



Resolution

19. RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ABILITY AND INGENUITY OF COMMUNITIES TO MAKE THE BEST, INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR SCHOOLS AND THEIR DISTRICTS' POLICIES FOR OPENING IN FALL 2020

The State Board of Education (the "Board") hereby **ADOPTS** the following Preambles and Resolution:

WHEREAS, a global pandemic, caused by Covid-19, previously unknown, presented, rapidly spread, and infected many with initially an unknown cause, viability, and rate at which those infected succumb. Governments mobilized to protect their citizens, developed policies to isolate the 'most at risk' including those with the potential to be the most susceptible and those who may have the ability to carry and infect others at high risk. As a preventative measure pre-emptive quarantines were imposed impacting many aspects of contemporary society, including public education. In order to mitigate any adverse consequences resulting from the abrupt closing of Ohio school districts mid-way through the spring semester, parameters for expeditiously re-opening schools for the fall 2020 semester are being considered, as emergency measure, by the governor in collaboration with the state health director;

WHEREAS, children are one of our most valuable assets and are largely dependent upon adults for nurture, protection, and providing for health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the quarantine of 2020, a consequence of Covid-19, has affected every student in Ohio, disrupting the structure of teaching and learning with a potential of long-term impact on student future success and therefore that of the American economy; and

WHEREAS, the local community consisting of students, their parents, teachers, school and district administrators, are ultimately the most acquainted with, and heavily invested, in their students, their success, their values; and are the most informed regarding when and how their schools should open.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, it is the contention of the Board, tasked to support student learning success by providing oversight of K-12 public education, to acknowledge the ingenuity and competency of an informed, invested community, and acknowledge the collaboration of community, district administrators, and the local health department, as the best caretaker of its students and use of its assets and resources to support student learning, and has the wherewithal to determine the best policies for opening its schools fall of 2020.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the State Board of Education at its meeting on July 14, 2020.

Columbus, Ohio
July 14, 2020



Paolo DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction