and licensing employees, only to have them leave for high-paying jobs elsewhere; and

**WHEREAS**, many educational assistants eventually choose to earn teaching credentials and become excellent classroom instructors, helping to alleviate the state’s chronic teacher shortages.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education requests the Governor, state legislature, and Public Education Department to allocate sufficient funding to provide competitive salaries for support staff, and in particular those in positions that historically are difficult to fill.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in current 2021 Legislative Program in “NMSBA Also Supports” (page 2, column 1); which supports sufficient funding for administrators and support staff.*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 7**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Provide Sufficient Student Transportation Funding

**WHEREAS**, transportation funding allocated to some school districts in New Mexico through the transportation funding formula has been chronically inadequate to cover the cost of transporting students to and from school; and

**WHEREAS**, Rio Rancho Public Schools and other districts have therefore had to use operational funds to subsidize the cost of providing transportation, thereby reducing the amount of money available to fund teaching and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Singleton, in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit, found that underfunding of transportation has resulted in districts diverting money to pay for transportation services that should be spent on classroom programs; and

**WHEREAS**, despite numerous discussions, studies, and proposals considered at the state level over a period of many years and assurances given districts that the situation would improve, the inequities in transportation funding have not been addressed; and

**WHEREAS**, once again in FY 2022 transportation funding for some districts is not adequate to provide basic to-and-from transportation for students, with Rio Rancho Public Schools’ shortfall being \$791,420 which will have to be made up with operational funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the chronic lack of adequate resources stretches transportation employees to their limits, creating a stressful work environment, difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, and increasing the potential for missteps which could jeopardize student and driver safety, and

**WHEREAS**, the state’s financial situation is now such that there is no excuse for underfunding student transportation for some districts, especially when other districts are in fact over-funded.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Rio Rancho Public Schools requests the state to provide all school districts with sufficient funding through the transportation funding formula to provide transportation to all qualifying students, with adequate resources to effectively and efficiently operate transportation services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature be requested to initiate and execute a process resulting in changes in the transportation funding formula to assure all school districts receive equitable and adequate annual transportation funding in future years.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in the 2021 Legislative Program “Transportation” (page 3, column 3).” NMSBA supports necessary funding to support costs as required and submitted by districts to transport students in safe and healthy ways including bus air conditioning.*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 8**

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Stabilize Salary Increases for Certified Staff and Consider Compaction**

**WHEREAS**, the foundation of a good education relies on the ability of Las Cruces Public Schools to recruit and retain exemplary teachers, and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico implemented a number of strategies to improve recruitment and retention of high quality teachers, including increasing statutory minimum teacher salary levels, pay increases for all classroom teachers, incentive pay for exemplary teachers, and professional development programs, and

**WHEREAS**, half of New Mexico teachers leave the profession within five years of graduating from educator preparation programs, and

**WHEREAS**, compaction in salaries creates a disproportionate salary schedule between teachers who have been in the classroom longer than their newly-hired counterparts, and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of students that good teachers are compensated and incentives are provided for retention, and

**WHEREAS**, Las Cruces Public Schools strives to balance and maintain a sustainable budget that provides for excellence in education.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that New Mexico Legislators consider compaction when calculating appropriations for salary increases for teachers.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in the 2021 Legislative Program is position “Teacher/Principal Salaries” which supports retention of teachers and funding to increase minimum salaries for three-tiered licensure system for teachers to \$50, \$60, and \$70 thousand respectively...”*

*As requested in the resolution, add a new separate position to address the compaction problem and provide “average” salary increases as necessitated.*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 9**

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support Funding for Bus Contractors, and Purchase Activity Bus**

**Proclamation:**

Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests the New Mexico Schools Board Association to support legislation that provides adequate funding to allow bus contractors to provide additional transportation to support after school programs and activities that would greatly benefit the students of Las Cruces Public Schools.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS**, Las Cruces Public Schools currently has 2,467 middle school students and 1,959 high school students who ride the school bus every day to and from school, a 59 percentage of the 6-12 grade student population, and

**WHEREAS**, many students do not have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities or receive tutoring after school, due to a lack of transportation during after school hours, and  
**WHEREAS**, multiple studies show that students who are involved in one or more extracurricular activities earn higher grades and are more likely to graduate on time with their peers, and  
**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of our students to have transportation for additional opportunities to participate in afterschool programs that provide enrichment and homework assistance in order for students to thrive in their studies, and  
**WHEREAS**, providing transportation to leave schools at approximately 5:30 p.m. would alleviate the burden on parents or guardians who may not be able to pick up their child due to scheduling conflicts with work, and  
**WHEREAS**, providing transportation will open up the opportunity for students to join a club, sport, performing or visual art, tutoring, for a well-rounded educational experience for students to excel academically, and  
**WHEREAS**, Las Cruces Public Schools works to engage in equitable practices; however, providing multiple transportation times will open the door to more educational opportunities and ensure the success of ALL students.  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public School District is seeking funding for an activity bus for each middle school and high school in the District. There are currently 8 middle schools, 4 high schools in addition to Arrowhead Park Early College High School, Arrowhead Park Early College High School Medical Academy, and the Rio Grande Preparatory Institute at Las Cruces Public Schools. The Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests adequate funding in order to link students to additional opportunities for academic support, so they may rely on that support to go on to become successful and productive leaders in our community.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Currently in 2021 Legislative Platform “Transportation” (page 3, column 3). Which states, “NMSBA supports necessary funding to support costs as required.”  
Specific local control capital request. Should be a local initiative.  
No Action Needed*

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 10**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support School Mental and Behavioral Health Services Funding**

**WHEREAS**, nationally up to one in five students shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder in a given year, and the needs are growing exponentially; and,  
**WHEREAS**, nationally nearly 80 percent of students who need mental health services do not receive them; and,  
**WHEREAS**, whether treated or not, children with mental health issues attend school and, in some cases, can be disruptive to students, classroom settings, and the educational process; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the school environment, including grade level transitions, interactions among students, and academic and social pressures can increase stress for some students; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the stress and social isolation created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have greatly increased the need to provide adequate social and emotional support to students, teachers, and school staff; and,  
**WHEREAS**, schools and school districts have a legal obligation to provide services to students with identified behavioral and mental health issues; and  
**WHEREAS**, schools and school districts lack sufficient numbers of highly trained staff to identify and diagnose students with severe behavioral issues in a timely manner, as well as appropriately-trained and certified teachers to meet the demand for specialized programs and classroom instruction for severely behaviorally-disruptive students; and  
**WHEREAS**, in many instances of school violence and violence in the community at large, including mass shootings, the protagonist has exhibited symptoms of mental and social-emotional illness; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that students with mental health issues be promptly identified and effectively supported and treated in the interest of maintaining a safe school environment and bolstering student academic performance; and

**WHEREAS**, school personnel are in a key position to identify the early warning signs of an emerging mental health condition, and to direct families to appropriate mental health resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, schools and the mental health system in New Mexico are not sufficiently funded to provide timely diagnostic and support services for behaviorally-challenged students, adequate staff training in the recognition of mental health symptoms, and short-term counseling, and services to which students and families facing mental health crises may be referred.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education requests that the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature provide adequate, ongoing funding for the provision of behavioral and mental health services in and supporting the public schools, including:

- Full funding for behavioral programs and classrooms sufficient to permit school districts and schools to meet their legal, moral, and ethical obligation to provide services to all students with identified behavioral disorders.
- Training and support to help teachers meet the social and emotional needs of students on a day-to-day basis.
- Exploration of intermediate units (district-wide and/or through regional centers) to provide intensive, short-term interventions to students with behavioral and mental issues,
- Resources and staff training for timely identification of students with mental health issues,
- Adequate numbers of counselors, nurses, psychologists/psychiatrists, social workers, and other professionals to provide ongoing support and referrals for students and families facing mental health issues that require long-term and highly specialized care,
- An adequate community safety-net system for referrals to hospitals and counseling, recognizing the limitations schools, as educational institutions, have in providing comprehensive mental health services.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*As requested in the resolution, add a new Social Emotional Well Being initiative supporting adequate, ongoing funding for the provision of behavioral and mental health services to schools to include teacher training, staff resources for timely identification of students; and, counselors, nurses, social workers and other professionals.*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 11**

**Submitted By:** Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support STEM and Career Technical Education Increased Funding**

**WHEREAS**, The Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA §22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing education policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico students consistently perform lower on math and science exams than the national average and the number of students going into the STEM fields has decreased,

**WHEREAS**, STEM career opportunities have consistently provided high paying jobs with unlimited potential, **WHEREAS**, career/technical education opportunities need to be provided alongside STEM to ensure that all students have an option for a rewarding career at the end of High School

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by the Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature consider funding to school districts to enhance both STEM education opportunities and Career/technical education offerings to provide the best opportunities for New Mexico Students.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains “Career and Technical Pathways” (page 2, column 1) which supports funding and legislation to establish career and technical pathways, financial assistance, job opportunities and internship programs for high school students. As requested in the resolution, add language to include STEM Education.*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 12**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools

**Title:** Support Sustainable Funding for Community Schools

**WHEREAS**, Albuquerque Public Schools believes that the Community Schools model (22-32-1 to 22-32-4 NMSA 1978) provides a significantly greater benefit to students, integrates communication between the school and community and provides strategic focus for decision making; and

**WHEREAS**, Albuquerque Public Schools believes that schools in communities within need of resources should be community schools, which means we need more resources and support to expand beyond the current fifty community schools; and

**WHEREAS**, community schools’ interventions meet the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as an evidence-based intervention that positively impacts students and leads to increased student achievement across the school; and

**WHEREAS**, a December 2020 Learning Policy Institute brief outlined an evidence-based approach for improving education the New Mexico way, which includes implementing the community school framework with extended learning opportunities to all schools in communities within need of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the community school framework pillars and theory of action include integrated student support, expanded learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement and collaborative leadership and practices, thereby focusing school resources and design around supporting the whole child; and

**WHEREAS**, community schools focus on a strategy for organizing resources, rather than creating new programs; and

**WHEREAS**, community schools that fund a coordinator position to align resources and partnerships will most effectively address the needs of local communities and strategically align resources; and

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the New Mexico State Legislature provide funding for all schools that may wish to implement a community schools framework model, including a position for a community school coordinator; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the New Mexico State Statute 22-32-1 NMSA 1978 should be used as a guide for this resolution and community school implementation, and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Program under “NMSBA Also Supports” (page 2, column 1) which states, “support sufficient funding for community school programs.”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 13**

**Submitted By:** Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education

**Title: Support Youth Mentoring Programs and Social Emotional Services to Students**

**WHEREAS**, The Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.; **WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA §22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing education policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the board has authorized the formation and continuation of a mentoring program for the district 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students which has been in operation for over 5 years,

**WHEREAS**, the mentoring program has produced numerous successes’ both academic and in the Social/emotional learning realm of student life

**WHEREAS**, the mentoring program has been used as a model for other mentoring programs across the state of New Mexico and receive numerous awards,

**WHEREAS**, students have significant learning loss and social/emotional issues due to the interrupted “normal” school year for the last 18 months and these needs might be worsened by the continued effects of COVID restrictions for the foreseeable future,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by the Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature consider funding to school districts to either continue programs such as ours or to create programs where there are none.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*As requested in the resolution, add a new position to support funding mentoring programs for students with significant learning loss and social emotional issues due to the interrupted school year.*

**Recommend Approval**

**LOCAL CONTROL**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 14**

**Submitted By:** Animas Public Schools Board of Education

**Title: Rescind and Repeal all Mask Mandates and Allow Individuals to Choose**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 was first detected, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that has now spread globally; and prompting the Governor and Secretary of Health of the great State of New Mexico to issue and amend Executive and Public Health Orders requiring all unvaccinated (and in some instances all vaccinated) individuals who enter a public place, including schools, to wear a face covering; and

**WHEREAS**, the Animas Public Schools Board of Education believes our community’s future well-being relies on investing in the cornerstone of our republic – high-quality public education systems that prepare all students for college, careers, democracy, and lifelong learning even in the midst of this national health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no vaccination currently available for students under the age of 12; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education holds that both our community’s and our nation’s future well-being relies on providing high quality in-person educational opportunities and programs to our most vulnerable students throughout the national health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that the covering of the mouths of students and educators can have a detrimental effect on (especially younger) students’ abilities to progress and develop, as the covering of mouths can impact students’ ability to grasp fundamental concepts of reading specifically: phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education maintains that there is insufficient evidence to definitively show that the benefits of wearing face coverings off-sets the harms posed by wearing face coverings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education highly values and recognizes the right of parents to make decisions that are best for their students and family; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education highly values and respects the right of District personnel to make personal healthcare decisions that are best for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education maintains that the continued quality education of our students must not be compromised in any manner.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Animas Public Schools Board of Education supports the rescission of all legislation, executive or agency orders, or state guidance requiring mask wearing, or other mask mandates, and advocates for allowing all individuals in our schools to choose for themselves whether or not they wear a mask, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. Likewise, the Animas Public Schools Board of Education supports:

1. the freedom for parents to decide if their student will wear a mask in the school setting, regardless of vaccination status;
2. the freedom for staff to decide if they will wear a mask in the school setting, regardless of vaccination status;
3. the continued hyper-vigilant hygienic practices that are currently being practiced in our school districts; and,
4. ensuring support for the safety, health, and well-being of students and educators.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Animas Public Schools Board of Education implores that the Governor of the great State of New Mexico rescind and or repeal any executive order or action that mandates the wearing of masks in our schools.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Animas Public Schools Board of Education implores the New Mexico Public Education Department to support and recognize the local Board of Education’s authority and ability to make responsible decisions regarding whether mask wearing should or will be required at Animas Public Schools’ facilities, activities, and in transportation vehicles.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to our Governor, to the New Mexico Public Education Department, and to all New Mexico State legislators.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**After much discussion the Committee determined the current Local Control Guiding Principle in our program was sufficient and tabled the resolution.**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 15**

**Submitted By:** Dora Consolidated Schools

**Title:** **Support Board Authority and Oppose Restrictive Executive Action**

**WHEREAS**, the Dora Consolidated Schools Board of Education believes that locally elected school boards are best positioned to represent their students, staff, parents and community members and to implement educational solutions and safety measures aimed at addressing local needs and challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that each New Mexico school district faces unique educational needs and operational challenges, which depend on a variety of factors including demographics, geography, and district size; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court has written that “No single tradition in public education is more deeply rooted than local control over the operation of schools; local autonomy has long been thought essential both to the maintenance of community concern and support for public schools and to quality of the educational process;” and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Constitution prohibits the Legislature from passing local or special laws regarding the management of public schools

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico state law, specifically the Public School Code at NMSA § 22-5-4, grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing educational policies for the school district, and



**WHEREAS**, New Mexico state law, specifically the Public School Code at NMSA § 22-5-14, grants the local Superintendent authority to carry out the policies of the Board, and to administer and supervise the District, and **WHEREAS**, the Board has properly used its statutory authority to develop and implement educational policies that provide for the health, safety, and well-being of its students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, locally elected school boards are held accountable through New Mexico’s elections process; and **WHEREAS**, under our state’s Open Meeting Act, the business of the Dora Consolidated Schools Board of Education occurs in meetings that are scheduled, publicized and accessible to members of the public; and **WHEREAS**, the Board values and respects the right of parents and employees to make decisions that are best for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that standardized, one-size-fits-all school-related mandates from the Governor’s office and the Office of the Public Education Department Secretary regarding our students can stifle innovation and creativity and consume precious and limited staff time and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education maintains that such standardized and inflexible mandates constitute an overreach of State and Public Education Department authority which have subverted local control and interfered with the ability of New Mexico local school boards to operate in a manner that best serves their students and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education further maintains that our District seeks to ensure that decisions related to public schools are made locally, with the support of the State when required, but are not taken over by the State without sufficient statutory authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dora Consolidated Schools Board of Education supports local decision-making authority of school board and opposes executive action that restricts the ability of locally elected school boards to respond to the varied and ever changing needs of their districts, students and communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dora Consolidated Schools Board of Education calls on the New Mexico Legislature and the New Mexico School Boards Association to introduce and support legislation affirming the authority of locally elected school boards to independently develop and adopt educational policies and rules that reflect the educational needs of the communities they serve.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**After much discussion the Committee determined the current Local Control Guiding Principle in our program was sufficient and tabled the resolution.**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 16**

