



July 27, 2021

Shea Lazansky

VIA EMAIL – slazansky@shawmedia.com

Re: FOIA request dated 7/13/21 & received 7/13/21

Subject: Provide any and all emails sent by members of the public to Superintendent Dr. John Sparlin and Board of Education members Dr. Donna Marino, Eugene Gatewood, Latonya Simelton, Ruth Kroner, Jennifer Johnson, Lauri Doyle and Allison Swanson between June 7, 2021 and July 12, 2021. Keywords requested are: masks/face coverings, Critical Race Theory (CRT), 1619 Project, and COVID-19.

This letter will serve as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your FOIA request received on July 13, 2021 under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information. The information regarding your request is attached. Redactions were made due to the following exemption under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act as follows:

Section 7(1)(c) - Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.

Section 7.5(r) of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7.5(r): Information prohibited from being disclosed by the Illinois School Student Records Act.

The decision to withhold the redacted information was made by me consulting with our District legal counsel. You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62706

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter. Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

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 -2021 > then select FOIA ID #21-44*.

Please be advised that to comply with your FOIA request, the district incurred an expense that comprised of the cost of labor and resources used to search for records responsive to your request. Let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Carrie Szambelan

Carrie Szambelan
Freedom of Information Officer

SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: Aswanson@sd308.org

CC: superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 18:37

Good Evening!

I'm addressing the IDPH and CDC "recommendations" about masks for this upcoming Fall. I'm aware it is a school district's decision whether or not to follow this. The suggestion that vaccinated do not have to wear masks is a disaster in the making for those that aren't vaccinated. This will cause bullying, segregation and most likely emotional distress amongst the students. Furthermore, the children that can't be vaccinated due to a medical exempt violates their rights. Discrimination is a possibility especially if a child has had a prior vaccine injury. The CDC does recommend that if you have had a prior reaction or injury you are not a candidate for the COVID-19 vaccination. Please strongly consider making masks optional.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Decision

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 17:31

Hello,

I understand that the board will be discussing a potential change to the mask policy for the school year. I feel that anything less than a 100% mask mandate for unvaccinated children (thus, all children) in middle and elementary schools would be a terrible mistake. Regardless of any guidance on this matter, if there is no mask policy and a child contracts COVID-19 before a vaccine for their age group is available, it will be this board's decision that is completely responsible. Until my children have a chance to be vaccinated, I am NOT comfortable with my children attending school in person unless all students are masked .

Thank you,

SUBJECT: BOE adopted mask guidelines

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 23:20

Good evening,

I am extremely disappointed by the board's decision not to mandate masks for students and staff who are unvaccinated. It is clear from tonight's board meeting that there are many parents in our district who have no plans to vaccinate their children or make them wear a mask. Since you are aware of this your failure to mandate masks in essence ignores CDC and IDPH guidance which clearly states that masks should be worn by all individuals who are not vaccinated. In the absence of a substantive explanation your decision indicates that it was based on public pressure and puts the district in a precarious position both legally and educationally. If another outbreak occurs and the schools have to be closed again or a child dies because the district did not meet its duty to provide a standard of care, it's the board who will have to answer for not taking a stronger stance based on the guidance adopted by the state of Illinois. As elected board members your duty is to serve all students in the district. Tonight you failed that duty by bowing to pressure from parents who choose to ignore science including some that don't even reside in our district. I hope that you will revisit this issue before school begins and do better when it comes to the health and safety of the students and staff of SD 308. In the meantime, I am anticipating your plan for monitoring staff and students for symptoms of COVID-19, the requirements for quarantine and a plan for contact tracing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Voting on Mask Requirements for Upcoming School Year

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: RKroner@sd308.org, donna-marino@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 16:13

Members of the Board of Education,

I understand that you will soon be voting on the mask requirements for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Our family remained remote for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year, as we have a child with complex medical issues. We were hopeful that we would be able to safely send them back into school buildings this fall, as statistics showed that the safety mitigations put into place during Phase III of the Return to School Plan were working to combat the spread of COVID-19 through school buildings. As our children are not yet able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we will be relying on masking and distancing as our only means of keeping them safe. We are urging you to continue following the science when making this decision that effects the lives of thousands of kids, many of whom are vulnerable to this deadly virus. We are hopeful that you will vote to continue requiring masks inside school buildings until all students have had the opportunity to receive a vaccine. Or at a minimum, that you would vote to require masks for those who are unvaccinated, per the recently released recommendations from the CDC, and that you would also ensure that the masking requirements are upheld and enforced, as the lives of our children could rely on this safety mitigation. Thank you for your very careful consideration of this very important decision.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Question
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: undisclosed-recipients;;
BCC: ASwanson@sd308.org
DATE: 07/12/2021 14:36

Hi,

I'm not sure who to reach out to so I'm reaching out to you. Are masks no longer a requirement? There is nothing at all in the email that went out today (7/12) that even makes mention of them.

I see people on Facebook losing their mind about this and others saying it's about time. Please update me on what the protocol will be. My grandson attends OHS and he is vaccinated, but will be wearing a mask regardless of your policies.

I am a doctor working in this area and I can assure you things are on the upswing again. I'm seeing patients regardless of vaccination becoming ill. Thankfully the vaccine does decrease considerably the likelihood of more serious illness from COVID-19.

Have a game plan. Be smart. Err on the side of caution. These kids most certainly should be in school, but proper mask wearing is essential to completing the school year without incident. Look at what has happened in camps this summer where masks were not worn. Inside school this will only be magnified.

This will take place at the following dates and times based on grade level:

August 11th - Sophomores and Seniors

9:00 am - 11:30 am

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

August 12th - Freshmen, Juniors and New Students

9:00 am - 11:30 am

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

To reduce the number of people in the building, we ask that only students attend this event. Parents will, however, be able to speak with the nurse and turn in any needed medical documentation. Please enter door 37 located on the north (stadium side) of the building.

Health-related documentation for the 2021 - 2022 school year

The Illinois School Code has specific immunization and examinations that are required to attend school. These must be provided for **9th grade** and **12th grade**, and upon first entry to an Illinois school (see link for requirements). <https://www.sd308.org/healthrequirements> Failure to provide documentation of the physical and vaccine requirements will result in first-day exclusion from school. Documentation of future medical appointments will not be accepted. All health forms and medical documentation can be brought to the main office at Oswego High School during regular office hours. Please contact Jenny Pienkos, Health Services Coordinator at [\(630\) 608-5026](tel:6306085026) or jpienkos@sd308.org with any questions or concerns.

SUBJECT: Mask mandates

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: aswanson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 11:13

Dear Ms. Swanson,

I am an Oswego School District Parent, and have been for 5 years. I have an incoming 8th grader, an incoming 6th grader, and incoming 1st grader.

I am writing to you to provide information to consider and to implore you to do what's right for all of the students and teachers in our wonderful district.

Now that the CDC and the Governor have provided new "guidance" regarding the upcoming school year, it is apparent that wearing face masks is not a law or requirement, but a suggestion left up to the local school boards. You and the board members are now able to make that decision.

I am aware that one consideration could be to require any non-vaccinated students to wear a mask, but not require that of vaccinated students. When considering this, please ask yourselves if you would like to teach discrimination and segregation to your children? As well as to the future leaders of our world? I would prefer to continue to teach my children inclusion and equality, no matter how others differ. Therefore I ask you not to choose this option, as it is detrimental to the future of our entire society. In addition, this would lead to confusion for our children, who have spent their summer seeing friends and family and strangers, in crowded public places, sans masks. This also could lead our older students to see this all as a joke, wondering what kind of sense it makes to be able to breathe freely with the same people they see at school, at all other places they go outside of school. I don't believe our older students need any additional reasons not to take school seriously. Education is important and public education is a right to all children in our district no matter what their health history or religious beliefs are. Please don't violate that right.

According to the Health Care Right of Conscience Act 745 ILCS 70, "Sec. 5. Discrimination. It shall be unlawful for any person, public or private institution, or public official to discriminate against any person in any manner, including but not limited to, licensing, hiring, promotion, transfer, staff appointment, hospital, managed care entity, or any other privileges, because of such person's conscientious refusal to receive, obtain, accept, perform, assist, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer or participate in any way in any particular form of health care services contrary to his or her conscience."

"Sec. 7 Discrimination by employers or institutions.

It shall be unlawful for any public or private employer, entity, agency, institution, official or person, including but not limited to, a medical, nursing or other medical training institution, to deny admission because of, to place any reference in its application form concerning, to orally question about, to impose any burdens in terms or conditions of employment on, or to otherwise discriminate against, any applicant, in terms of employment, admission to or participation in any programs for which the applicant is eligible, or to discriminate in relation thereto, in any other manner, on account of the applicant's refusal to receive, obtain, accept, perform, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer, assist or participate in any way in any forms of health care services contrary to his or her conscience"

It seems to me that any student has the right to refuse masking or vaccination and not be discriminated against by doing so.

Another consideration might be to make all students mask, no matter the vaccination status. While this might be more equal across the student body, this still makes no sense for many reasons. The most concerning is the

danger that masking provides. It is not healthy, nor is it effective. The benefits of masking kids does not outweigh the risks. Children are the least affected by Covid but the most affected by masking. This is a backwards approach.

I am attaching a recent study regarding mask use in children showing the dangers it poses to their health (https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743?guestAccessKey=1e4bf0f1-71d3-4574-b4ec-9ca47f36711a&utm_source=silverchair&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_alert-jamapediatrics&utm_content=olf&utm_term=063021&fbclid=IwAR1zXuOfp0zSqVoDYoHMwEpj8Fek-Ad_EQGiZJ7dWYvBwDTGtfG6lKyKks).

In addition, there are no efficacy standards on child-sized masks and respirators under OSHA, but there are proven microbial challenges as well as breathing difficulties that are created and exacerbated by masking children. Requiring children to wear a mask sets the stage for contracting any infection, including COVID19, and making the consequences of that infection much graver. In essence, a mask may very well put children at an increased risk of infection, and if so, having a far worse outcome. Should a student become ill from mask wearing, is the school district willing to be liable? Will the district pay any and all medical expenses arising from that. As a taxpayer I am not willing to pay for any damages done to students from forced masking. As a parent I am not willing to subject my children to this risk nor trust that the district will pay my child's medical expenses.

As you can see in the attached image, masks that children wear in school do not provide any protection against Covid. If this is the case, why require them?

Just as concerning is the mental/emotional danger associated with face coverings. Suicide rates of minors are at an all time high (currently higher than Covid deaths of minors). Children need to connect with others. They need to see emotions and facial expressions. They need to thrive and be provided an education in a healthy and safe environment. Covid deaths are almost non-existent locally now, therefore shouldn't be enough of a concern to put our kids through unnecessary trauma via masking.

If you are leaning towards this option, I (and many other parents) would like to know what risk assessments you have done related to face masks in school? Please provide those to me/us for review prior to making this decision that affects the health of the entire student body.

In addition, be prepared to provide confirmation by return that your staff and teachers, including such individuals you have placed in charge of our children, have been fully trained in connection with the health risks associated with face masks, including with regards to recognising the health contra-indications from their use.

Not only is masking harmful for the students, but the teachers as well. Our district teachers chose their profession to educate children. It is not their responsibility, nor should it ever be, to be mask enforcers or to keep track of a student's personal medical/vaccination history. This negatively impacts the learning environment and the level of education our teachers can provide. The last year has created huge learning gaps for students and our teachers need to be focused on teaching more than ever. They should not be focused on discrimination based on vaccine status or punishing children who need to breathe fresh air (a requirement for survival).

There are more and more school districts in our state, as well as the majority of other states in our country, that are not requiring masking for students. I know that Oswego can do this as well.

In short, our children need you, the school district, to stand up for them and fight for their right to a quality education. Fight for equality. Fight for their health and right to breathe oxygen as their bodies are naturally intended to. Please choose to fight for the Oswego students. Please make face coverings optional.

With hope,



<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743>

SUBJECT: Mask wearing 2021-2022

FROM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: ASwanson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 10:16

My wife and I would like to formally request that any mask requirements be recommendation and not mandates. Much the same way that the student can walk in to a grocery store, restaurant or other public establishment and make a decision as to wear a mask or not, schools should be no different. Our children are 16 and 7 and we as parents can make decisions for them regarding their well being (including wearing masks). As many studies have shown, children are not at high risk for negative outcomes with COVID 19. Any staff members who are concerned about COVID 19 has the ability to receive the vaccine. Furthermore, parents who are concerned about COVID 19 can instruct their children to wear masks while in school. Each parent/student should be able to make their own decisions on mask use.

Thank you for your service on the school board and your consideration in this matter

[REDACTED]

Letters

RESEARCH LETTER

Experimental Assessment of Carbon Dioxide Content in Inhaled Air With or Without Face Masks in Healthy Children: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Many governments have made nose and mouth covering or face masks compulsory for schoolchildren. The evidence base for this is weak.^{1,2} The question whether nose and mouth covering increases carbon dioxide in inhaled air is crucial. A large-scale survey³ in Germany of adverse effects in parents and children using data of 25 930 children has shown that 68% of the participating children had problems when wearing nose and mouth coverings.

The normal content of carbon dioxide in the open is about 0.04% by volume (ie, 400 ppm). A level of 0.2% by volume or 2000 ppm is the limit for closed rooms according to the German Federal Environmental Office, and everything beyond this level is unacceptable.⁴

Methods | We measured carbon dioxide content in inhaled air with and without 2 types of nose and mouth coverings in a well-controlled, counterbalanced, short-term experimental study in volunteer children in good health (details are in the eMethods in Supplement 1). The study was conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki and submitted to the ethics committee of the University Witten/Herdecke. All children gave written informed consent, and parents also gave written informed consent for children younger than 16 years. A 3-minute continuous measurement was taken for baseline carbon dioxide levels without a face mask. A 9-minute measurement for each type of mask was allowed: 3 minutes for measuring the carbon dioxide content in joint inhaled and exhaled air, 3 minutes for measuring the carbon dioxide content during inhalation, and 3 minutes for measuring the carbon dioxide content during exhalation.

The carbon dioxide content of ambient air was always kept well under 0.1% by volume through multiple ventilations. The sequence of masks was randomized, and randomization was blinded and stratified by age of children. We analyzed data using a linear model for repeated measurements with $P < .05$ as the significance threshold. The measurement protocol (trial protocol in Supplement 2) is available online.⁵ Data were collected on April 9 and 10, 2021, and analyzed using Statistica version 13.3 (TIBCO).

Results | The mean (SD) age of the children was 10.7 (2.6) years (range, 6-17 years), and there were 20 girls and 25 boys. Measurement results are presented in the Table. We checked potential associations with outcome. Only age was associated with carbon dioxide content in inhaled air ($y = 1.9867 - 0.0555 \times x$; $r = -0.39$; $P = .008$; Figure). Hence, we added age as a continuous covariate to the model. This revealed an association (partial $\eta^2 = 0.43$; $P < .001$). Contrasts showed that this was attributable to the difference between the baseline value and the values of both masks jointly. Contrasts between the 2 types of masks were not significant. We measured means (SDs) between 13 120 (384) and 13 910 (374) ppm of carbon dioxide in inhaled air under surgical and filtering facepiece 2 (FFP2) masks, which is higher than what is already deemed unacceptable by the German Federal Environmental Office by a factor of 6. This was a value reached after 3 minutes of measurement. Children under normal conditions in schools wear such masks for a mean of 270 (interquartile range, 120-390) minutes.³ The Figure shows that the value of the child with the lowest carbon dioxide level was 3-fold greater than the limit of 0.2 % by volume.⁴ The youngest children had the highest values, with one 7-year-old child's carbon dioxide level measured at 25 000 ppm.

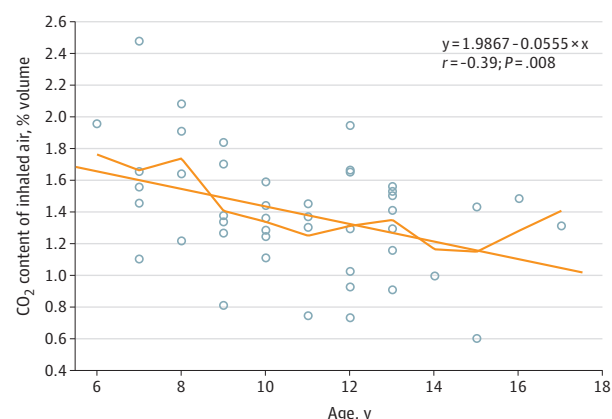
Table. Carbon Dioxide Values Under Various Conditions

Measurement	Participants, No.	Carbon dioxide, % by volume	
		Mean (SD) [95% CI]	Range
Baseline			
Pretest	45	0.268 (0.108) [0.235-0.300]	0.100-0.628
Posttest ^a	39	0.281 (0.105) [0.247-0.316]	0.100-0.525
Main outcome			
Inhaled air with surgical mask	45	1.312 (0.384) [1.197-1.427]	0.577-2.554
Inhaled air with FFP2 mask	45	1.391 (0.374) [1.279-1.504]	0.600-2.475
Additional outcome			
Joint exhaled and inhaled air with surgical mask	45	2.650 (0.486) [2.504-2.796]	1.33-3.41
Exhaled air with surgical mask	44	3.847 (0.678) [3.641-4.053]	1.783-4.754
Joint inhaled and exhaled air with FFP2 mask	45	2.677 (0.386) [2.561-2.793]	1.660-3.418
Exhaled air with FFP2	45	3.846 (0.547) [3.682-4.011]	2.592-5.24
Carbon dioxide content in ambient air	NA	0.074 (0.003) [0.073-0.075]	0.067-0.083

Abbreviations: FFP, filtering facepiece; NA, not applicable.

^a Posttest scores were missing in 6 children because they stopped the measurement after wearing the masks.

Figure. Scatterplot of Carbon Dioxide Content in Inhaled Air Under Filtering Facepiece Mask by Age



Linear regression line with locally weighted scatterplot smoothing.

Discussion | The limitations of the study were its short-term nature in a laboratory-like setting and the fact that children were not occupied during measurements and might have been apprehensive. Most of the complaints reported by children³ can be understood as consequences of elevated carbon dioxide levels in inhaled air. This is because of the dead-space volume of the masks, which collects exhaled carbon dioxide quickly after a short time. This carbon dioxide mixes with fresh air and elevates the carbon dioxide content of inhaled air under the mask, and this was more pronounced in this study for younger children.

This leads in turn to impairments attributable to hypercapnia. A recent review⁶ concluded that there was ample evidence for adverse effects of wearing such masks. We suggest that decision-makers weigh the hard evidence produced by these experimental measurements accordingly, which suggest that children should not be forced to wear face masks.

Harald Walach, PhD
 Ronald Weikl, MD
 Juliane Prentice, BA
 Andreas Diemer, PhD, MD
 Helmut Traindl, PhD
 Anna Kappes, MA
 Stefan Hockertz, PhD

Author Affiliations: Poznan University of the Medical Sciences, Pediatric Clinic, Poznań, Poland (Walach); Obstetric, Gynecological, and General Practice, Passau, Germany (Weikl); Psychotherapeutic Practice, Müllheim, Germany

(Prentice); General Practice, Gernsbach, Germany (Diemer); Traindl Consult, Vienna, Austria (Traindl); Psychotherapeutic Practice for Children and Youth, Müllheim, Germany (Kappes); tpi consult GmbH, Bollschweil, Germany (Hockertz).

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Corresponding Author: Harald Walach, PhD, Poznan University of the Medical Sciences, Pediatric Clinic, ul. Szpitalna 27/33, PL-60-572 Poznań, Poland (harald. [redacted]).

Author Contributions: Dr Walach (principal investigator) had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Concept and design: All authors.

Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: Walach, Weikl, Diemer, Traindl, Kappes, Hockertz.

Drafting of the manuscript: Walach, Traindl.

Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Walach, Weikl, Prentice, Diemer, Kappes, Hockertz.

Statistical analysis: Walach.

Administrative, technical, or material support: Weikl, Prentice, Diemer, Traindl, Kappes, Hockertz.

Supervision: Weikl, Diemer, Traindl, Kappes, Hockertz.

Other-liaising with all other authors: Walach.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

Funding/Support: Mediziner und Wissenschaftler für Gesundheit, Freiheit und Demokratie eV, a public charity, has organized this study and covered only essential expenses, such as travel.

Role of the Funder/Sponsor: The funder had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript; and decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

Data Sharing Statement: See Supplement 3.

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7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Masks Info

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: jsparlin@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 09:51

ATTACHMENTS (20210712-095122-0000031):

["jamapediatrics_walach_2021_ld_210019_1625060716.54185.pdf"](#)

Morning,

I wanted to share this info with you about healthy children wearing a mask. Please read it so you can make an educated decision based on science.

Have a great day!

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Face mask guidelines 2021-2022

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 01:07

Good evening,

I am writing to request that you follow and implement the updated K-12 guidance issued by the CDC on July 9, 2021. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask while indoors. In the classroom they recommend that at least three feet of distance be maintained between students. Regular COVID-19 screening and monitoring of community outbreaks are also recommended. In the event that distancing in classrooms cannot be achieved other strategies such as indoor masking should be the focus.

Given the recommendations I am requesting that vaccinated students and staff be allowed to attend school unmasked only if social distancing can be maintained and proof of vaccination can be presented. I am also requesting that disciplinary action be implemented for failure to comply with masking requirements. Regarding monitoring the possible spread of COVID-19 I would like there to be weekly testing of staff and students or at the minimum weekly testing of unvaccinated staff as well as the continuation of robust contact tracing. Federal and state guidelines should continue to be followed for quarantine after a positive COVID-19 test.

