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**From:** Kenda Mugs rave  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Masks

To whom this may concern,

I am a parent of two children in the washoe county school system. I don't feel like our children should be wearing masks for 6 hours a day it's child abuse and there is no science proving they are effective. Also as far as the covid vaccines you are causing discrimination in our schools when our children have to be vaccinated to play sports or field trips. All of this is putting our children's mental health at risk for suicide and other problems.

Kenda

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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**From:** Steve York  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Critical race theory masks and vaccines

I think there should be no critical race theory and masks and vaccines should be optional not mandated for all students staff parents teachers etc.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 6:18 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] school board meeting decorum

It is a shame that there are Washoe County residents who castigate our School Board Trustees for following the law. Our governor and health district officials are trying to keep our community safe and healthy. My husband and I applaud their actions. Our American culture supports an open and vigorous public debate, but those debates must be respectful. Our students need to be taught to separate fact from fiction, myths from reality. It isn't subversive to teach our students at all levels how to be critical thinkers. This is the way we raise responsible citizens, which is the job of all of us. Please know that you have supporters in the Reno community and continue to give a good example to all of our students. Janice and Patrick Flanagan, Reno 89509.

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**From:** Pablo Nava Duran  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 12:37 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments; Board.Members@washoeschool.net; Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COVID-19 and misinformation

Dear Board Members,

As I saw in the recent national news last Wednesday about mask mandates in public schools in Tennessee. After the meeting, it is even worse when anti-maskers look for school boards and audiences to find parking lots to follow,, frighten, yell, scream, and even kill them. As a result, police had to escort them out of the parking lots simply for wearing masks. That meeting is so terrible that school boards are risking their lives and anti-maskers has no place in any school board meeting to put children and students are risk for long term effect on health or even death. Also, if anti-maskers decide to harass. violence, and intimate school boards or public officials, they should prosecute and arrest them and put them in bars. It is unfortunate that mask mandates are becoming politically and politicians are putting politics over students the they (mostly republicans) must be proud

There are disingenuous about the high risk of COVID-19 and delta variant in nine schools. We may have to go back to COVID-19 policy last school year such that students can go to school every other day to reduce the spread of covid-19. Most WCSD students are not vaccinated, that very concerns me and putting students at risk of getting or tested positive for COVID 19 if this trend continues. CDC guidelines has issued that as delta variant continues to rise and most unvaccinated people are still refusing to take a COVID-19 vaccine, we will likely have to shut down schools and force students to have distance learning. Most students who are under 12 years of age are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. That is why we need to keep students safe and prevent them with long term health. if the students who are ended up in hospital, they are facing between life and death; if students are surveys, they and their parents will have to pay mostly 1.1 million dollars that will affect them long-term financial stability and hardship. My sister are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccines, she is 11 years old, me and my family are vaccinated, and she will have to wait until April 12th next year to be eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. Health, mental, and financial well-being are essential to her success in academic, athletics, and outside of school.

I need to be one clear, In Marce Herz MS, there are more than 80 students, parents, staff, administrators, and the community who are tested positive for COVID-19 so they have to quarantine for 14 days. In the future, we may see our students end up in hospital in intensive care because of misinformation and lack of empathy about the pandemic. Many anti-maskers said that "students will be fine" and many students are too young to be vaccinated contracting COVID-19. They also say that students will just accept an unfolding number of asymptomatic children spreading the delta variant among their parents, educators, and friends in their school, community, events, or taking home with COVID-19 and spreading it. Anti-maskers said that they will accept the outbreaks that shut down schools just like Texas, and Florida. who don't have masking requirements and thousands of schools are shut down facing they students, educators, and administrators are exposed. When anti-maskers are saying 'only' they are willing to accept students landing in the ICU or dying from COVID-19. They won't say it out loud, but it's exactly what they are saying and I cannot accept or kind about that and we shouldn't surprise anyone that majority of Nevadans, Washoe County officials, parents, educators, and administrators, and communities are reject anti-maskers and right-wing extremists who oppose mask mandates in public schools. WCSD should not sacrifice the health of any students, educators, staff, administrators, families, and communities. We also, we not let COVID-19 shut down our schools, unless CDC and governor Steve Sisolak tell everyone that full-time inperson school is critical to recovery to working parents, and communities. WCSD should not giving up or surrendered students to any kind of virus other than playing politics. Anti-masker, anti-vaxxers, and right-wing extremist are putting students at risk for politics and school board, communities, and parents are willing to protect them from

COVID-19. I think WCSD school board should be non-partisan, but some audiences want school board to push partisan agenda, we shouldn't happen to everyone, and we need to keep out or prevent partisan agenda from further meeting.

I saw or heard from the WCSD board meeting last Tuesday about anti-maskers and right wing extremists supporting resigning Kristen McNeil. Shouting out or supporting Kristen McNeil resign because of mask mandates is very unethical, untrustworthy, and they don't care about the safety of students; they only care about putting politics over students safety. I think Kristen McNeil is doing a great job keeping students safe, engaging in school and preparing for the future. I hope Kristen McNeil doesn't resign and stays strong. I have a message about audiences who oppose mask mandate, vaccine, intimate, and harass school boards for realign CDC recommendation, it proves to me that school board and health officials are correct, it struck a nerve in them because they know that it's true and they lashing out. Most anti-masker and anti-vaxxers get information from Fox News, OANN, Newsmax, Protect Nevada Children, America Frontline Doctors, right wing sources, and facebook that has a lot of misinformation. Misinformation can affect students' lives and it is dangerous to society, Learning environment, and the community. I get information from Associated Press, Reuters, BBC America, CBC, local news stations, Reno Gazette Journal, and This is Reno. If the right-wing extremist says that the school boards are wrong, you're correct because many right wing extremists are being radicalized by the media or facebook. Most of them are from Washoe County and they should have no business with WCSD that will negatively impact Reno-Sparks community.

For the New Board of Trustees, you're responsible for educating WCSD students in your districts. Being Board Members is not an easy task and long hours. Here are tips for becoming successful board members, review board policy, know the code of conduct, review board minutes, be open minded, keep the best interests of students, capitalize every opportunities, give the time to voice your options, you have only one votes, don't be surprise an unexpected public comments, be flexible, be compromise, be a good listeners, stay connected school community, establish policy and goals, learn chain of command, understanding Nevada open meeting laws, enjoy your role of helping students, and have fun.

