

GENERAL

Item 6.a: Prior to discussion on this item, Pamela Spence addressed the Board via public comment to share a statement from the CSEA website to share CSEA's stand on vaccines, their commitment to ensuring the safety of students and staff at schools, and the need for everyone to do their part.

It was moved by Trustee Barbara Dunsheath and seconded by Trustee Jeffrey P. Brown to direct the District to ensure that all employees and students over the age of five who enter District facilities or come on campus be fully vaccinated or submit for weekly on-site testing (if not vaccinated) through the remainder of calendar year 2022. With this change, students will no longer have to prove vaccination status in order to register for classes. Employees and students who have been previously approved for religious or medical exemptions as defined by law will still be able to test weekly on site.

Trustee Ryan Bent expressed appreciation that the matter was brought before the Board and stated concern with mandated vaccines and the District requiring a potential third and fourth vaccine. He noted that ultimately those who are vaccinated can still get and spread COVID, that a two class system provides a false sense of security, and support for weekly testing.

Trustee Jeffrey P. Brown asked if the proposed policy matched other districts. Chancellor Breland responded that staff inquired with surrounding districts and that Coast, Rancho Santiago, and South Orange County Community College Districts have vaccine mandates in place until the Board changes it otherwise.

Trustee Ed Lopez sought clarification on the proposal which read like it was eliminating the mandate because it would allow for weekly testing for those that opt to not vaccinate. Chancellor Breland responded that yes that was being proposed in response to students and enrollment. Staff provided further clarification on the screening processes that would clear students to be on campus and how new students would not have to file for an exemption but would have to commit to weekly testing. Trustee Ed Lopez stated that would result in fewer students being vaccinated and that the District should maintain mandatory vaccination due to recent COVID-19 surges in 18 countries. He noted that vaccinations are the most effective tool to end the pandemic, that the CDC recommends everyone be vaccinated and receive a booster, and that the District should keep the vaccine requirement and require a booster too.

Trustee Evangelina Rosales shared her support for continuing to require vaccines for students and requiring proof once they come on campus.

Trustee Stephen T. Blount stated that he was leaning towards not approving the motion and that the District should maintain the current vaccine requirements and process.

Trustee Barbara Dunsheath inquired whether if it was known what was driving the enrollment decline, how many students did not enroll because of the vaccine requirement, the impact on NOCE parenting and Kid's College classes, the split between in-person and online course offerings and whether high schools require vaccination. Subsequently she noted her desire to encourage vaccination and not go back, but concern with the age inclusion.

Student Trustee Erin Lacorte expressed support for extending the vaccine mandate and including a booster and highlighted the CDC recommendation for both and concern that the campuses would lose students and faculty if vaccines are eliminated.

Chancellor Breland clarified that the District cannot bar students from registering because of vaccination status.

Trustee Ed Lopez provided a friendly amendment to the motion and it was accepted by Trustees Brown and Dunsheath. The revised motion stated that the Board direct the District to keep the current vaccine mandate for all employees and students over the age of five who enter District facilities or come on campus, but extend it to include a single booster requirement for those over the age of 12 through the remainder of calendar year 2022. [emphasis added] **Motion carried with Trustees Brown, Dunsheath, Lopez, Rodarte, and Rosales voting yes, including Student Trustee Lacorte's advisory vote and Trustees Bent and Blount voting no.**

Further authorization was granted to delegate authority to the Chancellor to take any and all actions necessary to develop and implement the COVID-19 vaccine requirement including processes for testing, record keeping, use of campus facilities, accommodations, and other related items.