As of late it appears there has been a lot of interest in our town, more specifically our school district, by people who do not reside within the school district's boundaries. I trust that you will first and foremost consider the health and safety of the staff of SD 308 and the students who attend school in our district and I expect that you will rely on science in your decisions rather than pressure from those who choose to ignore science and refuse to consider the welfare of all of the staff and students of SD 308. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Vote on Face Masks

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 21:36

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I currently have two children enrolled in district 308. It is my understanding there will be a discussion and vote on masks at the next BOE meeting. I wanted to take the opportunity to express my thoughts and concerns on this matter. The deaf and hard of hearing students are negatively impacted by the use of face masks. My oldest child is hearing impaired but spends 99% of her time in mainstream classes. Despite being born completely deaf in her right ear she wishes to live her life as normal as possible without the use of a hearing aid, FM system or sign language interpreter.

"I can't hear you." Over the past year and a half I have heard these heartbreaking words spoken by my child more times than I can count. Hearing loss, masks and background noise is a recipe for disaster.

"ROCKVILLE, Md. and LONE TREE, Colo., Jan. 26, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Ninety-five percent of people living with hearing loss in the United States say masks and facial coverings impact their ability to communicate during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also heightened levels of anxiety, social isolation and other mental health-related effects among nearly half of the nation's hearing loss community."

My child is part of that 95%. I have lived through the inability to communicate, the anxiety, the social isolation and the negative mental health effects first hand. I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy. My child was isolated and had no other choice then to continue with remote learning just so she had the ability to hear. It was a rock and a hard place. Choosing the ability to hear resulted in isolation and devastating mental health effects. Masks prevent a mode of understanding among deaf people, who already work very hard to participate and learn in school. For the Deaf and hard of hearing something as simple as understanding a classroom lecture, whether online or in person, has become a considerable struggle. A common hurdle for DHH students is understanding people wearing face masks. These coverings prevent lipreading and can cause muffled speech as well as obscure facial expressions, which are necessary for accurately understanding. What it simply comes down to, is for hearing people to understand that not everyone communicates the same way. Everyone's experiences with masks are not the same. For the deaf and hard of hearing community, it's preventing the ability to speak with and understand others clearly.

The Americans with Disabilities Act makes it a law for businesses, schools and other entities to make an effort to provide equal access or "opportunity" to everyone. I just don't see how that's possible without having masks optional. Oswego 308 has a large deaf and hard of hearing program. I plead with you to understand and consider how masks are negatively affecting these students. Please do the right thing, especially for our most vulnerable students. I sincerely hope to see our district join the many others in Illinois, across the US and all over the world and make masks optional.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CDC guidelines for Masking-OPTIONAL

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

CC: Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:32

Dr. Marino, Ms. Kroner, Mr. Gatewood, Ms. Swanson, Ms. Simelton, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Johnson,

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. The CDC is recommending masks for children in schools who have not received a covid-19 vaccination. I understand that these are guidelines given by the CDC, guidelines that the IDPH and ISBE are also extending and passing along to school boards. You will ultimately determine how to use these guidelines. We, the community of D308, elected you to make the best decisions for **our students**. You have a big decision to make tomorrow night and I am asking that you consider the following and I am counting on your vote for the **best interest of our children**.

1) Necessity. What is the emergency? Currently, the rate of positive cases in our area is less than 2 positive cases per 100,00 people. Rates of illness from covid-19 in children are almost 0 and the recovery rate is above 99.9% for children. It has been established that children are not spreading Covid-19. There is currently no emergency.

2) Safety considerations, reliability and segregation.

The CDC recommends this vaccination for everyone, without FDA approval, YET the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting Site ([VAERS.hhs.gov](https://vaers.hhs.gov)) on the CDC website shows that as of July 2, 2021, for all the Covid-19 vaccinations given in the United States:

9,048 reported DEATHS

26,818 reported HOSPITALIZATIONS

438,440 reported ADVERSE EVENTS

How then, can the CDC maintain that these vaccinations are SAFE????? If any other medication, product, food source, etc. had done this kind of damage to people or pets it would have been recalled and the company would have been in litigation by now. The CDC and the makers of these vaccines are **not liable**, therefore, they have no responsibility and nothing propelling them to take all necessary safety measures.

Many children are still unable to get the covid-19 vaccine because of their age, religious belief and/or doctor recommendation. Many of our children have already been exposed to covid-19 and already have the antibodies. Many parents have children who are already injured from a prior vaccination. Many parents see the above adverse effects on VAERS, the lack of long-term studies and have concluded that this vaccine is not for their child who has a 99.9999% chance of recovering from possible infection. This Covid 19 vaccine is clearly not for everyone. Is it fair to **segregate children** by making some wear masks and others not? What kind of social/emotional harm will this do to our children and how will it affect the learning environment of all students at various developmental stages?

3) Further Safety and effectiveness

The CDC recommends masking for our children with no real science that proves that it is effective. Because masking is also part of the Emergency Use Authorization, like the vaccine, masks are not FDA approved. Every package of masks I have seen clearly states that the masks do not prevent the spread of illness and disease. Who is responsible for ensuring proper use of masks? How often

should they be changed throughout the day? Are we going to ask our teachers and staff to closely monitor who and how these masks are being worn?

Masking IS harming our children. Here is a recent article SPECIFICALLY on the HARMFUL effects of MASKING CHILDREN which found evidence of unacceptable levels of carbon dioxide in the mask in just minutes of mask wearing:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743>

There are **multiple other ways** in which masks are doing **harm**. An article I will link summarizes a published investigation into the **HARMFUL** effects of **masking** from data found in 65 studies. You can see a quick summary here:

https://principia-scientific.com/65-studies-reveals-face-masks-do-cause-physical-harm/?fbclid=IwAR2ro_Ir6MPP6SwMKZ0mEqQ6sDRk2MfvpGH7DTmBIIXRPFBK-uUp9OfexwA

And I include the link to the investigation here:

<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/8/4344/htm>

I read this entire article and am disgusted and horrified at what we have been subjected to and what we are continuing to subject ourselves and our children to for 35+ hours a week. Do we know the long term effects of implementing mask-wearing on our children? Will you take on the responsibility and liability for enforcing masking practices after you read this??

Please consider all of this when you vote on whether to require masks for any of our children.

Please **do not require** any child to wear a face mask. Please **leave it as an option** for the families to decide.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am counting on you to do the right thing here.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

"There is no passion to be found playing small--in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." -- Nelson Mandela

SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: Aswanson@sd308.org

CC: superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 18:37

Good Evening!

I'm addressing the IDPH and CDC "recommendations" about masks for this upcoming Fall. I'm aware it is a school district's decision whether or not to follow this. The suggestion that vaccinated do not have to wear masks is a disaster in the making for those that aren't vaccinated. This will cause bullying, segregation and most likely emotional distress amongst the students. Furthermore, the children that can't be vaccinated due to a medical exempt violates their rights. Discrimination is a possibility especially if a child has had a prior vaccine injury. The CDC does recommend that if you have had a prior reaction or injury you are not a candidate for the COVID-19 vaccination. Please strongly consider making masks optional.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org, ustuder@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 18:36

My wife and I would like to formally request that students in district 308 have the Option to wear masks. Our children are 6 and 3 years old. There are more than 65 studies proving that wearing masks, children especially, cause harm after only 3 minutes. The flu is 650% more dangerous to our children than COVID-19. We have weighed our options and KNOW wearing a mask will 100% cause harm and will take our chances with viruses. Every American has access to the vaccine including all teachers. Please don't force us to home school.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: MASKS MUST BE VOLUNTARY

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org"

<LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>

CC: "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 16:50

Board of Education and Administrative Staff:

I am a former member of the district's Budget and Finance Committee and have two children who are students in the district.

As a public education organization, all of you should have educated yourselves about the truth regarding the promotion of a false pandemic by tyrannical government authorities under the auspices of "public health."

The following are facts which are easily accessible to anyone with an internet connection:

- Decades of research have shown that wearing masks provide very limited or zero protection against the spread of infectious diseases. Ironically, extended wearing of masks creates numerous health problems. Even the infamous Dr. Anthony Fauci conducted a study about the 1918 Flu Pandemic and discovered most deaths were caused by bacterial pneumonia, likely resulting from extended mask wearing.
- There is ample evidence showing that PCR testing is seriously flawed as a diagnostic tool, confirmed by the test's inventor Kary Mullis. Health care institutions were given financial incentives for cases and treatments. Many were caught falsely identifying death from gun shot wounds and auto accidents for example, as Covid related.
- A pandemic is defined as an international infectious disease that results in serious illness and death. The fact of the matter is that Covid-19 infection has a 99%+ recovery rate. Further, there was no significant difference in the number of deaths comparing CY 2019 and CY 2020. The CDC has admitted to "cooking" the numbers regarding Covid-19 illness and death statistics. There is no pandemic.
- The Sars Cov II virus has never been isolated in any laboratory (<https://www.fda.gov/media/134922/download> Pg.42) and therefore calls into question the existence of a new virus. There can be no variants if the original does not exist. Additionally, autopsies were not performed on the vast majority of those who died, so there is no way to verify ACTUAL cause of death.
- Vaccine manufacturers and the Federal Government have admitted that receiving a Covid shot does not provide immunity or prevent disease spread. The shot is under Emergency Use Authorization and has not been approved by the FDA. Creating two classes of students based on injection status (masked and unmasked) is irrational and inhumane. Further, it is abundantly clear from the VAERS reporting website that receiving this experimental injection is very dangerous to health and life and as such should not be promoted in any way whatsoever by district officials.
- The IDPH and ISBE recently stated that Covid-19 mitigation efforts in schools are a local decision. You are no longer in a position to wait for another government agency to tell you what to do.

7/21/2021

I strongly urge you to create a policy in which the wearing of a mask in school must be based on the sole discretion of each parent(s)/student(s) and be completely voluntary.

Respectfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

SUBJECT: RE: 2021-22 School Year Recommendations Per CDC, IDPH and ISBE Recent Changes

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 16:26

Dear BOE Members and Superintendent Sparlin,

I'm writing about the recent changes from the CDC and IDPH, as well as response to it by ISBE (see below quotes from the state superintendent) regarding the next school year, 2021-22, and recommendations for schools.

I'd like to kindly request you fully consider the new updates in recommendations and set forth policy for the coming 2021-22 school year for fully vaccinated people including students, staff, teacher and administrators to not be mandated to wear masks but only for those who are not fully vaccinated do so. This is following public health guidance and recommendations, as well as following state-wide mandates that require unvaccinated people be required to wear masks.

By doing so, this will enable our school community to resume a semblance of normalcy which I believe is greatly needed after nearly 2 years of dealing with COVID. We, personally as a family, have religiously followed guidance and done some prior to its adoption, however we have all been vaccinated now for several months are ready to move toward a more normal life including when school resume next month. Those of us who can and have gotten fully vaccinated not only for our own safety, but for the public's safety should not be penalized along with those who have chosen for whatever reason not to do so. I believe by doing so it will be beneficial for our community and also act as a motivator to encourage those who are able to be vaccinated do so to allow them to not mask up while at school. We will see more age groups, including our 5-11 year olds soon being able to be vaccinated as we come upon the school year and later in the fall. This is not only encouraging news to help mitigate COVID, but also put an end to the pandemic as we reach a higher immunization rate and move toward herd immunity. We need to help those who are anti-vaxxers make a reasonable decision that will help everyone not just their own selfish, self interest and political motivations (which have nothing to do with public health). In my experience, those are the same people who were loud, rude, inconsiderate, disrespectful and belligerent regarding "return to 5 no matter what" mentality and wanted their children in school regardless of mitigation, recommendations, public health and scientific guidance or evidence.

For your convenience, I've included an article from today's Chicago Tribune and Naperville Sun regarding this subject matter that I copied below and thought you may find helpful as you gather information to discuss this among your peers.

I hope as you meet again you are able to make a sound, reasonable decision based on science and not that of the loudest or outspoken voices who likely will oppose this as they have been anti-science all along during the pandemic. It's truly a shame, if they used their passion and self-interest for the greater good what good they could do to help our community and our country dig out from this mess!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Quotes from ISBE State Superintendent per IDPH and CDC Updated Guidance:

IDPH has fully adopted the updated guidance issued by the CDC and Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education, ISBE, has declared, “All Illinois schools, both public and non-public, will use the CDC guidance released today to start the 2021-22 school year.”

“Masks should be worn by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.

Naperville Sun/Chicago Tribune from 7/11/21:

BY TRACY SWARTZ AND DAN PETRELLA CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois is adopting new guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that says vaccinated teachers and students don't need to wear masks inside school buildings, officials announced Friday.

“The CDC is right: vaccination is the best preventive strategy. As school board members, parents, teachers and superintendents plan for a return to in-person learning in the fall, we strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to continue to mask,” Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said in a statement. “IDPH is proud to fully adopt school guidance issued by CDC, which is based on the latest scientific information about COVID-19.”

Unvaccinated students and school staff should wear masks indoors, per CDC guidelines released Friday, and students should remain at least 3 feet apart in classrooms, but that recommendation shouldn't prevent schools from reopening.

The announcement comes as Illinois schools prepare to fully reopen their doors to students in the fall following a drop in COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations and an increase in vaccinations, which are available to people 12 years and older.

The Illinois State Board of Education adopted a resolution in May requiring daily in-person learning for the coming school year with few exceptions for remote learning. Face masks were required in Illinois schools even as the state last month moved into phase five of its COVID-19 reopening plan that allowed for the easing of mask and social distancing recommendations at many other venues. Some Chicago-area parents have already called for masks to be optional in schools this fall.

An IDPH spokesperson said the state guidance “is intended to help administrators and local health officials select appropriate, layered prevention strategies and understand how to safely transition learning environments out of COVID-19 pandemic precautions as community transmission of COVID-19 reaches low levels or stops. For example, a school in a community with substantial or

high transmission, with a low teacher, staff, or student vaccination rate, and without a screening testing program should continue to require masks for people who are not fully vaccinated and might decide that they need to continue to maximize physical distancing.”

The state is not at this time requiring COVID-19 vaccines for eligible students or teachers.

Chicago Public Schools, which plans to welcome students back Aug. 30, said in a statement it is in the process of reviewing the CDC guidance. “We are encouraged by its flexibility in recognition of the absolute necessity of providing in-person learning five days a week in the fall. After we have an

opportunity to thoroughly review the guidance, we will inform the public about any potential impact on school opening guidance.”

The Chicago Teachers Union — which has pushed for stronger COVID-19 protections for students and staff throughout the pandemic — said the new guidance “triggers more questions than answers,” such as, “How, for example, will CPS address mixed messages to young children if vaccinated adults don’t wear masks? How will CPS ensure that they are not putting people’s health at risk based on complicated compliance under these new mask guidelines, rather than maintaining masks until percentages of vaccination are much higher?”

“While we support the goal of returning every student safely to in-person learning this fall, we are concerned that the vast majority of our students, both under 12 and those 12 and up eligible for shots, remain unvaccinated and vulnerable to catching and transmitting COVID-19, even as the delta variant continues to spread,” the union said in a statement. “Setting benchmarks is critical. Addressing questions about implementation is paramount.”

The union on Friday renewed its call for an 80% student vaccination benchmark. CPS has not publicly commented on the proposed target, but the district did announce this week it is turning three schools into standing vaccination sites starting next week, with plans to offer more vaccination events and mobile vaccine units in the weeks to come.

Elgin-based School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders told families and staff in a Friday note the state’s second-largest system will continue to follow “current mitigation strategies, including wearing masks” for summer programming.

“We will use this updated guidance as we develop our reopening plans for what I know will be a great 2021-22 school year,” Sanders wrote.

A state public health official said schools can decide how they will keep track of who has been vaccinated and “should communicate their strategies and any changes in plans to teachers, staff, and families, and directly to older students.”

Sarah Kaiser, a mother of three Chicago high school students, wondered how schools will handle the identification of vaccinated and unvaccinated students. She said Friday she would be willing to share a picture of her kids’ vaccination cards to prove their status when they return to school next month.

“I just want my kids back to school full time, five days a week, in the fall,” said Kaiser, a school nurse who lives in the Wrigleyville area.

Illinois teachers groups emphasized the importance of vaccinations amid Friday’s school guidance announcement. More than 54% of state residents 12 and older are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with 70% receiving at least one dose, according to Illinois data.

“I think we know where the challenges are. They’re in getting shots into kids’ arms. And really, the more we do that, the safer everybody is going to be,” Illinois Federation of Teachers President Dan Montgomery said. “Parents want their kids to be safe, that’s the primary thing for them when they send their kids to school. The best way for that to happen is for parents to get their kids vaccinated. If they can’t because of the age cutoff, then they’ve got to wear masks. Then we’ve got to make sure the school districts are doing all the layering — masking, distancing, ventilation, testing.”

Illinois Education Association President Kathi Griffin said in a statement, “This news has been highly anticipated. Our members are looking forward to the start of this school year and now we have an idea of what the year will look like, and it is based on science, which is a great comfort.”

7/21/2021

The CDC guidelines state that students should be masked while on school buses even if masks aren't required for them at their schools.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Make Masks Optional

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: ASwanson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 14:43

Board Member -

Per the recent CDC/IDPH/ISBE guidance "Together with local public health officials, school administrators should consider multiple factors when they make the decision about implementing layered prevention strategies against COVID-19. Since schools typically serve their surrounding communities, decisions should be based on the school population, families, and student services, as well as their communities."

We removed layers of mitigations one at a time during the 2020-2021 school year as we returned to in person learning during the last few months of school. We are in an excellent place to take the next step and **make masks optional** for the 2021-2022 school year based on current conditions for K-12 students.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: For consideration-BOE Meeting July 12, 2021
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: [REDACTED]
BCC: aswanson@sd308.org
DATE: 07/10/2021 22:34

Good evening,

I am writing today to ask the the Administration and Board to follow and implement the updated K-12 Guidance issued by the CDC on July 9, 2021 regarding the safe operation of schools that was subsequently adopted by ISBE and the IDPH.

The updated version of COVID-19 guidance for schools outlines strategies for K-12 schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations. The guidance emphasizes using multiple layers of prevention strategies together to protect people who are NOT fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households. This guidance is based on current scientific evidence and lessons learned from schools implementing COVID-19 prevention strategies during the previous school year.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. Growing evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. However, absent vaccine mandates, the CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are NOT fully vaccinated is set forth in the guidance. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, the CDC states it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking for all.

In light of these recommendations, I would ask the that vaccinated staff, students and staff be allowed to attend school unmasked only if proper social distancing can be maintained AND valid proof of vaccination is presented. Stevenson District 125 just implemented this rule and being a larger comparable school district, this seems the most appropriate way to address the situation.

Additionally, I ask that disciplinary action be spelled out for parents and students to understand the consequences for not complying with masking requirements, if they are implemented, so everyone knows that the mask rule will be enforceable. Crystal Lake School District #47 has addressed this issue and has stated that students who refuse to wear a face covering will be removed to remote learning or subject to disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.

I also ask that the District implement some sort of weekly testing program for all staff, students and teachers to monitor any possible COVID-19 spread. If this cannot be done for all , then I ask that at a minimum all unvaccinated staff, students and teachers be tested.

Lastly, I ask that vigorous contact tracing continue and that federal/state guidelines regarding quarantine continue to be followed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[REDACTED]

--

7/21/2021

Take care,



July 10, 2021

Dear Dr. Sparlin and Community Unit School District 308 Board Members:

I am writing today to ask the Administration and Board to follow and implement the updated K-12 Guidance issued by the CDC on July 9, 2021 regarding the safe operation of schools that was subsequently adopted by ISBE and the IDPH. The updated version of COVID-19 guidance for schools outlines strategies for K-12 schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations. The guidance emphasizes using multiple layers of prevention strategies together to protect people who are NOT fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households. This guidance is based on current scientific evidence and lessons learned from schools implementing COVID-19 prevention strategies during the previous school year.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. Growing evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. However, absent vaccine mandates, the CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are NOT fully vaccinated is set forth in the guidance. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, the CDC states it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking for all.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Letter for your consideration regarding the CDC's updated K-12 guidance for the safe operation of schools

FROM: [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Parent of an OHS sophomore

SUBJECT: Monday School Board Meeting

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: undisclosed-recipients;

BCC: aswanson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/10/2021 08:17

Dear School-Board,

I implore you to vote for NOT MANDATING masking for children in school district 308.

Children are at exceedingly low risk of complications from Covid-19 and the science is not there to support a mandate. I believe that masking should be up to the individual family members, a decision made between patient and doctor - and on a nuanced basis. If someone would like to mask, that is great and that is their choice- but mandating children to mask in school is a dangerous path to begin. Where does it end?

Our family believes in vaccinations- my husband and I are vaccinated- and if the science supports vaccinating our children, we will certainly follow the recommendation. However, are we planning on masking students forever? What will we do when more children are vaccinated? What will we do for those who chose not to vaccinate?

At some point, we have to start living life normally again- and asking children to mask severely impacts learning, social skills, language development, and comfort.

Please, I IMPORE YOU to not mandate masking in school.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/09/2021 10:16

Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

I also want to address the conversation surrounding the national discussion about critical race theory. It appears that some parents are misinterpreting what critical race theory is or using inaccurate information on what it is. There also seems to be some misunderstanding that this is a topic that is even addressed at the high school level, let alone the elementary or junior high level and to what degree it is covered. I am concerned that this conversation detracts from important work and conversations being done and had regarding cultural responsive teaching or understanding that culture adds a unique lens through which some students might learn. It also might cause some staff and/or students to hesitate to hold open and frank discussions regarding race as it surfaces in learning or to answer any questions regarding this topic. History shows that when a sensitive topic is discussed in an open environment with the ultimate goal to learn, that it might address some long-held misconceptions but more importantly, it gives students a safe place to discuss some of these topics which might be personally painful. Please continue to create this safe space for students. The more this topic sees air in an open and honest environment, the better it will heal.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: Masks in the Fall
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/02/2021 17:22

Yes we have been sending emails like crazy. I get responses but of course no one has any answers. Very frustrating.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

On Jul 2, 2021, at 5:18 PM, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org> wrote:

Thanks for the email. Have you guys also reached out to the governor? Or your local representatives? I've called all mine. None seem to have answers.

Which schools in Illinois went mask free?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 2, 2021, at 2:39 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Dr. Marino,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing as a representative of a group of concerned parents of Oswego East looking forward to a return to normal schooling for our children. As of June 30th, we number 69 members for a group created only on June 24th. We would like to be added to the agenda at the next School Board meeting on July 12th. At that time, we wish to have the School Board and Superintendent Sparlin consider reversing the mask mandate for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Our school age children, by the Grace of God, have been spared the worst of the health impacts of Covid19. They are the age group with the proven lowest transmission rate, the weakest symptoms on the rare chance they get Covid19 and the highest recovery rate. They do not deserve to be physically and mentally punished for the fears of adults who have had a chance to receive a Covid19 vaccine since April 12 if they didn't fit into one of the earlier higher risk vaccine rollout groups.

School aged children are not currently forced to wear masks across the entire State of IL, outdoor and indoor with IL reaching Phase 5. They should be afforded that same right to be mask-free in schools. How are these children supposed to transition back to wearing a mask for the entirety of the school day after being mask free for the majority of the summer?

There are private and public schools that have gone mask free in IL with no increased rate of infectivity. 33 States have officially ended school mask mandates. The CDC relinquished control of mandating masks to the States. The States should relinquish

this to the local communities and our schools should be forcing this to be their own decision, not on threats from State agencies.

The ISBE does not have the authority to mandate school mask policies. HB2789 would have provided that authority but the IL legislature could not get it passed and Governor Pritzker could not sign it into law. The ISBE does not have the power to withhold funding nor decertify schools for not following a mask "guidelines" per 5ILCS 5-5/2-3.25.

Oswego East was one of the last to transition from full remote to a hybrid program and finally to a full time in person option. We want you, the School Board, to be leaders in reversing the mask mandates for our school children for the return to school this coming August and we would like some time afforded at the School Board meeting to make this case.

Respectfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

SUBJECT: Masks in the Fall

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, jsparlin@sd308.org, aswanson@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, rkroner@sd308.org, rkroner@sd308.org

DATE: 07/02/2021 14:39

Dear Dr. Marino,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing as a representative of a group of concerned parents of Oswego East looking forward to a return to normal schooling for our children. As of June 30th, we number 69 members for a group created only on June 24th. We would like to be added to the agenda at the next School Board meeting on July 12th. At that time, we wish to have the School Board and Superintendent Sparlin consider reversing the mask mandate for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

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Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

We the Parents of District 308 - Community in Action Group.

SUBJECT: Social Emotional Learnings

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 15:06

Dr. Sparlin - As we head into the next school year and all the talk about CRT and the fact that it is being renamed "Social Emotional Learning" I want to understand if I have the option of opting out of any of these topics of "education" for my child? Can I communicate with my child's teacher that I am against any type of racial or political conversations and they are to dismiss my child if they are told to "teach" this?

I also want to understand what the administration's thoughts are on the sex education standards that are potentially going to come into play as well. I do not feel that sex ed, gender of sexual orientation should be a school topic at all. I would like to know what the options are for opting out of this type of "education" as well.

--

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/09/2021 17:14

Thank you for your response, Donna. And I would like to offer a belated congratulations on your election win and nomination to president. I look forward to the good work and at times, challenging decisions you and your fellow board members will have in the future. I understand that some are tougher than others but we are supporting you.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2021, at 4:51 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for sharing your opinion with us. It is important to hear from people on all sides of the issues. I appreciate your concern for student safety and for addressing and educating our students on DEI issues. The district continues to be committed to Culturally Responsive Teaching and DEI. One way parents can help is by educating other parents on the difference between critical race theory and culturally responsive teaching. As a community we can work together for the betterment of all of our students. I truly believe that. Have a good night!

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

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 10:16 AM Michelle Cashman <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

I also want to address the conversation surrounding the national discussion about critical race theory. It appears that some parents are misinterpreting what critical race theory is or using inaccurate information on what it is. There also seems to be some misunderstanding that this is a topic that is even addressed at the high school level, let alone the elementary or junior high level and to what degree it is covered. I am concerned that this conversation detracts from important work and conversations being done and had regarding cultural responsive teaching or understanding that culture adds a unique lens through which some students might learn. It also

might cause some staff and/or students to hesitate to hold open and frank discussions regarding race as it surfaces in learning or to answer any questions regarding this topic. History shows that when a sensitive topic is discussed in an open environment with the ultimate goal to learn, that it might address some long-held misconceptions but more importantly, it gives students a safe place to discuss some of these topics which might be personally painful. Please continue to create this safe space for students. The more this topic sees air in an open and honest environment, the better it will heal.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/09/2021 10:16

Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

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Thank you,
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: FOIA on Emails Burgess and Bankowski

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org" <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>

CC: "lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org" <lpastirikbankowski@sd308.org>, "dburgess@sd308.org" <dburgess@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/11/2021 09:23

ATTACHMENTS (20210611-092332-0000006): ["FOIA page 4.jpg"](#)

Hello~

I've become aware some emails that were exchanged discussing politics on district email. Though I was originally astounded that district employees would even consider using tax payer provided electronics/email for personal discussions, honestly, I now thank those who did so that we are aware of your feelings towards residents and students who may have voted for someone many of you don't like. I am also grateful to be aware of these positions so that I am able to send some clarity on one topic that disturbed me most; white supremacy/race.

The email exchange (image in links) from 10/5/2020 between Laura Pastirik Bankowski and Debbie Burgess, was particularly disturbing. Though presented as concern for students and supporting them, the discussion quickly became clear to me that it was not at all about the students (all races included), but advancing an agenda of misinformation, that has been constant in our society the last many, many, years. It sounded many alarms.

Personally, I would have hoped that a principal and a school board member would be better educated on the TRUTH than what they discussed. Additionally, being that they are both very well aware of each other's position, I am not sure they are qualified to make unbiased decisions for the students of the district, knowing that more than 1/2 the district disagree with their outspoken view points. I also question their ability to understand that "Critical Race Theory" (CRT) is in itself, RACIST, and I do not believe that they can make effective decisions that impact all students in our district. No matter their color, or even who their parents vote for.

It's hard to support them in their positions knowing that they "believe" that Trump supporters are racist. It is clearly not true. So, besides making my position on their email exchanges well known to you all, I'm hoping that this email can clarify for all of you that more than 1/2 of the residents in the school district who voted for DJT, are NOT white supremacists, but support our Republic and stand with the Constitution of the United States of America. Equal justice for ALL! No matter what, for all. EQUAL. No matter the skin color, sex, age, etc.

I hope this helps both of the "emailers" (Ms. Burgess and Ms. Bankowski) keep from looking at students of parents and tax payers in the district, who may have voted for DJT, as racists, or white supremacists. We/They are not. We simply care for our country... When we come to school board meetings, or conferences, etc. fighting for our district, and the districts' children, we are not doing so on the basis that WHITE is more supreme to any other race. Equal under the law, our Constitution and basic human rights.

With this opinion they have expressed using district email, I must also write with regards to the advancing agenda of CRT. I ask you all to remember that your white students are not less than any other race in the district. We are all equal within the human race. Please treat everyone with respect

and EQUALITY! No matter their race... We all have feelings, desires, loves, wants, needs, equally. The need to feel safe and respected, no matter how we were born, or what we look like, is at the top of that list... For review, I have attached a video of an amazing woman briefly explaining how racist CRT actually is, for all of you to view. I makes me heart-sick to think that two high ranking members of 308 may think 308 residents are racists and/or white supremacists.

Finally, I want to make sure you are FULLY aware that there are roughly 38 times throughout DJT's candidacy and Presidency where he SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCED white supremacists. He even asked them to not endorse him, and also asked for them to not vote for him. He is not for anything like that. Neither are his supporters. Equality is what we stand for. Bring everyone UP equally, don't push ANYONE down.

I hope this helps both "emailers" sleep better at night knowing DJT did denounce WS over and over and over again, but that this also helps them do some searching for the real truth, and realize that your perception has been skewed, likely by mass, corporate, media. I hope this helps you to be sure to not take your bias out on your students, or residents of 308, also.

Also, If you need further confirmation of him denouncing this horrible stain on our society, please see the video attached. White supremacy has no place in a Republic, and DJT believes this also.

Finally, please know that I am disgusted by most of what I read in the FOIA emails. I haven't even begun to address the "how to talk to Trump supporters" email that went around that was forwarded by RN Nurse, Teresa Butt. I can't even go there as it's absolutely awful... I have a feeling you'll be hearing about it from others though.

Thank you for reading and please be sure that you are treating everyone equally. That's what we pay you for.

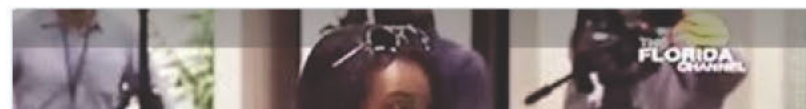
Absolute best regards,

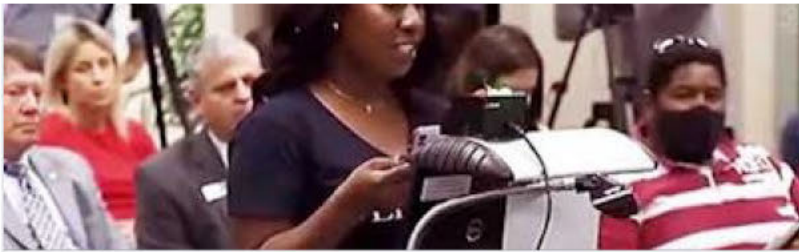
Life-long District 308/Oswego Resident, and Gleeful Tax Payer

[38 Times President Trump Has Condemned Racism and White Supremacy](#)



[GO MAMA BEAR!!!](#) Speaking about CRT





GO MAMA BEAR!!!

SUBJECT: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/09/2021 10:16

Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

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Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Vote

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/09/2021 18:06

Hello,

I am the parent of a 1st grader in the school district, writing to ask that you vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS. Masks in general are useless. Masks on a 6 yo, for hours on end, is just plain WRONG! Regardless of vaccination status. Not just the social aspect of the mask is terrible, but also the health risks associated with wearing one need to be considered when you vote this Monday. Studies have shown that the masks that our kids are being forced to wear, when tested, grow multiple dangerous organisms that are not COVID. And this is after a short time frame of wearing them. Then to have that sit on their face all day.. not to mention the added hands to face moments that occur because wearing a mask is annoying and they constantly need to be adjusted. But the bigger issue is that JAMA just came out with a study that shows that after briefly wearing a mask, 100%... yes 100% of kids that were tested had CO2 levels 6x the allowed limits! The impact of retaining CO2 is a health hazard for our kids. CO2 retention impacts a kid's ability to pay attention, concentrate and learn at school, which is the whole purpose of going to school. Then to force kids to wear them if they aren't vaccinated and allow those vaccinated to go without is a set up for disaster and a blow to a child's mental health. And we're talking about a population that is minimally impacted by the disease and not a known spreader of the virus. Yes, I know, variants. But weighing pros versus cons, the cons to wearing a mask for kids, especially in the elementary level, are much higher than the pros. So please, consider the kids and the lasting effects and health concerns associated with mandating masks for the 2021 school year. Please, vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS for the 2021 school year.

And when the vote comes, vaccines should not be mandated for kids to go to school. They are not FDA approved and were invented in haste in response to a global pandemic. It is alarming how hard they are being pushed and the amount of financial and other incentives that are being offered to those that get them... that should be a red flag right there. No, I am not an antivaxxer. My kids are fully vaccinated and we all take the flu vaccine every year. Because the flu vaccine has been around a long time and has years of data to consider when making the choice to get it or not. Until this vaccine has been around for awhile and has that data to support it is safe and effective, there should be no mandate. It is the family's right to choose. I will not vaccinate myself nor my kids for COVID. We are low risk and it is my right to decide for my kid what is right. If people have a problem with that, then maybe it needs to be them that keeps their kid home to keep them safe. COVID isn't going away... ever... just like the flu. So we need to learn how to live normal lives with it always being present.

Since I am already here, I will be adding my vote for CRT has no business in the curriculum for schools. Schools should spend their time and resources on standard education... math, science, reading, etc. Being a good person and accepting all is something that needs to start at home and be taught at home. It should not be handled by the school district. By adopting CRT, you would be going backwards, not forward with the issues. You would be teaching a 6 yo that doesn't see color to automatically place someone in a category based on race. You will be teaching that same 6 yo that by being white he is automatically a bad person and should be "less white". It makes me sick to the stomach to read about CRT and I sure hope that we as a school district have enough sense to not adopt CRT for our kids. People think it is bad now with all that is going on, adopt this and just watch it all crumble even further. Please, KEEP CRT OUT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my issues.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: July 12th meeting agenda

FROM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 21:00

Oswego School Bd. (SD308),

This email is going to all SD308 board members. These members include Dr. Donna Marino (President), Eugene Gatewood, Jennifer Johnson, LaTonya Simelton (Vice President), Lauri Doyle, Ruth Kroner (Secretary), and Alison Swanson.

As a concerned parent with 2 children still in the SD308 school system, I am writing with my concerns over:

#1) Masks and a mandatory CV19 "vaccination". The vaccine is still in the trial stages until/at least 2023. One of my children decided (against my beliefs) to get the shot, the other is concerned over it still being in trial and the adverse reactions it has/have caused. We say NO to this mandate. I ask each of you to go back and study the Nuremburg code. It is against that code to force anyone to take or do anything against their wills or better judgments. Back during the Nuremburg trials, most of the ones that were executed were actually doctors and teachers for going along with the atrocities. We stand with that were not refusing the vaccines, just deferring until the clinical trials are over and proven 100% safe.

#2) Critical Race Theory, or whatever new name they come up for its principles, to NOT be taught in our schools. Point blank, a straight up NO! I think teaching that all white people, especially white Christian men, are born racist. We teach our children not to hate anyone whether they are black, brown, white, yellow, purple, green, etc., gay, straight, bi, etc. There are 2 sexes, male and female, but can be gay, bi, trans, etc. Doesn't make a difference as long as you are a good human.

I ask of you SD308 board members to think about it hard, and vote NO on both topics!

Thank You!

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.



April 21, 2021



I write as the president and co-founder of the Liberty Justice Center, a national public-interest law firm. Among other issues, we litigate education-law and free-speech cases across the country. We are especially interested in cases where constitutional rights are infringed by members of public sector unions and those unduly influenced by them — most notably, in *Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31*, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018), where I served as lead counsel for Mark Janus. I am also a resident of Hinsdale.

I write to express my deep concern about Hinsdale's adoption of an Equity Statement that creates serious legal and constitutional issues by wholesale incorporating critical theory into our schools. The statement pledges "coherent, deliberate, and intentional equity work that prioritizes the equality of opportunity and equality of outcome for every student" (emphasis added). It promises a curricular approach that implements "a culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy that interrupts racism and other systems of oppression and allows all students to see themselves in their schooling." It aims to "empower students to have critically conscious discourse on diverse political and social topics." And it says the District will begin "professional development for all employees to identify, examine and eliminate institutional beliefs, policies and practices that perpetuate discrimination based on race, culture, religion, language, ability, gender and/or sexual identity."

It is hard to catalogue the variety of ways this theory of equity undermines fundamental guarantees of equal treatment and equal protection under American and Illinois law.

- "Equality of outcomes" is antithetical to the American notion of opportunity for all. As a federal court has observed concerning nondiscrimination, "equality of opportunity--not equality of outcomes--is the linchpin of what the Constitution requires . . ." *Werme v. Merrill*, 84 F.3d 479, 485 (1st Cir. 1996). By promising "equality of outcomes" for students, Hinsdale District 86 exposes itself to reverse discrimination litigation by students whose learning opportunities are limited downward to achieve a false equality from low expectations.



- This guarantee of equal protection also prevents schools from extending special privileges to students based on race, or limiting leadership opportunities or access to extracurricular activities based on race. *See Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701 (2007); *Fisher v. Univ. of Tex.*, 136 S. Ct. 2198 (2016).
- The U.S. Constitution guarantees not only the equal protection of the laws, but also the freedom of speech. For students, that includes a fundamental right not to be compelled to say or affirm any statement which they do not believe to be true or appropriate. *W. Va. State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943). And the District must be wary of the silent compulsion of even supposedly voluntary activities for young students. *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577, 592 (1992). Thus, equity-based curriculum that include “equity pledges” or exercises that require students to speak certain messages about their background, feelings, or identity can violate the compelled speech doctrine. *See, e.g., Clark et al v. State Public Charter School Authority et al*, 2:20-cv-02324 (D.Nev. 2021).
- The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, codified at 20 U.S. Code 1232h(b)(1) protects students from any survey or other response instrument that “reveals information concerning political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent.” Making students complete surveys that ask them to respond to race-related statements may delve into their personal and familial political beliefs in ways that violate the PPRA.
- District 86 may not adopt professional training programs for its teachers that create a hostile work environment by calling them racists or using other language that is offensive to a reasonable person. *See Reynaga v. Roseburg Forest Prods.*, 847 F.3d 678, 687 (9th Cir. 2017).
- The District must also respect the reasonable academic freedom of its teachers to teach their subjects according to their expertise, and not compel their speech beyond what the First Amendment allows. *See Meriwether v. Hartop*, No. 20-3289, 2021 U.S. App. LEXIS 8876 (6th Cir. Mar. 26, 2021).
- Finally, these rights under federal law are complemented by additional rights under Illinois law, including the Illinois Constitution’s guarantee of a quality education. Ill. Const. article X, section 1. *See Cahokia Unit School District No. 187 v. Pritzker*, 154 N.E.3d 782 (Ill. 2020) (granting leave to appeal). Adopting a critical-theory-based educational model may violate this clause by falling below the set standards of quality or by denying a quality education to students whose opportunities are limited by the need to create an artificial equality of “equality of outcomes.”

In short, adopting critical theory into our local public schools poses a variety of legal problems which all underline one central truth: both the substance and practice of critical theory presuppose a vision of society fundamentally at odds with long-standing American values and principles. Thus, not only because of the potential for litigation exposure, but more importantly

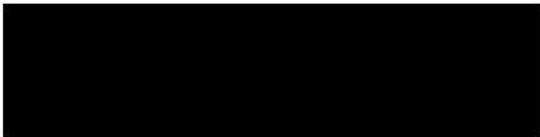


because of its negative impact on our students, the District should withdraw its statement and adopt a better, more inclusive and respectful approach to civics education grounded in the values of this nation. Otherwise Liberty Justice Center stands ready to represent any teacher, taxpayer, or student who is compelled to violate their beliefs or endure racial discrimination.

A better path is to remember this truth: "In the eyes of government, we are just one race here. It is American." *Adarand Constructors v. Pena*, 515 U.S. 200, 239 (1995) (Scalia, J., concurring).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line.



SUBJECT: Our position on Masks, Vaccines and CRT as Parents of children enrolled in SD308

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
 TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene_gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene_gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "Latonya_Simelton@sd308.org" <Latonya_Simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
 DATE: 07/10/2021 09:16
 ATTACHMENTS (20210710-091625-0000005): ["2021-04-21-Pat-Hughes_LJC-to-Hinsdale-D86-1.pdf"](#)

Good morning,

I am a father of two in School District 308. My [REDACTED] will be a [REDACTED] at Oswego High School and my [REDACTED] will be a [REDACTED] grader at Thompson this fall.

I understand that you will vote on masks at the next Board meeting on Monday. I strongly oppose masks being mandated in the fall for any reason, as I have read enough medical studies in the last six months that have convinced my wife and I that our healthy children should not wear masks for extended periods of time - vaccinated or not. My wife and I are strongly urging you to make mask wearing in schools this fall as 100% voluntary. You claim to have to follow the ISBE and the IDPH, but HB2789 has not passed and you still have local control over these issues. They cannot threaten to withhold funding, as that would be illegal. Please see the attached video on the latest guidance that came out this week and the explanation by attorney Thomas DeVore on what your options are.

https://i.facebook.com/i.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.instagram.com%2Fp%2FCRH06QVjugo%2F%3Ffbclid%3DlWAr2SewQOF2rh3HvSIGZ3I2FJ_vqDNgncoZM89ijBuaLwGs3kXQjpMSruuQ&h=AT2TeQP5p34jksrSYIZpP2sYShXE4UpWSxQV8d0yto9yyPreqaAepK8niO38Xq4

My wife and I strongly oppose any attempts to segregate students, whether by forcing unvaccinated children to wear masks, sit in different areas from other children or apply quarantine rules in a different manner than any other child. We are not anti-vaxxers, but these Covid vaccines have not been fully tested for safety and are still considered to be authorized for "emergency use only" by the FDA. We will not allow our children to be "research subjects" on the effectiveness of these vaccines. We do not consent to any governmental body forcing this vaccine on our children and hope and pray that you, the elected leaders of our school district, do the right thing.

As for Critical Race Theory, Culturally Responsive Teaching and using SEL as a vehicle to force this racist non-sense on our children will not be tolerated. Teaching our kids to hate is wrong at any level. Teaching kids that the color of their skin makes them inherently bad or privileged or teaching kids that the color of their skin makes them a victim is wrong on every level. Teaching our kids that America was founded on white supremacy and is permanently racist is wrong and teaching our children to replace equality with equity is equally wrong. I would suggest reading this article from the Liberty Justice Center on a strongly worded letter that they sent to the Hinsdale School District on how teaching these theories is both illegal and Un-American:

https://dupagepolicyjournal.com/stories/599846000-law-firm-warns-hinsdale-86-against-critical-race-theory-curriculum-this-practice-is-both-illegal-and-un-american?fbclid=IwAR3vEm2JF1il5OTnT0p3KqocQj-iRa-ryfQ7vK4BupApFjGQoWdnwGscUY#_YnKH-0q08Tw.facebook

Kristen Williamson, the Communications and Outreach Director at the Liberty Justice Center states "School districts are adopting equity statements and critical theory curriculum that is meant to impose radical and controversial beliefs on people, and frankly this practice is both illegal and un-American.". I have attached the letter that was sent to the Hinsdale School District and I would strongly encourage all of you to read it.

We do not consent to the inclusion of any of the theories of Critical Race Theory, Critical Theory, White Fragility, Anti-Racism, Cultural Competence, or any other name you would like to call this racist, un-American theories into our children's curriculum in any way shape or form. I have read your DEI playbook for 2020-2021 and the mere fact that you had defined many terms included in these theories is frightening and will not be tolerated. In addition, the adoption of CRT being taught and defended by the NEA is just plain wrong. This just proves to us once again that the teacher's union could care less about our children and only care about keeping power. So, I know you have stated that we were confused in one of your emails to the parents in the district about CRT and everything is all better now, but it is not. We are not confused and will not be going away. Parents of this district and districts all over this country became complacent over the years and had put too much faith in our school district to do right by our children. Make no mistake, parental oversight is here to stay and I think that is a good thing and I hope as our elected leaders and as our taxpayer-funded body charged with teaching our children that you do just that.

We look forward to being present at the board meeting on Monday.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: July 12th meeting agenda

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 21:00

Oswego School Bd. (SD308),

This email is going to all SD308 board members. These members include Dr. Donna Marino (President), Eugene Gatewood, Jennifer Johnson, LaTonya Simelton (Vice President), Lauri Doyle, Ruth Kroner (Secretary), and Alison Swanson.

As a concerned parent with 2 children still in the SD308 school system, I am writing with my concerns over:

#1) Masks and a mandatory CV19 "vaccination". The vaccine is still in the trial stages until/at least 2023. One of my children decided (against my beliefs) to get the shot, the other is concerned over it still being in trial and the adverse reactions it has/have caused. We say NO to this mandate. I ask each of you to go back and study the Nuremburg code. It is against that code to force anyone to take or do anything against their wills or better judgments. Back during the Nuremburg trials, most of the ones that were executed were actually doctors and teachers for going along with the atrocities. We stand with that were not refusing the vaccines, just deferring until the clinical trials are over and proven 100% safe.

#2) Critical Race Theory, or whatever new name they come up for its principles, to NOT be taught in our schools. Point blank, a straight up NO! I think teaching that all white people, especially white Christian men, are born racist. We teach our children not to hate anyone whether they are black, brown, white, yellow, purple, green, etc., gay, straight, bi, etc. There are 2 sexes, male and female, but can be gay, bi, trans, etc. Doesn't make a difference as long as you are a good human.

I ask of you SD308 board members to think about it hard, and vote NO on both topics!
Thank You!

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

SUBJECT: School Board Meeting

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 12:05

As a resident and parent of a student, please vote against making it mandatory for students to wear masks in school. I completely find it understandable for a parent to want their child to wear a mask, but it should be the family to decide what is best instead of making it mandatory.

I also would like to push back against Critical Race Theory in our schools. If there is racism in our schools like the district memorandum discusses, then the teachers and administrators should be looking for other jobs instead of pushing a "woke" agenda in our schools to students. This is only going to push racism divides further apart. We need to be hiring the best staff for the job and not prioritizing based on the color of skin.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Public Comment for Board Meeting 7-12-21

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "USTUDER@SD308.ORG" <ustuder@sd308.org>

CC: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 14:18

ATTACHMENTS (20210712-141857-0000004): [REDACTED] [Board Meeting Public Comment 7-12-21.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Studer,

I would like to submit the attached letter to be read as public comment this evening at the board meeting if possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

7.12.21

Good evening,

I am a parent of two children in SD 308, a sophomore at Oswego High School and a 7th grader at Traughber Jr. High.

My main reason, among many, that I am reaching out to you is that I am advocating for choice.

Whether any parent chooses to get their child vaccinated or not, as the parent of my child I should have a CHOICE whether my child should have to wear a mask or not. It is not anyone else's decision to make that choice for my child based on "safety". What is considered safe comes in many shapes and sizes. Covid science and research proves that it is not prevalent in school-aged children and if they were to get it, the chance of recovery with no lasting impact is very, very high. Should teachers and faculty be worried, then they have the "choice" to get vaccinated or wear a mask. They have a choice.

With the district's focus on equity/equality/CRT, mandating masks for students who are not vaccinated goes against that goal. In fact, it is contradictory to that goal and segregates the kids.

Put yourself in the shoes of a student who has not been vaccinated (also due to safety concerns of getting the vaccine), how will he/she feel walking the halls wearing a mask while others do not? If individuals have the vaccination, why should they be worried about students who don't/and or do not have a mask on? It does not make sense. Each person has the responsibility to protect **themselves** and we should have the right and the CHOICE to do what is best for our child! How does anyone know what that is better than the child's own parent?

There was a time when this outbreak first happened over a year ago, that efforts were made to protect the larger population, but now it is time to do what is best for our own child. This is not going away, but the percentage of cases is very low.

The school and the school board work for us, the taxpayers, parents, and our children first and foremost! It is not acceptable to push a mask mandate (The CDC does not mandate masks or vaccines) and the vaccine to encourage the students to get the vaccine! This is NOT OK! That is way out of your jurisdiction.

Teach my child - math, science, social studies, and English Language.

Expect from my child - kindness, respect, compassion, courage, consideration and when he/she falls short, encourage these attributes which is basic human respect to others.

I implore you, please do not take away our choice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

██████████

SUBJECT: Mask Rule

FROM: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/08/2021 10:53

Good Morning Oswego SD308 Board members,
I have a quick question that I am hoping one of you can answer for me.

Are there any duly adopted rules, regulations, or standards in the Illinois Administrative Code that says masks are required?

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: Mask Rule

FROM: [REDACTED] i <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/08/2021 15:51

Thank you to those who replied for your acknowledgement and answer. Title 23 of the Admintrative code, isn't that what school district 308 and superintendent have to follow because those are passed under the legal process?

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 2:30 PM, Donna Marino
<donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

I see that Ms. Johnson answered your question. I just wanted to acknowledge that I have both received and read your email. Thank you for your engagement.

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

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:53 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Morning Oswego SD308 Board members,
I have a quick question that I am hoping one of you can answer for me.

Are there any duly adopted rules, regulations, or standards in the Illinois Administrative Code that says masks are required?

Thank you in advance,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask wearing

FROM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/28/2021 14:34

Hi

I'm sure you are getting many, many emails about mask wearing for the 2021-2022 school year. I know you are waiting on more updated guidance from ISBE/IDPH. I'd just like to express my opinion that the district should adhere to whatever guidance the state recommends. And that we should not even begin discussing not wearing masks in school buildings until everyone has the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. I have a rising 6th grader who will not be 12 under September 2022 so he can not currently be vaccinated.

Thank you!

And thank you for all you do.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/09/2021 10:16

Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

I also want to address the conversation surrounding the national discussion about critical race theory. It appears that some parents are misinterpreting what critical race theory is or using inaccurate information on what it is. There also seems to be some misunderstanding that this is a topic that is even addressed at the high school level, let alone the elementary or junior high level and to what degree it is covered. I am concerned that this conversation detracts from important work and conversations being done and had regarding cultural responsive teaching or understanding that culture adds a unique lens through which some students might learn. It also might cause some staff and/or students to hesitate to hold open and frank discussions regarding race as it surfaces in learning or to answer any questions regarding this topic. History shows that when a sensitive topic is discussed in an open environment with the ultimate goal to learn, that it might address some long-held misconceptions but more importantly, it gives students a safe place to discuss some of these topics which might be personally painful. Please continue to create this safe space for students. The more this topic sees air in an open and honest environment, the better it will heal.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Request for July 12th board meeting

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: BOARD@sd308.org

CC: donna-marino@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/09/2021 16:13

Good afternoon, SD 308 Board Members & Dr. Sparlin:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Board consider the recent CDC and IDPH guidance and 1) Confirm (and not go back on the plan) that we will be back in person, full-time, with allowed recesses (elementary) and lunchrooms, and have access to regularly scheduled activities that they didn't have last year; 2) consider the guidance on masks, just that...guidance. Not a requirement.

This past year, [REDACTED] was in Kindergarten, and didn't see a classroom until well past half the school year (what was it, March? May? I can't even remember, it's a blur). Even then it was just for a few hours, 2 days a week versus full time. Their first exposure to school should be exciting, full of smiles, laughter, games, new sights, sounds, friends, teachers etc. My daughter was so excited and looked forward to K for two years, ever since she was 3! It broke my heart when she cried that she couldn't meet her teacher, her friends, see school, have recess, have real circle time/morning meeting, art, library, music...she told me twice, she hated school. I kid you not, and I have other parent-friends who had the same experience. It's horrible, knowing your kids already feel that way in kindergarten. If the kids won't have guaranteed access to that this year, she will be devastated and I'm concerned she will form the opinion, permanently, she doesn't like school. She already said it a few times last year, and that was depressing as she really was so looking forward to it and is a very good and attentive student. Remote learning is not an option and we have already saved a spot for private school, should the board determine that it will not guarantee full-time, in person instruction. Last year was unprecedented, I'll give the board that. But it was ultimately a Board choice, and not every student in Illinois had that same experience. Some were in school much earlier, for longer, if not all year. So again, it's ultimately up to the Board/Superintendent, there is autonomy in this. And, if there is a Plan B for full-blown force majeure again, it should be in place ready to go in a matter of days, not months...

As for the masks, I request that the board consider that the masks are recommended for elementary age children, but not required. It should be up to the parents/legal guardians. I am not completely anti-masks nor is this political *at all* for me, but I am completely for *our independent choice*. The masks, while I personally think they likely do help the spread, also harm the children when worn for such long periods and I think ultimately, they do more damage than good. At this age, they are also watching facial expressions for context, speech, etc. I think it should be completely the choice of the families, as does the CDC and IDPH and the federal government for that matter, as they are not made a legal requirement. It is up to the school district, as it should be up to the families. There has been so much mixed-messaging from the scientific and medical community, Fauci, White House, CDC, WHO, IDPH, CDPH...I firmly believe that because it's not a law, and remains guidance, it should remain just that. Guidance. Not mandated, not required, but suggested. Even highly suggested. But not required.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. If any of you would like to respond, I would be grateful and would be very interested in hearing your thoughts, commentary, etc. and engage in a civil discussion.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Vote

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/09/2021 18:06

Hello,

I am the parent of a 1st grader in the school district, writing to ask that you vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS. Masks in general are useless. Masks on a 6 yo, for hours on end, is just plain WRONG! Regardless of vaccination status. Not just the social aspect of the mask is terrible, but also the health risks associated with wearing one need to be considered when you vote this Monday. Studies have shown that the masks that our kids are being forced to wear, when tested, grow multiple dangerous organisms that are not COVID. And this is after a short time frame of wearing them. Then to have that sit on their face all day.. not to mention the added hands to face moments that occur because wearing a mask is annoying and they constantly need to be adjusted. But the bigger issue is that JAMA just came out with a study that shows that after briefly wearing a mask, 100%... yes 100% of kids that were tested had CO2 levels 6x the allowed limits! The impact of retaining CO2 is a health hazard for our kids. CO2 retention impacts a kid's ability to pay attention, concentrate and learn at school, which is the whole purpose of going to school. Then to force kids to wear them if they aren't vaccinated and allow those vaccinated to go without is a set up for disaster and a blow to a child's mental health. And we're talking about a population that is minimally impacted by the disease and not a known spreader of the virus. Yes, I know, variants. But weighing pros versus cons, the cons to wearing a mask for kids, especially in the elementary level, are much higher than the pros. So please, consider the kids and the lasting effects and health concerns associated with mandating masks for the 2021 school year. Please, vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS for the 2021 school year.

And when the vote comes, vaccines should not be mandated for kids to go to school. They are not FDA approved and were invented in haste in response to a global pandemic. It is alarming how hard they are being pushed and the amount of financial and other incentives that are being offered to those that get them... that should be a red flag right there. No, I am not an antivaxxer. My kids are fully vaccinated and we all take the flu vaccine every year. Because the flu vaccine has been around a long time and has years of data to consider when making the choice to get it or not. Until this vaccine has been around for awhile and has that data to support it is safe and effective, there should be no mandate. It is the family's right to choose. I will not vaccinate myself nor my kids for COVID. We are low risk and it is my right to decide for my kid what is right. If people have a problem with that, then maybe it needs to be them that keeps their kid home to keep them safe. COVID isn't going away... ever... just like the flu. So we need to learn how to live normal lives with it always being present.

Since I am already here, I will be adding my vote for CRT has no business in the curriculum for schools. Schools should spend their time and resources on standard education... math, science, reading, etc. Being a good person and accepting all is something that needs to start at home and be taught at home. It should not be handled by the school district. By adopting CRT, you would be going backwards, not forward with the issues. You would be teaching a 6 yo that doesn't see color to automatically place someone in a category based on race. You will be teaching that same 6 yo that by being white he is automatically a bad person and should be "less white". It makes me sick to the stomach to read about CRT and I sure hope that we as a school district have enough sense to not adopt CRT for our kids. People think it is bad now with all that is going on, adopt this and just watch it all crumble even further. Please, KEEP CRT OUT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my issues.

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Board Meeting 7/12

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/10/2021 22:50

Hello,

Please do the right thing and let PARENTS make the choice if they want their children to wear masks or not.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: 2021/2022 school year

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, John Sparlin <jsparin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 07:53

Thank you for taking a moment to read this. I understand it has come time yet again for our district to make a tough decision that will impact families and students tremendously. There is no way to make everyone happy and I recognize that. With that being said, 10 days to flatten the curve, deep cleaning, lower numbers, and now a vaccine and we are still debating a normal school year again. Teachers have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated for quite some time if they choose. Students are not and never have been the super spreaders. There will always be a variant, a strain, a concern. Masking these kids is just pushing the inevitable, unmasking them will happen eventually but without the kids suffering the back and forth and confusion between in and out of school protocols. No kids (well not many) wear masks anywhere anymore. Not activities, not with friends and not at stores. To even consider asking kids to show proof of medical history ie vaccine status is absolutely absurd- for one it's not their choice, it's their parents and for two in a world and society where people try and divide groups over politics and anything else they can manage let's not let yet another thing be brought into our young kids lives for them then to learn to judge or make opinions about. If this is enforced it will take someone with the willingness and time to fight it somewhere in IL. I can't imagine proof of vaccine to be mask free remaining long term nor do I see covid or variants disappearing entirely quickly. Let's not do what we did last year and lose anymore education time. These kids need to be back, focused and ready to form bonds, friendships with no distractions. A piece of cloth in their mouth, especially after many of them haven't worn one since May, will not only be the focus of many kids but it is just not right. These kids need air and normalcy. So so so many states have been so far ahead of IL in getting their schools back on track. We can absolutely push and allow kids to be mask free this year. I believe we owe families and especially students that much after our district offered the least in person time out of the area last year. Our kids never were offered a full half day or a full week, every district around us, even larger ones, went back 5 days a week and longer hours. Some even full time.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Oppose - Mandatory Masking

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 09:18

Good Morning, School Board Members -

As a parent with twins in elementary school, I oppose mandating masks. While my children have complied and worn masks throughout the entire prior school year (they were onsite at the school via Kids Connection program for 8+ hours a day), I don't think this should be a mandate. Providing student / families options versus deescalates the politics of the issue. The focus should be on instructional time, and not enforcement of mask policy.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Please enforce mask wearing

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 10:30

Good morning school district 308 board members,

I am writing today to kindly ask that you follow CDC and IDPH guidelines for the upcoming school year and require students who are not vaccinated (primarily elementary school) to wear masks. We are still fighting a pandemic, and remote learning is no longer a choice to keep my child safe from those who think their rights to not mask trump the safety of others. There are so many vulnerable children and family members who will be put at risk unnecessarily if masks are not mandated.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for Return to School

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/11/2021 13:05

Dear Board Members,

I am a parent of a 10th grader at OEHS, an 8th grader at Bednarcik, and 4th grader at Wolf's Crossing. I am writing to you to ask that as decisions are being made for the 2021-2022 school year, please follow the guidance put forth by the CDC and the ISBE and require all students to wear masks at every level or require proof of vaccination. This practice should remain in place until all age groups have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

- While vaccines are very effective at preventing serious illness, breakthrough illness does happen. And while the risk of spread by vaccinated people is reduced, it still can happen. If masks are not universally worn, older siblings can potentially spread it to vulnerable family members at home.

- According to the guidance, "consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained." Our schools struggled to meet 3ft distance the end of last school year when not everyone was in attendance. It will be more unreachable with everyone returning to school in the fall.

- Out in the community it is apparent that recommendations on masking are not being followed. Any store you go into most children who are visibly too young to have been vaccinated but of age to wear a mask are not wearing masks. People will not follow recommendations, so they have to be requirements.

Once all age groups are eligible to be vaccinated, provided enough time has past to allow for 2 weeks after the 2nd dose, I am perfectly fine with allowing families to choose how they want to protect themselves from COVID. I am torn in saying this because I feel for those parents whose children cannot be vaccinated. They are the ones who will be really at risk, as I don't see herd immunity ever being achieved. Unfortunately no matter which side of the argument you are on, parent choice in this situation will impede others' choices. Public health and safety should be at the forefront of the district's decision on this subject, and not requiring masks or requiring proof of vaccination to attend school without a mask most certainly will needlessly cause increased risk of contracting COVID for my 4th grader until he is able to be vaccinated. Please don't allow that to happen. Thank you for your time and for your service to SD308.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: NO Mask Mandate for Students

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: <donna-marino@sd308.org>, <rkroner@sd308.org>, <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, <ASwanson@sd308.org>, <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, <ldoyle@sd308.org>, <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 14:54

Dear Board Members,

Please do not require students to wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your time.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

SUBJECT: Masking Requirements

FROM: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TO:

CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

BCC: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 19:32

Good evening,

Since March 2020, I have been impressed that SD308 and the Board of Education has followed the science and recommendations by medical experts in regard to safety protocols for Covid. Last year wasn't perfect by any stretch, but I do whole-heartedly believe the district did their best to balance students' learning with their safety.

I am writing to ask that you continue to listen to the public health experts and follow the new guidelines issued by the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE and require masks to be worn by anyone in our buildings who has not been vaccinated.

I know this is a huge decision and one that you won't make without reviewing all of the available information. Regardless of how you vote, I sincerely respect the difficult position you're in and thank you for your service. It's a tough time to be a public official, especially on a school board, and I want you to know that I appreciate you.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Public comment for BOE Meeting 7/12/2021

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 19:51

Hello,

In the event there is not enough time for me to speak tomorrow night, I wanted to ensure my statement is heard. Below is a copy of my public comment for tomorrow's meeting.

I am here today to speak on behalf of We The Parents throughout the district to oppose masking and vaxxing for both students and staff as a requirement for in person learning. As we enter the third school year impacted by COVID, it is now time for the Board to put common sense and reason before fear and panic.

Over the past 18 months, the message has been the virtue of wearing the mask – not for your own protection but for the health / safety of others. People masked up, however beyond virtue what about efficacy - inconsistencies abound in what (N95, paper, fabric, etc.), how (over the nose, under the chin, etc.), where (restaurants, stores, inside, outside), and when (social justice protests safe, church unsafe, etc.) masks applied – making the safety argument questionable at best. Photos of students as well as teachers in the schools this summer blow that narrative to pieces. This simply doesn't make sense anymore. There is NO "science" with the inconsistent masking. **What goes on MY child's body is MY CHOICE.**

The vaccine surplus ensures availability for all SD308 staff comfortable receiving them. No more excuses. However, our students range in age from early childhood (3-4 years old) to seniors in high school. Weighing the risk of an emergency use vaccine on their developing bodies that aren't nearly as vulnerable to severe complications from COVID should be left to parents. **What goes into MY child's body is MY CHOICE.**

Public school should be an unbiased and neutral environment for teachers AND students. Mandates and politicized policies open the door for a toxic learning environment. Teachers, I worry for you and how will be treated too. Many of you are too afraid to voice your concerns.

As a pro student and parent choice group, We The Parents of Oswego 308 do not co parent with the state government. Since the start of this pandemic, we have spent countless hours advocating for return to in-person instruction and improved virtual experiences for remote learners. Board members – you were elected to represent ALL parents and students. Choice is the next step forward into normalcy. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Board Meeting - Covid/Masks

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:06

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Sparlin,

We are writing to you today to request that masks be *recommended or encouraged*, not required for students. As parents, we should maintain the right to make our own medical decisions for our children. This includes masks and emergency-use vaccines.

1. If only certain students are required to mask, this will create school-sanctioned bullying. Eighth-graders were bragging about their vaccine appointment last year and wore their vaccine stickers on their phones like badges of honor. Masking non-vaccinated students will only make this pressure worse.

2. For students who already struggle with understanding, hearing or expressing language; the masks are additional barriers to their education. Their parents can certainly weigh the pros and cons of their child wearing a mask or not.

3. Let's make it cool to decide for ourselves. We would support an environment where students and staff might occasionally wear a mask to school or a school event if they are not feeling their best, but are not yet sick. Or just because it feels safer to them. Or for reasons that are no one's business but theirs and their medical team.

District 308 has long encouraged our schools to be safe for our students. Including safety from bullying in all forms. Please consider maintaining this course of action.

