MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2021
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 27, 2021

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Beth Smith was administered a ceremonial Oath of Office by her husband, Shawn Smith.

1.03 ROLL CALL

President Angela Taylor and Board Members Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith were present. Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Student Representative Victoria Gomez, and staff were also present.

1.04 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Beth Smith led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consent Agenda Items

Trustee Church requested the following Consent Agenda Items be pulled for additional consideration:

2.08 – Approval of the appointment of Rebecca Pairis to the Council on Family Resource Centers to fill a vacant seat for a 1-year term, ending June 30, 2022;

2.09 – Approval of the Memorandums of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and Communities in Schools of Nevada, Inc.;

2.10 – Approval of the agreements between Washoe County School District and Soliant Health, Progressus, Procare, Stepping Stones, and National Staffing Solutions to provide related service providers for occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech pathologists for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $1,141,950;

2.18 – Ratification for award if bid #21-109-B-06-DA, Relocation of Portable Classroom Buildings to Nick Poulakidas Elementary School, to J Slash B Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $500,740;
2.32 – Approval of the purchase of Benchmark Advance Intervention Package for literacy skills for all elementary schools using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) for $183,400;
2.36 – Consideration of approval for the Fiscal Year 2022-2021 4th Quarter report of average daily attendance and pupil-teacher ratios for Grades K-3 for each elementary school related to the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 388.700-388.725, as amended by Senate Bill (SB) 555 adopted during the 2019 Legislative Session and update of requests for variances;
2.37 – Direction by the Board of Trustees to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund Board of Trustees to approve the reimbursement of retiree benefits from the Washoe County School District OPEB Trust Fund during Fiscal Year 2021-22, as included in the approved amended final budget;
2.39 – Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe School Principals' Association for payment of a signing incentive for $3,500 and/or end of year stipend for $1,500 for principals selected for or retained at an assignment at Acceleration Schools for the 2021022 School Year, with an Acceleration Zone School considered a major strategic effort to improve and turn around the District's lowest performing schools;
2.40 – Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe Education Support Processionals providing for the payment of new hire incentives to any Education Support Professional position in the Housekeeping Department in the total possible amount of $1,000 per employee, retention incentives to any Education Support Professional position in the Housekeeping Department in the total possible amount of $1,000 per employee, and referral incentives in the total possible amount of $500 per Education Support Professional employee who refers new Education Support Professionals in the Housekeeping Department between July 28, 2021 and June 30, 2022 to address a critical personnel shortage;
2.41 – Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe Education Support Professionals providing for the payment of new hire incentives to any Education Support Professional position in the Nutrition Services Department of up to $1,000 per employee, retention incentives to any Education Support Professional position in the Nutrition Services Department of up to $1,000 per employee, and referral incentives in the total possible amount of $500 per Education Support Professional employee who refers new Education Support Professionals in the Nutrition Services Department between July 28, 2021 and June 30, 2022 to address a critical personnel shortage;

2.44 – Possible action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 1160, Communications, Community Relations, and Public Engagement, specifically to remove unnecessary language and provide clarification; and
2.49 – Possible action to provide final approval to the adoption of Board Policy 9300, Reporting of Fraud, Waste, or Abuse, to outline the filing and investigation process for complaints.

Trustee Nicolet requested Consent Agenda Item 2.29, Approval of force account change orger #14 to Bid #20-22-B-10-DA, Construction of the New Elementary School in Cold Springs (Michael Inskeep Elementary School), to Q & D Construction, LLC for $100,000, be pulled for additional discussion.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

James Benthin believed additional clarity needed to be provided on the Consent Agenda because the Board would be voting to approve millions of dollars in one vote. He felt parents should have the ability to provide additional input on the individual items if the Board were interested in true transparency.

Bruce Parks agreed with Mr. Benthin. He believed there were too many Consent Agenda Items for approval and that the Board was not being transparent because of the number of items.

Shannon Coley remarked that Consent Agenda Item 2.05 should be pulled and discussed separately because of the importance of the Board Policy. She believed parents should have the ability to record the instruction provided to their children.

John Eppolito believed the agenda was misleading because it stated members of the public would have the ability to speak to each agenda item but under the Consent Agenda, members of the public were only provided the opportunity to speak once to all items. He disagreed with Consent Agenda Item 2.14 because he felt the grant would be used to provide counseling services without parental consent.

The Board received an email from Lynn Markulian related to Consent Agenda Item 2.35.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.07, 2.11 through 2.17, 2.19 through 2.28, 2.30 through 2.31, 2.33 through 2.35, 2.38, 2.42 through 2.43, and 2.45 through 2.48.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the March 30, 2021 Work Session of the Board of Trustees.

2.05 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 1505, Visitors to District Property – Meaningful Access, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.

2.06 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 3265, Equipment and Property, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.

2.07 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the recommended deletion of Board Policy 3360, Teacher Reimbursement for School Supplies, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.

2.11 The Board of Trustees approved the Inspire Transition Academy Alternative Schedule for 45-minute weekly early release for all schools with the exception of North Star Online School (a distance education school that does not operate under minutes) and authorized Student Accounting staff to complete and submit an amendment to the "Application to Operate on an Alternative Schedule" to the Nevada Department of Education.

2.12 The Board of Trustees approved the payment of the 2021-22 annual membership dues to the Nevada Association of School Boards in the amount of $23,073.91.

2.13 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for Title IV-B Subpart II: Promoting Safe and Stable Family services in the amount of $157,781.

2.14 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants to fund the Family Resource Center's parent education programs, public awareness campaign, and crisis intervention services for $132,154.

2.15 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the Nevada Department of Education Title I School Improvement Section 1003 (a) in the amount of $2,395,923.18.

2.16 The Board of Trustees accepted the information collected from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation related to Nevada Revised Statute 386.390.

2.17 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #21-108-B-05-DA, Fire Alarm Replacement at Donner Springs Elementary School, to Nelson Electric Co., Inc. for $134,750.

2.19 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #21-102-B-05-DA, Door Hardware Replacement at Rollan Melton Elementary School, to Gary Romero, Inc. for $103,100.

2.20 The Board of Trustees approved Renewal 1 of Request for Proposal (RFP) 19-003, Opening Day Library Book Collections and Related Set-up Services for New Elementary, Middle and High Schools within Washoe County School District, with Mackin Educational Resources for a term of one (1) year beginning August 10, 2021 and expiring August 9, 2022 in the estimated total amount of $538,000.

2.21 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #21-104-B-05-AA, Irrigation Main Replacement at Earl Wooster High School, to Garden Shop Nursery Landscaping Division, Inc. for $1,281,208.

2.22 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #21-105-B-05-AA, Replacement of Theater Stage Lighting, at Sparks High School to Nelson Electric Co., Inc. for $163,900.

2.23 The Board of Trustees approved the Ratification for Award of Bid #21-110-B-06-DA, Pavement Rehabilitation Projects at Lois Allen Elementary School, Caughlin Ranch Elementary School, Roy Gomm Elementary School, Hunter Lake Elementary School, Incline Elementary School, Smithridge Elementary School, Spanish Springs Elementary School, B.D. Billinghurst Middle School, and F. W. Traner Middle School, to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. in the amount of $384,007.

2.24 The Board of Trustees approved the Ratification for Award of Bid #21-106-B-05-DA, Tennis Court Replacement at Incline High School, to West Coast Paving, Inc. in the amount of $391,500.

2.25 The Board of Trustees approved the additional funding for Request for Bid (RFB) #054-17-03-20, District-wide Fire Extinguisher and Annual Testing, Maintenance, and Repair Services, for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the estimated amount of $110,000 for a revised total amount of $159,156.14.

2.26 The Board of Trustees approved an increase to the owners contingency in the amount of $507,523.51 for a total of $757,523.51 for the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) 2 of the Expansion and Renovation of Darrel C. Swope Middle School, CMAR #C-62335A.

2.27 The Board of Trustees approved Amendment 2 to the Agreement for Professional Services Contract for additional services between Wood Rodgers Inc. and the Washoe County School District for the new Proctor R. Hug High School at Wildcreek in the total amount of $32,500.

2.28 The Board of Trustees approved the proposed budget for Washoe County P25 Radio Systems Interlocal Agreement fiscal services in the amount of $263,484 for the period of twelve (12) months from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

2.30 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of Lexia Learning Systems, LLC PowerUp web-based program for both distance learning and in-person instruction for literacy skills for all middle schools and select elementary schools using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations Act (CRRSA) for $430,425.

2.31 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of Learning A-Z web-based program for both distance learning and in-person instruction for literacy skills for all elementary schools using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations Act (CRRSA) for $498,750.

2.33 The Board of Trustees approved a 3-year extension of the Microsoft 365 A3 License Subscription effective October 31, 2021 through October 30, 2022 and renewal payment for year 1 of 3 in the amount of $688,663.25 effective October 31, 2021 through October 30, 2022.

2.34 The Board of Trustees approved the Independent Contract Agreement between the Washoe County School District and the University of Nevada, Reno for a Graduate Research Assistant to evaluate grant activities associated with Title 1003a.

2.35 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of student and staff devices in the amount of $4,015,020 as part of the Board approved Information Technology Device Refresh Program.

2.38 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe Education Support Professionals providing for an update to the current salary schedule to reflect increases in the Nevada minimum wage.

2.42 The Board of Trustees acknowledged receipt of notification of declared emergency repairs pursuant to Nevada Revised Statues 332.112 and 338.011(2), contracts related to emergency, for the cleanup and repair of fire damage at Nick Poulakidas Elementary School.

2.43 The Board of Trustees approved the independent contractor agreement with Transformations Services/Dr. Norris DuPree for Turning Point, District-wide mental health supports, and staff training and coaching through June 30, 2022 in the amount of $120,000.

2.45 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 3100, Financial Services.

2.46 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 3320, Procurement.

2.47 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 3321, Contracts.

2.48 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 3350, Employee Travel.

2.08 APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF REBECCA PAIRIS TO THE COUNCIL ON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS TO FILL A VACANT SEAT FOR A 1-YEAR TERM, ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

Trustee Church requested additional information on the process used to select Ms. Pairis. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, reviewed the application and selection process as defined in Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Bruce Parks wondered what the purpose of Family Resource Centers was in the schools and what services they provided.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Rebecca Pairis to the Council on Family Resource Centers for a 1-year term, ending June 30, 2022.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.09 **APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF NEVADA, INC., A NEVADA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, TO DELIVER COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED INTEGRATED STUDENT SERVICES TO STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022 PROCTER R. HUG HIGH SCHOOL, NATCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SPARKS MIDDLE SCHOOL, E. OTIS VAUGHN MIDDLE SCHOOL, FRED W. TRANER MIDDLE SCHOOL, WILLIAM ANDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GLENN DUNCAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DESERT SKIES MIDDLE SCHOOL, VIRGINIA PALMER ELEMENTARY, LIBBY BOOTH ELEMENTARY, AND LENA JUNIPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF $399,120**

Trustee Church requested additional information on Communities in Schools. Katherine Loudon, Coordinator of Counseling Services, explained how Communities in Schools (CIS) supported the schools and students.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito, Protect Nevada Children, expressed concern over the access Communities in Schools would have to student data. He believed the amount of information being collected and stored on students was detrimental because the information could be stolen and no one knew how it would be used against the children in the future.

Trustees Church and Nicolet wondered what kind of information CIS has access to. Ms. Loudon indicated CIS worked with the schools to provide serves to students as identified by administrators, counselors, and school social workers.

Trustee Rodriguez asked if CIS employees were subject to background checks. Ms. Loudon mentioned they CIS went through the same background check process as District employees.

Trustee Calvert inquired as to the types of students CIS serviced. Ms. Loudon explained CIS worked with students suffering from loss, in need of additional behavioral supports,

experiencing family issues, and having basic needs addressed, such as food and clothing.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the Memorandums of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and Communities in Schools of Nevada to deliver collaborative, community-based integrated student services to students during the 2021-22 School Year at Procter R. Hug High School, Natchez Elementary School, Sparks, Middle School, E. Otis Vaughn Middle School, Fred W. Traner Middle School, William Anderson Elementary School, Glenn Duncan Elementary School, Desert Skies Middle School, Virginia Palmer Elementary School, Libby Booth Elementary School and Lena Juniper Elementary School for a total amount of $399,120.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.10 **APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SOLIANT HEALTH, PROGRESSUS, PROCARE, STEPPING STONES, AND NATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS TO PROVIDE RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,141,950**

Trustee Church requested information on the need for the contracts and if there had been any changes. Jen Van Tress, Area Superintendent, mentioned the contracts were the same or similar as previous years. The primary difference was they were being approved as a single item so the District could utilized the funding for whichever staffing agency was able to provide the services.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Lorraine Dougherty expressed concern that those employed by the staffing agencies were qualified medical professionals.

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees approves the client agreement with Soliant Health, Stepping Stones Group, National Staffing Solutions, Procare Therapy, and Progressus for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $1,141,950 for Special Education related services.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.18 **RATIFICATION FOR AWARD OF BID #21-109-B-06-DA, RELOCATION OF PORTABLE CLASSROOM BUILDINGS TO NICK POULAKIDAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TO J SLASH B ENTERPRISES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $500,740**

Trustee Church requested information on the need for the portable classrooms. Tami Zimmerman, Deputy Chief Facilities Management Officer, explained the school had opened over-capacity and the portables were needed to meet class size requirements.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito remarked that it was concerning the school had opened over-capacity and wondered if the District had properly planned for the size of the school.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the Ratification for Award of Bid #21-109-B-06-DA, Relocation of Portable Classroom Buildings to Nick Poulakidas Elementary School, to J Slash B Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $500,740.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.29 **APPROVAL OF FORCE ACCOUNT CHANGE ORDER #14 TO BID #20-22-B-10-DA, CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN COLD SPRINGS (MICHAEL INSKEEP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL), TO Q & D CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR $100,000**

Trustee Nicolet requested additional information on force accounts. Tami Zimmerman, Deputy Chief Facilities Management Officer, provided additional information on the need for the Force Account Change Order.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves Force Account Change Order #14 to Bid #20-22-B-10-DA, Construction of a new Elementary School in Cold Springs (Michael Inskeep Elementary School), to Q&D Construction, LLC for $100,000.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.32 **APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF BENCHMARK ADVANCE INTERVENTION PACKAGE FOR LITERACY SKILLS FOR ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS USING THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ESSER II) UNDER THE**

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CRRSA) FOR $183,400

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification on what the intervention packages included and if they were related to the social justice curriculum. Dina Ciaramella, Elementary School Director of Curriculum and Instruction, explained the materials were not related to any social justice curriculum. Benchmark Advance was the Board aapproved English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum and the agenda item was related to intervention materials students and teachers might require.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito believed the standards misleading and that the materials could be used as part of a social justice curriculum.

The Board received an email from Joe Morabito related to this item.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of Benchmark Advance Intervention package for literacy skills for all elementary schools using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations Act (CRRSA) for $183,400.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.36 **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 4th QUARTER REPORT OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE AND PUPIL-TEACHER RATIOS FOR GRADES K -3 FOR EACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RELATED TO THE PROVISIONS OF NEVADA REVISED STATUTES (NRS) 388.700-388.725, AS AMENDED BY SENATE BILL (SB) 555 ADOPTED DURING THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND UPDATE OF REQUESTS FOR VARIANCES**

Trustee Church requested additional information on the agenda item. Jeff Bozzo, Budget Director, reviewed the reporting requirements under Nevada Revised Statutes related to average daily attendance.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the 4th quarter Fiscal Year 2020-21 average daily attendance and pupil-teacher ratios for grades K-3 report to be filed with the Nevada Department of Education.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea:

Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.37 **DIRECTION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO THE OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF RETIREE BENEFITS FROM THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPEB TRUST FUND DURING FISCAL YEAR 2021-22, AS INCLUDED IN THE APPROVED AMENDED FINAL BUDGET**

Trustee Church requested additional information on the fund transfer. Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, explained the transfer had been included as part of the approved 2021-22 Fiscal Year budget.

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees directs the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund Board of Trustees to reimburse the District for retiree health benefits from the Washoe County School District OPEB Trust Fund during Fiscal Year 2021-22.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.39 **APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE WASHOE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION FOR PAYMENT OF A SIGNING INCENTIVE FOR $3,500 AND/OR END OF YEAR STIPEND FOR $1,500 FOR PRINCIPALS SELECTED FOR OR RETAINED AT AN ASSIGNMENT AT ACCELERATION SCHOOLS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR, WITH AN ACCELERATION ZONE SCHOOL CONSIDERED A MAJOR STRATEGIC EFFORT TO IMPROVE AND TURN AROUND THE DISTRICT'S LOWEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS**

2.40 **APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE WASHOE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF NEW HIRE INCENTIVES TO ANY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL POSITION IN THE HOUSEKEEPING DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF $1,000 PER EMPLOYEE, RETENTION INCENTIVES TO ANY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL POSITION IN THE HOUSEKEEPING DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF $1,000 PER EMPLOYEE, AND REFERRAL INCENTIVES IN THE TOTAL POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF $500 PER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE WHO REFER NEW EDUCATION SUPPORT**

PROFESSIONALS IN THE HOUSEKEEPING DEPARTMENT BETWEEN JULY 28, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2022 TO ADDRESS A CRITICAL PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

2.41 **APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE WASHOE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF NEW HIRE INCENTIVES TO ANY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL POSITION IN THE NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF UP TO $1,000 PER EMPLOYEE, RETENTION INCENTIVES TO ANY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL POSITION IN THE NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF UP TO $1,000 PER EMPLOYEE, AND REFERRAL INCENTIVES IN THE TOTAL POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF $500 PER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE WHO REFER NEW EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS IN THE NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT BETWEEN JULY 28, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2022 TO ADDRESS A CRITICAL PERSONNEL SHORTAGE**

President Taylor opened Agenda Items 2.39 through 2.41 to allow for discussion between all items since they were similar.

Trustee Church requested additional information on the proposed agreements. Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided information on each agreement and the current recruiting challenges in the area.

Trustee Smith requested an analysis at the end of the pilot program to determine the effectiveness of the incentives.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves agenda items 2.39 through 2.41.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

2.44 **POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 1160, COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIFICALLY TO REMOVE UNNECESSARY LANGUAGE AND PROVIDE CLARIFICATION**

Trustee Church requested clarification on some of the proposed changes. Michele Anderson, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, explained the intent of the revisions.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Valerie Fiannaca remarked that communications should occur both ways and not just the District communicating to the public.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees provides final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 1160, Communications, Community Relations, and Public Engagement.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.49 **POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY 9300, REPORTING OF FRAUD, WASTE, OR ABUSE, TO OUTLINE THE FILING AND INVESTIGATION PROCESS FOR COMPLAINTS**

Trustee Church explained he was still not comfortable with the language regarding confidentiality and would like additional transparency of investigations.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito agreed with Trustee Church and believed the parents should be provided with as much information about possible actions and litigation against employees concerning children.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees provides final approval to the adoption of Board Policy 9300, Reporting of Fraud, Waste, or Abuse.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action

3.01 **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO LETTER OF INTENT TO AWARD REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) 21-001, COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT-WIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNIFORMS AND RELATED APPAREL, BY BSN SPORTS, LLC**

The Board of Trustees was provided a review of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and appeal processes by District staff. Representatives from BSN Sports, LLC presented information on why they believed the process was flawed and their appeal granted.

The Board requested additional information on the RFP process and if the District was confident the appeal process. Andrea Sullivan, Director of Procurement and Contracts, explained the process had remained fairly consistent over the years and the financial stability documentation requested was standard.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Church that **the Board of Trustees denies the appeal of BSN Sports, LLC to the Letter of Intent to Award Request for Proposal (RFP) 21-001, Comprehensive District-Wide Middle School and High School Athletic Uniforms and Related Apparel.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.02 **APPROVAL OF AWARD OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) 21-001, COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT-WIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNIFORMS AND RELATED APPAREL, TO BRANDED SCREEN PRINTING, EASTBAY TEAM SALES, AND TEAM SPORTS INK FOR AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF $3,400,000 FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF TWO (2) YEARS BEGINNING AUGUST 9, 2021 AND ENDING AUGUST 8, 2023 WITH THREE (3) OPTIONAL ONE (1) YEAR RENEWALS**

Andrea Sullivan, Director of Procurement and Contracts, noted that with the disposition of the appeal, the Board would need to approve the award of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for middle and high school athletic uniforms and related apparel.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the award of Request for Proposal (RFP) 21-001, Comprehensive District-Wide Middle School and High School Athletic Uniforms and Related Apparel, to Branded Screen Printing, Eastbay Team Sales, and Team Sports Ink for an estimated total of $3,400,000 for an initial term of two (2) years beginning August 9, 2021 and ending August 8, 2023 with three (3) optional one (1) year renewals.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.03 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A CHANGE IN COMPENSATION STRUCTURE FOR GUEST TEACHERS TO INCLUDE AN INCREASE IN THE BASE PAY RATE FROM $90 PER DAY TO $100 PER DAY, A RESTRUCTURE AND INCREASE TO THE INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PAID TO GUEST TEACHERS WHO WORK MORE THAN 120 DAYS PER YEAR, CREATION OF GUEST TEACHER "ALLOCATIONS" IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC GUEST TEACHER**

SHORTAGES, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PAY RATE OF $130 PER DAY FOR LONG TERM AND ALLOCATED GUEST TEACHERS

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented the proposal related to a new compensations structure for guest teachers. The intent was to offer guest teachers comparable pay with other school districts in the area.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees approves the proposed compensation structure for Guest Teachers effective in the 2021-22 School Year.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.04 **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE FOR TWO YEAR TERMS ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2023: LISA LOEDER, TRUSTEE ZONE A REPRESENTATIVE; BONNIE GASKIN, TRUSTEE ZONE C REPRESENTATIVE; EDWIN LYNGAR, TRUSTEE ZONE E REPRESENTATIVE; AND ASHLEY VAN BROCKLIN, AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF TERMS BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2022: COLEEN COOKE, TRUSTEE ZONE B REPRESENTATIVE, AND JEROMY IVIE, TRUSTEE ZONE D REPRESENTATIVE**

Michele Anderson, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, presented the committee application process for the School Naming Committee. The Committee did not have immediate plans to meet; however, there could be a need for new schools in the future.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the following appointments to the School Naming Committee for 2-year terms ending June 30, 2023: Lisa Loeder, Trustee Zone A Representative; Bonnie Gaskin, Trustee Zone C Representative; Edwin Lyngar, Trustee Zone E Representative; and Ashley Van Brocklin, At-Large Representative; and the appointments of the following members to fill terms ending June 30, 2022: Coleen Cooke, Trustee Zone B Representative, and Jeromy Ivie, Trustee Zone D Representative.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 30 minutes.

3.05 **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ESSER III) GRANT APPLICATION UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FOR $77,282,787**

Lauren Ohlin, Director of Grants, reviewed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) III grant application by the District. The allowable expenses under the application were reviewed.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito expressed concern over the potential of additional counselors due to the recent arrest of a counselor and the access to student information stored in Infinite Campus.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees approves the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) grant application under the American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act for $77,282,787.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.06 **PRESENTATION, INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES TO BE IN EFFECT FOR THE OPENING OF THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR INCLUDING FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND FACE COVERINGS FOR DISTRICT FACILITIES AND SCHOOL SITES; BASED ON INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FROM CURRENT CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) RECOMMENDATIONS, CURRENT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS, CURRENT ENROLLMENT FOR NORTH STAR ONLINE SCHOOL (SERVING AS THE DISTRICT'S ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING SCHOOL), NUTRITION SERVICES, THE PROCESS FOR STUDENT AND STAFF EXCLUSIONS, AND COMMUNICATION PLANS TO FAMILIES AND EMPLOYEES**

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Superintendent, began the presentation and explained the District would be revising the proposed recommendation because of new information and directives issued by Governor Sisolak and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Staff reviewed the proposed plans to fully open schools beginning August 9, 2021. Information on virtual learning, mask mandates, nutrition services, and mitigation measures was provided, along with recommendations for the Board to consider implementing for the 2021-22 School Year.

The first recommendation was to have a standing item on all Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees to allow decisions to be made if directives and guidance changed.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Melanie Sutton spoke against requiring students to wear masks at school.

Kimberly Wass spoke against mask mandates because of the harm it caused the children.

Sara Biggs agreed with the prior comments and believed children would not be able to learn properly because of the masks.

Bruce Parks urged the Board to go against the Governor's mask mandate because he believed masks did not protect against COVID.

David Gipe expressed concern over the impact masks had on children and urged the Board to not enforce a mask mandate.

Victoria Mayer spoke against mask requirements because masks negatively impacted children's health.

James Benthin read from a report regarding N95 masks and noted masks did more harm to healthy people that help them.

Stephanie Vega urged the Board to approve the use of masks for everyone, regardless of age.

Katania Taylor expressed concern that the Trustees were not listening to the parents and urged them to not require masks on students.

John Eppolito spoke against mask mandates and believed parents should have a choice in having their children wear masks.

Suzanne Denson believed there were other options the District could employ in the classrooms besides masks, such as Plexiglas dividers.

Paul Denson spoke in opposition to mask requirements.

Valerie Fiannaca agreed with the prior comments and did not believe masks were effective against COVID.