**Submitted By:** Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support Local Control and Flexibility in Decision-Making**

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico State Statute respects the division of power between the legislature, the executive and the local school board; and

**WHEREAS**, Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education respects and welcomes the authority and flexibility to meet and make decisions about operations and management; and

**WHEREAS**, Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believe that decisions of how best to meet school district goals should be left to the local school board; and

**WHEREAS**, Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education is elected by its community and is best qualified to make decisions within the framework established by the state to meet the educational goals as well as address needs for student and staff safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education formally calls upon the New Mexico School Boards Association to support legislation that permits local school boards to exercise their statutorily granted authority to make policy and decision including but not limited to issues regarding education as well as student and staff safety; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the New Mexico Public Education Department and all New Mexico State legislators.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Program “Local Control” (page 1, column 2). “One of NMSBA’s guiding principles and most important components of a successful public education system is local control and decision-making. We believe that local control must be preserved and when possible, expanded. NMSBA opposes any legislation that attempts to diminish or take away local decision-making and supports legislation that maintains or expands local control and decision-making authority.”*

**No Action Needed**

**OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 17**

**‘Submitted By:** Lovington Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Amend Math Graduation Requirements and Drop Algebra 2

**WHEREAS**, Lovington Municipal School Board is committed to providing a well-rounded and quality education accessible to all students and lifelong learners to advance our community, our country, and our world, and ensuring that Lovington students math graduation credits support the pursuit of their education and future livelihoods once they graduate with a Lovington High School Diploma, and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for students seeking college or career technical education pathways to explore math concepts that support their varied graduation goals and careers as in current legislation from the New Mexico Legislature in § 22-13-1.1. J. (2)., Graduation requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico Legislature last changed graduation requirements for students entering ninth grade in the 2009- 2010 school year, and there has not been a comprehensive study of graduation requirements or high school redesign principles best suited to prepare students to complete high school for college and career readiness since that time; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico utilizes “next step plans,” which are statutorily required plans developed by all New Mexico students to identify a student’s postsecondary interests and align their high school education, including mathematics, as well as input from parents and guidance counselors for these goals; and

**WHEREAS**, there is presently a requirement of conic section analysis, asymptotic behavior and logarithmic calculations already required for New Mexico High School graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, these are required by law and administrative rule (See 6.29.1.9 NMAC, Subsection (J), current Algebra 2 needed for graduation is more similar to Math Analysis to support engineering, a change to the math graduation requirement would support all student plans and would contribute to increased success of New Mexico student’s post graduate careers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lovington Municipal School District and its governing Board is dedicated to providing a rigorous mathematical curriculum to support students intending to go on to college, and all career choices for students focused on building knowledge and skills in a specific labor market field as well as vocational courses; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lovington Municipal School Board recommends and seeks legislative change to State Statute § 22-13-1.1, Graduation requirements to drop the requirement for Algebra 2 while maintaining four (4) required math credits for graduation, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** those mathematical courses be offered for college and career readiness and be included in the “next step plan” for students to be focused on building knowledge and skills to support a variety of career choices or in a specific labor market field, ensuring opportunity for all.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*As requested in the resolution, add a new initiative to drop the Algebra 2 requirement while maintaining four (4) math credits necessary for graduation.*

**Recommend Approval**

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 18**

**Submitted By:** Roswell Independent Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Expand Nepotism Statute Waiver to Include Board Member Relatives**

**WHEREAS**, the Roswell Independent School District Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.; **WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA § 22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing educational policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA § 22-5-6 prohibits a local superintendent from approving employment in any capacity of a person who is the immediate relative of a local school board member or the local superintendent by bloodline or marriage, with the ability for the local school board to waive this prohibition for family members of the local superintendent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the current teacher and education support staff shortages in New Mexico, especially in areas with low population density where it is more difficult to hire teachers and other educational support staff, will continue to increase without new considerations for hiring practices that address these shortages.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, this \_\_\_ day of September, 2021, by the Roswell Independent School District Board of Education that we respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department consider, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA § 22-5-4 and concerning NMSA § 22-5-6, expansion of the nepotism waiver. This would allow local school boards, in emergency circumstances, to approve the hiring of family members of the ~~local superintendent, as well as family members~~ of local school board members, for substitute teacher and substitute educational support staff positions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to understand the need for a waiver expansion and consider the need to enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to approve hiring the family members of the ~~superintendent or the local school board~~ under emergency circumstances for substitute positions.