Thank you for considering our opinion on maintaining our parental rights.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NO MASKS for ALL school children

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "UStuder@sd308.org" <UStuder@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "rkroner@sd308.org" <rkroner@sd308.org>, "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:16

To all,

PLEASE vote to have masks optional, not mandatory. For the sake of our children's MENTAL health, please do not force this unnecessary situation onto them. Please. I pray that you all will make the right decision for our families.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--



SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: '[REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donnamarino@sd308.org" <donnamarino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:39

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Sparlin,

I am writing to you today to request that masks be *recommended or encouraged*, not required for students or staff. As parents, and individuals, we should maintain the right to make our own medical decisions for our children. This includes masks and emergency-use vaccines.

1. If only certain students are required to mask, this will create school-sanctioned bullying. Masking non-vaccinated students will only make this pressure worse.
2. For people who already struggle with understanding, hearing, sensory needs, or expressing language; the masks are additional barriers to their education. Their parents or the individuals themselves can certainly weigh the pros and cons of their child wearing a mask or not.
3. We should support an environment where students and staff might occasionally wear a mask to school or a school event if they are not feeling their best, but are not yet sick. Or just because it feels safer to them. Or for reasons that are no one's business but theirs and their medical team.

District 308 has long encouraged our schools to be safe for our students. Including safety from bullying in all forms. Please consider maintaining this course of action.

Thank you for considering my opinion on maintaining our parental rights and the rights of individuals.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

SUBJECT: Re: Masks
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 20:27

Thank you for your time! It's appreciated.

-- [REDACTED]

From: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:20:15 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Masks

Hello Jason,
Thank you for your email. It is important that we hear from our community when making our decisions. Thank you for expressing yours. 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, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:01 AM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:
District 308 board members,

I have seen the guidance issued by the IDPH and ISBE regarding masks.

This guidance is based on fear, and not science. Also, it is *only* guidance.

Here are some facts:

- Children aged 0-18 years have a 99.997% recovery rate IF they contract Covid. This is data from the CDC.
- The average age of death of a person who contracted Covid is HIGHER than the average life expectancy in the United States, AND the UK!

These simple metrics indicate that Covid is far more dangerous to older populations who are have other comorbidities. Healthy children have virtually nothing to worry about, so it is unnecessary to raise the CO2 levels in children to unacceptable levels. Science and statistics clearly indicate this.

If masks really do work to protect someone (which we have been led to believe), then by all means, allow children whose parents want them to wear a mask, to wear one.

For those that do not, they should not be required to wear one.

It should be personal choice, as there is no data to suggest kids are at any significant risk, or that masks even work at all, as evidenced how Norway and Sweeden have handled this pandemic.

MASKS SHOULD BE OPTIONAL!!

Other states and districts with no mask mandates have fared just fine, and have for quite some time.

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7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Thank you
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: "Ali's Gmail 308" <aswanson@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 21:51

Hey Ali,

I know we have disagreed about many things over the years, so I think it's important to tell you when I agree with you. I truly appreciate the way you handled the heckling tonight. I know you got grief for calling out the bad behavior and that was undeserved. I also appreciated what you said at the end about making sure kids who do wear masks are treated with respect. I never envy your job up there, but I really don't tonight. It sounds like your emails have been really something lately.

Hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: BOE adopted mask guidelines

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 23:20

Good evening,

I am extremely disappointed by the board's decision not to mandate masks for students and staff who are unvaccinated. It is clear from tonight's board meeting that there are many parents in our district who have no plans to vaccinate their children or make them wear a mask. Since you are aware of this your failure to mandate masks in essence ignores CDC and IDPH guidance which clearly states that masks should be worn by all individuals who are not vaccinated. In the absence of a substantive explanation your decision indicates that it was based on public pressure and puts the district in a precarious position both legally and educationally. If another outbreak occurs and the schools have to be closed again or a child dies because the district did not meet its duty to provide a standard of care, it's the board who will have to answer for not taking a stronger stance based on the guidance adopted by the state of Illinois. As elected board members your duty is to serve all students in the district. Tonight you failed that duty by bowing to pressure from parents who choose to ignore science including some that don't even reside in our district. I hope that you will revisit this issue before school begins and do better when it comes to the health and safety of the students and staff of SD 308. In the meantime, I am anticipating your plan for monitoring staff and students for symptoms of COVID-19, the requirements for quarantine and a plan for contact tracing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Mask Rule

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/08/2021 10:53

Good Morning Oswego SD308 Board members,
I have a quick question that I am hoping one of you can answer for me.

Are there any duly adopted rules, regulations, or standards in the Illinois Administrative Code that says masks are required?

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: Mask Rule

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/08/2021 15:51

Thank you to those who replied for your acknowledgement and answer. Title 23 of the Admintrative code, isn't that what school district 308 and superintendent have to follow because those are passed under the legal process?

Respectfully,

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 2:30 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

I see that Ms. Johnson answered your question. I just wanted to acknowledge that I have both received and read your email. Thank you for your engagement.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education Member

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:53 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Morning Oswego SD308 Board members,

I have a quick question that I am hoping one of you can answer for me.

Are there any duly adopted rules, regulations, or standards in the Illinois Administrative Code that says masks are required?

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask wearing

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/28/2021 14:34

Hi

I'm sure you are getting many, many emails about mask wearing for the 2021-2022 school year. I know you are waiting on more updated guidance from ISBE/IDPH. I'd just like to express my opinion that the district should adhere to whatever guidance the state recommends. And that we should not even begin discussing not wearing masks in school buildings until everyone has the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. I have a rising 6th grader who will not be 12 under September 2022 so he can not currently be vaccinated.

Thank you!

And thank you for all you do.

SUBJECT: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/09/2021 10:16

Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

I also want to address the conversation surrounding the national discussion about critical race theory. It appears that some parents are misinterpreting what critical race theory is or using inaccurate information on what it is. There also seems to be some misunderstanding that this is a topic that is even addressed at the high school level, let alone the elementary or junior high level and to what degree it is covered. I am concerned that this conversation detracts from important work and conversations being done and had regarding cultural responsive teaching or understanding that culture adds a unique lens through which some students might learn. It also might cause some staff and/or students to hesitate to hold open and frank discussions regarding race as it surfaces in learning or to answer any questions regarding this topic. History shows that when a sensitive topic is discussed in an open environment with the ultimate goal to learn, that it might address some long-held misconceptions but more importantly, it gives students a safe place to discuss some of these topics which might be personally painful. Please continue to create this safe space for students. The more this topic sees air in an open and honest environment, the better it will heal.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Request for July 12th board meeting

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: BOARD@sd308.org

CC: donna-marino@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/09/2021 16:13

Good afternoon, SD 308 Board Members & Dr. Sparlin:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Board consider the recent CDC and IDPH guidance and 1) Confirm (and not go back on the plan) that we will be back in person, full-time, with allowed recesses (elementary) and lunchrooms, and have access to regularly scheduled activities that they didn't have last year; 2) consider the guidance on masks, just that...guidance. Not a requirement.

This past year, my daughter was in Kindergarten, and didn't see a classroom until well past half the school year (what was it, March? May? I can't even remember, it's a blur). Even then it was just for a few hours, 2 days a week versus full time. Their first exposure to school should be exciting, full of smiles, laughter, games, new sights, sounds, friends, teachers etc. My daughter was so excited and looked forward to K for two years, ever since she was 3! It broke my heart when she cried that she couldn't meet her teacher, her friends, see school, have recess, have real circle time/morning meeting, art, library, music...she told me twice, she hated school. I kid you not, and I have other parent-friends who had the same experience. It's horrible, knowing your kids already feel that way in kindergarten. If the kids won't have guaranteed access to that this year, she will be devastated and I'm concerned she will form the opinion, permanently, she doesn't like school. She already said it a few times last year, and that was depressing as she really was so looking forward to it and is a very good and attentive student. Remote learning is not an option and we have already saved a spot for private school, should the board determine that it will not guarantee full-time, in person instruction. Last year was unprecedented, I'll give the board that. But it was ultimately a Board choice, and not every student in Illinois had that same experience. Some were in school much earlier, for longer, if not all year. So again, it's ultimately up to the Board/Superintendent, there is autonomy in this. And, if there is a Plan B for full-blown force majeure again, it should be in place ready to go in a matter of days, not months...

As for the masks, I request that the board consider that the masks are recommended for elementary age children, but not required. It should be up to the parents/legal guardians. I am not completely anti-masks nor is this political *at all* for me, but I am completely for *our independent choice*. The masks, while I personally think they likely do help the spread, also harm the children when worn for such long periods and I think ultimately, they do more damage than good. At this age, they are also watching facial expressions for context, speech, etc. I think it should be completely the choice of the families, as does the CDC and IDPH and the federal government for that matter, as they are not made a legal requirement. It is up to the school district, as it should be up to the families. There has been so much mixed-messaging from the scientific and medical community, Fauci, White House, CDC, WHO, IDPH, CDPH...I firmly believe that because it's not a law, and remains guidance, it should remain just that. Guidance. Not mandated, not required, but suggested. Even highly suggested. But not required.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. If any of you would like to respond, I would be grateful and would be very interested in hearing your thoughts, commentary, etc. and engage in a civil discussion.

Best regards,
Mary

--
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Vote

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/09/2021 18:06

Hello,

I am the parent of a 1st grader in the school district, writing to ask that you vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS. Masks in general are useless. Masks on a 6 yo, for hours on end, is just plain WRONG! Regardless of vaccination status. Not just the social aspect of the mask is terrible, but also the health risks associated with wearing one need to be considered when you vote this Monday. Studies have shown that the masks that our kids are being forced to wear, when tested, grow multiple dangerous organisms that are not COVID. And this is after a short time frame of wearing them. Then to have that sit on their face all day.. not to mention the added hands to face moments that occur because wearing a mask is annoying and they constantly need to be adjusted. But the bigger issue is that JAMA just came out with a study that shows that after briefly wearing a mask, 100%... yes 100% of kids that were tested had CO2 levels 6x the allowed limits! The impact of retaining CO2 is a health hazard for our kids. CO2 retention impacts a kid's ability to pay attention, concentrate and learn at school, which is the whole purpose of going to school. Then to force kids to wear them if they aren't vaccinated and allow those vaccinated to go without is a set up for disaster and a blow to a child's mental health. And we're talking about a population that is minimally impacted by the disease and not a known spreader of the virus. Yes, I know, variants. But weighing pros versus cons, the cons to wearing a mask for kids, especially in the elementary level, are much higher than the pros. So please, consider the kids and the lasting effects and health concerns associated with mandating masks for the 2021 school year. Please, vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS for the 2021 school year.

And when the vote comes, vaccines should not be mandated for kids to go to school. They are not FDA approved and were invented in haste in response to a global pandemic. It is alarming how hard they are being pushed and the amount of financial and other incentives that are being offered to those that get them... that should be a red flag right there. No, I am not an antivaxxer. My kids are fully vaccinated and we all take the flu vaccine every year. Because the flu vaccine has been around a long time and has years of data to consider when making the choice to get it or not. Until this vaccine has been around for awhile and has that data to support it is safe and effective, there should be no mandate. It is the family's right to choose. I will not vaccinate myself nor my kids for COVID. We are low risk and it is my right to decide for my kid what is right. If people have a problem with that, then maybe it needs to be them that keeps their kid home to keep them safe. COVID isn't going away... ever... just like the flu. So we need to learn how to live normal lives with it always being present.

Since I am already here, I will be adding my vote for CRT has no business in the curriculum for schools. Schools should spend their time and resources on standard education... math, science, reading, etc. Being a good person and accepting all is something that needs to start at home and be taught at home. It should not be handled by the school district. By adopting CRT, you would be going backwards, not forward with the issues. You would be teaching a 6 yo that doesn't see color to automatically place someone in a category based on race. You will be teaching that same 6 yo that by being white he is automatically a bad person and should be "less white". It makes me sick to the stomach to read about CRT and I sure hope that we as a school district have enough sense to not adopt CRT for our kids. People think it is bad now with all that is going on, adopt this and just watch it all crumble even further. Please, KEEP CRT OUT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my issues.

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Board Meeting 7/12

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/10/2021 22:50

Hello,

Please do the right thing and let PARENTS make the choice if they want their children to wear masks or not.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: 2021/2022 school year

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, John Sparlin <jsparin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 07:53

Thank you for taking a moment to read this. I understand it has come time yet again for our district to make a tough decision that will impact families and students tremendously. There is no way to make everyone happy and I recognize that. With that being said, 10 days to flatten the curve, deep cleaning, lower numbers, and now a vaccine and we are still debating a normal school year again. Teachers have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated for quite some time if they choose. Students are not and never have been the super spreaders. There will always be a variant, a strain, a concern. Masking these kids is just pushing the inevitable, unmasking them will happen eventually but without the kids suffering the back and forth and confusion between in and out of school protocols. No kids (well not many) wear masks anywhere anymore. Not activities, not with friends and not at stores. To even consider asking kids to show proof of medical history ie vaccine status is absolutely absurd- for one it's not their choice, it's their parents and for two in a world and society where people try and divide groups over politics and anything else they can manage let's not let yet another thing be brought into our young kids lives for them then to learn to judge or make opinions about. If this is enforced it will take someone with the willingness and time to fight it somewhere in IL. I can't imagine proof of vaccine to be mask free remaining long term nor do I see covid or variants disappearing entirely quickly. Let's not do what we did last year and lose anymore education time. These kids need to be back, focused and ready to form bonds, friendships with no distractions. A piece of cloth in their mouth, especially after many of them haven't worn one since May, will not only be the focus of many kids but it is just not right. These kids need air and normalcy. So so so many states have been so far ahead of IL in getting their schools back on track. We can absolutely push and allow kids to be mask free this year. I believe we owe families and especially students that much after our district offered the least in person time out of the area last year. Our kids never were offered a full half day or a full week, every district around us, even larger ones, went back 5 days a week and longer hours. Some even full time.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Oppose - Mandatory Masking

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 09:18

Good Morning, School Board Members -

As a parent with twins in elementary school, I oppose mandating masks. While my children have complied and worn masks throughout the entire prior school year (they were onsite at the school via Kids Connection program for 8+ hours a day), I don't think this should be a mandate. Providing student / families options versus deescalates the politics of the issue. The focus should be on instructional time, and not enforcement of mask policy.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Please enforce mask wearing

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 10:30

Good morning school district 308 board members,

I am writing today to kindly ask that you follow CDC and IDPH guidelines for the upcoming school year and require students who are not vaccinated (primarily elementary school) to wear masks. We are still fighting a pandemic, and remote learning is no longer a choice to keep my child safe from those who think their rights to not mask trump the safety of others. There are so many vulnerable children and family members who will be put at risk unnecessarily if masks are not mandated.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for Return to School

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/11/2021 13:05

Dear Board Members,

I am a parent of a 10th grader at OEHS, an 8th grader at Bednarcik, and 4th grader at Wolf's Crossing. I am writing to you to ask that as decisions are being made for the 2021-2022 school year, please follow the guidance put forth by the CDC and the ISBE and require all students to wear masks at every level or require proof of vaccination. This practice should remain in place until all age groups have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

While vaccines are very effective at preventing serious illness, breakthrough illness does happen. And while the risk of spread by vaccinated people is reduced, it still can happen. If masks are not universally worn, older siblings can potentially spread it to vulnerable family members at home.

According to the guidance, "consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained." Our schools struggled to meet 3ft distance the end of last school year when not everyone was in attendance. It will be more unreachable with everyone returning to school in the fall.

Out in the community it is apparent that recommendations on masking are not being followed. Any store you go into most children who are visibly too young to have been vaccinated but of age to wear a mask are not wearing masks. People will not follow recommendations, so they have to be requirements.

Once all age groups are eligible to be vaccinated, provided enough time has past to allow for 2 weeks after the 2nd dose, I am perfectly fine with allowing families to choose how they want to protect themselves from COVID. I am torn in saying this because I feel for those parents whose children cannot be vaccinated. They are the ones who will be really at risk, as I don't see herd immunity ever being achieved. Unfortunately no matter which side of the argument you are on, parent choice in this situation will impede others' choices. Public health and safety should be at the forefront of the district's decision on this subject, and not requiring masks or requiring proof of vaccination to attend school without a mask most certainly will needlessly cause increased risk of contracting COVID for my 4th grader until he is able to be vaccinated. Please don't allow that to happen. Thank you for your time and for your service to SD308.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: NO Mask Mandate for Students

FROM: [REDACTED] >

TO: <donna-marino@sd308.org>, <rkroner@sd308.org>, <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, <ASwanson@sd308.org>, <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, <ldoyle@sd308.org>, <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 14:54

Dear Board Members,

Please do not require students to wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your time.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

SUBJECT: Masking Requirements

FROM: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TO:

CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

BCC: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 19:32

Good evening,

Since March 2020, I have been impressed that SD308 and the Board of Education has followed the science and recommendations by medical experts in regard to safety protocols for Covid. Last year wasn't perfect by any stretch, but I do whole-heartedly believe the district did their best to balance students' learning with their safety.

I am writing to ask that you continue to listen to the public health experts and follow the new guidelines issued by the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE and require masks to be worn by anyone in our buildings who has not been vaccinated.

I know this is a huge decision and one that you won't make without reviewing all of the available information. Regardless of how you vote, I sincerely respect the difficult position you're in and thank you for your service. It's a tough time to be a public official, especially on a school board, and I want you to know that I appreciate you.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Public comment for BOE Meeting 7/12/2021

FROM: [REDACTED] >

TO: "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 19:51

Hello,

In the event there is not enough time for me to speak tomorrow night, I wanted to ensure my statement is heard. Below is a copy of my public comment for tomorrow's meeting.

I am here today to speak on behalf of We The Parents throughout the district to oppose masking and vaxxing for both students and staff as a requirement for in person learning. As we enter the third school year impacted by COVID, it is now time for the Board to put common sense and reason before fear and panic.

Over the past 18 months, the message has been the virtue of wearing the mask – not for your own protection but for the health / safety of others. People masked up, however beyond virtue what about efficacy - inconsistencies abound in what (N95, paper, fabric, etc.), how (over the nose, under the chin, etc.), where (restaurants, stores, inside, outside), and when (social justice protests safe, church unsafe, etc.) masks applied – making the safety argument questionable at best. Photos of students as well as teachers in the schools this summer blow that narrative to pieces. This simply doesn't make sense anymore. There is NO "science" with the inconsistent masking. **What goes on MY child's body is MY CHOICE.**

The vaccine surplus ensures availability for all SD308 staff comfortable receiving them. No more excuses. However, our students range in age from early childhood (3-4 years old) to seniors in high school. Weighing the risk of an emergency use vaccine on their developing bodies that aren't nearly as vulnerable to severe complications from COVID should be left to parents. **What goes into MY child's body is MY CHOICE.**

Public school should be an unbiased and neutral environment for teachers AND students. Mandates and politicized policies open the door for a toxic learning environment. Teachers, I worry for you and how will be treated too. Many of you are too afraid to voice your concerns.

As a pro student and parent choice group, We The Parents of Oswego 308 do not co parent with the state government. Since the start of this pandemic, we have spent countless hours advocating for return to in-person instruction and improved virtual experiences for remote learners. Board members – you were elected to represent ALL parents and students. Choice is the next step forward into normalcy. Thank you.

[REDACTED]
We The Parents Oswego 308
Illinois Parents Union
President of Education First Alliance Illinois

SUBJECT: Board Meeting - Covid/Masks

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:06

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Sparlin,

We are writing to you today to request that masks be *recommended or encouraged*, not required for students. As parents, we should maintain the right to make our own medical decisions for our children. This includes masks and emergency-use vaccines.

1. If only certain students are required to mask, this will create school-sanctioned bullying. Eighth-graders were bragging about their vaccine appointment last year and wore their vaccine stickers on their phones like badges of honor. Masking non-vaccinated students will only make this pressure worse.

2. For students who already struggle with understanding, hearing or expressing language; the masks are additional barriers to their education. Their parents can certainly weigh the pros and cons of their child wearing a mask or not.

3. Let's make it cool to decide for ourselves. We would support an environment where students and staff might occasionally wear a mask to school or a school event if they are not feeling their best, but are not yet sick. Or just because it feels safer to them. Or for reasons that are no one's business but theirs and their medical team.

District 308 has long encouraged our schools to be safe for our students. Including safety from bullying in all forms. Please consider maintaining this course of action.

Thank you for considering our opinion on maintaining our parental rights.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ts

SUBJECT: NO MASKS for ALL school children

FROM: [REDACTED] >

TO: "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "UStuder@sd308.org" <UStuder@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "rkroner@sd308.org" <rkroner@sd308.org>, "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:16

To all,

PLEASE vote to have masks optional, not mandatory. For the sake of our children's MENTAL health, please do not force this unnecessary situation onto them. Please. I pray that you all will make the right decision for our families.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



SUBJECT: Re: Masks
FROM: [REDACTED]
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 09:13

Thanks for letting me know you took the time to read and your consideration

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2021, at 9:11 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I really appreciate hearing your opinion. Your voice truly does matter to us and will be taken into consideration in making this decision. Thank you for taking the time to let us know and thank you for your politeness and consideration.

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

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 6:37 PM <[REDACTED]> wrote:

My wife and I would like to formally request that students in district 308 have the Option to wear masks. Our children are 6 and 3 years old. There are more than 65 studies proving that wearing masks, children especially, cause harm after only 3 minutes. The flu is 650% more dangerous to our children than COVID-19. We have weighed our options and KNOW wearing a mask will 100% cause harm and will take our chances with viruses. Every American has access to the vaccine including all teachers. Please don't force us to home school.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Board Meeting 07/12/2021

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>, Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Ruth Kroner <rkroner@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <ldoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 09:39

Dear School Board Members,

I'm here to speak in support of PARENT / STUDENT CHOICE rather than district mandates regarding masks.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there have been liability concerns - What if staff or students fell ill with COVID? What if lunchtime became a super spreader event? What if god-forbid someone died? Is the district responsible? What if the district gets sued? What ifs...