The Board received emails from the following:

Melissa Gabler
Justine Macaluso
Jackie Borsum
Tara Sala
Julia Barron
Christie Bess
Dena Davis
Adrianna Benjamin
Elizabeth Eisenhauer
Angela Verry
Ella Coombs
Leslie Platshorn
Elena Zuiderduin
Avery Coombs
Eli Zuiderduin
Maxwell Nunya
Tamara Durbin
Tamara Anderson
Brandon Siri
Stacy Hanson
Zenaida Hernandez
Dawn Axness
Danielle Springmeyer
Jenny Snaza
Samantha Lolli
Michele Villegas
Whitney Coulter
Elyse Bozsik
Laurie Coombs
Patty McDonald
Christa Rossi
Victoria Hudgins
Beth Jones
Cindy Anderson
Nicole
Karri Woodhead
Greg Novak
Jeanne Reynolds
Sara Smith
Sarah Brock
KJ & RC Castro
Brittany Noble
Lisa Lindsay
Deidre Blanton
Kevin Monaghan
Christine Verre
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Jolliffee
Jessica Bresnahan
Kim Gerred
Suzanne Welcome
Scott Callaghan
Shannon Sinner
Jesse Kleinedler
Amber & Brandon Borden
Jessica Egger
Matt True
Stephanie Overmier
Cristen Benetti
The Johnsons
Vanessa Nelson
Sarah Cummings
Kalyn Glines
Amy Pincolini-Ford
Ginny Hakin
Scott Hernandez
Jennifer Shepphird
Christina York
Stephanie Flatt
Zak Woodhead
Toni Smith
Cecilia Mansfield
Scott Emond
Leslie Pansky
Rachel Fisher
Ashley Thibedeau
Patricia Hernandez
Brittany Bland
Monika Dutchover
Dianna Novotak
Jessica Feight
Allison Raymond
Kyle Davis
Amber Joiner
Ashlee Wheeler
Ginger Wegman
Whitney Weed
Angie D'Antoni
Debbie Tayler
Kellie Gimenez
April Stockwell
Marika Moore
Lori Kazmer
Chris Gimenez
Ryan Olsen
Sarah Elliott
Julia Wegman
Kasey Hines
Gonzalo Hernandez
Rochelle Willett
Rochelle Bening
Scott Weed
Alexandra Frankel
Brittany Gomes
Andrea Emnas
Vera Singh
Bree Gonzaoles
Katie Silva
Jeremy S.
Jill Rogers
Carl & Jodi Simmons
Katelyn Duffy
Jillian Porter
Miles Stewart
Melissa Fitch
JJ Stewart
Matt Lipkowitz
Brian Frost
Michelle Spaulding
A student
Danielle McIntosh
Tami Houston
Kim Garman
Amber Hart
Kelly Euse
Dana Trimble

Kevin Glatzel Molly Mahannah Alicia Ferraro	A concerned upcoming senior Joe Lawrence	Selena LaRue

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees approves a standing Board agenda item for updates, discussion, and potential action regarding school operations related to the pandemic.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Superintendent McNeill explained the initial recommendation related to mitigation measures was related to Emergency Directive 045; however, Emergency Directive 047 had just been issued. The new recommendation was to follow current directives and provide for a universal mask mandate in the schools and District facilities, no matter vaccination status.

The Board discussed various ways Directive 047 should be implemented in the schools. The Trustees expressed concern over the mask requirement and were interested in allowing parents to have a choice; however, with the new Directive, the Board was left with little choice in the matter.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 20 minutes.

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, reviewed the language in the different directives related to medical and/or religious exemptions and the definition of face coverings. Clarification was provided on what constituted a face covering and possible exemptions.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to adhere to Emergency Directive 047, honoring any state medical exemptions or possible religious exemptions; no masks shall be required for outside activities and staff will be encouraged to find innovative ways to allow mask breaks throughout the day for all students.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.07 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DR. THOMAS L. ALSBURY, BALANCED GOVERNANCE SOLUTIONS, FOR THE FACILITATION OF STEPS FIVE THROUGH SEVEN OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS WHICH INCLUDES GATHERING TRUSTEE ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE, COMPILING**

THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT, AND FACILITATING THE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION MEETING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $11,000

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the Superintendent Evaluation process and the proposed scope of work for Dr. Thomas Alsbury as a facilitator.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Bruce Parks offered to conduct the Superintendent Evaluation and save the District some money.

John Eppolito expressed concern over the divisions in the community because of the proposed social justice curriculum submitted by Superintendent McNeill.

Melanie Sutton spoke against the use of Dr. Alsbury because she did not believe it was an appropriate use of District funds.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees provides approval and direction for the Superintendent to enter into a contract on behalf of the Board of Trustees with Dr. Thomas L. Alsbury for the facilitation of steps five through seven of the Superintendent Evaluation process in an amount not to exceed $11,000.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

7. Reports

7.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

This item was not heard.

7.02 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kristen McNeill reported on her activities including meetings with staff, community leaders and the media.

8. Closing Items

8.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Parks remarked the Board should provide members of the community additional time to provide their comments. He expressed concern over how the Board and District allocated funds.

Jeff Church mentioned a new state-funded academy had opened in Carlin, Nevada for at-risk students. He expressed an interest in learning more about the school and possibly taking a trip there.

James Benthin urged the Board to have a discussion on the negative effects of mask wearing.

John Eppolito requested the Board have a presentation on Infinite Campus and the danger he felt it posed to student data.

The Board received emails from the following members of the community:

Ina Haupt
Pablo Nava Duran
Church Lanham
Brad Wass
Melani Faust
Nicole Hewitt
Christa Rossi
Katania Taylor
Scott Benton
Suzanne Lewis
Julie Duvall

8.02 **NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

6.03 **ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

_____ _____

Angela D. Taylor, President **Ellen Minetto, Clerk**

From: Melissa Gabler
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 7:58 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen; ataylor@washoeschools.et; Minetto, Ellen; Nicolet, Diane M; Church, Jeffrey; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Facemask Policy for 2021/2022 School Year

Hello,

My name is Melissa Gabler and I have two children, ages 9 and 7 that reside in the WCSD. I am asking you to please follow the same reopening plans as Carson City School District regarding the wearing of facemasks for the 2021/2022 school year! This will still allow parents the **option** to send their student to school in a face mask if they choose to do so but **will not require them** for all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

1. The Wearing of facemasks is **not required** for the 2021-2022 School Year.The following situations should be considered:
    a. Carson City School District highly encourages the use of facemasks for unvaccinated persons over the age of 2 years of age. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html The District has a supply of available facemasks to staff, students, and volunteers who desire to wear a facemask in District buildings and vehicles.
    b. If a localized outbreak of COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19 occurs, the temporary use of facemasks may be employed as part of a multi-layered effort to end the outbreak.
    c. COVID-19 vaccinations are available at no cost to all staff, volunteers, and age-appropriate students. A COVID-19 vaccination is not required to enroll in, attend school, or to be employed by the District.
    d. Staff, volunteers, students, and families may voluntarily wear facemasks in any district building or vehicle.

Dear WCSD board,

Students starting school in the Fall need to be wearing masks. The Academy of Pediatrics is currently recommending that everyone over the age of 2, regardless of vacation status, wear masks in schools. We need to protect all children including vulnerable children in school settings. In addition to the Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC also advises that masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Dr. Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert is also stating that mask wearing in schools should followed. At the end of the school year last year, a group of local pediatricians wrote a letter to the WCSD recommending that students continue to wear masks during school. Our child's pediatrician signed and supported this letter, and it is still her opinion that masks should be worn in school. With new variants emerging it is more important than ever for our students to be wearing masks in school. I am very concerned to send my daughter to school this fall without masks being mandatory. The WCSD needs to provide a safe environment for all children during this pandemic by reinstating the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. It would be reckless to not have students wearing masks. The guidance of these accredited institutions and professionals should not be overlooked. Our children's lives depend on it.

Thank you,

A Concerned Kindergarten Parent

From: Morabito, Joe
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Read, Breanne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bench Mark Materials

Any purchase of Bench Mark Materials should be severely scrutinized by the Board to make sure there is no CRT or Project 1619 influence and or references to White Privilege, shaming of White Children and or describing all Whites as Racist oppressors. These materials should all be made public before purchase. Trust but verify; but the fact is we don't trust you to educate children in the district given the failures that we see. Further, given the district's terrible reading scores, any materials purchased related to increasing literacy should be subject to an entire reexamination of everything being done to teach reading. As a former educator, who ran a Reading and Language Development Program in an inner city junior high with 2,600 kids, I don't have any confidence in the district's approaches to teaching reading based on such poor results. Half the kids in the district do not read at grade level. And, many read way below grade level. Same old same old is not working. Joe Morabito

Joseph Morabito SCRP
President/CEO
Paragon Global Resources, Inc.

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From: Jackie Borsum
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

I am a retired school teacher from Washoe County. I now tutor students in my home. What a tragedy our children have suffered. I commend the district for having in-class instruction last year for elementary, but do feel middle and high schools should have switched to full-time direct instruction for the last semester.

I pay close attention to teen suicide and severe mental illnesses world-wide, nationally, for our state and locally. I fear what lack of good in person education and mask wearing is doing to our children. Please do not reinstate the mask mandate for any of our students. Younger children need to see faces to learn, older students need face to face interaction as opposed to screen time.

If the district continues with a mask mandate, I truly do fear increases in both suicide attempts and successes, as well as an increase in an early onset of a severe mental illness.

Thank you,
Jackie Borsum

From: Tara Sala
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks as we return to school…

Dear Trustees,
Please consider starting the school year without masks. As a school district employee I can assure you that masks have done more harm than good to our children. Not only have many children and staff been wearing masks inappropriately, but the emotional damage we have done to our students is irreversible. Our school district and community have gone through an unsettled environment due to Covid. Kids have become withdrawn. Students are not participating in class and are literally hiding behind their masks. Those of us who were lucky enough to have students 10 and younger got to witness first hand the differences in students once the masks were not required to be worn. Those students at risk and those who don't agree with no masks at school have had the opportunity to choose full distance at North Star. Please, look at the mental health of your school community.
Thank you,
Tara Sala

Sent from my iPhone

From: Julia Barron
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hello. I am opposed to masking our children. This poses health hazards, to young and growing, developing children's bodies. Depriving our children of oxygen. NO TO MASK MANDATE!

From: Christie Bess
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask mandates

I'm writing in concern of the mask mandate vote for Washoe county schools. Please, please follow the science and let parents and children decide If they need to mask up! It should be a choice of the person depending on their health status & their Dr's recommendations. Our kids have been through enough in the last year and a half, They Do not need to go through this again as it has proven more emotional harm than good. Masks and vaccines will not stop Covid. Just like the common cold & flu it will be with us forever. It's time to step up and put our kids learning & emotional health first ! Thank you
Christie

Sent from my iPhone

From: Davis, Dena
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 6:22 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Opening Plan for the 2021/2022

Hello,

I wanted to find out if masks will be required to be worn by ALL students in the buildings.

I noticed that in the DRAFT version of the opening plan for the upcoming school year it still mentions that students 9 years old and younger won't be required to wear them.

As a 4th grade teacher, this 9-year-old cut off for not wearing masks is frustrating to manage in a classroom of 9 and 10 year old's. And it doesn't follow the CDC guidelines or the recommendations by different pediatric groups.

CDC states:
"Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. 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."

I hope this issue is addressed and corrected before the school year begins. Let's make school safe for ALL students!

Thank you,
Dena Davis
4th Grade Teacher
Hidden Valley Elementary School

From: Adrianna Benjamin
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 1:44 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masking should be required for unvaccinated children under 12

Board of Trustees,
I urge you to reconsider your dropping of the masking requirement for children under 12.

In light of the rampant increase of recent cases in Washoe county, it seems ludicrous to not require masking for children who are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine. The simple preventative measure of masking has been proven to reduce the spread of Covid.

Thank you,

::: Adrianna Benjamin :::

From: Elizabeth Eisenhauer
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] freedom

Dear Washoe County SD School Board:

I am the mother of two children currently enrolled in WCSD. Although parts of two consecutive school years have been marred by COVID restrictions, it is critical for the mental well-being of our children that a third year does not contain pointless regulation pertaining to a virus that does not affect children in any significant manner.

Earlier this month, the CDC recommended that school districts across the country mandate unvaccinated children to continue to wear masks and socially distance themselves from other children. Evidence proves that children are exponentially more likely to be killed from taking the vaccines or suffer from debilitating conditions like myocarditis than they are to suffer negative health effects from COVID. I have not seen a single study that would convince me that COVID is more of a threat to my children than these vaccines, which by admission of the government have killed more people than any vaccines *combined* over the past two decades.

I do not consent to the school board relegating my children to second class status, allowing for families exercising the right to make their own health decisions to be "othered." Not only does this violate personal HIPPA protections, children deserve normalcy, and adults all over this country, and even in our own small city, have failed to provide that for them. I will not stand idly by and watch our school board reinstitute segregation. In Florida, masks have been shown to preserve bacteria much more effectively than they are able to prevent the intrusion of a virus.

You must be the leaders your positions demand you to be. Analyze actual information from reliable sources and reject the pressure to conform to ideologically driven expectations from other school boards and do right by our children. Please feel free to contact me at [redacted], if you have questions or would like more information pertaining to the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Eisenhauer, BS, MA Ed

From: Verry, Angela
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: 3 FEET?!

Hello, My name is Angela Verry and I am a 5th grade teacher at Silver Lake Elementary School. We have 100 5th graders, 3 teachers. I really do not know how I am going to place them 3 feet apart like the superintendent is recommending. At 3 feet apart I can only fit 22 students. What do I do with the other 11? I understand not letting the students share materials but being that far apart is not really possible. If we are to open at full capacity then let us put our students in groups.

Angela Verry, MEd and MA in Curriculum
Silver Lake Elementary School

From: Gabrielle Coombs
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Student against mask wearing

Dear board of trustees,

My name is Ella and I am going into Galena in the fall. I wanted to write to give you my perspective on mask wearing and social distancing.

Last year I started at Galena in the fall but only attended a few weeks of school. I moved to online schooling because of the covid protocols. I couldn't stand wearing a mask and not being able to see my peers faces because of masks. It was very discouraging and even get in the way of learning. As you know, I wasn't allowed to go near other students and I had trouble making friends. In fact, when I left Galena in September to go to online learning, I hadn't talked to one person voluntarily because I was simply not comfortable with talking to others because they were wearing masks and social distancing.

I find masks to be horrible and unfair. If us students do get COVID, we get sick, but it only feels like a cold or flu. Masks should be optional. I have no problem with other students and teachers wearing masks, but I myself will not wear them. I hope you can consider the mask and social distancing protocols because students can't go through this another year.

Thank you,
Ella

From: Leslie Platshorn
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

To the Washoe County School Board,

My daughter is a student at Damonte Ranch HS and I do not believe that our children should need to wear masks this school year. It has been shown that they are not effective. Please STOP having our kids wear masks!

Thank you,
Leslie
Concerned parent

Sent from my iPhone

From: Elena Zuiderduin
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO MASKS!!!

As a parent, I do NOT support sending kids back to school in masks! And teachers either!!! Each person and family should have the CHOICE. We have spent the entire summer mask free in public, and forcing children to go back to wearing masks is ridiculous!!!! My daughter just started feeling comfortable without them, after spending the entire year with extreme mask anxiety. She would panic in public, where it is perfectly okay and safe to be without them. THAT is what masks did to my children. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THAT!! Let people have the choice to wear them or not!!!!

From: Avery Coombs
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Student concerns about masks

Hello! My name is Avery Coombs. I heard that the superintendent is recommending masks this upcoming school year. I'm going into my freshman year and I've been looking forward to highschool for years. Previous to these last 2 years, I thought I'd have a normal experience in high school. Go to football games, socialize with peers, learn in a welcoming environment. When covid hit and I went back to school a year ago for my eighth grade year, I started on the hybrid model. The masks were a struggle for not only students, but teachers too. The teachers had to teach a full class of kids while wearing a mask. This not only made it so that it was hard to understand what the teacher was saying, but it was also very distracting. I also found it very hard to breathe with a mask on for 7 hours with only a break for lunch. The classes I went to were not a welcoming environment and for these purposes and many more, I decided to drop out of the hybrid model and went to full distance. The distance model wasn't much better, being stuck at home in my room every day. Even more so than I did last year, I want a normal learning environment this year. The four years of high school are the years when I will develop and learn the most In my life, not to mention the memories that won't be nearly as vibrant as they would be in a normal experience. I understand your concern for covid precautions but you also have to think about the burden this puts on the students and teachers inside the school system. Thank you for considering and have a great day!

Sent from my iPhone

From: eli zuiderduin
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 5:25 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No masks

I'm a concerned parent writing to ask why you would subject our children to wearing masks? Washoe county currently has a seven day average of 34 cases with 8 deaths, during the height of the pandemic the seven day average was 483 cases. So why are we continuing to pretend that the "curve" has not been flattened? Are we to conclude that masks will be a new school uniform requirement moving forward as we see new instances of covid occurring for the years to come?

Asking children to mask for the sake of adults that chose to reject the vaccine is nothing short of cruelty, and will lead to further widespread depression and mental harm as many studies have shown. I'm sure you are aware of the suicide trend in young adults and youth heightened by social distancing and masking.

I am tired of politics determining school curriculum and policy.

Sincerely,
A lowly peon trying to raise strong kids.
Get Outlook for iOS

From: Maxwell Nunya
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 12:41 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masking policy - let them choose

Hello,

Mandating the wearing of masks is more harmful than helpful. If anyone feels more comfortable wearing one, they should be allowed to. But mandating them is no longer defensible. Vaccines have been available for all staff and older students for months now, if they have not chosen to get one, they have chosen to continue living with the risks. If they are ineligible or unable to get a vaccine and do not want to attend in person school with a mask they have the option to enroll in NorthStar for distance education. Other staff and students have taken prudent steps and should not be required to continue hiding behind a mask.

Even with the increase in cases lately, the severity of cases and the effects of COVID are much lower. It is part of life now and we need to learn to live with it. We cannot have these masks mandated in perpetuity, we need to allow those who have taken prudent steps or have attained natural immunity to focus on school and return to normal life. Removing the mandate does not in any way prevent individuals from choosing to wear masks. Let the staff and students decide for themselves what they feel comfortable with after taking in all the information from their own doctor and the medical and scientific professionals.

The harm and isolation and lack of interpersonal interactions is doing more harm than good. People need to be able to see each other and to have nonverbal communication, as social creatures we need it to function. Maybe some of the relations between people wouldn't be as heated if we could smile at each other or have the extra nonverbal clues that help us communicate effectively.

TL:DR No to mask mandate, let individuals choose. Masks interfere with social interaction more than they help with health concerns.

Thank you,
a WCSD staff member

From: Tamara Durbin
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Various Issues

To whom it may concern
I have 6 children who will be attending Washoe County schools in the 2021 2022 school year. I hope the schools do not require masking of our children. There are more studies coming out regularly showing how they are ineffective. Covid will be with us forever as well as cold and flu. Masks reduce oxygen and carry many germs and bacteria that wearers are breathing back in to their bodies. It is not safe. Nor is it preventative. We cannot teach our children to live in fear of a virus that will be in our lives for the foreseeable future. This last year and a half has been mentally devastating to everyone. People are social beings and isolation has resulted in an uptick in depression and suicide rates. Please reconsider making masks a requirement.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Tamara Durbin

From: Tamara Anderson
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Requirements

WCSD School Board Members:

I am the grandmother of two elementary age children. I am a native Nevadan and my two grown children also went through the WCSD. My father-in-law was the Personal Director for the WCSD for many years. I am a college professor with a master's degree in early education and am well versed in proper practices to ensure the safety and security of our young children in our schools.
I want to implore you to eliminate any mask mandate for elementary age children. There is no scientific support for forcing elementary age children to wear masks. Statistics have proven that young children have an extremely small chance of contracting COVID 19 or having serious complications from this virus. There IS, however, scientific evidence and valid clinical studies that show that forcing children to wear masks for long periods of time can cause serious health risks to a child, and this cannot be ignored. These studies not only indicate that children are exposed to dangerous levels of Carbon Dioxide, but they have found up to 11 dangerous pathogens on the masks of children in school. In other words, wearing a mask is toxic to our children and the cruel and dangerous practice of forcing our very young children to wear masks must be discontinued. In light of these facts I beg you to eliminate any mask requirement for elementary age children. Thank you.

Tamara Anderson

From: Brandon Siri
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for 7/27/21 Meeting, Regarding Mask Mandates in Schools

Re: Masks in School for the 2021-22 School Year

For public comment on 7/27/21 or next meeting date,

Subject: Mask Mandates in Schools

7/24/21

Dear Washoe County School Board of Trustees,

It's time to make masks optional for staff and students. I have two children currently attending WCSD and my family is opposed to forced masking.

Regardless of whether or not you believe masks work, it comes down to this: somebody needs to provide a logical objective that serves as the basis for the new mask mandates. What will be accomplished via new mask mandates?

Save the health care system? Nope. Flatten the curve? Not at this point.

Kids are too low of risk from Covid and vaccines are available to anyone who wants one, 12+, for masks to be of any use.

Are you attempting to buy time? For what, and why?

When masks were mostly removed in May 2021 in Washoe County schools, the case rate in our community went down over 50% over the next 6 weeks. You already proved that masks didn't matter then. Why would they matter now?

It is time to go back to normal.

Masking will lead to a loss of trust, and a growing demand for school vouchers.

And when you realize that about half the country went back to school maskless last year with no adverse consequences, this new mandate is even more unneeded.

The reality is that almost everyone has already been exposed, deaths are down over 70% from 2020 to 2021, we are already at or near seasonal peak, and the burden to show masks work in schools has never been presented. In fact, this study shows masks actually made the spread worse: COVID-19 Mitigation Practices and COVID-19 Rates in Schools: Report on Data from Florida, New York and Massachusetts (medrxiv.org) (Screenshot and typed out link below)

Even the American Association of Pediatrics' recommendation to mask toddlers and up does not cite one piece of data, but they do link to teachers' unions websites. (hint: it was a political lobbying piece to get more federal funds, it was not a scientific document)

One year ago, Kevin Dick told you he predicted "Dark Days Ahead" if you allowed school to open for in person. You ignored him, and you were right. Cases literally dropped for the first two months of school began. He was wrong, but that didn't stop him from trying to repeatedly scare you and shut you down.

Fear has long been the tool of the authoritarian. They use it for one simple reason: it works. Fear deranges a people. It shuts off rational function and leaves the lizard limbic brain in charge rendering the frightened unable to see nuance or reason and desperate to hear and abide by simple commands to action dispensed by loud, shouty people.

Fear drives a need for conformity and safety in the herd. This is why so much of the governmental messaging on covid and other topics is about fear and not about reason. It's why the "experts" never give us a cost benefit analysis. It's pop-psychology and message manipulation because that's what works on the herd. At this point, masks are simply a tool of fear.

It's why they repeat the mask lie over and over, so you see it everywhere. They do not provide facts, they provide quantity. This is not epidemiology, it's manipulation.

It is why they vilify and gaslight opposition to masking and call them deniers and disinformers.

The pro-mask people are all about monopolizing the message and repeating it everywhere. (it's also why Coke and Pepsi spend so much on ads despite every living human already knowing what their products are. If you stop the repetition, people think you disappeared.)

But truth is leaking out bit by bit because not everyone stands down. Not everyone is irrational. And when this happens, the quiet ones in the unseen majority realize they are not alone.

As fear fades and rationality returns, those voices gain currency and more people begin to actually hear them. They wonder "Was I in the wrong herd? Did I get this wrong?"

The more who flip, the easier it is for the next ones to follow because the new herd begins to look big and safe.

Reject the Kevin Dick style "lie 'till you comply" tactics. They cannot allow the other side to speak or to convince, not because it's wrong, but because it's correct and as that knowledge spreads, the state of the herd's view will flip.

No one talks about Sweden anymore. Why? Kids stayed in school unmasked the whole time. Restrictions were limited. Their 14 day average for Covid deaths is currently 0. As I write this, Washoe County's 14 day death average is less than 1. There are no longer justifications for emergency measures.

And yet the "casedemic" of non-clinical and non-threatening positive high Ct PCR tests is all the media speaks of. It's tales of terror, denial of summer seasonality for covid (just like last year), demands for closures, restrictions, masks, and more grift, graft, and tyranny. And it's easy to get lost in that. It's easy to over-focus on it. But don't because there is one very important difference between this summer and last summer:

No rational parents think covid restrictions still matter. Parents are not sending their kids back to school because they are scared. They are doing it because they want their kids to have normal healthy lives.

Masks are not normal and anyone who says they are is lying. Almost every aspect of life in the United States has returned to relative normal. Given how low the risk is for kids, schools must do the same. Anything else is child abuse.

Remember normal, and normal will return. Remember it normal to vote it normal and normal becomes the herd once more, and all but the most neurotic and oppressive prefer this one. You will hear shouty complaints for a week, then they will disappear when you realize that was the small minority of people who can choose to keep wearing masks if they want them anyways.

The kids we are trying to save are our own. Thank you for your time.

Parent, District D

Brandon Siri

Figure 4a. Mean Student and Staff Case Rates by Masking Requirements in Florida

Note. Florida masking practices are categorized into three groups: masks required for both students and staff, masks required for staff only, and no masks required for either students or staff. Case rates are reported as daily COVID-19 case rates per 100,000. Mean daily case rate is calculated by group per biweekly wave in the data. Means do not control for community case rates or population demographics.

