



February 14, 2022

Thomas Nanninga

VIA EMAIL –

Re: FOIA Requests received 2/8/2022 All communications between board members and school administrators from 2/3/2022 and 2/7/2022 related to anything to do with the decision to implement the safety plan which continued to enforce mandatory masks on all school property and any communications as to the decision to cancel the board meeting that was scheduled for 2/7/22 and reschedule it to 2/10/22.

Dear Mr. Nanninga:

This letter will serve as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your February 8, 2022 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information. Attached is our response to your request.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, this responsive document will be posted online on the district's website. To access it, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses > FOIA Requests Responses -2022 > then select FOIA ID #22-12*.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

John Petzke

John Petzke, CFO
Freedom of Information Officer

SUBJECT: HUGE THANK YOU!

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ldoyle@sd308.org" <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 09:08

Good Morning -

I just wanted to thank you for taking the time last summer to create a safety plan for the 21-22 school year that has been able to keep our schools open for in person learning this year. Continued use of these mitigations will keep all of the students, staff and their families safe. Thank you for making the tough decision to do what is in the best interest of all of those in our community.

Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: TRO on Mask Mandate

FROM: Mandi Ralson <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 02/07/2022 11:09

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE READ AT BOARD MEETING BUT ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

SD308 Board Members:

I don't even know where to start, except to say this is not the high school or junior high experience I would have ever imagined or wanted for my kids. My name is Mandi Ralson and I have two children in this school district.

We in Illinois are the laughingstock of this country. So many school districts in our state did the right thing yesterday by informing families that their children could attend school today without a mask. Finally free, after almost 2 years! But our school leadership – you, elected board members who work for this community - are continuing to keep our kids in bondage by this supposed safety plan and a mandate on masks.

I think most parents are not asking that masks get banned. No, they really are not. We just want CHOICE. But you have taken that away from us – and for the benefit of whom?! Everyone loses when choices are taken away.

In your considerations this past weekend, did you ever ask:

- What was best for the kids?
- Why do you continue to fight this?
- Are we really still living in a state of emergency?
- Why do we continue to stand with our state leadership who, for many years, has not cared about our District at all?

Do the right thing for our kids! Allow families to choose for themselves whether to wear masks.

Comply with the law, as Judge Grischow's order requires. Stop the mandates NOW.

Mandi Ralson

SUBJECT: Concern - District Transparency

FROM: KAREN KASON <[REDACTED]>

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 12:02

Good Afternoon, SD308 Administration & Board Members -

As a tax payer with students in the district, I find cancelling a regularly scheduled board meeting without an explanation unacceptable. Rescheduling said board meeting to later in the week utilizing virtual format is also unacceptable. You are stewards of our community - cancelling important discussions that need to be had in an open format is a dereliction of duty and a violation of your Code of Conduct. Closed sessions you have this week are subject to FOIA requests and may be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The continued lack of transparency and blatant disregard for the community you were elected (BOE) or hired (administration and new board member) to serve is disheartening. I ask you to consider the following:

- Do you demonstrate the collaborative spirit to build trust with the community and realize the goals laid out in Envision308? This requires respectful engagement with all stakeholders - regardless of view.
- What is the efficacy of mitigation strategies (masking and close contact quarantine) in the approved Safety Plan from August 2021? Has the district been tracking data to support either mandates or options such as % of students quarantined for close contact that test positive? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
- How does masking promotes an environment of learning and inclusion when it is widely accepted that communication is 55% non-verbal cues (most importantly facial expression), 38% tone, and 7% words. Things are getting lost in translation - for our younger learners and special needs students, this only creates a larger gap.

This has been a long "two weeks" - for [REDACTED] it has been 20% of their life experience. My kids deserve better. Please step up and be the non-partisan decision makers you were elected / hired you to be.

Respectfully,
Karen Kason

SUBJECT: Thank You

FROM: Heather Moyer <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org

DATE: 02/07/2022 12:18

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Thank you for standing by our safety plan
FROM: WENDY BERK [REDACTED]
TO: superintendent@sd308.org
BCC: ASwanson@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 14:56

Hello -

I wanted to reach out and **sincerely thank you** for holding to the district's safety plan in light of the confusion and pressure that erupted over the weekend. I know you must be facing enormous pushback from parents and guardians who want you to drop the mask mandate, end quarantines and stop weekly testing.

I am so very grateful to all of you for placing the safety of our vulnerable children, staff, and families first. We are still at a high country transmission rate and the thought of sending my children into 308 schools without these protections is extremely frightening. I fear for them, I fear for those that cannot be vaccinated or wear masks due to medical issues, I fear for my mother who has health complications, and for countless others whose lives literally could hang in the balance on this issue. Please know that while we pro-maskers may not be as loud as some others, there are many lining up behind you who want to continue on the path of science and safety that you laid out earlier this year in your safety plan.

This means so much to me - I cried when the email came saying we would stay with the plan. Tears of relief in the midst of so much worry and anguish. I'm tearing up right now writing this letter to you. I know that masks are inconvenient and that we all want this to be over. But wearing a mask to protect others is worth it. Every single person is worth protecting in our schools, especially those that do not have a choice. I, and my children, will continue to wear our masks knowing that we may help avoid getting someone sick, that we are contributing to the health and safety of our schools and our communities.

Thank you,
Wendy Berk
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Fwd: Important Board Meeting Information
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:33

How much did you spend of our tax dollars to get your lawyers to draft up this letter. Enough with the legal maneuvering. I'd like to know why you are fighting this so hard when 200 of your fellow district school boards have decided it's not worth the fight. Your spending our money and you are fighting a losing battle.

Stop hiding behind attorneys. If you can't do that you should all resign. You have failed our students and the community.

John McElyea

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From: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 17:29
To: Community Unit School District 308 Recipients
Subject: Important Board Meeting Information



February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

Rescheduling The Board of Education Meeting

The board meeting was originally postponed from tonight until Thursday night to allow for the board's legal counsel to gather and disseminate information to the board regarding the TRO issued late Friday. A motion to stay the TRO has been filed in the appellate court, but a ruling on that is not expected until later this week.

The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., requires public bodies to provide notice of meetings, and agendas of what will be discussed, to the public in advance of a meeting. "If the school board makes a change in its regular meeting dates (for example, a change from the first and third Mondays to the first and third Wednesdays), it must give at least 10 days' notice of such change by publishing a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. **If a public body merely changes (reschedules) one of its regular meetings, e.g., from September 7 to September 9, it need only give 48 hours' notice of the changed (rescheduled) meeting date and include the agenda for the rescheduled meeting in said notice.**" (cited from the Illinois Association of School Board publication "Letting the Sunshine In: School Board Meetings and Records.") The school district has properly provided adequate notice and posting of the notice and agenda of the rescheduled meeting within OMA's timelines.

Meeting Format

The rescheduled meeting was originally scheduled to be a remote meeting because of the concern about the health and safety of those present. This was due to the concerns over adults in the community who have come into the school buildings without masks, encouraged their students to disobey the masking requirement, videotaped and harassed school staff, expressed their intent to attend and disrupt the school board meeting without wearing masks, and threatened to intimidate school board members and administrators at their homes.

In order to provide the public the opportunity to speak, the district is canceling Thursday's virtual meeting, and will convene the meeting in-person, on a date soon to be determined, with at least 48 hours notice. On behalf of the District, I am requesting that all individuals who attend the meeting in person wear a mask at all times in the school building. If the masking requirement is not followed, or if attendees otherwise disrupt the meeting, the meeting may be adjourned and rescheduled to a virtual meeting format that would be held at a future date. I trust that those community members who attend the meeting will abide by the protocols contained in the Safety Plan so that the school board may continue to convene meetings on an in-person basis.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Community Unit School District 308. If you wish to stop receiving email updates sent through the Blackboard service, please [unsubscribe](#).
Community Unit School District 308 | 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543 | 630-636-3080

SUBJECT: Community message
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:41

February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

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The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., requires public bodies to provide notice of meetings, and agendas of what will be discussed, to the public in advance of a meeting. "If the school board makes a change in its regular meeting dates (for example, a change from the first and third Mondays to the first and third Wednesdays), it must give at least 10 days' notice of such change by publishing a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. **If a public body merely changes (reschedules) one of its regular meetings, e.g., from September 7 to September 9, it need only give 48 hours' notice of the changed (rescheduled) meeting date and include the agenda for the rescheduled meeting in said notice.**" (cited from the Illinois Association of School Board publication "Letting the Sunshine In: School Board Meetings and Records.") The school district has properly provided adequate notice and posting of the notice and agenda of the rescheduled meeting within OMA's timelines.

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Sending strength
 FROM: Deb Haswell [REDACTED]
 TO: donna-marino@sd308.org
 DATE: 02/07/2022 08:20

Dr. Marino,

Thank you to your school board and the district for putting safety first and sticking with the district safety plan that was carefully put in place this year. I respect the time and effort that went into preparing that safety plan and the time spent reviewing it after the court ruling on Friday.

I wanted to make sure you had at least one email in your inbox not only supporting the district's decision but also supporting masks. I do hope there is a day in the future when masks will no longer be necessary but I don't believe we are there yet and I don't believe bringing lawsuits against the district is the way it should be done. The dismissal of masks should be done with science not politics. To me, this is a sad fight that people are sending their kids into.

I wish you strength as you endure what I can only assume will be a long and difficult board meeting this evening. I know many will show up to argue masks but keep in mind that many of us who support masks and minimizing risk will be safely watching from home. I appreciate the service you are giving to this community by serving as a board member and the extra work and stress it adds to your life.

Thank you,
 Deb Haswell

SUBJECT: Re: TRO
 FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
 TO: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
 DATE: 02/07/2022 08:23

Thank you for your email. We understand that this is a very stressful time for our families. The TRO has been thoroughly reviewed by our attorneys. As the board voted in It's safety plan and mask policy in August, the district will continue to follow its approved safety plan and board policies in lieu of any state mandates. We know that the community is divided on this issue, but health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
 Dr. Donna Marino
 CUSD308 BOE President

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7:40 AM Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Since 5pm on Friday almost 200 school districts in Illinois have gone mask optional. Why is SD308 taking such a hard stance and digging in heels? Did Dr Sparlin act on his own?

John McElyea

> On Feb 6, 2022, at 21:42, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> More.... I do hope the Board discusses this issue at the meeting tomorrow night.

>

> John McElyea

>

> February 6th, 2022

>

> Dear Bond CUSD #2 Parents, Families, and Community members:

>
> On February 4, 2022 Sangamon County Circuit Judge Raylene Grischow entered a temporary restraining order (TRO) prohibiting the defendant school districts from (i) requiring students and teachers to wear masks, absent a lawful order of quarantine issued in conformance with the IDPH Act; (ii) excluding students and teachers based on an alleged close contact unless due process is afforded and IDPH procedures are followed; and (iii) requiring weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated employees without first providing due process of law.

>
> Beginning Monday, February 7th, our district will comply with this order and will temporarily pause enforcement of the Covid related mandates listed above. Facemasks will be strongly encouraged but not required for staff and students.

>
> It is anticipated the Governor, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education (the State Defendants), will immediately appeal the Judge's order to the appellate court seeking to reverse the TRO. In fact, the State Defendants have already requested Judge Grischow to stay the enforcement of the TRO until the appellate court rules on the matter. It is the intention of Bond CUSD #2 to comply with the TRO until otherwise directed by the trial or appellate court. If the legal situation changes, the Board of Education considers next steps or changes in procedures on an as needed basis.

>
> Our Board of Education has advocated all along for local control, and this ruling validates that sentiment. As you know, a TRO was previously entered against Bond County CUSD No. 2 to prohibit the District from mandating masks. Because the mask mandate and other mandates were imposed on our District by the Governor, IDPH and ISBE, we appealed the TRO to the 5th District Court of Appeals. The Appellate Court vacated the TRO because the Governor, IDPH and ISBE were not named in the lawsuit. As a direct result of our appeal, a lawsuit was refiled naming 146 school districts, along with the Governor, IDPH and ISBE, which case was transferred to Sangamon County. It has been our position all along that the Governor, IDPH and ISBE have the legal obligation to defend their mandates. They were given that opportunity in the Sangamon County case and lost.

>
> As a district, our goal throughout this pandemic has been to provide support to students and families while maximizing in-person learning. We will continue to provide layered mitigation strategies in our schools to help stop the spread of infectious diseases including: distancing to the greatest extent possible, encouraging good hand hygiene, and cleaning/disinfecting on a frequent basis.

>
> It is also important to note that our district is committed to fostering a positive and safe learning environment free from bullying or harassment. Specifically, whether a family/student, or faculty/staff member chooses to wear a mask or not should be an individual choice and respected as such.

>
> We also want to reiterate the importance of keeping students at home who are ill or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

>
> Thanks for your understanding, respect, patience, and support as our district makes these changes and strives to meet the needs of our students in an ever changing environment.

>
> Professionally,
>
> Dr. Wes Olson
>
> Superintendent- Bond County CUSD #2
>
>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:48, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:
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>> Here's more. I think the BOE may want to rethink your position. Seems like you are out of step with how other school districts are responding to the TRO. Seems you have the wrong legal team.
>>

>> “ From Morris HS:

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>> Dear MCHS Families,

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>> As of Monday, February 7, Morris Community High School will pause enforcement of COVID mandates related to masking, quarantine/exclusion, and testing while we await clarity from the appellate court on Judge Grischow's Temporary Restraining Order issued on Friday. A stay or appellate court ruling could require us to immediately revert back to enforcement of the mandates.