#### **Committee Recommendation:**

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains “Nepotism Waivers” position (page 4, column 2).*

*‘NMSBA supports legislation that allows waivers to hire school board member relatives for hard to fill vacancies.’*

**No Action Needed**

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 19**

**Submitted By:** Pojoaque Valley School Board

**Title:** **Expand Nepotism Statute Waiver to Include Board Member Relatives**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Global Pandemic dramatically increased the vacancy rates for certified and non-certified personnel critical for the effective operation and administration of school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the school districts are not able to respond effectively in educating students, providing ancillary services, sustaining administrative support, meeting janitorial and custodial demands, keeping up with maintenance and infrastructure and sustaining appropriate health and safety measures; and

**WHEREAS**, districts have been severely challenged and unable to hire or recruit individuals to fill critical positions, thus failing to meet district expectations and unintendedly increasing stress throughout the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts have lost and will continue to lose considerable time, finances and administrative work in regional and national recruitment efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, research indicates that one way to combat recruiting and retention challenges is to hire people with personal, professional, or long-standing ties to the community. A grow your own program is designed to recruit, develop, retain, and promote teachers and other district employees who are already serving the district or exist in the community.

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico School Boards Association has been informed that some board members have recently resigned in order to allow family members to fill critical positions through the process of initial hire or promotion within their local school district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pojoaque Valley School Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation to help implement a legislative Temporary Amendment to *NMSA Chapter 22, Public Schools Article 5, Local School Boards Section 6 – Nepotism prohibited*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Temporary Amendment will allow qualified family members of school board members to be employed and promoted in critical positions in the district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Temporary Amendment will sunset three (3) years from effective date.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Pojoaque Valley School Board and Superintendent, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls on the New Mexico State Legislature to temporarily amend NMSA 1978, Section 22-5-6 – Nepotism prohibited as a strategy to focus on supporting school districts charged with addressing the already high and increasing demand to fill critical positions impacted by the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains “Nepotism Waivers” position (page 4, column 2).*

*“NMSBA supports legislation that allows waivers to hire school board member relatives for hard to fill vacancies.”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 20**

**Submitted By:** Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education

**‘Title:** **Fund National Board Certified Teacher Stipends and Expenses**

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools District #5 Board of Education believes every student deserves to be taught by an accomplished teacher or school led by an accomplished administrator;

**WHEREAS**, National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education;

**WHEREAS**, National Board Certification allows teachers and administrators to hone their practice, showcase their talent as school leaders in a building or teachers in the classroom to demonstrate their dedication to their students and their profession;

**WHEREAS**, National Board-Certified teachers must exhibit a deep understanding of their students, content knowledge, use of data and assessments and teaching practice;

**WHEREAS**, National Board Certification professional development provided generates ongoing improvement in New Mexico schools and nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, National Board Certification was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and administrators;

**WHEREAS**, National Board Certification is a public assurance that teachers have met the profession’s highest standard for accomplished practice; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation to promote National Board Teacher and Administrator Certification; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon the State Legislature to develop and deploy a strategy to create an annual allocation budget fund of \$250,000 beginning Fiscal Year 2022, as a fiscal set aside as a cost reimbursement account for teachers’ fees and materials incurred in the pursuit of National Board Certification that would be distributed by the local education agency through an application model created by, submitted to, and reimbursed through the New Mexico Public Education Department to every qualifying teacher and administrator.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, an annual allocation budget fund of \$500,000 be set aside to fully fund a \$10,000 stipend to each and every New Mexico teacher and administrator who completes or has completed National Board Certification prior to September 1, 2022, and for every year to follow as teachers and administrators as long as said teacher or administrator is employed in a public school in the State of New Mexico.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the New Mexico Public Education Department and all New Mexico State legislators.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2021 Legislative Program “National Board Certification” (page 3, column 1).*

*“NMSBA supports establishment of a fund to reimburse teachers who obtain National Board Certification.”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 21**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools

**Title:** Study and Fund Virtual Learning Opportunity Options and Resources

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic provided students and families the opportunity to experience virtual learning and there is a desire of some families to continue virtual learning experiences and opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts in New Mexico should continue to be provided support and flexibility to be creative in offering virtual learning for students and families within their neighborhood schools, to expand access and to promote equity; and

**WHEREAS**, as we continue to offer virtual learning options, the state should begin a comprehensive study to determine what may be needed in legislation, funding, and resources to fully support expanding virtual learning options within our public schools and through virtual connectivity across our state, nation and international education institutions; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the New Mexico State Legislature prepare a memorial to study the potential options and resources needed for districts to continue with and potentially expand virtual learning opportunities for our public schools, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*As requested in the resolution, add a new initiative supporting virtual course opportunities and resources for school districts to continue virtual learning for students including those facing quarantine.*

**Recommend Approval**



## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 22**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools

**Title:** Support College & Career Readiness Expansion

**WHEREAS**, research studies support that college and career readiness coursework, in K-12 public education is associated with high wage careers and with career success; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico has examples of career pathways and alignment with education but they are not articulated or aligned in all areas of our state; and

**WHEREAS**, effective educational career experiences for our K-12 students may require legislation and funding to support creative partnerships with industry, including pairing content knowledge industry experts with educational practitioners to provide students with real workforce instruction and apprenticeships; and

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive review of current college and career readiness activities delivered in all grade levels, inclusive of soft skills, academic content, dual credit and certificate programs, along with work-based learning experiences would reveal assets and areas in need of development; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislature could supplement or strengthen the existing Next Step Plan process used to support students as they plan for career and college readiness. The Next Step Plan also needs to be automated and integrated as part of a high school evaluation tool and resource to monitor progress made toward career and college planning and readiness, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the New Mexico State Legislature study and support a strategic plan and funding for implementing college and career readiness programs in K-12 schools, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association.