Sincerely,

Pablo Nava Duran

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**From:** McKinnon, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** teacher vaccinations

Hello,

I am a teacher on my 4<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I have only had 1 normal year of teaching and that was my first, which any teacher knows is not a normal year. I am currently working to get my masters in education because it is what I love to do most. I love the joy in the student's eyes and the pride they feel when they understand what they are learning about. I am a social studies teacher, so it is my job to help the students learn from the mistakes of our past so that they are not repeated in their future. How I do that is by showing both sides to every argument and letting students decide what is right as long as they can back up their opinion with fact. It is a fact that I, as a person should be able to have the choice as to what goes into my body as a citizen in the United States. By forcing the vaccine on teachers my choice and my right to choice is taken away, no matter if it is for medical reasons, religious reasons or just my own personal choice.

When I got hired to be a middle school teacher no other medical records had to be shown. My other immunizations were not asked for. My surgical record was not asked for. It was not a question what my physical or mental health status was. Why now? Because there are mandates? Because it is "best" for the community? Mandates are not LAW. What is best for the community is for teachers to be in the building interacting with our students and giving them what they need. My vaccination status does not impact my ability to give my students what they need, and that is love, attention, knowledge, and the ability to question their world.

I fear that requiring teachers to be vaccinated/ covid tested every week will force many teachers out of the profession. This not only hurts those of us who have chosen to devote our lives to this career, but it also hurts the students. We are already in a teacher shortage and there are not enough subs. Forcing the teachers hand is not what is best for kids, it is not what is best for the community, and it is not the American way.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth McKinnon  
6th grade Individuals and Societies

**WASHOE COUNTY  
HEALTH DISTRICT**  
ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

August 16, 2021

Washoe County School District Board of Trustees  
425 East Ninth Street  
Reno, Nevada 89512

To the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees:

The purpose of this letter is to advocate for best practice prevention methods to be utilized in our school settings and across the community to protect our vulnerable populations, prevent collapse of local healthcare systems, and keep our schools and local economy open and free from further restrictions due to the impacts of the ongoing spread of COVID-19.


We've long known that masks prevent the spread of respiratory disease by blocking respiratory droplets, and during this pandemic, studies have shown that masks also protect the wearer from infection. Viral particles are blocked to varying degrees by different masks, but consistent use of a well fitted mask will improve its effectiveness. In light of recent high community transmissions, researchers agree that benefit of mask wearing greatly outweighs any potential harm.

Vaccination is the most effective medical intervention available for the prevention and reduction of risks associated COVID-19. Not all persons are able to receive the vaccines, thus it is imperative for those who are able to be vaccinated to do so. High vaccination rates are necessary to help prevent transmission, reduce severity of disease, and protect those who are unable to be vaccinated. Since younger children are currently unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccines, it is imperative that they rely on the high vaccination of the community as well as non-pharmaceutical interventions.

It is important that the Washoe County School District and Washoe County Health District continue to maintain open and productive channels of communication. We have the same shared goal of wanting youth to have the best opportunity to engage in learning environments that are safe. We recognize the challenges of online learning and realize and acknowledge the body of evidence that demonstrates how important in-person learning is for young minds. Community leaders have a role in reducing the risk to Washoe County citizens and ensuring reliable information from reputable scientific sources are made available. We trust in the engagement of everyone to want to bond together to protect our children and help our neighborhoods.

The Washoe County Health District supports the Washoe County School District's decision to mandate mask wearing for all persons in the school setting, encouragement for vaccination, and ongoing commitment of providing healthy learning environments.

Sincerely,



Kevin Dick  
District Health Officer  
Washoe County Health District

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**From:** Brian Erbis  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** Trevino, Jason; mjcloud@washoeschools.net; Bringhurst, Brandon; Searcy, Adam T; Borman, Jackie; mfink@washoecounty.us; bhoward@washoecounty.us; ceo@washoecounty.us; McNeill, Kristen; mayor@reno.gov; jardonn@reno.gov; Ben.Kieckhefer@sen.state.nv.us; ahill@washoecounty.us; BoardMembers; Public Comments; renodirect@reno.gov  
**Cc:** penelopebrady13@gmail.com; Penelope Brady  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Herz Middle School Arrowcreek Pkwy Corridor

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who attends MHMS. We are on the cusp of what has been determined to be the “walk-zone” since 2018. As such, I have made several observations while traveling the route to the school as outlined below.

I have submitted public records requests to the WCSD and received responsive records and have read correspondence and studies about this issue along with the concerns raised and that brought me to most of your respective emails.

There was communication regarding the crossing on Arrowcreek in the vicinity of Tremolite Drive and the private road – specifically concerning an RRFB, crossing guards, and speed reduction. All of that took place a year ago with no action as opposed to the private school zone on Zolezzi Lane.

While we adults sit and wrangle with bureaucracy and whether the City of Reno or Washoe County will pay for these measures, our children face the perils of that walk – specifically to the high-speed limit of 45 (which was set before the area became populated). Additionally, in cases of emergency, there are limited means of egress from that road.

Furthermore, the crossing at Arrowcreek and Wedge remains perilous for pedestrians despite the traffic control – as motorists are not accustomed to pedestrian traffic. I have also observed motorists traveling over the speed limit on the roadway – yet there is no law enforcement presence. The speeding often results from motorists heading toward the school from S. Virginia to beat the light at Zolezzi Lane and continues onward.

As such, I am calling for the installation of the RRFD’s at Wedge and Arrowcreek along with the crosswalk up on Arrowcreek west of Tremolite along with school time temporary speed limit reduction along Arrowcreek from Wedge to Crossbow and adjoining streets. There also should be crossing guards in place. If the NRS needs to be amended regarding “school zones”, we should make that happen.

The safety of our children should be paramount. As such, I have asked the WCSD Board of Trustees to shrink the “walk-zone” from 2.25 miles to 1.75 miles – to accommodate more students who are adversely affected by the policy.

Please reference my comments to the school board below.

Brian Erbis

Reno, NV 89511

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**From:** Brian Erbis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** jbatchelder@washoeschools.net.



