



JANET QUINN &lt;janet\_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us&gt;

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## Comments for school board mtg - Request to make changes - meet in the middle?

4 messages

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Nicole Trainor <trainor.nicole@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 3:26 PM

To: janet\_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us

Dear School Board Members,

Below is my personal story relating the school system and covid protocols:

In late 2019 my 7 year old daughter was diagnosed with a dilated ascending aorta and heart murmur. Shortly after the pandemic hit and because she is high risk, we decided to keep her and her brother home for the first semester of school in 2020. As we tried to manage the virtual schooling, we found that it was impossible to keep up with the overabundance of assignments and required a significant amount of time from a parent to help guide the learning. Unfortunately, neither my husband or I are in the position to be home full time to teach our children and neither of us are trained to be teachers. Our children's education was suffering. As we observed how the school system was handling the pandemic, we began to feel comfortable with sending them back to school. There were no cases of spread in their school for entire first semester. They began school second semester and worked hard to get back on track with their education. Again, with all the proper protocols, there were no cases of spread second semester. Our community and school system did a great job managing the spread of covid

This semester I had high hopes that we would continue to protect the vulnerable and keep the protocols in place that work so well the school year before. You know if it's not broke, don't fix it. What we did last year worked, why change it and why risk it? This year has been quite a different story. By day 3 of school there was a positive case in my daughter's class and by day 10 there was positive spread in the classroom. Because of this she has been at home since day 7 of school. It is unfortunate because she deserves the same education as her classmates and is very capable of living a long and healthy life if she avoids extreme stress to her heart.

My firsthand experience is that masking, social distancing, and isolating exposures works and helps to control the spread. I am pleading with the school board to please reconsider the mask mandate and quarantining of students who have been exposed. If this is not possible, please, consider making changes to meet in the middle. For instance, having "safe" classrooms where one or more classrooms for each grade and school are designated to follow the same protocols as last year for the students/families that prefer this. I think there is a solution that can work better for all of our community and not leave the vulnerable students and families to choose between a quality education and their health. I realize at this point it may take a significant effort to make this change, but I believe we are society that has made significant advances in this world by being able to pivot and provide a service that appeals to all groups of people. This is possible, we can do this.

Please don't forget my daughter and students like her. In all the politicalness, they have been lost. I say this most sincere and heavy hearted, please, please consider making changes before we lose one of them.

Sincerely,

A concerned mother of a high risk student.