

From: Jennifer McGarrah <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:19:47 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: In support of the GSA

<<<<< WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS
>>>>>

I have a lesbian child. I have a bi child. I don't need any obstacles in their way such as made up 'problems' from 'moms for Liberty'. The agenda they are pushing is dangerous and excludes a group of children who need a safe place to thrive and learn.
Do not get rid of GSA. That would be discrimination and illegal.
The fight is far from over for these people, and if Christians can have their organizations and beliefs, people should be able to live as who they are in their community. Safely. And openly.
Thank you,
Jen McGarrah
Mother [REDACTED]

From: Kimberly Rate <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 11:58:23 AM
To: Kimberly Rate <[REDACTED]>
Cc: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Writing In Support of Gay-Straight Alliances in WCS

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Williamson County School Board Members,

I am writing in response to the "Moms 4 Liberty WC" group's intention to stop Williamson County schools from having Gay Straight Alliances and am writing in support of Gay-Straight Alliances in our school system. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Franklin and work frequently with members of the LGBTQ+ community. I am very aware of the importance of community support and allyship in supporting these valuable members of our community.

Schools are responsible for providing a safe learning environment for all students. However, for many students, especially students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, school is not always a safe place. There is compelling evidence that the majority of students frequently hear homophobic remarks and other types of biased language at school, and that LGBTQ+ students choose to miss school in order to avoid negative experiences that threaten their safety.

Findings from a growing body of research demonstrate the positive impact of school based resources, such as clubs that address LGBTQ+ student issues (commonly known as Gay-Straight Alliances) may have on school climate. GSAs are student-led, school-based clubs open to all members of the student body regardless of sexual orientation. GSAs often advocate for improved school climate, educate the larger school community about LGBTQ+ issues, and support LGBTQ+ students and their allies.

GSAs have many potential benefits for schools and students. The presence of GSAs may help to make schools safer for LGBTQ+ students by sending a message that biased language and harassment will not be tolerated and may also make school more accessible to LGBTQ+ students by contributing to a more positive school environment. Additionally, GSAs may help LGBTQ+ students to identify supportive school staff, which has been shown to have a positive impact on their academic achievement and experiences in school. Most students lack access to GSAs or other student clubs that provide support and address issues specific to LGBTQ+ students and their allies.

In conclusion, schools are often not a safe place for students, particularly those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. GSAs can help to make schools safer for students and may play a role in mitigating the negative impact of bullying and harassment experienced by some LGBTQ+ students. LGBTQ+ students in schools with GSAs are less likely to hear biased language, such as homophobic remarks, are less likely to feel unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation and gender expression, and are less likely to miss days of school because they are afraid to go. The presence of a GSA may offer evidence of a

school's commitment to the safety of all students, creating a source of perceived support for students even if they are not actively engaged with the GSA themselves.

The Williamson County School Board should support the formation of GSAs so that all students have the opportunity to learn and pursue an education in a positive and supportive school climate.

I truly appreciate you taking the time to read my email and am hopeful that you will also advocate in support of the LGBTQ+ youth within our school system.

Thank you,

Kimberly M. Rate, MA, LPC-MHSP
Founder, Senior Psychotherapist
New Moon Rising Wellness
www.newmoonrisingwellness.com

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Emily Delikat <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 1:27:22 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Lydia Glynn <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for mask extension and for a safety for our LGBTQ+ students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Hi! It's me again :-)

Though it is probably unnecessary, I would like to express my support for the extension of the mask mandate.

Additionally, I would like to ask that the board make a statement of support and safety for all children in Williamson County schools and to publicly say that the system will not stand for adults bullying our children. My daughter is an [REDACTED]. She is also lesbian. Thankfully, she has found a group of close friends who are community for her. They love one another fiercely and create a safe space for one another. Unfortunately, she has still experienced verbal and physical bullying at school for being different and has been afraid for her physical safety in the past. Regardless of what happened or didn't happen on that homecoming float, the actions of the adults from Moms for Liberty is abusive, dangerous, and possibly criminal. Their actions are harmful to all of our children, those who are lgbtq+ and out, those who are straight, and most of all those who are lgbtq+ and not yet out. Their actions are harmful to all of our children who are different. I ask you to make a statement that you will not tolerate bullying from WCS students or parents.

You are in my prayers tonight! If anyone understands the bullying from this group, it's you guys! You know how this feels, and I'm so sorry that is true.

Grace, peace, and love,
Emily

From: doug lechleiter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 8:55:29 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: GSA's in high schools

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

It is my understanding that the Moms for Liberty intends to show up at tonight's WCS board meeting to protest Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) being established at any WCS high schools. This is in response to Independence High recently having a GSA sponsored float in their homecoming parade.

As a gay family with a child who may be also be gay, who attends Centennial High School, and two middle schoolers who are coming up to high school level, I think it is important that groups such as Gay Straight Alliance be allowed to exist in our schools like any other group. These groups have been around the U.S. for DECADES in other states. Why they are such a controversy in TN is beyond my comprehension. I have lived in six states during my life time and just do not understand it.

So I urge you to ignore the Moms for Liberty and continue to let GSA's occur in those high schools who wish to have them. If a school does not want to have one, they do not have to have one, just like they don't have to have the gaming club my son attends each week. It is up to the school, the students, the sponsors, and NOT the Moms for Liberty which group is formed at each school.

Thank you!

Doug Lechleiter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Emily Jenkins <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 9/20/2021 6:06:04 PM

To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;

Subject: Support for LGBT Students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

I am writing to express my support for the students at Independence (and all of our high schools) continuing to be allowed to celebrate their truth and who they are. The community outrage being drummed up as the war of the day from the Moms For Liberty is as disappointing as it is predictable. We as a society have made great progress in understanding that people are all created with their own personalities, interests, ethnic and racial history, sexual identity and political world view. I was pleased to see that the Pride float was allowed to participate in the homecoming festivities, just as athletic teams and other clubs are. Inclusion in these celebrations is an integral part of students feeling embraced and welcomed to be who they are.

Moms for Liberty has made clear that their agenda is not about supporting our public schools and helping them to be the best they can be for our students. Their agenda is the dismantlement of public education, full stop. Today that has manifested in bullying children online just for wanting to be a part of the community and accepted for who they are. I have been pleased to hear many speak out against this hateful agenda. I hope our board will continue to support ALL of our students, and to allow them the simple joy of being welcomed as part of their school celebrations.

Emily Jenkins
[REDACTED]

From: Markie, Meghan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:13:55 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>, <Jennifer Aprea; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Lydia Glynn <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: thank you and support for our LGBTQIA students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

WCS School Board Members,
First and foremost, thank you for your tireless efforts and patience. You are truly serving our community, and you are appreciated.

I am a mom of a 1st grader in FSSD. We will attend WCS for high school. In anticipation of the fresh new wave of bigotry I'm sure will be on display from the Moms for Liberty group tonight, I'm asking you to make a public statement in support of the LGBTQIA students in our schools. The hatred spewed by this group towards LGBTQIA students, students of color, students who wear masks, etc. cannot be tolerated, even during the public comment portion of the evening. Over the last few months during school board meetings, our community has witnessed outright lies, the misuse and perversion of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quotes, and threats to our school board and medical professionals. Moms for Liberty should be treated as what they are- a hate group who harasses members of our community and actively works towards making it unsafe in schools for certain children.

Our students need public, vocal, and unequivocal support of adults to let them know that they are safe in our schools. They need YOUR support.

Thank you again for your work, sincerely.

Meghan Markie
She/Her
Instructional Designer, Global Sales Operations
Dell Technologies | Services
+1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Nashville, TN, USA

From: Sarah Jane Holiday <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:13:14 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Re: Independence High School GSA 9/20/21 Hearing
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2021-09-20 at 1.16.43 PM.png](#)

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Williamson County School Board,

I've attended public schools my whole life. Those experiences shaped me in many ways. I grew up in Sumner County, which operates similarly to Williamson County. My mother retired as a high school math teacher for Williamson County Schools after 40 years. I, as her biological daughter, am both disabled and LGBTQIA. As a youth, I've experienced harassment and a school system that did nothing to protect marginalized students. I spent my 20s, like many peers, fighting substance abuse, poor mental health care, sexual assault, and suicidal depression. This was not due to being disabled or LGBTQIA but due to a society that continues to teach children how to discriminate and bully others.

Today, I share the opinion of PFLAG of Franklin, Franklin Pride, and many other organizations that have offered support. Additionally, I am a public health advocate for the largest private researcher of suicide prevention- the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

According to the CDC, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among LGBTQIA students between ages 10-24 (1 in 6 students). They are three times more likely to contemplate suicide than heterosexual students. In 2019, 18.8% of high school students reported seriously considering suicide and 8.9% reported an attempt. Suicides and suicide attempts cost the nation almost \$70 billion per year in lifetime medical and work-related costs.

This is not just a statistic. I continue to live that risk every day at the age of 32 because of an environment that continuously rejects equity and equality. The isolation, fear, and hate from outside groups like Moms for Liberty is what causes suicide. Suicide is a preventable death.

The behavior exhibited by Moms for Liberty continues to enforce this idea that they can control other people and limit their rights simply because of personal bias. It teaches a new generation to hate and spread misinformation.

Children are already sexualized and not because of this issue. Representation matters. For me, not seeing LGBTQIA support as a youth was traumatic. The silence of peers and teachers was traumatic. Moms for Liberty additionally endangered lives by publishing photographs of minors, without consent of the individual or their family, for the sole purpose of discrimination, humiliation, and public outing. It was libel and not protected under free speech.