>>

>> We still recommend, but will not require, mask wearing in our buildings until further notice. We still need people to stay home when they are sick and to be respectful of others.

>>

>> Masks are still required on school buses and school transportation pursuant to Federal guidelines, which are not impacted by State rulings.

>>

>> I will keep you informed of any changes, and I thank you for being patient and understanding as we continue to deal with these challenging issues.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>> Craig R. Ortiz, Ed.D.

>> Superintendent

>> Morris Community High School District 101”

>>

>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:43, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Wow...another.

>>>>

>>>> “ Mt. Zion,

>>>>

>>>> We have received the judge’s decision in the lawsuit against Illinois, IDPH, ISBE, and well over 100 school districts, including Mt. Zion CUSD #3. Details surrounding this case could change in the days and weeks ahead. Therefore, during these difficult times, we ask that everyone be respectful of the choices of others, and feel comfortable with your choices moving forward. I have attached the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and included page numbers throughout for your reference. Judge Grischow wrote in the order: under the guise of an emergency, the emergency rules required schools to mask, test, and isolate without legislative authority (p. 6). The state argued the governor has unlimited authority to do whatever is necessary, but the court found that far-reaching (p. 9).

>>>>

>>>> We will follow the highlighted language below at least until the appellate court issues a decision by February 17th.

>>>> Masks will revert back to our district’s original plan before the executive order. Masks are recommended in school, but no students will be suspended, or disciplined by the Mt. Zion School District.

>>>> Masks are still currently required by everyone on the school bus under a federal requirement.

>>>> No employee or persons in the school building will receive any consequences related to masking.

>>>> Quarantines will be recommended for close contacts, but no close contacts will be suspended, or disciplined in any way for not isolating.

>>>> Positive cases will still be expected to stay home for five days, or until symptoms improve.

>>>> Judge Grischow wrote that statutory rights have attempted to be bypassed through the issuance of Executive Orders and Emergency Rules. She even goes so far as to call delegating implementation authority to school districts without Legislature “an abuse of power” (p. 13). In the order, the judge notes on several occasions the governor had several other legal options to provide safety through a legal process but failed to utilize those methods.

>>>>

>>>> “It is clear IDPH/ISBE attempted to force local school districts to comply with the guidance... This type of evil is exactly what the law was intended to constrain” (p. 16). Under no circumstances can guidance be

issued which violates a statute (p. 16).

>>>>

>>>> The joint guidance issued by ISBE and IDPH made clear that the local health departments had final determinations in these matters (p. 25). Unfortunately, our county health department incorrectly told our school district and our parents they had no appeal rights. We repeatedly informed the county health department this was not correct, but too little changed. The judge repeatedly confirms in the TRO the plaintiffs have due process rights. Yet, “the Governor, IDPH, and ISBE all attempted to remove the judiciary from oversight in matters related to all forms of ‘quarantine’ through the issuance of the Executive Orders”...(p. 25).

>>>>

>>>> “...this court has declared IDPH and ISBE's Emergency Rules void.” (p. 28). “The court finds the policies of each school district will have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, be subject to school district’s policies that were presented to the school board...” (p. 17). Any “non-named plaintiffs and school districts throughout this State may govern themselves accordingly” (p. 28).

>>>>

>>>> A decision on the governor’s appeal is expected by February 17th. Any and all of these guidelines can change after the appellate court decision, just as they did after this court decision. I will provide additional communication about the judges ruling at that time.

>>>>

>>>> Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work through these changes. Our administrators, faculty, and staff have been working hard for our students throughout the last two years, and the next few weeks will be no different.”

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>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:37, Bob McElyea <[redacted]> wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>> And another...

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>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:00, Bob McElyea <[redacted]> wrote:

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>>>>>> They keep on coming.

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>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 16:55, Bob McElyea <[redacted]> wrote:

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>>>>>>> You are quickly becoming the minority.

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>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 16:48, Bob McElyea <[redacted]> wrote:

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>>>>>>> In case you were wondering here is another school district that decided to follow the law. In your

letter you stated that you are following board policy. The SD308 board of education DOES NOT have the legal authority to order the quarantine of students, staff, visitors, or anyone. And yes masking is a form of quarantine. The judge in this case made that clear. The ONLY authority that can issue a quarantine order is the county health department and ONLY for 48 hours without due process and a court order.

>>>>>>

>>>>>> I would urge you to think for a second about how emotionally charged the last two years of draconian useless mitigation policies have been. Have some empathy for the students, staff, and parents that have dutifully followed your rules even though with every passing day these same rules are being found to be pointless and having zero impact on the reduction of COVID. The only thing they have served is to increase your inflated view of your worth and power over your fellow citizens.

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Everyone one of you should resign immediately.

>>>>>>

>>>>>> John McElyea

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>>>>>>

>>>>>> “Dear Jersey CUSD #100 families and staff,

>>>>>> As you may be aware, there is a lawsuit pending in Sangamon County involving numerous plaintiffs suing many districts across the state, including Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100. The lawsuit challenges various aspects of the State’s Covid-19 requirements for schools, including mask requirements and the exclusion of close contacts.

>>>>>> Arguments on a temporary restraining order (TRO) concluded in both cases and the judge released her decision at 5 pm on Friday, February 4, 2022. There has been some confusion and inaccurate reporting over the weekend. I thank our families and staff for their patience as we conferred with our legal team and other regional districts determining how to discern, communicate and implement the findings of this decision.

>>>>>> This is a temporary restraining order, which is by its very definition “temporary”, and is not a final disposition of the issues. A TRO temporarily enjoins the actions of the parties, but it is not a permanent injunction and is not necessarily a reflection of the final merits of the case. Please take note to recognize that this is a temporary status at this stage in litigation.

>>>>>> Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100 has been and remains committed to being open for in-person learning after the initial outbreak and we have remained open for in-person learning throughout the pandemic to better serve our students and families. The district has followed changing CDC recommendations since the beginning of the pandemic. The recommended mitigations include universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to our school, regardless of vaccination status. In addition to universal indoor masking, we maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

>>>>>> Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention we have instituted to keep our school safe and open over the last three years.

>>>>>> In compliance with the court’s order, beginning tomorrow, the use of universal masking is highly recommended for all staff and students but is not required within the building.

>>>>>> An appeal was expected by either side after the decision was released. The Attorney General is appealing this decision at the appellate court level on Monday. A decision by the appellate court will be made within ten days after the judge’s decision. A stay could be granted which would extend the Governor’s Mandates until a decision by the appellate court. The appellate court could uphold or reverse this court’s decision. Whatever the ultimate outcome, as always, Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100 will follow the law.

>>>>>> If you are a parent or guardian of Jersey CUSD #100 and you are concerned with health issues in your home or concerned with your student attending school with the Sangamon County Circuit Court Judge Grischow’s ruling, please contact your student’s principal for possible remote options.

>>>>>> Finally, the last couple of years have been rough, to say the least. Jersey CUSD#100 is proud that we have been able to navigate through the peaks of the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our schools open and in person. We have and will continue to offer extra learning opportunities to all the families that have been affected by COVID-19. We are proud of all of our employees who have sacrificed extra time and effort for our

students during this global pandemic.

>>>>>>> Thank you for all that you are doing to help us help your students!"

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:42, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>> Wow it takes a lot of nerve to make a decision to be in contempt of court. Here's another district that didn't think it was worth dealing with a bunch of lawsuits from angry parents and being found in contempt.

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>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:39, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>> Another...

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>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:39, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>>> They keep rolling in. Looks like you are in the minority.

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>>>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:38, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>>>>> And another? Is SD308 the only district that has decided to defy the court?

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>>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:37, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>>> Here's another. What makes you think that you don't have to comply but all these other districts do. I suppose you need better legal counsel.

>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>> A message from WILMINGTON CMTY UNIT SD 209-U

>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>> ATTENTION WILMINGTON STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND STAFF -

>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>> In following up to yesterday's message regarding the recent ruling of Judge Grischow in the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Sangamon County, we wanted to share additional information about the immediate, specific implications for the students and staff of the Wilmington School District. In summary, this court's decision approved a temporary restraining order (TRO) related to an ongoing lawsuit which was challenging the state's COVID-19 safety mitigation measures for Illinois schools.

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>>>>>>>>>>> On the evening of Friday, February 4, 2022, this court decision was issued that will have a significant, immediate impact on the Wilmington School District. The court held that the Governor and state agencies such as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) do not have the authority to mandate masks at school, exclude students for COVID-related reasons, or require COVID-19 vaccinations or testing of school personnel. The court held that only the state legislature has the authority to mandate COVID-19 prevention strategies in schools.

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>>>>>>>>>>> It is our understanding that the Governor, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have already submitted an appeal to this court's decision, while also formally requesting a stay in the order until an Appellate Court ruling is made. We have been informed that the Appellate proceedings will likely be completed in approximately 2 weeks, with the resulting decision either confirming or overturning Judge Grischow's ruling.

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>>>>>>>>>>> After consulting with our legal firm and coordinating with other neighboring districts, the Board of Education and Administration of the Wilmington School District have decided to comply with this TRO until otherwise directed by the trial or appellate court. While in accordance with CDC recommendations the school district will continue to recommend and encourage indoor mask wearing for all students and staff, it will not be required or enforced beginning on Monday, February 7, 2022. Again - as a result of this court decision, effective immediately, face masks will be optional at all Wilmington Schools and all school-related events for both staff and students. But please remember that an opposing decision by the Appellate Court could potentially reverse this adjustment in the weeks ahead.

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>>>>>>>>>>> Also in accordance with the court ruling, the automatically mandated 5-day school exclusions for exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive, or having 'close contact' status will cease. As was our school district's practice prior to the pandemic and the Governor's Executive Orders, we will exclude students from school for illness only at the discretion of our District Nurse or other Administrator. If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are healthy. As was our school district's practice prior to the pandemic, students must be fever-free for a period of 24-hours, with no vomiting or diarrhea without medication, before they can return to school. Students who are absent for 3 consecutive days may also be required to provide a doctor's note when returning to school. However, please recognize that the CDC still recommends a 5-day quarantine for anyone who tests positive for COVID, followed by 5 additional days of mask wearing, in order to help keep others healthy and prevent the spread of COVID. The parents of any students who test positive for

COVID should communicate with their building principal and our district nurse to determine the appropriate return to school plan.

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>>>>>>>>>> As we continue studying and learning more about any other potential implications of this recent ruling from Judge Grischow, we will be communicating with students, staff, and families as soon as possible. We will also strive to keep everyone well-informed as we hear of any further decisions which may come from the anticipated upcoming Appellate Court proceedings. This entire pandemic and the resulting State and Federal mandates have caused strong emotions, high levels of stress & anxiety and unfortunately sometimes anger to run high. The school district appreciates the varying opinions and emotions elicited by this issue. As we have done from the beginning, our school district remains committed to following relevant State and Federal mandates as we have never exceeded any of the COVID mitigation requirements. Now that the court has ruled on this issue, the school district will once again immediately follow the resulting new requirements. The situation will remain in flux for some time; at least until the appellate court issues its ruling at which time, the school district will again reassess our current requirements.

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>>>>>>>>>> Throughout the past two years, our Wilmington students, staff and parents have all worked together to effectively stay in school where we belong, while also committing to help keep one another safe during this pandemic. Please take note that at this time it is still recommended for all students and staff to wear face masks indoors, whenever possible. There may also be times when transmission is strongly suspected within individual classrooms, sports teams, etc; when additional safety measures are determined to be the best course of action for the safety and well-being of everyone involved. As always, the safety and well-being of our students and staff will continue to serve as the primary focus of our Board of Education and Administration.

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>>>>>>>>>> We are all very anxious for a return to 'normal' in all aspects of life. Hopefully this next adjustment is a move in the right direction.

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>>>>>>>>>> In Wildcat Pride,

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>>>>>>>>>> Matt Swick

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>>>>>>>>>> Superintendent of Schools

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>>>>>>>>>> Wilmington School District

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>>>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 09:11, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>>>> And another...yet we still haven't heard from SD308.

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Thank you very much Mrs. Haswell!

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:20 AM Deb Haswell <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Marino,

Thank you to your school board and the district for putting safety first and sticking with the district safety plan that was carefully put in place this year. I respect the time and effort that went into preparing that safety plan and the time spent reviewing it after the court ruling on Friday.

I wanted to make sure you had at least one email in your inbox not only supporting the district's decision but also supporting masks. I do hope there is a day in the future when masks will no longer be necessary but I don't believe we are there yet and I don't believe bringing lawsuits against the district is the way it should be done. The dismissal of masks should be done with science not politics. To me, this is a sad fight that people are sending their kids into.

I wish you strength as you endure what I can only assume will be a long and difficult board meeting this evening. I know many will show up to argue masks but keep in mind that many of us who support masks and minimizing risk will be safely watching from home. I appreciate the service you are giving to this community by serving as a board member and the extra work and stress it adds to your life.

Thank you,
Deb Haswell

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: TRO/Masking
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Nikki Powell <[REDACTED]>
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:33

Thank you Mrs. Powell!

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino

CUSD308 BOE President

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:16 AM 'Nikki Powell' via BOE <boe@sd308.org> wrote:

I just wanted to take a moment to THANK YOU for the foresight in creating masking policies and for following those policies today. I am sure you will be taking a beating today (and likely tonight as well); but I wanted you to know that I agree with this decision.

Sincerely,
Nicole Powell

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Sunday, February 6, 2022, 8:53 AM, Nikki Powell <nikkiandypowell@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Sparking, SD308 board members, Mr. Grays, and Mr. Lewis,


As we know you are in the middle of dealing with the fallout of Friday's TRO ruling on the mask mandate, we are imploring you to take the same route as CPS and stay the course to keep masks in effect for our school district.

An appeal has been filed, a stay has been filed, things could look very different by the end of next week than they do now. Let's not flip flop back and forth sending more confusion and frustration to our students and staff than they already have to deal with.

You know the anti-maskers are the smaller representation of your community despite their loud and inappropriate ways. We know they have already been barking up your tree since Friday. Please don't let them jeopardize the health and safety of the rest of us. Cases may be dropping but positivity is still at a dangerous level.

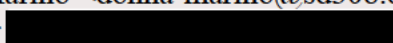
Should you decide to proceed with the "mask optional approach" we need a detailed plan of how mitigation, cases, close contacts, etc are going to be handled before school opens on Monday. Will a remote option now be offered, separated mask-only classrooms, are there penalties for parents that choose to keep their kids home until this is resolved and how will those kids receive a free and appropriate education, etc? It is unfair to suddenly send the rest of us into the wild, wild west. Perhaps going full remote or a few more emergency days are in order to adequately prepare.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nicole and Andy Powell


[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Thank you
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Beth Kremer 
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:35

Thank you Mrs. Kremer,

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 11:56 PM Beth Kremer [REDACTED] wrote:

To our District Administrators and School Board Members:

I am writing to thank you for adhering to the safety plan adopted by the board in August. Mask wearing is one of the simplest and most effective mitigation strategies in a layered mitigation approach. Our masking policy is most likely responsible for the fact that we have been able to stay open for in-person instruction during this school year. In addition, it is important to follow all the layered mitigations in order to offer our students, staff, and community the most effective protection possible.

I appreciate and commend you for upholding this policy. I realize that there is a very vocal minority who is likely putting much pressure on you to go back on the safety plan that was previously adopted. I implore you to remain steadfast in the face of this pressure, as our mitigation strategies have so far allowed us to remain in full-time in-person school. Schools around the country who have not adopted masking strategies unfortunately can not say the same.

Thank you again for keeping our students, staff, families, and community safe.

Beth Kremer

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Thank you!!!
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Lisa Heurung <[REDACTED]>
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:36

Thank you Mrs. Heurung,

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 10:20 PM Lisa Heurung <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Board of Ed, SD 308,

As a community member who has young kids about to start at Brokaw shortly, I sincerely want to thank you for keeping the mask policy in place until the community numbers have decreased significantly from where they are currently. I teach special education in a different district and am wholly disappointed in how they have reacted to the TRO. Again, thank you for keeping your students, staff, and community safe and hopefully this prevents more deaths related to Covid in our area. Your response has made it clear that you are a district I will want to continue to support, as a resident, community member, parent, and fellow teacher.

Lisa Heurung.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: 2/6 Parent Information/Guidelines
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Kristyn Haughton <[REDACTED]>
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:37

Thank you Mrs. Haughton,

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 10:05 PM Kristyn Haughton <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Board members and Dr. Sparlin,

I wanted to reach out and say thank you for everything you all continue to do to keep our district safe. The current court challenge muddies the water and brings about fresh waves of false information and widely interpreted legality from people of all walks...but I'm glad you've reinforced the Board's measures taken last August with regards to mandatory masks for everyone entering our schools during this period of high transmission. I'm also pleased that plans remain in place for quarantine and return to school guidelines for those infected or are a close contact. Whatever the outcome of the appeal, we hope the district can and will shed some light on the TRUE facts of what this all means moving forward.

I know everyone is tired of wearing masks, I am too. As someone who has worked tirelessly in an overwhelmed hospital system with more Covid tests coming in than the whole of all other lab work, I also know this battle is far from over. I have 3 young daughters in the district that, luckily for our family, wear masks without issue all day at school and at their extracurricular activities. While it's not ideal, it helps keep them active and engaged, which we hope continues. I understand it is not so "easy" for all children, but I fail

to understand how these rules are so different from so many other things we all comply with everyday of our lives.

No one is happy, on any area of the spectrum and the teachers, staff, and I'm sure you all, get caught in the crossfire, which is terrible. I wanted to reach out so that you all know that there are many of us that, unhappy as we are for whatever reason, are not ready to throw in the towel to give up universal masking, quarantine, distancing, and let this virus ravage our families.

Thank you for your time and efforts,
Kristy Haughton

--

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Recent mask protocol in SD308
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]>
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:38

Thank you Ms. Cashman,

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 9:49 PM Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Board Members,

I want to thank you for continuing to follow the safety plan that was adopted in August 2021. While Friday's decision does cause districts to review current protocols, I want to commend you for following the guidelines the board adopted last summer which ensures consistency in our classrooms. Friday's ruling is not the final say in the matter and the potential back and forth would create chaos in our classrooms and with so many changes in our kids' worlds, I appreciate the "stay the course" for teachers, staff and students. Our students and teachers have enough to worry about changing guidances, recommendations and just teaching their curriculum that we should do everything possible to give the kids as stable learning environment as possible.

Thank you,

Michelle Cashman

--

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: TRO
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:43

That is an absolutely unacceptable response. Are you saying that those opposed to masking are opposed to health and safety? Have you "followed the science" and heard anything the CDC has said recently? Cloth masks have zero protection. Since you are not requiring N95 masks the. You must not care about health and safety.

Get ready for lawsuits if the district decides to enforce the policy against students who choose not to wear a mask.

Why is the 308 using the same attorney at CPS? Why did the attorneys of 200 other school districts advise that they should follow the judge's order?

You know the order didn't just apply to the names plaintiffs right? She also declared the mandates that your board policy is based on to be unlawful.

Should be an interesting discussion at the board meeting tonight.

John McElyea

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From: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 8:23:45 AM
To: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: TRO

Thank you for your email. We understand that this is a very stressful time for our families. The TRO has been thoroughly reviewed by our attorneys. As the board voted in It's safety plan and mask policy in August, the district will continue to follow its approved safety plan and board policies in lieu of any state mandates. We know that the community is divided on this issue, but health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7:40 AM Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Since 5pm on Friday almost 200 school districts in Illinois have gone mask optional. Why is SD308 taking such a hard stance and digging in heels? Did Dr Sparlin act on his own?

John McElyea

> On Feb 6, 2022, at 21:42, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:
>
> More.... I do hope the Board discusses this issue at the meeting tomorrow night.
>

> John McElyea

>

> February 6th, 2022

>

> Dear Bond CUSD #2 Parents, Families, and Community members:

>

> On February 4, 2022 Sangamon County Circuit Judge Raylene Grischow entered a temporary restraining order (TRO) prohibiting the defendant school districts from (i) requiring students and teachers to wear masks, absent a lawful order of quarantine issued in conformance with the IDPH Act; (ii) excluding students and teachers based on an alleged close contact unless due process is afforded and IDPH procedures are followed; and (iii) requiring weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated employees without first providing due process of law.

>

> Beginning Monday, February 7th, our district will comply with this order and will temporarily pause enforcement of the Covid related mandates listed above. Facemasks will be strongly encouraged but not required for staff and students.

>

> It is anticipated the Governor, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education (the State Defendants), will immediately appeal the Judge's order to the appellate court seeking to reverse the TRO. In fact, the State Defendants have already requested Judge Grischow to stay the enforcement of the TRO until the appellate court rules on the matter. It is the intention of Bond CUSD #2 to comply with the TRO until otherwise directed by the trial or appellate court. If the legal situation changes, the Board of Education considers next steps or changes in procedures on an as needed basis.

>

> Our Board of Education has advocated all along for local control, and this ruling validates that sentiment. As you know, a TRO was previously entered against Bond County CUSD No. 2 to prohibit the District from mandating masks. Because the mask mandate and other mandates were imposed on our District by the Governor, IDPH and ISBE, we appealed the TRO to the 5th District Court of Appeals. The Appellate Court vacated the TRO because the Governor, IDPH and ISBE were not named in the lawsuit. As a direct result of our appeal, a lawsuit was refiled naming 146 school districts, along with the Governor, IDPH and ISBE, which case was transferred to Sangamon County. It has been our position all along that the Governor, IDPH and ISBE have the legal obligation to defend their mandates. They were given that opportunity in the Sangamon County case and lost.

>

> As a district, our goal throughout this pandemic has been to provide support to students and families while maximizing in-person learning. We will continue to provide layered mitigation strategies in our schools to help stop the spread of infectious diseases including: distancing to the greatest extent possible, encouraging good hand hygiene, and cleaning/disinfecting on a frequent basis.

>

> It is also important to note that our district is committed to fostering a positive and safe learning environment free from bullying or harassment. Specifically, whether a family/student, or faculty/staff member chooses to wear a mask or not should be an individual choice and respected as such.

>

> We also want to reiterate the importance of keeping students at home who are ill or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

>

> Thanks for your understanding, respect, patience, and support as our district makes these changes and strives to meet the needs of our students in an ever changing environment.

>

> Professionally,

>

> Dr. Wes Olson

>

> Superintendent- Bond County CUSD #2

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>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:48, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>> Here's more. I think the BOE may want to rethink your position. Seems like you are out of step with how other school districts are responding to the TRO. Seems you have the wrong legal team.

>>

>> " From Morris HS:

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>> Dear MCHS Families,

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>> As of Monday, February 7, Morris Community High School will pause enforcement of COVID mandates related to masking, quarantine/exclusion, and testing while we await clarity from the appellate court on Judge Grischow's Temporary Restraining Order issued on Friday. A stay or appellate court ruling could require us to immediately revert back to enforcement of the mandates.

>>

>> We still recommend, but will not require, mask wearing in our buildings until further notice. We still need people to stay home when they are sick and to be respectful of others.

>>

>> Masks are still required on school buses and school transportation pursuant to Federal guidelines, which are not impacted by State rulings.

>>

>> I will keep you informed of any changes, and I thank you for being patient and understanding as we continue to deal with these challenging issues.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>> Craig R. Ortiz, Ed.D.

>> Superintendent

>> Morris Community High School District 101"

>>

>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:43, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Wow...another.

>>>>

>>>> " Mt. Zion,

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>>>> We have received the judge's decision in the lawsuit against Illinois, IDPH, ISBE, and well over 100 school districts, including Mt. Zion CUSD #3. Details surrounding this case could change in the days and weeks ahead. Therefore, during these difficult times, we ask that everyone be respectful of the choices of others, and feel comfortable with your choices moving forward. I have attached the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and included page numbers throughout for your reference. Judge Grischow wrote in the order: under the guise of an emergency, the emergency rules required schools to mask, test, and isolate without legislative authority (p. 6). The state argued the governor has unlimited authority to do whatever is necessary, but the court found that far-reaching (p. 9).

>>>>

>>>> We will follow the highlighted language below at least until the appellate court issues a decision by February 17th.

>>>> Masks will revert back to our district's original plan before the executive order. Masks are recommended in school, but no students will be suspended, or disciplined by the Mt. Zion School District.

>>>> Masks are still currently required by everyone on the school bus under a federal requirement.

>>>> No employee or persons in the school building will receive any consequences related to masking.

>>>> Quarantines will be recommended for close contacts, but no close contacts will be suspended, or disciplined in any way for not isolating.

>>>> Positive cases will still be expected to stay home for five days, or until symptoms improve.

>>>> Judge Grischow wrote that statutory rights have attempted to be bypassed through the issuance of Executive Orders and Emergency Rules. She even goes so far as to call delegating implementation authority to school districts without Legislature "an abuse of power" (p. 13). In the order, the judge notes on several

occasions the governor had several other legal options to provide safety through a legal process but failed to utilize those methods.

>>>

>>> “It is clear IDPH/ISBE attempted to force local school districts to comply with the guidance... This type of evil is exactly what the law was intended to constrain” (p. 16). Under no circumstances can guidance be issued which violates a statute (p. 16).

>>>

>>> The joint guidance issued by ISBE and IDPH made clear that the local health departments had final determinations in these matters (p. 25). Unfortunately, our county health department incorrectly told our school district and our parents they had no appeal rights. We repeatedly informed the county health department this was not correct, but too little changed. The judge repeatedly confirms in the TRO the plaintiffs have due process rights. Yet, “the Governor, IDPH, and ISBE all attempted to remove the judiciary from oversight in matters related to all forms of ‘quarantine’ through the issuance of the Executive Orders”...(p. 25).

>>>

>>> “...this court has declared IDPH and ISBE's Emergency Rules void.” (p. 28). “The court finds the policies of each school district will have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, be subject to school district’s policies that were presented to the school board...” (p. 17). Any “non-named plaintiffs and school districts throughout this State may govern themselves accordingly” (p. 28).

