

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/11/2020 5:23:49 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Remote learning

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Dear Mr. Golden,
I'm writing to you as a concerned parent of a 5th grader and two 11th graders. After 5 months of being home, my kids were so excited to go back to school. My daughter, who is 10, had a lot of questions. Do we have to wear a mask, how are we going to sit 6 ft apart, how am I going to do my job as a 5th grade helper if I can't stand next to the littles, are we going to be able to play with each other during recess? To say we had a lot of conversations is an understatement. When we told the kids that we were going to remote learn for the first two weeks they were very upset. All my kids said they wanted to go back to school, they didn't care how that looked. They wanted to see their teachers and their friends. My daughter told me she doesn't like to learn online. She likes to write with a pencil and paper. One of my sons has a 504 and was concerned that he wasn't going to be able to keep up or what he should do if he needed help. I know that there are going to be hiccups with the internet and the new learning system, that this is new to everyone (teachers and students), but I sat yesterday and today and watched my kids really struggle and one broke down crying. And that is not ok! These kids need to get back in the classroom. They need to be learning in front of their teachers and with their friends.

The kids' zoom calls are freezing up and glitching so bad they can barely hear the teacher talk. My daughter's video keeps going out and then kicking her off. And my house is one of the better ones. My neighbor's daughter came by me today because she was having so many issues. It is beyond frustrating to be on a zoom call and then have to toggle back and forth between the Schoology tabs they need to open to see their assignments, or Google classroom in the case of the younger kids. It's two days in and I already see my kids losing interest because they are beyond frustrated. My 10 year old, who absolutely loves school, wrote me a note today that said I HATE THIS. By the time they get off the computer at the end of the school day they look like zombies. 7 hours of screen time is not healthy or ok!

During the winter we don't close the schools for the flu (which more children get) unless we have 10% of the teacher student population sick. Why then are we closing the schools for less than 1% of the whole population of Williamson County? The mayor of Williamson County has mandated masks for the next few weeks, but children 12 and under are exempt. Why then are we making our children wear masks while attending school? I think this should be a parent decision. If you want your kids to wear a mask, send them with a mask. If you do not want your kids to wear a mask, send them without one. If you are not comfortable sending your kids to school, then keep them home and do the online option. But the choice should be the parents and no one else's. I am more concerned about my children getting sick with a respiratory issue from wearing a mask 7 or more hours a day than I am with sending them back to school and getting Covid.

I know you are making a decision this week whether or not we will go back into the classroom in two weeks. I urge you to please open up the schools, because if you don't I feel like we are going to lose a lot of kids. I do not think this is a good learning environment for anyone and i don't see it getting any better.

Sincerely,
Danielle [REDACTED]