Figure 4b. Regression Coefficients of Student and Staff Case Rates on Masking Requirements in Florida

Note. The regression coefficients are from regressions of masking groups (i.e. staff-only masks required and no masks required) interacted with each biweekly wave group on student and staff case rates. The comparison is masks required for both students and staff. Regressions control for community case rates, time fixed effects, racial demographics, density groups, ventilation upgrades, and school level. Regressions are weighted by total student enrollment and standard errors are clustered by school districts.

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1.full.pdf

From: Stacy Hanson
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerned parent

I am a parent of a student entering the fourth grade. Our summer has been filled with fun activities both indoors and outside “WITHOUT A MASK”. As we approach the school year, my concerns about wearing a mask upset me. I heartedly feel that a parent of an elementary school aged child, should have full discretion on their child wearing a mask. It should be a decision for each parent or child to “feel” protected by a face covering. Explaining to my 9 year old why he is required to wear a mask only while in school, and no where else is absurd. Please consider face coverings “OPTIONAL” for elementary students this school year. Let them be free and enjoy time spent in school without the obstruction and annoyance of a mask.

Sent from my iPhone

From: zenaida.e.hernandez
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming year and masks

Hi!

I am a new parent with an incoming Kinder at Mount Rose. I am hoping that our schools in Washoe School District will consider the community at large and require masks for children and teachers to protect our children who are not yet eligible for vaccinations.

Due to the recent increases in cases and death with the delta variant, it would make our household more confident knowing that our schools are encouraging community health and safety practices. It would also help us reinforce mask wearing if the school community is participating.

We are coming from a community and preschool that enforced weekly testing and 100% mask wearing. This was very reassuring for all members of the community. While I understand weekly testing is challenging, this is not my expectation here. However mask wearing is a form of prevention and isn't most effective and cost cutting to prevent than treat crisis.

My request is that all students and staff remain wearing masks this year as we get a better understanding and handle of the new covid variant.

Thank you for taking my request in consideration.

Zenaida

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dawn Marie Axness
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No masks

Hello,
I'm reaching out to state I'm all for personal choice when it comes to mask wearing at school for the staff and children.
Thanks
Dawn Axness
--
This moment is your life; live it now.

From: Springmeyer, Danielle
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Drop the Mask Mandate for All

Hello Board of Trustees,

I am urging you to drop the mask mandate for this school year period. Students literally hid behind their masks last year and became withdrawn from the learning environment. Nothing we could do as teachers, no matter how creative we tried to be, would convince students to be engaged in the classroom with their masks on period. Additionally, after hours of speaking through a mask, I went home daily with a sore throat, wondering if I'd be able to return the next day period. The mask literally hinders our ability to teach to the best that we can for our population. With 40+ students in a class, I don't know how I am going to speak loudly enough - through a mask- for everyone to hear all day long everyday. Furthermore, students often used their masks as a kleenex or would sneeze while wearing their masks. Can you say Eww?? Most other districts in our state are not requiring masks this year. I miss getting to know my students and engaging fully in the classroom environment.

As a parent of a 10 year old and a 12 year old, please drop the mask mandate. The masks came home each day covered in food, snot, and who knows what else. This is not healthy!

The total number of deaths in the United States for children aged 0-17 from COVID is 331 as of July 7, 2021. In 2018-2019's flu season, 477 children aged 0-17 died. -CDC

Sincerely,
Danielle

Danielle Springmeyer
North Valleys High School
Mathematics Department Chair
National Board Certified Teacher

From: Jenny Snaza
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BOT Action Item 3.06 COVID Mitigation

Dear WCSD Trustees and Superintendent Dr. McNeil,

As always, thank you for your service and continued dedication and support of our schools and community. I appreciate your time and willingness to serve in these challenging times.

As a parent of a WCSD 1st grader, I implore you to please reconsider universal masking for grades K-12 to align with the recommendations of the CDC and the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP). I agree that the policy considerations should be aimed at keeping all students safe and present in school as much as possible.

On a personal level, my daughter is desperate to join her classmates in-person next year. I can't imagine having to disenroll her from her zoned school community to go to Northstar online because the district made a decision to ignore the professional, scientific guidance from the CDC. Northstar is an option that is NOT appropriate for many students for various reasons including socioeconomic, family involvement, and learning ability. The community **needs schools to stay OPEN and provide a consistent, and safe environment for learning**.

The following is an excerpt from the AAP recommendations:

"**All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).**
The AAP recommends universal masking in school at this time for the following reasons:
- ***a significant portion of the student population is not eligible for vaccination***
- protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission
- lack of a system to monitor vaccine status among students, teachers and staff
- potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated; in the absence of schools being able to conduct this monitoring, universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community
- ***continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults.***"
SOURCE https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/

This is a **public** health crisis. As such, **public** schools need to act in the best interest of the greater community...not with the personal choice of others. Furthermore, my child is not yet eligible for a vaccine. She will be much less protected at school even wearing a mask if her classmates do not wear a mask. Additionally, universal masking would eliminate school pressure and conflict that will arise from who wears a mask and who doesn't.

My daughter and all students deserve a safe, consistent school environment that remains open throughout the school year. Please follow the CDC guidelines and recommend universal masking for all grades. (I apologize for all the bolding/underlining. I know you have a lot to read through on this topic.)

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

Best,

Jenny Snaza

Parent, WCSD

From: Samantha Lolli
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Covid Mitigation measures

July 25, 2021

Dear Board Members of WCSD,

As you consider your decisions regarding Covid mitigations, I would appreciate it if you would take the time to read my concerns as a parent of two high school students and a teacher of the district for over 20 years.

The Superintendent has recommended that students who are in grades third or lower have an option to wear a mask and students who are 4th grade and above would be required to wear a mask. She is recommending all staff wear masks even if vaccinated.

I completely disagree with this recommendation based on the following. This goes against what the CDC is currently recommending. The CDC is saying that vaccinated students and teachers can go mask less if you have been fully vaccinated. However, Dr. McNeil is suggesting students who have not been vaccinated don't have to wear a mask and students who are vaccinated or can be vaccinated have to wear one. This seems to be counterintuitive to me. My family and I chose to be vaccinated for several reasons and one was so that we did NOT have to wear a mask. I understand that some are choosing to not get vaccinated and that is a choice that each family and individual have to decide. I too believe that masks should be a choice as well. We should not be forced to wear a mask. My children have been adversely affected by the masks, it gives them anxiety, it is hard to breathe especially for my son who has asthma, they experience headaches continually, carbon dioxide levels are raised in the bloodstream when wearing masks. The masks are not being worn appropriately in the schools and no one can control this, therefore this does not supply any real protection, but false security.

It is clear as well that there is overwhelming evidence that shows children are at a very low risk from being infected with COVID-19, transmitting it to others, or becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. Currently in Washoe County there are about 1200 active cases out of a population of 478,000. Why do we need to wear masks? The masks are causing more harm than good. Students and staff are ready to go back into the classroom with normalcy and wearing masks again would be detrimental to our mental and physical well-being. We know that the pandemic has caused much drug abuse, depression, mental illness, and suicide in our community. I believe a continued approach of not moving forward will only cause more harm than good. Students need to see each other's faces and smiles. Teachers need to see their students' faces and students need to see their teachers' smiles. I am asking as a parent and as an educator that we go back to school with an option to wear one, please do not mandate it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Samantha Lolli

From: Michele Polito
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

Hello,

I'll keep this short and sweet. Due to the prevalence of the Delta variant and that out elementary school kids are not yet able to be vaccinated, please, I implore you to reinstate mask wearing at this level. It's not about rights and freedoms, it's about public safety and community. I don't want to have to tell my daughter that someone else mommy knows, or worse yet, a classmate has died of Covid. It has hit way to close to home for us, and above all I want our kids to remain safe and healthy. Until our school aged children can be vaccinated, it should be a requirement to wear a mask.

Please consider the safety of our children, their families and the over all community. This Delta variant is more contagious, and 99% of the deaths are those who are unvaccinated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Michele Villegas

Sent from my iPhone

From: Coulter, Whitney E
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Masks in Schools

Hello Board of Trustees,

I am urging you to drop the mask mandate for this school year period. Students literally hid behind their masks last year and became withdrawn from the learning environment. Nothing we could do as teachers, no matter how creative we tried to be, would convince students to be engaged in the classroom with their masks on period. Non-verbal cues on whether students are understanding was non-existent. The masks acted as a muzzle. Additionally, after hours of speaking through a mask, I went home daily with a sore throat, wondering if I'd be able to return the next day period. The mask literally hinders our ability to teach to the best that we can for our population. With 40+ students in a class, I don't know how I am going to speak loudly enough -through a mask- for everyone to hear all day long everyday. Furthermore, students often used their masks as a kleenex or would sneeze while wearing their masks. Can you say Eww?? Most other districts in our state are not requiring masks this year. I miss getting to know my students and engaging fully in the classroom environment.

Whitney Coulter

From: Elyse Bozsik
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees - Tuesday July 27 Public Comment

Dear Washoe County School Board Members,

I am a parent of two boys who attend Lenz Elementary School. I have a masters in Education and teach high school at a charter school in Reno. I attended Washoe County schools from the time I was in Kindergarten until I graduated from Galena High School in 2004. My family's roots run deep in the school district as many of you may have been hired by or knew my grandfather, Deloy Anderson, the former principal, teacher, coach, and Superintendent of Personnel at Washoe County School District.

I am writing today to express my extreme disapproval to mask our children during the upcoming school year. Not only do I believe that the masks cause major health issues in children, it is also proven that children misuse the masks consistently, making their effectiveness next to zero. As a high school teacher, I can tell you I have observed children in my classes sucking on their masks, spitting into their masks, putting their masks on the floor, etc. and these are 14 year old students! To expect a 9 year old child to be able to properly wear and mask and not distract from their learning environment is absurd.

There have been several studies done regarding the effectiveness of masks on children in school (see attached) many of which prove that masks are not only ineffective, they actually can harm many children's health.

Finally, the social and emotional skills that children are missing due to the fact that they cannot see other's faces (especially their teacher) cannot be ignored. As an SEL specialist, I can tell you that our children are struggling emotionally enough with the effects of COVID, to take away visual and emotional cues (like a smile) that are hidden due to the covering of faces is devastating.

I implore you to take away the mask mandate and allow our children, especially elementary school children to go to school in a normal fashion UNMASKED.

Example 1:
https://republicandaily.net/2021/06/university-lab-analysis-childrens-masks-found-to-contain-11-dangerous-pathogens/

Example 2:
https://www.city-journal.org/masking-children-unnecessary-and-harmful

-**Elyse Bozsik**

From: Laurie Coombs
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Covid-19 Mitigation Measures for 2021-2022 School Year

Dear Board of Trustees,

I wanted to take a moment to write about the upcoming decision regarding Covid-19 mitigation measures for the 2021-2022 school year. I have three children enrolled in WCSD this year—one entering kindergartener, one entering 9th grade, and one entering 10th grade.

The Covid mitigation measures put into place during the 2020-2021 school year has had a significant negative impact on our children. I witnessed the impact with not only my own children but many others. As I'm sure you're aware, there has been an increase in anxiety and depression in our children which has lead to suicide in some cases. But even the children who haven't been driven to such drastic measures experienced varying degrees of hardship as a result of the WCDS safety measures last year, leaving children with feels of isolation and loneliness.

When considering whether or not our children should be required to wear masks and social distance, we must consider not only transmission of Covid but the fallout these requirements have on children. My husband and I pulled one of our daughters out of the district altogether last year as a result of the social and emotional problems she was experiencing as a result of the mask and social distance mandate. And that says nothing of her academic hardship which reduced a straight A student to an F student in a matter of weeks. Our other daughter struggled last year as well, choosing the full distance model after failing to interact with friends under the hybrid model. I have seen and heard of many children crying daily because of mask wearing and social distancing. I know children who were unable to make or have even one friend at school. I know children who were unable to interact effectively with the friends they do have. I know children who struggled to breathe while wearing masks for extended periods of time. I know children who feared getting into trouble if they removed their mask, even when the mask was completely and totally soiled with saliva and nasal discharge. Clearly, things must change.

Children go to school to learn academics, but school is also a place where children should be learning the social and emotional skills needed to become healthy, productive members of our society. The next generation is already socially challenged due to the use of technology, but the affect has been compounded with a year and a half of mask wearing and social distancing. We were created to be in healthy community, and school should be one of the most prominent places children find that community.

Mask wearing and social distancing should be a personal decision. Families are more than capable of choosing whether or not they would like to wear masks. Each family has unique circumstances that may influence their decision, but the decision should remain theirs.

I am hopeful the 2021-2022 school year will be significantly better than last year. It is my hope and prayer that our children can return to a healthy learning environment where their social, emotional, and mental health take priority. But much of that depends on the decisions you make at the next board meeting. Will you continue to sacrifice the social, emotional, and mental health of our children to mitigate the spread of Covid after a vaccine has been made available to all who want one and considering the fact that the impact on children is relatively minimal? Please, for the sake of our children, I ask that you do not require mask wearing or social distancing for the 2021-2022 school year. Let our children return to school as normal. Let them be kids. Let them see one another's smiles once again—the smiles of their teachers—and let them feel normal.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Laurie Coombs

From: McDonald, Patty
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 7:26 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: mask mandate

Hello Board of Trustees,

I am urging you to drop the mask mandate for this school year period. Students started hiding behind their masks last year and became withdrawn from the learning environment. Nothing we could do as teachers, no matter how creative we tried to be, would convince students to be engaged in the classroom with their masks on period. Additionally, after hours of speaking through a mask, I went home daily with a sore throat, wondering if I'd be able to return the next day period. My breathing, as well as the breathing of my students, became impaired. The mask hinders our ability to teach to the best that we can for our population. With 40+ students in a class, I don't know how I am going to speak loudly enough -through a mask- for everyone to hear all day long every day. Furthermore, students often used their masks to keep in sneezes while coughing germs into them. Most other districts in our state are not requiring masks this year. I miss getting to know my students and engaging fully in the classroom environment.

The total number of deaths in the United States for children aged 0-17 from COVID is 331 as of July 7, 2021. In 2018-2019's flu season, 477 children aged 0-17 died. -CDC

Patty McDonald

Special Education Resource Teacher
North Valleys High School

From: Christa Rossi
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:50 AM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers; Taylor, Angela
Cc: Rossi, Christa; McNeill, Kristen; Biersdorff, Debra
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Requirements: Agenda Item 3.06

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

Thank you for taking the time to read my message and my opinion regarding the requirement for masks for children and vaccinated staff. The superintendent recently released her recommendations for schools opening in the coming weeks and I support her recommendations for students in grade 3 and below the option to wear masks.

I do acknowledge that the positivity rate has increased over the past few week. As of 7/23, Washoe County had been flagged for an elevated COVID-19 rate. I'm aware that some of the pediatricians in our community and country recommend EVERYONE in schools wear masks regardless of vaccination status. I have also read and acknowledge the CDC guidelines regarding masks for unvaccinated students in schools. However, our county data, as of 7/23, shows 1,236 active cases. In a population size of 478,155. That is less than 1% (0.0026414 to be exact). https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/educational-materials/COVID-19.php Unfortunately for more specific use, there is no posted data stating if any of these 1,236 cases are children aged 5-19.

While pediatricians, scientists, and our superintendent (while following the Governor's directive) are making these recommendations I am left to wonder if the benefits of mask wearing for ALL children outweigh the benefits of their learning, social and emotional needs. As the superintendent states, one of the guiding principals is "do no harm", I believe and have seen that masks for most students can do harm. Pediatricians say they focus on and are concerned with the well-being of the whole child, yet none of these pediatricians (to my knowledge) have spoken to an educator about what they see daily in their classrooms when children wear masks.

Mask recommendations and social distancing guidelines restrict peer interaction and limit language development. Having a mask covering a teacher's face limits a child's ability to see how certain sounds and words are formed. It limits their ability to hear clear directions. Having a mask cover children's faces limits their willingness to engage with each other and the teacher. Having a mask covering a teacher's and children's faces doesn't allow for children to read facial expressions. All of this delays language development and decreases positive peer interaction and relationships. Limiting interaction by enforcing social distancing, not allowing the use of shared materials, and mask wearing is detrimental to their growth, relationships, and education.

I would like to ask scientists, members of COVID task forces, members of the board of trustees, district, county and city administration and pediatricians this: Have you been able to see a child's face when they are asked a question and are told to "speak louder" or "project their voice"? It's heartbreaking. They may already be unsure of themselves and we are forcing them to speak louder because of masks. This can result in embarrassment, refusal to participate, lack of engagement, or eventually give them anxiety about speaking.

Please look to Carson City School District's stance for reopening:
The Wearing of facemasks is not required for the 2021-2022 School Year. https://www.carsoncityschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=801611&pageId=66928046

Please consider allowing vaccinated teachers the option to wear or not wear masks. Please consider revising the use of masks for all children PreK-High School. I believe masks for ALL children (not just those in 3rd grade and under) should be left up to the decision of the parents. Not made a requirement to attend school or be enforced by educators.

Thank you, again, for your time and consideration.

Christa Rossi

From: Victoria Hudgins
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:35 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment meeting 7/27

Dear Trustee's,

Please consider moving into the 2021-2022 school year with masks being optional for all students and not mandated by the board. There is scientifically no data to back up the idea that masking children in our schools leads to any further safety or lower transmission rates among students and adults.

Although it can be scary for our country to see a rise in cases at various times throughout the year, as a parent, I believe that masking our children is not the correct answer to combat this. Even though cases have been rising, serious cases and deaths are not following that rise. We are currently down 71% from last year's death rates and hospitalization is down 50%.This virus (although a concern) is no longer a national emergency in the same sense that it was at the peak last year.

Even at that peak, masking children is impractical and has never been successfully backed up by the data and research. And the long term implications for social emotional learning are something we will be seeing effects of for years to come.

1. Masks are disruptive in the classroom: https://thedispatch.com/p/how-covid-protocols-disrupt-the-learning

2. Masks vs. no masks do not change the transmission rate for children in schools. Please see this study and data chart in Florida were in the schools that masked staff only, not students. This was also pre vax. https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1.full.pdf

3. Masking, distancing, and otherwise harassing school age kids didn't stop them from getting infected. The CDC burden estimates show 41.5% of all kids age 5 to 17 had already been infected by March 2021. It's probably well over 50% now. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html

Even if vaccines are 97% effective, mortality risk for *unvaccinated* children is lower than vaccinated adults over 30. 100x lower than vaccinated adults over 75. **No mitigation measure can be justified as "for the children," ever.**

For these reasons and many more we urge you to reconsider before sending our kids into another year of subdued education with a lack of ability to emotionally connect through verbal and facial cues. This is doing far more harm than their small amount of virus transmission rates will do. Especially for the Jr. High and high school kids who need those connections to remain healthy and stable through their education experience.

Thank you,
Victoria Hudgins

From: Ina Haupt
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Campbell, Victoria; angietaylor@washoeschools.net
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments Shut Down?????

I would like a straight answer to the following:

Do you commit to NOT teaching anything even slightly related to
Critical Race Theory
in our schools in Washoe County?

I don't want explanations of why or how, I want a commitment that political indoctrination has no place in the school system.
I grew up under communism in East Germany, I know how Marxism, Communism work. I know the ways of indoctrinating children. And unless anyone who wants to engage in this indoctrination has spent at least one year in a communist country in the last five years, they are indeed "theorizing" and know nothing.

Give me an answer to what your position is so we out in the public can make an informed decision.

Ina Haupt
Real Estate Broker
Premier Properties of Lake Tahoe
NV B.0047350.INDV / B.0005585.CORP

From: Jones, Beth
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:18 AM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers; Taylor, Angela
Cc: McNeill, Kristen; Biersdorff, Debra
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Requirements/Distance Learning

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

I am writing based on the concern of mask wearing and distance learning days for WCSD and I am unable to attend on Tuesday.

While I do understand our "numbers" are increasing over the last week, and Washoe County has been flagged for an elevated COVID-19 rate. As of 7/23, 1,236 active cases, that is less than 1%, however it seems data is always lacking if any of these 1,236 cases are children aged 5-19.

While pediatricians, scientists, and our superintendent are making these recommendations, we now have a full year and a half of experience with both mask wearing and distance learning and I believe students' learning, and social and emotional needs should be our main focus. "Do no harm" needs to take into consideration the challenges of students and faculty while wearing masks as well as the potential reintroduction of learning from home whether due to covid or smoke via distance learning – IT DOESN'T WORK. I beg you, if the school is needing to close due to smoke, it should be treated like a snow day and made up at the end of the year. Should that mean we need to allocate less of Spring Break days, or more time in June, the calendar should change, NOT the way my children learn!

Why are we behaving differently than our neighbors at the Carson City School District's: https://www.carsoncityschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=801611&pageId=66928046

Please consider giving choice to all. Choice to parents, if they want to keep their kids home they have Northstar; if they want their student to wear a mask or not in the classroom. Choice of faculty if they are vaccinated give the option to wear or not wear masks. Just like commercial businesses are doing in our community, why is the school behaving differently. When the families choose to go to a trampoline park, masks are not required, employees who are vaccinated aren't required to wear mask and it's the PARENTS decision to allow the child to attend. You have provided an alternative for those families who want to be in an environment of no risk in their home via Northstar. Masks should not be a requirement to attend school or be enforced by educators. Just the same, my children (especially my child with a learning disability) has the best opportunity of success to learn from an educator who isn't wearing a mask and is able to see their face to learn AT SCHOOL not via the computer.

Thank you,
Beth Jones

From: Anderson, Cynthia
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:51 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Mask recommendations in WCSD schools

I am writing to urge the school board and superintendent to reconsider the mask recommendations that were reported in the media last week.

The guidance from the AAP and CDC has recently been updated and states that masks are recommended for all people over the age of 2.

As I'm sure you're aware, at the end if the year last year (after the mask requirement was lifted for children 9 and under) there was a COVID-19 outbreak in a kindergarten classroom in our district. Though I am told no children were adversely impacted, they did indeed pass the virus on to friends and family.

In-person instruction is very important for the children in our district. Let's do our part to prevent classroom and school shutdowns and quarantines by encouraging everyone to mask up.

Cindy Anderson
First Grade Teacher
Caughlin Ranch Elementary
Every day is a good day!

From:
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] public comments

Dear board members,
I am concerned about the latest guidelines released from the district about mask requirements.
Currently, cases are on the rise and the Delta variant is highly contagious. Currently on the Washoe County Covid Dashboard the positivity rate is about 8% which is over the WHO's threshold of 5% and is at the Governor's threshold for cases. With these current numbers it seems as if the district should try to minimize risk for teachers, students, families, and community members by requiring masks. Masks would also be beneficial since distance learning from zoned schools is no longer an option and Northstar has limited enrollment.
The current recommendation for masks for grades 4 and up goes against the Centers for Disease Control guidelines which say that masks should be worn indoors by all individuals age 2 and older who are not fully vaccinated.
Further, the American Academy of Pediatrics released its guidance on the upcoming school year. It is recommending that everyone older than age 2 wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.

Thank you for your time.
Nicole

From: Woodhead, Karri
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: For Tues meeting; Regarding the superintendent's recommendation

Dear Board and Dr. McNeil,

I am writing as a **fed-up teacher and a parent** of two high school students to address Dr. McNeil's recommendation for school staff (regardless of vaccination status), older students (regardless of vaccination status), and students older than 9 years old to continue to attend our public schools in Washoe County wearing a mask for the 2021-2022 school year.
Board members, I respectfully request that you truly consider the position and role you have with this decision and listen to the concerned and dissatisfied parents, teachers and students using their voice in protest of wearing the mask for another school year.

I'd like to know how you can **LOGICALLY** explain to families why they can vacation in places such as Disneyland, shop at almost any store, leave the country, attend large functions indoors and so on without a mask, but our children and vaccinated staff cannot attend school without a mask. There simply is no logic in this recommendation. It does not make sense why children who are less likely to transmit COVID to adults must wear a mask. If staff, and middle and high school students are vaccinated, why would you require them to wear a mask? If they are concerned, then they have the choice to continue to wear their mask.

Do you have evidence or studies regarding the benefits of masks in preventing the spread of COVID-19? Or is it just the fear that's guiding this decision? It's a myth that these masks the district wasted so much money on actually prevent viruses from spreading. Studies have been done to show that standard cloth offer next to no protection against virus-sized particles or small aerosols. How about considering the emotional health of our students and staff? Last year when my students learned that they didn't have to wear their mask in class anymore, it was as if they were let out of jail! Their level of normalcy and excitement to learn and interact was through the roof. This is what school should be and USED to be for students before all this hypocrisy began.

Here are some **facts** you may want to look at before you rush to make a terrible vote and just follow what Dr. McNeil suggests (services.aap.org/en/pages 201):
-Between 0.1 %-1.9% of all child COVID 19 cases resulted in hospitalization
-In states reporting, 0.00%-0.03 % of all child COVID 19 cases resulted in death
This site states "the available data indicate that COVID-19 associated hospitalization and death is uncommon in children." It goes on to state, "At this time, it still appears that severe illness due to COVID-19 is rare among children."

The Washoe County School District's motto is "Every Child by Name and Face to Graduation". How can this continue to your motto if you have no clue what these students look like because you want to require most of their face to be covered?
Last year, my husband and I were told by an administrator that the school is trying to follow policies just like asking students not to wear a hat in the halls so students' faces can be seen. If administrators want students' faces to be seen, why is the school district still asking students to cover their face with a mask?! Ironic, isn't it?