The "Indy Pride" float at Independence's homecoming, upon investigation, shared information about bisexuals (image attached below), a group I represent, due to a nationally recognized awareness week. The float did not feature nudity, but two students exercised their right to kiss each other. This display of affection was not organized by Indy Pride. I have not reviewed the "pornographic content in the library" but imagine it was about basic sexual health, which was permitted by school librarians. Voluntarily asking for someone's preferred name or pronouns is hardly an attack on someone's rights.

Independence High School is a public school operated in Williamson County. As a public institution, it is required to abide by federal laws, which currently prohibit exclusion on the basis on race, color, religion, sex, disability, and national origin. Anyone who wishes to not abide by federal laws can enroll in a private school and self-govern.

Moms for Liberty is essentially a hate group, who feels their rights are violated by attending events alongside LGBTQIA individuals. They only protect the rights of students or parents that believe exactly how they do. This hate is not governed by scientific data, religious truth, or reason. They are against COVID-19 protocols which also reduce unnecessary death. These groups will not stop, but neither will we.

Their mission today is to prohibit the Independence High School Gay-Straight Alliance from existing at all. The purpose of any Gay-Straight Alliance is for LGBTQIA individuals and allies to build community, organize, and discuss issues impacting them in their communities.

The sentiments of Moms for Liberty **do not represent all taxpayers in the state of Tennessee**, nor Williamson County. They are not even students who represent the marginalized group in question. Many high schoolers have jobs and pay taxes. They deserve the right to equitable treatment, sharing their voice, and accessing resources that their taxes have provided states.

Where does this stop? Do we go backward and continue to segregate African Americans, Muslims, the handicapped, and anyone else that doesn't fit a white, heterosexual, discriminatory Christian narrative? What county do you picture living in?

Your decisions today matter. They set a precedent for other counties and schools. I hope that you uphold the responsibility of protecting the rights of ALL students against discrimination, which was agreed to when you embarked upon your career as a county school official.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

From: Kristina Counts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 3:53:31 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Cc: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Mask mandate and independence LGBTQ

<<<<< WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS
>>>>>

Dear Williamson County School Board and Superintendent Golden:
As a tax payer and property owner, former parent of a WCS student and a teacher in a private school, I support your efforts to extend the mask mandate to protect students and staff. Masks work. We need to keep each other safe. Extend the mask mandate. Numbers are too high to stop now.

Also I want to comment on the Independence High school LGBTQ float that participated this weekend. I believe our schools should be inclusive and be safe for every student. The complaints made by Moms for Liberty are unfounded. There was no inappropriate behavior displayed to elementary or middle school students. The club followed rules. I am concerned for student's names that were publicly displayed on social media by the Moms for Liberty group which was extremely inappropriate. All students should feel safe and included in public education.

Thank you

Kristina Counts
Franklin, Tennessee

From: Spencer [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:50:48 AM
To: Danielle Patton <[REDACTED]>; Heidi Bridges <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Cc: Donald Weiss <[REDACTED]>; Grace Finkel <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Indy Pride Statement Regarding IHS Homecoming Float

Dear Williamson County School Board Members,

I am Spencer [REDACTED] a sophomore at Independence High School (IHS) and the president/founder of Indy Pride. Indy Pride is a school club designed to help raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ students in the IHS community. The club was founded on the realization that there was little to no representation of queer people in the school. The club has a total of 85 members and growing, given that we have only been in operation for one month. I am writing to you in case I do not get a chance to speak at Today's meeting. I want to provide some clarification and a different perspective from a group of people (Moms for Liberty Williamson County TN) who may show up to tomorrow's meeting. Again, if this were an ideal situation, I would be presenting this to you in person.

On Saturday, September 18th, a group that goes by the name of "Moms for Liberty Williamson County TN" made a post on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook denouncing the participation of the Indy Pride club in the Independence High School Homecoming Parade. As the president of Indy Pride and as someone who experienced the parade from the Indy Pride float, I know that the information shared by this group is extremely misconstrued. The group claimed in their posts that "Thompson S. elementary/middle school children were also handed Biweek cards (recruitment?)" The club did as we were told, and did not hand out anything to Elementary or Middle School students. Furthermore, "BiWeek" is a nationally recognized visibility week, so Indy Pride made cards to hand out to high school students as a way to spread awareness about the holiday, one of the club's main goals. These cards were only handed to IHS students. The group also claimed that the "LGBTQ float, [featured] two girls kissing & groping in front of Thompson Station Elementary and Middle School students". They also attached a video of the two people sharing an extremely short kiss. The featured video was taken at the IHS leg of the parade, not at a Middle or Elementary school. This kiss was in response to a multitude of people booing and discrediting the float and the students on it. No kiss happened in front of K-8 students. No groping occurred on the Indy Pride float. Indy Pride does not condone, nor did Indy Pride orchestrated this display of affection. However, I am extremely proud of these people for responding to slurs and hatred with a display of love and affection rather than succumbing to hatred.

Moreover, the inhumane actions that were taken by the Moms for Liberty group have endangered the students who participated in this parade by sharing their faces in a video viewable by anyone in the world. Now all of these students have a target on their back. Anyone can know where these students go to school, who they are, what they participate in, and more. Moms for Liberty has made an inappropriate call on their part. Some of these students had not come out to their parents yet, but now that Moms for Liberty has shared their faces they are forced to share something that could change the course of their entire life as they know it.

There must be repercussions for outside groups sharing images and/or videos of students without parental consent. These people are endangering your children. While I am scared for my safety, I do still plan to come to this meeting in hopes of sharing my statement with all of you. These people are terrorists that try to evoke hatred and fear from innocent people.

--
Spencer [REDACTED]
--
Spencer [REDACTED]

From: Krissy Nimblett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:39:52 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for LGBTQ students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Superintendent Golden and WCS school board members,

I'm writing in support of the WCS students who had LGBTQ/GSA floats in the recent Independence homecoming parade. It has come to my attention that the group "Moms for Liberty" is upset that these floats were allowed to parade in front of K-6 students. Let me just state my unequivocal support for these students and their right to celebrate who they are/their alliance with their LGBTQ peers. We also know that, statistically speaking, many of the K-6 students who watched that parade are LGBTQ themselves. What a critically important thing it is for these students to see these floats as a reminder that they are not alone! Especially if, and it is likely so, some of these young LGBTQ students are unfortunate enough to have unsupportive parents like those who are protesting these floats.

Furthermore, my daughter [REDACTED] has friends who were on these floats. They have reported that they were assaulted by having basketballs and other miscellaneous objects thrown at their heads. As these assaults are, in fact, hate crimes, I would like to know what the school board is doing to investigate these crimes.

I am not only the mom of a current Summit student, but I'm also the proud mom of an LGBTQ Summit graduate. I implore this school board to send our community a strong message that we stand behind ALL of our students, that we are an inclusive and supportive community, and that we will not let voices of hate and bigotry win.

Sincerely,

Krissy Nimblett

From: Wolf, Amy L <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 3:03:05 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED];
Cc: Amanda Fuller <[REDACTED]>; Dawn Poole <[REDACTED]>; Ben Wolf <[REDACTED]>
Subject: COVID safety and active support of marginalized communities.

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Williamson County school board members and leadership, Thank you for the time and energy you put into the Williamson County Schools. Before tonight’s board meeting, I am writing in regard to two life-saving things, COVID safety and active support of marginalized communities.

- First, please keep the mask mandate in effect for all grades. Though I passionately disagree with some parents using a false claim of religious exemption, parents who wish to keep their children unmasked can do so. But scientific evidence proves that wearing masks helps to prevent germs of all kinds, especially COVID virus particles, from spreading into the nose and mouths of others. For those of us trying to keep our young kids in school, this is our only option.
- Second, considering what happened at the Independence High School homecoming parade, which featured a float from the student Gay Straight Alliance, I ask that the members of the Board of Education issue a public response supporting the students who are being attacked—and condemning the public hate speech by parents within our community. As CDC data shows, suicide is already the second leading cause of death in young adults ages 10-24, and those in the LGBTQ+ community in that age bracket are almost five times as likely to attempt suicide. (Info from the Trevor Project.)

WCS must stand up for marginalized groups. This is beyond a difference of opinion. No matter how a person feels about the LGBTQ+ community or people of different races and ethnicities or people of different political opinions, a public school is NO PLACE FOR HATE AND DISCRIMINATION and letting incidents like this go because groups like Moms for Liberty are loud and organized is a serious detriment to our children, our school system and our reputation as a top-tier school district.

It is heartbreaking to me that the poisonous hatred of adults is yet again endangering children in public schools. The fact that in 2021 we even have to take a stand on kindness and acceptance as our “Be Nice” campaign allegedly encourages, is unacceptable.

Everyone should feel safe, welcome, and respected in our schools. Please make that message clear tonight.

Sincerely,

Amy Wolf
[REDACTED]

“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.” -- Mahatma Gandhi
“Just do the next right thing.” -- Anna, Frozen II

From: Abel, Rebecca <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:23:09 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Masks and support for all students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good morning,
I tried to find a gif of Ray Steven's "It's Me Again Margaret", but apparently that reference is too dated for a gif.

But here I am again, asking for your support of science in protecting our children with a mask requirement. I won't belabor the point on masks.