**Cc:** jeffrey.church@washoeschools.net

**Subject:** Public Comment - Next Board General Meeting

I wish to comment on the Washoe County School District's Transportation Policy which was put to a board vote in 2018 subsequently setting the bus transportation zones to 2.25 miles for middle school students and three miles for high school students.

It is my understanding that this was promulgated with reasons cited and attributed to budgetary concerns. I'd like to remind the board that the population of Reno and the student body of Washoe County Schools has increased exponentially since then and that the district recently received a generous grant. As such, the funding should be used to increase safe and reliable transportation.

To expect 11-year-olds who are entering middle school to walk 2 ¼ miles to and from school is absurd. There are several potential factors encountered in a walk such as different environmental elements – extreme heat and cold, inclement weather, and a good portion of the school year in the morning darkness. These issues are magnified especially on unlighted roads – thoroughfares such as Arrowcreek Parkway – where the speed limit is 45 MPH about 2/3 of the way along with significant grades which place your young students in danger. Although Arrowcreek Parkway has sidewalks – which alternate and has a crossing between Tremolite Drive and a private road – is not secured by a crossing guard. The road is practically devoid of pedestrian traffic and has limited egress most of the way. There are no other feasible walking routes to Marce Herz and I find it to be alarming that a young child would be subjected to the possibility of the frequent occurrence of speeding cars on the route – that could easily lose control or the possibility of child predators roaming the route. For the most part, there is no law enforcement presence – including the district's police department. I have been informed that there were two studies done of this route, commissioned by the district utilizing a district employee and an engineer from Washoe County. The study apparently deemed the route to be safe yet the report has not been made available for public inspection.

Based upon my observations thus far, I find that approximately 10-15 busses serve the school with the overwhelming majority of students arriving by private conveyance. A consequence being vehicular traffic – which could expose our children, whether pedestrian or passenger, to the greater likelihood of being involved in a vehicle-related collision. Additionally, I'm sure it is in your curriculum to educate the student body of our impact on the environment and carbon footprint – yet I am amazed by the hypocrisy exhibited by our educators and educrats by discouraging mass transit.

I also find your policy to disparately affect the student population of the Marce Herz Middle School - specifically those who cannot afford homes and live in apartment complexes within the arbitrarily and capriciously set walk zone yet those who live in million-dollar homes enjoy free transportation. Those who can afford to have a stay-at-home parent or afford a live-in nanny get a free ride as opposed to those residents whose parents must work must bear this hardship – as most work during the day and cannot drop off or pick up from the school. To exacerbate this, there are no after-school programs as exist in elementary schools. Children in these families do not enjoy the comfort of privilege thus must bear the hardship of getting themselves to school.

I have complained to both Michael Smith and Scott Lee, the district's transportation director, only to get the patronizing company line I response.

A such, I ask that the board revise the policy to shrink the walk zone to 1.5 miles in the interest of our children's safety.

Brian Erbis

Reno, NV 89511

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**From:** Elizabeth Kang  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mask mandate

Thank you for continuing the stance on the mask mandate. I am a hospital health care provider and a mother of two children. My children are in third grade and sixth grade. I am grateful that the safety of my children and the health of teachers and the community remain a priority.

I have been hearing of a few vocal minority opposing mask mandates. I want to make sure it is known that I support these mask mandates.

I have experienced what Covid 19 has done firsthand in health care and the hospitals. I am saddened that this seems to be political, when it should be a fundamental concern that we care for one another and understand science.

I am grateful my children are given the opportunity to go to school in person. I am grateful they get an opportunity to be educated. I am grateful they get to understand science and logic. This is how we combat emotional irrational thinking for the future generations.

I am grateful the school district continues to value safety, logic and science. I want you to know you have my full support of the mask mandate.

My kids know that it helps keep them safe and others as well. They do not complain about it. I know they are happier being able to go school.

Sincerely yours,  
A grateful mother  
Elizabeth Kang, PA-C

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**From:** Heather Walker  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 2:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; BoardMembers; McNeill, Kristen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Masks in Our Schools

Good afternoon,

I'm the mother of two children at Caughlin Ranch Elementary School. I have one child in 1st grade and another in 3rd. I wanted to voice my support regarding the mask mandate. I can't express how grateful I am that you have chosen to heed science and protect those that are too little to protect themselves right now. I am the daughter of a physician and a student of medical history and I am dismayed and beyond frustrated with those that refuse to examine the history of vaccines and masking and the science behind their efficacy. No one wants to wear masks, I'm frustrated that we have to again, but I also understand that it is necessary and important. I am grateful to live in a state that isn't attempting to actively ban mask mandates in a misguided attempt to "protect individual rights." I like how one person's rights regarding a small square of fabric trump the rights of those around them to be protected by a potentially fatal disease. The logic on that one is amusing. Thank you for making my job as a parent much easier by mandating masks and taking some worry off of my plate that my children will be harmed through the willful ignorance of those around them.

Furthermore, I am absolutely appalled at the way the general public has been treating members of the board and our superintendent. Please know that there are a great many people in Reno that support you and appreciate you. We just aren't as loud and obnoxious as it looks like we may need to be to stem not only the tide of disinformation, but downright outrageous and potentially dangerous behavior that I have witnessed directed towards the very people that are only trying to do their best for our children based on the information that they have. Thank you for having the bravery and tenacity to stand by your call and heed the information recommended by the CDC, the AFT, and the NEA, amongst others. I cannot imagine having to show up for work and face the extreme abuse you have to face every day. It's disgusting.

Thank you,

Heather Walker  
Parent of Riley and Wyatt Rowan, Caughlin Ranch Elementary School

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**From:** JOHN HESS  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 9:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Cc:** McNeill, Kristen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Scientific evidence for masks in schools

Dear Washoe County Board Members,

My name is John Hess, M.D. and I'm a board certified actively practicing family physician, an associate faculty member of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, a father of two graduates from Reno High School, and I currently have a daughter who is Junior at Reno High.

I'm writing this email to provide you with numerous scientific articles and research on the benefits of masking students in school during a pandemic.

Listed below are links to the various articles and studies. I do not expect you to read through them all but one stands out for me.

In Article 7 the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) specifically addresses the potential of speech and language delay in young children by wearing masks. There is no empirical evidence that this is occurring and they specifically point out that children that are visually impaired do not develop speech and language at a slower rate than their non visually impaired peers.