### **Committee Recommendation:**

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains “Career and Technical Pathways” (page 2, column 1) which supports funding and legislation to establish career and technical pathways, financial assistance, job opportunities and internship programs for high school students. As resolution requests, add language to expand K-12 in schools.*

**Recommend Approval**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 23**

**Submitted By:** Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Support K-5 and ELPT Program Flexibility

**WHEREAS**, The Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA §22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing education policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the board seeks to offer as many opportunities to students in our district as possible, and we participate in both K-5+ and ELPT at every opportunity possible,

**WHEREAS**, the flexibility that the legislature provided in these programs allowed us to participate this last summer even after navigating the challenges of the pandemic and dealing with all of the problems that the COVID restrictions caused for our students and staff,

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by the Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature continue to work with superintendents to provide as much flexibility as possible to allow more districts to participate in these programs.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Current 2021 Legislative Program “Early Childhood/Pre-K Funding” supports full funding for all day pre-school, half-day pre-school for 3 year-olds and K-5 Plus initiatives including flexibility, and operational, facility and transportation costs.***

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 24**

**Submitted By:** Bernalillo Public Schools

**Title:** Per Diem Rate for Elected Officials

Providing that the Bernalillo Public Schools Board of Education supports legislation that respects the valuable contributions of local school boards on local education policy and guidance and honors the time and effort of school members to participate in board meetings.

**WHEREAS**, school boards are elected by their community to represent the values and beliefs of the community and represent the public’s voice in public education, providing citizen governance for what the public schools need and what the community wants; and

**WHEREAS**, school board members each represent constituencies from varied and distinct communities; and  
**WHEREAS**, school members meet with stakeholders to obtain input and feedback regarding the policies of the public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, school board members meet with experts, research best practices in policy, and collaborate with their superintendent to understand current events in schools, and develop a transparent process for developing policies; and

**WHEREAS**, school board members must dedicate many hours outside of school board meetings in reviewing reports, including detailed financial reports, policy recommendations, and extensive research prior; and  
**WHEREAS**, the execution of school programs requires school boards to approve policy and budget in a timely and efficient manner; and

**WHEREAS**, school boards have adopted new technological tools to provide access to members as well as constituents to attend school board meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing school districts to continue to function; and

**WHEREAS**, school boards are now equipped with these tools to continue to provide equitable access to members and stakeholders, allowing members to attend regardless of location, and maintain active participation in school board meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in school board meetings is no longer limited to in-person participation; and

**WHEREAS**, public school systems continue to use emerging technology to provide equitable access for staff, students, administrators, school boards, and stakeholders; and

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Bernalillo Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation establishing a flat per diem of no less than \$95 per meeting for school board members to attend legally authorized school board meetings, training, and other authorized convenings; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains position “Per Diem Payments” (page 4, column 2). “NMSBA supports the continuation of per diem for school board members to attend school board meetings.” As requested in the resolution, add language to support the continuation of per diem of up to \$95.*

**Recommend Approval**

**2022 NON-LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 25**

**Submitted By:** Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Seek NMPED Recognition and Enhancement of Local Board Authority**

*WHEREAS*, in December 2019, a novel corona virus known as SARS-Co V-2 was detected, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that has now spread globally, prompting the Governor of the great State of New Mexico to issue and amend Executive Order 2021-044 on July 23rd, 2021 that requires all who enter a public school to wear a face covering; and

*WHEREAS*, our community's future well-being relies on investing in the cornerstone of our democracy high-quality public education systems that prepare all students for college, careers, and lifelong learning – even in the midst of the national health emergency; and

*WHEREAS*, currently, there is no vaccination available for students under the age of 12; and

*WHEREAS*, our community's, as well as our nation's, future well-being relies on providing our most vulnerable students access to high quality education and program support throughout the national health emergency; and

*WHEREAS*, the risk to reward ratio of wearing face coverings vs not wearing face coverings is now widely understood; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education respects the right of parents to participate in the decision-making process regarding their students' education, health, safety, and well-being; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education respects the right of the district's licensed educators, counselors, administrators, and medical professionals to participate in the decision-making process regarding students' education, health, safety, and well-being; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of school districts in a "one-size-fits all" manner that may ultimately result in the elimination of local school district management that best serves their local communities; and

*WHEREAS*, the education of students must not be further compromised.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, this 18th day of August, 2021 , by the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department recognize that, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA 1978, § 22-5-4, school districts be permitted to adopt rules and policies pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which include the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions, and to develop short- and long-term strategies for the educational success, health, safety, and welfare of students and staff, and to recognize that a "one-size-fits-all" approach does not adequately serve each of New Mexico's eighty-nine school districts.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, the Alamogordo Public School District Board of Education respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive input and then recognize and enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to manage their school districts in a manner that best serves their local communities.