>>>

>>> A decision on the governor’s appeal is expected by February 17th. Any and all of these guidelines can change after the appellate court decision, just as they did after this court decision. I will provide additional communication about the judges ruling at that time.

>>>

>>> Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work through these changes. Our administrators, faculty, and staff have been working hard for our students throughout the last two years, and the next few weeks will be no different.”

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>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:37, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>> And another...

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>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 17:00, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>> They keep on coming.

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>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 16:55, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>> You are quickly becoming the minority.

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>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 16:48, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>> In case you were wondering here is another school district that decided to follow the law. In your letter you stated that you are following board policy. The SD308 board of education DOES NOT have the legal authority to order the quarantine of students, staff, visitors, or anyone. And yes masking is a form of quarantine. The judge in this case made that clear. The ONLY authority that can issue a quarantine order is the county health department and ONLY for 48 hours without due process and a court order.

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> I would urge you to think for a second about how emotionally charged the last two years of draconian useless mitigation policies have been. Have some empathy for the students, staff, and parents that have dutifully followed your rules even though with every passing day these same rules are being found to be pointless and having zero impact on the reduction of COVID. The only thing they have served is to increase your inflated view of your worth and power over your fellow citizens.

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> Everyone one of you should resign immediately.

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> John McElyea

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>>>>>>>

>>>>>>> “Dear Jersey CUSD #100 families and staff,

>>>>>>> As you may be aware, there is a lawsuit pending in Sangamon County involving numerous plaintiffs suing many districts across the state, including Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100. The lawsuit challenges various aspects of the State’s Covid-19 requirements for schools, including mask requirements and the exclusion of close contacts.

>>>>>>> Arguments on a temporary restraining order (TRO) concluded in both cases and the judge released her decision at 5 pm on Friday, February 4, 2022. There has been some confusion and inaccurate reporting over the weekend. I thank our families and staff for their patience as we conferred with our legal team and other regional districts determining how to discern, communicate and implement the findings of this decision.

>>>>>>> This is a temporary restraining order, which is by its very definition “temporary”, and is not a final disposition of the issues. A TRO temporarily enjoins the actions of the parties, but it is not a permanent injunction and is not necessarily a reflection of the final merits of the case. Please take note to recognize that this is a temporary status at this stage in litigation.

>>>>>>> Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100 has been and remains committed to being open for in-person learning after the initial outbreak and we have remained open for in-person learning throughout the pandemic to better serve our students and families. The district has followed changing CDC recommendations since the beginning of the pandemic. The recommended mitigations include universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to our school, regardless of vaccination status. In addition to universal indoor masking, we maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

>>>>>>> Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention we have instituted to keep our school safe and open over the last three years.

>>>>>>> In compliance with the court’s order, beginning tomorrow, the use of universal masking is highly recommended for all staff and students but is not required within the building.

>>>>>>> An appeal was expected by either side after the decision was released. The Attorney General is appealing this decision at the appellate court level on Monday. A decision by the appellate court will be made within ten days after the judge’s decision. A stay could be granted which would extend the Governor’s Mandates until a decision by the appellate court. The appellate court could uphold or reverse this court’s decision. Whatever the ultimate outcome, as always, Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100 will follow the law.

>>>>>>> If you are a parent or guardian of Jersey CUSD #100 and you are concerned with health issues in your home or concerned with your student attending school with the Sangamon County Circuit Court Judge

Grischow's ruling, please contact your student's principal for possible remote options.

>>>>>>> Finally, the last couple of years have been rough, to say the least. Jersey CUSD#100 is proud that we have been able to navigate through the peaks of the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our schools open and in person. We have and will continue to offer extra learning opportunities to all the families that have been affected by COVID-19. We are proud of all of our employees who have sacrificed extra time and effort for our students during this global pandemic.

>>>>>>> Thank you for all that you are doing to help us help your students!"

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:42, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>> Wow it takes a lot of nerve to make a decision to be in contempt of court. Here's another district that didn't think it was worth dealing with a bunch of lawsuits from angry parents and being found in contempt.

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>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:39, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>> Another...

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>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:39, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>> They keep rolling in. Looks like you are in the minority.

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>>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 15:38, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>>> And another? Is SD308 the only district that has decided to defy the court?

students must be fever-free for a period of 24-hours, with no vomiting or diarrhea without medication, before they can return to school. Students who are absent for 3 consecutive days may also be required to provide a doctor's note when returning to school. However, please recognize that the CDC still recommends a 5-day quarantine for anyone who tests positive for COVID, followed by 5 additional days of mask wearing, in order to help keep others healthy and prevent the spread of COVID. The parents of any students who test positive for COVID should communicate with their building principal and our district nurse to determine the appropriate return to school plan.

>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>> As we continue studying and learning more about any other potential implications of this recent ruling from Judge Grischow, we will be communicating with students, staff, and families as soon as possible. We will also strive to keep everyone well-informed as we hear of any further decisions which may come from the anticipated upcoming Appellate Court proceedings. This entire pandemic and the resulting State and Federal mandates have caused strong emotions, high levels of stress & anxiety and unfortunately sometimes anger to run high. The school district appreciates the varying opinions and emotions elicited by this issue. As we have done from the beginning, our school district remains committed to following relevant State and Federal mandates as we have never exceeded any of the COVID mitigation requirements. Now that the court has ruled on this issue, the school district will once again immediately follow the resulting new requirements. The situation will remain in flux for some time; at least until the appellate court issues its ruling at which time, the school district will again reassess our current requirements.

>>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>> Throughout the past two years, our Wilmington students, staff and parents have all worked together to effectively stay in school where we belong, while also committing to help keep one another safe during this pandemic. Please take note that at this time it is still recommended for all students and staff to wear face masks indoors, whenever possible. There may also be times when transmission is strongly suspected within individual classrooms, sports teams, etc; when additional safety measures are determined to be the best course of action for the safety and well-being of everyone involved. As always, the safety and well-being of our students and staff will continue to serve as the primary focus of our Board of Education and Administration.

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>>>>>>>>>> We are all very anxious for a return to 'normal' in all aspects of life. Hopefully this next adjustment is a move in the right direction.

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>>>>>>>>>> In Wildcat Pride,

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>>>>>>>>>> Matt Swick

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>>>>>>>>>> Superintendent of Schools

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>>>>>>>>>> Wilmington School District

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>>>>>>>>>>>> On Feb 6, 2022, at 09:11, Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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>>>>>>>>>>>> And another...yet we still haven't heard from SD308.

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SUBJECT: Re: please repeal the mask mandate for students and teachers
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Wendi Whowell <wwhowell@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 08:47

We have a board approved safety plan and mask policy in place based on CDC, ISBE, and IDPH guidelines that were approved in August and remain in place. Therefore they are to be followed. Other districts may not have created these plans or may have different plans despite community numbers.

Because of our safety protocols we have been able to keep our students in school while others have had to shut down for days at a time. Our priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community while also trying to keep our kids in school.

No one wants to have to go back to remote learning and while no one wants to continue to have to wear masks, until our transmission rates drop we will need to. I'm sorry if you disagree. I understand that these are challenging times for all of us.

Dr. Marino
Board President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 8:20 PM Wendi Whowell <wwhowell@sd308.org> wrote:

Thank you for your reply, but I must express my disappointment regarding the decision. How can Plainfield and Yorkville be given the option to wear their masks? The metrics are not that different.

Gratefully,

Mrs. Whowell

Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher
Traugher Junior High

Student Support Time (SST) and Temporary Distance Learning (TDL) links at <https://meet.google.com/nrj-atcv-vyh?authuser=0> (after school appointments can also be made)

"While emotions can be very good informants, they can be very bad advisors." Carl E Pickhardt

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"Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not." Thomas H. Huxley

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 10:46 AM Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

We appreciate your email. Further instructions from the district will be provided today.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 9:12 PM Wendi Whowell <wwhowell@sd308.org> wrote:

Dear Donna,

Thank you for opening my email. I will skip all the information you already know and get to the crucial point:

As a teacher and a parent, I used to think that the masks were a necessary evil, but now I think they are an unnecessary burden. They are now a burden that can be lifted because of yesterday's court ruling. This yoke can now be LEGALLY lifted from our necks.

Please, I beg of you, use your position of esteem and power to lead the effort to persuade other decision-makers to end the odious encumbrance of requiring everyone to wear a mask in District 308.

Gratefully,

Wendi

Mrs. Whewell

Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher

Traugher Junior High

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Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education President

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: HUGE THANK YOU!

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ldoyle@sd308.org" <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 09:08

Good Morning -

I just wanted to thank you for taking the time last summer to create a safety plan for the 21-22 school year that has been able to keep our schools open for in person learning this year. Continued use of these mitigations will keep all of the students, staff and their families safe. Thank you for making the tough decision to do what is in the best interest of all of those in our community.

Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: Re: Recent mask protocol in SD308

FROM: Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]>

TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 09:47

Dr. Marino,

I know you and the board are under a tremendous amount of pressure and scrutiny and I always think it's important that leaders in our community and schools hear good job often. I know it's hard though I may not know how hard but I appreciate the thoughtful approach to these kinds of decisions and thank you for keeping the students and staff well-being front and center.

Michelle Cashman

On Feb 7, 2022, at 8:38 AM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Thank you Ms. Cashman,

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 9:49 PM Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Board Members,

I want to thank you for continuing to follow the safety plan that was adopted in August 2021. While Friday's decision does cause districts to review current protocols, I want to commend you for following the guidelines the board adopted last summer which ensures consistency in our classrooms. Friday's ruling is not the final say in the matter and the potential back and forth would create chaos in our classrooms and with so many changes in our kids' worlds, I appreciate the "stay the course" for teachers, staff and students. Our students and teachers have enough to worry about changing guidances, recommendations and just teaching their curriculum that we should do everything possible to give the kids as stable learning environment as possible.

Thank you,

Michelle Cashman

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Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: TRO on Mask Mandate

FROM: Mandi Ralson <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 11:09

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE READ AT BOARD MEETING BUT ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

SD308 Board Members:

I don't even know where to start, except to say this is not the high school or junior high experience I would have ever imagined or wanted for my kids. My name is Mandi Ralson and I have two children in this school district.

We in Illinois are the laughingstock of this country. So many school districts in our state did the right thing yesterday by informing families that their children could attend school today without a mask. Finally free, after almost 2 years! But our school leadership – you, elected board members who work for this community - are continuing to keep our kids in bondage by this supposed safety plan and a mandate on masks.

I think most parents are not asking that masks get banned. No, they really are not. We just want CHOICE. But you have taken that away from us – and for the benefit of whom?! Everyone loses when choices are taken away.

In your considerations this past weekend, did you ever ask:

- What was best for the kids?
- Why do you continue to fight this?
- Are we really still living in a state of emergency?
- Why do we continue to stand with our state leadership who, for many years, has not cared about our District at all?

Do the right thing for our kids! Allow families to choose for themselves whether to wear masks. Comply with the law, as Judge Grischow's order requires. Stop the mandates NOW.

Mandi Ralson

SUBJECT: Concern - District Transparency
FROM: KAREN KASON <[REDACTED]>
TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:02

Good Afternoon, SD308 Administration & Board Members -

As a tax payer with students in the district, I find cancelling a regularly scheduled board meeting without an explanation unacceptable. Rescheduling said board meeting to later in the week utilizing virtual format is also unacceptable. You are stewards of our community - cancelling important discussions that need to be had in an open format is a dereliction of duty and a violation of your Code of Conduct. Closed sessions you have this week are subject to FOIA requests and may be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The continued lack of transparency and blatant disregard for the community you were elected (BOE) or hired (administration and new board member) to serve is disheartening. I ask you to consider the following:

- Do you demonstrate the collaborative spirit to build trust with the community and realize the goals laid out in Envision308? This requires respectful engagement with all stakeholders - regardless of view.
- What is the efficacy of mitigation strategies (masking and close contact quarantine) in the approved Safety Plan from August 2021? Has the district been tracking data to support either mandates or options such as % of students quarantined for close contact that test positive? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
- How does masking promotes an environment of learning and inclusion when it is widely accepted that communication is 55% non-verbal cues (most importantly facial expression), 38% tone, and 7% words. Things are getting lost in translation - for our younger learners and special needs students, this only creates a larger gap.

This has been a long "two weeks" - [REDACTED] it has been 20% of their life experience. My kids deserve better. Please step up and be the non-partisan decision makers you were elected / hired you to be.

Respectfully,
Karen Kason
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Thank You
FROM: Heather Moyer [REDACTED]
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:18

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Re: please repeal the mask mandate for students and teachers
FROM: Wendi Whowell <wwhowell@sd308.org>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 13:24

Thank you for replying (again). My objection has to do with the current metrics. We have 469 per 100,000, which is only .4%. The district doesn't even begin to think about closing because of "regular" flu absences until they reach 10%.

No one wants to go remote, but assuming that that is where being unmasked will end is simply wrong, and it seems to be fearmongering.

