



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

Emily Beck <emilybennettbeck@gmail.com>  
To: JANET QUINN <janet\_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 2:09 PM

Yes, if possible!

I noticed a small typo- please if you will, use the following:

Dear members of the School Board,

A few months ago, one of my headlights went out. For a variety of reasons, I wasn't able to get it fixed for some time. Almost every single day, some good Samaritan would stop me and say "Did you know one of your headlights is out?" I had kind folks stopping me in parking lots, rolling down their windows at stop lights, and even had one offer to help me fix it. I felt overwhelmed by the kindness perfect strangers offered me. I felt like they cared about me, even though they didn't know me.

The small-town kindness that made us fall in love with Menomonie when we moved here 11 years ago is still very much in evidence. We see it every day- with every neighborly wave, Facebook message of someone trying to find the owners of wallets, phones, and jewelry and through kind gestures of door holding, and offers to carry groceries or in some other small way, lend a hand to those with disabilities, or those that might be saddled with gaggles of small children.

I am asking you to consider supporting a mask-mandate to extend this small-town kindness. Even if you believe that the risks are exaggerated, a mask mandate will keep schools going. We know that the school district will be subject to the rules of the Dunn County Health Department, and if masks aren't worn, more kids will get sick and we will have many, many more exclusions...

Who I'm really thinking about are the working parents that will be in a situation where they just can't ask for another day off from their bosses, or the kids who may be left home alone when they are too young, because their families just couldn't find someone to care for them. I'm also thinking about the kids who need to stay home due to exposure or COVID that will get behind in their lessons, and when they return may never quite catch up. I'm thinking about the teachers who end up with an endless number of children they need to 'catch up' due to absences and end up staying up late at night emailing with parents. I am also thinking of the families that have children with special needs, and that have members that are immunocompromised.

Our community needs our schools to be open. Our community is kind. None of us want a mask mandate any longer than is necessary. A mask mandate would be temporary, and looking back I want us to feel as though we served our community in the kindest way possible during this tumultuous time.

Best wishes to you,

Emily Beck  
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