I am proud to speak up for myself as a frustrated teacher. It is sad to hear so many of my peers believe that a letter or their voice does not matter. This shows, that overall, staff obviously doesn't have confidence in who makes the decisions for us and students, and there is just an underlying agenda. I'm also saddened for the teachers who cower to follow whatever they are told, whether or not they believe it's right for students. As educators, we are supposed to put kids first. I hope and pray there are more educators standing up for their students.
I am also proud to speak up for my two teenage boys as a frustrated parent. They would rather do online school than cover their face and their freedom with a mask. How terrible is hearing that, especially when my oldest is going to be a senior?! School should be somewhere students look forward to going, where they can receive an education without being harassed for wearing a mask and where they can socialize with friends.

I hope ALL of you have read this letter in its entirety and place some SERIOUS and LOGICAL consideration in facts.
Thank you,
Mrs. Karri Woodhead

From: Greg Novak
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 3.06 on July 27

I have read the Recommended Action for Item 3.06 and agree with the proposal to require face coverings for staff, and students in grade 4 and above, and allow the optional use for younger students. I have two grandchildren in the Washoe County School District and they will be wearing face coverings. I also recommend that all staff and students receive the vaccine as soon as possible.

Greg Novak

From: JEANNE REYNOLDS
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Policy

As a grandmother of students attending Washoe County School District I strongly support mask wearing for students and staff.

Certainly we all remember not being able to hug our family and how painful and lonely life was. No family gatherings even for Christmas.

Don't be fooled—this pandemic is far from over. Wearing a mask provides the most effective way to keep all of us safe. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Jeanne Reynolds

Sent from my iPhone

From: slhsmith926
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

Hello,

Just want to voice my opinion that masks should be required for all age groups, regardless of vaccination status. Once all age groups are eligible, proof of vaccination should be required to enter the school without a mask.

The anti-mask and anti-vax groups can't have it both ways: all kids back full-time, and no masks or social distancing. We are not in the clear and cases are rising, once again.

Also, if there is an outbreak, what will be done to ensure the children that are excluded will still have access to instruction?

Thank you,
Sara Smith

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: Sarah Brock
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment regarding masks

Dear WCSD Board,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the mask policy proposed for the beginning of the 21-22 school year. The Delta variant is on the rise, with Covid numbers going up nation-wide. Nevada is currently one of the worst states for rising Covid numbers. ALL CHILDREN should be masked. Until our Covid numbers are under control and infections are not increasing, or until our vaccine numbers reach herd immunity status, all children should remain masked at all times. The CDC (COVID-19: Considerations for Wearing Masks | CDC), the APA (AAP urges in-person learning, masking in updated guidance on safe schools | American Academy of Pediatrics (aappublications.org)), Washoe County Health Department, and local pediatricians all agree this is the safest policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Bryant
Teacher, Washoe County School District

From:
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 3.06

Hello,

My husband and I have a 4th grader in WCSD. We are strongly against continuing to mask our childre
are asking that you please follow the same reopening plans as Carson City School District regarding t
school year. This would allow us and other parents the **option** to send their student(s) to school in a fa
require them for all students. We, as parents, should have the right to make decisions like this that di
emotional well being!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

1. The Wearing of facemasks is **not required** for the 2021-2022 School Year.The following situat
    a. Carson City School District highly encourages the use of facemasks for unvaccinated persons o
    age. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidan
    facemasks to staff, students, and volunteers who desire to wear a facemask in District building
    b. If a localized outbreak of COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19 occurs, the temporary use
    multi-layered effort to end the outbreak.
    c. COVID-19 vaccinations are available at no cost to all staff, volunteers, and age-appropr
    required to enroll in, attend school, or to be employed by the District.
    d. Staff, volunteers, students, and families may voluntarily wear facemasks in any district b

Sincerely,
KJ & RC Castro

From: Noble, Brittany
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Face coverings

To Whom It May Concern-

As a Physical Education teacher at the middle school level, I have seen the immense suffering students have endured during the 2020-2021 school year by wearing a face covering. Many students experienced anxiety, depression, extremely low self-esteem, and panic attacks daily. I feared for their mental and physical well being while trying my best to keep my classroom environment as “normal” and stable as possible. For one week throughout the last school year, students were able come to school without a face covering. Their attitudes, personality, social interaction, and attendance improved tremendously. I was finally able to see them at their best; smiling and healthy.

In PE, many students would leave class with a soaking wet mask due to their physical engagement in class. That alone is a concern. Does the mask even serve a purpose for the remainder of their day or is it causing more harm than good?

I am asking that you please consider masks as a choice for all students; elementary, middle and high school.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brittany Noble

Get Outlook for Android

From: Lisa Lindsay
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks in classroom

I really disagree with the recommendation by our superintendent. My child is 9 years old and didn't have to wear a mask towards the end of the school year last year. That was the Happiest he had been to go to school all year. As soon as he can get his vaccination he will. My daughter is a senior this year and is fully vaccinated has been since May. I am also a teacher with the school district. I am fully vaccinated have been since March. My whole family has been doing things and going places all summer without masks. Why should we have to take a step backwards. I don't feel that is fair that the kids and adults that are able to get vaccinated need to wear a mask while the kids that can't get vaccinated due to age don't have to.
The kids need to build immunity to even just the common cold.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Deidre Blanton <deidrenicole@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:14 PM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Taylor, Angela; Minetto, Ellen; Nicolet, Diane M; Church, Jeffrey; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment WCSD Board Meeting - Agenda Item 3.06 COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

I understand you are currently reconsidering guidance for public school districts' policies for the upcoming school year, specifically mask regulations. I beseech you to make your decision based upon scientific data NOT fear or propaganda.

Prior restrictions imposed by adult leaders have failed children in foisting unnecessary, harmful COVID restrictions on our children. When the pandemic began, the lack of knowledge about COVID may have justified this behavior; however that excuse has vanished. Masking the demographic that is at **lowest risk of COVID** and is **most negatively impacted by mask wearing** is irresponsible leadership driven by fear and propaganda. Masks are putting our children at risk psychologically and physically, both short and long-term. Masks on these children restrict their health and development where the risks of contracting, spreading, and exhibiting symptoms of COVID are VERY low. We now have enough data and science on what little affect COVID has on kids to know masks on them are not necessary.

Douglas County School District used scientific data and made an informed decision by encouraging, not requiring, mask usage which enables each of their families to make the best choice for their specific child and situation. Our children's needs and education are not a one-size-fits-all approach. Parents deserve the right to autonomy in their parenting to make the best decisions for their children and science supports that masking children is harmful and unnecessary.

Summer camps have been operating successfully throughout Washoe County all summer long without mask requirements and the children have been THRIVING with no COVID outbreak issues. Children can be kept **safe and healthy without** masks!

Our children's' future is in your hands. Please take this opportunity to take a stance based upon scientific research: protect our children, and remove the mask mandate! We're counting on you!

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul, than the way in which it treats its children." -- Nelson Mandela

Thank you for your time.

Deidre Blanton
WCSD/SPCSA Parent

From: Kevin Monaghan
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:05 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask comment

Regardless of what you decide to do with masks for elementary school children, please consider having the rule apply uniformly and regardless of age. It makes little sense to have children under the age of 10 wear a mask, and children over the age of 10 not wearing masks. Having a dual policy among the children will only lead to confusion and jeopardize the effectiveness of whatever approach you decide. Thank you

sent from my iPhone — please forgive typos

Kevin Monaghan, PHR, SHRM-CP

From: Christine Verre
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:08 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please mandate masks for all

To whom it may concern,
Please look at the guidance from the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html) as well as the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/) both indicate masks should be worn by children 2 years and older indoors.
Listen to the professionals instead of the loudest members of this community and do the right thing. This pandemic is far from over!
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
A concerned parent

From: Rene Markulin
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:24 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BOT meeting 7/27 Consent 2.35

Board Trustees,

It is my understanding that students were provided with new “devices” during the Distance Learning program. Can you explain why 4 million dollars will be spent on additional devices and who decides who will get the new devices.

Lynn
Sent from my iPad

From: Stanley Jolliffe
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 27 Vote on Masks

We have much to say about this but first we want you to VOTE NO on Masks!!

Our children are the least likely to get C-19. There is a 99.997% survival rate for Ages 0 - 19.

Dr. Fauci said masks are useless with a virus.

The CDC and FDA admit the PCR tests (which fueled the numbers) do not differentiate between C-19 and the Flu.

If masks work, why vaccines?

Safe therapeutics are known...HCQ, Vit.D, Zinc, Ivermectin, Remdisivir, etc.

Stop depriving our youth of their God given right to breathe!! Follow the highest law in the land, the Constitution.

Masks create fear, not safety. Stop it!

Mr.and Mrs. Stan Jolliffe

From: Jessica Bresnahan
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

PLEASE do not vote to continue mask mandates for kids. The risk of getting any kind of serious illness for children has always been and remains low. Adults in the schools have been vaccinated if they want to be. The masks obscure kids communication, social interactions, and inhibit breathing required for play and exercise. There isn't any logical need for them.

Signed,

A local health care professional and parent of a WCSD kid

From: Kim Gerred
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

There is absolutely no confirmation that masks work to prevent the spread of ANY virus let alone COVID-19, the requiring of masks of our children is way too much to ask. Our children need to breath and smile and see others smile. The rule of our schools is to teach our children not hide them behind a mask, if families are more comfortable with their children in a mask then that is THEIR choice it should absolutely not be a choice the school district makes!

From: Suzanne Welcome
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] face mask policy

Washoe County Board of Trustees,

I'm the mom of a 6-year-old in your district. I am writing to ask you to please consider following the recommendations of the CDC and AAP regarding mask policies. These agencies have a lot of very smart people dedicated to making recommendations that will keep people safe, and I trust their judgment. It seems best to rely on the recommendations of such people, rather than the judgment of a board and superintendent without expertise in the field of medicine or communicable disease.

My family opted for distance Kindergarten last year, and we are all too aware of the limitations of this option. While our child progressed well academically, her socio-emotional development was put on hold and she has no real relationships with peers of teachers in the district. We truly hoped that this year, we would be able to trust the district and get her back on track. However, if the district cannot follow sensible recommendations, I fear that we will be distance learning once again.

Thank you for your attention!

Suzanne Welcome

From: Scott Callaghan
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 7:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD elementary masking policy

Hello,

I am the parent of an incoming first-grader, and I am writing to ask you to override the superintendent's recommendations and require masks for students in grade 3 and below. The CDC (Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP urges in-person learning, masking in updated guidance on safe schools | American Academy of Pediatrics (aappublications.org) recommendations provide no exceptions for masking younger students; both are clear that all kids ages 2 and up need to be masked.

These recommendations came about through extensive time, effort, and research. Please follow the lead of our nation's leading pediatric medical professionals and require masking of all elementary students. My child attended distance kindergarten last year and I would dearly love to send her to in-person first grade, but without a mask mandate for younger students I worry we will have to continue distance learning for her own safety.

Sincerely,
Scott Callaghan

From: Jeremy Sinner
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 7:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COVID/Superintendent recommendations 7/23/21 (from a concerned parent of 2)

To whom it may concern:

My name is Shannon Sinner, and I am writing in response to the recommendations set forth by Superintendent Kristin McNeill for the upcoming school year.

I received the link to the recent article on the KOLO website from a friend. I was astonished and distressed, especially to see that this article was published 7/23/21 nowhere to be found otherwise.

Our children are enjoying their summer to the best of their ability after the most turbulent, inconsistent, and saddening year overall. To say they have been affected is a gross understatement. I work with children in care, am a Psychosocial Rehabilitation worker and parent of 2. Our youth lost all normalcy, consistency, and the ability to feel safe educationally, mentally, and emotionally last year. We, as parents are working with so many new normals, then throw a mask on our children's faces. They have been forced to rewire their emotional response. They squint/stare and space out in class, struggle with social norms with their peers and are constantly looking at their educators for safety and for any kind of comfort in an uncertain world. I have watched my children, who have relied on and trusted their educators, struggle with adapting to this new classroom setting. Keep in mind, my 3rd grader had desk shields last year, wore a mask and was unable to play with his 3 best friends since kindergarten, who were in the class that was NEXT DOOR to his classroom. My daughter was a champion all accounts, finished her last year at elementary school with smiles, after beginning the year with serious uncertainty and stress. She wondered if she could even talk to her friends, in person, after 6 months of not being able to do so, as they were required to wear masks and be 6 ft apart. STRESS? Why should our children feel stress at school that is unrelated to educational challenges? School is meant to be a safe place for our youth. The way our last school year was handled was so saddening, not just because of the pandemic, but due to the inconsistencies and push for the kids to "adapt to the new normal" which was uncertain and changed every few weeks.

The last 2 months of the school year were the greatest blessing for my children. Removing the masks OFF our children 10 and under when indoors and at recess, thank goodness it's about time! How is wearing a mask healthy while exercising outdoors? Unfortunately, my daughter is now 12 and was not afforded the same-masks off only at recess or while eating for the last 2 month of school.

Fast forward to July; the last 2 weeks of summer break. I return from vacation and receive a link that WCSD Superintendent is recommending ALL CHILDREN 4TH GRADE AND UP ARE TO WEAR MASKS INDOORS! Regardless of vaccination status? I cannot begin to express my disdain and disgust for these recommendations. Where is the worry about how our children are affected by wearing a mask and trying to ascertain a response during instruction? The social repercussions and long-term effcts of what is being recommended after 1 YEAR of doing so are un-nerving and not being considered. I have watched children who were happy, go lucky, social, and open to meeting new peers retreat in social settings. I have clients who now are nervous at local parks. Most often when they see more than 10 people there. They have become scared of socialization, as they have been forced to stay at home, distance from their closest family members and confidantes, as social distancing is continually recommended.

The masks need to come off our children and vaccinated people. Many people got vaccinated against their own gut feeling, did it for public safety, along with their own AND THE REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS of the employer. They got their card but still need to mask up and even if vaccinated they must keep them on? What does that say? It's not right.

Our children-They are aware of "3 feet apart", washing their hands, coughing away from others and sanitize, sanitize, sanitize. Children under are 11 aren't even able to get access to the vaccine but need to wear a mask? I am so saddened to this continue.

The long-term ramifications are not to be ignored. There is a large increase in anxiety, depression, anger, and suicide due to the increased isolation and pull back from social interactions. Parents are pulling their children from in-person school and support BECAUSE OF THIS MASK MANDATE. How is this ok? School is meant to be a safe haven. Free access to amazing education. Routine when you may not be afforded that at home. Educational supportive services for those who need it on a daily basis. Access to peers and gaining an understanding of appropriate and safe social norms.

Please reconsider the mask recommendation prior to school starting next month, especially elementary school age children. It's imperative to social and emotional learning, let alone our children's ability to enjoy facial expressions and feel safe in the educational setting again.

Thank you,

Shannon Sinner

From: Jessica Kleinedler
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:27 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Agenda Item 3.06 for 07/26/2021

As a Washoe County School District parent I implore you, please, make our children's safety and health your highest priority and mandate masks to be worn by all Individuals within the school building regardless of vaccination status.

I ask you this upon the advise of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The CDC key takeaways for K-12 schools include
- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 or older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk.

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends universal masking in school at this time for the following reasons:
- a significant portion of the student population is not eligible for vaccination
- protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission
- potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated; in the absence of schools being able to conduct this monitoring, universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consisent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults

I ask you mandate masks for all Individuals in school buildings based on current COVID-19 data from the Washoe County Heath District. According to their own COVID data tracker, cases within the community are on the rise. These cases include the Delta variant which has been shown to breakthrough to vaccinated individuals. Washoe County is consistency recording the same amount of new COVID cases as we did in May and June of 2020. Masks were mandated in schools in 2020 and I ask that you do the same in 2021 based on data, science, and advise from our medical professionals.

Jesse Kleinedler
Washoe County Resident
Peavine Elementary Parent

NOTICE OF LIABILITY URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

RE: Masks in School

We are the parents of WCSD students. I am writing to you to express my grave concerns regarding the compulsory use of face masks in schools. It has come to my attention that there are widely known hazards, health risks and dangers associated with the use of face masks, which can result in both physical and psychological harm to the user. It is reasonable to expect that you have considered such issues carefully, and familiarized yourself with the available evidence, prior to making a decision to compel pupils in your care to wear masks.

However, insofar as you may not have done so to date, I wish to draw these issues to your attention, and I call upon you to take immediate remedial action. Please be advised that I am also of the view that compelling my child to wear a face mask is a direct violation of their right to bodily integrity and/or personal autonomy, and thus constitutes an abuse. For the avoidance of any doubt, I object to my child being subjected to such abuse and call for an end to same forthwith. SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL DATA Enclosed herewith for your immediate perusal is abundant evidence demonstrating the health risks associated with face masks. Please refer to the enclosed Appendix.

In light of the available scientific and medical data, it is evident that face masks constitute a hazard and pose a risk and/or danger to the health and well-being of your pupils, including my child. 2 DUTY OF CARE I would respectfully draw your attention to the legal duties under law owed to my child whilst on your premises and/or in your care. Duties also arise in the context of the school/pupil relationship and/or out of an assumption of responsibility based on knowledge of potential dangers and/or risks and/or hazards in the school environment, such as those highlighted above. I would respectfully point out that the consequences of ignoring this scientific and medical data and continuing to implement a compulsory mask policy would constitute a dereliction of your duty of care and has the potential to cause harm or injury to my child.

I would, therefore, call upon you to take this Notice seriously and afford it the attention it deserves. REQUIRED ACTION In light of the above, and based on the Precautionary Principle as enshrined in law, I urge you to take all necessary action to prevent any further harm to my child with immediate effect.

In that regard, I hereby call upon you to take the following actions forthwith:

> 1.Place an immediate ban on the compulsory use of face masks in your school. Please be advised that I object to my child being subjected to such requirements and demand an immediate end to any compulsion to wear any such items while at school; 2. Confirm by return, in writing, that you will immediately cease and desist from compelling my child to wear a face mask in your school; 3. Furnish me with a copy of all risk assessments carried out by your school in connection with face masks; 4. Provide confirmation by return that your staff and teachers, including such individuals you have placed in charge of my child, have been fully trained in connection with the health risks associated with face masks, including with regards to recognizing the health contra-indications from the use of same.
> TAKE NOTICE: Any failure on your part to take immediate action to address and remedy the matters outlined above will render such inaction highly irresponsible, and potentially damaging

to my child. If 3 any harm befalls my child as a result of your acts and omissions, you and/or your school shall be held liable for same. TAKE FURTHER NOTE: As you have been placed on notice of the foregoing grave and serious issues regarding face masks, any failure to take action, as a consequence of your position and remit, may also expose you to personal liability in law, for any adverse health effects suffered by my child as a result of your acts and/or omissions.

WARNING: For the avoidance of any doubt, if you fail to respond to this letter as requested, or fail to take the actions outlined above, I shall have no alternative but to take such further steps as may be necessary, including by way of legal action, in order to protect the health and well-being of my child. If legal action becomes necessary, I shall rely on the contents of this letter at an appropriate time to seek to fix you with an order for the costs of an incidental to same. I would suggest you bring this letter to the attention of your insurance provider, and I would be obliged if you would kindly furnish me with their contact details. Due to the urgency of this matter, I look forward to your response by return.

Sincerely,
Amber & Brandon Borden

APPENDIX 1 Summary of Scientific Data re Face Masks

1.Risks associated with the use of a mouth-nose- cover (MNC) in children and adolescents: B. Vöhringer, H. Sensendorf, F. Ramseyer and others – October 2020

https://childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/Risks-associated-with-the-use-of-a-mouthnose-cover-MNC-in-children-and-adolescents.pdf

2. NIH studies from 2004-2020 all finding verifiable health effects from wearing a face mask, including scientifically verified reduction is blood oxygen level:
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29395560/

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32590322/

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15340662/

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26579222/

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31159777/

3. Cloth Mask Study: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/

4. Other Mask Studies:

https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20049528v1…
https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.20047217v2…
https://nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372…
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2749214… https://cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567…
https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5779801/… https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19216002/

https://aaqr.org/articles/aaqr-13-06-oa-0201.pdf…
https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/…
https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/65/11/1934/4068747…
https://jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bio/23/2/23_61/_pdf/-char/en…
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01658736…
https://journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701(91)90148-2/pdf…
https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2493952/pdf/annrcse01509-0009.pdf
https://cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sounddata… https://nap.edu/catalog/25776/rapid-expert-consultation-on-the-effectiveness-of-fabric-masks-for-thecovid-19-pandemic-april-8-2020… https://nap.edu/read/25776/chapter/1#6…
https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article…
https://academic.oup.com/annweh/article/54/7/789/202744…
https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6599448/… https://acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342

5. COVID-19 Masks Are a Crime Against Humanity and Child Abuse
https://www.globalresearch.ca/covid-19-masks- crime-against-humanity-child-abuse/5726059 5

Dr. Margarite Griesz- Brisson MD, PhD is a Consultant Neurologist and Neurophysiologist with a PhD in Pharmacology, with special interest in neurotoxicology, environmental medicine, neuro regeneration and neuroplasticity. This is what she has to say about masks and their effects on our brains: “The rebreathing of our exhaled air will without a doubt create oxygen deficiency and a flooding of carbon dioxide. We know that the human brain is very sensitive to oxygen deprivation. There are nerve cells for example in the hippocampus, that can’t be longer than 3 minutes without oxygen – they cannot survive. The acute warning symptoms are headaches, drowsiness, dizziness, issues in concentration, slowing down of the reaction time – reactions of the cognitive system."

6. Face Masks Pose Serious Risks to The Healthy - Dr. Russell Blaylock,
https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/

Dr. Russell Blaylock warns that not only do face masks fail to protect the healthy from getting sick, but they also create serious health risks to the wearer. The bottom line is that if you are not sick, you should not wear a face mask.“ Until recently, the CDC did not recommend wearing a face mask or covering of any kind, unless a person was known to be infected, that is, until recently. Non-infected people need not wear a mask. When a person has TB we have them wear a mask, not the entire community of non-infected. The recommendations by the CDC and the WHO are not based on any studies of this virus and have never been used to contain any other virus pandemic or epidemic in history.”

7. New WHO Guidelines (5 June 2020) for Face Masks Admit No Known Medical Benefits
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332293/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.4-eng.pdf

Many countries have recommended the use of fabric masks/face coverings for the general public. At the present time, the widespread use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not yet supported by high quality or direct scientific evidence and there are potential benefits and harms to consider. P6, P7 (psychological reasons for healthy people to wear a mask – no evidence

only for the following) ▪ reduced potential stigmatization of individuals wearing masks to prevent infecting others (source control) or of people caring for COVID-19 patients in non-clinical settings; • making people feel they can play a role in contributing to stopping spread of the virus;

8. US OSHO Guidelines – 18 June 2020 The US. Department of Labor Occupational and Safety and Health Administration's guidelines clearly show cloth and surgical masks don't work to reduce transmission of COVID-19, and how they deplete the body of oxygen causing adverse health effects. 6 https://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/osha-says-masks-dont-work-and-violate-osha- oxygen-levels2

9. A new paper from the New England Journal of Medicine exposes the myth that mask wearing will protect you from the corona virus.31 May 2020: https://principia-scientific.org/top-medical-journal-exposes-myth-of-face-masks-for-covid- 19/

10. The US surgeon general has said to the public warns wearing face masks could 'increase the spread of coronavirus https://www.businessinsider.com.au/americans-dont-need-masks-pence-says-as-demand-increases2020-2?op=1&r=US&IR=T

11. Now the CDC say that mask wearers are more susceptible to Covid19 https://www.newswars.com/cdc-admits-85-of-covid-infected-always-or-often-wore-masks/

From: Jess
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:12 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD public comment regarding agenda item 3.06

Good afternoon,

I'm emailing as a parent residing in the Washoe County School District. In regards to agenda item **3.06** I am asking you to please follow the same reopening plans as Carson City School District regarding the wearing of face masks for the 2021/2022 school year! This will still allow parents the **option** to send their student to school in a face mask if they choose to do so but **will not require them.** I wholeheartedly believe that parents should have the freedom to make this decision for their own children.

Masking the demographic that has the lowest risk of contracting COVID, but shows to be the most negatively affected is irresponsible. Please put the choice back into the hands of parents/guardians!

Cordially,

Jessica Egger

The Wearing of facemasks is **not required** for the 2021-2022 School Year.The following situations should be considered:

1.
    a. Carson City School District highly encourages the use of facemasks for unvaccinated persons over the age of 2 years of age. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html The District has a supply of available facemasks to staff, students, and volunteers who desire to wear a facemask in District buildings and vehicles.
    b. If a localized outbreak of COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19 occurs, the temporary use of facemasks may be employed as part of a multi-layered effort to end the outbreak.
    c. COVID-19 vaccinations are available at no cost to all staff, volunteers, and age-appropriate students. A COVID-19 vaccination is not required to enroll in, attend school, or to be employed by the District.
    d. Staff, volunteers, students, and families may voluntarily wear facemasks in any district building or vehicle.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Matthew True
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Student well being

Hello, my name is Matt true.
I have a 15-year-old son preparing to return to in person high school at North valleys high School this year. He will be starting the 10th grade. He did not attend public school for 9th and 8th grade because we were discussed at the political indoctrination taking place in the classroom and it not being addressed at all when we presented the principle with plenty of proof. We feel that he's missing out on part of his youth and childhood by keeping him out of school so we are giving washer county School district One More Chance. I will say he has thrived mentally and emotionally and physically since leaving the public education system. His personal growth and academic achievements are outstanding compared to how he was before. Now we have him all signed up and excited to return only to find out
Our school district is considering forcing the children to wear masks when there is no scientific evidence to support the claims made by so many misinformed and misguided individuals in politics and the media. The n95 mask does provide some protection but nobody is making anybody wear those so it's a moot point. Unless you intend to make the children wear those as well as the school staff there is no point in any of this.
I have a great deal of training from the United States army in respiratory protection and it does not agree with anything that has become trendy among the media and the political type over the past 18 months.
Please stop dividing Us by cow-towing to political pressure. The kids need to be educated not indoctrinated and not forced to hide their faces and to hide their facial expressions.
Far less than half of the community would support such a decision. Each time this school board decides to go against the vast majority of the parents in the community it makes it very clear that it is truly them against us and why say them I'm talking to you people. I don't think any of you ever intended to be against the public.