***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, the Alamogordo Public School District Board of Education respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department support and recognize the local Board of Education's ability and responsibility to decide whether to require that masks be worn at Alamogordo Public Schools facilities, activities, and transportation vehicles.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to our Governor, to the New Mexico Public Education Department, and to all New Mexico State Legislators.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a "Improved Collaboration" position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives." Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 26**

**Submitted By:** Artesia Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Seek NMPED Recognition and Enhancement of Local Board Authority**

**WHEREAS**, the Artesia Public Schools Board of Education ("the Board") is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA § 22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing educational policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has, in accordance with its statutory authority, developed educational policies that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of local school districts in a "one-size-fits-all" manner that may ultimately result in the elimination school districts being managed locally and managed in a manner that reflects local community needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this 9th day of August 2021, by the Artesia Public Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department recognize that, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA § 22-5-4, school districts be permitted to adopt rules and policies pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which include the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions, and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success, health, safety, and welfare of students and staff, and to recognize that a "one-size-fits-all" approach does not adequately serve each of New Mexico's eighty-nine school districts.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive input and then recognize and enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to manage school districts in a manner that best reflects their local communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a "Improved Collaboration" position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of*

*new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 27**

**Submitted By:** Carrizozo Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Seek NMPED Recognition and Enhancement of Local Board Authority

**WHEREAS**, the Carrizozo Municipal Schools Board of Education ("the Board") is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA § 22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing educational policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has, in accordance with its statutory authority, developed educational policies that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of local school districts in a "one-size-fits-all" manner that may ultimately result in the elimination school districts being managed locally and managed in a manner that reflects local community needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this 17th day of August, 2021, by the Carrizozo Municipal Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the Education Department recognize that, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSAS 22-5-4, school districts be permitted to adopt rules and policies pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which include the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and

opinions, and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success, health, safety, and welfare of students and staff, and to recognize that a "one-size-fits-all" approach does not adequately serve each of New Mexico's eighty nine school districts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive input and then recognize and enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to manage school districts in a manner that best reflects their local communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a “Improved Collaboration” position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 28**

**Submitted By:** Elida Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Seek NMPED Recognition and Enhancement of Local Board Authority

**WHEREAS**, the Elida Municipal Schools Board of Education ("the Board") is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA § 22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers, and duties which include developing educational policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has, in accordance with its statutory authority, developed educational policies that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of local school districts in a "one-size -fits-all" manner that may ultimately result in the elimination school districts being managed locally and managed in a manner that reflects local community needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this 17th day of August. 2021, by the Elida Municipal Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department recognize that, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA § 22-5-4, school districts be permitted to adopt rules and policies pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which include the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions, and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success, health, safety, and welfare of students and staff, and to recognize that a "one-size-fits-all" approach does not adequately serve each of New Mexico 's eighty-nine school districts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive input and then recognize and enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to manage school districts in a manner that best reflects their local communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.***

***Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a "Improved Collaboration" position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives." Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.***

***Forward to NMPED with no recommendation***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 29**

**Submitted By:** Roswell Independent Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Seek NMPED Recognition and Enhancement of Local Board Authority**

**WHEREAS**, the Roswell Independent School District Board of Education ("the Board") is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

**WHEREAS**, the Public School Code in NMSA § 22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing educational policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has, in accordance with its statutory authority, developed educational policies that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of local school districts in a "one-size-fits-all" manner that may ultimately result in the elimination school districts being managed locally and managed in a manner that reflects local community needs.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, this \_\_\_ day of September, 2021, by the Roswell Independent School District Board of Education that we respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department recognize, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA § 22-5-4, school districts be permitted to adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which includes the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success of students, and recognize that a “one-size-fits-all” approach does not adequately serve each of New Mexico’s eighty-nine school districts.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive input and then recognize and enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to manage school districts in a manner that best reflects their local communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a “Improved Collaboration” position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 30**

**Submitted By:** Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Seek NMPED Recognition and Enhancement of Local Board Authority

***WHEREAS***, The Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) is a local school board established and operating in accordance with the New Mexico Public School Code, NMSA §22-5-2 et seq.;

***WHEREAS***, the Public School Code in NMSA §22-5-4 grants the Board, as a local school board, certain powers and duties which include developing education policies for the school district, overseeing budgeting and procurement, and adopting rules pertaining to the administration of all powers and duties of the local school board;

***WHEREAS***, The Board has, in accordance with its statutory authority, developed education policies that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of its students and staff; and

***WHEREAS***, the Board is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of local school districts in a “one-size-fits-all” manner that may ultimately result in the elimination of school districts being managed locally and managed in a manner that reflects local community needs.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by the Socorro Consolidated Schools Board of Education that the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department recognize that, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA §22-5-4, school districts be permitted to adopt rules and policies pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which include the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions, and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success, health, safety, and welfare of students and staff, and to recognize that a “one-size-fits-all” approach does not adequately serve each of New Mexico’s eighty-nine school districts.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, the Board respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet with representatives of all local school boards to receive input and then recognize and enhance local school board governance that will allow school boards to manage school districts in a manner that best reflects their local communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a “Improved Collaboration” position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 31**

**Submitted By:** Cimarron Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Seek NMPED Reconsideration of COVID-19 Toolkit and Mandates for the 2021-22 School Year**

