

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/28/2021 7:34:30 AM
To: Alanna Truss <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Support for Continued Mask Mandate, Improved Contact Tracing and DEI Efforts

Thanks, Alana.

It is our duty and honor to serve all students.

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

From: ALANNA TRUSS <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Alanna Truss, Ph.D. <[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]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Juli Oyer <[REDACTED]>; Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Continued Mask Mandate, Improved Contact Tracing and DEI Efforts

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

I just wanted to ensure my voice continues to be counted in support of those extremely important issues. 3 requests:
1) Extend the mask mandate. We know masking works and works best with higher participation. Please support and encourage our teachers and administrators to enforce the mask mandate for all students without an exemption.
2) Improve (initiate) contact tracing. From what I can tell it's not happening at all. The generic "A student in your child's class or grade has COVID" emails are not enough, nor is relying on parents to do the right thing. FSSD and MNPS are doing contact tracing and it is making a difference.
3) Continue DEI efforts. The response to the Indy Pride float by some members of our community is yet another clear example of the need for these efforts. Unfortunately the very individuals spreading hate and misinformation about the float are the same individuals trying to shut down the WCS DEI efforts. All of our students deserve to feel safe and supported at school. On this note, I hope that the board will address this specific incident this evening in a way that lets our LGBTQ students know that they have your support.

Thank you for continuing to show up and do this hard work!

Alanna Truss
KES and WMS Parent

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 25, 2021, at 9:52 AM, Alanna Truss, Ph.D. <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I am extremely grateful for those of you who requested the special meeting to re-visit COVID protocols and mitigation strategies. Our schools have historically done an excellent job of prioritizing our students' health and education and I am hoping that the outcome of the meeting will be a return to these priorities.

I am writing again in order to ensure that my voice is included in the tally of voices of those in support of increased mitigation strategies, in hopes of keeping our children healthy and learning in person as much as possible (more specific thoughts are included in my previous email below). It is highly likely that these voices will be underrepresented at the meeting as many of us are not interested in putting ourselves, our community, and you as board members at risk by showing up in person and contributing to viral spread and creating targets for hostility. Thank you for your tireless and thankless work! I hope that the right measures are in place to protect your health and safety tomorrow evening and in the weeks to come as you do this difficult work.

Sincerely,

Alanna Truss

Kenrose and Woodland Parent

Alanna Truss, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist, HSP

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On Aug 22, 2021, at 5:30 PM, Alanna Truss, Ph.D. <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear WCS Board Members and Administration,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to schedule another special called meeting to revisit WCS's COVID protocols and mitigation strategies, prioritizing the layered prevention approach outlined by the CDC and AAP. So much has changed for the worse in the short time since the previous meeting. Without a serious change in strategy this trend is guaranteed to continue, putting our students' health and education at serious risk. We need to pivot now before it is too late.

I recognize that our state leadership has put you in a terrible position when it comes to mask mandates and remote learning. On that note, I am in full support of WCS violating Governor Lee's executive order regarding masks. Metro Nashville and Shelby County Schools have done just that and in doing so have shown their commitment to the health of their school communities and the community at large. I am confident that the fallout from violating the executive order will pale in comparison to the fallout that lies ahead if we continue to send our children to school without universal masking and other mitigation strategies.

There is no doubt that vaccination and universal masking are our best defense against COVID. The argument that masks should not be required in middle and high school due to many of those students having the option to get vaccinated is a flawed argument when one's choice not to vaccinate does not only impact the unvaccinated individual. I have a middle schooler who is vaccinated and an elementary student who is not eligible to be vaccinated. Data on the delta variant demonstrates that even with my middle schooler being vaccinated and wearing a mask, the likelihood of contracting COVID at his middle school is not low. While the vaccine may

protect him from the worse symptoms, he can bring the virus home to my elementary age son who does not have the luxury of that same protection. I implore you to consider mask requirements for all grade levels for the time being. Universal masking will not only reduce COVID transmission risks, it will also greatly reduce the impacts of quarantine as close contacts will not be required to quarantine if both the positive case and the close contact were masked. Given that we have been stripped of the option for remote learning, reducing the likelihood of schools having to close is essential.

Additionally, we have other mitigation strategies that were successfully used last year and that are not currently in place. I ask that you please reconsider these strategies including stricter testing, reporting, notification and quarantine guidelines as well as an increased focus on social distancing strategies, particularly in situations in which masks are not an option (e.g., having lunch in the classroom instead of the cafeteria). Finally, our schools need clear guidance on high-risk activities. Pictures and videos of pep rallies from Friday were a clear indication of this. Seeing plans coming from my children's schools to push ahead with risky events like Family Fun Night is also unnerving. If it was as simple as choosing not to attend these events, that is what my family would do. Unfortunately, the impact of these events will be felt by those who attend and those who don't.

The welfare of WCS staff and students is in your hands. Please schedule a special called meeting ASAP, as the current wait and see approach is creating health and educational consequences that are worsening by the day.

Sincerely,

Alanna Truss

(Kenrose and Woodland Parent)

Alanna Truss, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist, HSP

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