Gratefully,

Mrs. Whowell
Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher
Traugher Junior High

Student Support Time (SST) and Temporary Distance Learning (TDL) links at <https://meet.google.com/nrj-atcv-vyh?authuser=0> (after school appointments can also be made)

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On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:47 AM Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

We have a board approved safety plan and mask policy in place based on CDC, ISBE, and IDPH guidelines that were approved in August and remain in place. Therefore they are to be followed. Other districts may not have created these plans or may have different plans despite community numbers.

Because of our safety protocols we have been able to keep our students in school while others have had to shut down for days at a time. Our priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community while also trying to keep our kids in school.

No one wants to have to go back to remote learning and while no one wants to continue to have to wear masks, until our transmission rates drop we will need to. I'm sorry if you disagree. I understand that these are challenging times for all of us.

Dr. Marino
Board President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 8:20 PM Wendi Whowell <wwhowell@sd308.org> wrote:

Thank you for your reply, but I must express my disappointment regarding the decision. How can Plainfield and Yorkville be given the option to wear their masks? The metrics are not that different.

Gratefully,

Mrs. Whowell

Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher
Traugher Junior High

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On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 10:46 AM Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

We appreciate your email. Further instructions from the district will be provided today.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 9:12 PM Wendi Whowell <wwhowell@sd308.org> wrote:

Dear Donna,

Thank you for opening my email. I will skip all the information you already know and get to the crucial point:

As a teacher and a parent, I used to think that the masks were a necessary evil, but now I think they are an unnecessary burden. They are now a burden that can be lifted because of yesterday's court ruling. This yoke can now be LEGALLY lifted from our necks.

Please, I beg of you, use your position of esteem and power to lead the effort to persuade other decision-makers to end the odious encumbrance of requiring everyone to wear a mask in District 308.

Gratefully,

Wendi

Mrs. Whowell

Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher

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--
Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education President

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Thank You

FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>

TO: Heather Moyer [REDACTED]

DATE: 02/07/2022 13:34

Thanks for your support Heather. Always nice to hear as you know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education President

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 12:19 PM Heather Moyer [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Re: HUGE THANK YOU!
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: [REDACTED]
DATE: 02/07/2022 13:36

Thank you Margaret for your support. It is always nice to hear, as I'm sure you know. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 9:08 AM <glasslaw@aol.com> wrote:

Good Morning -

I just wanted to thank you for taking the time last summer to create a safety plan for the 21-22 school year that has been able to keep our schools open for in person learning this year. Continued use of these mitigations will keep all of the students, staff and their families safe. Thank you for making the tough decision to do what is in the best interest of all of those in our community.

Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: Thank you for standing by our safety plan
FROM: WENDY BERK [REDACTED]
TO: superintendent@sd308.org
BCC: donna-marino@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 14:56

Hello -

I wanted to reach out and **sincerely thank you** for holding to the district's safety plan in light of the confusion and pressure that erupted over the weekend. I know you must be facing enormous pushback from parents and guardians who want you to drop the mask mandate, end quarantines and stop weekly testing.

I am so very grateful to all of you for placing the safety of our vulnerable children, staff, and families first. We are still at a high country transmission rate and the thought of sending my children into 308 schools without these protections is extremely frightening. I fear for them, I fear for those that cannot be vaccinated or wear masks due to medical issues, I fear for my mother who has health complications, and for countless others whose lives literally could hang in the balance on this issue. Please know that while we pro-maskers may not be as loud as some others, there are many lining up behind you who want to continue on the path of science and safety that you laid out earlier this year in your safety plan.

This means so much to me - I cried when the email came saying we would stay with the plan. Tears of relief in the midst of so much worry and anguish. I'm tearing up right now writing this letter to you. I know that masks are inconvenient and that we all want this to be over. But wearing a mask to protect others is worth it. Every single person is worth protecting in our schools, especially those that do not have a choice. I, and my children, will continue to wear our masks knowing that we may help avoid getting someone sick, that we are contributing to the health and safety of our schools and our communities.

Thank you,
Wendy Berk

SUBJECT: Re: Important Parent Information: Please Read
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Wirth [REDACTED]
DATE: 02/07/2022 15:10

Thank you Jennifer. Be well.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 3:25 PM Jennifer Wirth [REDACTED] wrote:
Dr. Marino-

I have never been happier about our safety plan than I am today.

Thank you for all you've done to keep us safe.

Jennifer Stamp

On Feb 6, 2022, at 2:59 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



****A PDF of this message is attached****

February 6, 2022

Greetings SD 308 Families,

On Friday, a judge in Springfield issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) enjoining the Governor from requiring student and staff mask mandates and exclusion of students who are close contacts. Our school district is a named defendant in these lawsuits. While the TRO prevents the school district from relying on Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders, it does not change our district's independent requirements contained in Board Policy 7:165 and the [safety plan](#) adopted by the Board of Education on Aug. 12, 2021. Board Policy 7:165 and the safety plan require that masks be worn inside all school buildings, based upon local metrics. Additionally, based on CDC guidance, the safety plan allows the school district to exclude individuals who have not provided proof of full vaccination who are close contacts for the length of time set forth in the safety plan. The school district allows excluded individuals to return to school on an expedited basis if the additional mitigation measures are followed.

Below, you will find a chart that outlines when a mask is required per the district plan, as well as the current metrics for our service area. Using current metrics, our district is in the category of high transmission, thus masks are required by all persons in school buildings.

Data measured for 4 zip code service area	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
New cases per 100,000 persons	0- 9.99	10- 49.99	50- 99.9	≥ 100
Masks (details below)	Masks Recommended	Masks not required when stationary and distanced (3 feet or further)	Masks required by all persons in schools	Masks required by all persons in schools

New Cases per 100,000 persons as of February 3, 2022: 461.4 (high transmission)

[District Service Area Metrics](#): The four zip codes (60543, 60538, 60503, 60585) that comprise the largest majority of SD 308 students.

The order issued by the trial judge is being appealed to the appellate court and we will await that ruling to see if the TRO will be upheld. In the meantime, the school district's current rules regarding masking and close contact exclusion requirements will remain in place.

Please reinforce with your children the requirements to be masked in school and to follow the other mitigation measures that are all still in effect in the District. We understand that this situation is evolving and emotions are high. We appreciate your cooperation as we all share the same goal of educating students in the safest environment possible.

Thank you,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

6 de febrero de 2022

Saludos Familias SD 308,

El viernes, un juez en Springfield emitió una orden de restricción temporal (TRO, por sus siglas en inglés) que le prohíbe al gobernador exigir el uso de máscaras a los estudiantes y al personal y excluir a los estudiantes que son contactos cercanos. Nuestro distrito escolar es un demandado nombrado en estas demandas. Si bien la TRO evita que el distrito escolar confíe en las órdenes ejecutivas del gobernador Pritzker, no cambia los requisitos independientes de nuestro distrito contenidos en la Política de la Junta 7:165 y el [plan de seguridad](#) adoptado por la Junta de Educación el 12 de agosto de 2021. Política de la Junta 7 :165 y el plan de seguridad requieren que se usen máscaras dentro de todos los edificios escolares, según las métricas locales. Además, según la guía de los CDC, el plan de seguridad permite que el distrito escolar excluya a las personas que no hayan proporcionado prueba de vacunación completa y que sean contactos cercanos durante el tiempo establecido en el plan de seguridad. El distrito escolar permite que las personas excluidas regresen a la escuela de manera acelerada si se siguen las medidas de mitigación adicionales.

A continuación, encontrará un cuadro que describe cuándo se requiere una máscara según el plan del distrito, así como las métricas actuales para nuestra área de servicio. Usando las métricas

actuales, nuestro distrito está en la categoría de alta transmisión, por lo tanto, todas las personas en los edificios escolares requieren máscaras.

Data measured for 4 zip code service area	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
New cases per 100,000 persons	0- 9.99	10- 49.99	50- 99.9	≥ 100
Masks (details below)	Masks Recommended	Masks not required when stationary and distanced (3 feet or further)	Masks required by all persons in schools	Masks required by all persons in schools

Casos nuevos por cada 100.000 personas al 3 de febrero de 2022: 461,4 (transmisión alta)
[Métricas del área de servicio del distrito](#) : los cuatro códigos postales (60543, 60538, 60503, 60585) que comprenden la mayoría de los estudiantes del SD 308.

La orden emitida por el juez de primera instancia está siendo apelada ante la corte de apelaciones y esperaremos ese fallo para ver si se confirma la TRO. Mientras tanto, las reglas actuales del distrito escolar con respecto a los requisitos de exclusión de enmascaramiento y contacto cercano permanecerán vigentes.

Refuerce con sus hijos los requisitos de usar cubrebocas en la escuela y seguir las otras medidas de mitigación que aún están vigentes en el Distrito. Entendemos que esta situación está evolucionando y las emociones están altas. Agradecemos su cooperación ya que todos compartimos el mismo objetivo de educar a los estudiantes en el entorno más seguro posible.

Gracias,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
 superintendente de escuelas

Attachments:

 messages/attachments/189282fa5dfe90a1ad6c29ad30fc8444/Parent_Message_2.6.22.pdf (69.1 KB)

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Sincerely,
 Dr. Donna Marino
 Board of Education President
 Oswego Community Unit School District 308
 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Thank You
 FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>

TO: Donna Wareman [REDACTED]
DATE: 02/07/2022 15:13

Thank you Donna. We appreciate your email.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 3:55 PM Donna Wareman [REDACTED] wrote:

With regard to the district's decision to maintain and enforce the safety plan adopted last August in light of the recent court order, I just wanted to let you know how grateful my family is with this decision. There are many parents like myself who have been very concerned that our district would be dropping the mask requirements and there is a real sigh of relief for those of us who understand the value that these policies have had in mitigating the effects of this pandemic and allowing our children to return to school safely. I sincerely hope that when you start hearing from the opposition you will remember that they do not speak for me or for all the parents in this district.

Donna Wareman

--

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Important Parent Information: Please Read
FROM: Jennifer Wirth [REDACTED]
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 16:18

I hope you are doing okay. I'm sorry to hear you moved your meeting - Please stay safe. I appreciate what you are doing for the community.

On Feb 7, 2022, at 3:10 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Thank you Jennifer. Be well.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 3:25 PM Jennifer Wirth <jenniferwirth@msn.com> wrote:

Dr. Marino-

I have never been happier about our safety plan than I am today.

Thank you for all you've done to keep us safe.

Jennifer Stamp

On Feb 6, 2022, at 2:59 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



****A PDF of this message is attached****

February 6, 2022

Greetings SD 308 Families,

On Friday, a judge in Springfield issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) enjoining the Governor from requiring student and staff mask mandates and exclusion of students who are close contacts. Our school district is a named defendant in these lawsuits. While the TRO prevents the school district from relying on Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders, it does not change our district's independent requirements contained in Board Policy 7:165 and the [safety plan](#) adopted by the Board of Education on Aug. 12, 2021. Board Policy 7:165 and the safety plan require that masks be worn inside all school buildings, based upon local metrics. Additionally, based on CDC guidance, the safety plan allows the school district to exclude individuals who have not provided proof of full vaccination who are close contacts for the length of time set forth in the safety plan. The school district allows excluded individuals to return to school on an expedited basis if the additional mitigation measures are followed.

Below, you will find a chart that outlines when a mask is required per the district plan, as well as the current metrics for our service area. Using current metrics, our district is in the category of high transmission, thus masks are required by all persons in school buildings.

Data measured for 4 zip code service area	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
New cases per 100,000 persons	0- 9.99	10- 49.99	50- 99.9	≥ 100
Masks (details below)	Masks Recommended	Masks not required when stationary and distanced (3 feet or further)	Masks required by all persons in schools	Masks required by all persons in schools

New Cases per 100,000 persons as of February 3, 2022: 461.4 (high transmission)
[District Service Area Metrics](#): The four zip codes (60543, 60538, 60503, 60585) that comprise the largest majority of SD 308 students.

The order issued by the trial judge is being appealed to the appellate court and we will await that ruling to see if the TRO will be upheld. In the meantime, the school district's current rules regarding masking and close contact exclusion requirements will remain in place.

Please reinforce with your children the requirements to be masked in school and to follow the other mitigation measures that are all still in effect in the District. We

understand that this situation is evolving and emotions are high. We appreciate your cooperation as we all share the same goal of educating students in the safest environment possible.

Thank you,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

6 de febrero de 2022

Saludos Familias SD 308,

El viernes, un juez en Springfield emitió una orden de restricción temporal (TRO, por sus siglas en inglés) que le prohíbe al gobernador exigir el uso de máscaras a los estudiantes y al personal y excluir a los estudiantes que son contactos cercanos. Nuestro distrito escolar es un demandado nombrado en estas demandas. Si bien la TRO evita que el distrito escolar confíe en las órdenes ejecutivas del gobernador Pritzker, no cambia los requisitos independientes de nuestro distrito contenidos en la Política de la Junta 7:165 y el [plan de seguridad](#) adoptado por la Junta de Educación el 12 de agosto de 2021. Política de la Junta 7 :165 y el plan de seguridad requieren que se usen máscaras dentro de todos los edificios escolares, según las métricas locales. Además, según la guía de los CDC, el plan de seguridad permite que el distrito escolar excluya a las personas que no hayan proporcionado prueba de vacunación completa y que sean contactos cercanos durante el tiempo establecido en el plan de seguridad. El distrito escolar permite que las personas excluidas regresen a la escuela de manera acelerada si se siguen las medidas de mitigación adicionales.

A continuación, encontrará un cuadro que describe cuándo se requiere una máscara según el plan del distrito, así como las métricas actuales para nuestra área de servicio. Usando las métricas actuales, nuestro distrito está en la categoría de alta transmisión, por lo tanto, todas las personas en los edificios escolares requieren máscaras.

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Casos nuevos por cada 100.000 personas al 3 de febrero de 2022: 461,4 (transmisión alta)

[Métricas del área de servicio del distrito](#) : los cuatro códigos postales (60543, 60538, 60503, 60585) que comprenden la mayoría de los estudiantes del SD 308.

La orden emitida por el juez de primera instancia está siendo apelada ante la corte de apelaciones y esperamos ese fallo para ver si se confirma la TRO. Mientras tanto, las reglas actuales del distrito escolar con respecto a los requisitos de exclusión de enmascaramiento y contacto cercano permanecerán vigentes.

Refuerce con sus hijos los requisitos de usar cubrebocas en la escuela y seguir las otras medidas de mitigación que aún están vigentes en el Distrito. Entendemos que esta situación está evolucionando y las emociones están altas. Agradecemos su cooperación ya que todos compartimos el mismo objetivo de educar a los estudiantes en el entorno más seguro posible.

Gracias,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
superintendente de escuelas

Attachments:



[messages/attachments/189282fa5dfe90a1ad6c29ad30fc8444/Parent_Message_2.6.22.pdf](#) (69.1 KB)

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Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Fwd: Important Board Meeting Information
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:33

How much did you spend of our tax dollars to get your lawyers to draft up this letter. Enough with the legal maneuvering. I'd like to know why you are fighting this so hard when 200 of your fellow district school boards have decided it's not worth the fight. Your spending our money and you are fighting a losing battle.

Stop hiding behind attorneys. If you can't do that you should all resign. You have failed our students and the community.

John McElyea

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 17:29

To: Community Unit School District 308 Recipients
Subject: Important Board Meeting Information



February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

Rescheduling The Board of Education Meeting

The board meeting was originally postponed from tonight until Thursday night to allow for the board's legal counsel to gather and disseminate information to the board regarding the TRO issued late Friday. A motion to stay the TRO has been filed in the appellate court, but a ruling on that is not expected until later this week.

The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., requires public bodies to provide notice of meetings, and agendas of what will be discussed, to the public in advance of a meeting. "If the school board makes a change in its regular meeting dates (for example, a change from the first and third Mondays to the first and third Wednesdays), it must give at least 10 days' notice of such change by publishing a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. **If a public body merely changes (reschedules) one of its regular meetings, e.g., from September 7 to September 9, it need only give 48 hours' notice of the changed (rescheduled) meeting date and include the agenda for the rescheduled meeting in said notice.**" (cited from the Illinois Association of School Board publication "Letting the Sunshine In: School Board Meetings and Records.") The school district has properly provided adequate notice and posting of the notice and agenda of the rescheduled meeting within OMA's timelines.

Meeting Format

The rescheduled meeting was originally scheduled to be a remote meeting because of the concern about the health and safety of those present. This was due to the concerns over adults in the community who have come into the school buildings without masks, encouraged their students to disobey the masking requirement, videotaped and harassed school staff, expressed their intent to attend and disrupt the school board meeting without wearing masks, and threatened to intimidate school board members and administrators at their homes.

In order to provide the public the opportunity to speak, the district is canceling Thursday's virtual meeting, and will convene the meeting in-person, on a date soon to be determined, with at least 48 hours notice. On behalf of the District, I am requesting that all individuals who attend the meeting in person wear a mask at all times in the school building. If the masking requirement is not followed, or if attendees otherwise disrupt the meeting, the meeting may be adjourned and rescheduled to a virtual meeting format that would be held at a future date. I trust that those community members who attend the meeting will abide by the protocols contained in the Safety Plan so that the school board may continue to convene meetings on an in-person basis.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

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SUBJECT: Community message
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:41

February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: The law is clear

FROM: Gina Jantz [REDACTED]

TO: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>, Community Unit School District 308 Recipients <recipients@sd308.parentlink.net>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 17:43

The law is and the judges ruling is very clear. I have no idea what you think you still need to discuss with lawyers at this point. Quite frankly this lawsuit has been in the works for months so you all had plenty of time to prepare for either outcome and you should have.

It is pathetic your attempt to continue to violate the law in this way.

You are correct that parents are upset. We have had enough of this double talk and politically motivated agenda about our kids and masking and quarantine of healthy children in our schools.

This message will just further anger and divide our community. Enough is enough - the law has spoken and no board of education has the right to make a policy regarding measures such masks and quarantine. Period.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:28 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

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Meeting Format

The rescheduled meeting was originally scheduled to be a remote meeting because of the concern about the health and safety of those present. This was due to the concerns over adults in the community who have come into the school buildings without masks, encouraged their students to disobey the masking requirement, videotaped and harassed school staff, expressed their intent to attend and disrupt the school board meeting without wearing masks, and threatened to intimidate school board members and administrators at their homes.

In order to provide the public the opportunity to speak, the district is canceling Thursday's virtual meeting, and will convene the meeting in-person, on a date soon to be determined, with at least 48 hours notice. On behalf of the District, I am requesting that all individuals who attend the meeting in person wear a mask at all times in the school building. If the masking requirement is not followed, or if attendees otherwise disrupt the meeting, the meeting may be adjourned and rescheduled to a virtual meeting format that would be held at a future date. I trust that those community members who attend the meeting will abide by the protocols contained in the Safety Plan so that the school board may continue to convene meetings on an in-person basis.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

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SUBJECT: Fwd: You broke the law
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:56

Hello Lori,

Our district is enforcing it's safety plan which means the continued wearing of masks during high transmission rates. There are people in the community who are very angry. We were to have a board meeting tonight, but decided to postpone for safety reasons. I am forwarding you one of the messages that I have received below. I would like to know what IASB, ISBE, and our legislatures are doing to keep us board members safe. What else can I do to keep myself, my family, and me fellow board members and administrators safe? Who do we go to to end this madness? I appreciate your help and I appreciate all that you do. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rich Partlow** <partlow.rich@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:34 PM
Subject: You broke the law
To: <donna-marino@sd308.org>

Donna, you do realize that you broke the law by rescheduling tonight meeting, right? By law 10 days notice is required. It even says so in the SD308 website take a look for yourself. We will be pressing charges. Tonight we are protesting in front of Sparlins home and tomorrow night it will be in front of your home.

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: Recent mask protocol in SD308
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Michelle Cashman [REDACTED]
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:59

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 9:47 AM Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Marino,

I know you and the board are under a tremendous amount of pressure and scrutiny and I always think it's important that leaders in our community and schools hear good job often. I know it's hard though I may not know how hard but I appreciate the thoughtful approach to these kinds of decisions and thank you for keeping the students and staff well-being front and center.

Michelle Cashman

On Feb 7, 2022, at 8:38 AM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Thank you Ms. Cashman,

It is always nice to get a note of support. It is very important for board members to hear so that our perception of what the community wants does not become skewed in one direction, even unintentionally.

We passed our safety plan in August for this very reason, so we would be prepared with a science based strategy should the mandate be lifted. We too hope that there is a day without masks in our near future, but until then, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Thank you again for your support.

Dr. Donna Marino
CUSD308 BOE President

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 9:49 PM Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Board Members,

I want to thank you for continuing to follow the safety plan that was adopted in August 2021. While Friday's decision does cause districts to review current protocols, I want to commend you for following the guidelines the board adopted last summer which ensures consistency in our classrooms. Friday's ruling is not the final say in the matter and the potential back and forth would create chaos in our classrooms and with so many changes in our kids' worlds, I appreciate the "stay the course" for teachers, staff and students. Our students and teachers have enough to worry about changing guidances, recommendations and just teaching their curriculum that we should do everything possible to give the kids as stable learning environment as possible.

Thank you,

Michelle Cashman

--

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Important Parent Information: Please Read
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Jennifer Wirth [REDACTED]
DATE: 02/07/2022 18:03

Thank you Jennifer. I appreciate that.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 4:19 PM Jennifer Wirth <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I hope you are doing okay. I'm sorry to hear you moved your meeting - Please stay safe. I appreciate what you are doing for the community.

On Feb 7, 2022, at 3:10 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Thank you Jennifer. Be well.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 3:25 PM Jennifer Wirth <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Marino-

I have never been happier about our safety plan than I am today.

Thank you for all you've done to keep us safe.

Jennifer Stamp

On Feb 6, 2022, at 2:59 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



****A PDF of this message is attached****

February 6, 2022

Greetings SD 308 Families,

On Friday, a judge in Springfield issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) enjoining the Governor from requiring student and staff mask mandates and exclusion of students who are close contacts. Our school district is a named defendant in these lawsuits. While the TRO prevents the school district from relying on Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders, it does not change our district's independent requirements contained in Board Policy 7:165 and the [safety plan](#) adopted by the Board of Education on Aug. 12, 2021. Board Policy 7:165 and the safety plan require that masks be worn inside all school buildings, based upon local metrics. Additionally, based on CDC guidance, the safety plan allows the school district to exclude individuals who have not provided proof of full vaccination who are close contacts for the length of time set forth in the safety plan. The school district allows excluded individuals to return to school on an expedited basis if the additional mitigation measures are followed.

Below, you will find a chart that outlines when a mask is required per the district plan, as well as the current metrics for our service area. Using current metrics, our district is in the category of high transmission, thus masks are required by all persons in school buildings.

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[District Service Area Metrics](#): The four zip codes (60543, 60538, 60503, 60585) that comprise the largest majority of SD 308 students.

The order issued by the trial judge is being appealed to the appellate court and we will await that ruling to see if the TRO will be upheld. In the meantime, the school district's current rules regarding masking and close contact exclusion requirements will remain in place.

Please reinforce with your children the requirements to be masked in school and to follow the other mitigation measures that are all still in effect in the District. We understand that this situation is evolving and emotions are high. We appreciate your cooperation as we all share the same goal of educating students in the safest environment possible.

Thank you,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

6 de febrero de 2022

Saludos Familias SD 308,

El viernes, un juez en Springfield emitió una orden de restricción temporal (TRO, por sus siglas en inglés) que le prohíbe al gobernador exigir el uso de máscaras a los estudiantes y al personal y excluir a los estudiantes que son contactos cercanos. Nuestro distrito escolar es un demandado nombrado en estas demandas. Si bien la TRO evita que el distrito escolar confíe en las órdenes ejecutivas del gobernador Pritzker, no cambia los requisitos independientes de nuestro distrito contenidos en la Política de la Junta 7:165 y el [plan de seguridad](#) adoptado por la Junta de Educación el 12 de agosto de 2021. Política de la Junta 7 :165 y el plan de seguridad requieren que se usen máscaras dentro de todos los edificios escolares, según las métricas locales. Además, según la guía de los CDC, el plan de seguridad permite que el distrito escolar excluya a las personas que no hayan proporcionado prueba de vacunación completa y que sean contactos cercanos durante el tiempo establecido en el plan de seguridad. El distrito escolar permite que las personas excluidas regresen a la escuela de manera acelerada si se siguen las medidas de mitigación adicionales.

A continuación, encontrará un cuadro que describe cuándo se requiere una máscara según el plan del distrito, así como las métricas actuales para nuestra área de servicio. Usando las métricas actuales, nuestro distrito está en la categoría de alta transmisión, por lo tanto, todas las personas en los edificios escolares requieren máscaras.

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Casos nuevos por cada 100.000 personas al 3 de febrero de 2022: 461,4 (transmisión alta)

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Refuerce con sus hijos los requisitos de usar cubrebocas en la escuela y seguir las otras medidas de mitigación que aún están vigentes en el Distrito. Entendemos que esta situación está evolucionando y las emociones están altas. Agradecemos su cooperación ya que todos compartimos el mismo objetivo de educar a los estudiantes en el entorno más seguro posible.

Gracias,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
superintendente de escuelas

Attachments:



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Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: Community message
FROM: Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 18:57

Ok. Thanks so much.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2022, at 5:41 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

Rescheduling The Board of Education Meeting

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Meeting Format

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President

Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: Re: You broke the law
FROM: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 19:47

Donna,

Do you have time for a call first thing in the morning or even tonight? Feel free to call my cell.-Lori

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 7:42:49 PM
To: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
Subject: Re: You broke the law

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Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 7:32:58 PM
To: Thomas Bertrand <tbertrand@iasb.com>; Kimberly Small <ksmall@iasb.com>
Cc: Nakia Hall <nhall@iasb.com>
Subject: Fwd: You broke the law

Hello,

Sharing this with you from Oswego 308 BP. As I said last week to Tom, I just don't know how to help this situation anymore(aside from being a listening ear and sharing anything relevant of course). FYI, over the weekend I heard from Barrington, McLean, and then Schaumburg 54 this morning. The concerns of threats are real and ongoing. If there is anything additional you suggest I share, I welcome feedback.

Thanks -Lori

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 5:56:59 PM
To: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
Subject: Fwd: You broke the law

Hello Lori,

Our district is enforcing it's safety plan which means the continued wearing of masks during high transmission rates. There are people in the community who are very angry. We were to have a board meeting tonight, but decided to postpone for safety reasons. I am forwarding you one of the messages that I have received below. I would like to know what IASB, ISBE, and our legislatures are doing to keep us board members safe. What else can I do to keep myself, my family, and me fellow board members and administrators safe? Who do we go to to end this madness? I appreciate your help and I appreciate all that you do. Thank you.

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Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rich Partlow** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:34 PM
Subject: You broke the law
To: <donna-marino@sd308.org>

Donna, you do realize that you broke the law by rescheduling tonight meeting, right? By law 10 days notice is required. It even says so in the SD308 website take a look for yourself. We will be pressing charges. Tonight we are protesting in front of Sparlins home and tomorrow night it will be in front of your home.

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Re: You broke the law
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com>
DATE: 02/07/2022 23:17

I am driving to WI in the morning for work. I will be in the car between 7am and 8:30, if you don't mind an early morning call.

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7:47 PM Lori Grant <lgrant@iasb.com> wrote:

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Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education President

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: HUGE THANK YOU!

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ldoyle@sd308.org" <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 09:08

Good Morning -

I just wanted to thank you for taking the time last summer to create a safety plan for the 21-22 school year that has been able to keep our schools open for in person learning this year. Continued use of these mitigations will keep all of the students, staff and their families safe. Thank you for making the tough decision to do what is in the best interest of all of those in our community.

Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: TRO on Mask Mandate

FROM: Mandi Ralson <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 02/07/2022 11:09

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE READ AT BOARD MEETING BUT ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

SD308 Board Members:

I don't even know where to start, except to say this is not the high school or junior high experience I would have ever imagined or wanted for my kids. My name is Mandi Ralson and I have two children in this school district.

We in Illinois are the laughingstock of this country. So many school districts in our state did the right thing yesterday by informing families that their children could attend school today without a mask. Finally free, after almost 2 years! But our school leadership – you, elected board members who work for this community - are continuing to keep our kids in bondage by this supposed safety plan and a mandate on masks.

I think most parents are not asking that masks get banned. No, they really are not. We just want CHOICE. But you have taken that away from us – and for the benefit of whom?! Everyone loses when choices are taken away.

In your considerations this past weekend, did you ever ask:

- What was best for the kids?
- Why do you continue to fight this?
- Are we really still living in a state of emergency?
- Why do we continue to stand with our state leadership who, for many years, has not cared about our District at all?

Do the right thing for our kids! Allow families to choose for themselves whether to wear masks.

Comply with the law, as Judge Grischow's order requires. Stop the mandates NOW.

Mandi Ralson

SUBJECT: Concern - District Transparency
FROM: KAREN KASON <[REDACTED]>
TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:02

Good Afternoon, SD308 Administration & Board Members -

As a tax payer with students in the district, I find cancelling a regularly scheduled board meeting without an explanation unacceptable. Rescheduling said board meeting to later in the week utilizing virtual format is also unacceptable. You are stewards of our community - cancelling important discussions that need to be had in an open format is a dereliction of duty and a violation of your Code of Conduct. Closed sessions you have this week are subject to FOIA requests and may be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The continued lack of transparency and blatant disregard for the community you were elected (BOE) or hired (administration and new board member) to serve is disheartening. I ask you to consider the following:

- Do you demonstrate the collaborative spirit to build trust with the community and realize the goals laid out in Envision308? This requires respectful engagement with all stakeholders - regardless of view.
- What is the efficacy of mitigation strategies (masking and close contact quarantine) in the approved Safety Plan from August 2021? Has the district been tracking data to support either mandates or options such as % of students quarantined for close contact that test positive? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
- How does masking promotes an environment of learning and inclusion when it is widely accepted that communication is 55% non-verbal cues (most importantly facial expression), 38% tone, and 7% words. Things are getting lost in translation - for our younger learners and special needs students, this only creates a larger gap.

This has been a long "two weeks" - for [REDACTED] it has been 20% of their life experience. My kids deserve better. Please step up and be the non-partisan decision makers you were elected / hired you to be.

Respectfully,
Karen Kason
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Thank You
FROM: Heather Moyer <[REDACTED]>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:18

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Thank you for standing by our safety plan
FROM: WENDY BERK [REDACTED]
TO: superintendent@sd308.org
BCC: eugene-gatewood@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 14:56

Hello -

I wanted to reach out and **sincerely thank you** for holding to the district's safety plan in light of the confusion and pressure that erupted over the weekend. I know you must be facing enormous pushback from parents and guardians who want you to drop the mask mandate, end quarantines and stop weekly testing.

I am so very grateful to all of you for placing the safety of our vulnerable children, staff, and families first. We are still at a high country transmission rate and the thought of sending my children into 308 schools without these protections is extremely frightening. I fear for them, I fear for those that cannot be vaccinated or wear masks due to medical issues, I fear for my mother who has health complications, and for countless others whose lives literally could hang in the balance on this issue. Please know that while we pro-maskers may not be as loud as some others, there are many lining up behind you who want to continue on the path of science and safety that you laid out earlier this year in your safety plan.

This means so much to me - I cried when the email came saying we would stay with the plan. Tears of relief in the midst of so much worry and anguish. I'm tearing up right now writing this letter to you. I know that masks are inconvenient and that we all want this to be over. But wearing a mask to protect others is worth it. Every single person is worth protecting in our schools, especially those that do not have a choice. I, and my children, will continue to wear our masks knowing that we may help avoid getting someone sick, that we are contributing to the health and safety of our schools and our communities.

Thank you,
Wendy Berk
Mother of a third grader and high school senior

SUBJECT: Fwd: Important Board Meeting Information
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:33

How much did you spend of our tax dollars to get your lawyers to draft up this letter. Enough with the legal maneuvering. I'd like to know why you are fighting this so hard when 200 of your fellow district school boards have decided it's not worth the fight. Your spending our money and you are fighting a losing battle.

Stop hiding behind attorneys. If you can't do that you should all resign. You have failed our students and the community.

John McElyea

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From: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 17:29
To: Community Unit School District 308 Recipients
Subject: Important Board Meeting Information



February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

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In order to provide the public the opportunity to speak, the district is canceling Thursday's virtual meeting, and will convene the meeting in-person, on a date soon to be determined, with at least 48 hours notice. On behalf of the District, I am requesting that all individuals who attend the meeting in person wear a mask at all times in the school building. If the masking requirement is not followed, or if attendees otherwise disrupt the meeting, the meeting may be adjourned and rescheduled to a virtual meeting format that would be held at a future date. I trust that those community members who attend the meeting will abide by the protocols contained in the Safety Plan so that the school board may continue to convene meetings on an in-person basis.

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Superintendent of Schools

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Community Unit School District 308 | 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543 | 630-636-3080

SUBJECT: Community message
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:41

February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

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Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: The law is clear
FROM: Gina Jantz <[REDACTED]>
TO: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>, Community Unit School District 308 Recipients <recipients@sd308.parentlink.net>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:43

The law is and the judges ruling is very clear. I have no idea what you think you still need to discuss with lawyers at this point. Quite frankly this lawsuit has been in the works for months so you all had plenty of time to prepare for either outcome and you should have.

It is pathetic your attempt to continue to violate the law in this way.

You are correct that parents are upset. We have had enough of this double talk and politically motivated agenda about our kids and masking and quarantine of healthy children in our schools.

This message will just further anger and divide our community. Enough is enough - the law has spoken and no board of education has the right to make a policy regarding measures such masks and quarantine. Period.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:28 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



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SUBJECT: Re: Community message
FROM: Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 18:57

Ok. Thanks so much.

Sent from my iPhone

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Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: HUGE THANK YOU!

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ldoyle@sd308.org" <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>

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Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: TRO on Mask Mandate

FROM: Mandi Ralson <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 02/07/2022 11:09

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE READ AT BOARD MEETING BUT ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

SD308 Board Members:

I don't even know where to start, except to say this is not the high school or junior high experience I would have ever imagined or wanted for my kids. My name is Mandi Ralson and I have two children in this school district.

We in Illinois are the laughingstock of this country. So many school districts in our state did the right thing yesterday by informing families that their children could attend school today without a mask. Finally free, after almost 2 years! But our school leadership – you, elected board members who work for this community - are continuing to keep our kids in bondage by this supposed safety plan and a mandate on masks.

I think most parents are not asking that masks get banned. No, they really are not. We just want CHOICE. But you have taken that away from us – and for the benefit of whom?! Everyone loses when choices are taken away.

In your considerations this past weekend, did you ever ask:

- What was best for the kids?
- Why do you continue to fight this?
- Are we really still living in a state of emergency?
- Why do we continue to stand with our state leadership who, for many years, has not cared about our District at all?

Do the right thing for our kids! Allow families to choose for themselves whether to wear masks.

Comply with the law, as Judge Grischow's order requires. Stop the mandates NOW.

Mandi Ralson

SUBJECT: Concern - District Transparency
FROM: KAREN KASON <[REDACTED]>
TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:02

Good Afternoon, SD308 Administration & Board Members -

As a tax payer with students in the district, I find cancelling a regularly scheduled board meeting without an explanation unacceptable. Rescheduling said board meeting to later in the week utilizing virtual format is also unacceptable. You are stewards of our community - cancelling important discussions that need to be had in an open format is a dereliction of duty and a violation of your Code of Conduct. Closed sessions you have this week are subject to FOIA requests and may be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The continued lack of transparency and blatant disregard for the community you were elected (BOE) or hired (administration and new board member) to serve is disheartening. I ask you to consider the following:

- Do you demonstrate the collaborative spirit to build trust with the community and realize the goals laid out in Envision308? This requires respectful engagement with all stakeholders - regardless of view.
- What is the efficacy of mitigation strategies (masking and close contact quarantine) in the approved Safety Plan from August 2021? Has the district been tracking data to support either mandates or options such as % of students quarantined for close contact that test positive? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
- How does masking promotes an environment of learning and inclusion when it is widely accepted that communication is 55% non-verbal cues (most importantly facial expression), 38% tone, and 7% words. Things are getting lost in translation - for our younger learners and special needs students, this only creates a larger gap.

This has been a long "two weeks" - [REDACTED] as been 20% of their life experience. My kids deserve better. Please step up and be the non-partisan decision makers you were elected / hired you to be.

Respectfully,
Karen Kason
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Thank You
FROM: Heather Moyer <[REDACTED]>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:18

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Thank you for standing by our safety plan
FROM: WENDY BERK [REDACTED]
TO: superintendent@sd308.org
BCC: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 14:56

Hello -

I wanted to reach out and **sincerely thank you** for holding to the district's safety plan in light of the confusion and pressure that erupted over the weekend. I know you must be facing enormous pushback from parents and guardians who want you to drop the mask mandate, end quarantines and stop weekly testing.

I am so very grateful to all of you for placing the safety of our vulnerable children, staff, and families first. We are still at a high country transmission rate and the thought of sending my children into 308 schools without these protections is extremely frightening. I fear for them, I fear for those that cannot be vaccinated or wear masks due to medical issues, I fear for my mother who has health complications, and for countless others whose lives literally could hang in the balance on this issue. Please know that while we pro-maskers may not be as loud as some others, there are many lining up behind you who want to continue on the path of science and safety that you laid out earlier this year in your safety plan.

This means so much to me - I cried when the email came saying we would stay with the plan. Tears of relief in the midst of so much worry and anguish. I'm tearing up right now writing this letter to you. I know that masks are inconvenient and that we all want this to be over. But wearing a mask to protect others is worth it. Every single person is worth protecting in our schools, especially those that do not have a choice. I, and my children, will continue to wear our masks knowing that we may help avoid getting someone sick, that we are contributing to the health and safety of our schools and our communities.

Thank you,
Wendy Berk
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Fwd: Important Board Meeting Information
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:33

How much did you spend of our tax dollars to get your lawyers to draft up this letter. Enough with the legal maneuvering. I'd like to know why you are fighting this so hard when 200 of your fellow district school boards have decided it's not worth the fight. Your spending our money and you are fighting a losing battle.

Stop hiding behind attorneys. If you can't do that you should all resign. You have failed our students and the community.

John McElyea

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From: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 17:29
To: Community Unit School District 308 Recipients
Subject: Important Board Meeting Information



February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

Please read through this important communication as it announces a meeting change for the Board of Education, and also addresses questions we've received regarding the postponement of tonight's meeting. Our leadership team has not had an opportunity to reply to each message individually, and we hope this helps to address your questions.

Rescheduling The Board of Education Meeting

The board meeting was originally postponed from tonight until Thursday night to allow for the board's legal counsel to gather and disseminate information to the board regarding the TRO issued late Friday. A motion to stay the TRO has been filed in the appellate court, but a ruling on that is not expected until later this week.

The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., requires public bodies to provide notice of meetings, and agendas of what will be discussed, to the public in advance of a meeting. "If the school board makes a change in its regular meeting dates (for example, a change from the first and third Mondays to the first and third Wednesdays), it must give at least 10 days' notice of such change by publishing a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. **If a public body merely changes (reschedules) one of its regular meetings, e.g., from September 7 to September 9, it need only give 48 hours' notice of the changed (rescheduled) meeting date and include the agenda for the rescheduled meeting in said notice.**" (cited from the Illinois Association of School Board publication "Letting the Sunshine In: School Board Meetings and Records.") The school district has properly provided adequate notice and posting of the notice and agenda of the rescheduled meeting within OMA's timelines.