After a year and half, the data indicates COVID does not spread through schools - especially for K-8 kids. while the adverse effects of quarantine measures including masking on kids' mental health is well documented. In fact, many neighboring districts have followed the science and lifted masking requirements.

I am also here to remind of the oath you all took when became school board members. It says **"I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of the Oswego Unit School District 308, in accordance with Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the state of Illinois, to the best of my ability"**. It says nothing of Government executive orders. It says nothing of following CDC guidelines or ISBE guidelines. Per IL School Code 5ILCS 5-5/2-3.25 ISBE can't withhold funding to public schools contingent upon masking. There are **NO** laws in place to stop the school board from making masks optional.

Public health crises are nothing new - the measles-mumps-chicken pox-smallpox-lice -Hong Kong flu -H1N1, etc. Schools did not close. What is novel this time is the unrealistic Zero Transmission Model for a virus with a 98.9% survival rate.

Life is returning to normal. As you consider your vote, look around at all that is going on; fairs, public pools open, and games are being played. Tonight, I am asking you to relinquish control back to the families of School District 308 and allow us to make the private, personal health choices that are right for our individual families. Vote against mask mandates.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Vote to Make Masks OPTIONAL

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: RKroner@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, donna-marino@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 10:01

Superintendent Dr. Sparlin, Board President Dr. Marino, and the District 308 School Board Members:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an Oswego resident and the parent of two students in School District 308: a high-school sophomore and a 7th grader. I am writing to urge you all to vote to END MASKING MANDATES at SD308 schools for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, regardless of vaccination status. Rather, allow students and their families, as well as staff, determine for themselves whether to continue using face masks.

Kids have been everywhere this summer without wearing masks. They've spent time with friends and extended family on vacation and at home. They've been congregating at church, eating out at restaurants, and shopping in stores, etc., all without the use of face masks. Why require them to put masks back on just because they are back within the walls of an SD308 school building?

Further, should the Board decide to require masks only for unvaccinated students and staff, it would be an egregious error. Parents who decided that their family will not receive the Covid vaccination likely arrived at their decision after hours of research and consideration. It was not a haphazard or lazy choice. And medical freedom is an individual right that should NEVER be infringed upon, bullied, or discriminated against.

Members of our elected school board, you have the power to make this decision on behalf of the people who voted you into your position. Do not base your vote on how much money the state will give or threaten to take away from our district. Allow families to decide what is best for themselves. Vote for face masks to be OPTIONAL for all SD308 students for the start of the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

Let's get back to the business of learning, growing, and being in community with one another again - the way a school year is meant to be.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: Support for cdc recommendation
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 10:10

You are welcome. I greatly appreciate your time and all you do for our kids. Best of luck this evening.

[REDACTED]

On Jul 12, 2021 9:27 AM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]
Thank you for your email. We appreciate hearing from the parents in our community in order to help us make this decision. All emails are being reviewed and taken into consideration. Thank you for sharing your voice with us.

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 6:00 AM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dear Board of Education,

First, thank you for your time and consideration for my email. I am writing in support for the CDC guidelines that unvaccinated children, teachers and staff should wear masks to help prevent the spread of COVID. As much as I would like my elementary children to not wear masks, it is not what is the safest way to have our children in school full time.

I see no reason that our district should go against health guidelines. We have large class sizes, a large student body and minimal resources to mitigate outbreaks.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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

SUBJECT: Mask wearing 2021-2022

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 10:13

My wife and I would like to formally request that any mask requirements be recommendation and not mandates. Much the same way that the student can walk in to a grocery store, restaurant or other public establishment and make a decision as to wear a mask or not, schools should be no different. Our children are 16 and 7 and we as parents can make decisions for them regarding their well being (including wearing masks). As many studies have shown, children are not at high risk for negative outcomes with COVID 19. Any staff members who are concerned about COVID 19 has the ability to receive the vaccine. Furthermore, parents who are concerned about COVID 19 can instruct their children to wear masks while in school. Each parent/student should be able to make their own decisions on mask use.

Thank you for your service on the school board and your consideration in this matter

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>, Ruth Kroner <rkroner@sd308.org>, Eugene Gatewood <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, Alison Swanson <ASwanson@sd308.org>, LaTonya Simelton <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 11:01

District 308 board members,

I have seen the guidance issued by the IDPH and ISBE regarding masks.

This guidance is based on fear, and not science. Also, it is *only* guidance.

Here are some facts:

- Children aged 0-18 years have a 99.997% recovery rate IF they contract Covid. This is data from the CDC.
- The average age of death of a person who contracted Covid is HIGHER than the average life expectancy in the United States, AND the UK!

These simple metrics indicate that Covid is far more dangerous to older populations who are have other comorbidities. Healthy children have virtually nothing to worry about, so it is unnecessary to raise the CO2 levels in children to unacceptable levels. Science and statistics clearly indicate this.

If masks really do work to protect someone (which we have been led to believe), then by all means, allow children whose parents want them to wear a mask, to wear one.

For those that do not, they should not be required to wear one.

It should be personal choice, as there is no data to suggest kids are at any significant risk, or that masks even work at all, as evidenced how Norway and Sweeden have handled this pandemic.

MASKS SHOULD BE OPTIONAL!!

Other states and districts with no mask mandates have fared just fine, and have for quite some time.

-- [REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Please require masks for unvaccinated individuals in our schools

FROM: <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/12/2021 11:04

To our District Administrators and School Board Members:

I am writing to request that you follow CDC guidelines and require the use of masks by unvaccinated staff and students in our school buildings. The CDC recommends masks as only one factor in many layers of mitigations such as physical distancing, vaccination, improved ventilation systems, and frequent hand washing. As we are unable to adequately employ all of these in our crowded and aging buildings, and vaccination is unavailable to a large portion of our student body, I believe mask use is imperative to keep our schools as safe as possible. In addition, the Delta variant is quickly becoming the dominant strain across the country and is more resistant to other mitigations such as our vaccines and physical distancing. Mask use is the simplest and one of the most effective protections we can offer our students, staff, and community at large.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

SUBJECT: Re: MAKE MASKS A FAMILY DECISION--NOT A REQUIREMENT
FROM: [REDACTED]
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 11:29

Thank you for taking the time to read it.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 12, 2021, at 9:34 AM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. We appreciate hearing from the parents in our community in order to help us make this decision. All emails are being reviewed and taken into consideration. Thank you for sharing your voice with us.

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 11:15 PM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Dr. Marino,

I recently made a public comment at the June school board meeting regarding masks and why I think they should not be mandated for the 21-22 school year. I saw that there will be a discussion on face mask guidelines for the upcoming school year at tomorrow meeting and wanted to reiterate my opposition to requiring our kids to wear face masks while in school.

The CDC recently released their updated GUIDANCE on masks for kids in school, but that is just what it is—GUIDANCE. Even though IDPH and ISBE adopted this guidance it still says that they “recommend” non-vaccinated individuals continue to wear masks. This is not a requirement. They are leaving the decision up to the school boards on whether kids must wear masks at school.

There has been no scientific study or proof that masks work. There has not been a study because the scientists know that masks cannot and do not stop viruses from passing through the fabric. The virus is just too small. What we do know is that masks are a breeding ground for bacteria and germs. Have you seen the results of the children’s masks tested by parents in Florida? Have you seen the types of bacteria and germs that collected on the clean masks that kids wore in a school setting for 6 hours? It is scary and disgusting that our kids are breathing those germs in all day long. Masks are causing more harm than good, not only physically but also emotionally and psychologically.

I absolutely DO NOT agree with the recommendation of the CDC that vaccinated children do not have to wear a mask while it is recommended that non-vaccinated children should continue to

wear the mask. We cannot create an atmosphere where children are segregated into groups based on their vaccination status. There are many kids who cannot receive the vaccination for medical reasons and/or personal reasons. They should not be labeled as “different.” If you require the non-vaccinated to wear masks, what is that saying to their peers? Sadly, over the last year and a half, we have been conditioned to live-in fear of each other. Masks are encouraging our children to live in constant state of fear. This might sound exaggerated, but think about what a child’s thoughts might be...” I can’t breathe this air, it will make me sick or kill me,” “My friend is wearing a mask, they are unvaccinated. They will make me sick. I need to stay away from them.”

I hope the school board decides to leave the decision of wearing a mask up to each family. If a family wants to wear a mask, they should feel comfortable to wear a mask, but if a family feels safe enough to allow their children to attend school without a mask, they should be able to do that too. Masks should be a personal choice, not a mandated requirement to receive an education at a public school.

Thank you for your time.



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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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: School Board Meeting

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 12:05

As a resident and parent of a student, please vote against making it mandatory for students to wear masks in school. I completely find it understandable for a parent to want their child to wear a mask, but it should be the family to decide what is best instead of making it mandatory.

I also would like to push back against Critical Race Theory in our schools. If there is racism in our schools like the district memorandum discusses, then the teachers and administrators should be looking for other jobs instead of pushing a "woke" agenda in our schools to students. This is only going to push racism divides further apart. We need to be hiring the best staff for the job and not prioritizing based on the color of skin.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Tonight's vote on masking requirements

FROM: [REDACTED]

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

DATE: 07/12/2021 13:33

District Admin and School Board Members -

I am asking you to follow the CDC guidelines requiring use of masks by unvaccinated staff and students in our district buildings. Masks are just one factor of a multi-layered mitigation strategy including distancing, hand washing, and ventilation improvements. Given that distancing and ventilation improvements are not possible in our buildings, masks are our best protection. Since vaccination is not currently possible for the entirety of K-5, as well as for many 6th graders, we must use masking to protect our students. Delta variant infections are surging, and in some low vax Midwestern areas is responsible for 80% of new COVID infections.

99% of COVID deaths are now in unvaccinated populations. Please mandate masks until students at all grade levels have been given the option to vaccinate.

SUBJECT: Mask guidelines
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: donna-marino@sd308.org
DATE: 07/12/2021 13:48

Dr. Marino,

As a parent of two 308 students I would like to let you know that I support a guideline that is "mask optional". I feel we are past the point of mandatory mask requirements as many students will have been vaccinated by the time school starts and the risk for students never really was that great. Don't be bullied by the teachers' union or other outside influencers to require masks that are clearly not healthy for our children.

Here is an article that references a Journal of the American Medical Association study that states mask mandates should be abandoned due to the harm they are causing:

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309129?fbclid=IwAR3w7JKqm5F8w-MTostv7KYiwkKrD26h96a1xjH9D79XIDtjWf7A21SII88>

I am also concerned about the virtue signalling involved in the statement regarding the existence of racism in 308. I expect that if there are instances of racism in 308 that they would be dealt with directly, not by "educating" - indoctrinating, really - our children. The statement mentions addressing "injustice that lead to inequalities". I would like an example of such an injustice that exists in 308. I would also like an explanation as to why, if such injustice is present, it has not been addressed until now.

Please forward me a copy of any and all documents and reports that the equity advisory committee produced. I would like to review them so that I may engage in future discussions regarding this topic.

Best Regards,

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] alist

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7/21/2021

SUBJECT: BOE Meeting for Mask

FROM: [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 14:00

Hi Donna,

I wanted to send an email saying to please allow myself and my husband as the parents of our children to make the decision for what is best for our children regarding masks in school for both elementary and junior high.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: please do what is right

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 14:12

Hello Dr. Sparlin and all SD 308 board members.

I am asking you all respectfully to please follow the wishes of the children and families in our community when you vote tonight regarding masks in school. Our community overwhelmingly chooses to make masks optional.

On the spectrum between those who are adamantly opposed to masks and those who are still fearful to take them off, lies the majority of families who wish to allow children and families to decide for themselves. Please hear the majority of parents who wish to make this HEALTH decision for themselves. PLEASE MAKE MASKS OPTIONAL. Include a waiver if you need to but please stop suffocating the needs of our children (The need to smile again, the need to be heard again, the need to breathe again, the need to be NORMAL again). The children have suffered enough. You have the power to choose to let them be kids again.

I'm begging you,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Public Comment for Board Meeting 7-12-21

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "USTUDER@SD308.ORG" <ustuder@sd308.org>

CC: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 14:18

ATTACHMENTS (20210712-141857-0000085): [REDACTED] [Board Meeting Public Comment 7-12-21.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Studer,

I would like to submit the attached letter to be read as public comment this evening at the board meeting if possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Hello!
FROM: [REDACTED]
TO: donna-marino@sd308.org
DATE: 07/12/2021 14:32

Dr. Marino,

I'm writing today to please encourage you to follow through with the guidelines given by the CDC for our children who are unable to be vaccinated yet.

I understand that when vaccinations are open to everyone that things may change, but in the mean time it is so important to keep our children protected by using masks, spacing where available and lots of hygiene and cleaning protocols, as the CDC has recommended.

My son has a compromised immune system and will be getting a transplant in the near future. We have kept him safe from covid for the past 16 months and would hate to send him to school, a place that's supposed to be safe for all students, just to put him at risk to contract this virus that we have no idea how it will affect him and his body.

I hope and pray that you will vote for the unvaccinated to wear masks until all can be fully vaccinated.

Thank you for volunteering for this position in our community!

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Mask Requirements

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "Donna-marino@sd308.org" <Donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 14:41

Good afternoon,

I am a parent in SD308 with two students at OEHS. I am out of town and cannot attend the board meeting tonight so I am sending you this letter to express my position on the recent guidance issued by IDPH and the State Superintendent of Education regarding masks for students in the fall.

My hope is that the SD308 board does not blindly follow this guidance but instead takes a measured approach for what is right for our community and our students. To be clear I DO NOT support mandating unvaccinated students to wear masks. I DO support SD308 "recommending" but not "requiring" students to wear masks.

If you institute a requirement that unvaccinated students wear masks you will introduce a very concerning set of issues that will ostracize students and open the district to liability of, at the very least, public criticism and in some cases lawsuits.

Some of the issues I am concerned about if you make this a requirement include:

This is a violation of a student or staff member's privacy. By requiring only students and staff members that are unvaccinated to wear a mask you are essentially branding them so that every other student and teacher knows that person is not vaccinated. This leaves them open to ridicule, bullying, unfair treatment from teachers, other students, etc. Other students, staff, teachers do not have a right to know the private health information of my child. How will you protect my child's privacy?

How will you deal with the emotional damage and stress caused to the students or staff members who are ostracized by being singled out and made to look different from others? How will this impact their ability to perform in the classroom when they are worried about other's perception of them as "different". Our students have been through enough and deal with too much stress already; we don't need to add to this with school mandated segregation.

How will you police the policy? Will my child have to wear a gold star or some other identifier that says they are not vaccinated so they can be targeted when they fail to wear their mask? Will teachers and deans have "lists" and go around the hallways checking for students on their list to see if they have a mask on? It is sad that we are in an environment now where a potential school policy can bring up imagery of Nazi Germany. How much will it cost the district to police the policy? Will you have to add staff and at what cost?

If you vote to make masks mandatory will you offer a remote option for those who choose not to get vaccinated and not wear a mask? It is a very personal decision whether to get this vaccine. Contrary to what the media and others want us to believe, this is still an experimental vaccine that has not received full approvals and has some known potential issues. Each family in SD308 makes these decisions for their family and should NOT be pressured to get the vaccine to avoid the negative consequences of being segregated in their schools.

You will be creating an environment where students are encouraged to "turn in" their peers who fail to wear a mask and to look at them differently because they are "not complying".

I look at many other States around the country who have been in school all along and most not requiring masks this fall. I have a child who is a junior in college and her University is not requiring masks in the fall. I have been touring colleges for my OEHS senior since the spring and ALL of them are returning in the fall with no mask mandate. What all of these States and Universities have in common is they are implementing the CDC

guidance exactly as it should be...as a "guidance". They are recommending that unvaccinated students and staff wear masks but they are not requiring it.

If the SD308 board feels that they need to be compliant with the IDPH guidance then they should implement it as a recommendation and not a requirement. The IDPH guidance does not specify that schools and districts verify vaccine status of students therefore it is open to the district to determine the best approach. I implore you to make the right decision here and DO NOT require masks for any students in the fall. You can recommend it but do not require it and DO NOT violate their privacy by verifying vaccine status.

It is time we get back to normal and allow our students to have a normal school experience. One that has been taken from them for the last year and a half.

I am happy to discuss with either of you at any time. You can reach me at this email address or my cell phone at 6 [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to read this and take my thoughts into consideration as you weigh the next steps for SD308.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Board Meeting Agenda comments and concerns

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:06

Good Afternoon,

I know each one of you are busy and I want to thank you for your time. You will have to forgive my tardiness with this email as I was on a family vacation and was not willing to take time away from my children to address what I am about to address. I know you all have a very large, very divisive decision ahead of you and I URGE you think of only our children.

I am a Hospital Lab Manager. I have worked through most of the worst of 2020 (before leaving to be home for E-Learning) - having my hands and face up in everyone's personal space swabbing you know who for you know what. We did not have appropriate PPE - because it all went to RNs at bedside, never to those at the drive through testing sites. I was sneezed, coughed, and vomited on endless times. I never contracted Covid; however I cannot count the number of RN's and patient techs that were ill after wearing their N95's and gowns. My point with that quick story is - viruses are tricky bugs. They do not care what we wear or who we are, masks only do one thing; prevent clean oxygen from being breathed in and "dirty air" from exiting.

Because we are weird lab people we wanted to know what was on our masks after an 8 hour shift --- what you are asking our small children to do -- which is miserable in its own right (and you know it). We swabbed our masks. Basically we wanted to know if there was anything lingering on our masks.

To keep it simple: We found a number of bacterial colonies, including Strep and MRSA (this can cause serious illness and injury to anyone). 1 mask grew a flesh eating bacteria. These are all things our bodies BREATH OUT that our masks are now kindly keeping in so that we can potentially breathe it all right back in again. Masks are not intended for long use.

Personal story that connected the dots for me:

My niece was diagnosed with Strep throat 17 times last school year. 17. You do not need to be a medical professional, nor a parent to know that is highly absurd and solely because she had to wear a mask for 8.5 hours a day at school. Our children deserve better.

Now that my experience as a professional of 15 years as been stated I would like to address a few more things if you would please indulge me:

1. While I know you have a large decision at hand and the health department has issued their guidance, I feel it best that someone reminds you that it is not a mandate. You have the power to decide. Masks SHOULD be optional for our children. We the parents should have the right to decide.
2. My child is at a 55% speech delay and NOT improving with private speech. He has been seeing a private speech therapist for 10 months, he has seen very little improvement. Why might this be? It is because HE, along with his vaccinated therapist have to wear a mask during his sessions. If someone can explain how it helps my son learn to talk by having his mouth covered and his therapists mouth covered and muffled I would appreciate it. His therapist and I are still at a loss. This same statement rings very much true for developing readers - sounds do not sound the same with fabric covering a mouth. This is something we as adults know, and we need to be brave enough to admit and stand up for our kids.
3. Children need to see faces. They need a smile. They need an emotional connection. Teachers need to see emotion as well. My daughter was struggling in person last year, as was many. But, her problem is she does not like to ask for help. With her face being covered her teacher was not able to see her dismay in class and read her social signals to intervene and help. So, my daughter would come home mad and angry every day because she was not comfortable asking questions and she felt ignored by her teacher - through NO fault of her teacher.

This vaccinated no mask/unvaccinated mask rule is ridiculous. Children cannot be vaccinated yet, and mine are not able to be at all - With the way this town is, you will be putting a bullseye on my child's back from all of these parents who can't wait to jump on anyone who is choosing a different healthcare route. I fully support everyone's right to choose what they want to do with their bodies. It is no one's business. Anyone's healthcare choices are their own and not meant for anyone else to know - it is called HIPPA and a healthcare privacy act. Parents who are under the impression that I am willingly going to explain why my children cannot take any vaccination or this particular one are delusional, but aside from that asking unvaccinated children to still mask up will target them for bullying and most likely not by their friends, but by adults. If there is anything I have learned this year, it is adults can be really nasty to children. If they choose to vaccinate their child when it becomes available, any unvaccinated child should not scare them. Masks should be optional from the get go.

7/21/2021

Just like the flu shot - you can still catch the flu once you receive it. Just like these - you can still catch Covid. This is a virus and it is NOT going anywhere. We, as adults, have to learn to live with it now. It is time.

Just because other parents are fearful, other's rights do not and should not end where their fear begins. If they are worried - lucky for them there are masks to wear and endless amounts of hand sanitizer to use. For those of us who have been on the front lines of this, working, seeing it and touching it and understanding that this isn't leaving - please allow us to be parents. I understand anxiety. I have it. But, I cannot allow my worry to limit my children's progress in education. My daughter's anxiety comes full force when you cover her face. My son is struggling to talk. How long are we going to sit by and allow our young children to suffer, because us adults are "scared"?

Optional masks. Wear them if you want. But our children deserve to breathe oxygen, to see faces, to get a real education. This starts with you.

You need to do what is right by our children. Let them breathe - they have been unmasked all summer.

I would love to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask requirements

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, rkroner@sd308.org, ldoyle@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, aswanson@sd308.org

CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Ursula Coan <ucoan@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:09

Dear SD308 Board Members,

I am sure you are being inundated with emails, so I will keep my message short.

As a family of five (two kids still in district) we made the decision to vaccinate our entire family. We came to this decision to protect ourselves, our loved ones and anyone else whose path we may cross. We felt it was the least we could do in order to protect those around us.

I firmly believe that students and staff who have been vaccinated should be given the choice when it comes to mask-wearing. However, students and staff who have chosen not to vaccinate (or of course those under the age of 12 who are yet too young to receive the vaccine) should be REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS. This is in line with recent CDC recommendations, which I strongly believe should be the guiding force of decision making in our district.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you. You have voluntarily taken on this very important role in our district, and the disrespect I see directed at you by our community saddens me. We are better than this, and you deserve better than this. Please know that many of us applaud your efforts and appreciate the hard work you do.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Policy Concerns

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:33

Hi Donna -

First off, we would like to thank you for serving our community especially during such a difficult and controversial year. We are sure it is not easy on you nor your family.

