

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Michael Rinderknecht
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary



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August 30, 2021

Re: Open Public Records Act Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this correspondence in response to the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") request you submitted to the Glen Rock Board of Education ("the Board"). As the official Records Custodian for the Board, I received your request on August 19, 2021. The seven-business-day deadline for the Board's response expires today, Monday, August 30.

You requested the following:

Emails to Dr. Charleston and/or the BOE that contain the word mask and/or masks and are from members of the public (aka not internal emails). Timeframe for the emails 8.6.2021 to present day (whatever day the info is pulled).

Please be advised that your request is GRANTED. Included with this letter are all responsive records. They are redacted in six instances where the residential addresses or personal email addresses of non-Board employees appear. See Brennan v. Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, 233 N.J. 330 (2018) (recognizing OPRA's directive for "agencies to safeguard a citizen's personal information...when disclosure...would violate the citizen's reasonable expectation of privacy").

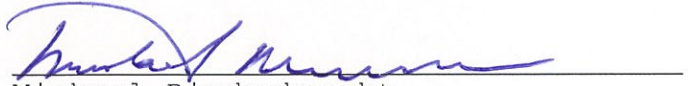
If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the Board's decision to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council ("GRC") by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at (866)-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, by email at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their website

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at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your county.

If you should have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Michael Rinderknecht
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Naumov, Colleen

From: Jill Orlich [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 2:11 PM
To: glenrockboe@glenrocknj.org; Brett Charleston
Subject: Mask Requirements

Hi,

I just wanted to express to you how important it is that everyone wear masks in school this year. I know Dr. Charleston has stated that everyone will be required to wear masks, and I thank him for that responsible decision. It is so important that everyone be back in school for a normal school year, and the only way we can safely do that is if everyone wears masks. I know there are people pushing for a "mask optional" policy, but such a policy would allow some children to go to school unvaccinated and unmasked, putting everyone else in the school in danger. I really appreciate your help in requiring masks and keeping the schools safe for all children.

Thank you,
Jill Orlich

Sent from my iPhone

Naumov, Colleen

From: 'Lauren Haughs' via glenrockboe <glenrockboe@glenrocknj.org>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Brett Charleston
Cc: Glen Rock Superintendent; glenrockboe
Subject: Re: 2021/2022 School Year

Thank you for your prompt response, Dr. Charleston. I am aware of the governor's executive order. I wanted to make my position known, in the event he chooses to put it back onto the districts to make the decision. This is a strange world we live in where we can attend large scale events again, without masks, and yet, the governor is calling for masks in school. May there be a change in course sooner than later.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Lauren

On Aug 13, 2021, at 3:31 PM, Brett Charleston <charlestonb@glenrocknj.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email and sharing your thoughts. Unfortunately, Governor Murphy's Executive Order does not permit the ability of parents to waive liability should they wish their child to not wear a mask. Our district, like all districts, is bound by the Executive Order and we are required to comply and enforce. It is my hope that our state and society are able to quickly navigate from the need to wear masks so that we can return to normalcy sooner than later.

Best,

Brett

On Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 11:14 AM 'Lauren Haughs' via glenrockboe <glenrockboe@glenrocknj.org> wrote:

Good Morning -

I have been waiting to write this letter because I did not want to be seen as part of a ground swell movement. I have put a lot of time, thought and research into my feelings on how the upcoming school year should be handled in regards to masking kids in school/the handling of cases.

I have always been in the camp that did not believe this virus was likely to be totally eradicated. I understood the severity of the virus in our older population and understood the concern of the teachers prior to any vaccines made available. That vaccine is available now and while I understand not everyone will choose to get it, it's there, ready for the taking.

I continue to follow the numbers, the hospitalizations in the area and the percent of the adult population that has been vaccinated. I've done deep dives into how this affects our children, and the answer is, they have escaped the severity of this disease, thankfully.

I have watched my children thrive again in a world where they are free to express themselves without masks. They are happier, lighter and more carefree. I don't believe the data points to masking as a necessary option for children in school. We have people shoulder to shoulder at concert festivals in this country, but our children have to stay three feet apart, masked. There is something fundamentally wrong with this picture and our world that this is allowed to be.

I would be willing to sign away the liability of the school if my child was allowed to attend school without one, at my choice. I have always taught my children to be respectful of others and how they and their families have chosen to handle any number of issues. I believe this should be universal for all.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Lauren Haughs
[REDACTED]

Naumov, Colleen

From: Melissa Sawvell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:15 PM
To: Charlestonb@glenrocknj.org; Krista La Croix,; glenrockboe@glenrocknj.org
Subject: Back to School Plan

Hi,

I am a parent of an upcoming third grader at Central School. I will attend the BOA meeting, but I wanted to put my concerns in writing about our Back to School Plan as I am not sure I will have time to express them in what will likely be a very crowded meeting.

First, I will say I am disappointed in the lack of detail and contingency planning in the document that was created.

- 1) Will parents be informed if the teacher is not vaccinated, I don't want my child in a room with an unvaccinated teacher for 6 hrs a day. What % of teachers are vaccinated?
- 2) why is there no plan for surveillance testing of students, teachers, and staff? The CDC recommends it, especially given how contagious Delta is?
- 3) How are you handling lunch for the elementary school kids, esp. in the fall and winter?
- 4) have you thought about requiring negative tests before the first day of school, esp. for the elementary school kids?
- 5) what is happening when kids are quarantined?
- 6) what options are you providing for kids who have immune compromised parents/siblings at home?
- 7) can parents opt out of activities that would require removal of the mask, gym or music?

Best,

Melissa Sawvell

Naumov, Colleen

From: Kristen Roth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Sharon Scarpelli
Cc: Brett Charleston; glenrockboe; Glen Rock Superintendent
Subject: Re: Mask mandate
Attachments: 739A785A-5F2C-4EAF-8CDA-59C9074F3B2B.jpeg

Sharon,

Thank you for your response. I have attached a screenshot where an individual states that they were advised by a BOE member. It could all just be hearsay but a good reminder that emails sent to the board should remain personal and confidential.

Best,
Kristen

On Friday, August 6, 2021, Sharon Scarpelli <scarpellis@glenrocknj.org> wrote:
On behalf of the Glen Rock Board of Education, I thank you for your email.

The board of education does not share or disseminate any emails that are sent to us to anyone in the public. Every email/correspondence we receive is treated with confidentiality and respect to the resident who has sent it.

In no way was the Facebook post endorsed or encouraged by any member of the Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Sharon Scarpelli

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2021, at 1:06 PM, Kristen Roth [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear All,

Yesterday a call to action was posted on a local Facebook site run by the wife of a BOE member. This message stated that the BOE was receiving numerous emails against a mask mandate and now is the time to email. This information was apparently circulated by an unnamed member of the board. I am concerned that the content of parent emails are being discussed outside of BOE members. Is this common practice and lawful to share the content of parent emails with certain members of the public? Are the emails I send you treated in a sensitive and confidential manner?

Best,
Kristen Roth

(Lifelong Glen Rock resident/GRHS class of '01)

On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, Brett Charleston <charlestonb@glenrocknj.org> wrote:
Good morning,

Thank you for your email and sharing your thoughts on masks. We are currently working with our school doctor, Glen Rock Board of Health and Glen Rock OEM on this very issue. I plan to update the community on our progress and decision in mid August.

I hope that you and your family are doing well and enjoying this summer.

Best,

Brett

On Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 4:21 PM Kristen Roth [REDACTED] wrote:

I would like to go on record requesting that the use of masks in our public schools be at the discretion of each child's parents like Fair Lawn has implemented for the upcoming school year.

Kristen Roth and Daniel Lourido
Coleman School Parent