

Public Comment:

A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Greg Eckhart

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

My name is Greg Eckhart and I am a father of two SKPS students and would like masks to be optional and for parents to have the final say in how their child attends school.

Submitted: 8/9/2021 11:55:54

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 6.d Board Results Policy and Key Performance Indicators and Recommendations / Normativa de los resultados de la mesa directiva y de los indicadores clave de desempeño y las recomendaciones

Jessica King

Parent / Padre de familia

Albany

I am a parent and have many family members in the SKSD. The mask mandate and pushing of masks, are quite atrocious at this time and I am writing the board to do away with the requirement that all students and staff wear masks.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 14:34:12

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Joelle Cooper

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

I have many nieces and nephews in this school district and feel that it should be the decision of the parents whether or not their children wear masks to school.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 14:34:31

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Jesse Anthony Martinez

Student / Estudiante

Forest Grove

Hello,

My nephews go to the Salem – Keizer school district. My family and I are opposed to any mandate proposing that children are required to wear a mask at school. School teachers should also not be required to wear a mask. Part of communications involves body language. When kids cannot get additional data you stifle their growth. Conditioning kids to live in fear is not conducive to mental health.

Sincerely,

Jesse A Martinez

Submitted: 8/6/2021 14:49:51

Public Comment:

9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras

Casity Troutt

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Dear School Board Members,

I am submitting a written comment as a mother of children who attend Salem-Keizer schools. We can all agree that living through a pandemic has been mentally and emotionally trying for everyone young and old. Our children went from having a close knit group of trusted friends, teachers and mentors one day to the next having it all ripped away. During the past year and a half our children have been left behind. Children were not receiving quality education, services, or socialization. As a parent with children who require special education services, I know first hand that the system failed our children through this pandemic. It is well known that children need socialization with peers in order to properly develop mentally, and emotionally.

Now we must look past what has been done to our children and look to the future. Together we need to agree on what is best for our children. We know that children are at extremely low risk for contracting and spreading Covid-19 and there has not been one reported case of a child dying from the virus who did not have major comorbidities. We also know that all teachers and staff members who want the vaccine have had ample time to receive it. We know that Covid-19 is spread not only through droplets but through aerosols which makes most masks worn virtually useless against the spread of this virus.

I do not object to those who choose to continue wearing masks regardless of their effectiveness. What I do object to is forcing all children to wear masks when it has been proven they are not at risk or carriers of Covid-19. I feel the school board may have forgotten that we, the parents, know what is best for our own children. We are the ones who they come to with their anxieties about masks, with the rashes on their faces from the masks, with the fears things will never return to normal, when they have headaches, or when they can't breathe. We are the ones they come to crying because they haven't seen their friends faces in over a year. We are the ones who know what is best for our children. Let us decide individually what is best for each individual child. Leave medical decisions to the parents.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 17:20:36

Public Comment:

9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras

Ruby McClorey

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I would like my student to have chive whether to mask or not. We do not find it effective and there is sponce to back that claim. I feel my student will be at risk not being able to breathe fresh air at school. No to mandatory vax or mask for kids unless treat decisions is their own. No mandates

Submitted: 8/6/2021 17:57:22

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Michele Galban

ASK ESP

Nevada

I believe it our right as parents to say wether our children should wear a mask or not, I prefer that any child not be exposed to any if the government control about the Covid19 vaccine or the mask wearing, I believe it is the parents decision to decide what is best for their children. Thank you NO MASK!! No VACCINE!!

Submitted: 8/6/2021 19:31:01

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras

Misty Bingham

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

As the mother of three children in the district, one of whom has badly struggled and suffered this year because of the loss of school, it is important to me that the upcoming year is as normal as possible. My children need the structure and reliability of full-time, in person school without the constant threat of cancellation due to various Covid related limitations. They also need to see the smiles of their peers, hear their excellent teachers pronounce clearly, and breathe freely, especially when active! Please stand up to the governor, the superintendent, and the teacher's unions. Please respect and represent us by doing all in your power to offer families (or at least schools) some flexibility in responding to Covid threats. The risk is likely never going to reduce to zero, and it is past time to return autonomy to individuals. I am a parent who can decide what is best for my child. I speak as a vaccinated, pro-vaccination mother of vaccinated children who wants to send my kids to school with their vaccinated teachers. Medical choice is essential to our freedom, so other individuals and parents can make different choices and assume the related risk.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 20:24:13

