



**The Natick School Committee**

Julie McDonough, Chair  
Matthew Brand, Vice Chair  
Dr. Donna McKenzie, Clerk  
Hayley Sonnenborn  
Cathi Collins  
Henry Haugland  
Dr. Shai Fuxman

March 8, 2021

**NATICK SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
EXPEDITED COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR EDUCATORS**

WHEREAS, as of February 1, 2021, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has infected over 26.2 million individuals in the United States and has resulted in more than 441,296 deaths across the country and 14,577 in Massachusetts; and,

WHEREAS, our strong public education system, which is essential to the individual and community well-being of our society, is facing unprecedented challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic and lack of clear national, state, and local direction or resources. These challenges include, but are not limited to, the academic and social emotional toll on students, as well as the need to rapidly pivot to in distance learning; clean and equip it school facilities to adapt to new health protocols and social distancing; assess and address the risks to teachers, staff, and students; and

WHEREAS, widespread mask wearing, social distancing, and handwashing are scientifically proven to help prevent the Coronavirus infections; and

WHEREAS, although COVID testing and contact tracing, currently the only effective strategy available to slow the coronavirus spread prior to the FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine becoming more available, it is insufficient to support the public education system in our country; and

WHEREAS, vaccines are proven to be the most effective strategy to reduce and eliminate the spread of infectious diseases and are an important and necessary tool for eradicating disease; and

WHEREAS, many of the steps our nation has taken to safeguard our communities against COVID-19 have been conditioned upon the development and ultimate availability of a vaccine; and

WHEREAS, once an effective, safe COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the FDA, federal and state leaders must create a fair, equitable and efficient distribution system; and

WHEREAS, initial vaccine production will not be sufficient for all people to be vaccinated at the outset. A well-managed priority distribution plan must give priority to the most highly vulnerable in the community, including essential workers; and

WHEREAS, workers in a wide variety of settings—healthcare, education, public employment, meat packing and agriculture, among others—are at increased risk of work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2,

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**Natick Schools Central Office:**

13 East Central Street  
Natick MA 01760

<http://www.natickps.org>

508 • 647 • 6500 (phone)  
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the virus that causes COVID-19. These workers are entitled to all evidence-based protections from exposure at work, including access to a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, a free and open K-12 public education system is integral to the functioning of our community. The inability to safely open schools could compromise the long-term educational outcomes for many students, especially our most vulnerable students; the mental and physical health of many students; the lives and livelihoods of many families in our community; and the local and state economy. The full extent of the ripple effects of an inability to safely open schools are unknown, but potentially significant; and

WHEREAS, given the unique and critical role that our K-12 public education system plays in the functioning of our community, society, and our democracy, it is critical that teachers and classified staff be prioritized among essential workers who are given access to an approved COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, if public school personnel are relegated to a later phase of vaccine priority, the ripple effects of school closures will be intensified and prolonged; and

WHEREAS, if, on the other hand, public school personnel are prioritized in the distribution of a safe and effective vaccine, one of the significant challenges to reopening schools, and keeping them open, will be diminished or eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is currently planning a COVID-19 Vaccination Plan that has teachers prioritized in Phase 2, Group 3, for which group one of Phase 2 began February 1, 2021.

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT, the Natick School Committee calls on the State Legislature, the Governor, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, to include all certificated and classified school personnel to be prioritized for access to a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it becomes available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Natick School Committee calls on the State Legislature, the Governor, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to develop a specific and actionable vaccination plan for all school personnel with urgency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Natick School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to publicly advocate for public school educators to be prioritized among essential workers who are given access to an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Natick School Committee directs the district the Superintendent to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Governor of Massachusetts, Congressman Dan Carey, State Senator Joanne M. Comerford, and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) .

On roll call, the order was approved by the following vote:

YEAS –

NAYS –

ABSENT –

Passed and adopted by the Natick School Committee this 8th day of March, 2021.

Attest: Rose McDermott  
Executive Secretary