That being said an off ramp on when to pull back on mitigation strategies needs to be in place. Dr. Monica Gandhi lays out a pretty good frame work of <5 hospitalizations per 100,000 and an adult vaccination level > 67% on when to pull back on measures. Please see the article. She is a renowned Infectious disease expert with UCSF.

Sincerely, John Hess, M.D.

<https://www.smdp.com/california-changes-course-on-schools-enforcing-mask-mandate/206649>

Masks are one layer of protection in the multiple layers public health officials use to protect us. Masks work to mitigate transmission and risk of infection.

Meta-analysis: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext)

Meta-analysis: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7253999/>

Mask efficacy for COVID-19. "A conclusion can be reached based on the current studies: correctly wearing masks of all kinds, despite their different designs, functions and effectiveness, will to a large degree reduce the overall risks of COVID-19 infection and enhance general protection from coronavirus."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7883189/>

Effectiveness of Mask Wearing to Control Community Spread

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776536>

Non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand hygiene and masks) are important to controlling pandemics.

Influenza RCTs:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19652172/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22280120/>

Masks do not increase CO2 retention

<https://uihc.org/health-topics/do-face-masks-make-you-retain-carbon-dioxide>

Masks do not cause healthcare problems. "There is virtually no circumstance that warrants an exemption from wearing a mask based on lung disease."

<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/can-face-masks-cause-health-problems/>

AAP on masks and speech delays. "There are no known studies that use of a face mask negatively impacts a child's speech and language development. And consider this: visually impaired children develop speech and language skills at the same rate as their peers. In fact, when one sense is taken away, the others may be heightened. Young children will use other clues provided to them to understand and learn language. They will watch gestures, hear changes in tone of voice, see eyes convey emotions, and listen to words.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Do-face-masks-interfere-with-language-development.aspx>

Mask Use and Ventilation Improvements to Reduce COVID-19 Incidence in Elementary Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7021e1-H.pdf>

COVID-19 Mitigation Practices and COVID-19 Rates in Schools: Report on Data from Florida, New York and Massachusetts (this paper shows decreased staff infections, not significant for student)

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

Minimal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from paediatric COVID-19 cases in primary schools, Norway, August to November 2020 (minimal transmission where masks not recommended, robust contact tracing/quarantine system)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7791599/>

Expert Medical Society Statements in favor of Masking:

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). <https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/infection-prevention/masks-and-face-coverings-for-the-public/>

American Medical Association (AMA). <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/6-things-doctors-wish-patients-knew-about-masks>

American College of Physicians (ACP) <https://www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/new-policy-supports-wearing-of-masks-to-reduce-transmission-of-covid-19>

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/>

AAP on masking during

sports: <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/12/04/sportsguidance120420>

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). <https://familydoctor.org/covid-19-face-masks/>

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-releases-national-guidance-face-coverings>

Scientific Papers Supporting Mask-Wearing and Mandates, listed in reverse chronological order

2019. A randomised clinical trial to evaluate the safety, fit, comfort of a novel N95 mask in

children. 106 age 7-14 used an N95 at rest and on a treadmill monitoring cardioresp parameters. Found to be Comfortable and safe <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31831801/>

February 5, 2021. Decline in COVID-19 Hospitalization Growth Rates Associated with Statewide Mask Mandates — 10 States, March–October 2020. Statistically significant decline in hospitalization rates of 5-6% per week after a mask mandate after controlling for other measures. . <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7006e2-H.pdf> Heesoo Joo, PhD1; Gabrielle F. Miller, PhD1; Gregory Sunshine, JD1; Maxim Gakh, JD2; Jamison Pike, PhD1; Fiona P. Havers, MD1;

February 2. 2021. Hydrating the Respiratory Tract: An Alternative Explanation Why Masks Lower Severity of COVID-19. Biophysical Journal, 2021. [https://www.cell.com/biophysj/fulltext/S0006-3495\(21\)00116-8?rss=yes](https://www.cell.com/biophysj/fulltext/S0006-3495(21)00116-8?rss=yes)

January 7, 2021 "SARS-CoV-2 Transmission From People Without COVID-19 Symptoms" 59% of transmissions of sarscov2 are perpetrated by asymptomatic individuals. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2774707>

November 27, 2020. MMWR Update. "Trends in County-Level COVID-19 Incidence in Counties With and Without a Mask Mandate — Kansas, June 1–August 23, 2020". <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6947e2-H.pdf>

November 23, 2020."Impact of Masks on Economic Activity". economy.= locations with a mask mandate had increase consumer movement and spending. Surveys showed a 50% increase in willingness to shop if all shoppers were masked. [https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/marriner-wpmedia/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mask-Research\\_2pager-Nov20\\_Final.pdf](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/marriner-wpmedia/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mask-Research_2pager-Nov20_Final.pdf)

November 10, 2020 Vanderbilt. " Tennessee COVID-19 Death Trends Are Lower in Areas with Virus Mitigation Strategies in Place" mandate = death rates decline at a reliable point afford mask mandate initiation across several Tennessee counties. [https://www.vumc.org/health-policy/sites/default/files/public\\_files/Vanderbilt%20COVID%20Report-Masks%20and%20Deaths\\_Nov10.pdf](https://www.vumc.org/health-policy/sites/default/files/public_files/Vanderbilt%20COVID%20Report-Masks%20and%20Deaths_Nov10.pdf)

July 14, 2020, "Association Between Universal Masking in a Health Care System and SARS-CoV-2 Positivity Among Health Care Workers". = 9850 hcw with linear decline in infection rates after implementation of universal masking of hcw and patients in the hospital. Independent practice and trend compared to the community. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768533>

"Visualizing the effectiveness of face masks in obstructing respiratory jets," Verma et al., June 30 2020, Phys Fluids = respiratory jets were shortened to 2.5 inches by a double layer stitched cotton mask, compared to 8 inches with a commercial cone mask. Uncovered respiratory jet was 8 feet <https://aip.scitation.org/doi/pdf/10.1063/5.0016018>

June 29, 2020 (non peer reviewed data analysis by Goldman Sachs). "Face Masks and GDP"

(financial journal) economy & mandate a national mask mandate could improve the GDP by several percentage points based on estimations <https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/pages/face-masks-and-gdp.html>

