WHEREAS, the United States of America and the State of Indiana have faced a pandemic caused by the coronavirus and COVID-19;

WHEREAS, through Executive Orders 20-05 and 20-16, Governor Holcomb closed all schools from March 19, 2020 until June 30, 2020;

WHEREAS, Indiana observed a reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases during May and June 2020, but recent national, Midwest, Indiana and Marion County trends have identified increases in COVID-19 cases, including new precautions imposed by the Marion County Public Health Department (“MCPHD”) and the Governor;

WHEREAS, federal, state and local officials and agencies have encouraged school corporations to return to in-person instruction for the coming 2020-2021 school year while recognizing the discretion of local school boards to make final decisions;

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2020, the Board of Education tentatively approved the Washington Township Reopening of Schools Plan (2020) (“Reopening Plan”) of the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, Marion County, Indiana (the “District”) pending further input from stakeholders and monitoring of public health developments;

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2020, the Board of Education postponed the implementation of the Reopening Plan in favor of virtual instruction only beginning with the start of school until further notice from the Board of Education;

WHEREAS, since its July 13, 2020, meeting, the Board of Education has continued to receive input from public health officials at a study session on July 21, 2020, discussing the additional information at its regularly-scheduled July 22, 2020, meeting, and through MCPHD updates relayed from the Superintendent;

WHEREAS, the District remains committed to providing a free, appropriate, public education to its students in service to our community;

WHEREAS, the safety of students and their families and employees of the District remains a central concern to the District; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 in Indiana with updates from international, federal, state, and local governmental agencies.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of Education’s delay of in-person instruction and implementation of synchronous and asynchronous virtual instruction will continue until further notice from the Board of Education. However, the following may occur in-person in accordance with applicable laws, policies and practices:

   a. Instruction or services for students in our PACES Program or with significant needs that simply cannot be met virtually as determined by a student’s case conference committee and as set forth in a student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) (transportation provided as determined necessary by an IEP);

   b. Hilltop Developmental Preschool Student Evaluations (transportation not provided);

   c. ENL assessments, including administering the W-APT Placement Test (transportation provided);

   d. Kindergarten Readiness assessments (transportation not provided);

   e. Cummins Mental Health services (transportation not provided); and

   f. J. Everett Light Career Center (“JEL”) programs where minimum hours of in-person instruction or supervised, hands-on assignments mandated by state law (transportation may be provided when necessary for WT students).

2. The Board of Education will continue to evaluate public health metrics for Marion County at public meetings and study sessions to determine when to return to in-person instruction.

3. The Board of Education will announce the return to in-person instruction at a public meeting no less than two-three weeks prior to the start of in-person instruction so that the District has sufficient time to update the Plan with input and collaboration from stakeholders and implement its procedures and protocols.
4. During this online learning period, all staff should report to work in-person per their respective, normal schedules with the previously determined and communicated COVID-19 workplace safety procedures and protocols in place. Certain positions may have modified roles and responsibilities during this all-virtual learning period as necessary to meet the needs of the District. Human Resources will evaluate telework options with employees and designate in accordance with policies, procedures and applicable laws.

5. All District extracurricular and co-curricular events or programs are further suspended, for programs already started for the 2020-2021 school year, or postponed, for programs yet to begin for the 2020-2021 school year.

6. WT athletics for grades 6-12 may commence in accordance with MCPHD guidance using Indiana High School Athletic Association (“IHSAA”) and Indiana Department of Education (“IDOE”) protocols. MCPHD guidance must be followed, even if it is different than IHSAA protocols.

   Athletic participation is optional, and athletes should follow guidance of their health care providers regarding participation. Transportation will not be provided for practice during virtual school. Athletic schedules cannot interfere with virtual academic schedules.

   Sports may not continue, and may be suspended, without a head coach or assistant coach in attendance due to COVID-19 implications.

   MCPHD and Indiana State Department of Health guidance regarding public events will be followed, even if such guidance is in conflict with IHSAA or IDOE guidance. Additionally, the District concessions may be suspended, face coverings for all spectators will be required, and family social distancing of 6 feet or more will be required for all events.

7. Use of District facilities after August 1, 2020, will be suspended until further notice from the District unless otherwise permitted by this Resolution.

8. The Superintendent, or her designee, is authorized to make modifications to contracts as necessary for services not needed to support virtual instruction.

9. All student trips and staff trips (i.e., Conferences or Professional Development) sponsored by the District or one of its schools are suspended until further notice from the District.
District Administration is delegated the full power and authority by this Board of Education to implement and carry out the provisions of the foregoing and any and all district policies and regulations or other District documents inconsistent with the foregoing which would otherwise prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in carrying out or implementing the same in order to respond to the pandemic are hereby waived and suspended as allowed by law.

In exercising the above authority, the Superintendent or her designee will keep members of the Board of Education reasonably informed of actions taken pursuant to the foregoing authority.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this third day of August, 2020 by at least a majority vote of the entire Board in a public meeting.

William Turner, President
Board of Education

Anthony S. Dzwonar, Secretary
Board of Education