

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/16/2020 12:36:09 PM
To: Kelley Joyner <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: A Teacher's Input
Attachments: [image002.png](#), [image003.png](#)

Thank you, Kelley.

Nancy

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

From: Kelley Joyner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: A Teacher's Input

THANK YOU.

Thank you for your support. Your comment about child care vs. education during tonight's board meeting spoke wonders. Us teachers appreciate that more than you know.

Your request for a facebook live for upcoming kindergartners was great. Teachers would love a facebook live as well. We have questions. We have so many questions. We keep hearing about the PD we have been "offered." We are not prepared, we are anxious and worried and would love to have our questions answered, not just the parents questions.

Again, thank you so much, I know you are not "my board member" but I feel as though you hear us and are listening. That is a good feeling right now.

Kelley Anne Joyner
EDMONDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1ST GRADE TEACHER
[REDACTED]

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Kelley Joyner <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: A Teacher's Input

Hey, Kelley: thank you for writing and providing a real-world perspective. It's so helpful.

Nancy

Nancy Garrett
District 12, Williamson County School Board

From: Kelley Joyner <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:29 PM

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

Subject: A Teacher's Input

Mr. Golden and Board Members,

I appreciate all of the hours and resources you have used to create a plan for this unimaginable situation. I trust Mr. Golden and his team of professionals are doing everything they can to get our students back in school safely. While I cannot fathom what getting 38,000+ students back in our classrooms will look like and am glad we have a strong team to do that, *I can imagine what it will look like inside my 1st grade classroom.*

- It will be a classroom with not enough space to SAFELY social distance 20+ six year olds.
- It will be a classroom with 20+ students that are still in the process of even learning how to control their energetic bodies.
- It will be a classroom where 20+ students are still learning proper hygiene and how to protect not only themselves but others from their germs.
- It will be a classroom where 20+ students are learning how to keep our hands and feet to ourselves.
- It will be a classroom where 20+ students learn best through HANDS ON activities.
- It will be a classroom where 20+ students need help tying their shoes, buttoning their buttons, band-aiding their scrapes, sharpening their pencils, opening their glue, opening their water bottle, correctly holding a pencil, consoling them through new, big emotions, running around with friends...

Every moment of a day in a 1st grade classroom is hands on, interactive, and in close contact with one another. I am desperate to get back in the classroom, but I truly CAN NOT imagine going back without smaller classroom sizes AS WELL as masks (*thank you for mandating this and I truly hope this does not get changed for the wellbeing of not only our students but our teachers and staff*). I'm asking you to please consider the idea of smaller classes, or half days with half of a class. I obviously don't work for the money, I work because this is my passion and being with my students in my classroom is my favorite place to be. But risking my health as well as my family's should not have to be part of the equation.

Thank you again for all of the hard work you all are doing, but please remember the teachers. We miss our kids. We miss our classrooms. We miss teaching. We WILL do anything for our students. We WILL put them first. We WILL spend countless hours figuring out how best to help them. We WILL give up our weekends to grade papers and prepare for our lessons. We WILL protect them from harm. Please don't ask us to risk our lives for something that we could have written better rules for.

We are all in this together. We have the knowledge, resources, and passion to safely navigate this pandemic. Let's find a way that safely gets our students in school while also protecting our teachers and staff.

Kelley Anne Joyner
EDMONDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1ST GRADE TEACHER



From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/16/2020 9:20:50 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

Please read this as an input to your weekly letter tomorrow. I didn't ask too forward, but I think it hits many of the points that I'm hearing in the community.

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Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:06:25 PM
To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

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Thank you for your time and attention!

Becky Trim



From: Rebecca Trim <[REDACTED]>
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Subject: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

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Thank you for your time and attention!

Becky Trim



From: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/17/2020 7:50:07 AM
To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

Thanks.