"Community Use Of Face Masks And COVID-19: Evidence From A Natural Experiment Of State Mandates In The US" Lyu et al., June 16 2020, Health Affairs = significant decline in daily COVID-19 growth rate after the mandating of face covers in public, while 'employee only' mask mandates were not successful. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00818>

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**From:** Maria Skolnick  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 3:51 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: Consent Agenda Item 2.12

Good morning Trustees,

How are you? I am writing today to ask that you remove Agenda Item 2.12 from the Consent Agenda. I feel that approving Vanessa Vancour for the SHARE Advisory Committee without further discussion is an injustice to the community and parents who oppose Ms. Vancour being approved for the seat. I believe her biased viewpoint on LGBTQ issues may cause division in the community of those with differing opinions whom she refers to as "hateful". I applaud her efforts in opening the eyes of her daughters to the LGBTQ and Drag Queen Story Time because that should be at the discretion of PARENTS to teach and model to their children how to treat others, with kindness and love. This is how I raise my children. But I will be damned if the district thinks they have the right to impose their beliefs onto my children. Every family has the right to decide for themselves on how they want to have these conversations but I understand that may not be the case for every family. I still feel strongly that it isn't the district's responsibility to teach my children about LGBTQ issues and incorporate it into the SHARE curriculum. I think the district should be focusing more on the core subjects and preparing our students for the workforce, college or whichever avenue that will give these students a chance at success in the real world. We are consistently at the bottom of the national ranking in education. We seem to have veered off course from the foundations of education to promote success in every one of our students.

Below you will find a sampling of her posts on social media and exactly where she stands on certain issues.

I am also well aware of how you have overlooked a valuable perspective that represents many in our community to the selection of the SHARE committee at least THREE times. It seems that you are all choosing narrowly to fit your agenda on how you wish the SHARE committee will decide on curriculum that you all want to push.

Best regards,

Maria Skolnick

AA

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**Vanessa Vancour**

@VanessaVancour

Disappointed and sadd

@WashoeSchool

Board of Trustees for e

AA

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patience, and consistent  
so much from both of you

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**Vanessa Vancour** @Vanes





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3.2K



54.7K



**Vanessa Vancour** @Vanes  
@WCSDTweet @WCSDTrus



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**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 4:59 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Cameras in class

I recommend that you put a camera in every class so that the children that have to quarantine because they were exposed will still be able to participate in class on zoom. It would show transparency to what is being taught in the class. I think it would be beneficial for the teachers and the students. I also think it is unfair that students that have not been vaccinated have to quarantine while students that have only quarantine if they have symptoms. Your policy states that you can get the virus even if vaccinated. Trying to understand the logic in your policy. I think families should be able to choose if they want to vaccinate and if they want their child to wear a mask. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Anne Hoppe  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 10:53 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar

Good morning,

Given the smoke from California wildfires is predicted to be the “new normal” for years to come, I think the school calendar needs to accommodate for smoke days.

Perhaps not starting until after Labor Day? Perhaps eliminating one week of the two-week Spring Break in March or possibly the Fall Break?

Perhaps we can absorb some of the days that will need to be made up by giving up the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the teacher work day in December? I believe there is a lot space in our calendar that can accommodate for missed instruction. Please consider revising for next year.

Thank. you for your consideration.

Best,  
Anne-Marie Hoppe

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**From:** Renee Fox  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 2:40 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Covid testing

I'm writing to let the district know they should allow school nurses to administer rapid testing for covid 19 on school grounds. With the recent surge in cases, especially in elementary schools, the school district would be doing a great service to allow for onsite testing to be done to ensure proper exclusions and avoid full class exclusions due to poor contact tracing protocols. This procedure will benefit the school, the parents, the students and the community. The district should use the emergency funds to provide these tests and avoid full school shut downs. Please reply with steps that will be done to ensure these on site testings.

Renee Batrez

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** bea witt  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 3:00 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] First week of school

Please decide now whether Washoe will have school this week or not. Making a decision each evening keeps all of us hostage in our homes, without the option of taking our families away from this hazardous air. The weather is not changing for the next few days according to local broadcasts. So please make a decision for this entire week, one way or another, school or no, so we are not forced to sit and wait each evening. Thank you!

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**From:** Lorne Smith  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 3:16 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Cc:** Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela; Minetto, Ellen; Church, Jeffrey; Nicolet, Diane M; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Calvert, Jacqueline M; BoardMembers; mayor@reno.gov; caldeirar@reno.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The 2021 COVID-19 Experiment On Our Kids Failed

Dear Board Members,

I'm reaching out to you as a parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Caughlin Ranch Elementary school.

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were informed our child may have been exposed to COVID-19 at Caughlin Ranch Elementary. Her entire class now requires a quarantine period. I'm asking you to address the following issues.

1. The presentation of the information was vague, with several false statements related to the appropriate steps to follow.
2. The information about the exposure was practically nonexistent. I don't expect a name and address, but we have a right to know how many children tested positive, and all the circumstances leading to the notification.
3. The guidelines for sending our child back to school can't be followed, as all test centers in Reno are now overbooked. In our case, we were notified on Sunday 8/22. The next available testing appointments are 8/25 followed by a 2-day period for results.
4. Please, don't just tell people to call the Washoe County Health District hotline at 775-328-2427. Tell them to go to <https://covid19washoe.com/> to schedule appointments on their own. It will collectively save thousands of hours of wasted time in our community. At the very least, provide multiple options and solutions.

**Aside from the four points mentioned above, please consider the following during your COVID-19 policy decision-making process.**

- COVID-19 Delta is not the same virus we were dealing with a year ago. It's much worse, and it's time you educated yourselves to make informed decisions about the current variant.
- COVID-19 is airborne. Always has been. Mask mandates must remain.
- We're two weeks into the new school year. You now have almost 20 schools with verified COVID-19 outbreaks. The experiment failed, please bring back the distance learning program for those of us who don't want their kids infected with COVID-19. Northstar IS NOT an acceptable alternative.
- We have parents sending their kids to school in this community with known cases of COVID-19. Do you really think the Marce Herz Middle School was an isolated incident?
- It's very likely we'll see vaccination approval and availability for the younger kids in the next 6-8 weeks. Do the right thing and bring distance learning back until we can get this under control again.

Sincerely  
Lorne Smith

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**From:** LARRY KATES  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 11:52 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; BoardMembers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School District's COVID-19 Data

Please examine the COVID-19 data published on the district's webpage? I have identified multiple errors, and inconsistencies on multiple occasions, and here is what I have most recently discovered on your webpage when comparing the newly updated data (August 20) to the one previously posted (August 16).

#### **WCSD COVID Data Dashboard**

The data in the Washoe County Health District area doesn't match prior publications in regards to "Total Cases" and "New Cases". On August 20 the Dashboard stated there were 154 "New Cases" in the '11 to Age 18' category, with 4,081 "Total Cases". On August 16 the Dashboard stated there were 3926 total cases.  $3,926 + 154 = 4,080$ , meaning the math is off.

There are data issues with the School District Specific data when it is compared to the same information in the School-by-School COVID-19 cases table.

#### **School-by-School COVID-19 cases**

Exclusions rose by 515 from August 16 and August 20, but the table only gives "Yes" and "N/A". What value is this as a data point? Why can't you simply put a number of excluded students in that box?

In regards to data not matching the Dashboard, the dashboard says there are 46 schools with one or more active cases, 49 schools that have been historically impacted, and 70 active/82 total cases. The School-by-School chart says there are 48 schools with active cases, 50 with historical cases, and 84 active / 92 historical cases. Which is correct? I like to point out that there is 1 active case at Hidden Valley Elementary but 0 in the column "Total since 8/9/2021." How is that possible?

In the end - Please improve the output. Please let the data reflect numerically what is actually happening in the schools. Please post more frequently about the number of new cases and the number of exclusions by school. And please Check Your Work.

## WCSD COVID Data Dashboard

### Community Wide Measures (Washoe County)

<i>Risk Meter</i>	<i>Average Daily Cases Per 100,000</i>	<i>Test Positivity</i>
11 high	37.08	17.5%

### %Community Wide – School Age Children\* (Washoe County)

<i>0 to Age 4</i>	<i>5 to Age 10</i>	<i>11 to Age 18</i>
35 New Cases**	41 New Cases	91 New Cases
66 Active Cases**	75 Active Cases	187 Active Cases
889 Recovered Cases**	1295 recovered Cases	3737 Recovered Cases
954 Total Cases**	1370 Total Cases	3926 Total Cases

### School District (WCSD) Specific Information\*\*\*

<i>Schools Impacted</i>	<i>Student Cases</i>	<i>Staff Cases</i>	<i>WCHD Exclusions****</i>
16 New Schools	9 New Cases	6 New Cases	
15 Active Schools	9 Active Cases	5 Active Cases	
16 Total Schools	9 Total Cases	6 Total Cases	130 Total

\*Total population estimates for school age children are 0-4 = 29,078; 5-10 = 34,133; & 11-18 = 50,920.



## WCSD COVID Data Dashboard

### Community Wide Measures (Washoe County)

<i>Risk Meter</i>	<i>Average Daily Cases Per 100,000</i>	<i>Test Positivity</i>
10 high	44.16	19.2

### %Community Wide – School Age Children\* (Washoe County)

<i>0 to Age 4</i>	<i>5 to Age 10</i>	<i>11 to Age 18</i>
52 New Cases**	77 New Cases	154 New Cases
90 Active Cases**	116 Active Cases	282 Active Cases
916 Recovered Cases**	1331 recovered Cases	3797 Recovered Cases
1006 Total Cases**	1447 Total Cases	4081 Total Cases

### School District (WCSD) Specific Information\*\*\*

<i>Schools Impacted</i>	<i>Student Cases</i>	<i>Staff Cases</i>	<i>WCHD Exclusions****</i>
33 New Schools	59 New Cases	8 New Cases	
46 Active Schools	62 Active Cases	8 Active Cases	
49 Total Schools	68 Total Cases	14 Total Cases	645 Total

\*Total population estimates for school age children are 0-4 = 29,078; 5-10 = 34,133; & 11-18 = 50,920.

## School-by-school COVID-19 cases

Updated 8/20/2021

School Year 2021-2022

	Active Cases	Exclusions	Total Since 8/9/2021
Allen	0	NA	0
Anderson	0	NA	0
Beasley	0	NA	0
Beck	2	NA	2
Bennett	1	NA	2
BoHach	2	yes	2
Booth	1	yes	1
Brown	0	NA	0
Cannan	0	NA	0
Caughlin Ranch	1	yes	1
Corbett	1	yes	1
Desert Heights	1	NA	1
Diedrichsen	0	NA	0
Dodson	0	NA	0
Donner Springs	0	NA	0
Double Diamond	0	NA	0
Drake	0	NA	0
Duncan	0	NA	0
Dunn	0	NA	0
Elmcrest	0	NA	0
Gomes	0	NA	0
Gomm	1	yes	1
Greenbrae	2	NA	2
Hall	1	NA	1
Hidden Valley	1	NA	0
Huffaker	1	yes	1
Hunsberger	0	yes	0
Hunter Lake	1	NA	1
Jackson	0	NA	0

One last thing please stop using the Truckee River Regional Planning Agency's Risk Meter as the lead indicator on COVID-

19. Your operations officer has been stated at MULTIPLE board meetings that the Risk Meter was specifically not intended for use by the school district, but yet it is the FIRST data displayed and referred to in board meetings. The web page should have a large disclaimer so people who don't listen to the full board meeting are not left to believe the data is meant to be part of the Schools decision making process.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions,  
Sincerely  
Larry Kates

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**From:** Sean McCaffrey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:07 AM  
**To:** BoardMembers; Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Denying our kids an education

Board Members,

I hope you all agree that our kids are owed an education. If this statement is true then how do you justify hundreds of kids being excluded from attending school right now? If you're going to say because of Covid, I will challenge that less than 10% of the kids PROHIBITED from attending school actually tested positive last week, which would mean 90% of those students PROHIBITED from attending school are healthy! Does that make sense to you? Not only are these kids PROHIBITED from attending school, they are being DENIED an education because the schools have not prepared for distance learning. My son and hundreds like him in a similar situation are being DENIED an education through no fault of their own. They took a PCR test required by THIS BODY because they have chosen NOT to be vaccinated. Would you not agree this is a discriminatory practice?