We are writing to you on behalf of our son who is starting 1st Grade this Fall at Southbury Elementary. We completely understand that you have a responsibility to keep the children as well as staff/employees safe while in school. However, we are NOT supportive of mandating masks for the children while inside the classroom. We, as parents, should own that decision on whether we would like our child to wear a mask or not during the day. There are plenty of other mitigating strategies of social distancing you can practice at the school i.e hand sanitation and regular disinfecting of high-touch surfaces.

Our family's preference should be respected and heard! I am sure we both can agree that the main goal of this upcoming school year should be promoting an outstanding education for our children.

Please vote to keep the masks optional!

Thank you very much!

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donnamarino@sd308.org" <donnamarino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:39

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Sparlin,

I am writing to you today to request that masks be *recommended or encouraged*, not required for students or staff. As parents, and individuals, we should maintain the right to make our own medical decisions for our children. This includes masks and emergency-use vaccines.

1. If only certain students are required to mask, this will create school-sanctioned bullying. Masking non-vaccinated students will only make this pressure worse.
2. For people who already struggle with understanding, hearing, sensory needs, or expressing language; the masks are additional barriers to their education. Their parents or the individuals themselves can certainly weigh the pros and cons of their child wearing a mask or not.
3. We should support an environment where students and staff might occasionally wear a mask to school or a school event if they are not feeling their best, but are not yet sick. Or just because it feels safer to them. Or for reasons that are no one's business but theirs and their medical team.

District 308 has long encouraged our schools to be safe for our students. Including safety from bullying in all forms. Please consider maintaining this course of action.

Thank you for considering my opinion on maintaining our parental rights and the rights of individuals.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Parents of 2 District 308 Students

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: [REDACTED] s <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:44

I am writing to you today on behalf of my husband, myself and every other parent who wants the CHOICE to send OUR kids to school this fall with or without masks. I am pleading for the entire board to make the right decision. It has been long enough these kids have had to suffer. How are you going to explain to the children that this entire summer, they could go to carnivals (prairiefest carnival specifically), sports games, shopping centers, movie theaters, and thousands of other places without having to wear a mask but now need to put these suffocating pieces of material back on their face to sit next to their friends in school.

You can respond with the same answers such as “guidelines” “liability” “insurance” and anything else that you think ends the conversation, but if you haven’t noticed, parents are well past that stage. It’s no longer about safety. The science is there...you know it, I know it, we all know it. If this was truly about safety and there was an actual reason to be fearful, where are the hazmat containers? Because the amount of disposable masks I see left in public should be way more alarming than a child sitting at their own desk using their own supplies.

Please do not mask our children. I created mine, just as you created yours. WE should have the choice in Phase 5 of this entire process.

Please vote for the choice. Did everyone forget the “my body, my choice” movement? Do you believe your choice should blanket everyone’s child? This school board has failed our kids so much this year...please make it right tonight.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Voting on Mask Requirements for Upcoming School Year

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: RKroner@sd308.org, donna-marino@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 16:13

Members of the Board of Education,

I understand that you will soon be voting on the mask requirements for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Our family remained remote for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year, as we have a child with complex medical issues. We were hopeful that we would be able to safely send them back into school buildings this fall, as statistics showed that the safety mitigations put into place during Phase III of the Return to School Plan were working to combat the spread of COVID-19 through school buildings. As our children are not yet able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we will be relying on masking and distancing as our only means of keeping them safe. We are urging you to continue following the science when making this decision that effects the lives of thousands of kids, many of whom are vulnerable to this deadly virus. We are hopeful that you will vote to continue requiring masks inside school buildings until all students have had the opportunity to receive a vaccine. Or at a minimum, that you would vote to require masks for those who are unvaccinated, per the recently released recommendations from the CDC, and that you would also ensure that the masking requirements are upheld and enforced, as the lives of our children could rely on this safety mitigation. Thank you for your very careful consideration of this very important decision.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: My option to choose

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 16:27

Good morning, I wanted to quickly voice my opinion on the matter of mandating masks for the kids during school year 20-21. It is my belief that parents should have the right to choose to mask or not to mask their child(ren). I am not 100% sure how the lines of responsibility have become blurred over the past year, but I feel SD308's responsibility is to educate our children (which I feel they do a great job with) and follow CDC guidelines when it comes to protection from COVID.

[REDACTED]

SD308 Parent

SUBJECT: BOE mtg district 308 7/12/21

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, gateway@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

CC: Dr Sparlin <superintendent@sd308.org>, John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 16:48

ATTACHMENTS (20210712-164825-0000087): ["IMG_0146.PNG"](#) , ["IMG_0145.PNG"](#)

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my concerns regarding masks.

By requiring children to wear a mask you are promoting the idea that the mask can prevent or treat a disease, which is an illegal deceptive practice. It is unlawful to advertise that a product or service can prevent disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true. According to research there are no efficacy standards on child sized masks under OSHA. However, there are proven microbial challenges as well as breathing difficulties that are created by masking children. Requiring kids to mask increases the chance for infection and makes the consequences of such grave. By masking our kids it puts them at an increased risk of infection. Due to the research, evidence and facts I urge the BOE to vote mask optional at tonight's meeting. Making masks a requirement could leave the district open for a lawsuit. Lawsuits are already happening in California and New York because of this. Please join the other 42 states and do the right thing. Make masks optional.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: No masks
FROM: [REDACTED]
TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 17:09
ATTACHMENTS (20210712-170948-0000006): ["text.txt"](#)

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my concerns regarding masks.

By requiring children to wear a mask you are promoting the idea that the mask can prevent or treat a disease, which is an illegal deceptive practice. It is unlawful to advertise that a product or service can prevent disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true. According to research there are no efficacy standards on child sized masks under OSHA. However, there are proven microbial challenges as well as breathing difficulties that are created by masking children. Requiring kids to mask increases the chance for infection and makes the consequences of such grave. By masking our kids it puts them at an increased risk of infection. Due to the research, evidence and facts I urge the BOE to vote mask optional at tonight's meeting. Making masks a requirement could leave the district open for a lawsuit. Lawsuits are already happening in California and New York because of this. Please join the other 42 states and do the right thing. Make masks optional.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Parental concerns...

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 17:24

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my concerns regarding masks.

By requiring children to wear a mask you are promoting the idea that the mask can prevent or treat a disease, which is an illegal deceptive practice. It is unlawful to advertise that a product or service can prevent disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true. According to research there are no efficacy standards on child sized masks under OSHA. However, there are proven microbial challenges as well as breathing difficulties that are created by masking children. Requiring kids to mask increases the chance for infection and makes the consequences of such grave. By masking our kids it puts them at an increased risk of infection. Due to the research, evidence and facts I urge the BOE to vote mask optional at tonight's meeting. Making masks a requirement could leave the district open for a lawsuit. Lawsuits are already happening in California and New York because of this. Please join the other 42 states and do the right thing. Make masks optional.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Choice
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: donna-marino@sd308.org
DATE: 07/12/2021 17:33

Hello,

I would like to voice my opinion on the subject of masks as our children embark on the 2021-2022 school year.

I ask that the board vote to make masks optional for all students. Parents should have the authority and use their discretion as to what is best for their children and their families. What works for some does not work for all. The decision should be solely the parents' to make without requirement or segregation by the district especially when it's in the best interest of a child's health and welfare.

In SD308, we have two sons (High School and Jr. High) and an 8 year old daughter who participated in in-person learning. Our sons have asthma which flares up from mask wearing and our daughter returned home from school with frequent headaches and feeling lightheaded. Studies have proven time and time again that children are at extremely low risk of getting and spreading Covid. Studies have also shown that mask wearing for children (and adults) cause a number of health issues in both the short and long term. It's nothing short of child abuse and should NOT be required by a school district!

We have patiently followed along with what the school district (board) has decided in the past despite our disagreement with much of how things were handled last school year. We have now decided to give the district a final opportunity to make the decision that is in the best interest of all students and all families in the district. That decision is to leave the choice of masking children in the hands of the people who want the best for their children's health and welfare and the ones who love them most...their parents! Alternatively, if the district decides to enforce the requirement to wear masks, we intend to explore our options for removing our three children from the district.

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Board meeting tonight about masks

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 18:37

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my concerns regarding masks.

By requiring children to wear a mask you are promoting the idea that the mask can prevent or treat a disease, which is an illegal deceptive practice. It is unlawful to advertise that a product or service can prevent disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true. According to research there are no efficacy standards on child sized masks under OSHA. However, there are proven microbial challenges as well as breathing difficulties that are created by masking children. Requiring kids to mask increases the chance for infection and makes the consequences of such grave. By masking our kids it puts them at an increased risk of infection. Due to the research, evidence and facts I urge the BOE to vote mask optional at tonight's meeting. Making masks a requirement could leave the district open for a lawsuit. Lawsuits are already happening in California and New York because of this. Please join the other 42 states and do the right thing. Make masks optional.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

SUBJECT: Board meeting tonight 7-12-2021
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 18:50

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my concerns regarding masks.

By requiring children to wear a mask you are promoting the idea that the mask can prevent or treat a disease, which is an illegal deceptive practice. It is unlawful to advertise that a product or service can prevent disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true. According to research there are no efficacy standards on child sized masks under OSHA. However, there are proven microbial challenges as well as breathing difficulties that are created by masking children. Requiring kids to mask increases the chance for infection and makes the consequences of such grave. By masking our kids it puts them at an increased risk of infection. Due to the research, evidence and facts I urge the BOE to vote mask optional at tonight's meeting. Making masks a requirement could leave the district open for a lawsuit. Lawsuits are already happening in California and New York because of this. Please join the other 42 states and do the right thing. Make masks optional.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Tomorrow's vote
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 20:19

Hello,

My daughter is about to begin her first year at Trauber this fall. She attended Southbury Elementary for the past 6 years. I realize that tomorrow the School Board will be voting on the need for masks starting in August. I will not be able to attend the meeting because I will be driving my daughter to and from her dance studio. Her dance studio where she has danced since before preschool, where she dances competitively, where no masks are required.

My daughter has played with her neighborhood friends all summer, as well as her dance team friends. They have all been living their best lives with no masks since the governor lifted his ridiculous mask policies, that were purely political, in my opinion, and basically every other person that I know from Illinois believes, in their opinions.

Kids are the absolute lowest risk for contracting covid and have the best recovery rate of all the humans on the planet. You obviously know that the children have pools in their back yards, in their subdivisions, they swim and play in those areas unmasked every sunny day that they have. All of my daughters are in competitive sports, gymnastics, cheer, dance, baseball, soccer, swimming....None of them are wearing a mask. None of them are getting sick.

It is such a huge dis-service to our kids to continue to put masks on them at school only. They don't wear a mask any place they go, except at school. It is ridiculous. All of our kids are behind now. They all hate masks. Many are not prepared for the upcoming school year. Online learning has been a joke. It's so bad for them to have that much screen time. It sickens me that Yorkville is a few miles from us and they've been open all this time. And we haven't ever had a full day of school since the shut down. Please allow our kids to be normal again. Stop this mask wearing frenzy. Every parent is sick of it. No kids have had masks on for months outside of school in district 308.

Do what you know is right, stop using the kids as part of political leverage. It is our right as parents to decide, at this point, if we want our kid's in a mask or not. If people have been vaccinated, one would think they don't need to worry about any other's around them. They are vaccinated they must be safe. If people have not been vaccinated, then it's their body, their choice.

Please let our kids go to school like normal for the first time in a very, very long time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: Masks
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 20:27

Thank you for your time! It's appreciated.

-- [REDACTED]

From: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:20:15 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Masks

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. It is important that we hear from our community when making our decisions. Thank you for expressing yours. 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, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:01 AM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:
District 308 board members,

I have seen the guidance issued by the IDPH and ISBE regarding masks.

This guidance is based on fear, and not science. Also, it is *only* guidance.

Here are some facts:

- Children aged 0-18 years have a 99.997% recovery rate IF they contract Covid. This is data from the CDC.
- The average age of death of a person who contracted Covid is HIGHER than the average life expectancy in the United States, AND the UK!

These simple metrics indicate that Covid is far more dangerous to older populations who are have other comorbidities. Healthy children have virtually nothing to worry about, so it is unnecessary to raise the CO2 levels in children to unacceptable levels. Science and statistics clearly indicate this.

If masks really do work to protect someone (which we have been led to believe), then by all means, allow children whose parents want them to wear a mask, to wear one.

For those that do not, they should not be required to wear one.

It should be personal choice, as there is no data to suggest kids are at any significant risk, or that masks even work at all, as evidenced how Norway and Sweeden have handled this pandemic.

MASKS SHOULD BE OPTIONAL!!

Other states and districts with no mask mandates have fared just fine, and have for quite some time.

--

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Thank you

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "Ali's Gmail 308" <aswanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 21:51

Hey Ali,

I know we have disagreed about many things over the years, so I think it's important to tell you when I agree with you. I truly appreciate the way you handled the heckling tonight. I know you got grief for calling out the bad behavior and that was undeserved. I also appreciated what you said at the end about making sure kids who do wear masks are treated with respect. I never envy your job up there, but I really don't tonight. It sounds like your emails have been really something lately.

Hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: BOE adopted mask guidelines

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 23:20

Good evening,

I am extremely disappointed by the board's decision not to mandate masks for students and staff who are unvaccinated. It is clear from tonight's board meeting that there are many parents in our district who have no plans to vaccinate their children or make them wear a mask. Since you are aware of this your failure to mandate masks in essence ignores CDC and IDPH guidance which clearly states that masks should be worn by all individuals who are not vaccinated. In the absence of a substantive explanation your decision indicates that it was based on public pressure and puts the district in a precarious position both legally and educationally. If another outbreak occurs and the schools have to be closed again or a child dies because the district did not meet its duty to provide a standard of care, it's the board who will have to answer for not taking a stronger stance based on the guidance adopted by the state of Illinois. As elected board members your duty is to serve all students in the district. Tonight you failed that duty by bowing to pressure from parents who choose to ignore science including some that don't even reside in our district. I hope that you will revisit this issue before school begins and do better when it comes to the health and safety of the students and staff of SD 308. In the meantime, I am anticipating your plan for monitoring staff and students for symptoms of COVID-19, the requirements for quarantine and a plan for contact tracing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

7/20/2021

SUBJECT: Our position on Masks, Vaccines and CRT as Parents of children enrolled in SD308

FROM: [REDACTED]
TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene_gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene_gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "Latonya_Simelton@sd308.org" <Latonya_Simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/10/2021 09:16
ATTACHMENTS (20210710-091625-0000005): ["2021-04-21-Pat-Hughes_LJC-to-Hinsdale-D86-1.pdf"](#)

Good morning,

I am a father of two in School District 308. My [REDACTED] will be a [REDACTED] at Oswego High School and my [REDACTED] will be a [REDACTED] grader at Thompson this fall.

I understand that you will vote on masks at the next Board meeting on Monday. I strongly oppose masks being mandated in the fall for any reason, as I have read enough medical studies in the last six months that have convinced my wife and I that our healthy children should not wear masks for extended periods of time - vaccinated or not. My wife and I are strongly urging you to make mask wearing in schools this fall as 100% voluntary. You claim to have to follow the ISBE and the IDPH, but HB2789 has not passed and you still have local control over these issues. They cannot threaten to withhold funding, as that would be illegal. Please see the attached video on the latest guidance that came out this week and the explanation by attorney Thomas DeVore on what your options are.

https://i.facebook.com/i.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.instagram.com%2Fp%2FCRH06QVjugo%2F%3Ffbclid%3DlwAR2SewQOF2rh3HvSIGZ3I2FJ_vqDNgncoZM89ijBuaLwGs3kXQjpMSruuQ&h=AT2TeQP5p34jksrSYIZpP2sYShXE4UpWSxQV8d0yto9yyPreqaAepK8niO38Xq4

My wife and I strongly oppose any attempts to segregate students, whether by forcing unvaccinated children to wear masks, sit in different areas from other children or apply quarantine rules in a different manner than any other child. We are not anti-vaxxers, but these Covid vaccines have not been fully tested for safety and are still considered to be authorized for "emergency use only" by the FDA. We will not allow our children to be "research subjects" on the effectiveness of these vaccines. We do not consent to any governmental body forcing this vaccine on our children and hope and pray that you, the elected leaders of our school district, do the right thing.

As for Critical Race Theory, Culturally Responsive Teaching and using SEL as a vehicle to force this racist non-sense on our children will not be tolerated. Teaching our kids to hate is wrong at any level. Teaching kids that the color of their skin makes them inherently bad or privileged or teaching kids that the color of their skin makes them a victim is wrong on every level. Teaching our kids that America was founded on white supremacy and is permanently racist is wrong and teaching our children to replace equality with equity is equally wrong. I would suggest reading this article from the Liberty Justice Center on a strongly worded letter that they sent to the Hinsdale School District on how teaching these theories is both illegal and Un-American:

https://dupagepolicyjournal.com/stories/599846000-law-firm-warns-hinsdale-86-against-critical-race-theory-curriculum-this-practice-is-both-illegal-and-un-american?fbclid=IwAR3vEm2JF1il5OTnT0p3KqocQj-iRa-ryfQ7vK4BupApFjGQoWdnwGscUY#_YnKH-0q08Tw.facebook

Kristen Williamson, the Communications and Outreach Director at the Liberty Justice Center states "School districts are adopting equity statements and critical theory curriculum that is meant to impose radical and controversial beliefs on people, and frankly this practice is both illegal and un-American.". I have attached the letter that was sent to the Hinsdale School District and I would strongly encourage all of you to read it.

We do not consent to the inclusion of any of the theories of Critical Race Theory, Critical Theory, White Fragility, Anti-Racism, Cultural Competence, or any other name you would like to call this racist, un-American theories into our children's curriculum in any way shape or form. I have read your DEI playbook for 2020-2021 and the mere fact that you had defined many terms included in these theories is frightening and will not be tolerated. In addition, the adoption of CRT being taught and defended by the NEA is just plain wrong. This just proves to us once again that the teacher's union could care less about our children and only care about keeping power. So, I know you have stated that we were confused in one of your emails to the parents in the district about CRT and everything is all better now, but it is not. We are not confused and will not be going away. Parents of this district and districts all over this country became complacent over the years and had put too much faith in our school district to do right by our children. Make no mistake, parental oversight is here to stay and I think that is a good thing and I hope as our elected leaders and as our taxpayer-funded body charged with teaching our children that you do just that.

We look forward to being present at the board meeting on Monday.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: July 12th meeting agenda

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 21:00

Oswego School Bd. (SD308),

This email is going to all SD308 board members. These members include Dr. Donna Marino (President), Eugene Gatewood, Jennifer Johnson, LaTonya Simelton (Vice President), Lauri Doyle, Ruth Kroner (Secretary), and Alison Swanson.

As a concerned parent with 2 children still in the SD308 school system, I am writing with my concerns over:

#1) Masks and a mandatory CV19 "vaccination". The vaccine is still in the trial stages until/at least 2023. One of my children decided (against my beliefs) to get the shot, the other is concerned over it still being in trial and the adverse reactions it has/have caused. We say NO to this mandate. I ask each of you to go back and study the Nuremburg code. It is against that code to force anyone to take or do anything against their wills or better judgments. Back during the Nuremburg trials, most of the ones that were executed were actually doctors and teachers for going along with the atrocities. We stand with that were not refusing the vaccines, just deferring until the clinical trials are over and proven 100% safe.

#2) Critical Race Theory, or whatever new name they come up for its principles, to NOT be taught in our schools. Point blank, a straight up NO! I think teaching that all white people, especially white Christian men, are born racist. We teach our children not to hate anyone whether they are black, brown, white, yellow, purple, green, etc., gay, straight, bi, etc. There are 2 sexes, male and female, but can be gay, bi, trans, etc. Doesn't make a difference as long as you are a good human.

I ask of you SD308 board members to think about it hard, and vote NO on both topics!
Thank You!

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

SUBJECT: School Board Meeting

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/12/2021 12:05

As a resident and parent of a student, please vote against making it mandatory for students to wear masks in school. I completely find it understandable for a parent to want their child to wear a mask, but it should be the family to decide what is best instead of making it mandatory.

I also would like to push back against Critical Race Theory in our schools. If there is racism in our schools like the district memorandum discusses, then the teachers and administrators should be looking for other jobs instead of pushing a "woke" agenda in our schools to students. This is only going to push racism divides further apart. We need to be hiring the best staff for the job and not prioritizing based on the color of skin.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Public Comment for Board Meeting 7-12-21

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "USTUDER@SD308.ORG" <ustuder@sd308.org>

CC: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "jsparlin@sd308.org" <jsparlin@sd308.org>, "fdahlquist@sd308.org" <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 14:18

ATTACHMENTS (20210712-141857-0000004): [REDACTED] [Board Meeting Public Comment 7-12-21.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Studer,

I would like to submit the attached letter to be read as public comment this evening at the board meeting if possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

7.12.21

Good evening,

I am a parent of two children in SD 308, a sophomore at Oswego High School and a 7th grader at Traughber Jr. High.

My main reason, among many, that I am reaching out to you is that I am advocating for choice.

Whether any parent chooses to get their child vaccinated or not, as the parent of my child I should have a CHOICE whether my child should have to wear a mask or not. It is not anyone else's decision to make that choice for my child based on "safety". What is considered safe comes in many shapes and sizes. Covid science and research proves that it is not prevalent in school-aged children and if they were to get it, the chance of recovery with no lasting impact is very, very high. Should teachers and faculty be worried, then they have the "choice" to get vaccinated or wear a mask. They have a choice.

