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Comment on annual meeting and special meeting

3 messages

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To: david_styer@msd.k12.wi.us, mark_hillman@msd.k12.wi.us

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Hello,

First, I'd like to express my gratitude for the way that Monday night's meeting was conducted. I really appreciate the effort that the board went to to ensure a civil conversation, to give time to all community members, and to listen respectfully. I believe this sets an important standard for these meetings. As a speaker, when I feel listened to, I am also much more receptive to listening to others, and that means a lot.

I am also grateful for Wednesday night's special meeting, and that you're giving consideration to Covid-19 safety protocols this year. I've written previously about my strong preference for universal masking, and I also want to stress the importance of contact tracing. I hope that the school board is able to make choices that reflect the best understanding of public health and community needs.

As a parent, I want my kids to be in school! We love our schools and teachers, and I want them learning with their friends and peers. There's so much richness that they get from that experience, and I'd be devastated if it gets disrupted by school closures and frequent exclusions. And I know that my children are up for it -- they are willing to wear masks, and understand the importance of keeping people safe. We all did so well last year, in the midst of so much uncertainty, and we know that masking and contact tracing were a big part of the success at SDMA. Now we know more -- we have a better understanding than we did a year ago of how the virus spreads, of how to manage risk, AND an end in sight with vaccinations. Dunn Co Health Department, WI DPI, and the CDC have been clear on what our best bet is to keep students in school this fall, and that includes masks. Let's keep up the good work!

Thank you,
Rachel Henderson