In your opinion, what do you believe the primary charter of the school district is? I would argue the primary charter is to educate our kids. How can our kids be educated when they are DENIED the opportunity to attend school and DENIED resources to learn remotely? That's right. My son and others like him don't have access to the curriculum because the teachers have not had time nor were prepared for distance learning so the curriculum is not available online. Moreover, no laptops have been issued. Does that make sense to you??? Every day missed is a day they'll never have back and now they are getting behind further and further each day. AP classes, honors classes, lab work.....

I demand, yes...I demand that you review your current policy and draft a policy that makes sense. You talk about inclusion at every turn. During the interviews for District C, I fielded two questions specific to inclusion. I have plenty of adjectives to describe what is happening here. Hypocritical at the least and criminal if I wanted to be offensive, which both are arguably true.

You're probably not aware that the CDC is no longer recommending the PCR tests. Do you know why? When you read their press release from last month you'll see it reads: "CDC encourages laboratories to consider adoption of a multiplexed method that can facilitate detection and differentiation of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses."

[Lab Alert: Changes to CDC RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)

What "science" are you following? The CDC readily admits this test doesn't distinguish between Covid and the flu. Does this WCSD policy make sense???

Trustees Rodriguez and Nicolet held meet and greets last week. We brought a lot of people to the Thursday event, including 20+ kids directly impacted by your nonsensical policies. This body has a responsibility to advocate for our kids and act in their best interest. Please talk to the NIAA. I guarantee that organization is not in favor of the current WCSD policy that many of you are "reinforcing." I challenge you to have your own conversations and look into this quickly. Fall sports are in jeopardy if you don't act quickly. Education is at risk for our kids if you don't act quickly. Additional harm to our kids from an emotional, mental, and psychological perspective is a guarantee if you don't act quickly.

I thought about organizing 1000 people tomorrow to stand outside the green house for the board meeting. I don't know what good that would do. Our Superintendent is dead set on hiding behind the Governor's mandate. The Superintendent doesn't report to the Governor. The Superintendent reports to YOU.

Sean McCaffrey

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**From:** Brittany Bland  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; McNeill, Kristen; Minetto, Ellen; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Taylor, Angela; Nicolet, Diane M  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Remove Agenda items 2.12 and 3.05

Board of Trustees-

Please remove Agenda Item 2.12 - Vanessa Vancour from Share Advisory Committee. I believe she is not fit to be a part of the SHARE committee. She is clearly an advocate for LGBTQ rights. I do not believe she is a balanced or fair representation of the WCSD community. Given that the LGBTQ Nevada Youth is roughly less than 6% I do not believe her views should be pushed on the remaining 94%. We need fair representation that is not one sided. I think you should actually uphold an application process for everyone that submitted an application. We need multiple voices on all committees. Bottom line.

Agenda item 3.05 should also be removed. We should not be spending \$3.168 million on PCR tests that are inaccurate. The FDA has a class 1 recall for these tests due to the inaccurate false positives. We should not be testing students once a week to play. We also should not be combining databases with the Health Department for a flu that has a survival rate of 99.96% for children ages 0 - 17 years old per the cdc. So you are spending \$3.2 million for a flu that has a mortality rate of 0.03% for our youth. This is absurd. Also it has been proven that there is no such thing as asymptomatic spreading.

As an athlete I would never agree to this or subject my children to these tests. You are going to ruin our sports programs. I know ex pro athletes that are not allowing their children to play because of this. You are 100% causing segregation between the vaccinated and unvaccinated. This is a parental choice. Not something we should feel pressured into doing.

Thank you,

Brittany Bland  
Homeschool parent

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**From:** Christine McAvoy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Consent agenda item 2.12

Please remove from the consent agenda item 2.12 to approve Vanessa Vancour as parent/guardian representative to the sexuality, health and responsibility (S.H.A.R.E.) advisory committee.

I want to vote against the approval of Ms. Vancour to this position as she has evidenced herself as being closed minded. She tweeted "Bravo @WashoeLibrary for vowing to keep Drag Queen Story hour despite the hateful opposition." To consider an opinion contrary to her own regarding a controversial subject as "hateful opposition", should keep her from being appointed to the S.H.A.R.E. advisory committee. The school district needs people who are open minded to hearing both sides of an issue and are not quick to name call people with opposing views.

Thank you,  
Chris McAvoy

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**From:** Lorraine Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mask mandates

There should be no MASKS mandated any any school!!!

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Jeff Gorelick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 4:00 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mask Mandate

To the members of the Board,

I am the father of a 16 year old Reno High School junior who just this week was infected with Covid even though he was fully vaccinated. He had been making reasonable efforts to maintain social distance but at his high school in the tightly packed hallways he was often shoulder to shoulder with other students who took off their masks or were only partially masked. We believe that is where he became infected as none of his other contacts have tested positive. The school system is there to educate and protect our children. The anti-mask anti-vaxx vocal minority seeks to endanger our youth in the name of "freedom". What we need is freedom from craziness and freedom from unnecessary risk. If these fellow citizens want to disregard the CDC guidance for safety, let them do it in their own homes or in groups of consenting adults. Please continue to protect our kids.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Gorelick



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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:03 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments to meeting 8/24

No masks for our kids! They are causing more harm than good. Use your brains for once!!! Save our kids and save our schools.

Recall Kristen McNeil

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Rick Williams  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mask mandate

I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY MASK MANDATE!!  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Allison Gorelick  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:16 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments for Tonight's School Board Meeting

I would have liked to have been there tonight to be speak to you in person. But I am home caring for a vaccinated Reno High School junior who just this week was infected with covid.

My son had not been widely circulating and he had been making strong efforts to maintain social distance. However, at his high school, there are 400 more students this year than last year and in the tightly packed hallways he was often moving shoulder to shoulder to get to his classes on time. We believe that is where he became infected as none of his other contacts have tested positive.

Despite our son's likely exposure at school, we believe the school district is doing the best job possible in today's most challenging pandemic environment. The school system is there to educate and protect our children and Dr. McNeill and the Board has done a solid job of educating our children throughout this time. We are thankful that they found a way to have our highschoolers in the classroom 50% of the time last year.

