

Issaquah School District #411
Issaquah, Washington
RESOLUTION 1157

A RESOLUTION of the Issaquah School District Board of Directors on Returning Students to In-Person Learning.

WHEREAS, the Issaquah School Board has previously adopted a resolution committed to reviewing and updating the District's Covid-19 response plan(s), "with the goal of phasing in in-person learning with a priority to students furthest from educational equity" and has indicated that this would include students who are not yet able to read, and

WHEREAS, the Issaquah School Board further defines students furthest from educational equity as ECE, LRC I, LRC II, ELL, students experiencing homelessness and students with an IEP or 504 accommodations, and

WHEREAS, the District began the 2020-21 school year in a "remote learning" model and has only been able to provide in-person learning to select student populations in special education and pre-school, and

WHEREAS, the District has yet to provide in-person learning to all students who are furthest away from educational equity, and

WHEREAS, the District has committed to follow health and safety protocols proscribed by the Department of Labor & Industries, and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the benefit of our students, our employees and the public, and

WHEREAS, the District has also demonstrated a successful track record of COVID-19 mitigation strategies for students and staff who have already returned to in-person learning, and

WHEREAS, a third of the school year has nearly transpired, and

WHEREAS, the District asserts, based on reporting from Public Health Seattle/King County, that the learning loss and mental health impacts due to isolation and lack of normalcy to our students during this pandemic has been significant, especially to those furthest from educational education, and

WHEREAS, continued remote learning will cause greater learning loss, requiring significant remediation for multiple years, and

WHEREAS, the District has a duty to ameliorate the negative impacts associated with remote learning and believes that in-person learning has, does, and will better address student needs, and

WHEREAS, the District interprets the guidance provided by the "Decision Tree for Provision of In-Person Learning of K-12 Students" to allow for younger learners to be educated in person as those students aged pre-school to 3rd grade and

WHEREAS, there is mounting scientific evidence that children under the age of 10 demonstrate very low transmission rates to adults outside of their homes, and

WHEREAS, Issaquah School District, when calculating case counts within our 110 square mile boundary using data provided by King County Department of Health, is experiencing case counts significantly lower than King County as a whole, and

WHEREAS, failure to provide in-person learning has had a severe impact on District operations and has eroded public confidence in the District, and

WHEREAS, negotiations between the District and the Issaquah Education Association for the MOU related to springtime remote learning required 2 weeks and 6 bargaining sessions, and

WHEREAS, negotiations between the District and the Issaquah Education Association for the MOU related to summer school in-person learning required just over 4 weeks and 9 bargaining sessions, and

WHEREAS, negotiations between the District and the Issaquah Education Association for the MOU related to remote learning required 3 weeks and 10 bargaining sessions, and

WHEREAS, negotiations between the District and the Issaquah Education Association for the MOU related to in-person learning for ECE, LRCII and ACT required 2 weeks and 5 bargaining sessions, and

WHEREAS, the District and the Issaquah Education Association began meeting to negotiate the return of in-person learning for K-3 students beginning the week of September 28, 2020 and have met 10 times,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Issaquah School District that:

1. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to make the most efficient use of public funds and resources and take such action as is necessary to have our early learners (Grades K-1 then 2-3) begin to return to the physical classroom as close as possible to the beginning of the second trimester, and
2. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to continue to negotiate in good faith with the Issaquah Education Association and other labor groups in an urgent and expeditious manner.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Issaquah School District No. 411, King County, Washington at an open public meeting of the Board of Directors held this 12th day of November 2020 with the following directors being present and voting:

President

Director

Director

ATTEST:

Director

Ron Thiele, Secretary

Director