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona., 6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 6.d Board Results Policy and Key Performance Indicators and Recommendations / Normativa de los resultados de la mesa directiva y de los indicadores clave de desempeño y las recomendaciones, 7.a Reappointment of Legal Counsel / Reelección del asesor legal, 8. Consent Calendar / Calendario de consentimiento, 9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras, A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Michael Helton

Student / Estudiante

Salem

I have family in this district and I do not support the mask mandate. Parents should have to give approval before anything is done to their children. The fact we're even having to have this conversation is ridiculous.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 20:36:43

Public Comment:

A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Tracey Pratt

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Thank you for the opportunity to share a public comment. My name is Tracey and I have 2 boys at West Salem High School. I am completely opposed to all students being mandated to wear a mask during school. I could go into the science for you, but that is something I'm assuming you have already done. It does not even take science to tell me that there are so many ways that children in masks for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week may be harmful. Co2 levels, bacterial infections, etc... That science does exist. Proven well before Covid. Enough already. Children are not super-spreaders. There are studies. We know the numbers. But again, even if they were, masks would do nothing to prevent virus spread. Honestly, I believe we should be going above and beyond for our young people to make up for what has been lost and has been so hard on them. In their education, mental health, families, extracurricular activities, relationships and work ethic development. We need to address these issues by catching our children up in their academics and provide an environment that encourages and provides extra support. What we should not be doing is making it even more awkward, uncomfortable and impede their learning. The conditioning of children on a psychological level that I have witnessed is extremely concerning. All of this to say, my children will not be attending the public school this coming fall if masks are mandated. I refuse to allow my child to be forced to cover their face based on someone else's opinion rather than a data driven decision. I realize you are hearing it from many sides with a lot of pressure. Your position is to stand up for and look to what's in the best interest of our children.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 21:06:51

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Molly

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

Masks create a hinderance to learning and are a disruption to the classroom.

Submitted: 8/6/2021 21:45:40

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona., 6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras, A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Daniel A Farrington

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

The agenda needs to be more clear, spell out clearly what the topics are and be more descriptive, and that the language makes sense to everyone, not special groups.

No Masks for schools, I've been a coach for over 40 years, it is very difficult to read kids with masks on. We need to be able to share and see each others facial expressions, lips when they speak, and tone of voice when they talk. We can't communicate well or understand when we have the mask on. I can't imagine the struggles teachers have compared to the issues coaches have.

I still would like to see the curriculum for K-12 made public. We need to have access.

I still would like to see the data on SOR's since 2016, made public, because I'm concerned about the safety of all of our children in the schools. We need to see the true data.

I would like to know what you want to accomplished in the first year on the board? Give specifics and how are you are going to accomplish them. Who is on the committees or who are you listening to, to help make your decisions. Transparency!

I would like to know what each student is expected to learn and experience being a student in the Salem Keizer School District. What skills will they learn to be productive citizens in our society and learn to give back to their community in a positive way?

To the new board members, congratulations on being on the board. I hope and pray that you make decisions that make sense for all the kids, not special groups. It is really about all the kids, that is why I have coached over 40 years, because it was about all the kids. You have the opportunity to change the kids, vision/ experiencing in schools with having expectations, accountability, discipline, responsibility, respect, and caring about others. I hope you take advantage of it.

thank you.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 9:16:33

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona.