We will not allow the vocal anti-mask minority to put our children's health at risk. If these fellow citizens, who also seem to be anti-vaxx, against the CDC and FDA recommendations, want to disregard proven safety measures of wearing masks inside, they can do it among only other groups that feel similarly, not with our teachers and students. Please continue to keep our schools open by protecting our teachers, staff and students and require that masks be worn inside.

Sincerely,  
Allison Gorelick

Allison Gorelick, CFA



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**From:** Kaleigh Wissner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against mask mandates

I do not agree with the mask mandates and the testing. You are segregating the children and creating separation between mask versus unmask and it's discrimination

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**From:** Mary Bears  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mask Mandate

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to mask mandates.

First of all they don't work. And if masks really did save us from Covid, then Nancy Pelosi would not be sitting one foot away from many people at her special donor luncheon in Napa with NO ONE wearing a mask. Oh yeah, no one except her wait staff.

Furthermore, my son (who attends Depoali Middle) has come home out of breath from lack of clean air due to mask wearing. He has asthma and often has to pull aside his mask just to get a single puff of mask free, fresh air.

It is absolutely ridiculous to cover our children's faces and restrict their health by making them wear masks.

When the Tamarack Fire happened, the "experts" said don't bother with a disposable mask or cloth mask as they do not protect you. The only mask recommended was an N95 or K95 mask for protection from smoke.

If the disposable or cloth masks don't offer us any protection from the hazardous air from the fires, they certainly do not prevent the spread of Covid.

UNMASK OUR CHILDREN! Wearing masks should be a choice.

Sincerely,

Mary Bears-Sylvia



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](https://www.avast.com)

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**From:** kristenirene  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] General public comment 5.01

Dear Board of Trustees,

I apologize right at the beginning for the lack of organization of my e-mail.

I was doing some fact checking regarding some information that I heard while listening to public comment.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-coronavirus-swabs/fact-check-covid-19-nasal-swabs-sterilised-with-ethylene-oxide-are-safe-to-use-idUSL1N2P30YI> - regarding ethylene oxide

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2021/04/22/did-so-called-stanford-nih-study-really-show-face-masks-are-ineffective-against-covid-19/?sh=70e2a60c3fd7> - regarding the so called Stanford study (though perhaps it is a different study from Stanford, though I was unable to find any)

“OK, there are two problems with that claim: it’s not a Stanford study, it’s not an NIH study, and, in fact, it’s not even really a study. All right, there are three problems with that claim: it’s not a Stanford study, it’s not an NIH study, it’s not really a study, and oh, it didn’t really show that face masks are ineffective against the Covid-19 coronavirus. Check that, there are four problems with that claim: it’s not a Stanford study, it’s not an NIH study, it’s not really a study, it didn’t really show that face masks are ineffective against the Covid-19 coronavirus, and by the way it didn’t really show that face masks are even harmful.”

<https://www.kxan.com/news/coronavirus/do-face-masks-work-here-are-49-scientific-studies-that-explain-why-they-do/> - regarding the effectiveness of masks

<https://covid-101.org/science/how-many-people-have-died-from-the-vaccine-in-the-u-s/> In June, there were three deaths associated with vaccinations. All three received J&J.

Trustee Church - I would suggest that one reason we are having an uptick is that very few people are properly wearing masks if they are wearing masks at all. I am imagining that all the people who commented today (and in previous meetings) about the ineffectiveness of masks are not wearing masks at other times.

I wanted to take a moment to talk about the death rate. It is upsetting that people are okay with any deaths, but also, there are people (including children) who have horrible long-term effects because of the virus. My cousin is one of the people who is a long hauler. Though she was very careful, her partner, who is a first responder, contracted it and spread it to the family. That was in December. While the rest of her family is okay, she is still not. Doctors have not been able to figure out how to help reduce her pain. They have put her into a study for long haulers. I desperately hope that no one in our schools or on staff ever has to deal with this. It is devastating and horrible. So, 99.9% survival is okay, but I don’t want any one of the students or staff to be part of that .1%.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2109285> August 12 - 10-30% of people who have had COVID-19 are long-haulers.

Regarding mental health and attempted suicides and completed suicides - these numbers have been going up even pre-pandemic. I have many people in my life who have depression. I do not know the data on how many people have depression due to mask usage.

My understanding regarding testing - I believe it is \$25.00/test, at least for the general public. The vaccine is covered by the government. Yes, people can decide whether or not to vaccinate.

I appreciate all of you being there and listening to and reading the public comments.

Respectfully,  
Kristen De Haan



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**From:** Daniel Black  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:35 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Board meeting 8-24

To whom it may concern,

Critical race theory, diversity and inclusion or what every name you want to call it has no place in our schools. It is divisive in itself teaches kids to make discussion based d on skin color (the opposite of what they should do). As a concerned parent my kids will be remove from public school if there is even a hint of it being taught to my child. No children equals no funding.

Further more masking a child is child abuse, plain and simple. If you voted for it your guilty of it. Your logic is flawed. Kids must wear a mask to prevent the spread, but then if a kid in class has a covid exposure the class is excluded... but the masks work, right? On wait they don't work, so you exclude the class, but then you still make them wear the mask that you just admitted doesn't work because the class was excluded... come on...

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Calen Evans  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] General public comment

Dear Trustees,

I wanted to take a minute and thank those of you on the board who are doing all that you can to truly support the children in our community. We appreciate the hard decisions that you have to make and the long stressful hours it takes to be a trustee during these times.

The most unfortunate part of this current ordeal is that there are legitimate issues that we as a community need to tackle within Nevada's education system but right now so much of our time and energy is being spent dealing with social and political agendas that are detracting from where we need to be putting our time and energy and that's on fixing Nevada public education and it's lack of funding, resources, and support at the state level.

In regards to current Covid discussion, what's most important is that we do all that we can to keep kids in the school building and able to live as much of a "normal" school experience as possible, so whatever mitigation or systems need to be in place to keep kids learning in the classroom, playing sports, and participating in school activities let's do it.

Please remember that the anger and hate on display at the board meetings are a very loud but small minority. They do not represent the majority of the over 300,000 people in our community. Those of you who visit schools and are in the classrooms know firsthand the amazing things that are going on in our schools and given all the hurdles we face our school district employees are working miracles. Remember that when the negativity seems to much.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,  
Calen Evans  
WCSD Educator  
Empower Nevada Teachers President