



JANET QUINN <janet_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us>

For School Board Meeting 8/9

2 messages

Megan Bayrd <megs22077@yahoo.com>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 1:18 PM

To: "janet_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us" <janet_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us>

Ms. Quinn,

Below is the letter I emailed to the school board members and Dr. Zydowsky last week. I would also like to submit it for the record at the meeting on 8/9, but am unable to attend in person. I would also like to submit this letter with the following comment: School Board members, I would ask that you consider your duty to the children in the district and to the School Board Ethical Standards and MUST base your decision upon "all available FACTS in each situation" and to avoid the dubious route of deciding public health decisions using public opinion.

Thank you.

Dear SDMA School Board members,

I am writing to you both as a local physician and as a parent of two children in the school district. Both of my daughters attended WVS this past year, partly out of concerns that my husband and I would be potential exposure risks, and we did not wish to put other children at risk of harm due to the risks within our household. As we look toward the return to school this fall, both of our children cannot wait to return to the classroom and their schoolmates. While both survived the last school year, it was not what they would wish for going forward. Our oldest (along with my husband and myself) is fully vaccinated. Our younger daughter is not yet old enough to be vaccinated.

I was gratified to see the recent school board vote in favor of continued masking in schools this fall for children who, like our youngest, cannot yet be vaccinated. Dunn and Eau Claire counties are starting to see more COVID patients again, despite it being summer and most activities occurring outdoors. The Delta variant is a very real threat (COVID Positivity in our region is climbing again and is above 5%), and the vaccination rates in Dunn County are low. I anticipate that my children are not the only ones who are anxiously awaiting a return to in-person school and some semblance of normalcy. The only way that can happen is if we remain vigilant and continue to utilize masking and distancing to mitigate the chances of our children becoming ill or infecting those around them. Since the vaccine is safe and effective, I would also highly encourage the school board to come out in strong support of vaccination for all students over the age of 12. Please refer to the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/> This is a highly respected organization whose sole focus is the health and safety of children.

I recognize that the recent vote was not the final decision, and I have seen the survey sent out by Dr. Zydowsky just today. I want to stress that survey results should not trump public health policy and recommendations. Opinion should not trump science. We all know that COVID safety measures would not win any popularity contests. Sometimes we must do the things that we dislike in order to protect others. Young children who cannot be vaccinated are among the most vulnerable among us, and we should take every step we can to protect them as the school year begins.

This community needs you to continue to choose safety for our children. Please protect them and vote to keep masks and distancing in place for kids in 4K through (at least) age 12.

Thank you.

Megan Bayrd, DO
Family Physician

JANET QUINN <janet_quinn@msd.k12.wi.us>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 10:58 AM

To: Megan Bayrd <megs22077@yahoo.com>

Good morning Ms. Bayrd, DO

This is to confirm I received your email.


Thank you,

Janet Quinn

[Quoted text hidden]


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