From: Stephanie Overmier
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks By Choice

Dear Dr. McNeil and Board of Trustees,

I'm asking you to please make masks a choice, not a requirement, for students and faculty members. The mental health and wellness of our children should be our top priority and masks are doing much more harm than good. The germ-infested cloth masks don't protect like the natural immune system does, so let's let their immune system do what it's designed to do…protect!

Please make your decision for the children's mental health and natural immunity.

Thank you,
Stephanie Overmier

From: Cristen Benetti
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:02 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask or no mask

I am a parent with 2 children in the WCSD. It has certainly been a tough 16 months with the pandemic.
Everyone has had to think outside the box and figure out ways to keep their businesses running and as families to keep our children active and social while not being able to go anywhere or see friends.
I was elated to hear there would be in-person learning for 2021 and the teachers and parents pulled together and made it work.
With distance learning available it gave those who weren't comfortable with in-person learning a solution.
I give credit to the WCSD for making that happen.
Looking at the evidence that the vaccine slowed the rapid rate in which people were contracting the virus, even though it does not have FDA approval, I felt it was the right thing to do on my part so I did.
Even though wearing anything other than an N95 mask was proven not to be effective in protecting a person from contracting the virus, I again did my part only to make others feel comfortable and to fall in line with the requirements so that my children could go to school.
It doesn't make sense that kids 3rd grade and below weren't required to wear a mask but 4th grade and up were. At lunch they all take them off and are breathing the same air in the same room. Doesn't make a whole lot of sense.
Regardless. we finished out the school year, businesses have reopened and life is getting back to normal.
I was shocked and angry to hear that wearing masks are a consideration for the upcoming year!
A team at John Hopkins conducted a study and found Zero COVID deaths among healthy kids and I would attach that study but after the last meeting when there were a great number of parents speaking up against the districts agenda to teach Critical Race Theory and then suddenly the rules change on how we are able to be heard! Outrageous!
I worry that this email won't even be read.
I am truly saddened and scared for my children's future should WCSD continue in this manner.

Sincerely,
Cristen Benetti

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Siobhan
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

Please, I am asking you, stop this mask garbage at schools. If a child is vaccinated they have no worries against a child that is not, a mask is not going to control a kid that has gone to the bathroom, not washed his hands after doing who knows what in the bathroom and passing along a virus of any sort by touching something. A kid comes along wearing a mask and touches the same pencil sharpener, door knob, bathroom stall lock, he can potentially pick that virus up mask or not. Masks are not going to stop the spread through touch.

It should be a parents right to choose if their child is to wear a mask or not and let them make the decision as to what they are comfortable with. If I want to wear a mask I will. If I am vaccinated I needn't worry about the ones that aren't. If I'm not vaccinated and I get COVID, that is my choice and mine repercussions to deal with just as the person across the room that may not be wearing one either.

This has gone far enough, it's time to move on.

The Johnsons

Sent from my iPhone

From: Vanessa Nelson
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:19 PM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Taylor, Angela; Minetto, Ellen; Nicolet, Diane M; Church, Jeffrey; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment

As a parent of a child who cannot yet get vaccinated (she is 8), I would humbly ask that you look after these students and our medically vulnerable students and staff. Please have all students and staff wear masks until a time when all school age children can receive the vaccine.

Thank you,
Vanessa Nelson

From: Sarah Cummings
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of masking in school

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees:

As a parent of two elementary students under the age of 12, I write in support of the Superintendent's recommendation to maintain the mask requirement in schools and to additionally urge you to consider recommendations of CDC and AAP for younger children.

Towards the goal of a safe and successful year for all children, please consider the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that masks should be worn by all individuals (over the age of 2) who are not fully vaccinated and the recommendation of the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) for universal masking in schools.

From the CDC website, "CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk." CDC indicates that mask wearing is part of a layered strategy to risk reduction.

With the goal of keeping students safe and physically present in school, AAP currently recommends that "all students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use)." This recommendation is part of a layered approach to COVID-19 mitigation, which AAP indicates to include vaccination, universal mask use, ventilation, testing, quarantining, and cleaning and disinfecting.

Combining layers of protection will make in-person learning safe and possible.

Thank you,
Sarah Cummings

From: Kalyn Glines
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:38 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

I just wanted to give my 2 cents on requiring masks in schools . I think at this point in the "Covid Game" our country has decided to play... We all know that the science and the data is ALL OVER THE PLACE. No one can know for sure other than it isn't harming or killing children at any kind of an alarming rate.

Let's get back to leaving the decision making up to the parents of the children. If they choose to mask their child fine. If they don't, then fine. If the older children's parents choose to vaccinate their child fine, if they don't, then fine. I remember the good ole days of letting the parents decide.

The Covid Vaccine is readily available to ANYONE over 14 so if you are worried about catching Covid from an unvaccinated person... go get vaccinated.

Our teachers need to have the same option as well. Let's get back to making our own decisions. You don't force masks or the flu shot during flu season?.?.?

Please let masks be left for the parents to decide.

Thank you!
Kalyn Glines
Parent of 2 WCSD children

From: Amy Pincolini-Ford
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:40 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks in Schools

Dear Superintendent McNeill and WCSD Board of Trustees,

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) just put out new recommendations regarding in-person learning and masking requirements. Now is not the time to go against the science and medical experts, as you did with the current WCSD masking recommendations, for our vulnerable children 11 and under, who are unable to get the covid-19 vaccination. Why would you let this population go unmasked, yet require masks for children 12 and older who are fully vaccinated?

The AAP is recommending that "all students older than two years old and all school staff wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use)." Yet again, you choose to ignore expert recommendations and science, and you go rogue and recommend children in fourth grade and below go unmasked. If you are going to go rogue, it should at least follow the science, which would be that students 12 and older and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear face masks.

The AAP makes its universal masking recommendations because a significant portion of the student population is not eligible for the vaccination; to protect unvaccinated students from covid-19 and reduce transmission; lack of a system to monitor vaccine status among students, teachers, and staff; potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated; possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community; and continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults.

As Washoe County sees a rise in the Delta variant, which is more easily spread than covid-19, your role is to protect one of our most vulnerable populations = children who are not eligible for vaccination. Your role is not to put their lives at risk by going against science, expert national and local medical recommendations, and public health data related to community spread, vaccination rates, hospitalizations, and deaths.

As such, I urge you to do the following:

1. Require universal masking for in-person learning for all students, teachers, and staff; do not exempt students, teachers, and staff in the fourth grade and below.
2. If you are not going to require universal masking, at least follow the science, and allow students 12 years and older, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated to go unmasked.
3. Require the covid-19 vaccination for those students eligible in the suite of vaccinations required to attend school.
4. Require all teachers and staff to get vaccinated.
5. Read the AAP recommendations (available at services.aap.org); read Dr. John Hess's, a local Reno doctor, Facebook posts (available to the public on Facebook); and read "5 Things to know about the Delta Variant" (available on yalemedicine.org = Delta is more contagious than other virus strains; Unvaccinated people are at risk; Delta could lead to hyperlocal outbreaks; There is still more to learn about Delta; Vaccination is the best protection against Delta).

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Pincolini-Ford

From: Ginnifer Hakin
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:15 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No masks!

To whom it may concern:
I oppose any and all use of masks in the washoe school system. The state no longer mandates them so there is no reason the schools need to. You say you are 'doing this to protect the kids'. That is a bunch of garbage! All you are doing is hurting our kids. To begin with, The kids of all people are not threatened by the virus. Besides that, all facts show that the masks do not even protect against the virus. Let the kids enjoy school again and be able to be 'kids'. Remind me again why you are choosing for the kids to wear masks? If you are doing this in the best interest of the kids then you need to unmask them!
Sincerely-
Ginny Hakin

From: Pablo Nava Duran
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:55 AM
To: Board.Members@washoeschool.net; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Transportation and West Neil Road and Kietzie Area

Dear Board Members,

When I did checked on WCSD transportation website for Villiage and the Pines and Phoenix Apartments (West of 395 highway and East of Kietzie Ln for HS and they will not get an transportation to go to Wooster HS while they get an transportation to Loder ES and Vaughn MS. It is very concerning to me and my neighbors because students will have to cross major street like Moana Ln and Plumb Ln and walking through narrow sidewalk.to get to school that put students at risk. I think board members need to add school sign in Plumb Ln and Haward Way is WCSD decide students should walk to school though crossing Moana Ln. My question is why wcsd transportation decided these students to walk to Wooster HS when there are major road like Moana Ln and Plumb Ln?

I heard about my sister laptop is ready to install yesterday during the special meeting but I'm planning to buy her laptop so thank you for your service.

I would like to have one to one meeting with Trustee Joseph Rodriguez and Beth Smith. My available from tomorrow to Saturday after 2 PM, anytime Monday, and next week Wednesday to Friday after 2 PM before WCSD expo day. For location is anywhere Starbucks location. I wanted to say congratulations trustees Rodriguez and Smith and good luck at next path of tour career.

Sincerely,

Pablo Nava Duran

From: Scott Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks for 2021-2022

Given the rise of the Delta variant in Washoe County and elsewhere, the unavailability of vaccinations for those under 12, and the CDC reconsidering its guidance regarding masks in doors, all people inside WCSD facilities should be required to wear masks. Please follow medical advice of local pediatricians (https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2021/05/19/33-reno-pediatricians-say-wcsds-decision-end-mask-wearing-wrong/5164552001/), the American Academy of Pediatrics (https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/), and the CDC (https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/27/cdc-to-reverse-indoor-mask-policy-to-recommend-them-for-fully-vaccinated-people-in-covid-hot-spots.html), and require masks for the upcoming school year.

Scott Hernandez

From: Jennifer Shepphird
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:12 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Face masks

Washoe county school district,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming school board meeting. I am AGAINST masking kids in school. This should be an option for parents to decide, not mandatory! Mentally and physically this is very hard on our children. I have a 8 and 9 year old in Washoe county school district. According to your recommendations my 8 year old would not have to wear a mask however my 9 year old would. They live in the same household and come in contact with the same people. How does this logic make sense? Magically one year older you are at a higher risk? The option to mask should be left up to the parents not enforced by the schools district! Those who aren't comfortable mask, those who are don't. It's simple! Furthermore the teachers who are vaccinated should have a choice also. The kids need to see expressions and communicate with their teachers without masks. This has been long enough to put up with this. We need to move on and do what is best for our children. I was told Carson City district is giving their parents an option. Please follow them in deciding on your recommendation! Make masks optional!

A concerned parent

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christina York
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD Parent

Good Morning,
My family and friends are all totally against masking our children. If people would like to mask themselves then they should have the right BUT we also should have the right not to be masked or our children to be masked. My son will not be attending school if masks are required. I will figure out another way. These are our children and I will not be forced to have them do something we are completely against. Masks are doing so much more harm then good. I hope you can see this and I hope you make the decision to make masks optional.

From: Stephanie Flatt
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:27 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Masking

To Whom it May Concern:

Do not mask our kids! It is cruel and unnecessary. Studies have shown over and over again that masks DO NOT WORK! Please spare our kids from this ridiculous virtue signaling.

Thank you.

Stephanie Flatt
Concerned Parent

From: Zak Woodhead
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:27 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] masks

Dear WCSD board,

Students, Teachers and Staff should NOT be required to wear masks (mask wearing should be 100% optional). There is no logical or medical reason for mandatory mask wearing. As a parent of two students I have seen firsthand the negative effects of all mandates.

Do the right thing and focus on the students and education not panic and hysteria.

Thank you

Zak Woodhead

From: Toni Smith
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT require Masks for kids!!

To whom it may concern:
We have five grandchildren in your school system, and we are completely opposed to the idea of having them wear masks at school. We have witnessed the terrible effects that wearing a mask in school had on them last year. Wearing masks all day every day had a detrimental effect on them both mentally and physically. Please DO NOT reinstate the mask order so that our grandchildren can stay in the Washoe County public school system. Otherwise, you will be forcing us and many other families to choose other education opportunities.
Thank you,
Toni Ann Smith

Toni Ann Smith CRS, GRI, CPCC
Broker.Sales.Consultant.Coach
Sierra Nevada Realty Group DRE# BS. 0026694

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:54 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 2021-2022 Masks for Students

For public comment on 7/27/21

Subject: 2021-2022 Mask Mandates in Schools

7/26/21

Dear Washoe County School Board Members,

I believe parents of students attending the Washoe County School District should be making the decision of their children wearing a mask while in school. It is the parents responsibility and right to make medical decisions for their children.

Masks are not normal, and anyone who says they are is lying. Almost every aspect of life in the United States has returned to relative normal. Given how low the risk is for children, schools must do the same. Anything else is child abuse.

I am not convinced that data presented by the local Washoe County Health District Covid-19 Dashboard demonstrates the need for children attending school to be masked. Please consider that students attending the Washoe County School District be allowed to attend without wearing a mask.

Thank you,
Cecilia Mansfield

From: Scott Emond
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:57 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 3.06 for 07/26/2021

Dear Washoe County School Board,

This past year and a half has been trying for everyone. Now is the time to come together and take care of each other. Let us please put our differences of opinions and politics aside to come together and protect those who are unable to make a choice whether to vaccinate or not. Data is indicating that children have a higher likelihood of becoming infected by the Delta variant than previous strains of Covid-19. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatricians recommend that unvaccinated persons wear a mask.

Please heed the words of specialists tasked with helping protect our society and our future and require masks for unvaccinated children.

-Scott Emond

From: Leslie Pansky
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks for kids

Yes.. the number of kids testing positive is on the rise & wearing masks will protect spread to others in classrooms AND TEACHERS who are at risk!
If you're not going to enforce vaccinated kids of ALL vaccines then at least protect THOSE who are compliant & their families!
Do the right thing .. KEEP MASKS til we get enough vaccinated! This Delta variant is VERY SCARY!!

Leslie
Sent from my iPhone

From: Rachel Fisher
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Public Comments; publiccomment@wahoeschools.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Agenda Item 3.06, Regular Meeting of the BOT July 27, 2021

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am submitting my public comment today as both an elementary educator in WCSD and a concerned community member in regards to the recommendations being provided today from Superintendent McNeill to continue the current policy of unvaccinated students age 9 and younger to not have a mask mandate as we head into the 2021 school year. This proposal from the Superintendent goes against ALL recommendations from local, national, and global health experts and is reckless and dangerous as our community faces a steady increase of Covid-19 cases in the wake of the delta variant.

-The World Health Organization recently urged for everyone globally, regardless of vaccine status, to wear masks indoors in response to the delta variant.

-The CDC guidelines for school openings say that masks should be worn indoors by anyone who is over the age of 2 and is not yet fully vaccinated, while the American Academy of Pediatrics takes this guideline even further recommending masks for both children and adults regardless of vaccination status.

-Washoe County Health District's epidemiology program manager Heather Kerwin reiterated to the school district to follow the CDC recommendations that masks should be worn in crowded settings both indoors and outdoors by all unvaccinated persons.

-While the current governor's directive does not require masks to be worn by younger children, the directive does state "Children who are two to nine years of age are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to wear face coverings in public spaces."

These recommended guidelines that come from disease experts on all levels, should not be lumped into the category of "differing opinions" on masks mandates within schools. Our community and school district needs our leadership to follow the appropriate science and base decisions on these expert recommendations to protect our students, families, staff, and entire Washoe community, especially as a more contagious variant that has proven to have more ill affect on younger populations has begun to spread throughout our community.

In addition, the current policy creates confusion and hardship for elementary educators and schools. There are classes that will have students aged 9-11 in the same classroom where some students are required to wear masks and others are not, or an arbitrary birthday changes the mandated masks status of a student. Because children under 12 years of age are not yet able to obtain a vaccine, contact with an infected person requires for them to be quarantined, which will quickly result in entire classrooms and possibly entire schools to be excluded from in-person learning. The science shows that masks wearing works--by reducing the number of positive Covid-19 cases within a classroom and school, the more students we ensure can be fully in-person for learning, which is the ultimate goal of this school year.

Unfortunately there is contention on mask guidelines that exists to protect the most vulnerable of our population within our community, and no matter the decision that is made today there will be community members who are upset and disagree. However, as our elected school officials there lies the responsibility in protecting ALL students, and that cannot be done by denying and dismissing the fact that EVERY scientifically based recommendation for the safe return to school includes masks for unvaccinated--if not all--students.

Thank you,
Rachel Fisher
1st Grade Lena Juniper

From: Ashley Thibedeau
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Facemask Policy for 2021/2022 School Year

Please choose to follow science, the recommendations of the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the local health district and require masks for all students. Young students are currently unable to be vaccinated and should not be exempt from wearing masks.

Thank you,

Ashley Thibedeau

From: Patricia Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Patricia Hernandez
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks in school

To the Board,
With the widening spread of the Delta variant, the fact that young children are most vulnerable to this variant, that this group is unvaccinated, and the CDC has recommended it, I plead with you to make mask-wearing manditory for everyone in the school community. We know that vaccinated people can still contract Covid and pass it on to unvaccinated people. Masking among children has been successful where it has been mandated in other areas. PLEASE protect our children!
Sincerely,
Patricia Hernandez
Retired WCSD educator

Sent from my iPhone

From: Brittany Bland
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:35 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unmask our children-

WSCD Board of Trustees-

I am asking that you consider mask choice for our children and your staff. Wearing masks should be up to each individual person. Carson City School District is not requiring masks. They are an "option". So you guys do have the authority to decide for yourselves whether you want masks in the school district or not. Please don't hide behind "Governors Mandates". Its 100% up to you.

Again, I say no masks for anyone next year. It should be choice. You are not doing what is best for our community. You are not protecting anyone. I would like to know the science you follow to make this decision. I want to see the facts. Because every fact I have found contradicts your choice in masks for everyone 9 and up, in your drafted reopening plan. I also was happy then irritated to see all the pictures in this document, where no one is wearing masks. That's false advertisement. You want a warm welcoming environment? Take the masks off for reals!!! Not just for show. There's a reason you fluffed those images. Follow your hearts and common sense.

Fauci's emails have leaked all over the place stating clothe masks do NOT work. He stated masks that you buy at the grocery store do not work because of the size of the particles. Again, it's like throwing sand through a chain link fence. We should not follow him, he constantly contradicts himself. His science is unreliable. The CDC and WHO are unreliable and changes their "rules" like they change their underwear. Here's a fun fact, both those agencies have a less than 50% of their own employees vaccinated...I saw it on recorded Senate hearing. Have you ever personally researched Fauci and his studies/work on vaccines or viruses? There are multiple resources of damaging proof that Fauci can not be trusted.

Per a 10 million person study in China, they proved that asystematic spreading of the Covid is not real, it was a lie. You can not spread this asystematically. Children have a 99% survival rate and they do not transmit it to adults.

Tucker Carlson, stated on fox that the level of CO2 the children breath in while wearing a mask is harmful to their health. The low oxygen levels we breathe in while wearing a mask, are lower than what standard air requirements are for inside an office building are per OSHA. How is that helpful? And to keep these masks on for long periods of time will only make our children sicker.

Check out this article from the Epoch times...Mask Mandate for Children Is Not Backed by Science: New Jersey Senators
https://m.theepochtimes.com/mkt_morningbrief/mask-mandate-for-children-is-not-backed-by-science-new-jersey-senators_3903570.html?utm_source=Morningbrief&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mb-

2021-07-18&mktids=294f7d611c2c5f6768ab137ff44dd7b2&est=%2FGuhFvz3ZWVy2LhhP6jVRxFbJWRjpts0pxM9VTsDkRl%2BUfJZn%2BYZU2QtocrX6vObtDF2

Mask Mandate for Children Is Not Backed by Science: New Jersey Senators

New Jersey senators held a hearing last week to explore whether the science supports forcing children to wear ...

m.theepochtimes.com

From this article "The participating lawmakers asserted that wearing masks by children does little to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and may harm children psychologically, emotionally, developmentally and physically."

Masks are damaging bottom line for everyone. Why can't you be like Carson School District and make it a choice? You 100% have the power to do so. So please do it! I know some of you don't want to be in masks anymore either and if you do, please wear one. If Carson Schools have the power to make masks a choice, so do you. Stop placing the blame on Sisolak, you have the power to control masks or no masks. Be honest. And do the right thing.

Brittany Bland

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mask Recommendation

Hello,

I am a parent of three students in the Washoe County School District, ages 13, 10 and 6. I am reaching out to address the recent agenda item to consider still requiring students over the grade of 3rd to wear masks.

First, this should be a choice by parents, not something that is chosen for us. It feels that in the last few years, especially with covid, that many have forgotten that WE are the parents and are responsible for making health choices for our children, not a school board. I would never stop a parent from wanting their child to wear a mask at school, not mine WILL NOT be masked again. Every parent has the right to choose for their own children, it is unacceptable to even consider taking these choices out of parents hands.

All three of my children have special needs, my 13 year old is autistic and is over stimulated by masks. My 10 year old (along with all three of my kids) has an eye condition causing very poor vision, the masks cause her glasses to fog up and she spent all of last year struggling to see more than she already does. She is ten and can not wear a mask properly, as even doctors are required to take courses on how to properly wear PPE, there is no way children can properly wear masks. My 6 year old, while not required in the new recommendation to wear mask, has the same issue as his sister, along with just being 6 and having a dirty piece of cloth strapped to his face.

Secondly, there are over 75 million people in the US under the age of 18, out of that 75 million less than 350 (per the CDC) died of covid. We lost more children during the pandemic due to pneumonia than covid (per the cdc). This recommendation is not factually based, it is emotionally based. That is not what is logical or healthy for our students.

Every parent should have the choice if their children should be masked. Please vote no on REQUIRING masks, this is a personal choice to be made by parents, not you.

The community seems very clear on what they want, a choice. If a parent wants their child to wear a mask there is nothing stopping them. Give us the choice. Please remember who you work for and who votes, the public is who you represent, and we feel unheard and ignored.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Monika Dutchover

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2021-2022 School Year - Mask Mandate Vote by WCSD Board of Trustees

Please post to the Public Comment

Dear Washoe County School District Board of Trustees:

Please review and consider the Carson City Board of Trustees approved 2021-2022 school year reopening plan as a balanced, methodical, and safe approach to the upcoming school year.
https://www.carsoncityschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=801611&pageId=66928046

Reopening School Buildings and Grounds

All school buildings and grounds will be open to the public for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The Governor has returned authority to local school officials to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As such, Carson City School District will re-open schools, offices, and grounds for instructional, administrative, and extracurricular activities under the following conditions:

1. The school year will proceed according to the approved 2021-2022 School Year Calendar.
2. School will be in session five (5) days per week for in-person, on campus learning.
3. Full-time Remote Learning will be available by application through Pioneer Academy.
4. Students experiencing short-term absences (usually less than two (2) weeks in duration will have access to remote learning through their school and teacher. The District will provide all enrolled students with Chromebooks and will assist families with internet connectivity on an as needed basis.
5. The Wearing of facemasks is not required for the 2021-2022 School Year. The following situations should be considered:
    a. Carson City School District highly encourages the use of facemasks for unvaccinated persons over the age of 2 years of age. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html The District has a supply of available facemasks to staff, students, and volunteers who desire to wear a facemask in District buildings and vehicles.
    b. If a localized outbreak of COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19 occurs, the temporary use of facemasks may be employed as part of a multi-layered effort to end the outbreak.
    c. COVID-19 vaccinations are available at no cost to all staff, volunteers, and age-appropriate students. A COVID-19 vaccination is not required to enroll in, attend school, or to be employed by the District.
    d. Staff, volunteers, students, and families may voluntarily wear facemasks in any district building or vehicle.
6. Guidance and recommendations from the National Center of Disease Control (CDC) and local health authorities encourage the vaccination of age-appropriate persons against the COVID-19 virus and its variants.
7. Good hygiene and continued sanitation practices instituted in the previous school year including awareness of social distancing practices will be encouraged.

Please do not make decisions for the 2021-2022 school year based on FUD (Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt). Our children have already endured the negative academic, emotional, mental, and physical hardships of such decisions previously. I kindly ask the WCSD Board of Trustees to take a measured and safe approach instituting remedial measures, such as mandating mask wearing for students and the like, if/when needed. Significant data has been compiled that illustrates the negative impact upon students that have been forced by school districts to wear masks for 7+ hours a day. To knowingly make policies to enforce mandates with such significant harm to the students/children seems to be counterintuitive and would appear to be tantamount to institutionalized child abuse to continue such policy practices.

Kindest regards,
Dianna Novotak – concerned WCSD parent

From: Jess
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to all masks in schools

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to any masks being worn in schools. They are damaging to children's health and well being. My children will not be attending WCSD if masks are mandatory to attend. Thank you for considering my comment.