With the district's focus on equity/equality/CRT, mandating masks for students who are not vaccinated goes against that goal. In fact, it is contradictory to that goal and segregates the kids.

Put yourself in the shoes of a student who has not been vaccinated (also due to safety concerns of getting the vaccine), how will he/she feel walking the halls wearing a mask while others do not? If individuals have the vaccination, why should they be worried about students who don't/and or do not have a mask on? It does not make sense. Each person has the responsibility to protect **themselves** and we should have the right and the CHOICE to do what is best for our child! How does anyone know what that is better than the child's own parent?

There was a time when this outbreak first happened over a year ago, that efforts were made to protect the larger population, but now it is time to do what is best for our own child. This is not going away, but the percentage of cases is very low.

The school and the school board work for us, the taxpayers, parents, and our children first and foremost! It is not acceptable to push a mask mandate (The CDC does not mandate masks or vaccines) and the vaccine to encourage the students to get the vaccine! This is NOT OK! That is way out of your jurisdiction.

Teach my child - math, science, social studies, and English Language.

Expect from my child - kindness, respect, compassion, courage, consideration and when he/she falls short, encourage these attributes which is basic human respect to others.

I implore you, please do not take away our choice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

██████████

SUBJECT: Mask Rule

FROM: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/08/2021 10:53

Good Morning Oswego SD308 Board members,
I have a quick question that I am hoping one of you can answer for me.

Are there any duly adopted rules, regulations, or standards in the Illinois Administrative Code that says masks are required?

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Re: Mask Rule

FROM: [REDACTED] i <[REDACTED]>

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

CC: "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/08/2021 15:51

Thank you to those who replied for your acknowledgement and answer. Title 23 of the Admintrative code, isn't that what school district 308 and superintendent have to follow because those are passed under the legal process?

Respectfully,

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 2:30 PM, Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

I see that Ms. Johnson answered your question. I just wanted to acknowledge that I have both received and read your email. Thank you for your engagement.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Dr. Donna Marino

Board of Education Member

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:53 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Morning Oswego SD308 Board members,

I have a quick question that I am hoping one of you can answer for me.

Are there any duly adopted rules, regulations, or standards in the Illinois Administrative Code that says masks are required?

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask wearing

FROM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>

DATE: 06/28/2021 14:34

Hi

I'm sure you are getting many, many emails about mask wearing for the 2021-2022 school year. I know you are waiting on more updated guidance from ISBE/IDPH. I'd just like to express my opinion that the district should adhere to whatever guidance the state recommends. And that we should not even begin discussing not wearing masks in school buildings until everyone has the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. I have a rising 6th grader who will not be 12 under September 2022 so he can not currently be vaccinated.

Thank you!

And thank you for all you do.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: COVID 19 guidelines for fall 2021 and DEI

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/09/2021 10:16

Dear Board members:

I am aware of a vocal group of parents pushing back against students in SD308 being required to wear masks when school starts. I also understand that the district is waiting for updated guidance from the IDPH and ISBE regarding COVID 19 protocols for the coming school year. I feel the need to add my voice to the chorus of voices you are being subjected to. As you collect updated guidance recommendations and weigh the health, safety and well-being of our students, I respectfully ask that you keep in mind that despite pressure from all sides, the ultimate goal of the district is to keep all students and staff safe to the best of their ability and should make their decisions accordingly.

I also want to address the conversation surrounding the national discussion about critical race theory. It appears that some parents are misinterpreting what critical race theory is or using inaccurate information on what it is. There also seems to be some misunderstanding that this is a topic that is even addressed at the high school level, let alone the elementary or junior high level and to what degree it is covered. I am concerned that this conversation detracts from important work and conversations being done and had regarding cultural responsive teaching or understanding that culture adds a unique lens through which some students might learn. It also might cause some staff and/or students to hesitate to hold open and frank discussions regarding race as it surfaces in learning or to answer any questions regarding this topic. History shows that when a sensitive topic is discussed in an open environment with the ultimate goal to learn, that it might address some long-held misconceptions but more importantly, it gives students a safe place to discuss some of these topics which might be personally painful. Please continue to create this safe space for students. The more this topic sees air in an open and honest environment, the better it will heal.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Request for July 12th board meeting

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: BOARD@sd308.org

CC: donna-marino@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, Lauri Doyle <LDoyle@sd308.org>, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/09/2021 16:13

Good afternoon, SD 308 Board Members & Dr. Sparlin:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Board consider the recent CDC and IDPH guidance and 1) Confirm (and not go back on the plan) that we will be back in person, full-time, with allowed recesses (elementary) and lunchrooms, and have access to regularly scheduled activities that they didn't have last year; 2) consider the guidance on masks, just that...guidance. Not a requirement.

This past year, [REDACTED] was in Kindergarten, and didn't see a classroom until well past half the school year (what was it, March? May? I can't even remember, it's a blur). Even then it was just for a few hours, 2 days a week versus full time. Their first exposure to school should be exciting, full of smiles, laughter, games, new sights, sounds, friends, teachers etc. My daughter was so excited and looked forward to K for two years, ever since she was 3! It broke my heart when she cried that she couldn't meet her teacher, her friends, see school, have recess, have real circle time/morning meeting, art, library, music...she told me twice, she hated school. I kid you not, and I have other parent-friends who had the same experience. It's horrible, knowing your kids already feel that way in kindergarten. If the kids won't have guaranteed access to that this year, she will be devastated and I'm concerned she will form the opinion, permanently, she doesn't like school. She already said it a few times last year, and that was depressing as she really was so looking forward to it and is a very good and attentive student. Remote learning is not an option and we have already saved a spot for private school, should the board determine that it will not guarantee full-time, in person instruction. Last year was unprecedented, I'll give the board that. But it was ultimately a Board choice, and not every student in Illinois had that same experience. Some were in school much earlier, for longer, if not all year. So again, it's ultimately up to the Board/Superintendent, there is autonomy in this. And, if there is a Plan B for full-blown force majeure again, it should be in place ready to go in a matter of days, not months...

As for the masks, I request that the board consider that the masks are recommended for elementary age children, but not required. It should be up to the parents/legal guardians. I am not completely anti-masks nor is this political *at all* for me, but I am completely for *our independent choice*. The masks, while I personally think they likely do help the spread, also harm the children when worn for such long periods and I think ultimately, they do more damage than good. At this age, they are also watching facial expressions for context, speech, etc. I think it should be completely the choice of the families, as does the CDC and IDPH and the federal government for that matter, as they are not made a legal requirement. It is up to the school district, as it should be up to the families. There has been so much mixed-messaging from the scientific and medical community, Fauci, White House, CDC, WHO, IDPH, CDPH...I firmly believe that because it's not a law, and remains guidance, it should remain just that. Guidance. Not mandated, not required, but suggested. Even highly suggested. But not required.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. If any of you would like to respond, I would be grateful and would be very interested in hearing your thoughts, commentary, etc. and engage in a civil discussion.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mask Vote

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/09/2021 18:06

Hello,

I am the parent of a 1st grader in the school district, writing to ask that you vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS. Masks in general are useless. Masks on a 6 yo, for hours on end, is just plain WRONG! Regardless of vaccination status. Not just the social aspect of the mask is terrible, but also the health risks associated with wearing one need to be considered when you vote this Monday. Studies have shown that the masks that our kids are being forced to wear, when tested, grow multiple dangerous organisms that are not COVID. And this is after a short time frame of wearing them. Then to have that sit on their face all day.. not to mention the added hands to face moments that occur because wearing a mask is annoying and they constantly need to be adjusted. But the bigger issue is that JAMA just came out with a study that shows that after briefly wearing a mask, 100%... yes 100% of kids that were tested had CO2 levels 6x the allowed limits! The impact of retaining CO2 is a health hazard for our kids. CO2 retention impacts a kid's ability to pay attention, concentrate and learn at school, which is the whole purpose of going to school. Then to force kids to wear them if they aren't vaccinated and allow those vaccinated to go without is a set up for disaster and a blow to a child's mental health. And we're talking about a population that is minimally impacted by the disease and not a known spreader of the virus. Yes, I know, variants. But weighing pros versus cons, the cons to wearing a mask for kids, especially in the elementary level, are much higher than the pros. So please, consider the kids and the lasting effects and health concerns associated with mandating masks for the 2021 school year. Please, vote AGAINST MANDATORY MASKS for the 2021 school year.

And when the vote comes, vaccines should not be mandated for kids to go to school. They are not FDA approved and were invented in haste in response to a global pandemic. It is alarming how hard they are being pushed and the amount of financial and other incentives that are being offered to those that get them... that should be a red flag right there. No, I am not an antivaxxer. My kids are fully vaccinated and we all take the flu vaccine every year. Because the flu vaccine has been around a long time and has years of data to consider when making the choice to get it or not. Until this vaccine has been around for awhile and has that data to support it is safe and effective, there should be no mandate. It is the family's right to choose. I will not vaccinate myself nor my kids for COVID. We are low risk and it is my right to decide for my kid what is right. If people have a problem with that, then maybe it needs to be them that keeps their kid home to keep them safe. COVID isn't going away... ever... just like the flu. So we need to learn how to live normal lives with it always being present.

Since I am already here, I will be adding my vote for CRT has no business in the curriculum for schools. Schools should spend their time and resources on standard education... math, science, reading, etc. Being a good person and accepting all is something that needs to start at home and be taught at home. It should not be handled by the school district. By adopting CRT, you would be going backwards, not forward with the issues. You would be teaching a 6 yo that doesn't see color to automatically place someone in a category based on race. You will be teaching that same 6 yo that by being white he is automatically a bad person and should be "less white". It makes me sick to the stomach to read about CRT and I sure hope that we as a school district have enough sense to not adopt CRT for our kids. People think it is bad now with all that is going on, adopt this and just watch it all crumble even further. Please, KEEP CRT OUT OF THE SCHOOLS.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my issues.

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Board Meeting 7/12

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/10/2021 22:50

Hello,

Please do the right thing and let PARENTS make the choice if they want their children to wear masks or not.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: 2021/2022 school year

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, John Sparlin <jsparin@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 07:53

Thank you for taking a moment to read this. I understand it has come time yet again for our district to make a tough decision that will impact families and students tremendously. There is no way to make everyone happy and I recognize that. With that being said, 10 days to flatten the curve, deep cleaning, lower numbers, and now a vaccine and we are still debating a normal school year again. Teachers have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated for quite some time if they choose. Students are not and never have been the super spreaders. There will always be a variant, a strain, a concern. Masking these kids is just pushing the inevitable, unmasking them will happen eventually but without the kids suffering the back and forth and confusion between in and out of school protocols. No kids (well not many) wear masks anywhere anymore. Not activities, not with friends and not at stores. To even consider asking kids to show proof of medical history ie vaccine status is absolutely absurd- for one it's not their choice, it's their parents and for two in a world and society where people try and divide groups over politics and anything else they can manage let's not let yet another thing be brought into our young kids lives for them then to learn to judge or make opinions about. If this is enforced it will take someone with the willingness and time to fight it somewhere in IL. I can't imagine proof of vaccine to be mask free remaining long term nor do I see covid or variants disappearing entirely quickly. Let's not do what we did last year and lose anymore education time. These kids need to be back, focused and ready to form bonds, friendships with no distractions. A piece of cloth in their mouth, especially after many of them haven't worn one since May, will not only be the focus of many kids but it is just not right. These kids need air and normalcy. So so so many states have been so far ahead of IL in getting their schools back on track. We can absolutely push and allow kids to be mask free this year. I believe we owe families and especially students that much after our district offered the least in person time out of the area last year. Our kids never were offered a full half day or a full week, every district around us, even larger ones, went back 5 days a week and longer hours. Some even full time.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Oppose - Mandatory Masking

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 09:18

Good Morning, School Board Members -

As a parent with twins in elementary school, I oppose mandating masks. While my children have complied and worn masks throughout the entire prior school year (they were onsite at the school via Kids Connection program for 8+ hours a day), I don't think this should be a mandate. Providing student / families options versus deescalates the politics of the issue. The focus should be on instructional time, and not enforcement of mask policy.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: Please enforce mask wearing

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 10:30

Good morning school district 308 board members,

I am writing today to kindly ask that you follow CDC and IDPH guidelines for the upcoming school year and require students who are not vaccinated (primarily elementary school) to wear masks. We are still fighting a pandemic, and remote learning is no longer a choice to keep my child safe from those who think their rights to not mask trump the safety of others. There are so many vulnerable children and family members who will be put at risk unnecessarily if masks are not mandated.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for Return to School

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

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

DATE: 07/11/2021 13:05

Dear Board Members,

I am a parent of a 10th grader at OEHS, an 8th grader at Bednarcik, and 4th grader at Wolf's Crossing. I am writing to you to ask that as decisions are being made for the 2021-2022 school year, please follow the guidance put forth by the CDC and the ISBE and require all students to wear masks at every level or require proof of vaccination. This practice should remain in place until all age groups have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

· While vaccines are very effective at preventing serious illness, breakthrough illness does happen. And while the risk of spread by vaccinated people is reduced, it still can happen. If masks are not universally worn, older siblings can potentially spread it to vulnerable family members at home.

· According to the guidance, "consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained." Our schools struggled to meet 3ft distance the end of last school year when not everyone was in attendance. It will be more unreachable with everyone returning to school in the fall.

· Out in the community it is apparent that recommendations on masking are not being followed. Any store you go into most children who are visibly too young to have been vaccinated but of age to wear a mask are not wearing masks. People will not follow recommendations, so they have to be requirements.

Once all age groups are eligible to be vaccinated, provided enough time has past to allow for 2 weeks after the 2nd dose, I am perfectly fine with allowing families to choose how they want to protect themselves from COVID. I am torn in saying this because I feel for those parents whose children cannot be vaccinated. They are the ones who will be really at risk, as I don't see herd immunity ever being achieved. Unfortunately no matter which side of the argument you are on, parent choice in this situation will impede others' choices. Public health and safety should be at the forefront of the district's decision on this subject, and not requiring masks or requiring proof of vaccination to attend school without a mask most certainly will needlessly cause increased risk of contracting COVID for my 4th grader until he is able to be vaccinated. Please don't allow that to happen. Thank you for your time and for your service to SD308.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

7/21/2021

SUBJECT: NO Mask Mandate for Students

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: <donna-marino@sd308.org>, <rkroner@sd308.org>, <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, <ASwanson@sd308.org>, <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, <ldoyle@sd308.org>, <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 14:54

Dear Board Members,

Please do not require students to wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your time.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

SUBJECT: Masking Requirements

FROM: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TO:

CC: John Sparlin <jsparlin@sd308.org>, Faith Dahlquist <fdahlquist@sd308.org>

BCC: jennifer-johnson@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 19:32

Good evening,

Since March 2020, I have been impressed that SD308 and the Board of Education has followed the science and recommendations by medical experts in regard to safety protocols for Covid. Last year wasn't perfect by any stretch, but I do whole-heartedly believe the district did their best to balance students' learning with their safety.

I am writing to ask that you continue to listen to the public health experts and follow the new guidelines issued by the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE and require masks to be worn by anyone in our buildings who has not been vaccinated.

I know this is a huge decision and one that you won't make without reviewing all of the available information. Regardless of how you vote, I sincerely respect the difficult position you're in and thank you for your service. It's a tough time to be a public official, especially on a school board, and I want you to know that I appreciate you.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Public comment for BOE Meeting 7/12/2021

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: "ustuder@sd308.org" <ustuder@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 19:51

Hello,

In the event there is not enough time for me to speak tomorrow night, I wanted to ensure my statement is heard. Below is a copy of my public comment for tomorrow's meeting.

I am here today to speak on behalf of We The Parents throughout the district to oppose masking and vaxxing for both students and staff as a requirement for in person learning. As we enter the third school year impacted by COVID, it is now time for the Board to put common sense and reason before fear and panic.

Over the past 18 months, the message has been the virtue of wearing the mask – not for your own protection but for the health / safety of others. People masked up, however beyond virtue what about efficacy - inconsistencies abound in what (N95, paper, fabric, etc.), how (over the nose, under the chin, etc.), where (restaurants, stores, inside, outside), and when (social justice protests safe, church unsafe, etc.) masks applied – making the safety argument questionable at best. Photos of students as well as teachers in the schools this summer blow that narrative to pieces. This simply doesn't make sense anymore. There is NO "science" with the inconsistent masking. **What goes on MY child's body is MY CHOICE.**

The vaccine surplus ensures availability for all SD308 staff comfortable receiving them. No more excuses. However, our students range in age from early childhood (3-4 years old) to seniors in high school. Weighing the risk of an emergency use vaccine on their developing bodies that aren't nearly as vulnerable to severe complications from COVID should be left to parents. **What goes into MY child's body is MY CHOICE.**

Public school should be an unbiased and neutral environment for teachers AND students. Mandates and politicized policies open the door for a toxic learning environment. Teachers, I worry for you and how will be treated too. Many of you are too afraid to voice your concerns.

As a pro student and parent choice group, We The Parents of Oswego 308 do not co parent with the state government. Since the start of this pandemic, we have spent countless hours advocating for return to in-person instruction and improved virtual experiences for remote learners. Board members – you were elected to represent ALL parents and students. Choice is the next step forward into normalcy. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Board Meeting - Covid/Masks

FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

TO: donna-marino@sd308.org, RKroner@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, ASwanson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, Superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:06

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Sparlin,

We are writing to you today to request that masks be *recommended or encouraged*, not required for students. As parents, we should maintain the right to make our own medical decisions for our children. This includes masks and emergency-use vaccines.

1. If only certain students are required to mask, this will create school-sanctioned bullying. Eighth-graders were bragging about their vaccine appointment last year and wore their vaccine stickers on their phones like badges of honor. Masking non-vaccinated students will only make this pressure worse.

2. For students who already struggle with understanding, hearing or expressing language; the masks are additional barriers to their education. Their parents can certainly weigh the pros and cons of their child wearing a mask or not.

3. Let's make it cool to decide for ourselves. We would support an environment where students and staff might occasionally wear a mask to school or a school event if they are not feeling their best, but are not yet sick. Or just because it feels safer to them. Or for reasons that are no one's business but theirs and their medical team.

District 308 has long encouraged our schools to be safe for our students. Including safety from bullying in all forms. Please consider maintaining this course of action.

Thank you for considering our opinion on maintaining our parental rights.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NO MASKS for ALL school children

FROM: [REDACTED]

TO: "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "UStuder@sd308.org" <UStuder@sd308.org>, "aswanson@sd308.org" <aswanson@sd308.org>, "donna-marino@sd308.org" <donna-marino@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "rkroner@sd308.org" <rkroner@sd308.org>, "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/11/2021 20:16

To all,

PLEASE vote to have masks optional, not mandatory. For the sake of our children's MENTAL health, please do not force this unnecessary situation onto them. Please. I pray that you all will make the right decision for our families.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--



SUBJECT: Masks

FROM: '[REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]>

TO: "donnamarino@sd308.org" <donnamarino@sd308.org>, "RKroner@sd308.org" <RKroner@sd308.org>, "eugene-gatewood@sd308.org" <eugene-gatewood@sd308.org>, "ASwanson@sd308.org" <ASwanson@sd308.org>, "latonya-simelton@sd308.org" <latonya-simelton@sd308.org>, "LDoyle@sd308.org" <LDoyle@sd308.org>, "jennifer-johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>, "Superintendent@sd308.org" <Superintendent@sd308.org>

DATE: 07/12/2021 15:39

Dear Board of Education and Dr. Sparlin,

I am writing to you today to request that masks be *recommended or encouraged*, not required for students or staff. As parents, and individuals, we should maintain the right to make our own medical decisions for our children. This includes masks and emergency-use vaccines.

1. If only certain students are required to mask, this will create school-sanctioned bullying. Masking non-vaccinated students will only make this pressure worse.
2. For people who already struggle with understanding, hearing, sensory needs, or expressing language; the masks are additional barriers to their education. Their parents or the individuals themselves can certainly weigh the pros and cons of their child wearing a mask or not.
3. We should support an environment where students and staff might occasionally wear a mask to school or a school event if they are not feeling their best, but are not yet sick. Or just because it feels safer to them. Or for reasons that are no one's business but theirs and their medical team.

District 308 has long encouraged our schools to be safe for our students. Including safety from bullying in all forms. Please consider maintaining this course of action.

Thank you for considering my opinion on maintaining our parental rights and the rights of individuals.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

SUBJECT: Re: Masks
FROM: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
TO: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
DATE: 07/12/2021 20:27

Thank you for your time! It's appreciated.

-- [REDACTED]

From: Donna Marino <donna-marino@sd308.org>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:20:15 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Masks

Hello Jason,
Thank you for your email. It is important that we hear from our community when making our decisions. Thank you for expressing yours. 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, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:01 AM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:
District 308 board members,

I have seen the guidance issued by the IDPH and ISBE regarding masks.

This guidance is based on fear, and not science. Also, it is *only* guidance.

Here are some facts:

- Children aged 0-18 years have a 99.997% recovery rate IF they contract Covid. This is data from the CDC.
- The average age of death of a person who contracted Covid is HIGHER than the average life expectancy in the United States, AND the UK!

These simple metrics indicate that Covid is far more dangerous to older populations who are have other comorbidities. Healthy children have virtually nothing to worry about, so it is unnecessary to raise the CO2 levels in children to unacceptable levels. Science and statistics clearly indicate this.

If masks really do work to protect someone (which we have been led to believe), then by all means, allow children whose parents want them to wear a mask, to wear one.

For those that do not, they should not be required to wear one.

It should be personal choice, as there is no data to suggest kids are at any significant risk, or that masks even work at all, as evidenced how Norway and Sweeden have handled this pandemic.

MASKS SHOULD BE OPTIONAL!!

Other states and districts with no mask mandates have fared just fine, and have for quite some time.

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