

**RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH AND TO REVISE QUARANTINING
AND CONTACT TRACING RULES**

WHEREAS we have endured a year long pandemic resulting in our students being away from their school buildings and isolated from peers and teachers for the better part of a year; and

WHEREAS mental health issues, suicide, and substance abuse have increased nationwide in students during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education recognizes the mental health challenges facing our students, teachers, administrators and staff at this unprecedented time; and

WHEREAS we want to begin a healing process by attending to mental health challenges our students, teachers, administrators have, and the administration of Grosse Pointe Public Schools will present to the Board of Education a plan to address these issues.

WHEREAS we recognize that in person learning is the best way for our students to learn; and

WHEREAS, based on the scientific data available, in-person learning in schools has **not** been associated with substantial community transmission or transmission in GPPSS. Furthermore, multiple scientific studies, as well as the data within our own schools, indicate the low risk of COVID-19 spread in schools, including GPPSS; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its guidelines and now recommends that, "with universal masking, students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings; " and

WHEREAS, GPPSS has implemented comprehensive and successful layered mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in GPPSS; and

WHEREAS the quarantining of "close contacts" in GPPSS has not resulted in positive COVID-19 cases in the overwhelming numbers of students quarantined; and

WHEREAS, we are unnecessarily removing students from in person classroom learning, the very best place for our students to learn, based upon rules that are not mitigating COVID-19 spread, causing our students increased stress, anxiety and sadness; and

WHEREAS, teachers, administrators and staff have been subjected to increased stress, anxiety and an elevated workload as a result of this quarantining.

WHEREAS NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. OBJECTIVE. The District shall provide a plan that addresses the mental health of students, teachers and staff with initiatives both inside and out of the classroom, the purpose of which is to engage our counselors, psychologists and social workers to provide ways to open up dialogue and address the challenges students, teachers and staff are facing.

2. The Board stands ready to address any special requests for additional funds or resources needed to implement this initiative effectively.
3. This district shall revise contact tracing procedures keeping our students, teachers and staff safe, while mitigating occasions where students are placed in quarantine when they are not infected with COVID-19. This is also important in addressing the mental health of GPPSS students, teachers and staff.

The plan includes the following revisions to GPSSS policy on contact tracing and quarantine.

- a. Per CDC Guidelines, contract tracing shall be conducted to trace students to a distance of 3 feet, not 6 feet.
- b. For students identified as a 'close contact' GPPSS shall allow students to return to the school setting after 10 days rather than 14 days.
- c. With respect to contact tracing, if a student is or has been identified as a "close contact," the student may obtain a rapid test on the 5th day (or later) from the date of COVID contact. If the test yields a negative COVID test, the student may return to the classroom on day 7, following the date of the COVID contact.

The above three changes to contact tracing shall take immediate effect upon adoption of this resolution.

GPPSS will continue to follow all MHSAA mandates regarding COVID protocols and contact tracing for athletic activities.