Jessica Feight

From: Allison Raymond
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO MASKS

Dear Washoe County SD Board:

I'm a mother of a 5 year old attending Kindergarten this year. I do not consent that the school board regulate my child or any children's status on masks, and allowing families to make their own decisions. Children deserve to go to school without masks.

Allison Raymond

From: Kyle Davis
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Require universal masks

Dear Trustee,

I am writing to request that you require all students, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks in school this year (I believe it is agenda item 3.06). My children were in distance learning last year, as we have an immunocompromised person in our household. We did not want to take the risk of our children catching COVID-19 and bringing it home to our family. Things have certainly improved with the vaccines, but the Delta variant is unfortunately taking things in the opposite direction. Our children are excited to return to school, but we do not want to put them in an unsafe environment.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) both recommend that all children wear masks in school this year. The CDC and the State of Nevada both further recommend that all unvaccinated people wear masks in indoor settings. By definition, children in 3rd grade and younger are unvaccinated as there are no approved vaccines for children under 12 years of age.

I appreciate that the school board has had a tough time in dealing with the unprecedented issues caused by this pandemic, and I thank you for your service to our community. In my view, this decision is not a tough one. Children wore masks for most of the last school year and by all accounts, COVID-19 transmission was far less that many anticipated it would be. Follow the health experts, protect our children and require masks for all children and employees.

Thank you

Kyle Davis

From: Amber Joiner
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please require masks for all grades!

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to encourage you to please vote against the proposal to allow some students to attend school without masks (I believe under agenda item 3.06). All the health experts I can find, including our local health district and national experts like the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend masking indoors for school aged children. Just TODAY, new information came out that the CDC also plans to recommend masks for all children in schools. https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/27/politics/cdc-mask-guidance/index.html. "It's based on the fact that the Delta variant is clearly more transmissible than the prior ones." With cases going up in Washoe County and the new Delta variant being more contagious, masks are required now more than ever!

I have two students in the district, and it is too late to choose distance learning for next year. They are VERY excited to return to school and their friends after a year of distance learning, but I will seriously have to consider homeschooling them if masks are not required for all in the elementary school and middle schools. We have people in our home with compromised immune systems, and we cannot risk our kids bringing COVID home!

Thank you for all you do for our kids! Please keep them safe in school this year and require masks for all.

Sincerely,
Amber Joiner

From: Ashlee Wheeler
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 10:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masking our kids

Please do not masks our kids this year.
If it is done this year I will be pulling my son from public schooling and homeschooling him. It is wrong. Our children shouldn't have to go through this and because they can "adapt" doesn't mean they should. It is traumatizing any way you look at it. Putting the fear into them to even go to school or they will get sick. Horrible. School is hard enough.

From: Chuck Lanham
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:17 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming Appointment to replace WCSD Trustee Thigpen

As a member of the community which trustee Thigpen represents, I am deeply troubled by several of the candidates on slate to replace trustee Thigpen, most notably, Beth Smith, Hawah Ahmad, and Serena Robb. All three, it seems to me, should be disqualified from any position related to school administration. Both Smith and Ahmad have records of extreme bias and radical views antithetical to the appropriate education of our children. Ahmad, as a lobbyist for the teacher's union and community activist is precisely the worst choice imaginable. Choosing her would send a clear message that the WCSD has no interest whatsoever in the welfare and education of Washoe County children, and further delegitimize any further actions of the school board. Serena Robb, with her many years working in the school district, may seem at first glance a more reasonable choice, but her extensive knowledge gained working in the schools severely limits her objectivity and impartiality; what is needed is someone whose main focus is the education of our children, not the administration of the schools and teachers. Please do not consider these applicants for the WCSD Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Chuck Lanham

Reno, Nevada 89519

From: Ginger Wegman
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask mandate

Thank your for taking the time to read this email. I am disappointed that the freedom to speak in person has been canceled. I have a beautiful granddaughter in your schools this year and I understand you are initiating the mask mandate. This is harmful to our children, taking away their breath, increasing high levels of carbon dioxide in the blood, as well as covering their beautiful faces, this harms their little spirits. Covid does not affect our children and wearing masks should be a choice for those who want to. The mask cannot protect agains this virus. Research has shown this, the PCR testing is not accurate, so many really just had the flu last year. We need stop this ridiculous push. Do your research, the masks are not effective. Our bodies have a perfect mechanism to fight and build our immunity and we need to allow our bodies to fight the virus on it own without any mask or vaccine. There are treatments available as well, but our Governor Sisolak has blocked our ability to have that treatment Hydroxychlorquine and Ivermectin. It is recommended we provide Vitamin D, Vitamin C, Zinc, and at some point we need to wake up and see what is happening. This is all about government control, not protection. Please fight for our children, please stop masking our children. Please Stand for our constitutional rights. If we continue, we will loose it all. God Bless America, I pray your decision will protect our children and their future.

Thank you,

Ginger Wegman

From: Whitney Weed
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO MASK COMMENTS

Dear Board and Dr. McNeil,
I have 6 children in the Washoe County School District. We STRUGGLED through the awful last couple of years with the silliness of the masks. It was painful on all levels. So painful that my oldest daughter who was a Junior in highschool last year chose to speed forward and forego her Senior year (this year) as we saw the writing on the wall as to what this school year in THIS district would look like for her. THIS FALL she will move on to college instead of suffering through a Senior year here in Reno with the unfortunate possibility of mask wearing.
But what about the others? What about all my younger children? What about ALL the other children who are too young, too incapable, too trapped to get away from the forceful hand that is punishing them to wear masks? These are all innocent children. They are not to blame for what is going on! They are our future. They need to be given the freedom back to learn from their books, to be taught how to communicate without masks! They need to feel like they are clean human beings not dirty animals that could possibly be spreading a virus that could kill. That is simply NOT TRUE.
Masks are hurting and KILLING our children. Please stop. Please put your focus back where it belongs- ON EDUCATION.
If you choose otherwise, I will join with many others who will be unenrolling their children from WCSD again this year.
Sincerely,
Whitney Weed

From: Angie D'Antoni
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

Dear WCSD

I am asking that you please reconsider putting masks on children 10 and older. As a parent to three children in WCSD, I witnessed varying degrees of anxiety, low self esteem, and depression. My oldest was a different child this year and struggled all year with the masks. There were many tears and anxiety on a daily basis going to school. Initially I wasn't sure it had a lot to do with the masks, but the last few weeks when they were able to take them off even for recess I noticed their attitudes, personality, engagement and social interactions improved tremendously. It was wonderful to finally see them smiling and happy for school and the "normalcy" again.

I am also struggling with the idea of putting masks back on our children, when we have been without them for months now. How does it make sense to tell children you have been traveling all summer, going out in public without masks, but now you have to return to school covering your face. It dramatically changes their social interactions. It also doesn't logically make sense.

Please consider following the guidelines set by Carson City School District!

We, as parents, should have the right to make decisions on masks at this point.

Thank you

From: Kirk & Debbie Tayler
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masking our children; COVID Vaccinations

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opinion against the masking of the children and the vaccination. The masks are not protecting the children, they are in fact exposing them to serious health risks. Please see below a press release from Gainsville, Florida:

Gainesville, FL (June 16, 2021) – A group of parents in Gainesville, FL, concerned about potential harms from masks, submitted six face masks to a lab for analysis. The resulting report found that five masks were contaminated with bacteria, parasites, and fungi, including three with dangerous pathogenic and pneumonia-causing bacteria. No viruses were detected on the masks, although the test is capable of detecting viruses.

The analysis detected the following 11 alarmingly dangerous pathogens on the masks:

• Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumonia)

• Mycobacterium tuberculosis (tuberculosis)

• Neisseria meningitidis (meningitis, sepsis)

• Acanthamoeba polyphaga (keratitis and granulomatous amebic encephalitis)

• Acinetobacter baumanni (pneumonia, blood stream infections, meningitis, UTIs—resistant to antibiotics)

• Escherichia coli (food poisoning)

• Borrelia burgdorferi (causes Lyme disease)

• Corynebacterium diphtheriae (diphtheria)

• Legionella pneumophila (Legionnaires' disease)

• Staphylococcus pyogenes serotype M3 (severe infections—high morbidity rates)

• Staphylococcus aureus (meningitis, sepsis)

Half of the masks were contaminated with one or more strains of pneumonia-causing bacteria. One-third were contaminated with one or more strains of meningitis-causing bacteria. One-third were contaminated with dangerous, antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens. In addition, less dangerous pathogens were identified, including pathogens that can cause fever, ulcers, acne, yeast infections, strep throat, periodontal disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and more.

The face masks studied were new or freshly-laundered before wearing and had been worn for 5 to 8 hours, most during in-person schooling by children aged 6 through 11. One was worn by an adult. A t-shirt worn by one of the children at school and unworn masks were tested as controls. No pathogens were found on the controls. Proteins found on the t-shirt, for example, are not pathogenic to humans and are commonly found in hair, skin, and soil.

A parent who participated in the study, Ms. Amanda Donoho, commented that this small sample points to a need for more research: “We need to know what we are putting on the faces of our children each day. Masks provide a warm, moist environment for bacteria to grow.”

These local parents contracted with the lab because they were concerned about the potential of contaminants on masks that their children were forced to wear all day at school, taking them on and off, setting them on various surfaces, wearing them in the bathroom, etc. This prompted them to send the masks to the University of Florida’s Mass Spectrometry Research and Education Center for analysis.

The below chart, put together by the group of parents, shows the potential dangers from each pathogen:

Update: Some experts are casting doubt on the credibility of the above lab results, per AFP, one of Facebook's fact-checking partners. These experts include physicians at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, as well as Dr. Benjamin Neuman, chair of the Biological Sciences department at Texas A&M University-Texarkana. You can read their explanations here. AFP also notes that the WHO still recommends children wear masks, even though they are not at high risk of contracting a severe case of COVID-19. On its website, the WHO does not recommend masks for kids 5 and younger, and has modified guidelines for children

I have now watched countless videos of people who have been harmed by the "vaccination". It is crazy to vaccinate children, who are not susceptible to this virus which has a 99% recovery rate and can be cured, if infected, by Ivermectin.

I am requesting you read my letter and have it recorded in the public comment.

Thank you.

Debbie Tayler

Reno, NV 89506

From: Kellie Gimenez
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Taylor, Angela; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD Mask Mandate

Dear WCSD,

As a mom of three, I'm firmly against masks in school. Over the past year and a half, school has changed drastically for our kids. We have gone through everything from distance learning, masks full year, 6 feet of separation and everything in between. Last year when in masks, my kids struggled to go to school. They didn't enjoy going just to be greeted with firm rules and constant reminders to stay away from each other. They struggled with making friends and didn't learn nearly as much as they have in previous years. At the end of the year when the mask mandates were lifted, they came to life again! They loved going to school, had so much fun and were excited about being in the classroom. And even better, none of my kids had any covid outbreaks in their classrooms even after masks were removed.

I believe that masks are not necessary to keep our kids safe. They aren't getting sick as often or with as much severity as adults. The masks actually cause them to touch their faces more and are full of bacteria. I truly hope you reconsider forcing masks on our kids again this year. If families feel more comfortable with their kids in masks, that should be their choice. But mandating for all kids is doing more harm than good.

Sincerely,
Kellie Gimenez

From: April Marie Stockwell
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Choice

Hello, my name is April Stockwell

I am unable to attend the rally for mask choice so I wanted to send in my vote.

I vote for each parents RIGHT to make the CHOICE for their child.

A mask is not a “one size fits all” for all kids.

Each child and their needs is DIFFERENT.

You cannot mandate and override a parents decision for their child. That is inhumane.

KIDS CANNOT CONSENT TO WEAR MASKS. Please stop abusing our kids with these mandates.

I study a lot into child psychology and development and have seen the present and future long term damaging affects our children are having because of being forced to cover their faces and social distance.

It is not proven that masks reduce the risk. If anything, masks are more contaminated with bacteria and can spread sickness more by all the touching.

LET KIDS BE KIDS.

LET THEIR BE CHOICE!

I Myself and many other parents will be unrolling our kids from WCSD if there are any further mandates. Give PEOPLE CHOICE!

From: Marika Moore
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:10 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mandatory Concerns re: allowing my kids to go to public school

Good day and thank you for your service.

My name is Marika Moore. I am a business and property owner in Washoe County. I have 2 children. I have a Masters degree from the University of Nevada Reno in political science and international relations. I've traveled all around the world working at schools and US Embassies, teaching at the University, and as a case worker for people with disabilities and seniors…

I come now concerned as a mother who may choose to homeschool my kids this fall. I had hoped to move forward with public school. However, if you enforce masks, crt curriculum or forced vaccinations I will homeschool them.

Here are 47 scientifically proven studies showing the ineffectiveness of masks for Covid. No excuses. Quit it with the masks. It will take a righteous spirit and spine to stand up for the truth. I hope you have one.

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/47-studies-confirm-inefectiveness-of-masks-for-covid-and-32-more-confirm-their-negative-health-effects

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marika Moore

From: Lori Kazmer
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] All should wear a mask

The new CDC guidelines coming out today will be for ALL K-12 students to wear a mask at school. This is the guidance that needs to be followed. This delta variance is much more transmissible and cause more serious effects even on children. And many children either cannot or have not yet been vaccinated.

It is no big deal to wear a mask. They do not deprive you of oxygen. I have been in health for 35 years and have worn a mask day in and day out every working day and this claim is just not true.

Children react the way their parents react about masks. If the parents are constantly complaining then the children will do the same. My grandchildren , one in 1st grade and one in 4th grade have no problem or complaint wearing a mask. They even want to wear the mask and do not like being around others who do not.

This is a public health crisis we are in and we need to do everything to protect ourselves and others .

Please make it mandatory for ALL students and anyone on school campus to wear a mask.

Lori Kazmer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:22 AM
Cc: Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Taylor, Angela; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD Mask Mandate

WCSD,

We all know the last year and a half has been hard and very different for so many reasons! School and life in general has changed for our young kids and forcing that to continue is a massive disservice to our children! I am a father of three and I am admittedly against the wearing of facemasks in school! There are multiple studies that have stated masks are ineffective in stopping the virus and can cause major health/emotional problems for our children. The emotional effect of not being able to see a teacher or fellow students reaction in class, to having to touch their faces even more to fix masks that are oftentimes not worn correctly anyway is a major issue! I firmly believe that masks are completely unnecessary to keep our children safe and highly recommend you consider letting our kids start to get back some of what has been lost over the last year and a half! Families should have the right to make the decision on a family by family basis. We choose to not give our kids food coloring which also has been linked to cancer/ADHD. This is not being mandated by Washoe County , nor should masks!!! Choice is key. Mandating masks for all will undoubtedly do way more harm than good to the future of our children!!!!
Thank you for your time
Chris Gimenez

From: jeff azucena
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO Masks

It's come to my attention that WCS wants our children to wear masks at school. This decision should NOT be made by the anyone else but the parents. We have the right to choose what's best for ourselves and our families. If others are concerned about whatever's going on then they have the right to wear or not wear masks. This is the freedoms we have and we need to adhere to that.

From: Ryan Olsen
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for 7/27/21 Meeting, Regarding Mask Mandates in Schools

For public comment on 7/27/21 or next meeting date,

Subject: Mask Mandates in Schools

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Dear Washoe County School Board of Trustees,

It's time to follow your directive and put kids first. If you truly want what's best for our children's education, mental well-being, and health then the only choice is to make masks optional for staff and students. I have two children (5th and 9th) currently attending WCSD and my family is strongly opposed to forced masking.

The choice before you is simple:

(A) Mandate mask. What is not so simple is justifying that reasoning. If you chose this, you MUST provide logic that can be objectively measured against the new mask mandate.
(B) Make masks optional. Teach freedom of choice and personal responsibility. The science (a novel approach to follow) backs this option.

Common sense leads us to Option B. I strongly encourage you to vote for making masks optional. Let's get back to education. Let the teachers do what they do best, teach. And the kids do what they do best learn. Both without the hurdle that masks impose.

Put our kids first.

Ryan Olsen

Sent with Shift

From: Sarah Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please require masks for 21-22 school year

Dear board members,

I am writing to strongly request that you and the school board reimplement the mask mandate in schools for our children.

In-person learning is critical for our children's growth and education, but we must do it safely!

The updated CDC guidelines recommends all children who are not fully vaccinated wear masks.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html

The American Academy of Pediatrics is also strongly recommendation universal masking for all children, regardless of vaccination status.
https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/19/us/aap-open-schools-covid/index.html

I understand many parents feel that the decision should be personal; however the actions we take on a personal level directly influence the health of our COMMUNITY.

If my son wears a mask, it protects his peers. If his peers decide NOT to wear a mask, who is protecting my son? If it is a personal choice, many parents will decide to not require a mask for their child, which means many other children, even those wearing masks, will be infected with this highly contagious and dangerous delta variant.

Please note that death is not the only negative outcome from this virus. Even in children who may not show symptoms, long term health effects can occur (see https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/covid19s-impact-on-the-brain for a thorough list of references) . Not only will this be problematic for the children that suffer these consequences, it will cost our community millions in medical care down the road.

When a mask mandate is the RULE, parents and children will take the requirement more seriously, and we will be better protected **as a community**. This will save the lives of some children (which should be reason enough!), but it will also save on long term suffering and significant medical costs for our families. It is a small inconvenience to ask kids to wear masks. They did it the entire school year last year, and they did GREAT! But the consequences of NOT wearing masks is far too great for our community.

Any policy that is implemented has to be based on *evidence.* Hopefully that *evidence* is sound scientific research and expert recommendations. The evidence that masks help protect against the transmission of this virus is overwhelming, and medical and community health experts **strongly** recommend masks for children in school. Shouldn't that be enough on which to base a policy of masks in school?

Sarah Elliott, Ph.D.

From: Julia Wegman
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No mask mandate

Dear Trustees,

I am a concerned parent that the children will again be forced to wear a mask. I ask you, please, use some common sense and think of the damage being done to our children with the masks not only physically but emotionally as well. They increase their CO2 levels, the masks are filled with bacteria, and it makes it so hard to breathe, especially those with asthma, like my daughter has. Children feel disconnected from their peers and teachers not being able to see their faces and childhood depression and suicide rates are increasing at an alarming rate. Is this what is truly good for them? There is overwhelming evidence showing that the masks are ineffective and the damage they cause. This should be a personal choice not a mandate. If you are afraid of a virus that has over a 99%survival rate, then go ahead, mask up. But do not make our children and teachers go through another year of this. Please, board of trustees, do the right thing. Please do not instill fear in our children and conform to the pressures society is feeling from mainstream media. We are better then this.

Thank you,

Julia Anderson

From: Kasey Hines
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Policy in Schools

Hello,
I am writing to share my opposition to masking our children in a school setting. I have witnessed first hand the damage it does. Covering the face of our children hurts them emotionally, socially, and physically. This past year during the school year my elementary school child experienced anxiety, something she had never had before. I also witnessed her speech regressing, pronouncing words wrong which were previously easily mastered. The children need to be able to see each other's face and mouth to be able to grow and learn effectively. They need to see the face of their peers in order to play and interact. It is not fair to them to live in a muffled world when trying to learn and grow. Since school has been out, I have seen my daughter again blossom with anxiety disappearing and speech again becoming clear and correct.
Our children have lived the entire summer without masks covering their beautiful faces. To put these back on children will only do harm. The issues we are seeing with our children have nothing to do with covid19. The issues we are seeing in learning and mental health are imposed on them by adults. Masking is not the answer. Children are not spreading this disease! They in fact can act as a buffer to help protect the community. Children are at extremely low risk of getting sick. Do not punish our children and teach them that they are walking diseases! Which they are NOT!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,
Kasey Hines

From: Gonzalo Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Face masks in school

To the WCSD Board: Please make mask-wearing mandatory for everyone at school. It's an inexpensive and effective way to keep our students and staff safe from infection. Please don't bow to the anti-vaxers and follow the science. Thank you, Gonzalo Hernandez

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rochelle Bening
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment

Item 3.06

I am writing to state my strong opinion that masks should NOT be mandated for young school children. We must let them breathe freely and salvage the psychological trauma that has already been inflicted by a full year of masking.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Scott Weed
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bring the Smiles Back to the Classroom: No Masks for Our Children

Board members and superintendent,

The time for real leadership arrived long ago and you failed us all. That's water under the bridge at this point and I'm urging you with all the energy of my soul to get your act together and start doing the very thing you've been elected/hired to do: **lead**.

Children are not the problem. They are not spreading diseases that kill people. They are not at risk of killing each other with diseases. Nor are children maiming others with disease. This needs to be understood perfectly. It's time to stop pretending you're doing good things when you're not. I'm begging you to allow our children to attend school **with no mask mandates in place**. You've been confusing this mask situation the entire time and asking the wrong question. The question is most certainly **not**: "Do masks work?" What we really want to know is this: "Do mask mandates work?" These are very different questions. If you think that mask mandates work, I can assure you that you are on the wrong side of science. **Mask mandates do not do what advocates think they do. Period.**

Professionally I deliver patient care in a setting that produces aerosols from the oral cavity in abundance. Over the 20 years I've spent in my profession it has always been the case that our masks and gloves absolutely do not protect us from viruses and bacteria. Intact human skin and our immune systems protect us. The biggest risk my profession faces is percutaneous inoculation of bloodborne pathogens (and masks and gloves provide ZERO protection from this). Even ASTM Level 3 barriers do not protect from airborne viruses. Despite the vulnerability I voluntarily experience daily at the office, with patients hacking and coughing and spitting who-knows-what every single day, neither myself nor my employees nor my colleagues and their employees across the nation and globe experience higher incidence of respiratory illnesses. Said another way, in a severe aerosol-producing environment with heavy surface contamination and direct, hands-on contact with the bodily fluids of a dozen or more different patients EVERY SINGLE DAY, my profession experiences ZERO increase in illness. Hopefully you recognize as I do that sometimes, zero is a very large number!

You might ask, "What's the big deal? What's the harm in masking our children, even if the benefit is questionable?" I'll answer these questions.

1) What our children are being forced to do with masks does not make them safe. The masks are not impervious to viruses. Especially when they've been worn day after day, stuffed into pockets and backpacks, and are adjusted and pulled at and touched constantly. If anything, wearing masks, especially for children, encourages them to touch their face more. Thus, **in forcing the children to wear masks we are LYING to them**. We are misleading them.

2) Masking kills human connection. Does the school board and the esteemed superintendent with a doctorate degree in education honestly think we send our kids to school to learn? We send them to be socialized primarily, and secondarily they learn many things along the way. Masking kills this primary function of school. You all read the news. You likely have inside numbers and data the general public does not have. You know our children are suffering. They are depressed and the incidence of self-harm and suicide is skyrocketing (and how much unreported self-harm is out there?). You can do something about this directly: **do not require masks**.

I have six children and five are enrolled in WCSD for this coming school year. My oldest should have been a high school senior this year but the district's restrictions made her school experience so stressful and unenjoyable this past year and

a half that she took some classes on her own at TMCC and graduated early so she wouldn't have to experience any more useless and harmful district-imposed restrictions. Can you understand this? Your decisions drove my daughter to get the hell out of your school district. My other five children do not have that option. Please. Please! Do not lay your own personal problems and burdens on the shoulders of our children by forcing masks on them for the 2021-22 school year. The harmful environment our children have been living in can be gone immediately. You all can make it happen and bring the smiles back to our classrooms.

Sincerely,

Scott Weed

Dr. Scott T Weed
Weed Endodontics

From: Alexandra Frankel
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask mandate

Dear WCSD Trustees and Dr. McNeill,

Thank you for your service and your continued dedication to providing a safe and positive environment in our schools.

In light of the recent increase in numbers of positive COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, as well as the elevated risks presented by the rampant spread of the Delta variant, it is absolutely imperative that masks be required in schools in order to protect our staff and students, especially those who are too young to be vaccinated. The World Health Organization and American Academy of Pediatrics recommend universal masking to reduce transmission, and the CDC changed their directive today to recommend that everyone in K-12 schools wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. It is in the best interest of our children and our community to follow the advice of these medical experts and put safety first.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Alexandra Frankel

Parent, Roy Gomm Elementary, and former educator

From: Brittany Gomes
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for today's board meeting

Hello. I am a former educator and current mother of 2 elementary aged children who are enrolled in washoe county school district. Children use many modalities throughout their school days, such as visual and auditory learning. Some examples of these include:

- - children read facial queues & expressions to support their social emotional learning
- - younger students, second language learners and/or those with learning differences (like MY son) need to see the faces of those speaking to them to decipher the different sounds in words - is that an /f/ or /th/ sound?
- - students need to hear their teachers and peers CLEARLY, without words being muffled thru masks
- - children need adequate fresh air; according to Lung Institute "Oxygen levels and brain function go hand in hand. Having enough oxygen in the brain is crucial to brain function".
-

Said as simply as possible, brains don't work without air. You get to go into your closed offices and remove your masks. Our children in the classrooms don't get to do that. Forcing our children to wear masks while navigating their learning responsibilities makes it increasingly difficult for them to do their jobs at school, LEARN!

My last point. After allowing my daughter to return to school in person last spring, I hand washed her masks daily. The water was filthy! How many children in your district are coming to school wearing used, dirty masks? But this is about health, right? According to Mental Health America, "13% of youth (age 12-17) report suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year. The number of youth experiencing major depressive episodes increased by 99 thousand from last years data." Who gets to decide that physical wellness supersedes mental wellness? In my opinion not the school board. The decision of masking children belongs to the parents and that is why I'm asking, please, let parents choose what is best for THEIR children.

