

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:

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.

The other suggestion I would have for tomorrow's communication is something about training since there's been so much feedback from teachers and other staff about this item as well
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Rebecca Trim <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 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



From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/17/2020 11:18:42 AM
To: Rebecca Trim <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

Hi, Becky: thanks so much for your email. I'm happy to learn that we are neighbors--I live at [REDACTED] I'd love to connect in person some time.

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Nancy

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

From: Rebecca Trim <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:06 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

[REDACTED]

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/17/2020 11:19:53 AM
To: Vickie Hall <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

Vickie, I already sent this to Jason, but wanted you to see it too, as it addresses many of the issues that are being raised by teachers.

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

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Rebecca Trim <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

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District 12, Williamson County School Board
[REDACTED]

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

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Becky Trim

[REDACTED]

From: Vickie Hall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/17/2020 3:06:31 PM
To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: A Huge Thank You & Teacher Concern

Thanks Nancy

Sent from my iPhone

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Nancy Garrett

District 12, Williamson County School Board

[REDACTED]

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

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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.

I am having an extremely hard time understanding why schools would remain open at a 0.5% spread. If the idea is that schools are essential work and teachers are essential workers, I would consider what other essential operations are doing. Williamson Medical Center is essential; however, they are not fully open to the public. Recently, I had a family member in the hospital for a non-COVID related illness, and I was not allowed in the building to deliver a change of clothes. I was met just inside the sliding glass doors and told to leave the bag to the side. As I walked away, the bag was being sprayed with a disinfectant. The district is opening to the public. I can't think of another business that is fully opening with as many people concentrated to certain areas for potential exposure. I have taken a preliminary glance at my rosters in Skyward. I know these are subject to change as parents make decisions about online learning, but I have multiple classes that have 32 students. While Mr. Golden has acknowledged many times that social distancing is not feasible, I am extremely concerned about the idea of being in a classroom with that many children who may or may not follow proper hygiene requirements. I appreciate that the health department is helping with contact tracing, but I am growing more and more concerned with how that situation is being handled. For instance, if a student in my class tests positive, I may not be contacted because he/she sat 8 feet away but was in my room for 50 minutes. My initial understanding was if a positive case occurred in the building, there would be an automatic 2-day closure for cleaning. Based on my understanding from Monday's Board Meeting, that may or may not happen. This is unacceptable! If a student in my room tests positive, I have a right to know. Also, from the beginning of this pandemic, my understanding was if you were exposed to someone who had tested positive for COVID, you needed to self-quarantine for 14 days. It seems that is being cast aside. The general feeling I got was that if a student tests positive, you may or may not be out for 2-days, and then business as usual will resume. This is irresponsible.

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