In addition, I encourage you to consider the hysteria generated by Moms for Liberty as I imagine they will be clutching their pearls over the Independence High School GSA float. Please know that they do not speak for many of my likeminded community members who support all of our children in schools. Y'all means all.

Thanks again for your continued commitment and dedication to our schools and community. The sacrifice you make in service does not go unnoticed.

Thanks,
Rebecca

Rebecca Abel
Sr. Program Manager
Critical Illness, Brain dysfunction and Survivorship (CIBS) Center
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ICUDelirium.org
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Allison Bussone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 1:37:35 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: I support Indy Pride

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Hi again - Williamson County resident and parent here writing in support of the LGBTQ groups at Indy. These groups give our teens, many of whom aren't even out to their parents, a safe place to be themselves and find support in a community that is often hostile to them.

A friend with an LGBTQ teen at Indy just texted me this, "[my daughter] has struggled with anxiety and depression over this aspect of her life for years, and she's finally in a good place where she feels loved and supported."

I think it's sad that these LGBTQ teens are now being bullied by adults in our community who post videos of them without their consent and seek to end their groups.

I reviewed the video, as well as the Moms for Liberty claims, on their Instagram account. The kiss was a one second peck that would not have received attention had it been between, for example, Homecoming Queen and King. Also, it is clear that the students in the background (watching the parade) are not elementary school aged. It seems that two details - that this float went to an elementary school, and that two students on the float shared a quick peck - have been conflated into an incorrect claim by Moms For Liberty that girls were kissing and groping in front of elementary school children. That simply is not what the video on their own page shows.

Again, I support Indy Pride, Indy GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), and Indy Teens For Tolerance.

Thanks for reading, and for your service to our school board and community.

Allison Bussone

From: Alison Hill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:31:49 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Feedback

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

I sent this message to Dr. Patton this morning. Please hold the school accountable for this. The problem is easily prevented in the future if there are clear consequences for the students and if they are not allowed to pass out pamphlets! Please do not sweep this under the rug because it was an LBGTQ+ club. This is not discrimination. A boy and girl do not need to be kissing on a parade float either nor passing out pamphlets on gender and heterosexuality!

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Alison Hill <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 7:21 AM
Subject: Feedback
To: <[REDACTED]>

Good morning. I wanted to give myself the weekend to process what happened during the parade on Friday before I contacted you. I have had two kids that graduated from WCS, and I know that teens do stupid things. I have one in middle school that came home and informed me about what happened on Friday. It was highly inappropriate on many levels. First of all, no students should be kissing during a homecoming parade. I also don't believe that students should be passing out pamphlets on their clubs to elementary and middle school children. Let's keep it about school spirit and the celebrating the school as a whole. The different floats are enough to show diversity in the student body.

I trust that there will be consequences for the students involved and that there are guidelines put in place for next year to ensure that nothing like this happens again.

Sincerely,

Alison Hill

From: Amanda Gail <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 12:13:36 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: In Support of LGBTQ+ and Masking in Schools

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Hello WCS Board Members,

I write to you as a woman expecting my first child, a lifelong Williamson Co resident, and a product of the Williamson Co public school system. The school system that produced me is no longer what it used to be. My experience from kindergarten all the way to my senior year was shaped by tolerance and understanding that while not everyone is the same, we are all worthy and deserved of a safe place to learn, to figure out what our place in this world means. This can be said for students with different abilities, different skin color, different religions, poverty level, and even sexual orientation. I hope that my child will be able to see the school system that I loved, not what I'm seeing now.

Please don't let the actions of a group of bully parents I've learned are called "Moms for Liberty" tarnish the schools I grew up in. I cherished every moment in my school days. I had friends from all walks of life and those experiences shaped the person I am today.

I have now learned that what "Moms for Liberty" is claiming to be an "obscene moment" in front of elementary and middle school students was a fabricated lie. The students at the high school were on their handmade float, showing their support of all LGBTQ+ members of the school. I can't help but think if we had groups like that when I was in school, would my gay friends have felt supported instead of depressed, distracted in their learnings, or help some who considered suicide. These high school kids did nothing but be true to themselves, even if some bully parents are fighting to hide them away.

The second topic I would like to discuss is masking in schools. I know the temporary order expires today. Please extend this for the remainder of the school year. In recent studies, you can see that masking does in fact work:
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/New-S-F-data-shows-children-haven-t-been-hard-16446656.php>

Our hospitals are overwhelmed, our nursing staff is stressed to the max and some are quitting. Children are getting sick from COVID. If we do nothing, more will end up sick, hospitalized, and even dead. Becoming a mother has put more things into focus, like how would I feel if my child's school system did nothing in the face of something that could potentially kill him or her. My child is not even born yet, but I would do everything in my power to save their life. The smallest, easiest thing that can be done now is to wear a mask. It does not infringe on personal liberties. It helps save the life of a stranger, someone in your community, your neighbor.

Thank you for taking the time to read.

- Amanda Cothern
Former College Grove Elementary student
Former Page Middle School student
Page High School Graduate
MTSU graduate
Lifelong Williamson Co resident
Employee of a Williamson Co based business
Expecting parent of a future Williamson Co student

From: Amy Duncan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 12:05:18 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for our students at Independence High School

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good morning! First of all let me say a big "THANK YOU" to each of you for the work you do to make Williamson County schools better each year. Your service to our community is incredibly valuable and I really appreciate all that you do.

I work with an amazing group of parents here in Williamson Co. called Williamson Social Justice Alliance and we have helped to start a youth group of LGBTQ teens from all schools in our county. We also promote and support the GSAs and clubs at our local high schools because we know that these students face an uphill road to acceptance and are statistically at greater risk for mental health issues and even suicide. The importance of these clubs and groups is invaluable and we are so thankful that many of our schools are starting to allow and support these clubs.

It has come to my attention that the group known as "Moms for Liberty" is using a video of young students from Independence High School to encourage their members to show up at tonight's meeting and demand that all GSA groups and clubs be banned from our schools. I know several of the students shown in this video and they are obviously upset that their image is being used to spread misinformation and hatred.

I am asking that you all simply listen to facts and reason. I have asked our contact with the national organization GLSEN to email you all some resources and statistics to support the good work that is being done by these GSAs and clubs.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and please take advantage of the info presented in the email from GLSEN. I know this is not an item specifically on the agenda tonight, but I wanted yall to be prepared for the anger and ignorance that is coming your way.

Sincerely,
Amy Duncan
WSJA - Williamson Social Justice Alliance
Franklin Pride Board Member

From: Andrea Pitt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 5:12:31 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: LGBTQ+ float

<<<<< WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS
>>>>>

Dear School Board Members,

I do not agree with the Moms for Liberty and am offended that they put children at risk by sharing the faces of children who are LGBTQ+.

As the parent of a child who is queer and participates in a school pride club, I love and support these kids. They are some of the most talented and kind hearted kids I know. It is shameful that a handful of people are perpetuating lies about a group of kids. They do not recruit members or "make" others gay. It's not how it works.

Please support the Pride Clubs on the various WSC campuses as this may be the only safe place these kids have and feel they belong.

Sincerely,

Andrea Pitt
Sent from my iPhone

From: Angela Everett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:37:34 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Lydia Glynn <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Board Meeting - Masking/Covid/MFL Insanity

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear WCS Board,

First and foremost, thank you for your hard-work and dedication during this most difficult time.

I'd like to tell you a little about our experience with Covid and the lack of contact tracing that was done. The first full week of school, one of our [REDACTED] brought the virus home, despite our sending him to school masked (because as we know, we mask to protect others from the virus and he was surrounded by kids without masks). [REDACTED] Prior to realizing he was sick, he had already passed the virus to my husband and mother, both of whom are vaccinated. Because they were vaccinated, they survived, but not without weeks of struggling. My mother is still dealing with ongoing symptoms.

I spent days after his diagnosing calling the health department to wondering if they were going to contact trace. After finally getting through, I found out that he wasn't yet in the system. We never did receive a call. Who knows how many more were infected during the 14 days following his symptom onset.

Two weeks later, [REDACTED] tested positive, as we were testing out of precaution. Again, no contact tracing. Who knows how many others, once again, were infected during the 14 days following.

I tell you this for multiple reasons: 1. the mask mandate must be extended and 2. the districts need to handle their own contact tracing, or it isn't going to be done.

Lastly, this Moms for Liberty group MUST be shut down during the meetings. Their constant hate speech and spewing of misinformation about so many different things has reached a level that must be dealt with. Their claim that the LGBTQ+ float was inappropriate and featured girls "making out" couldn't be further from the truth. Their claim that cards trying to recruit others to partake in "bisexuality" is laughable. They have their feathers ruffled about seahorses and Ruby Bridges. WCS has become the laughing stock of the world. How are they being allowed to continue to blatantly discriminate against others during their board meeting time without repercussions? What kind of message is that sending to our children? Stop allowing MFL and their supporters to bully our board, our teachers, our children, our healthcare workers.

Respectfully,

Angela Everett

From: Angie Bivens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 11:00:17 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Supporting our LGBTQ Students | Moms For Liberty Bullying Concern

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good morning Williamson County School Board Leaders,

First of all, I want to thank you for all of the hard, often thankless, work you guys put in for our children. This period of time is very difficult for all of us with children in school, but you guys carry so much for us and I know it is not an easy job. While I may not agree with each of you on policy, I value each of you and appreciate your willingness to serve our county.

As I am sure many of you have seen, [Moms 4 Liberty](#) has posted a call to action against students who were expressing themselves during a homecoming parade. While I do not know that I have a child that falls into this group of kids, I do have friends who do, and their children already suffer so much because of small-minded individuals who bully them. It is not okay what these adults are doing, and it could have terrible consequences. The children of these bullies could take what they are learning from their parents and put it into action at school, and that is unacceptable.

I have a dear friend with a freshman at [REDACTED] who came out to her this year. I have know her child since the age of 8, and this child is as kind as they come. Unfortunately, this child became suicidal after being bullied by students at school. This is a constant struggle for their family, and it is heartbreaking. Imagine having to check on your child in the bathroom each time you hear the stool move across the tile floor. Imagine if each time you heard that you had to make sure he had not hung himself. This is their real life, every day. If this child saw this campaign on Instagram, posted by adults, I cannot imagine the feelings of anxiety and fear they would experience. We have to do better to protect these children.

Homosexuality is not contagious. Homosexuality is not dangerous. Homosexuality is not something to be scared of. These children are precious, but they are being attacked by their peers daily, and now by their peer's parents. Please do something more to protect them. Teaching children to be accepting is not teaching them to be homosexual. Teaching children that it is unacceptable to treat homosexual children different is not teaching them to be homosexual, it is teaching them to be good humans.

If this campaign against our students continues and is given a national stage, I pray that we do not lose a child because they feel so persecuted by their neighbors. What these adults are doing is wrong, and our students need to be protected from this type of bullying.

Thank you for your time and your support of all students, regardless of their sexual preference. I know that if you had a

child that identified as LGBTQ you would stand up against this group of "moms," and I implore you to do the same for my friend's child.

Angie Bivens

From: Anna Long <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 9:09:40 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Pride Float - Support our GLBT Kids

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

I am writing due to the recent controversy surrounding the Pride Float in the Independence Homecoming Parade. It has really saddened me that my community took offense to a float made by such brave kids. I am a step-mother to a lesbian child. As a former licensed counselor I am also well aware that the leading cause of suicide for our kids is being GLBT, and enduring the stigma associated with it. These children are brave for stepping out, at such a young age, and embracing who they are. Who I believe God made them to be. I believe that our job is to provide an environment in which they are safe to do so. An environment in which diversity is celebrated. I was proud of MNPS for marching in the Pride parade in Nashville this weekend. While I don't see WCS ever taking that sort of advocacy role, I do expect that WCS afford GLBT kids the same freedoms that heterosexual kids enjoy. Our children are watching - and a significant percentage of them are also struggling with their sexuality. We need to show them that WCS is a safe place for them. That they will not be bullied - by children or adults - for simply being who they are. Please don't let these adults bully our GLBT kids.

Anna Long-Humphrey
Parent of [REDACTED] 2nd Grader

From: Benton McDonough <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 1:54:28 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Mask Mandates and LGBTQ

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Monday, September 20, 2021

Dear Williamson County School Board Members:

My name is Benton McDonough, and I am the father of a [REDACTED] Kenrose Elementary School. I am writing to you today regarding two critical matters before the board. First, I would ask that you extend the mask mandate that was originally implemented last month. I would ask that this mandate be implemented without the broad opt-out feature that is currently allowed by the board and pushed by Governor Lee through Executive Order 84. According to statistics provided by Governor Lee's own Health Department, there are fewer Covid infections reported in those school systems enforcing mask mandates without an opt-out option. As the number of infections have grown in our state (which continues to be the worst state in the country for new Covid infections), the total number of children who have become ill, require hospitalization, or have died from Covid continue at a torrid rate as well. These statistics and the fact that our governor and legislature have failed to follow through on their threats to pursue legal action against those school boards denying opt-out options supports the argument for a mask mandate without opt-out options in Williamson County.

Second, I am aware of a hate group calling themselves "Moms for Liberty" that intends to lodge a complaint regarding the actions of LGBTQ students on a parade float at Independence High School. It is my understanding that the allegations in the complaint pertain to a peck on the cheek between two students on the PRIDE / LGBTQ float in response to fellow students harassing and yelling at the LGBTQ students on the float as well as a leaflet dispersed from the float to bring attention to the struggles for equal rights by LGBTQ students.

To say that I am angry and saddened by the actions of Moms for Liberty and the agenda of hate, intolerance, and ignorance they continue to push in our community would be quite an understatement. I find it hard to believe that these same parents would have lodged any complaint had a heterosexual couple kissed on a float or distributed literature to educate the public on their struggles. While I have no issue with someone who has a difference of opinion from me, Moms for Liberty has continuously intimidated adversaries and opposed scientific and common-sense mitigation measures such as masks or social distancing. Now this group is turning their attention to a vulnerable group like the LGBTQ students that deserve the utmost protection and support from this community and its school board. Further, I find it ironic that they have the name "Liberty" in their title when in reality they're speaking out against the rights of others who don't support their agenda. A more apt moniker might be "Moms Against Science and for 'Liberty' for White Heterosexual Christians."

In closing, I would point out that it is the school board's responsibility to make sure that a safe and healthy environment exists for all students to learn. We send our first grader in a mask every day because she needs social interaction and the mask protects her as well as those around her, but we fear that her being around unmasked classmates could be detrimental to the health of our three-year-old who was born with a tiny hole in her heart. In fact, we are unable to attend this evening's meeting because we are waiting on a Covid test result for our first grader. As the school board, we look to you to protect the truth and foundation in our school system. To support anything that Moms for Liberty pushes would be nothing more than a dumbing down and whitewashing of our educational system. Further, it could very well put the lives of our youngest and most vulnerable at risk due to Covid. I ask you to extend the mask mandate without an opt-out option and deny any complaint against the LGBTQ participants that lacks actual evidence of wrongdoing.

Sincerely,
Benton McDonough

From: Beth Kirkendall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 1:16:51 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for LGBTQ in HS

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear school board members,

Please do your best to steer all members and attendants toward the facts regarding the LGBTQ homecoming event float in the parade through elementary schools. There was no kiss in front of, nor was there any passing out of bi week flyers to elementary schoolers. Moms for Liberty are unfortunately manufacturing outrage based on events that did not happen.

I am in full support of these LGBTQ groups being on our high school campuses. I am ver concerned that kids who identify as anything other than straight and cisgendered are feeling attacked right now. I want these teens to feel support and a sense of belonging in our schools. There isn't a single school in our district that is composed of all straight parents and children. That is reality. The elementary school I send my daughter to has at least 3 families with same sex parents.

Thank you for sticking to the facts. Please do your best to stand up for these kids and do not allow the outrage to consume the meeting. We may not be the loudest but there are more of us than there are of them, I'm sure of it.

Sincerely
Elizabeth Logsdon
[REDACTED]

From: Brandy Durbin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:51:39 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Lydia Glynn <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Masks / LGBTQ+

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>>>>>

Hello I am Williamson county parent of a 5th grader writing to show my support of a continued mask mandate and inclusion of LGBTQ+ students and clubs with all school activities. We ask that he school board extend the mask mandate through Christmas. We support our inclusive clubs and students.

Thank you,
Brandy Durbin

From: Brittany Nelson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 11:06:36 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Lydia Glynn <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: A WCS parent in support of our LGBTQ+ students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good morning.

It has come to my attention that a group called Moms For Liberty is attempting to attack a student group at Independence High School because they are an LGBTQ+ club. As a parent of two gay children I am deeply disappointed that this group would first, attack teenagers on social media, and second, would lie about the events to further their agenda of hate.

This group has made it clear that they will be coming to the school board meeting tonight to attempt to discredit this high school club and the school's leadership. I would love for the board to remind them that if students can have a religious club, then students can also have a Gay Straight Alliance club that makes them feel safe with supportive peers.

The children on that float were verbally and physically attacked by onlookers and have bruises to show for it. One of the students in the group reached out to me because they know I am a supportive parent and expressed that MFL continues to make them feel unsafe.

I urge you to please do what you can to protect our LGBTQ+ youth and recognize this group's homophobic agenda for what it is.

Below is a helpful article with a study done on the ages that our kids know their sexuality. It is, in many cases, younger than you might think. Our children know who they are. They also know which adults are safe to be themselves with and which ones are not. I hope to always be a safe space for kids in Williamson County.

<https://familyresourcesinc.org/2021/05/at-what-age-do-kids-identify-as-gay/>

Thank you for taking the time to read about my concerns.

Respectfully,
Brittany Nelson

From: Caroline Campbell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 3:15:26 PM
To: Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Please require masks & being NICE

<<<<< WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS
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All,
I know your time is precious, so I will be brief.

First, I urge you to extend the mask mandate. Our Covid rates in WCS have dropped since it was initiated. Please continue it at least until the vaccine is available to 5-11 year olds who want it. (I'd also like to request you abolish the non-medical waivers which are ridiculous and abhorrent, but at a minimum, please re-instate the mask mandate.)

Please do not allow anyone to threaten and disparage our LGBTQ WCS students. The idea that parents are taking to social media with photos of school children and condemning them should not be tolerated by WCS. Response should be swift and clear - harassment of minors is not ok. Given the past behavior of members of Moms for Liberty, these kids have had their privacy violated and have been shamed and threatened by adults in our WCS community. Unacceptable. Deplorable. Please make it clear that WCS supports these students.

Regards,
Caroline Campbell
[REDACTED] parent [REDACTED]

Please support our WCS students.

From: Cécile Lainé <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 9:31:23 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Thank you for your DEIB efforts

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear school board members,

I am writing to say thank you for continuing to support all WCS children, regardless of their race, ethnicity, cultures, social class, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, religion, family structure, neurodiversity, abilities, and experiences.

I feel very sorry that you are constantly being attacked by Moms for Liberty and other conservative groups who pretend to "defend the children" when they are in fact using them to advance their political agenda.

I wanted you to know that my family stands with you in support of your Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging efforts, whether through your ELA curriculum or in allowing clubs such as Indy Pride to build a float that spreads awareness of LGBTQIA+ students in the broader community.

A WCS resident and parent of two future WCS students (currently in FSSD)

--
Cécile Lainé (she/her)
www.towardproficiency.com

From: Cheryl Webster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:22:39 AM
To: Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Maria Griego <[REDACTED]>; Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for GSA Group - LGBTQ / Support of Masks

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

I am a mother of WCS students at Hunters Bend Elementary. I have seen the Moms for Liberty Group has now turned their anger to the WCS Student LGBTQ+ community and they will be gathering at your next meeting.

I want you to know that I am in SUPPORT of any LGBTQ+ group in the WCS schools. Any actions taken against them would be discriminatory and would also provide a less inclusive environment for children that are trying to find their way in this world. I am for LOVE and SUPPORT of all children. I teach my children to accept others as they are, and that differences make the world a better place.

Please do not listen to voices of hate. Lead our schools with love, compassion, and support of everyone.

And please extend the mask mandate

Thank you,
Cheryl Bullock

From: christine flott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 3:12:02 PM
To: christine flott <[REDACTED]>
Cc: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Masks! And IHS LGBT+ float non-sense

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good afternoon,

Have you noticed how our Covid cases are going down in the schools? Let's plan on reinstating the temporary mask mandate for another month! Let's plan for improved contact tracing as well. We're invested and always interested in what the school board is doing.

PS

I'm also writing today to make you aware of my family's support for the student LGBT+ float at the IHS homecoming parade last week. I understand the many adults in this community are raising a fracas about the float and are bullying the students. They will likely remark upon this in tonight's board meeting.

You may hear from many of them in public comments because this group overlaps with some of our population that has a little regard for protecting themselves or their community from Covid exposure.

I, for one, will not put my health at risk by joining them in a small crowded room. I will, however, let you know that I support the students involved in creating and participating in the parade on this float and that I expect that our schools will support these students as well. I believe many of our high schools have active clubs that raise awareness and create support for our LGBT+ students. I'm so pleased that these students have a safe space.

I'm a mom of a [REDACTED] student and love that he has a social group (band) that he is supported in. I want all students to have this opportunity with their peers.

Please don't assume Moms for Liberty reflects the views of the majority of this community. They don't. While they take the opportunity to be the squeaky wheel, I truly don't believe they represent what is dear to this community's ideals.

Thank you for your continuing leadership during these trying times.

Christine Flott
[REDACTED]

On Aug 31, 2021, at 10:52 AM, christine flott <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good morning,

Especially as someone who has emailed this group multiple times pleading for leadership, I also want to share my appreciation for your vote in the special board meeting last week. I am thrilled that the school board made the collective decision to enact a temporary mask requirement in all county schools. I'm also pleased that teachers will be afforded time off should they contract Covid.

Special thanks to Jennifer Aprea for displaying determination on this topic and Eric Welch for his thoughtful commentary prior to the vote.

I want to see this community healthy and prosperous and feel like this is a crucial step forward.

Best,

Christine Flott
[REDACTED]

From: damaris yanes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 11:18:12 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: masks mandate and anti hate

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

To the Board

I am a parent of two kids in the Williamson County school district ([REDACTED]) and I am emailing to ask that you extend the mask mandate for the obvious reasons. Numbers are extremely high, masks work And now is not the time to stop wearing them. Hospitals are overwhelmed and by extending the mask mandate we can help flatten the curve.

I also want you to know that this hate group who call themselves moms for liberty DO NOT represent or speak for me and most of us. Their disgusting behavior towards LGBTQ+ Young adults is baffling. They have posted very misconstrued information and flat out lies. LGBTQ+ people need to be protected and made to feel like they belong because they do.

Ones rights should absolutely not depend on ones sexual preference or gender identity. They have put targets on these kids lives and this is dangerous and disturbing. I implore the board to shut down any form of hatred, bigotry, and bullying by these insane, pathetic excuses of humans.

It your job to protect students. ALL STUDENTS!

Sincerely,

Damaris Yanes

--

Damaris Yanes

From: Erica Kelley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:43:12 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>
Subject: LGBTQ inappropriate

Attachments: [Image.jpeg](#), [Image.jpeg](#)

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear school board- Are we determined to wreck our children? From the Covid restrictions to the anti American lessons (WIT AND WISDOM) to now allowing and forcing our children to conform and accept lifestyles that go against our creator and not just "accept" them but to elevate and celebrate sexuality in schools and in front of CHILDREN! This is child abuse to allow them to be indoctrinated to believe that is the best and only quality about them is who they are sexually attracted to and have clubs that focus on sexuality.

School is for reading, arithmetic and writing and ALL social, moral, ethical and cultural lessons are the parents job. I am so sad to see Williamson county continue to decline. Maybe our scores are still up when it comes to testing but what good our test score when kids are left with a remnant of a Moral compass to go out into this world and make a difference. We must take back our schools and place them back rightly under the providence of almighty God and lead these children in the path of righteousness not media and cultural decline.

You must do better. This is a parade that went past our elementary kids promoting this focus and lifestyle. Bottom picture is



a "club" first day of middle school in Fairview middle.



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From: Heather Thomas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:36:13 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: LGBTQ support

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

All of our kids should be celebrated and loved. The Moms for Liberty have taken this one too far. Thank you for your support of all children and their need to belong!

From: Jane Campbell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 11:39:24 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED];
Subject: Tonight's School Board Meeting
Attachments: [image1](#)

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Wm County School Board

I want each of you for all you hard work and dedication to the children of our community. It seems over these past years it is becoming increasing more of a thank less role and of late, I know you are in a no win situation. I am a supporter of protecting our children, teachers and staff at our schools as a priority.

The reason for this email is I was alerted to the Moms 4 Liberty group encouraging supporters to come to the meeting tonight, from my understanding about the Centennial HS LBGTQ parade float. I am not able to attend though wanted you all to know I do not support this groups harassment of these kids. Schools are a reflection of our world population so why would a high school not be a reflection of our nation and the world. . Due to social media, utube and the access to phones./internet kids learn about all types of people on their own at a very young age. These are opportunities to open up conversations with our littles (younger children). There are so many other issues that need our attention and in my mind focusing time, energy, resources on who people are is mind bogging.

Onward -

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JANE CAMPBELL
TEAM



Office: 615.778.1818
9175 Carothers Pkwy, Suite 110, Franklin TN, 37067

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From: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:53:21 AM
To: Alison Hill <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Feedback

Ms. Hill,

Thank you for your email. I'm cc'ing Dr. Webb, our Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools, so she is aware of your email as well. Please know that this incident will be investigated and any student who violated school rules will be disciplined appropriately.

Jason Golden
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]

From: Alison Hill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:32 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Feedback

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

I sent this message to Dr. Patton this morning. Please hold the school accountable for this. The problem is easily prevented in the future if there are clear consequences for the students and if they are not allowed to pass out pamphlets! Please do not sweep this under the rug because it was an LBGTQ+ club. This is not discrimination. A boy and girl do not need to be kissing on a parade float either nor passing out pamphlets on gender and heterosexuality!

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

From: Alison Hill <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 7:21 AM
Subject: Feedback
To: <[REDACTED]>

Good morning. I wanted to give myself the weekend to process what happened during the parade on Friday before I contacted you. I have had two kids that graduated from WCS, and I know that teens do stupid things. I have one in middle school that came home and informed me about what happened on Friday. It was highly inappropriate on many levels. First of all, no students should be kissing during a homecoming parade. I also don't believe that students should be passing out pamphlets on their clubs to elementary and middle school children. Let's keep it about school spirit and the celebrating the school as a whole. The different floats are enough to show diversity in the student body.

I trust that there will be consequences for the students involved and that there are guidelines put in place for next year to ensure that nothing like this happens again.

Sincerely,

Alison Hill

From: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 7:51:00 AM
To: Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: LGBTQ inappropriate

Attachments: [Image.jpeg](#), [Image.jpeg](#)

Jason Golden
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]

From: Erica Kelley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:43 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>
Subject: LGBTQ inappropriate

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear school board- Are we determined to wreck our children? From the Covid restrictions to the anti American lessons (WIT AND WISDOM) to now allowing and forcing our children to to conform and accept lifestyles that go against our creator and not just “accept” them but to elevate and celebrate sexuality in schools and in front of CHILDREN! This is child abuse to allow them to be indoctrinated to believe that is the best and only quality about them is who they are sexually attracted to and have clubs that focus on sexuality.

School is for reading, arithmetic and writing and ALL social, moral, ethical and cultural lessons are the parents job.

I am so sad to see Williamson county continue to decline. Maybe our scores are still up when it comes to testing but what good our test score when kids are left with a remnant of a Moral compass to go out into this world and make a difference.

We must take back our schools and place them back rightly under the providence of almighty God and lead these children in the path of righteousness not media and cultural decline.

