CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE DISTRICT’S MODEL FRAMEWORK FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 health crisis, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine ordered the closure to students of all Ohio K-12 schools from March 16, 2020 to the end of the 2019-20 school year; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine and most members of the General Assembly have said that local boards of education will control decisions about when and whether to return to school for the 2020-21 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has received deep and meaningful feedback from the Cincinnati Public Schools community about the decision to return to school – including but not limited to a community survey that received more than 6,200 responses, three public board meetings that included prolonged hearings of the public, a meeting of the Cincinnati Public Schools Strategic Engagement and Planning (StEP) Committee, and other direct communications with feedback from students, parents, partners, principals, teachers, staff members and Cincinnati Public Schools union representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered multiple options for returning to school ranging from fully remote to fully in-person models, along with numerous hybrid and blended considerations developed at the direction of the Board, under the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the requirements of the State of Ohio, and the advice of Cincinnati Children's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, as a result of comprehensive research, the administration used a risk assessment and management process to develop options from which the Board would select; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed these models and models that have been proposed in neighboring and urban school districts in Ohio, and models that have been implemented in other countries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, having fully considered the potential options for returning to school in the 2020-21 school year, the Board determines to implement the following model:

The District will implement a blended learning model with half the students attending school at a time – students will alternate between two-days-per-week and three-days-per-week schedules and receive remote instruction on days when they are not in school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in lieu of returning to school in-person, District families may opt for remote learning opportunities at Cincinnati Digital Academy or Virtual High School, and will have the right to return to the student's school for a period of up to one year.