Jeannine Collins

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

We need our children in school and learning. We have been unmasked, and children have been together throughout the summer in activities and classroom settings without issue. We don't need to mask them now. Please work hard to keep our children unmasked. Masks are detrimental to the learning environment and have no place.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 13:03:31

Public Comment:

A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Deb Romano

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Deb Romano and I am a parent of a freshman entering Sprague high school. I am contacting you regarding the new mask mandate for the upcoming school year. I believe that this should be optional. The virus is not a super spreader in schools, proven by numerous studies. The wearing of masks for extended amounts of time can cause breathing issues in children. It is very difficult to speak in a classroom setting with a mask on and be understood or heard by my classmates or teachers. Our children have suffered so much losing a whole school year and are emotionally and academically behind the curve. We cannot afford this when Oregon children are ranked so low compared to other states. I would hope that the school board would focus on getting our children caught up on missed education. Kids need to see facial expressions. They need to see other kids and teachers smiling. So many of our children are having emotional issues due to the last school year and sometimes a friendly smile can change their day. Thank you for your time regarding this issue.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 16:16:34

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras

Ruby McClorey

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

It is my personal belief that masks do not stop viral infection from being transmitted. Social distancing and hand washing, covering your face and not attending school if symptomatic and maybe plexi glass between desks cafeteria spaces, and much more cleaning with plain old soap and water should continue and maybe be promoted with less emphasis on masks. Making masks mandatory and then telling parents how to frame this mandate positively to our children even if we don't believe they are safe is very distressing. Our kids want to be kind but they also need to be safe! Why does a student/parent have to apply for an exemption to not wear a mask? This process singles people out. The variants will likely be transmitting for some time and people need to move forward with how they are comfortable and how they feel safe. During endemic, am requesting that our teachers and admin acknowledge that we are all kind and loving whether we mask or not. Please be respectful of the people who are also kind and loving but don't want children to masked at school since vaccinations are available and everyone who wanted to be vaccinated have already done so. Thank you.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 16:44:19

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona., 6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Savannah Wurzburg

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Thank you for your time reading this.

I will keep it short and sweet. I strongly oppose mask mandates for children. This is far too long to ask my 6 year old to remain masked.

My son is Deaf/hard of hearing. Have you considered the negative affects you are having on those with disabilities? How will you accommodate?

Please leave the decision up to the parents. Those that are scared can send their children with masks. I know there is not one size fits all solution but a blanket rule of everyone has to wear one doesn't work either.

Please. I'm begging you.

Signed,

A very concerned parent.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 19:13:14

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Shannon Nelson

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Hello, I am here to advocate for my children because it seems most of our schools are not. Let me start by sharing a sentence that left my 11 year old son's mouth last October. "Mom, for some reason my body is making me feel like I don't want to live any more," while experiencing a full blown panic attack. These emotions are completely due to circumstance, confirmed by his newly acquired therapist. This is anxiety my son has developed completely due to shut downs and mandates and lack of normal childhood experiences. So before you say masks are not affecting our children and we need to choose love and kindness, think to yourselves.... What is kind about panic attacks and suicidal thoughts at eleven years old? Are you showing love by allowing these mandates to continue to hurt our kids? Fight for our kids. It is your elected duty. If you cannot do the job we are asking, kindly remove yourselves so someone else can.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 22:17:37

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Daniel Kierce

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

We are fortunate enough to have been able to remove our kids from Salem/Keizer Public Schools, I am sorry for everyone who has no choice but to deal with your bullshit.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 22:23:53

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Lorie Fontaine

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

I believe students have the right to attend school safely with the fear of contracting and spreading a dangerous disease as mitigated as possible. I support mandatory masks in schools for safer communities. The culture of rugged individualism in our country is killing us. We are social animals. Learning to live in community, caring for others, and recognizing that interdependence is our best hope for a future will help our children thrive.

Submitted: 8/7/2021 23:10:39

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Mark Simpson

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

Board chair, board directors, Superintendent Perry, and all others. As a parent of 3 returning SKPS students I wanted to voice my strong support of Governor Brown's mandate for students and staff to wear masks indoors this school year. I am sure you will hear from many concerned parents who will disagree with me on this subject. That is their right as it is mine to have their voice heard. I appreciate this board's willingness to hear the many diverse voices of students and families in this community.

Having said that, I urge you with the strongest language possible to follow the CDC guidelines and safeguard the health of our children and the district employees and volunteers. Our students benefits from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction is absolutely a priority. Due to the fact that our children under the age of 12 are not yet approved to receive the vaccine and many of those of are eligible have chosen not to be vaccinated, masking and social distancing remain the safest option to in-person learning.

