Oakdale Joint Unified School District

Board Resolution No. 21-22-09

Resolution Calling for State Officials to Recommend and Not Require the COVID-19 Vaccine for Students and Staff

WHEREAS, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced October 1, 2021, that California would be the first state in the nation to require all students to be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom’s announcement stated students will be required to be vaccinated, or complete an approved exemption form for in-person learning, starting the term following FDA full approval of the vaccine for their grade span (7-12 and K-6); and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom is directing the California Department of Public Health to add the COVID-19 vaccine to other vaccinations required for in-person school attendance—such as measles, mumps, and rubella—pursuant to the Health and Safety Code sections 120325 – 120380, which will remove the personal belief exemption option for families; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccine requirements will apply to all “pupil[s] of any private or public elementary or secondary school[s]” (HSC section 120335(b)); and

WHEREAS, this mandate will be a condition of in-person attendance (HSC section 120335(f)), and any student who is not vaccinated, and does not complete an approved exemption form, may remain enrolled in independent study but may not attend in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom has directed adults be held to the same standards as students for the COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom’s announcement states the current verify-or-test requirement for staff will be converted to a vaccine mandate no later than when the first phase of the student requirement becomes effective; and

WHEREAS, Oakdale Joint Unified School District, and all other California School districts already struggle to find qualified employees for both certificated and classified positions, and the COVID-19 vaccine requirement is likely to create more open jobs (with currently about 35% of Oakdale Joint Unified School District employees unvaccinated); and

WHEREAS, Oakdale Joint Unified School District supports local control and decision making; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, a mandate such as this appears to discriminate against people of color disproportionately; therefore, creating racial, ethnic, and philosophical issues with the mandate, as evidenced by the ethnic breakdown of COVID-19 vaccination rates referenced by CDPH; and

WHEREAS, Oakdale Joint Unified School District public schools have operated in-person learning safely since reopening in the fall of 2020 without available vaccines or COVID-19 vaccination mandates for most of that time; and

WHEREAS, Oakdale Joint Unified School District parents have expressed concern regarding the lack of research on long-term impacts on children for the COVID-19 vaccine;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

The Board requests Governor Newsom and other state officials:

a. Reconsider the impact of the Vaccination Mandate on all students and staff in K-12 public schools, including the anticipated interruption in attendance for many students whose parents elect not to vaccinate them, which will impede their access to academic instruction, social and emotional skills, reliable nutrition, physical and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity.

b. Eliminate the Vaccination Mandate or guarantee a permanent allowance for clear exemptions, including exemptions for students with natural immunity due to COVID-19 exposure and for families with sincerely held religious or personal beliefs that conflict with the mandate.

c. Provide flexibility to allow local school districts, in consultation with the local public health officials, to independently determine alternative COVID-19 safety protocols and mitigations with respect to COVID-19 vaccinations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Oakdale Joint Unified School District respectfully asks that the State of California legislature uphold the constitutionally guaranteed right to provide informed consent before proceeding with any medical procedure of residents of the State of California for themselves and their children, and recommend and not require the COVID-19 vaccine for students and staff of TK-12 grade Local Education Agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Oakdale Joint Unified School District will not deny a student access to in-person instruction regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Oakdale Joint Unified School District will not deny employment to any staff member regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing board is aware that many parents have concerns about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine and believes that parental choice regarding health decisions is absolutely essential, and that there is limited evidence of any serious health impact on children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Oakdale Joint Unified School District will petition the State of California that the COVID-19 Vaccine be a recommendation and not a requirement for students and staff.

Adopted this 13th day of December in 2021

Motion made and Second made by: House/Betschart

Members voting “aye”: Betschart, Gilbert, House, Shatswell

Members voting “No”: Taylor

[Signature]
Clerk of the Governing Board