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Special Meeting on Masks

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To: BRADLEY BUCK <bbuck@waukeeschools.org>, Wendy Marsh <wmarsh@waukeeschools.org>, WENDY LISKEY <wliskey@waukeeschools.org>, LORI LYON <llyon@waukeeschools.org>, Alex Smith <asmith@waukeeschools.org>, Mary Scheve <mscheve@waukeeschools.org>, Dan Gehlbach <dgehlbach@waukeeschools.org>, Dave Cunningham <dcunningham@waukeeschools.org>

Dear Board Members and Superintendent Buck,

I'm sure you're getting inundated with emails this week, but I hope at least one of you will take the time to acknowledge this one with a response.

Please explain why you've called a special board meeting tonight to discuss masking up our kids when 99.75% of our students and faculty are happy and healthy at school? This makes no sense - it's clearly not a public health decision, then what is it? Political fear mongering? Caving into the radical bullies that want to strip us all of our God-given liberties? Why are you doing this to our kids? It's completely unethical and inhumane to even entertain the idea of covering the faces of our beautiful, amazing and HEALTHY Waukee students and teachers.

Here are the facts:

- Children do NOT have a substantial role in coronavirus spread
- Children recover very quickly, and
- SCIENCE has proven (although you'll never hear this in the media or from "Dr." Alex Smith) that contact-tracing studies have failed to find instances of children infecting adults

So, again, I ask...why are you doing this to our kids?

My bigger question, as parents yourselves - not just Board members, why aren't you talking about the adverse outcomes? Alex, you in particular ran on a platform of supposedly caring about our children's mental health. I'm sorry to say, but you have failed that campaign promise miserably. Have you even talked to any of these kids? Are you listening to them at all? You are destroying their lives - just the anxiety you're causing them by having this meeting tonight is gross negligence and borderline abusive on your part.

Here are more facts:

- Mask-wearing for long durations impacts the thermoregulation system in our kids. It's PROVEN.
- A recent German study found masks have a "negative impact on cardiopulmonary capacity...and quality of life."
- Masks are not merely an inconvenience for our kids, they are causing anxiety and physical stress, which is materially impacting their short and long-term health, well-being, and success in school.
- As far as the ADA goes, it's well documented that mask-wearing can be especially harmful for students with disabilities like autism or other intellectual disorders. Even the World Health Organization states that mask-wearing should "not be mandatory" for children "of any age" who have "developmental disorders, disabilities or other mental health conditions."

Oh, it gets worse. Much worse. Here's my favorite fact:

- It is PROVEN that covering children's faces impedes their development of verbal and nonverbal communication skills. Isn't this at the core of why our children are going to school in the first place? Can you not see the insanity in what you're considering?

This boggles my mind because, as a school district, you can't even purchase cleaning products without evaluating their health and safety standards. Shouldn't you be using the same criteria when imposing a mandatory, non-pharmaceutical, unproven intervention on all children? What has the world come to when seven adults can sit in a room and decide to

inflict harm on children based on some wild, unproven claim that it will prevent or even slow the spread of Covid? In times of crisis, children look to adults to model courage and wisdom. You all need to begin demonstrating both of those qualities RIGHT NOW, or you can put yourselves in the same category as this [Urbandale School Board Member](#), who has become a laughing stock on social media and an embarrassment to our community.

Yep, it's your right to keep ignoring me along with the hundreds of other parents who've been trying to warn you of the firestorm that will ensue if you require masks in our schools. Since none of you seem to be listening to the students, let me clue you in on something - both high schools are already organizing protests and walkouts if you require masks like DMPs and Urbandale. Your classrooms will be empty and your sports teams will be decimated by kids who are openly saying all over social media that they will die before they wear a mask again at school. This is not a group of helicopter parents you're up against - it's THOUSANDS of fired-up, angry teenagers who will literally shut down our schools. What are you going to do about it? Expel them all? All you're doing is stressing out our kids and causing another unnecessary disruption to the education that our tax dollars are paying for. IT IS RIDICULOUS AND A GROSS ABUSE OF POWER!

And while you are all scrambling to contain the absolute chaos you'll create in our classrooms, we will be preparing to file lawsuits, and I will be the first in line. The emotional harm this Board's actions and policies have already caused my three kids over the past 18 months is unacceptable and irreparable. I can't even imagine the millions we will be awarded in damages if we round up all the kids you've harmed to file a class-action against the school, and any one of you attempts to mask our kids. Trust me, I have SO MUCH evidence compiled already and I'm REALLY good at winning lawsuits. Not a threat, a fact.

So good luck and God-speed to all of you tonight at your "special Board meeting" to discuss masks. I sure wish you were talking about the real pandemics in our schools, like vaping, drinking, bullying or the racist, anti-American Principal who has somehow become yesterday's news. At this point, all I can do is pray for you. Should you choose to continue ignoring the vast majority of parents in our community, I will still sleep peacefully tonight with absolute confidence that our smart kids will take care of it themselves.

Sincerely,

Tami Rubino

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