Many children and families, including my own, suffered the ill effects of the necessary distance learning from last year. We cannot allow ourselves to return to that difficult model of instruction due to lax safety based on misinformation and political battles. Please continue to follow health experts and safety guidelines provided by those experts.

Thank you for your service in this important office and for taking my comment.

Mark Simpson

Submitted: 8/8/2021 15:33:20

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Edie M Buchanan

ASK ESP

Salem

As a matter of public safety, and according to the governor's order, the wearing of masks is crucial to the safety of students and staff! The delta variant is in our communities, and if we want to keep schools open, it is our best and safest option.

Submitted: 8/8/2021 17:58:32

Public Comment:

A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Sheryl

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

Hello,

I am responding to I am very concerning matter of the mask mandate. I am a grandmother of eight grandchildren and have seen firsthand what the mask mandates have done to our grade school children. Mandating what parents Need to do, to send their children to school is one step over the line. The choices made for their children come from their parents, not from the government! No one on any school board has the right to play God and dictate what needs to be done concerning mask mandates. Our children will only suffer developing their social skills, communication skills and suffer emotionally. Also there is the proven, scientific studies that the masks don't work!! They make the children sick!! Was this mandate voted on with parents and teachers present to cast their vote? If not, WHY? Please don't play politics with our future generations. Also proven is the kids are making no one sick. Why Mask???

Submitted: 8/8/2021 20:04:28

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras

Kari Sanders

District Staff / Personal del distrito
Salem

Please push to make masks a choice for each family. As a staff member and a parent, I long for the health of the kids. Masks do more harm than good, physically and mentally. Studies show that kids are not in danger from covid. Please leave this choice up to parents.

Submitted: 8/8/2021 20:36:26

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona., 6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Elizabeth Silva Mendez

SKEA

Salem

My name is Elizabeth and I am a SKSD. I urge the board to require masks during in person learning this fall. This will help me feel safe while teaching and will keep our students protected. Masks benefit all; the safety and health of our students and staff must be prioritized above all else. Everyone wants our students back in schools safely, and masks will ensure we can all be together in person.

As for the other agenda item, I believe that removing the limits on public comment (to the way it was before this year) during school board meetings will accelerate the process of the board regaining the community's trust.

Submitted: 8/8/2021 22:00:29

Public Comment:

A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Trisha fipps

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I do not agree with the mask mandate. Masks dont work the box even states that. My kid and many others dont want to go to school because of it. My kid my choice. I will homeschool. Stand up for the kids!

Submitted: 8/8/2021 23:45:42

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Mike Slagle

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Superintendent Perry, Chair Avila and board members.

Thank you for taking my comments. My concern is for kids returning to school in a safe manner. I have read many studies on the effectiveness of masks on children. I have not seen any science that backs up the claim that kids wearing masks stop the virus from spreading. My research has brought me to that the best paper mask that most people do not wear stop 300 nanometers of particles. Cloth masks are the worst. The virus is between 50-200 nanometers in size. Could you provide the community a scientific study that proves that masks work on children? Not to mention the psychological damage being done by taking away their individualism from them as well.

Also in the agenda item Resolution 202122-1 there is some wording that states the district and board's racism is the cause in gaps in education? I watched the last board meeting and there was much talk about "White supremacy" could you provide documentation of one instance in our schools that there were white supremacists? I do not know one single white supremacist in our community. Could you also provide one instance that a child was arrested in school by an SRO and sent to prison? Thank you for hearing my comments.

Submitted: 8/9/2021 7:43:14

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Elizabeth Moore

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

Masks should be an individual decision made by parents and students regardless of vaccination status. No forced masking of our children!

