

From: Downs, Meghan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 8/11/2021 9:03:40 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]>;
Cc: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Mask Mandate: Keep our community SAFE

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

Again, THANK YOU for your service to our schools, community, and most importantly, our children. Last night was hard to watch – I can only imagine how challenging it was for each of you in the room. Your leadership has never been more important, and from my perspective – more appreciated. I am sure you were not feeling appreciated last night, but please know...you were and you are.

From: Downs, Meghan
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 2:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mask Mandate: Keep our community SAFE

WCS School Board Members – THANK YOU for your tireless service for our community. I appreciate all you’ve been doing for the past year and a half, under these extraordinary circumstances. I am writing you to ask that you please reconsider instituting a mask mandate in our schools.

The facts

1. The CDC is recommending all teachers, staff, students, and visitors in schools to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
2. The American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending all students over 2 years old, along with staff, wear masks, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated against COVID-19.
3. Cases in Williamson County are, once again, on the rise.
4. We know that the best way to keep our community safe is for people to either get vaccinated or wear masks.
 - a. Only ~40% of the state of TN has been vaccinated to date.
 - b. NONE of the students in our elementary schools are eligible to be vaccinated.
5. We know that the best place for our children is IN SCHOOL, and the best way to keep them in school is to reduce community spread and avoid quarantines.

The noise

I recognize there are many, many vocal parents and organizations pressuring you to keep masks out of our schools (some of you on this email even agree with them and are fighting like hell alongside of them). There is talk of lawsuits and there is national media attention, and I’m sure the deluge of emails, phone calls, and opinions each of you are receiving daily is out of control. I truly feel for the position you are all in, and don’t envy you at all.

Your leadership

Based on your tireless work over the past year and a half, I know you all take your roles to govern the education and protection of our children incredibly seriously. To that end, I ask that you please put the noise aside and do the next, right thing. The hard thing. The only thing at this stage that will protect our children who cannot be vaccinated, and our community at large who will suffer the consequences of rampant community spread via the school buildings if children are not wearing masks. Please reinstitute a mask mandate in WCS school buildings at the recommendation of the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Thank you,
Meghan Downs

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