

**RESOLUTION OF THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
IN SUPPORT OF REDEFINING “CLOSE CONTACT”
AS APPLIED TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has presented unprecedented challenges to every aspect of public education in the reopening of schools during the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Health published health recommendations for the management of COVID-19 in schools on July 23, 2020, and revised on September 2, 2020, adopting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for “close contact”;

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Health requires close contacts to be quarantined at home from a period of at least fourteen (14) days, or longer, from the date of the student or teacher’s last exposure to a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the CDC updated the definition for “close contact” on October 21, 2020, now requiring individuals who are within six feet of an infected person or persons for at least fifteen (15) *cumulative* minutes over a twenty-four (24) hour period;

WHEREAS, current and previous definitions of “close contact” have created an additional, demonstrable administrative burden on an overburdened public education system;

WHEREAS, for every confirmed case of COVID-19 within Wilson County Schools, approximately four (4) students or staff members must be quarantined on average, based on District data;

WHEREAS, schools have had to physically close and resort to remote learning for students due to the quarantine requirements adopted by the Tennessee Department of Health for “close contact”;


WHEREAS, Wilson County Schools anticipates that the most recent revision to the definition for “close contact” by the CDC will result in the ratio for COVID-19 positive cases to required close contact quarantines to grow exponentially, resulting in a substantial disruption to the school system; and

WHEREAS, face coverings and social distancing have been scientifically shown to be effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and should be considered as an alternative mitigating measure to a mandated quarantine for close contacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved unanimously by all of the Board Members on this 7 day of November, 2020 that the Wilson County Board of Education:

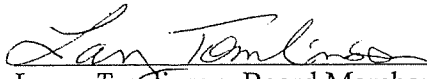
Supports and respectfully requests that the Tennessee Department of Health review and revise the definition utilized for “close contacts” who are required to quarantine due to exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19, taking into account mitigating measures such as face coverings and social distancing, in light of the overwhelming administrative burden that contact tracing and quarantining of close contacts has on school district students, staff, and teachers.


Carrie Hartzog Pfeiffer, Board Member

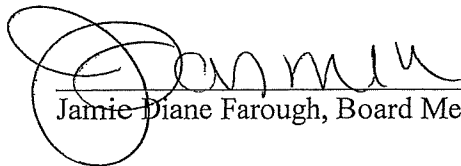

Bill Robinson, Board Member


Jon White, Board Member


Linda Armistead, Board Member


Larry Tomlinson, Board Member


Kimberly McGee, Board Member


Jamie Diane Farough, Board Member