Submitted: 8/9/2021 12:02:47

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Donnielle Shead

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I'm writing in regards to the beginning of the school year and my feelings on the subject of masks. I do not feel that they should be in place and neither does one of my students. I say one because my second has special needs and cannot communicate his needs and wants due to his low verbal skills and so I am being his voice in this matter. He's very compliant and will do whatever he's told to do. My daughter is 11 and has voiced her concerns to me and I'm also here to be her voice because she has a hard time standing up to adults. In her dream world she would live to take a stand and take the mask off and say be done with it. She doesn't like to wear one. I believe she has her own mind and opinions because that is how I've taught her to be and I do not believe I've forced my beliefs on her. At first because all her friends did it she thought it was right, but as time has gone on it has become less right to her and flat out a nuisance to her. It's distracting and she says it's hard to breathe throughout the day. I feel you as a district only push this on them for the fear of funding going away and because another entity tells you it's "right". I don't believe you're looking out for all of the students but only partial students. I understand you have a very tough stance in all of this but I'm here to speak my mind on behalf of MY children and their needs. I for a fact know that plenty of parents agree on my side. And I know plenty of parents disagree with me. But the matter of this is that there should be a choice in this. There should be a divide in government and education. Health is obviously a great deal of focus here and I completely understand that. But the choice the parents can take who feel they need to take their children from those who don't want to mask they have the option of distance learning; the program you all worked so hard to create and boast about. They can choose to put their children in that and let our unmasked children in the school or continue to mask their child if they believe it works so well. Fact of the matter is give our families a choice and don't force it on them.

My fear is them being pulled out once more and having to do distance learning again. I know you've heard the stories of our kids being depressed and kids committing suicide because of this and I don't want to see this. My own daughter got to the point where I was concerned about that very thing and I don't want to see that happen again. These are real fears. She is being pressured to wear this mask and says she'd rather be at school and forced to wear a mask than not be at school. She shouldn't have to make that choice. It shouldn't be a choice. Our choice should be to unmask or mask.

Submitted: 8/9/2021 12:02:48

Public Comment:

9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras

charis smith

Parent / Padre de familia
portland

2021-2022 school "safety" should like EXACTLY as it did for 2018-2019 - NO MASKS, NO DISTANCING, NO SCREENINGS, NO EXCESSIVE CLEANING!

Submitted: 8/9/2021 12:18:15

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Renee Trove

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I am begging you to realize the impact of your decisions. Our community is being destroyed by your compliance with the mask mandate. Families are withdrawing from schools, teachers are leaving the district, friend groups are being torn apart, children are being traumatized, anxiety is rising, teachers and staff are leaving the profession. There is simply no excuse for this decision. The negative impact of you controlling family's decisions about their children and their level of risk is inappropriate and vast overreach. The damage you are doing to children will go down in history as one of the biggest and most detrimental actions this district has ever done. You are proving to families that the wellbeing of students is not a value of yours. PROVE that you care about students' best interest by allowing families to decide for themselves if they will wear masks or not. Your hands are way too deep into family choices and the negative affects are rippling far beyond what you can see. Do better, Salem-Keizer. The community is counting on you.

Submitted: 8/9/2021 12:55:51

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona., 6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22, 9.a Safe & Welcoming Schools Resolution / Resolución de las Escuelas Seguras y Acogedoras, A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Isaiah Swan

District Staff / Personal del distrito

Keizer

Hi! Please continue to politely ignore Satya, Danielle, and Marty and reopen public testimony without time or content limits, expand accessibility to speakers of ASL and languages other than English, stop threatening our students with legal action for the act of actually living out the civic lessons we teach them every MLK Day, take equity seriously at all levels of your and your district's efforts, take action against the literal white supremacists you share this board with, and expand the representation of students of underrepresented communities in board proceedings such that their needs and experiences are centered, not merely tokenized a la the 'student representative' structure currently in place.

Submitted: 8/9/2021 13:23:51

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Jenny Maguire

District Staff / Personal del distrito
Keizer

Make masks optional. Stop silencing students, parents and teachers!