Jason Golden
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]

On Jul 16, 2020, at 9:20 PM, Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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Looking at the logistical side of being a teacher, we have many duties and requirements that will impede us from following best practices for our health and safety. For instance, between classes, teachers have hall duty. This is essential to ensure the safe passing of students and will become even more important with the mask requirements. Once the bell rings, we report immediately to our rooms to ensure student safety in that space. Often times, this makes it extremely difficult to use the restroom, let alone go wash our hands. It has been my training that there is NEVER a time when it is safe or appropriate to leave a classroom with students unattended. That one logistical issue is going to create times where teachers could go potentially hours without properly washing hands. Another concern is students washing hands prior to lunch. From a logistical point, it is not feasible to have about 200 students washing hands for 20 seconds, getting food, and eating within the lunch time frames. This may be more of a building level issue; however, I just wanted to share some of the concerns that are flashing through my mind as we approach reopening. Each passing day, I am thinking of more and more elements of school reopening that are going to jeopardize the health of teachers and students. I am grateful that the district is requiring masks; however, the loose language used during the board

meeting was extremely alarming. Mr. Fletcher commented that there might be times that masks could be removed within the classroom at teacher discretion. Additionally, Mr. Golden stated that the culture of mask wearing would be developed and no punitive consequences would be used and no doctor note would be required when students do not wear masks properly. On social media, I have viewed many parent comments with the intention to fully disregard the mask procedures because no doctor's note is needed, and there will be no consequences. This alone is going to create a major rub between teachers and parents.

Because I am a teacher, many people forward along tidbits they have heard here and there. I generally disregard these things as part of the rumor mill; however, an overwhelming theme has developed among teachers. That theme is that Williamson County Schools will be reopening on campus no matter what. I don't want to speculate whether that is parent, political, or financial pressure, as I am sure the district is receiving pressure from all three. I want to believe that our district is putting the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront, but it does not feel that way. I grew up in Williamson County schools; I have only taught in Williamson County schools; I have been a supporter of Williamson County schools. I fully believed that Williamson County School District was going to do everything possible to protect all stakeholders, but recent developments do not seem to point to this idea. We are creating a dangerous situation for our students, staff, families, and community. The scientific facts that have been presented for months are being disregarded. All the science points to this being a terrible idea. The district is entering an experiment that will be detrimental to the health and welfare of our community. As of 7/15, 18th deaths have occurred in Williamson County. While this number is significantly lower than the national average, it likely doesn't feel that way to the 18 families who lost a love one forever. It is our responsibility to do everything in our power to mitigate this danger. A strain is going to be placed on our medical community when this goes south. Our district cancels school when there is a threat of snow that keeps buses from safely transporting students to the building because it is not worth the risk of an accident; however, we are disregarding the science that points to this being dangerous. Throughout our country, prisons and correctional facilities have released nonviolent offenders because the risk of contracting COVID was too great for them to remain in the facility, but students and staff are going to be placed in buildings where the social distancing that has been supported by science will not be honored. As I am sure you have gathered, I am very passionate about this issue. I hope my tone has not come off as aggressive or accusatory, as that is not my intention. This is simply a passionate plea as I grow more and more concerned about my family, myself, my students, and my community. I greatly appreciate all that you do.

Thank you for your time and attention!

Becky Trim



From: Rebecca Trim <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/16/2020 7:06:25 PM
To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Do not click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

I want to begin by thanking you for all your hard work related to the reopening of schools. I watched the marathon board meeting the other night and was extremely appreciative of your transparent support of teachers. I can only imagine the amount of emails you have received with varying opinions and requests, and I just want to thank you for your service!

I am reaching out, not only as a teacher in the district, but because you are the board member who represents my home ([REDACTED]). While I am incredibly appreciative of the strides that have been made to reopen schools safely, I have grave concerns regarding the reopening of schools. When the survey was initially sent out regarding the reopening of schools, the metric of spread was that at a medium spread (0.5%-1%) schools would become remote. I have felt all along that going back to schools was a risk, but I felt that the district was closely monitoring local spread and would close at 0.5%, thus limiting teacher and student exposure. With the updated verbiage in the framework, I am extremely concerned that the 0.5% now is simply a trigger for a conversation. I have taught middle school for 11 years. I love my job, and I love the students & families I serve. I can't imagine doing anything else. Each year of being in a middle school, I have battled things that are not hygienic because kids are not good at being sanitary. I apologize for my blunt delivery, but every school year, I have at least a few 8th graders (12-14 year olds) who pick their nose regularly. They bite their nails in class. They are constantly sticking their fingers in their eyes. I offer these few examples to say that while masks may slow down the finger to nose & mouth interaction, I am extremely concerned that I am putting my health, and my families health by extension, in the hands of children who do not have good hygiene habits.

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Thank you for your time and attention!

Becky Trim

