**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**

**GRANDVIEW-HOPKINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RELATING TO**

**THE MODIFICATION OF COVID-19 FACE COVERING PROTOCOLS**

At a lawfully called Board meeting on March 11, 2021, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Grandview-Hopkins Independent School District (“District”) does hereby make the following Resolution regarding the modification to existing COVID-19 face covering protocols, and other matters incident and related thereto:

WHEREAS, the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, issued a proclamation declaring a “NationalEmergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”) Outbreak” recognizing the threat of COVID-19 to public health;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Texas (“Governor”) on March 13, 2020, certified that COVID-19 posed an imminent threat of disaster, and in accordance with the authority vested in the Governor by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas (“Disaster Declaration”);

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. GA-29, which required face coverings inside any building or space open to the public, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Agency (“Agency”) issued numerous guidance documents requiring school districts to implement protocols requiring the use of face coverings while inside school buildings and when other mitigation techniques, such as social distancing, were unavailable;

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021 the Governor issued Executive Order No. GA-34, in which he recognized that hospitalizations and the rate of new COVID-19 cases have steadily declined statewide such that the need for some existing statewide COVID-19 protocols, specifically face coverings, had been reduced;

WHEREAS, because of the progress made with respect to COVID-19, effective March 10, 2021,the Governor lifted the statewide mandate regarding face coverings and empowered local decision-makers to evaluate the need for face covering based on specific local circumstances, if necessary;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. GA-34 stated, “Public schools may operate as provided by, and under the minimum standard health protocols found in, guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency;”

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021 the Agency amended its School Year 2020-2021 Public Health Guidance (“Guidance”) to reflect the Governor’s mandate to permit local decision-making regarding the use of face coverings as a COVID-19 mitigation measure;

WHEREAS, the Guidance now expressly allows the governing board of a school system by formal action to modify or eliminate any face mask-related requirements put in place in accordance with Agency guidance;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the findings of the Governor that masks are no longer required as part of the State’s COVID-19 mitigation strategy, and understands that this decision is based on the information at his disposal;

WHEREAS, the Board believes, in light of this guidance from the Governor that there are sufficient COVID-19 protocols in place, that continuing to require face coverings within the District is unnecessary, although encouraged;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the statements contained in the preamble of this Resolution are true and correct and adopted as findings of fact and operative provisions hereof; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grandview-Hopkins ISD Board of Trustees hereby eliminates the requirement to wear face coverings from the District’s existing COVID-19 protocols as it applies to students, staff, and visitors, effective as of March 12, 2021, and instead, consistent with the guidance stated in Executive Order No. GA-34, strongly encourages all students, staff, and visitors to wear face coverings at school whenever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grandview-Hopkins ISD Board of Trustees further authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to re-institute a requirement regarding the use of face coverings in the event of the following: (1) new guidance from the Governor or the Texas Education Agency indicates that face coverings should be required; (2) the County Judge issues a lawful Order directing the use of face coverings in public; or (3) the Superintendent of Schools, in the Superintendent’s sole discretion and subject to Board ratification, finds that a significant COVID-19 outbreak within the school community warrants reinstituting the face covering requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District’s Board of Trustees expressly authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take any and all action necessary to carry out the wishes of the Board as expressed in this Resolution.

 All other mitigating measures required by the Agency in its Guidance shall continue to be observed by the District.

 This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so resolved.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

**PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD BOARD SECRETARY**