Brittany Gomes

References:
https://mhanational.org/issues/2020/mental-health-america-youth-data
https://lunginstitute.com/blog/oxygen-levels-brain-function/

Sent from my iPhone

From: Andrea Emnas
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Taylor, Angela; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Nicolet, Diane M; McNeill, Kristen; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Board public comment-7/27/2021

Good afternoon Angela Taylor, Jacqueline Calvert, Diane Nicolet, Kristen McNeil, Jeffrey Church and, Ellen Minetto,

Please consider my email below as public comment and include it as part of today's, 7/27/2021, meeting material and minutes.

My name is Andrea Emnas, a property owner in Washoe County. I am not a mother. I do not have children in our school systems. Yet, I am gravely concerned for my community's children. Yes, that is correct. These kids belong to our community and deserve a fair chance at a reasonable education. That is our job to see that our school systems provide the best opportunity for all to learn and thrive in. Forcing masks, vaccinations and distortions of history does not gain my support. You work for us. You were appointed by us. I beg and plead with you that you represent our voice and consider our pleas. My plea today is for you to remember what our country was founded on…. freedom of choice. Whether I am for or against masks, vaccines or specific curriculum is not the point of my email today. Rather, I plead with you to bring back choice. A choice to wear a mask or not. A choice to receive the COVID19 and associated boosters or not. A choice to make their own opinion about the facts of history. History teaches us all a valuable lesson. It doesn't teach us to repeat but rather the opposite, to avoid it and rise above it.

I write to you today because you represent me, a constituent, please allow choice to reign in our school system not dictatorship, divide or mandates that just aren't proven. We all know that science does not support the mandates however I support the choice for one to choose and I hope you do too.

Thank you for your time today,
Andrea Emnas
Sparks, NV

From: Vera Singh
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Parent's opinion

Hello,

I'm the mother of 6 year old twins and I don't support the idea of wearing facial masks at school. Because there is enough research proving that wearing facial masks is unhealthy for young children.

Best regards,
Vera S

From: Bree Gonzales
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask requirements

Dear Board Members,

My name is Briana Durkin and am extremely concerned about the possible "re-masking" of our children this coming school year. I will have one child entering kindergarten this year. At the beginning of summer you sent us an email stating that masks would not be required for children 9 and under, now, that is being questioned. The science is clear that Covid is NOT a risk to children nor are they at risk of spreading it. The science is also clear that masks for children are not helpful only harmful. Our children have spent over a year in masks because of fear mongering. If a parent feels "better" because their child is in a mask great but if a parent prefers their child not be in a mask for a virus that has a 99.7% survival rate than also great, the point is its the PARENT'S choice and the PARENT'S choice only. Masking and vaccination should not be the schools choice or the governments for that matter. The flu and cold kill thousands of people every year and spreads like wildfire through schools yet no masks were ever required, no temp screenings, no vaccine. It was always the parents choice. The population affected most by this virus isn't the young, isn't children, but elderly and immune compromised just like the flu and cold. Masking our kids will only do more harm not good. Studies have come out stating that children have been more negatively affected by masks than by Covid itself. They're not able to recognize their peers or teachers. Children learn not just by sight and sound but by facial expressions, they learn emotional well being through seeing faces. I watched an interview by a teacher who couldn't recognize her own students because she had never seen them without masks and vice versa. Parents have sent in their child's CLEAN masks to be tested and what was found on them was disgusting. Cold and flu virus, staph, NO COVID. There is a rise in strep throat because of these masks as well. Children are not able to take them off to cough, sneeze, or even just to breathe normally, and all that bacteria they're breathing out is going right back into their lungs causing strep, NOT COVID. Please I would implore you to stick to the science, actual science, not media fear mongering, and keep our children un-masked. Our children deserve to be able to learn and breathe in a safe environment not one where they are scared or bullied into compromising their health. We hope you make the right decision which would be to make masks optional and NOT REQUIRED, but I promise that myself and the parents of this school district will step up and fight back if we feel like our kids well being is not being met. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Katie Silva
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New CDC Mask Recommendation for K-12

Dear Trustees,

I've written previously with recommendations from the CDC, AAP, and local Reno pediatricians. Today guidance came out from the CDC that states all K-12 children should be masked at schools, regardless of vaccination status.

https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/27/politics/cdc-mask-guidance/index.html

This new recommendation is extremely important for our children in K-5 who are not yet allowed to be vaccinated. I implore you to vote in favor of masking in schools to protect our children. Our children need to be in schools safely. I know that I speak for all parents when we say we want our children to be happy and healthy. The highly-transmissible Delta variant is a danger to their health and to schools being able to remain open. Please reconsider the Superintendent's recommendation with a decision backed in science.

Best,
Katie Silva
Huffaker Parent

From: Jeremy S
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

To whom it concerns..

The fact that the school board is even thinking about mask as an option in the 2021-22 school year. Show's how ignorant and sheepish you all are. We intrust are children's education to a bunch of people to stupid to open there eyes and look at actual facts and statistic. Instead choose to be led blindedly like sheep to the slaughter. Honestly it's pathetic how far are great country has fallen. The silent majority need to stand up and put an end to the ignorance that cheated their way to power.

From: Jill Rogers
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Face Masks

Dear WCSD Board,

I have two children in the district. I urge you to NOT make masks mandatory. At the very least, allow staff and students who are fully vaccinated to go without masks. One of the reasons I had my children get vaccinated was so they would not have to wear masks in school.

Thank you,
Jill

From: Jodi Simmons
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No Masks for students

To our elected Washoe county school board members,

It should be up to the parents to decide what is best for their children regarding whether they wear masks or not. Masks not only affect proper breathing but also impact learning in a negative way. In the last 18 months we have learned how to be better at covering our cough and sneeze, washing our hands more often, not touching our face and staying home when we are sick. There is strong evidence that children are not the viral vectors they are made out to be, therefore they should be allowed to go to school without a mask. With what we have learned so far, let us make our own choices for our kids. We know there is a 99.8% survival rate for Covid in children and they typically have mild symptoms. Our children are our best assets and they need to be back in school full time without masks.

Sincerely,
Carl and Jodi Simmons

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

From: Katelyn Duffy
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Let's see children smiling!

To whom it may concern,

Good afternoon, my name is Katelyn and I wanted to voice my opinion regarding the mask mandate at schools for children. I worked in a kindergarten classroom January 2021 - May 2021 and saw the negative affects of children being forced to wear masks at school.

First off, the masks are more of a distraction than a safety precaution for young learners. I was constantly having to tell the students to take the mask out of their mouth, to stop playing with the straps, etc. Students would be getting up frequently to get water so that they could take their mask off for a brief second. This is just sad.

Secondly, it is extremely difficult to teach foundational skills such as phonological awareness and reading when the teacher and student have to have their mouths covered. When learning phonics and pronunciation of words, especially in kindergarten, students need to physically see how different letters and digraphs sound. With reading, students get interrupted because they are being asked to speak up because the teacher or aide cannot hear them through their masks. Instructors need to be able to clearly hear their student so they can correctly assess their progress.

Lastly, children are beginning to see a mask as part of their identity. A kindergartener was a drawing a self-portrait and told me, “Oh, I guess I have to draw a mask on myself. It will cover up the pretty smile I drew.” This is absolutely heartbreaking, and it needs to stop now. Children are the least likely group to contract the virus and there is no logical reason why they need to be masked. The way children interact with their peers has shifted and kids are not able to just be kids anymore. With masks, they can no longer brighten the room with their sweet, toothless smiles. If children (or their parents) feel uncomfortable not wearing a mask at school, they have the option to still wear one. Each family should be allowed the opportunity to make the best decision for their family regarding masks, and if that is still wearing masks, there is nothing stopping them from doing that. However, if a family is comfortable not having their child wear a mask at school, then that should be equally accepted.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion regarding this issue. I hope to see many toothless grins this fall!

Kindly,
Katelyn Duffy

From: Jillian Millsap
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Mandates

To whom it may concern:

I am a parent of a child in Washoe county and I HIGHLY disagree with mask mandating the children period. There's really no difference from 3rd to 4th grade. How do you think the children will feel seeing some peers in masks and not others?

Also, what ever happened to medical freedom?We as the people have the right to choose what we feel is best. No I say has EVER gone around asking if our children received a flu shot. To be matter of fact it is no ones business about vaccines.

If this mandate stands or even if it's required k-12 masking my child will no longer attend Washoe county schools. I know other parents who feel the same way. What will happen to the teachers? We will stand up for what's right, children have never been an issue nor should we go backwards.

Have a good day,
Jillian Porter

Sent from my iPhone

From: Miles Stewart
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks please!

Hello,

I was very disappointed by the district's decision to drop the mask requirement for younger students for the last couple weeks of school last year. I hope with the surging COVID case numbers, especially among younger people, you will revert back to requiring masks for everyone.

Please give us the benefit of having a vaccine available for students, and a few weeks to receive both doses for full protection, before you consider dropping the mask requirement this coming year. Pfizer is estimating their vaccine could be available for children ages 5-11 in Sept or Oct. I know people are tired of wearing masks but it is a small sacrifice to make until a vaccine is available for our children. I know the best place for my children to learn is in the classroom with their teacher, please do your part to make sure that classroom is as safe a possible.

Thank you,
Miles Stewart

Melissa Fitch

Public Comment

NO MASKS!

NONE of you PUBLIC ELECTED SERVANTS, are medical professionals. Kevin Dick, our complete joke of a county district health officer, also has ZERO medical training. Please take note that our next door neighbor, Gavin Newsome, is being sued over school mask mandates and you are next! EDUCATE YOURSELVES!

Viruses are far too small to be prevented by most masks, including cloth or paper/fiber masks. More than FORTY SEVEN studies proving that masks are INEFFECTIVE in preventing Covid infection and transmission, as well as a list of THIRTY TWO studies confirming the harmful effects of regular mask use, particularly in young children. The potentially harmful physical and mental impacts on children with almost NO RISK of Covid damage have become increasingly pronounced and extremely concerning.

1. Deoxygenation caused by a surgical mask during major surgery
2. Structural characteristics on the dynamic breathing resistance of a medical face mask
3. Respiratory effects of using a N95-type mask in pregnant healthcare workers
4. Healthcare providers' headaches and the N95 face-mask
5. A randomized controlled trial of the use of surgical face masks to minimize the incidence of the common cold among health-care workers in Japan
6. The amount of oxygen reducing in your brain's blood
7. Effects of the N95 filtering facepiece respirator on healthcare workers' health
8. COVID-19-related skin reactions in health-care professionals wearing personal protective equipment
9. Candida growth
10. A highly nasty adverse effect of wearing masks is known as "mask mouth"
11. Mouth fungus
12. 'Maskne'
13. Mould and infections
14. Mould colonization in your sinuses
15. A study on the effectiveness of disposable face masks
16. The elastic in surgical face masks to stimulate ear protrusion in children
17. Allergies due to the mask collecting particles
18. The physiological impact of wearing an N95 mask
19. Other face mask side effects and health implications
20. Surgical caps, face masks, external surfaces of infusion bottles
21. Mask production "factory" produces a lot of masks
22. Allergies and the Immune System

23. Virus interactions with bacteria
24. Viruses and bacteria unite
25. Psychological effects of wearing a mask
26. A child's emotional, intellectual development side effects
27. Mental health issues
28. Long-term psychological effects of wearing face masks
29. Negative psychological consequences
30. Face Masks, empathy and dis-inhibition
31. Microplastic fibers in the environment
32. Become vectors of enhanced transmission for both the wearer and other people

Our children are now being raised by fear. Fear of each other. Fear of the world. Fear of illnesses and viruses and even the air that they breathe. They are being taught to fear everything. Prolonged fear is terror and terror becomes trauma. The psychological damage being done is irreversible.

We, the public, who foolishly elected all of you on the board, are done with you playing God with our children. You've robbed seniors from graduations, you have stolen a year of education from our kids and we are DONE with your misguided and fear motivated mandates adversely affecting our kids. Lawsuits are coming!

From: Jun Jie Stewart
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks need to be required for 3rd graders

Hi,

I would like to request masks for all grades including 3rd graders and younger.

With the Delta Variant is spreading rapidly, all the kids who are too young to be vaccinated are in a very vulnerable situation. Pls require kids all grades to wear mask to prevent spreading the virus.

Thank you

JJ

Sent from my iPhone

From: Matt Lipkowitz
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Public Comments; McNeill, Kristen; jeffrey.chruch@washoeschools.net; Minetto, Ellen
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on School Masking for 2021-2022 School year

Good Afternoon,

I am writing today to voice my concerns as a parent with 2 kids in the school district. I am so very sick and tired of the masking debate as it pertains to everyone, but more importantly as it pertains to kids under the age of 18.

Every pundit on television and public figure has been saying they are "following the science" and that is what is driving their policy decisions. This is a flat out lie, public figures unfortunately are following the science that aligns with their personal fears and political ideologies.

We now have a year's worth of data on COVID, its transmission, infection rates, and mortality rates and mask effectiveness. Not to mention vaccinations and the successes seen for those choosing to be vaccinated. I have added some resources as they relate to infection rates and severity of COVID and children along with mask issues to consider.

https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2021/05/26/new-study-refutes-fauci-efficacy-of-mask-mandates-n2589990
https://www.bbc.com/news/health-57766717

With the vaccine being readily available for those who want it and the case rates and severity amount children under the age of 17, topped with not only the physical issues created by children wearing mask, by the emotional and social impact it has on the kids, I ask you to use common sense and logic on your decision to reintroduce masks in schools. Look at the last half of just this past school year, when mask policies were lifted in schools in Washoe County, did we suddenly have COVID outbreaks threatening our schools? We did not. It remained business as usual with happier children and teachers.

Thank you for your time.

Matt Lipkowitz, CPA
MBL Consulting, Inc.

From: Brian Frost
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] public comment for the July 27 WCSD meeting

Chair Taylor and Trustees of the Washoe County School district:

I am the father of two elementary school children (2nd and 5th grade) in District D and I strongly encourage you to follow the science and require all students, faculty, and staff in the school district to wear masks this coming Fall. The CDC recommends schools require face coverings (regardless of vaccination status) as does the American Academy of Pediatrics. COVID cases are again spiking in Washoe and the vast majority of our students remain unvaccinated. Remember that children under 12 are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine. We are so close to the finish line on this we owe it to our children to reinstitute masking requirements to keep our kids in school and as safe as possible this year.

Thank you all for your time and service to our community

Brian Frost

From: Chelle and Mike Spaulding
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Church, Jeffrey
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Covid 19 Policies when returning to school

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michelle Spaulding and I am the parent of a rising Junior at Damonte Ranch High School.

It has come to my attention that the Washoe County School District Board will review the COVID 19 policies and masks as they apply to the upcoming school year. I am writing to you to urge consideration to please do away with masks altogether. To allow the students to have normalcy. Masks do not serve a purpose in our schools. These students, when required to wear masks are socializing outside school the day before, having sleepover the weekend before, but yet are being forced to return to school with social distancing and masking. Students are low risk and have seen little effect on them directly from COVID. But I can tell you the effects of not socializing and being separated from their peers during school will be catastrophic to which we will not know or understand for years to come. Technology already puts these kids at a disadvantage at social interaction and the masks are putting the final nail in the coffin.

When considering the mask policy and COVID 19 restrictions, please make sure you consider the students. Not the parents who are scared and thus will cause the most noise. If those parents want masks, they absolutely can ask/make their kids wear masks in school. But I urge you to not make a policy for the minority when the majority just want to get back to normal. These kids are socializing outside of school, playing sports outside of school. It should be their choice to wear a mask not something they are forced into.

Those that are high risk must absolutely take necessary steps and precautions as they see fit and are comfortable but to put the burden on others after almost 2 years …. Each student, and family should make a choice that best fits them. There should not be a blanket policy. Let those that want to be vaccinated be vaccinated. Those that want to wear masks, wear masks. But please do not force these kids into isolation.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration when making a final decision on these issues.

Kindest and Best Regards,

Michelle Spaulding
#TeamSpaulding

From: WCSD STUDENT
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Facemask Policy

Hello Trustees,

I am a rising high school senior in Washoe County, and I urge you to require facial coverings in schools for this upcoming fall semester.

Washoe County currently has a 'High Level of Community Transmission' [1] as defined by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and thus, fully vaccinated individuals are recommended to wear face coverings indoors [2]. Additionally, only 50.6% of individuals in Washoe County are fully vaccinated [3]. While it is fantastic to have that many people vaccinated, it is not yet enough to relax COVID-19 precautions in our schools. The CDC recommends unvaccinated individuals to wear face coverings indoors, regardless of the community transmission rate [4]. Based on these CDC guidelines, both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals should wear facial coverings indoors in Washoe County, and I strongly urge the board to follow these guidelines.

It is great for the board to have the goal of keeping students in in-person school. As a student, I have found the hybrid and distance models very challenging this past year due to the lack of in-person instruction. I absolutely support the decision for students to return to class full-time, but masks must be mandatory. Without COVID-19 prevention methods such as facemasks, the district is unnecessarily adding to the risk of increased covid transmission, and the possibility of eventually returning to a hybrid or distance model. To be frank, these online attendance models have a pronounced negative effect on my education. Masks do not. Giving students the 'freedom' to not wear masks in schools will increase the chance of returning to an online model later in the year. I ask that the board gives schools the best chance of remaining in-person, and that can happen through a mask requirement.

This past year has shown students' capabilities of wearing masks in schools, and I see no reason not to require these harmless COVID-19 prevention tools. For the benefit of the community and the attempt to keep students in in-person school, I urge you to require facial coverings in Washoe County Schools this fall.

TL:DR Please mandate masks, not enough people are vaccinated, help keep students in in-person school.

Thank you,
A WCSD student.

[1] https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view
[2] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html
[3] https://covidactnow.org/us/nevada-nv/county/washoe_county/?s=21081032
[4] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html

From: McIntosh, Danielle
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: New mask guidance from CDC

I certainly hope this is discussed and acted on during today's meeting. Our youngest children need to be protected.

https://www.ktvn.com/story/44388005/cdc-to-urge-vaccinated-people-to-resume-wearing-masks-indoors

Danielle McIntosh, M.Ed.
ELD Site Facilitator

From: T. H.
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as a concerned parent. I have 2 boys in WCSD schools. There is absolutely no confirmation that masks work to prevent the spread of ANY virus let alone COVID-19 the particles are way too small, the warning on the side of the box of masks even says so. There are many studies that prove masks do not work. Making our children wear masks again is child abuse. They are not able to get a proper education if they are masked.
How can we ask our children to mask up, when they have been everywhere all summer without masks and been fine! It makes no sense to be able to go to stores, amusement parks, or concerts without a mask and then require children to mask up to go to school. This is emotionally scarring our children. If parents are concerned about the virus then they should have the option to make their children wear masks or do distance learning. These parents should not put their fears upon everyone else. MASKS SHOULD BE OPTIONAL!!! Please do not do this to our children, they have already been through so much.
We are seriously considering pulling our kids out of the WCSD school system if they move forward with mask mandates. When parents start pulling kids and going elsewhere you lose funding….bottom line!

Thank you,
Tami Houston

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Kimberly Garman
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

When considering this upcoming school year , I hope the Board will consider making masks optional for those staff and students over 12 who have been vaccinated. Many high school students received the vaccine simply so they could get back to "normal." This last year and a half has been EXTREMELY difficult on our students. Depression and failure rates were at an all time high. Many are going to be asking "Then why did I get vaccinated?"

For staff it can be very difficult to teach with a mask on. I know because I did it every day last year. Students cannot hear you, they cannot see how you are pronouncing sounds , or see you simply smiling.

In addition, the 3 feet spacing recommendation is going to be very difficult at full capacity. I have 29 students on my roster. Keeping them 3 feet apart is going to be very difficult. It's the same requirement as last year but with 10 additional students!

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Garman

Sent from my iPhone

From: Amber
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on 3.06

Hello my name is Amber Hart, I came today for public comment but sadly cant stay the duration of the meeting to do so. I would like to request that the board choose to remove any and all mask mandates for the children of all ages in our public schools. We have all seen the data, chidren are not super spreaders and are not statistically being infected with Covid 19. Kindly stop masking the children and startstanding up for their pschyological well being. Thank you.

From: Kelly Euse
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Face Masks Pose Serious Risks to Children

Dear Board of Trustees,

According to JAMA Pediatrics (published June 30, 2021), "The question whether nose and mouth covering increases carbon dioxide in inhaled air is crucial….Adverse effects in parents and children…has shown that 68% of the of the participating children had problems when wearing nose and mouth coverings….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 the 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***."

***Hypercapnia Definition:** an abnormally high concentration of carbon dioxide in the blood, usually caused by acute respiratory failure from conditions such as asthma and obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). It can lead to seizures and death if acute and untreated. It can also cause effects such as headaches, dizziness, fatigue, and loss of consciousness. It is often caused by hypoventilation where not enough oxygen enters the lungs and not enough carbon dioxide is emitted.

The following are considered symptoms of hypercapnia:

* dizziness
* drowsiness
* excessive fatigue
* headaches
* feeling disoriented
* flushing of the skin
* shortness of breath
*confusion
* coma
* depression or paranoia
* hyperventilation
* irregular heartbeat or arrhythmia
* loss of consciousness
* muscle twitching
* panic attacks
* seizures
* death

"We suggest that decision-makers weigh the hard evidence produced by these experimental measurements accordingly, which suggests that children should not be forced to wear face masks." JAMA Pediatrics June 30, 2021

Furthermore, all scientific studies agree, fine aerosols cannot be stopped by cloth or surgical masks. Researchers have shown that cloth masks can actually increase respiratory viral infections. As for N95 masks versus surgical masks, there is a difference in terms of side effects. The N95 mask filters out 95% of particles because it impairs respiratory exchange (breathing) to a greater degree than a surgical mask or cloth mask, and it is associated with more headaches. **The main cause of headaches when using an N95 mask is from hypoxia and hypercapnia.**

Additionally, researchers have measured blood oxygen levels of mask-wearers and found a significant drop in oxygen levels. The importance of this finding is that a drop in blood oxygen levels (hypoxia) is associated with an impairment in immunity.

"In essence, your mask may very well put you at an increased risk of infections." (Russel Blaylock, MD)

I am a doctor, and wear a mask daily when treating my patients. I have been to OSHA meetings yearly for the past 20+ years. I understand exactly how masks work and don't work. Please follow the science and do NOT make recommendations that can and will cause serious health risks to our children. Masks pose serious health risks to children (and adults)!

In Good Health,
Kelly A. Euse, DDS, BA

Cc: Kristy L. Bertelsen, Esq.

Sent from my iPad

From: Dana Trimble
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for 7/27/21 Agenda Item 3.06

Dear Trustees,

Thank you for your service on the board, especially during these extra challenging times. People should not be blaming the school board for the current situation with the Delta Variant. The Board is required to do what is in the best interest of the students under the current situation.

I hope you will take into account the most recent CDC Regulation recommending all students and staff wear masks, regardless of age and vaccination status. I originally felt that those who did not get vaccinated were putting themselves at risk and that did not affect me. However, as we have seen with the Delta Variant, it is rapidly spreading among those that are unvaccinated. This is how a virus works. It uses a host to spread and mutate. If we do not do something to stop the spread, we will soon be dealing with another variant. The more the virus mutates, the less likely the vaccine will be to prevent infection and we will end up back in the same situation as we were in the Fall of 2020 and Winter of 2021 before vaccines were available.

The decision by some members of our community to not get vaccinated has allowed the Delta variant to spread, putting our students education, extracurricular activities, our economy and mental well-being, and, most importantly, the health of our students and their families. I do not want to see our schools and community shut down again and requiring masks is a great compromise.

John Hess, a physician a Pinnacle Medical Group has been closely following the data and CDC guidelines. I encourage you to read his Facebook post from today, especially regarding masks for our youngest students:

John Hess

COVID 19 UPDATE!!!!! PLEASE READ

Hello everyone, The CDC is going to announce two significant steps in trying to control the current outbreak of the Delta variant in the USA.

First, In areas of current high transmission (this includes Washoe Co!) all individuals whether vaccinated or not wear masks around others in indoor spaces until transmission rates fall to lower levels.

Second, all students, teachers and staff K-12 wear masks at all times while indoors in schools regardless of vaccination status. This follows the American Academy of Pediatrics who made this recommendation last week. I know that our own school district appears to be going against this recommendation by allowing those in the 3rd grade or below the option to not wear masks. I'm not exactly sure on where that guidance is coming from other than data previously indicated that small children where much less likely to spread COVID than teens and adults. That data however was based on earlier versions of the virus and Delta is 2-4 times more transmissible than the earlier versions and produces viral loads 1000 times more than prior versions. There is now ample evidence that small children can spread disease quite efficiently. That being said I believe if a child has mental or physical disabilities that makes wearing mask difficult exceptions should absolutely be made.

So why the change in recommendations.

First, we are seeing more symptomatic breakthrough cases in the vaccinated. The data out of Israel is pretty clear that those vaccinated are losing a moderate degree of protection from previously. The protection against symptomatic disease is now down to around 40%. Fortunately severe illness is still protected against at about 90% but remember originally the protection was at 98-99% against severe illness.

Second, The disease is absolutely ripping through the unvaccinated. Hospitalization rates in those between the ages of 20-60 who are unvaccinated is significantly higher than previously. As an example hospitalizations in Las Vegas are now higher than they were at the peak of last summers

surge. This is striking considering the average age of hospitalization is much, much younger than previously and around 50% of the population has been taken out of the equation through vaccination.