You must do better. This is a parade that went past our elementary kids promoting this focus and lifestyle. Bottom picture is a “club” first day of middle school in Fairview middle.



LGBTQ+
Alliance



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From: Jessica Lahey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:11:29 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: In Support of LGBTQ+

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

As the parent of an elementary school and preschool child and with several close relatives who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community I wanted to be certain to voice my support for the inclusion of GSA and Pride related floats as part of homecoming parades and other high school events.

Jessica Lahey
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Jodie Shackelford <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 4:13:49 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for Indy Pride

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

I just wanted to email you quickly to express my support for Indy Pride and my disgust at Moms for "Liberty" posting pictures of minors and WCS students online without parental permission. I realize you have no control over extremist groups of adults in the community, but I hope we can continue to count on you to protect all of our students from bullying in school, including bullying based on sexual orientation.

Thank you.

Jodie Shackelford
Mom [REDACTED]

From: Josette Kelly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 9:14:36 AM
To: Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Please protect GSA in our schools

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear WCS Board member,

Please support GSA's in our schools!

All of our children deserve to be heard and represented.

"A growing body of research confirms that the presence of a GSA has a **positive and lasting effect on student health, wellness, and academic performance**. It can also protect students from harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and improve school climates for all students in the long-term."

Please don't allow Moms 4 Liberty to bully our students!!!

Thank you,
Josette Kelly

From: Judy Solan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 4:13:13 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Protect LGBTQ students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Mr. Golden and School Board Members,

I am saddened to see LGBTQ students at my kids' former high school, IHS, being bullied, harassed, and intimidated by some students and by the adult members of Moms for Liberty. MFL is spreading misinformation and hate while also posting pictures of minors on their social media.

Please do everything in your power, including legal action, to put an end to this vile behavior. I'm sure they will be there screaming and threatening at the board meeting, and I'm sorry you have to be in the room with that.

Protect these vulnerable children. Thank you.

Judy Solan
Franklin, TN

From: Julia Belsante <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:55:58 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Cc: Matt Belsante <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Williamson County Board Members,

I am writing in support of the Indy HS GSA club. Groups like this have a place in our schools and offer a needed refuge for some of Williamson County's most marginalized youth. Gay children are much more likely to experience homelessness (yes, even in our county!), depression, and suicidal ideations. These types of clubs offer support and camaraderie for youth who need it most.

Additionally, I believe Moms for Liberty is spreading much false information about what actually happened at the parade this weekend. I would urge you to do your own research about when and where a peck on the lips took place and when and where brochures were handed out. In short, no elementary school students were impacted and the kiss was in response to heckling and hatred.

I fear for my own children growing up in a place where people who are seen as different are continuously shamed and berated. This is the third issue this school year. First, inclusion, then masks, then LGBTQ student groups. I moved here for the schools and now want to leave because of them. My children deserve to grow up in a place that supports all children, not just white, straight, conservative ones.

I thank you for all you continue to do to serve our community!

Thank you for your time.
Julia Belsante

From: Kate Ward <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 12:21:00 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>; Juli Oyer <[REDACTED]>; David Allen <[REDACTED]>; Erin Caceres <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for Independence High School GSA

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Hello Ms. Garrett and other board members,

My name is Kate Ward, and I'm the parent of a child who attends [REDACTED]. Our address is [REDACTED].

I'm emailing you in support of Independence High School's GSA, particularly in light of their recent homecoming float and the criticism they're receiving from Moms for Liberty.

I and the group I'm a part of, Williamson Social Justice Alliance, strongly support our LGBTQ+ students and their allies, and we believe the GSA should be allowed to continue to exist and have the same rights as other clubs at the school.

Thanks for all you do,

Kate

--

Kate Ward

[REDACTED]

From: kathie sigmund <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 1:29:39 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: GSA

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Greetings members of the School Board.

I appreciate these are very difficult and challenging times in our community and I thank you for serving the public under such conditions.

I understand there are some concerned parents represented by *Moms 4 Liberty WC*, who are not comfortable with GSA's (Gay-Straight Alliance) in WCSD and plan on attending the WCSB meeting to express their opinion.

In writing to express my opinion on this subject I find the word liberty, as I understand it, the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges, must be allowed for all WCSD students.

Best regards,
Kathie Sigmund

[REDACTED]

STRAY DOG
www.filmstraydog.com

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Cc: PFLAG Franklin <[REDACTED]>; 'Kathy Halbrooks' <[REDACTED]>
Subject: In support of High School GSAs

Good morning,

By now you all have probably have gotten an earful about what did or did not happen at the Independence Homecoming Parade as regards a Pride float.

First of all, I'd like to say that all three of my kids did graduate from WCS and it is my hope that one day my grandchildren will attend and graduate from WCS schools as well. I am currently President of PFLAG Franklin, which is composed of parents, family and friends with the LGBTQ+ community to support, educate and advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ issues. My son is gay. Believe me, if he could have chosen not to be Gay, he would have.

Being LGBTQ+ is not a choice, but you only have one life to live and he and all LGBTQ+ people would like to live a peaceful, productive life with those they love in a place they love. That's the so called Gay Agenda. There's no recruitment going on, I promise you. Again, if anyone could choose to be straight, they would. OK, soap box rant over.

Please know that GSAs are a good thing, not only for LGBTQ+ kids, but also for straight kids. Why? Because if a school's culture is accepting of those who are in the minority (about 10% of the population is LGBTQ in every demographic) then everyone knows that they are in a safe place. If bullying happens to an LGBTQ+ person and they are supported, then if a football player, a drama student, or a geography whiz kid gets bullied, they will know they are also going to be supported by their school. It's well documented that greater learning happens in a supportive environment. GSAs provide information to those who don't have direct knowledge of LGBTQ+ issues. The fact that GSAs are so popular among the kids shows that kids understand that queer kids are kids too. Kids need guidance, of course, and from what I have heard from the President of Independence HS GSA, they were doing their best to follow the directions given to them by the adults at the school and were reacting as well as they could in a situation where they were essentially being bullied.

There's a ton of pushback by people saying they don't want to wear masks, even though there is plenty of evidence to show that schools that do wear masks have more in person learning days than those who don't because of illness and quarantine. Those same people that are demanding liberty for themselves are demanding others go into the closet and/or have their liberties restricted. At the end of the day, love is what we are called to. Please do not let angry voices from ill-informed people railroad your decisions about anything, GSAs or otherwise.

I admire you for being willing to represent a diverse community. It isn't easy!

Thank you for your time reading my email.

Best regards,

Ginny Bailey

President

PFLAG Franklin

From: Katie Puhr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 12:28:59 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: In Support of LGBTQ+

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Hello,

My children are not yet students at WCS, but my four year old will start Kindergarten next year so I've begun to get more plugged in to the goings-on of the school system.

I have just learned that the Moms For Liberty group are issuing complaints about the Pride float from the Independence High School parade. Personally, I'm thrilled to hear of a school with a thriving Gay-Straight Alliance in Williamson County. As a Christian, straight, cisgender woman who is related to someone in the LGBTQ+ community, I appreciate the normalization of seeing a Pride float. The kids and adults of the LGBTQ+ community rarely see representation in a homogeneous area like ours, and this small act helps to normalize and humanize them to those outside. I'm so happy they were allowed to participate, and am writing in support that they be continued to do so.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our kids and teachers.

Katie Puhr

--
Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: Kristen Helou <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:01:16 PM
To: Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Tonight school board meeting

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Superintendent Golden and WCS School Board Members,

I am writing to ask your help as you prepare for your school board meeting tonight. I will not be able to be in attendance, but am hoping you will read this and take my words to heart.

While I know the mask mandate is the subject most eyes are on (I support it, as I have expressed in earlier emails), but I am urgently concerned with the safety of our LGBTQ+ students in Williamson County. I am hoping tonight you will make a statement of support safety for ALL children in our schools and to let it be known that we will not stand by when fellow students or worse, adults, bully our students, in person or on social media.

Last spring, we completed a survey about our county, school and administrations approach and response to diversity issues. I was so encouraged that this community was putting on focus on this very important issue. I'm not sure what has come of that information, but this past week, there have been a series of mean spirited and homophobic social media posts and comments (some on WCS posts) about the Pride club and it's Homecoming float at IHS. An early post stated two students kissed on the float. By the end, they were touching inappropriately and making out. I wasn't at the parade, so I won't to speak to that (although its starting to sound like my dad walking to school, uphill both ways in 8 feet of snow), but I was most horrified by the comments made by people in our community towards LGBTQ+ students. At the parade, those same students had insults hurled at them and items thrown at them. How can this be ignored?

I don't have an LGBTQ+ child, but my kids have a number of friends who identify as such. Furthermore, statistics tell us, they undoubtedly have even more friends that are questioning their sexuality. As a former college administrator who has seen hundreds of students, and personally helped dozens navigate this process, I assure you, there is nothing easy about it.

Williamson County students need to feel safe.

It's really that simple. Schools should be a safe place. And this issues is not specific to LGBTQ+ students. The truth is, EVERY student who is different, is watching. How will you respond?

I see comments from parents in this community and I'm horrified. Sometimes they are directed at students, other parents, teachers, administrators . . . and yes, sometimes they are directed at you. It is not acceptable in any of those situations. As a side note, I also urge you to ask that your social media folks block people from WCS pages when they do not adhere to the guidelines.

