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public comment for school board mtg tonight

1 message

Lisa Quinn-Lee <lisaquinnlee@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 2:47 PM

To: janet_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us, Lisa Quinn-Lee <lisaquinnlee@gmail.com>

Dear Superintendent and School Board Members,

I am not able to be there tonight so wanted to send along my public comment. Thank you for coming together during this special session to again discuss the 2021-2022 Covid-19 plan for SDMA. Thank you also for keeping the meetings on Monday night civil and respectful. I appreciate that.

As we all well know, there are people who are on opposite sides of the spectrum. There are some who, now that the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine has full FDA approval, and Moderna just submitting their application for full FDA approval, would like to have both vaccinations and masks required in school. There are some parents who want neither of these required in school.

I think a middle ground is to have masks required in school. Although an indoor mask requirement for K-12 is the best way to protect everyone in the community and make sure that kids remain in the classroom, at the very least there should be a mask requirement for K-6 since there is no option yet for vaccination in that age group. Since emergency use authorization of the Covid-19 vaccination for kids 11 and under is not expected until later this year, it make sense to have the mask requirement in effect at least until kids 11 and under can be fully vaccinated (which is 2 weeks after the second Covid-19 dose); therefore, indoor masking through the end of 2021 is crucial.

The last part of the SDMA mission statement is to prepare "all students to become lifelong learners, caring individuals, and responsible citizens." We can do this by having indoor masking in K-12, which will then help keep students in the classroom, clubs, activities, etc. as much as possible.

Masking will lead to many fewer exclusions which will lead to fewer interruptions not only for student learning, but also for parents, SDMA teachers and staff, and UW-Stout faculty and staff who will then not need to have multiple long periods of time needing to be out of work either due to their own quarantine and/or needing to care for their children who are quarantined.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Lisa Quinn-Lee

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"We all do better when we all do better." -Paul Wellstone