So as always if you or your loved one isn't vaccinated PLEASE GET VACCINATED and if you live in an area of high transmission. Mask up. Take care and stay safe. John

Thank you again for your time.

Dana Trimble

From: Kevin Glatzel
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masking of our children is wrong

Greetings,

I have two WCSD children attending elementary school. It seems ridiculous to tell my 10 year old fifth grader that she is perceived by her school as more diseased than my 7 year old second grader? They are both healthy and deserve to breathe fresh air and see expression as part of their mental health, growth, and development. I ask that you please consider not requiring kids to wear masks in school when they can breathe freely everywhere else.

Thank you,

Kevin

From: Molly Mahannah
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

To whom it may concern:
Masking our kids for another school year only hurts the kids. It changes the way they learn and makes it harder. I also have a daughter with post traumatic stress disorder and having we her wear a mask all the tim can be detrimental to her health. Please let the kids be kids.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alicia Ferraro
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: hrm@admin.nv.gov; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Taylor, Angela; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Nicolet, Diane M; BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Suggestion for Solution re: Agenda Item 3.06 - REQUEST RESPONSE
Attachments: carbonmonoxide-factsheet.pdf; Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology (2021).pdf; Xenex LightStrike UV Robots Deactivate SARS-CoV-2 on Surfaces in 2 Minutes in New Peer-Reviewed Study.pdf

Good afternoon,

This is in reference to agenda item 3.06 per today's WSCD meeting on July 27th, 2021.

Per your statement on the WCSD website: The Washoe County School District provides each student the opportunity to achieve his or her potential through a superior education in a ***safe*** and challenging environment in order to develop responsible and productive citizens for our diverse and rapidly changing community.

I would like to suggest a solution that is currently being utilized here at Renown Hospital to disinfect and sterilize all spaces in order to maintain safe and healthy facilities. It is referenced (attached); Xenex LightStrike UV Robots – additionally (attached) from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology- Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology (2021), 42

I would also like to provide some mitigation measures that could be considered based on the grant funding mentioned in this agenda item totaling $2,395,923.18. (Agenda item 2.15 for Title 1 School Improvement). Unfortunately, this link was not available via DOE NV and I requested a response but have not received access to view this information. Please provide that data per the request in this email so as to provide transparency.

Suggestions based on successful measures within other education facilities in the US:

- Facility modifications, such as the installation of Germicidal Ultraviolet Lights inside HVAC systems located in all classrooms, bathrooms and elevators, to destroy harmful microorganisms, including mold, mildew, fungi, bacteria, and viruses like COVID-19, eliminate bad odors, and purify the air; as well as the installation of electrostatic air purifiers in common areas to remove contaminants from the air and improve air quality; and re-equipment of all HVAC systems with advanced filters to mechanically purify the air.
- Enhanced cleaning training and routines: All faculty, staff, and students will have training on hygiene requirements and cleaning practices, and cleaning crews will be doing hourly sanitization of surfaces and nightly deep cleaning and sanitizing.
- Temperature screenings: The school asks that all parents screen their child's temperature before coming to school, and will do temperature checks upon arrival for all visitors with thermal cameras and no-touch sensors.
- Stay home requirements: The school's sick policy has been updated to include a required stay-home clause for any individual who is feeling unwell, with at least 48 hours of being symptom-free before returning to school (this includes students, visitors, faculty and staff).

I would like to know what we can do to support this. I request a response from those included on this email as to the safety data related to depleting oxygen from our children as it has already been illustrated **NOT** to be safe. (attached) Carbon Monoxide Factsheet per OSHA.

Thank you for your time and I look back to hearing back from you per my request with your responses.

Alicia Ferraro

Renown HEALTH

From: Student Student
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Taylor, Angela; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Minetto, Ellen; Nicolet, Diane M; Church, Jeffrey; Calvert, Jacqueline M; BoardMembers; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Dr. McNeill's recommendation regarding mask wearing

Hello,
I am a rising senior in Washoe County and I would like to share my thoughts and some research on agenda item 3.06.
I support the decision to go back fully in person this year but without masks, full capacity is an unnecessary risk.

The facts:
If we as a district do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19, then it is far less likely for new variants to be spread that could "outsmart" the vaccines we have available. For more information, please refer to the link below:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), "children ages 2 years and older can and should wear cloth face coverings when not able to physically distance, including while in schools ... and other group settings."
(https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/08/13/covid19facecoverings081320)
The CDC also recommends that even vaccinated people should wear masks indoors.
(read more at https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/27/cdc-to-reverse-indoor-mask-policy-to-recommend-them-for-fully-vaccinated-people-in-covid-hot-spots.html and https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/27/politics/cdc-mask-guidance/index.html)
Washoe County was recently flagged for risky statistics regarding COVID cases. (https://www.kolotv.com/2021/07/23/washoe-county-now-flagged-elevated-covid-19-rate/#:~:text=(KOLO)%20%2D%20Washoe%20County%20is,rate%20per%20100%2C000%2C%20and%203)

A quick Google search of the words "Washoe County School District Mission Statement" will lead you to the District "About Us" page. The first line reads: "The Washoe County School District is focused on creating an education system where all students achieve academic success, develop personal and civic responsibility, and achieve career and college readiness for the 21st century."
A key factor in supporting academic success is working to ensure that every student feels safe at school. I know that I am not alone in feeling anxious and vulnerable when people around me are not wearing masks. This anxiety is detrimental to my ability to concentrate and could easily reduce my chances of academic success as I might not be able to focus on the content presented to me in school.
Requiring face coverings will also promote and model the idea of personal and civic responsibility since wearing masks will not only protect the individual but our peers as well. There are some students who are not able to get vaccinated (due to age, allergies, health conditions, etc.), meaning that they are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. This is why it is important that we practice civic responsibility by wearing masks to protect ourselves, as well as those who are most vulnerable.
While I and many of my peers are grateful that we will be going back to school fully in person this year, many of us are concerned about the absence of face coverings now that there will be up to 35 of us crammed into a classroom shoulder to shoulder. Even with reduced capacity last school year, staying 6 feet apart was very difficult, so this year social distancing seems virtually impossible, meaning that masks are necessary to keep each student and family safe. The presence of face coverings does not compromise a student's ability to learn, but the constant fear and anxiety that results from a lack of masks could inhibit many students' ability to learn. Additionally, contracting COVID-19 would undoubtedly inhibit academic success since the isolation period and recovery would keep students out of school for at least two weeks.
Although wearing a mask does reduce an individual's chance of contracting COVID-19, what offers the most protection aside from isolation and social distancing is when every student wears a mask. It is not enough for some students to choose to wear a mask; it takes effort from every community member and student to keep everyone safe.
As you can see in the infographic below, if a carrier is unmasked, others are far more likely to be infected than if the carrier is wearing a mask. It is likely that those who choose to wear masks are more careful than those who don't. As a result of this general behavior, students who do not wear masks could be more likely to have COVID-19 and are therefore more likely to spread it to other students even if the uninfected person wears a mask. In other words, those who will choose not to wear a mask are arguably the ones that need to wear face coverings the most to protect those around them.

It is in the best interest of all students, faculty, and families to require masks this upcoming school year. I want to leave you with a few facts supported by science and health organizations showing the need for masks for the upcoming school year.

There is **ample evidence supporting the face coverings**. I see no reason why masks should not be required since there is **no peer-reviewed literature saying that masks are to the detriment of our community**. Many students, staff, and families **feel unsafe without a mask requirement**, especially since social distancing will not be possible this year. Wearing masks proposes no real danger that could interfere with student success. It is a minor inconvenience, if at all, that will **save lives and the mental health of our students.** It is essential for everyone to wear masks in order to protect ourselves and others.

None of us chose to live through a pandemic, but we as a community can choose to hold each other accountable and require masks.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment,

A concerned student

From: CoachLawrence
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask considerations

Dear Board Members
In light of recent developments and the Governor's latest directive; I would suggest requiring all adult teachers, staff and visitors be required to wear masks indoors only until the directive is lifted. However I would encourage the students to wear masks but not require them. This appears to be allowed by the Governor directive and should look to be a fair compromise with teachers Union and parents.
Thank you for your consideration
Coach and Parent Joe Lawrence Sent from my iPhone

From: Selena La Rue
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Social distancing

I am writing in regards to the district protocol which calls for 3 feet of distance between students this next year..I support this measure, however I am unclear about how we can implement this with full classes this year. I personally have 44 students in a classroom made for about 30. I'm wondering how teachers can keep students three feet apart when we have to cram desks together just to fit them in the room.

Can someone please clarify this discrepancy?

~Selena La Rue Hatch

From: Brad
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:12 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 7/27/21_regarding 3.06-Brad Wass

Brad Wass:

1.Carbon monoxide damage to the nervous system. Let his provides
2. Fungal and bacterial infections on the face and respiratory system.
3. Developmental issues from not learning facial expression.
4. Mental health issues from fear based practice.
5. Learning deficiency by the constant distraction of masks. e.g.. Enforcing masks, protesting masks, missing masks, broken masks.
Please do not Implementing masks for a demographic that is almost 100% uninfected. Do not disregard the larger and lasting effects mask wearing will have on children
47 studies confirm ineffectiveness of masks for COVID and 32 more confirm their negative health effects

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Faust Family
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:43 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unmask our children

Board Members,

I would like to voice my recommendation to start the school year WITHOUT masks. The superintendent is asking our children to wear masks for 6 hrs/day with ABSOLUTELY no science to back up that recommendation. In fact, there is far more science to the contrary. Our own CDC, which you site as your source, states there is no statistical significance between wearing a mask or not.
The kids have spend their summer having sleep overs, going to crowded water parks, and taking family vacations…AS THEY SHOULD…without masks. Now you think there is this scary danger of Covid that will infect them in our schools?? I question your intelligence if that is logical to you.
Bottom line is YOU ALL are damaging our children. You are damaging their physical and psychological health. Suicide is up you know…isn't that an important health crisis?? You all are in the business of education so you would think that would be the most important but this will continue to DAMAGE our children's education. They are already at least 2 years behind. As a former educator, I know how long and hard teachers have to work to make up that time to get the kids to grade level. At this point it's close to impossible. Add another year and it's certainly impossible!!
I am sure your minds are made up and you are taking public comment as a formality but PLEASE DO NOT MASK UP OUR KIDS AGAIN.
Thank you,
Melani Faust

PS. According to your own presentation on the air quality in our schools being to the standard of a health facility, there should be no need for masks.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nicole Hewitt
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:04 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Directive 024

Hello, I've been watching the meeting all day, and appreciate all of the discussion and decisions being made today.
In the governor's directive issued today, it states that the people excluded in directive 024 can continue to be excluded from this mandate. I will attach the screen shot of the directive 024. It states that children ages 9 and under are not mandated to wear masks/face coverings. My daughter is 9, she turned 9 in May and is going into 4th grade. I do not believe, per the directives, she is mandated to wear a mask. I do not think it should be mandated by grade but again, as 024 states by age.
I know the choices you are all having to make are incredibly frustrating and difficult, I just believe we should stick to the guidelines in 024, stating that children 9 and under are not mandated. I understand it is easier to follow by grade, but schools do have birth certificates for each child and are able to determine their age if needed.

From: Christa Rossi
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:19 PM
To: BoardMembers; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recent RGJ Article

Please see the attached photo and article regarding the updated mask policy.

https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2021/07/27/nevada-issues-emergency-order-requiring-masks-all/5395205001/

So are we all caving under pressure?

From: Katania Taylor
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ED 024 exempts kids 9 and under!

ED 024 exempts kids 9 and under!!

Sent from Health Freedom Nevada
Katania Taylor, Chair

From: Scott Benton
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: McNeill, Kristen
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Funding for FRCs

President Taylor, the Board of Trustees, and the esteemed Superintendent McNeill:

My name is Scott Benton and I am proud to say I serve at the Washoe County School Districts Chair of the Council on Family Resource Centers. I apologize I wasn't able to make it to the board meeting in person, but I wanted to thank you for supporting the grant applications for some of the funding resources to our Family Resource Centers (FRCs).

Having served on this council for three years, the support of grants has giving these centers resources to help many families that come through our centers. Often times, our centers come up short and experience a funding gap which leaves our centers trying to find community providers to help in the aid of our families. We as a council are always looking for ways to increase funding sources as we recognize this to be a struggle, if not our number struggle.

I would be remised if I did not recognize Dr LaMarca and Rechelle along with the amazing day to day staff and Directors of the centers for the continuous hard work to find ways to meet every families needs, making sure every family is served, and above all doing an incredible job every day with limited resources. I am proud to serve as the Chair and know that you as the Board of Trustees will be proud of the work our centers do.

If there is ever an interest to see our centers, or have a presentation on the amazing work our centers do, we have three great directors and I would love to present to the Board of Trustees, and we would love some creative feedback and ideas on ways to fill the funding gaps!

Thank you for your work, Dr. McNeill, thank you for your support of our centers!

Kindly yours,
Scott L Benton

From: Suzanne Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:07 PM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment-Masks

Dear Trustees,

Science teachers teach students to make evidence based decisions based on the recommendation of scientists. Please lead by example, and follow the guidance of the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Washoe Health Department. All students should wear face coverings indoors according to the recommendations.

Thank You,
Suzanne Lewis
Parent and former science teacher

Date: July 26, 2021

To: Board of Trustees

I am sending you this notice, on behalf of my two children, Sophie and Delsie Duvall, who attend high school in the Washoe County School District. My findings raise significant concerns, both medically and legally, of the current mask policy in place – Governor's Directive 045. Masks are ineffective for the purpose claimed by the mandate, potentially harmful, and only authorized for use by an EUA.

Masks are ineffective and in many ways they harm.

It's a myth that masks prevent viruses from spreading. The overall evidence is clear: Standard cloth and surgical masks offer next to no protection against virus-sized particles or small aerosols.[1] The size of a virus particle is much too small to be stopped by a surgical mask, cloth or bandana. A single virion of SARS-CoV-2 is about 60-140 nanometers or 0.1 microns.[2] The pore size in a surgical mask is 200-1000x that size.

Consider that the CDC website states, "surgical masks do not catch all harmful particles in smoke." And that the size of smoke particles in a wildfire are ~0.5 microns which is 5x the size of the SARS-CoV-2 virus! Wearing a mask to prevent catching SARS-CoV-2, or similarly sized influenza, is like throwing sand at a chain-link fence: it doesn't work. There has been one large randomized controlled trial that specifically examined whether masks protect their wearers from the coronavirus. This study found mask wearing "did not reduce, at conventional levels of statistical significance, the incidence of Sars-Cov-2-infection."[3]

Consider also, that the existence of more particles does not mean more virus. Research shows less virus does not mean less illness. Dr. Kevin Fennelly, a pulmonologist at the National Heart, Lung and Blood institute debunked the view that larger droplets are responsible for viral transmission. Fennelly wrote:

> "current infection control policies are based on the premise that most respiratory infections are transmitted by large respiratory droplets- i.e., larger than 5 [microns] – produced by coughing and sneezing, …Unfortunately, that premise is wrong."[4]

Fennelly referenced a 1953 paper on anthrax that showed a single bacterial spore of about one micron was significantly more lethal than larger clumps of spores.[5] Exposure to one virus particle is theoretically enough to cause infection and subsequent disease. This is not an alarming thought - it simply means what it has always meant, that our immune system protects us continually all our life.[6]

There have been hundreds of mask studies related to influenza transmission done over several decades. It is a well-established fact that masks do not stop viruses. “Part of that evidence shows that cloth facemasks actually increase influenza-linked illness.”[7] Bacteria are 50x larger than virus particles.[8] As such, virus particles can enter through the mask pores, yet bacteria remain trapped inside of the mask, resulting in the mask-wearer continually exposed to the bacteria.

Related to the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, there was almost universal agreement among experts, that deaths were virtually never caused by the influenza virus itself but resulted directly from severe secondary pneumonia caused by well-known bacterial “pneumopathogens” that colonized the upper respiratory tract.[9] Dr. Fauci and his National Institute of Health studied pandemics and epidemics and concluded, “the vast majority of influenza deaths resulted from secondary bacterial pneumonia.”[10]

All parties mandating the use of facemasks are not only willfully ignoring established science but are engaging in what amounts to a whole state clinical experimental trial. This conclusion is reached by the fact that facemask use and COVID-19 incidence are being reported in scientific opinion pieces promoted by the CDC and others.[11] The fact is after reviewing ALL of the studies worldwide, the CDC found “no reduction in viral transmission with the use of face masks.”[12]

Additionally, children have been repeatedly shown not to be drivers of this contagion. It is well accepted that children have a statistically zero chance of dying from COVID. The CDC shows the K-12 mortality rate from or with COVID is .00003.[13] Any intervention, especially one that is prophylactic, must cause fewer harms to the recipient than the infection. Since children have the lowest death rate from COVID infection, the cost-benefit of requiring children to wear an investigational face-covering with emerging safety issues is especially difficult to justify. Anthony Fauci was very clear that asymptomatic transmission was not a threat. He stated, “in all the history of respiratory-borne viruses of any type, asymptomatic transmission has never been the driver of outbreaks. The driver of outbreaks is always a symptomatic person.”[14]

Wearing respirators comes with a host of physiological and psychological burdens. These can interfere with task performances and reduce work efficiency. These burdens can even be severe enough to cause life-threatening conditions if not ameliorated.[15] Fifteen years ago, National Taiwan University Hospital concluded that the use of N-95 masks in healthcare workers caused them to experience hypoxemia, a low level of oxygen in the blood, and hypercapnia, an elevation in the blood's carbon dioxide levels.[16] Studies of simple surgical masks found significant reductions in blood oxygen as well. In one particular study, researchers

measured blood oxygenation before and after surgeries in 53 surgeons. Researchers found the mask reduced the blood oxygen levels significantly, and the longer the duration of wearing the mask, the greater the drop in blood oxygen levels.[17]

Moreover, people with cancer, will be at a further risk from hypoxia, as cancer cells grow best in a bodily environment that is low in oxygen. Low oxygen also promotes systemic inflammation which, in turn, promotes "the growth, invasion and spread of cancers."[18] Repeated episodes of low oxygen, known as intermittent hypoxia, also "causes atherosclerosis" and hence increases "all cardiovascular events" such as heart attacks, as well as adverse cerebral events like stroke.[19]

Furthermore, the mandatory mouth mask in schools is a major threat to a child's development. It ignores the essential needs of a growing child. The well-being of children and young people is highly dependent on the emotional connection with others. Masks create a threatening and unsafe environment, where emotional connection becomes difficult.[20]

Informed consent is required for investigational medical therapies.

Regardless of the lack of safety and efficacy behind the decision to require a child to wear a mask, it is illegal to mandate EUA approved investigational medical therapies without informed consent. Mask use for viral transmission prevention is authorized for Emergency Use only.[21] Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA, means "the products are investigational and experimental" only.[22] The statute granting the FDA the power to authorize a medical product of emergency use requires that the person being administered the unapproved product be advised of his or her right to refuse administration of the product.[23] This statute further recognizes the well-settled doctrine that medical experiments, or "clinical research," may not be performed on human subjects without the express, informed consent of the individual receiving treatment.[24]

The right to avoid the imposition of human experimentation is fundamental, rooted in the Nuremberg Code of 1947, has been ratified by the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki, and further codified in the United States Code of Federal Regulations. In addition to the Unites States regarding itself as bound by these provisions, these principles were adopted by the FDA in its regulations requiring the informed consent of human subjects for medical research.[25] The law is very clear; It is unlawful to conduct medical research (even in the case of emergency), unless steps taken to … secure informed consent of all participants.[26]

Furthermore, 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.[27]

The FDA EUA for surgical and/or cloth masks explicitly states, "the labeling must not state or imply… that the [mask] is intended for antimicrobial or antiviral protection or related, or for use such as infection prevention or reduction."[28]

Illegally mandating an investigational medical therapy generates liability.

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 COVID-19, 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.[29]

The fact that mask wearing presents a severe risk of harm to the wearer should – standing alone – not be required for children, particularly given that these children are not ill and have done nothing wrong that would warrant an infringement of their constitutional rights and bodily autonomy. Promoting use of a non-FDA approved, Emergency Use Authorized mask, is unwarranted and illegal. This mandate is in direct conflict with Section 360bbb-3€(1)(A)(ii)(I-III), which requires the wearer to be informed of the option to refuse the wearing of such "device." Misrepresenting the use of a mask as being intended for antimicrobial or antiviral protection, and/or misrepresenting masks for use as infection prevention or reduction is a deceptive practice under the FTC. It is clear, there is no waiver of liability under deceptive practices, even under a state of emergency. As such, forcing children to wear masks, or similarly forcing use any other non-FDA approved medical product without the child's (or the child's parental) consent, is illegal and immoral.

This letter serves as official notice that Sophie and Delsie Duvall do not consent to being forced to wear a mask. Sophie's and Delsie's advocates will not fail to take the maximum action permissible under the law against your organization, and against you personally. Accordingly, I urge you to comply with Federal and State law, and advise children they have a right to refuse

to wear a mask as a measure to prevent or reduce infection from COVID-19. Any other course of action is contrary to the law. I am willing to testify as to the veracity of the contents in this document. Please confirm no further pressure will be exerted upon Sophie or Delsie to follow this illegal mask mandate, and that Sophie and Delsie Duvall not face any retaliatory disciplinary action.

Sincerely,

Julie Duvall

Master of Science Degree Elementary Education

Bachelor of Science Child Development/ Elementary Education

University of Nevada, Reno

[1] https://www.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?doi=10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.4221
[2]Berenson, A (November 24, 2020). Unreported Truths about Covid-19 and Lockdowns: Part 3: Masks
[3]https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-6817
[4]https://www.thelanced.com/journals.lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(20)30323-4/fulltext
[5]https://www.thelanced.com/journals.lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(20)30323-4/fulltext
[6] https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090313150254.htm
[7] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/
[8] ttps://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/virus-vs-bacteria-difference
[9] The pathology and bacteriology of pneumonia following influenza. Chapter IV, Epidemic respiratory disease. The pneumonias and other infections of the respiratory tract accompanying influenza and measles, 1921 St, LouisCV Mosby (p. 107-281)
[10] https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/198/7/962/2192118
[11] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html
[12] Nonpharmaceutical Measures for Pandemic Influenza in Nonhealthcare Settings—Personal Protective and Environmental Measures, Jingyi Xiao1, Eunice Y. C. Shiu1, Huizhi Gao, Jessica Y. Wong, Min W. Fong, Sukhyun Ryu, and Benjamin J. Cowling (Volume 26, Number 5, May of 2020).
[13] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/k-12-testing.html
[14] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1orSO094uY
[15] Arthur Johnson, Journal of Biological Engineering (2016).
[16]The Physiological Impact of N95 Masks on Medical Staff, National Taiwan University Hospital (June 2005).
[17] Bader A et al. Preliminary report on surgical mask induced deoxygenation during major surgery. Neurocirugia 2008;19:12-126..
[18] Aggarwal BB. Nucler factor-kappaB: The enemy within. Cancer Cell 2004;6:203-208, and Blaylock RL. Immunoexcitatory mechanisms in glioma proliferation, invasion and occasional metastasis. Surg Neurol Inter 2013;4:15.
[19] Savransky V et al. Chronic intermittent hypoxia induces atherosclerosis. Am J Resp Crit Care Med 2007;175:1290-1297.
[20] https://www.world-today-news.com/70-doctors-in-open-letter-to-ben-weyts-abolish-mandatory-mouth-mask-atschool-belgium/
[21]https://www.fda.gov/media/137121/download
[22] https://ca.childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/CDE-Superintendent-Letter0from-Childrens-HealthDefense-California-Chapter.pdf
[23] 21 U.S.C.§ S360bbb-3 (The FD&C Act)
[24] 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A) ("Section 360bbb-3")
[25] C.F.R. § 50.20
[26] http://www.invertedalchemy.com/2020/12/belief-is-not-medical-counter-measure.html, 21 C.F.R. § 50.23, 21 C.F.R. §50.20 21 C.F.R. § 50.24
[27] FTC Act, 15 U.S. Code § 41
[28] https://www.fda.gov/media/137121/download
[29] Russell Blaylock, Id. (quoting Shehade H et al. Cutting edge: Hypoxia-Inducible Factor-1 negatively regulates Th1 function. J Immunol 2015;195:1372-1376. See also: Westendorf AM et al. Hypoxia enhances immunosuppression by inhibiting CD4+ effector T cell function and promoting Treg activity.

Cell Physiol Biochem 2017;41:1271-84. See further: Sceneay J et al. Hypoxia-driven immunosuppression contributes to the premetastatic niche. Oncoimmunology 2013;2:1 e2235

From: Taylor, Angela
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:01 AM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public comment

Hi JJ,
Please include this with Public Comment.

Thanks.
Angie

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Dr. Angela D. Taylor, President
WCSD Board of Trustees | District E
ataylor@washoeschools.net
www.washoeschools.net <http://www.washoeschools.net> Board Office: 775.789.4648 “If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.” Derek Bok

DAILY REMINDER

* Wear Face Coverings At All Times
* Maintain Social Distancing
* Wash Your Hands & Use Hand Sanitizer
* Help Keep Our Facilities Clean
* Perform a Self-Screening <https://www.washoeschools.net/SelfScreening> every day before school

On 7/26/21, 10:19 PM, "Vanessa Nelson" wrote:

As a parent of a child who cannot yet get vaccinated (she is 8), I would humbly ask that you look after these students and our medically vulnerable students and staff. Please have all students and staff wear masks until a time when all school age children can receive the vaccine.

Thank you,
Vanessa Nelson