Hate has no place in Williamson County Schools.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

From: Laci Brandley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:05:15 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for Gay Straight Alliance

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Hello school board members,

Thank you for everything you do to help our school district navigate these difficult times. I can only imagine the pressure and stress you are feeling. Thank you for listening to conflicting opinions and viewpoints and using the information and facts you hear from each side, and your own critical thinking skills, to come to your decisions that affect our children and community.

I know that tonight, the group Moms For Liberty will be speaking out against Gay Straight Alliance clubs in schools. I would like to voice my SUPPORT for the Gay Straight Alliance clubs in schools. Our world is divided. There is hate. Our children need to know that school can be a safe place for them, regardless of their sexual orientation. These children are doing nothing wrong. They are creating a space where there can be unity and open dialogue and understanding, which is more than I can say about a lot of adults in our community. A place they can learn. Grow. Experience life and how to navigate difficult conversations.

The club is not a forced or required option-If a student and/or their parent disagrees with the club, they can simply not join or participate. What will bullying or shutting down these clubs accomplish? More hate. More division, More youth feeling like they are unseen and unsupported. Suicide rates and contemplation among LGBTQ youth is extremely concerning. As this scholarly, peer reviewed publication from Cambridge University states: "LGBT adolescents are exposed to more stress by being a minority in society and by being explicitly bullied and discriminated against. This can lead to depression in some of these adolescents, and can also lead to suicide in the most vulnerable among them. There are proven ways to reduce these risks, and psychiatrists have a role to play in advocating for these reforms." I can only imagine feeling so rejected, so unsupported, so hated for simply being who I am, that I would die by suicide. Our children need to know they are loved. They need to know they are safe. Regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation. There is a place for them to learn at our schools.

Sincerely,

Laci Brandley
Parent [REDACTED]

From: Laura Lyn Donahue <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:51:22 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: In support of LBGTQ+

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear WILCO Board Members,

Please know that the ranting voices in opposition of lbgtq+ (including "moms for liberty") do not represent all of us.

Unfortunately, school board meetings have become a place of threats, violence and inexcusable, uncontrollable behavior – the antithesis of the point – not to mention a breeding ground for Covid-19 transmission.

We still need the MASK MANDATE to continue but to also include 6th graders/middle/high.

Please.

If we could make it thru Thanksgiving or Christmas our COVID-19 numbers would surely improve. There's evidence supporting this in our state and across the country.

Thank you for your time.

With Kindness,

[REDACTED]

Laura Lyn Donahue
www.l2donahue.wixsite.com/itslauralyn

From: Lauren Ruth Martin, LPC-MHSP <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:20:11 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: A Call for Empathy: In Support of LGBTQ+

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

To the members of the Williamson County School Board:

As a person who tends to embrace the both/and mindset and is skilled in perspective taking (I mean I am a therapist), I'm asking for a few minutes of your time to hear my call for empathy. Empathy is something I feel has been lacking within the conversations regarding masks, race diversity, and inclusion. Any efforts to have these difficult conversations have been met with vitriol (from both sides) and any meeting in the middle is seen as a loss. I'm imagining you all feel like every choice is a lose-lose because we can't make everyone happy!

Where I am most concerned at this moment is the volume of groups that are speaking out against LGBTQ+ people without considering the harm done in the process. To see social media posts condemning the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community is disheartening and the WCS School Board needs to be the leader in preaching coexistence. I do not support the stance of groups like Moms4Liberty and I do not want to block their right to express their perspective. However, WCS not making a stance or addressing the reports that members of the LGBTQ+ community were attacked and bullied while on their own float is concerning. If we are working on creating a more diverse and inclusive environment, we can't be afraid to identify hate speech when it's there. If a group of protestors went into an M4L meeting and started attacking them the way the LGBTQ+ float was last week, I would not support that.

There is overwhelming evidence that creating a welcoming space LGBTQ+ people decreases the risk for suicides and mental health issues. This includes honoring one's pronouns, being able to express their affection like other same-sex couples, and action steps to SHOW they are protected. This weekend at pride, MNPS had an immense presence and what I can tell you is that will probably save many lives of LGBTQ+ youth.

Anecdotally, many people become allies once they know someone in the LGBTQ+ community. We have to think about the parents that send their children to school praying their kid will be safe that day. Whenever I see families of LGBTQ+ teens, the family's biggest fear is not about having a child that's queer, but more about how others will receive them. Y'all...we need to be better at empathy.

My child is 3 and I want Williamson County to get this empathy deficit handled. There is no way that we can remain a successful school district if a significant amount of our students are blatantly put in harm's way on a daily basis.

My hope is that you will consider bringing in experts in various communities including people of color and LGBTQ+ in order to outline effective action steps to ensure safety. A solid first step would be calling out harm when it occurs and implement a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech.

Thank you for your time.

--

Lauren Ruth Martin, LPC-MHSP

(she/her/hers)

Owner & Therapist: Novel Counseling

[REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] /// Cell: [REDACTED]

novelcounseling.com

****limited admin contact on Tuesdays/Sundays****

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From: Lindsey Warden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 5:17:35 PM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: LGBTQ Pride Group at Independence

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good Afternoon,

My name is Lindsey Warden. I'm an Independence alumna, a mother, and a resident of WCS District 12. I am emailing today to suggest that you author a resolution in affirmation and support of LGBTQ Pride and Alliance student groups in our Williamson County schools.

LGBTQ students have some of the highest bullying and suicide rates in the US. The students who were actually on that float at Independence had objects thrown at them and they were called slurs by the other students. Moms for Liberty supports and fosters this hate in our community. It is parents like them who are modeling hatefulness and bigotry to our great WCS students.

I would also like to point out that students' rights do NOT end at the school house door. Passing out fliers and expressing their identity is protected speech under the first amendment.

These students should be supported, affirmed and applauded for their bravery given such a hostile climate. The bravery to be themselves, the bravery to create a safe space for other teenagers who may be struggling to identify or express their sexuality, is so important. I believe you all should create a resolution to thank these students for their bravery and to express the Board's full support for the First Amendment and to decry bullying of students based on their identity.

Additionally, and as an aside, I want to let you know how disappointed I am that Moms for Liberty have been allowed to share these students' images and to bully them and create a dangerous and hostile situation for them. THAT kind of behavior is what impedes the learning environment, not some teenagers expressing themselves and having fun. I am a ninth generation Williamson Countian. My family has lived in this county since prior to 1710. I extremely alarmed to see people who identify as "California refugees" and other outsiders coming into our community with a twisted and messed up perception of who we are. They believe they are exiting blue states for Williamson County because they stereotype us as being people who share in their hatred and bigotry...but that's not who we are. We are people who stand up for our neighbors. People who parent our children with empathy and compassion. People who mind our own business and live and let live. I don't know what you can do about this group, but I think a good start might be to put a zipper on all the interruptions during your meetings that are going viral and humiliating our entire county on a National and international stage. Stop giving these fools warning after warning, and have them escorted OUT. Take back your meetings and do your jobs. Protect our students, hardworking teachers and administrators, and keep our schools great. Do not allow these incredible morons to embarrass our county time and time again.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Warden

██████████

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:06:28 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: Tonight school board meeting

Let's discuss in the pre meeting.

Nancy Garrett
District 12, Williamson County School Board
[REDACTED]

From: Kristen Helou <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Tonight school board meeting

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Superintendent Golden and WCS School Board Members,

I am writing to ask your help as you prepare for your school board meeting tonight. I will not be able to be in attendance, but am hoping you will read this and take my words to heart.

While I know the mask mandate is the subject most eyes are on (I support it, as I have expressed in earlier emails), but I am urgently concerned with the safety of our LGBTQ+ students in Williamson County. I am hoping tonight you will make a statement of support safety for ALL children in our schools and to let it be known that we will not stand by when fellow students or worse, adults, bully our students, in person or on social media.

Last spring, we completed a survey about our county, school and administrations approach and response to diversity issues. I was so encouraged that this community was putting on focus on this very important issue. I'm not sure what has come of that information, but this past week, there have been a series of mean spirited and homophobic social media posts and comments (some on WCS posts) about the Pride club and it's Homecoming float at IHS. An early post stated two students kissed on the float. By the end, they were touching inappropriately and making out. I wasn't at the parade, so I won't to speak to that (although its starting to sound like my dad walking to school, uphill both ways in 8 feet of snow), but I was most horrified by the comments made by people in our community towards LGBTQ+ students. At the parade, those same students had insults hurled at them and items thrown at them. How can this be ignored?

I don't have an LGBTQ+ child, but my kids have a number of friends who identify as such. Furthermore, statistics tell us, they undoubtedly have even more friends that are questioning their sexuality. As a former college administrator who has seen hundreds of students, and personally helped dozens navigate this process, I assure you, there is nothing easy about it.

Williamson County students need to feel safe.

It's really that simple. Schools should be a safe place. And this issues is not specific to LGBTQ+ students. The truth is, EVERY student who is different, is watching.

How will you respond?

I see comments from parents in this community and I'm horrified. Sometimes they are directed at students, other parents, teachers, administrators . . . and yes, sometimes they are directed at you. It is not acceptable in any of those situations. As a side note, I also urge you to ask that your social media folks block people from WCS pages when they do not adhere to the guidelines.