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico school districts are continuing to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and each Board of Education must act at a local level in the best interests of their school community during this difficult time and based on the unique COVID-19 circumstances in their immediate area;

**WHEREAS**, currently there is not a vaccination against COVID-19 available for students aged 12 or younger;

**WHEREAS**, the long-term impacts of students wearing face coverings is not well understood, has the potential to negatively impact their social and intellectual growth, and has the potential to stigmatize students and staff based on their vaccination status;

**WHEREAS**, the Cimarron Municipal Schools Board of Education (“the Board”) greatly values each parent’s ability to make medical decisions on behalf of their student;

**WHEREAS**, the Board also greatly values the ability for its staff to make the best decisions for themselves and their families;

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy B-0200 grants the Board the authority to develop educational policies for the School District.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this 18th day of August 2021, by the Cimarron Municipal Schools Board of Education that we recognize the importance of allowing parents and staff members to make medical decisions relating to the wearing of facial coverings and that mask mandates may have unintended consequences that are detrimental to the educational environment in schools. To ensure the ongoing support of students, educators, and communities through this worldwide pandemic, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) reconsider its mandates contained in its COVID-19 Response Toolkit (July 26, 2021, version) and that NMPED revise its mandates and Toolkit after considering and recognizing the following:

1. That school districts keep their focus on continuing vigilant and hygienic cleaning practices at school sites, rather than shifting resources to facial covering enforcement.
2. That school districts continue to support the health, safety, and well-being of all students and educators within their districts, and not adopt practices that identify and stigmatize students and staff based on their vaccination status.

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3. That parents should have the ability to make medical decisions in the best interests of their students, this includes whether or not the student would wear a facial covering, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

4. That faculty and staff members of the District should have the ability to make their own medical decisions in their own best interests and the interests of their family to decide whether to wear a facial covering regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

5. That, as part of local school board duties granted under NMSA § 22-5-4, school districts through their local decision making authority be permitted to adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local board, which includes the responsibility to identify community and school district needs and opinions and to develop short and long term strategies for the educational success of students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department support and recognize each local Board of Education’s decision making authority, including the ability and responsibility to make the decision of whether masks will be required to be worn at their local school sites based on the conditions present in their immediate local area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board respectfully requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department meet, in person or virtually, with representatives of all local school boards to receive local community input as it reconsiders the mandates contained in its COVID-19 Toolkit.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a “Improved Collaboration” position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 32**

**Submitted By:** Animas Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support Board Authority and Oppose Restrictive Executive Action**

**WHEREAS**, the Animas Public Schools Board of Education believes that locally elected school boards are best positioned to represent their students, staff, parents, and community members and to implement educational solutions and safety measures aimed at addressing local needs and challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that each New Mexico school district faces unique educational needs and operational challenges, which depend on a variety of factors including demographics, geography, and district size; and

**WHEREAS**, locally elected school boards are held accountable through New Mexico’s elections process; and

**WHEREAS**, under our state’s Open Meeting Act, the business of the Animas Public Schools Board of Education occurs in meetings that are scheduled, publicized and accessible to members of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that standardized, one-size-fits-all school-related mandates from the Governor’s office and the Office of the Public Education Department Secretary regarding our students can stifle innovation and creativity and consume precious and limited staff time and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education maintains that such standardized and inflexible mandates constitute an overreach of State and Public Education Department authority which have subverted local control and interfered with the ability of New Mexico school boards to operate in a manner that best serves their students and their local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education further maintains that our Districts seeks to ensure that decisions related to public schools are made locally when required, and supported by the State, but not taken over by the State without sufficient statutory authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Animas Public Schools Board of Education supports local decision-making authority of school board and opposes executive action that restricts the ability of locally elected school boards to respond to the varied and ever-changing needs of their districts, students, and communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a “Improved Collaboration” position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 33**

**Submitted By:** Clovis Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support Board Authority and Oppose Restrictive Executive Action**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that each New Mexico school district faces unique educational needs and operational challenges, which depend on a variety of factors including demographics, geography and district size; and

**WHEREAS**, locally elected school boards are held accountable through New Mexico's elections process; and **WHEREAS**, under our state's Open Meeting Act, the business of the Clovis Municipal Schools Board of Education occurs in meetings that are scheduled, publicized and accessible to members of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clovis Municipal Schools Board of Education believes that locally elected school boards are best positioned to represent their students, staff, parents and community members and to implement educational solutions and safety measures aimed at addressing local needs and challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes that standardized, one-size-fits-all school-related mandates from the Governor's office and the Office of the Public Education Department Secretary regarding our students can stifle innovation and creativity and consume precious and limited staff time and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education maintains that such standardized and inflexible mandates constitute an overreach of State and Public Education Department authority which have subverted local control and interfered with the ability of New Mexico school boards to operate in a manner that best serves their students and their local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education further maintains that our District seeks to ensure that decisions related to public schools are made locally when required, and supported by the State, but not taken over by the State without sufficient statutory authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Clovis Municipal Schools Board of Education supports local decision-making authority of the school board and opposes executive action that restricts the ability of locally elected school boards to respond to the varied and ever changing needs of their districts, students and communities.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED.*

*Current 2021 Legislative Program contains a “Improved Collaboration” position which encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.” Recommend approving and forwarding to NMPED for discussion and collaboration during the interim.*

**Forward to NMPED with no recommendation**