Submitted: 8/9/2021 13:46:58

Public Comment:

A topic not on the agenda / Acerca de algún tema que no está en la agenda

Matthew Tjostolvson

Parent / Padre de familia

Gresham

Absolutely intolerable to enforce masks on children. Anyone who is not an adult cannot and should never be mandated to wear a face covering just to attend Required school offered by the government, who seeks to penalize itself for those who "don't comply." Children do not need schools to act as parents in charge of health. A school's duty is to educate as a matter of law and right to the child citizens of this nation in each state of the union. It is Not the occupation of a government, IE: The State of Oregon, to enforce or punish a school to mandate anything other than the use of clothing (top, bottom, shoes) whilst attending a school, whether public or especially not private. If a child showed up without a shirt/top on, why would a school not be penalized? If a child was barefoot and in undergarments but had a mask on, why would a school not be penalized? My child's health is MY concern and duty as a parent, and Not the duty of the school to mandate aspects of in any respect.

Submitted: 8/9/2021 13:55:47

Public Comment:

6.b Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings / Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona.

Levi Herrera-Lopez

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

My name is Levi Herrera-Lopez, a resident of Zone 5. I write to you as Executive Director of Mano a Mano Family Center, Salem-Keizer's oldest Latino-led community based organization, serving nearly 3,000 families each year.

On public comment:

Mano a Mano encourages you to keep as open a process as possible, well organized, so it allows you to still conduct the business of the Board. The previous Board leadership made a terrible mistake in curtailing direct access of the community, as it fed into an assumption that Board members didn't care. You can always add other ways of engaging the public, but first you must make sure the public has access to public meetings. This includes, of course, interpretation and translation of various languages such as ASL, closed-captioning, etc. -- all of which can be more easily provided during a formal meeting, as opposed to an informal listening session.

On masks in school:

Given the role you are in, your individual feelings or political ideology about masks or vaccines are irrelevant. It's not how you feel about masks, but about what will you do to protect the students and staff in your care and employ.

On 08/09/2020, Marion County reported 35 covid-19 cases and, a full year later, on 08/09/2021, it reported 113 cases. This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated and unmasked, just as it was a year ago. As of today, there are more than 30,000 people left to vaccinate in East Salem and about 10,000 people in Keizer, before we can reach 80% of people with at least one dose – a number key to reaching “herd immunity.”

It should be clear that failing to put in place the bare minimum of protections (i.e., masks) will place at the most risk those students and staff from East Salem and Keizer, many of whom come from communities of color, immigrants, refugees, and low income families.

You should consider starting by modeling healthy behavior, and wear masks in your public meetings. Statistically, half of you may be vaccinated and half may not be. That's your choice, and you can do you all you want on your personal time, but this is not your personal time.

Leadership will require you to make tough choices, now and again. This is not one of those times. This one is simple: Help slow or stop the contagion; or do nothing and help stretch out the pandemic longer than it needs. Luckily you have a doctor and one of the three people in charge of the health of all Marion County residents, among your members, to

help you make this easy decision. Of course, folks who cannot vaccinate or mask due to special circumstances must be accommodated.

My organization and others are working hard to make sure vaccines are available to all. But, at the current pace, we're looking at two to four months before we can get to safe rates of vaccination.

Eventually, this will no longer be considered a pandemic. But because people are failing to vaccinate and mask, that will not be in September.

Thank you,

Submitted: 8/9/2021 14:39:48

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Brooke Juarez

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

How do I petition the school to allow my daughter to start kindergarten this year given she turns 5 on Sept 16th? She has attended school since the age of 2 and knows all of the Kindergarten fundamentals. I do not want her to miss a year over 6 days. If you could kindly get back to me. Thank you

Submitted: 8/9/2021 15:10:16

Public Comment:

6.c Return to School 2021-22 / Regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2021-22

Hilda Simpson

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Hello, I am a parent of several children that attend schools on the district. My sixth grader will not be eligible for a vaccine until either his birthday next July or approval for children under 12. The Delta variant has caused considerable risk to anyone that is unvaccinated including children. All over the country hospitals are reporting more and very serious Covid-19 infections among children. These infections have resulted in hospitalizations and deaths. If masks are lifted then all mitigation efforts to protect our kids will be gone. I believe it is our responsibility to protect each other and take all reasonable precautions to ensure our students can have a safe and productive school year. Masks are the most basic, common sense mitigation tool that will help us achieve this goal.

Thank You,

Hilda Simpson

Submitted: 8/9/2021 15:43:05