Hate has no place in Williamson County Schools.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Kristen Helou

From: Rebecca Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 4:04:10 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Michael Fletcher <[REDACTED]>; Mandi thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for LGBTQ+ groups in WCS

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear members of the WCS school board,

According to the CDC, LGBTQ+ youth are at greater risk for depression, suicide and substance abuse. Are we going to let the "Moms for Liberty" bully our already at risk youth? Everyone is entitled to feel safe and included at public schools. Please shut their ridiculous attack down.

Thank you so much,

Rebecca Clark
Williamson County parent of 3

From: Saylor, Megan Michelle <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 9/20/2021 6:03:57 PM

To: Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>;

Subject: Board meeting this evening

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Board Members,

I want to start by thanking you for your service during these extraordinary times. I suspect school board meetings have been different from past years. I am keenly aware of the load that this is putting on each of you. The weight of keeping students and staff safe in the face of the pandemic has been squarely on your shoulders. I want to acknowledge how grateful I am for your efforts in this area.

I am writing about a different matter (that is near and dear to my heart). I am the parent of 2 children in WCS. One of my children has recently shared that they are a member of the LGBTQ+ community. My initial reaction was one of fear, both for their safety and for the possibility they would be ostracized in some way. The reality of the situation has been far from what I imagined. School continues to be a welcoming, safe space for my child. I suspect that this is the result of the standards you, as board members, set for the behavior of students and staff at the many schools in Williamson County. It is in this spirit that I first want to thank you for the work you have done to make schools a welcoming place for all students, including those who are members of the LGBTQ+ community.

I was shocked and saddened to learn how student members of the Indy Pride group at Independence High School were treated at their homecoming parade (and subsequently by adults who shared the video of their float on social media coupled with false information about the Indy Pride group). I have been disheartened that some members of the Williamson County community are still struggling to come to accept and appreciate diversity in its many forms. Groups that affirm the many facets of an adolescent's identity (including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity) can have positive impacts on the social and emotional well-being of youth. These types of groups are likely of critical importance during the teen years. Gender minority youth are particularly vulnerable during this developmental period and likely benefit from entering an academic space that is both welcoming and affirming. I encourage the school board to continue to affirm and support the existence of the varied set of identity groups currently thriving in WCS schools. Looking forward, I hope that as my child enters high school, they see the multiple facets of their identity reflected in the broad slate of identity groups offered at WCS high schools.

Thank you,

Meg Saylor

From: Scott and Rose Mary Muirhead <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 2:38:30 PM
To: Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED];
Subject: Support for ALL Children

<<<<< WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS
>>>>>

I am a parent of two children at FHS. And I am appalled and so angry at parents who are attacking children who don't fit "their" idea of what is acceptable. I cannot fathom what must be in a mother's heart to spread lies about CHILDREN and sexualise them and post hateful rhetoric on social media. Then also attacking the principal of Independence because she is lesbian? What century are we even in?

I ask you to strongly support all WCS students, regardless of gender preference or identification. They all deserve a safe space for education. And right now I can guarantee you that any child who is not straight is not feeling safe.

Thank you for all you do. And I am so sorry that you have to go through what you've gone through this past year.

Rose Mary Muirhead
[REDACTED]

From: Shannon Porter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 9:28:30 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Williamson County GSAs

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Good Morning,

I know you are being inundated with emails regarding the Independence High GSA float in the homecoming parade.

My understanding is that a local group called "Moms 4 Liberty WC" is planning to attend the Williamson County School Board meeting tonight and their intention is to stop the schools from having GSA's.

As a parent of a child in middle school in Williamson County, I support GSAs in schools. The right of students to form a GSA is protected by the Constitution.

Education about the LGBTQ community doesn't ruin innocence - ignorance does that.

Best Regards,
Shannon Porter

From: Siobhan Spencer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/20/2021 10:57:00 AM
To: angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; Juli Oyer <[REDACTED]>; Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Extend the Mask Mandate + In Support of LGBTQ+

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Superintendent Golden, Assistant Superintendents Oyer & Webb, Mr. Anderson & Members of the WCS Board,

I am writing again to fervently ask that you **extend the mask mandate**. I will not be attending tonight's Williamson County School Board Meeting in person because 1. I am avoiding large indoor gatherings to protect my two children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine, especially where many attendees refuse to follow basic safety precautions; and, 2. I do not wish to be targeted in the way the opposition targeted others at the now infamous August meeting. I know your board is well aware that many people like me will choose to stay home for the same reasons, and it is important that the voices not in the room have a platform to communicate. I appreciate that you all are under an enormous amount of scrutiny from both sides of this issue, and I belatedly thank you for enacting the mask mandate in the face of such hostility in August...My hope is that you will continue to make decisions rooted in facts.

Your jobs are to allow children to have access to education while providing a safe and protected environment. While I am extremely disappointed in the ability for people to opt out of the current mask mandate on flimsy rationales, at best, with the majority of people masking, we have seen COVID numbers go down since the mask mandate was put in place. With the COVID cases in the area only increasing, we know that masking works. My sister-in-law, a fellow Williamson County parent and child psychologist at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, has said Vanderbilt is expecting the surge to continue rising for at least two more weeks. There is no just reason for letting the current mask mandate expire tomorrow/Tuesday, 9/21. Our hospitals are at capacity, and more and more people are being negatively impacted by the virus. As a school system serving the community, it is your responsibility to protect our community from further spread, regardless of the minor inconvenience masks pose to some.

In addition to extending the mask mandate, I would like to know **what additional protocols are being considered to further safeguard children, teachers, and staff** so that they can attend school with minimal disruption.

- **Are all teachers and staff, regardless of vaccination status, being regularly tested?**
- **If someone is exposed at school, how are you ensuring timely notification of exposure to prevent an outbreak in the greater community?** Last year, when my daughter was exposed, we did not receive notice from the Department of Public Health until 8 days after exposure.
- **If families choose to travel via public transport or even internationally, will you consider requiring quarantines and/or testing prior to having a child return to school?**
- **Will you purchase and install HEPA filters in the schools throughout?**

On another note, it has come to my attention that some parents are looking for disciplinary action against two female students kissing during a homecoming parade over the last few days. As a reminder, **your schools are to serve ALL children, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, what have you.** The schools are a place for inclusion, not exclusion. I have no tolerance for the level of hatefulness behind these parents' motives. I urge you to not give the squeaky wheels the grease. If you would not discipline a male and female kissing, then there is no reason to take any action in this case either.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your updated plans.

Best wishes,
Siobhan Spencer

 Parent

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 9/20/2021 3:13:17 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Pflag Franklin <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: In support of High School GSAs

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Superintendent Golden,
I am Ginny Bailey, President of PFLAG Franklin. I sent the following email to the School Board members and wanted you to be aware of our support for GSAs in Williamson County Schools. PFLAG is a National Grass Roots organization of Parents, Family and Friends of the LGBTQ+ community whose mission is education, support and advocacy for and about LGBT+ issues. PFLAG Franklin has been operating since 2012 in Franklin and was a major player in this summer's first Pride Festival at Harlinsdale Park. If we can be of assistance to you in spreading a message of inclusion, acceptance and affirmation of LGBTQ+ people or any marginalized group in schools, please let us know.

As I said to the Board Members, I admire all the work that you do for the kids of Williamson County, especially in these difficult times.
Sincerely,
Ginny Bailey
President
PFLAG Franklin
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Cc: PFLAG Franklin <[REDACTED]>; 'Kathy Halbrooks' <[REDACTED]>
Subject: In support of High School GSAs

Good morning,

By now you all have probably have gotten an earful about what did or did not happen at the Independence Homecoming Parade as regards a Pride float. First of all, I'd like to say that all three of my kids did graduate from WCS and it is my hope that one day my grandchildren will attend and graduate from WCS schools as well. I am currently President of PFLAG Franklin, which is composed of parents, family and friends with the LGBTQ+ community to support, educate and advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ issues. My son is gay. Believe me, if he could have chosen not to be Gay, he would have.

Being LGBTQ+ is not a choice, but you only have one life to live and he and all LGBTQ+ people would like to live a peaceful, productive life with those they love in a place they love. That's the so called Gay Agenda. There's no recruitment going on, I promise you. Again, if anyone could choose to be straight, they would. OK, soap box rant over.

Please know that GSAs are a good thing, not only for LGBTQ+ kids, but also for straight kids. Why? Because if a school's culture is accepting of those who are in the minority (about 10% of the population is LGBTQ in every demographic) then everyone knows that they are in a safe place. If bullying happens to an LGBTQ+ person and they are supported, then if a football player, a drama student, or a geography whiz kid gets bullied, they will know they are also going to be supported by their school. It's well documented that greater learning happens in a supportive environment. GSAs provide information to those who don't have direct knowledge of LGBTQ+ issues. The fact that GSAs are so popular among the kids shows that kids understand that queer kids are kids too. Kids need guidance, of course, and from what I have heard from the President of Independence HS GSA, they were doing their best to follow the directions given to them by the adults at the school and were reacting as well as they could in a situation where they were essentially being bullied.

There's a ton of pushback by people saying they don't want to wear masks, even though there is plenty of evidence to show that schools that do wear masks have more in person learning days than those who don't because

of illness and quarantine. Those same people that are demanding liberty for themselves are demanding others go into the closet and/or have their liberties restricted. At the end of the day, love is what we are called to. Please do not let angry voices from ill-informed people railroad your decisions about anything, GSAs or otherwise.

I admire you for being willing to represent a diverse community. It isn't easy!

Thank you for your time reading my email.

Best regards,

Ginny Bailey

President

PFLAG Franklin