

Subject: MY PLEA (please read)
From: Kelsey Maki <kcbar22@icloud.com>
Date: 5/27/2021, 2:48 PM
To: wrightd@middletownk12.org

Dear Deborah,

I'm a parent of an 11-year-old at Navesink and I'm writing because I'm very alarmed at the lack of civility and proliferation of misinformation at recent BOE meetings. (I realize this is not your fault and admire your conduct.)

But, the bottom line is that your job is to represent all students, and I would like to see a survey sent to parents regarding their masking preferences. I know there is a small, vocal minority who seem to have your attention right now (sensible people are, quite honestly, afraid to speak up). Michele Collins was threatened at the 5/13 meeting and a community member whom I quoted in a completely factual article about the 5/13 meeting for Patch is now threatening to sue me, as you can see if you read the comments: <https://patch.com/new-jersey/middletown-nj/misinformation-middletown-boe-meeting-nodx>

Unvaccinated children can still catch and spread COVID-19 and children with comorbidities can get very sick. This is well documented if you investigate the scientific literature. Right now, ALL major scientific organizations say our children should still be masked when indoors at school: the CDC, the WHO, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the largest Nurses union in the country support this. Regardless of what Murphy does or doesn't do, please look at the science first and try to get a better understanding of consensus in the community.

If you're not going to respond to this email personally, the least you can do is advocate that MTPS survey ALL parents to get a better understanding of the community's feelings about masks.

If masks are truly unpopular and cases begin to climb again, perhaps you can look at widespread testing as an alternative option. This isn't about politics. It's about keeping the most vulnerable members of our community (those who cannot be vaccinated) safe. I truly hope we will reach herd immunity over the summer and all of this will be unnecessary in the fall, but until then, I'm begging MTPS to be sensible and rely on more than just anecdotal evidence presented at BOE meetings.

Respectfully,
Kelsey Maki

Sent from my iPad