

Received: Tuesday, February 1
From: Allan Stevo
Title: Agenda Proposal — Exemption Recognition

The Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, has repeatedly cautioned local school boards to take a high level of caution in order to prevent community spread of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, its variants, and the illness known as Covid-19, concerns that this board takes very seriously.

Our school board has and will continue to diligently follow all health mandates of the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department, California Department of Public Health, and US Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our school district has a long history of accommodating medical and developmental exemption requests. It has long been the policy of our board to handle those requesting exemption to generally applicable school policies as honorable in their request.

Given recent accusations that this board has behaved in a discriminatory fashion, this board proclaims for all to hear that this board, in no uncertain terms does not engage in any form of illegal discrimination and fully honors all requests for accommodation.

It is not now and never will be this board's intention to discriminate. All requests for exemption to a mask policy or other Covid-19 related policy will be presumed legitimate until proven otherwise. All requests for exemption from a student, employee, contractor, subcontractor, volunteer, parent, or visitor will be presumed legitimate until proven otherwise.

The verbiage, "I am unable to wear a face mask safely," "I have a medical condition which prevents me from wearing a face mask," "I have a disability or health condition which prevents me from wearing a face mask," or similar verbiage to that effect will be verbiage understood by this school district to be sufficient for invoking legitimate exemptions to the face mask requirement.

The verbiage, "I am unable to wear a face shield safely," "I have a medical condition which prevents me from wearing a face shield safely," "I have a disability or health condition which prevents me from wearing a face shield safely," or similar verbiage to that effect will be verbiage understood by this school district to be sufficient for invoking legitimate exemptions to the face shield requirement.

The same or similar verbiage will be sufficient to invoke a legitimate exemption for other health protocols that may be put into place.

Such verbiage may be delivered orally, through American Sign Language, or in written format.

No employee or representative of the district will be punished or reprimanded for honoring such a request. It is the direction of this board that all employees or representatives honor such a request.

Given the strain on our medical system currently being experienced, this board does not intend to add further strain to the system by requiring additional documentation.

Given the strain being experienced by the entire system of government, no further clarification of this policy will be sought from any other government body. No employee of this district is authorized to seek further clarification on this matter.

As the resources of the district are strained, it is the direction of this board that no resources be used disproving requests for face mask or face shield exemptions, that the resources of the district be spent to stop the spread of Covid-19, that resources be dedicated to keeping all members of our community safe, that resources be dedicated to educating our students and caring for our staff to the very best of this board's ability and this district's ability.

Covid-19 is a serious concern, discrimination is a serious concern, and this board vows to take both very seriously until both have been defeated.