Administration

Tana Daugherty – Superintendent Jocelyne Gillespie – CHS Principal Melissa Adkins – Counselor Robyn Cook - K-8 Principal Gwen Huston - Business Manager Cloudcroft Municipal Schools P.O. Box 198 Cloudcroft, New Mexico 88317 **Board of Education**

Gerold Green - President Kody Adams - V. President Lance Wright - Secretary Daniel Hughes - Member Danny Ward- Member

Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Board of Education

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 was first detected, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 that has now spread globally; and prompting the Governor and Secretary of Health of the great State of New Mexico to issue and amend Executive and Public Health Orders requiring all unvaccinated (and in some instances all vaccinated) individuals who enter a public place, including schools, to wear a face covering; and

WHEREAS, the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Board of Education believes our community's future well-being relies on investing in the cornerstone of our democracy – high-quality public education systems that prepare all students for college, careers, democracy, and lifelong learning even in the midst of this national health emergency; and

WHEREAS, there is no vaccination currently available for students under the age of 12; and

WHEREAS, Board of Education holds that both our community's and our nation's future well-being relies on providing high quality in-person educational opportunities and programs to our most vulnerable students throughout the national health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that the covering of the mouths of students and educators can have a detrimental effect on (especially younger) students' abilities to progress and develop, as the covering of mouths can impact students' ability to grasp fundamental concepts of reading specifically: phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education maintains that there is insufficient evidence to definitively show that the benefits of wearing face coverings off-sets the harms posed by wearing face coverings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education highly values and recognizes the right of parents to make decisions that are best for their students and family; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education highly values and respects the right of District personnel to make personal healthcare decisions that are best for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education maintains that the continued quality education of our students must not be compromised in any manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Board of Education supports the rescission of all legislation, executive or agency orders, or state guidance requiring mask wearing, or other mask mandates, and advocates for allowing all individuals in our schools to choose for themselves whether or not they wear a mask, regardless of COVID–19 vaccination status. Likewise, the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Board of Education supports:

- 1. the freedom for parents to decide if their student will wear a mask in the school setting, regardless of vaccination status;
- 2. the freedom for staff to decide if they will wear a mask in the school setting, regardless of vaccination status;
- 3. the continued hyper-vigilant hygienic practices that are currently being practiced in our school districts; and
- 4. ensuring support for the safety, health, and well-being of students and educators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Board of Education implores that the Governor of the great State of New Mexico rescind and or repeal any executive order or action that mandates the wearing of masks in our schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Board of Education implores the New Mexico Public Education Department to support and recognize the local Board of Education's authority and ability to make responsible decisions regarding

whether mask wearing should or will be required at Cloudcroft Municipal Schools' facilities, activities, and transportation vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to our Governor, to the New Mexico Public Education Department, and to all New Mexico State legislators.

ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools, Otero County, New Mexico, at the public board meeting thereof, held this 6th day of August, 2021.

ATTEST: Board of Education:

Gerold Green, President

Kody Adams, Vice-President

Lance Wright, Secretary

Daniel Hughes, Member

Danny Ward, Member