Meeting Format

The rescheduled meeting was originally scheduled to be a remote meeting because of the concern about the health and safety of those present. This was due to the concerns over adults in the community who have come into the school buildings without masks, encouraged their students to disobey the masking requirement, videotaped and harassed school staff, expressed their intent to attend and disrupt the school board meeting without wearing masks, and threatened to intimidate school board members and administrators at their homes.

In order to provide the public the opportunity to speak, the district is canceling Thursday's virtual meeting, and will convene the meeting in-person, on a date soon to be determined, with at least 48 hours notice. On behalf of the District, I am requesting that all individuals who attend the meeting in person wear a mask at all times in the school building. If the masking requirement is not followed, or if attendees otherwise disrupt the meeting, the meeting may be adjourned and rescheduled to a virtual meeting format that would be held at a future date. I trust that those community members who attend the meeting will abide by the protocols contained in the Safety Plan so that the school board may continue to convene meetings on an in-person basis.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Community Unit School District 308. If you wish to stop receiving email updates sent through the Blackboard service, please [unsubscribe](#).
Community Unit School District 308 | 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543 | 630-636-3080

SUBJECT: Community message
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:41

February 7, 2022

Good Evening SD 308 Community,

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Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: The law is clear
FROM: Gina Jantz <[REDACTED]>
TO: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>, Community Unit School District 308 Recipients <recipients@sd308.parentlink.net>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:43

The law is and the judges ruling is very clear. I have no idea what you think you still need to discuss with lawyers at this point. Quite frankly this lawsuit has been in the works for months so you all had plenty of time to prepare for either outcome and you should have.

It is pathetic your attempt to continue to violate the law in this way.

You are correct that parents are upset. We have had enough of this double talk and politically motivated agenda about our kids and masking and quarantine of healthy children in our schools.

This message will just further anger and divide our community. Enough is enough - the law has spoken and no board of education has the right to make a policy regarding measures such masks and quarantine. Period.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:28 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



February 7, 2022

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Superintendent of Schools

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SUBJECT: HUGE THANK YOU!

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ldoyle@sd308.org" <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 09:08

Good Morning -

I just wanted to thank you for taking the time last summer to create a safety plan for the 21-22 school year that has been able to keep our schools open for in person learning this year. Continued use of these mitigations will keep all of the students, staff and their families safe. Thank you for making the tough decision to do what is in the best interest of all of those in our community.

Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: TRO on Mask Mandate

FROM: Mandi Ralson <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 02/07/2022 11:09

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE READ AT BOARD MEETING BUT ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

SD308 Board Members:

I don't even know where to start, except to say this is not the high school or junior high experience I would have ever imagined or wanted for my kids. My name is Mandi Ralson and I have two children in this school district.

We in Illinois are the laughingstock of this country. So many school districts in our state did the right thing yesterday by informing families that their children could attend school today without a mask. Finally free, after almost 2 years! But our school leadership – you, elected board members who work for this community - are continuing to keep our kids in bondage by this supposed safety plan and a mandate on masks.

I think most parents are not asking that masks get banned. No, they really are not. We just want CHOICE. But you have taken that away from us – and for the benefit of whom?! Everyone loses when choices are taken away.

In your considerations this past weekend, did you ever ask:

- What was best for the kids?
- Why do you continue to fight this?
- Are we really still living in a state of emergency?
- Why do we continue to stand with our state leadership who, for many years, has not cared about our District at all?

Do the right thing for our kids! Allow families to choose for themselves whether to wear masks.

Comply with the law, as Judge Grischow's order requires. Stop the mandates NOW.

Mandi Ralson

SUBJECT: Concern - District Transparency
FROM: KAREN KASON <[REDACTED]>
TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:02

Good Afternoon, SD308 Administration & Board Members -

As a tax payer with students in the district, I find cancelling a regularly scheduled board meeting without an explanation unacceptable. Rescheduling said board meeting to later in the week utilizing virtual format is also unacceptable. You are stewards of our community - cancelling important discussions that need to be had in an open format is a dereliction of duty and a violation of your Code of Conduct. Closed sessions you have this week are subject to FOIA requests and may be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The continued lack of transparency and blatant disregard for the community you were elected (BOE) or hired (administration and new board member) to serve is disheartening. I ask you to consider the following:

- Do you demonstrate the collaborative spirit to build trust with the community and realize the goals laid out in Envision308? This requires respectful engagement with all stakeholders - regardless of view.
- What is the efficacy of mitigation strategies (masking and close contact quarantine) in the approved Safety Plan from August 2021? Has the district been tracking data to support either mandates or options such as % of students quarantined for close contact that test positive? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
- How does masking promotes an environment of learning and inclusion when it is widely accepted that communication is 55% non-verbal cues (most importantly facial expression), 38% tone, and 7% words. Things are getting lost in translation - for our younger learners and special needs students, this only creates a larger gap.

This has been a long "two weeks" - [REDACTED] has been 20% of their life experience. My kids deserve better. Please step up and be the non-partisan decision makers you were elected / hired you to be.

Respectfully,
Karen Kason
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Thank You
FROM: Heather Moyer <[REDACTED]>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:18

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Thank you for standing by our safety plan
FROM: WENDY BERK [REDACTED]
TO: superintendent@sd308.org
BCC: latonya-simelton@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 14:56

Hello -

I wanted to reach out and **sincerely thank you** for holding to the district's safety plan in light of the confusion and pressure that erupted over the weekend. I know you must be facing enormous pushback from parents and guardians who want you to drop the mask mandate, end quarantines and stop weekly testing.

I am so very grateful to all of you for placing the safety of our vulnerable children, staff, and families first. We are still at a high country transmission rate and the thought of sending my children into 308 schools without these protections is extremely frightening. I fear for them, I fear for those that cannot be vaccinated or wear masks due to medical issues, I fear for my mother who has health complications, and for countless others whose lives literally could hang in the balance on this issue. Please know that while we pro-maskers may not be as loud as some others, there are many lining up behind you who want to continue on the path of science and safety that you laid out earlier this year in your safety plan.

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Thank you,
Wendy Berk
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Fwd: Important Board Meeting Information
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:33

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Subject: Important Board Meeting Information



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TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:41

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Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: The law is clear
FROM: Gina Jantz <[REDACTED]>
TO: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>, Community Unit School District 308 Recipients <recipients@sd308.parentlink.net>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
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February 7, 2022

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Sparlin
Superintendent of Schools

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Community Unit School District 308 | 4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543 | 630-636-3080

SUBJECT: HUGE THANK YOU!

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ldoyle@sd308.org" <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 02/07/2022 09:08

Good Morning -

I just wanted to thank you for taking the time last summer to create a safety plan for the 21-22 school year that has been able to keep our schools open for in person learning this year. Continued use of these mitigations will keep all of the students, staff and their families safe. Thank you for making the tough decision to do what is in the best interest of all of those in our community.

Margaret Griest

SUBJECT: TRO on Mask Mandate

FROM: Mandi Ralson <[REDACTED]>

TO: boe@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 02/07/2022 11:09

WRITTEN STATEMENT TO BE READ AT BOARD MEETING BUT ALSO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

SD308 Board Members:

I don't even know where to start, except to say this is not the high school or junior high experience I would have ever imagined or wanted for my kids. My name is Mandi Ralson and I have two children in this school district.

We in Illinois are the laughingstock of this country. So many school districts in our state did the right thing yesterday by informing families that their children could attend school today without a mask. Finally free, after almost 2 years! But our school leadership – you, elected board members who work for this community - are continuing to keep our kids in bondage by this supposed safety plan and a mandate on masks.

I think most parents are not asking that masks get banned. No, they really are not. We just want CHOICE. But you have taken that away from us – and for the benefit of whom?! Everyone loses when choices are taken away.

In your considerations this past weekend, did you ever ask:

- What was best for the kids?
- Why do you continue to fight this?
- Are we really still living in a state of emergency?
- Why do we continue to stand with our state leadership who, for many years, has not cared about our District at all?

Do the right thing for our kids! Allow families to choose for themselves whether to wear masks.

Comply with the law, as Judge Grischow's order requires. Stop the mandates NOW.

Mandi Ralson

SUBJECT: Concern - District Transparency
FROM: KAREN KASON <[REDACTED]>
TO: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:02

Good Afternoon, SD308 Administration & Board Members -

As a tax payer with students in the district, I find cancelling a regularly scheduled board meeting without an explanation unacceptable. Rescheduling said board meeting to later in the week utilizing virtual format is also unacceptable. You are stewards of our community - cancelling important discussions that need to be had in an open format is a dereliction of duty and a violation of your Code of Conduct. Closed sessions you have this week are subject to FOIA requests and may be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The continued lack of transparency and blatant disregard for the community you were elected (BOE) or hired (administration and new board member) to serve is disheartening. I ask you to consider the following:

- Do you demonstrate the collaborative spirit to build trust with the community and realize the goals laid out in Envision308? This requires respectful engagement with all stakeholders - regardless of view.
- What is the efficacy of mitigation strategies (masking and close contact quarantine) in the approved Safety Plan from August 2021? Has the district been tracking data to support either mandates or options such as % of students quarantined for close contact that test positive? If not, why not? If so, please provide.
- How does masking promotes an environment of learning and inclusion when it is widely accepted that communication is 55% non-verbal cues (most importantly facial expression), 38% tone, and 7% words. Things are getting lost in translation - for our younger learners and special needs students, this only creates a larger gap.

This has been a long "two weeks" - [REDACTED] it has been 20% of their life experience. My kids deserve better. Please step up and be the non-partisan decision makers you were elected / hired you to be.

Respectfully,
Karen Kason
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Thank You
FROM: Heather Moyer <[REDACTED]>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 12:18

Good afternoon - I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your decision to maintain the Board Policy and Safety Plan that was approved in August.

Thank you for your hard work on the board, during a very difficult time for our students and community.

Sincerely,
Heather Moyer

SUBJECT: Thank you for standing by our safety plan
FROM: WENDY BERK [REDACTED]
TO: superintendent@sd308.org
BCC: Ldoyle@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 14:56

Hello -

I wanted to reach out and **sincerely thank you** for holding to the district's safety plan in light of the confusion and pressure that erupted over the weekend. I know you must be facing enormous pushback from parents and guardians who want you to drop the mask mandate, end quarantines and stop weekly testing.

I am so very grateful to all of you for placing the safety of our vulnerable children, staff, and families first. We are still at a high country transmission rate and the thought of sending my children into 308 schools without these protections is extremely frightening. I fear for them, I fear for those that cannot be vaccinated or wear masks due to medical issues, I fear for my mother who has health complications, and for countless others whose lives literally could hang in the balance on this issue. Please know that while we pro-maskers may not be as loud as some others, there are many lining up behind you who want to continue on the path of science and safety that you laid out earlier this year in your safety plan.

This means so much to me - I cried when the email came saying we would stay with the plan. Tears of relief in the midst of so much worry and anguish. I'm tearing up right now writing this letter to you. I know that masks are inconvenient and that we all want this to be over. But wearing a mask to protect others is worth it. Every single person is worth protecting in our schools, especially those that do not have a choice. I, and my children, will continue to wear our masks knowing that we may help avoid getting someone sick, that we are contributing to the health and safety of our schools and our communities.

Thank you,
Wendy Berk
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Fwd: Important Board Meeting Information
FROM: Bob McElyea <[REDACTED]>
TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "boe@sd308.org" <boe@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:33

How much did you spend of our tax dollars to get your lawyers to draft up this letter. Enough with the legal maneuvering. I'd like to know why you are fighting this so hard when 200 of your fellow district school boards have decided it's not worth the fight. Your spending our money and you are fighting a losing battle.

Stop hiding behind attorneys. If you can't do that you should all resign. You have failed our students and the community.

John McElyea

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 17:29
To: Community Unit School District 308 Recipients
Subject: Important Board Meeting Information



February 7, 2022

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Superintendent of Schools

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SUBJECT: Community message
FROM: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
TO: boe@sd308.org
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:41

February 7, 2022

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Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,
Dr. Donna Marino
Board of Education President
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

SUBJECT: The law is clear
FROM: Gina Jantz <[REDACTED]>
TO: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>, Community Unit School District 308 Recipients <recipients@sd308.parentlink.net>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/07/2022 17:43

The law is and the judges ruling is very clear. I have no idea what you think you still need to discuss with lawyers at this point. Quite frankly this lawsuit has been in the works for months so you all had plenty of time to prepare for either outcome and you should have.

It is pathetic your attempt to continue to violate the law in this way.

You are correct that parents are upset. We have had enough of this double talk and politically motivated agenda about our kids and masking and quarantine of healthy children in our schools.

This message will just further anger and divide our community. Enough is enough - the law has spoken and no board of education has the right to make a policy regarding measures such masks and quarantine. Period.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:28 PM, Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org> wrote:



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Important Board Meeting Information

1 message

Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
Reply-To: Communications Director <noreply@sd308.org>
To: Community Unit School District 308 Recipients <recipients@sd308.parentlink.net>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:27 PM



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