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## School board meeting public comment

1 message

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**Sweat, Jeffrey** <sweatj@uwstout.edu>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 11:49 AM

To: "christopher\_freeman@msd.k12.wi.us" <christopher\_freeman@msd.k12.wi.us>, "tanya\_husby@msd.k12.wi.us" <tanya\_husby@msd.k12.wi.us>, "mark\_hillman@msd.k12.wi.us" <mark\_hillman@msd.k12.wi.us>, "clinton\_moses@msd.k12.wi.us" <clinton\_moses@msd.k12.wi.us>, "amy\_riddle-swanson@msd.k12.wi.us" <amy\_riddle-swanson@msd.k12.wi.us>, "karl\_palmer@msd.k12.wi.us" <karl\_palmer@msd.k12.wi.us>, "david\_styer@msd.k12.wi.us" <david\_styer@msd.k12.wi.us>, "charlie\_schneider@msd.k12.wi.us" <charlie\_schneider@msd.k12.wi.us>, "angela\_skillings@msd.k12.wi.us" <angela\_skillings@msd.k12.wi.us>, "janet\_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us" <janet\_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us>

Cc: "joe\_zydowsky@msd.k12.wi.us" <joe\_zydowsky@msd.k12.wi.us>

Please have this read at the school board meeting today.

Hello, my name is Jeffrey Sweat and I am a resident of Menomonie and a parent of children in the district. I am not attending this meeting physically because I have a vulnerable family member I am protecting. Do not judge public opinion by the size of a crowd, those you happen to talk to in your own circles, or by a survey of non-experts that had a suspiciously high response rate (since it was possible to take the survey more than once).

When it comes to public health, we need to listen to public health experts. Why is this a controversial stance? It is irrational to allow bias, social media misinformation, and mob rule to dictate health-related policies. COVID is serious. Delta is particularly serious in the way it is spreading among youth and is currently devastating communities that have low vaccination rates like we have in Dunn County. Our county and neighboring counties are already seeing spikes in cases before school starts, including school-age children. Your vote tonight will decide whether we repeat the mistakes people in other places are making or whether you are wise, rational, and unbiased enough to take the appropriate steps to protect our children and community.

My 5<sup>th</sup> grader cannot be vaccinated because of his age. He is also vulnerable because of a chronic condition. He has been hospitalized multiple times in the past with seasonal contagious illnesses. If you allow delta to rip through our schools unchecked and my child becomes seriously ill or dies from COVID, how will you sleep at night knowing that you took part in that outcome by allowing COVID to spread through the schools unchecked? It is too little, too late to only react once there is already a school outbreak.

Listen to the CDC, Public Health, DPI, medical doctors and your own health experts. You like to say you have consulted with public health and medical experts. It is not enough to consult with the experts and then ignore them. They are all telling you the same thing. Please require masks in school, at least for age groups that are not eligible for vaccination.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Sweat, PhD