

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

**RESOLUTION DEMANDING GOVERNOR MURPHY
RESCIND EXECUTIVE ORDER 251**

WHEREAS, by way of an executive order, Governor Murphy continues to mandate masks for school children in Middletown; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated May 27, 2021, members of the Middletown Board of Education requested an elimination of the mask mandate, in favor of allowing masks to be optional; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's inconsistent policies have caused a separation and divide among members of the community and with the Board and District administration; and

WHEREAS, Middletown Township Public Schools have been open safely with in person instruction since September, 2020 and for full time, in-person instruction since May 10, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Middletown Township Public Schools have been operating safely with masks optional, due to heat, since June 2021 and throughout our summer programs, and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the teachers and staff in schools have been vaccinated according to whitehouse.gov

WHEREAS, the District undertook extraordinary measures to secure access to vaccines for all staff as soon as such vaccines were available, resulting in over 80% of Middletown Township School staff being vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, as recently as June 7, 2021, Governor Murphy stated that school officials should be empowered to make decisions based on their community, and their facilities; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2021, Governor Murphy stated "one size doesn't fit all for opening up school districts", and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2021, Commissioner Judith Persichilli stated, "it's up to the individual if they shall want to wear a mask indoors;" and

WHEREAS, the Middletown Board of Education, believes there is no factual basis or change in circumstances present in Middletown from August 2, 2021 to issuance of EO 251 to justify imposition of the mask mandate.

NOW THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED by the Middletown Township Board Of Education that the Board calls upon Governor Murphy to rescind Executive Order 251 and allow school districts to make individual decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor's office and to Senator O'Scanlon and Assemblypersons Scharfenberger and DiMaso, Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Coughlin, and Dr. Allen McMillan, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education.