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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Tracy Grit

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJ: Agenda Items – Policy for Approval

Attached you will find proposed Policy Code for your consideration.

- Policy 4231/5021/7263 – Face Coverings

The board is committed to providing a safe, orderly, and inviting learning environment and is implementing a layered mitigation strategy to lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread in the schools. The board recognizes that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommend the use of face coverings in schools as a method to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and limit the need for quarantining. The use of face coverings will be required to begin the 2021-2022 school year while inside all school buildings and on school buses or other school transportation vehicles, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC Order that requires the wearing of face coverings on all public transportation conveyances.

This policy will remain in effect for the 2021-2022 school year. At least once a month, the board will review this policy and consider the need for modifications. The board will vote to approve this policy, with any necessary modifications, at a regularly scheduled board meeting each month.

Legal References: S.L. 2021-130, sec. 10

Cross References:

Other Resources: *COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools*, updated July 18, 2021, American Academy of Pediatrics, available at https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/; *ED COVID-19 Handbook, Vol. 1: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools*, updated April 2021, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, available at https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf; *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools*, updated August 5, 2021, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html; *Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace*, updated August 13, 2021, Occupational Health and Safety Administration, available at https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework; *Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs*, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services (February 3, 2021), available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-02-03/pdf/2021-02340.pdf; *StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12), Interim Guidance*, updated August 26, 2021, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, available at https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit.pdf

Adopted: