

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted remotely due to the Governor's Disaster Declaration dated January 7, 2022, and Executive Order 2020-44 (EO 2020-44 re-issued 2020-07, as modified by 2020-33 and with the additions in EO 2021-76)

7:00 p.m. on the 16th day of February 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called attendance, and the following members attended remotely: Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, Sonali Patil, Karl Borchers, Wes Polen, and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were the Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Teaching & Learning Innovation Ms. Allison Stein; Asst. Supt. of Student Services Ms. Alicia Corrigan; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer; and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan.

RECOGNITION

No recognition at this time

PUBLIC COMMENT

A total of 27 public comments were submitted via email and 25 public comments were announced during this time. Public comments were limited to three minutes each, and one hour total was allotted for public comment. Comments were read in the order that they were received. All comments, including those not read, are attached to the meeting minutes.

Gwen Janzen
Emily Dorgan
MaryJane Wang
Linda DiGati
Laura Akers
Angela Espino
Susan and Joseph Townsend
Mike Marvin
Melisa Stephen
Curtis Buck
Simran Dang
Jen Glassman
Kim McAuliffe
Anne Bailey
Katie Ori
John Hetzel
Malgorata Milczarek
Jane Zhang
Jessica Kruswicki
Joy Levering
Alina Stukova
Nicole Stern
Ann Santori
William Callinan
Irina Kravtsova
Sandi Thomsen
Danya Sundh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time

PRESENTATIONS

Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. John Reid, presented the Library Media Services Project.

The school library and the district's Library Information Specialists are uniquely positioned to implement Hawthorn District 73's collective commitments, meet the district's goals, and improve the lives of all students in powerful ways. As the team works to enhance the spaces and resources within the district's library facilities, the district will move toward the goal of ensuring success of the whole child by aligning with one of the core purposes of school libraries, which is to provide "equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment." The libraries support the district's work to be a high performing school district, performing in the top 10% of all schools, and closing the achievement gap for all students in reading. The libraries ensure the success of the whole child by supporting the comprehensive approaches and programming in place throughout the district. The team is currently working to align the Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship materials with the Second Step SEL resource at the elementary level in order to reinforce the connection between social emotional wellness and students' online behaviors. All of this work will enhance the learning experiences in the libraries. Next steps include determining professional development needs for library personnel, continue reviewing alignment of library curriculum with standards, establish regular annual review of library philosophy and processes for continuous improvement, and design and implement a tool to measure effectiveness of collaboration between Library Information Specialists and classroom teachers.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Vice-President, Ms. Wes Polen, reviewed section one of Policy, PRESS Issue 108 and Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students. Vice-President Polen asked Dr. Hannigan to speak on behalf of the policies related to the Superintendent and Board of Education's department. Some updates include legal references and footnotes for Policy 2:110 *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*, have been updated to allow boards to meet remotely during a public health emergency, the board's role in conducting criminal background investigations, and continuous improvement. The policy, cross references, and footnotes for Policy 2:20 *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*, Policy 3:40 *Superintendent*, and Policy 3:50 *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent* were updated in response to the General Assembly's focus on resolving education misconduct. Policy 6:20 *School Year Calendar and Day* has been updated in response to the State Commemorative Dates Act adding Muhammed Ali's birthday, naming the first full week of April each year as Autism Acceptance Week, enacting Juneteenth National Freedom Day on June 19 each year, and permitting e-learning days to be used when a school is selected as a polling place under the election code. Dr. Hannigan clarified that as of now, Hawthorn District 73 is not a designated polling place.

Vice-President, Ms. Wes Polen, asked Mrs. Alicia Corrigan to speak on behalf of the updated policies related to the Student Services Department. The first policy (4:165) is a new policy created in response to the amendment of Erin's Law. This policy outlines the school districts requirements to adopt and implement a Pre-K-8 evidence informed training for school personnel, parents/guardians and students on child sexual abuse and sexual grooming. Parents will receive at least 5 days notice of the program and be afforded the opportunity to opt their child out. The second two policies Education of Children with Disabilities (6:120) and Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention (7:290) are recommending minor changes to align with current school codes. Lastly, policy 7:240 Administering Medicines to Students requires districts to determine if they will have a supply of undesignated glucagon in the nurse's offices. The District, in conjunction with their nursing consultant, is not recommending the district to provide an undesignated supply of glucagon for the following reasons; parents have provided glucagon for the students known to potentially require it at school, unlike Epipens, glucagon does not have a free-to-schools program, each glucagon can cost up to \$250 and has a 24-months expiration window, and given the location of Hawthorn District 73, emergency personnel would be able to respond well within the required time frame to support a student requiring glucagon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan started his report by talking about Hawthorn's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and where the district is going in the near future. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the district has committed to following recommendations from the CDC, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Department of Public Health. The district has been very thoughtful and deliberate in executing its' plans to ensure a safe return to in-person learning for both students and staff that is the least disruptive and sustainable. When updated guidance or recommendations were released, the district thoroughly reviewed them in coordination

February 16, 2022

with legal counsel, updated and aligned their mitigation measures, and made a plan to effectively and safely implement the revised mitigation measures across the Hawthorn system. District 73 has been prepared to make any needed adjustments, as demonstrated throughout the pandemic based on our review of local health conditions and internal case counts. Ultimately, the district's job and focus are to ensure high levels of learning for all; the district's priority is to provide a safe and positive in-person learning environment for all students. On March 5, 2022, the Governor's Executive Order 2021-18, which requires the use of indoor face masks for students, staff, and visitors on school property, expires. In anticipation of this, the administrative team is preparing a plan to transition all schools to a mask-optional learning environment. Next Thursday, February 24, at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting, he will present the District 73 plan and timeline for implementing a mask-optional environment to the Board of Education and community. Additionally, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) voted yesterday not to renew IDPH Emergency Rules that mandated quarantines for students and staff identified as a close contact. These rules expired on February 14, 2022; therefore, effective immediately, Hawthorn will no longer require asymptomatic students identified as a close contact to quarantine.

The health and safety of all students and staff will always be the district's number one priority. Lastly, communication will be sent out to the community Thursday, February 17 outlining everything that was mentioned tonight.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President, Ms. Robin Cleek started her President's report by thanking all the Hawthorn administrators, teachers and staff for everything they have been doing thus far to keep the students safe and learning in person. The entire Board of Education will support the staff while the district transitions to the next phase of learning. President Cleek reminded the board to RSVP to the March 9 IASB Lake Division Meeting and to submit their feedback by Sunday for Dr. Hannigan's mid-year evaluation. President Cleek ended her report by clarifying that the last board meeting was canceled due to some individuals not complying to the current Hawthorn District 73 face covering policy. The Board of Education was unwilling to risk the potential problems that could arise when people demonstrate a willingness to violate district policies that are related to health and safety.

ED-RED REPORT

Board member, Mr. Joel Finfer, reminded the board to RSVP to the ED-RED Legislative Dinner. There are things happening quickly from the legislators. It is critical to pay attention and to respond to a legislator when ED-RED connects with the board.

SEDOL REPORT

Board member, Mr. Michael Engle, reported that SEDOL's last governing board meeting was December 1, and their last executive board meeting was January 27. The Board of Education approved the SEDOL resolution affirming the superintendent's authority related to pandemic operations for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board of Education approved an amended contract related to the cost of student breakfast and lunch. There was a price increase identified as 10 cents a meal for breakfast and 31 cents a meal for lunch. The pricing aligns with the COVID-19 national public health emergency waivers allowed by the USDA. The rates remain below the reimbursement rates. Abbott labs donated thousands of dollars worth of supplies to be shared across the district. The next governing board meeting will be on March 2.

KEY to 73 REPORT

No report at this time

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sonali Patil and CSBO, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor both attended a virtual meeting in regards to the energy commission's meeting. There will be follow up discussions at the next Site & Facilities Meeting. She will report back to the board with any recommendations at the next board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Special Board Meeting Minutes 01/12/2022
- 7.2 Board Meeting Minutes 01/20/2022
- 7.3 Closed Session Minutes 01/20/2022
- 7.4 Personnel Report

February 16, 2022

2 New Hires: Joseph Stark, SpEd Instructional Assistant, MN; Samantha Cook, Communications Specialist, DO

5 Resignations: Lauren Wolk-Williams, LBS1 Teacher, MSS, 1/24/2022; Emily Cole, 3rd Grade LOP Teacher, EN, 2/4/2022; Rebecca Rocha, 5th Grade Teacher, TL, 1/31/2022; Bailey Cabrales, Nurse, HSYL, 2/17/2022; Karolina Borka, Payroll Specialist, DO, 2/2/2022

2 Leaves of Absence: Lauren Marra, 5th Grade LOP Teacher, EN; Jeffrey Mazzuca, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, MN;

1 Change of Status: Krystian Krzyak, 1st Grade Self-Contained Teacher, DL

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Joel Finfer.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Wes Polen, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

CSBO, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, had two action items on tonight's agenda that relate to the business department. The Resolution Transferring Funds from Operating Funds to the Capital Projects Fund of the District was the first action item that Ms. Taylor explained. Ms. Taylor reminded the board of the different facility projects and the five-year plan that has been presented in previous board meetings. This evening, the resolution to move funds totals \$3 million dollars.

The TRS Employer Participation Agreement for the 457(b) Supplemental Savings Plan was the second action item on tonight's agenda. Starting this March, the plan is to offer a 457(b) retirement plan to all Hawthorn District 73 employees. The program includes both pre-tax and post-tax options. Employers with TRS members are required to withhold contributions from any active TRS member that wishes to participate in this program.

ACTION ITEMS –

Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District; George Fievet seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Wes Polen, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution to approve the TRS Employer Participation Agreement for the 457(b) Supplemental Savings Plan

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to approve the TRS Employer Participation Agreement for the 457(b) Supplemental Savings Plan; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

February 16, 2022

1. Enrollment-Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there were two FOIA requests received since the last board meeting that have been responded to as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board Agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips-Uploaded

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

No future topics at this time.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Session of the meeting adjourned to a Closed Session pursuant to OMA exemption 10 section C and OMA exemption one section C. President Cleek *read the motion(s) to adjourn to CLOSED SESSION for the purposes of:*

- *The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).*
- *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).*

President Cleek mentioned that the board does not anticipate taking any action following the closed session portion of the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Geroge Fievet. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. to the Closed Session. All in favor? Yes.*

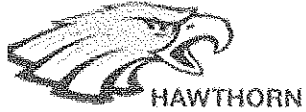
Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____



①

Robin Cleak <rcleak@hawthorn73.org>

Thank you!

4 messages

Gwen Janzen <

Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 6:57 PM

To: "hanniganp@hawthorn73.org" <hanniganp@hawthorn73.org>

Cc: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Dr Hannigan and Board of Education members-

Thank you for maintaining the mitigations to the greatest extent legally possible! I don't have to tell you that these measures have been integral to the district's success at prioritizing the in-person instruction that is so important to our young learners. Though there are clearly a handful of angry parents, please know that there are many more of us who are relieved and extremely grateful for your continued adherence to all possible mitigations. You have our support and our appreciation for all of your hard work and careful decision making.

Thank you!

-Gwen Janzen



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Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Thank you

5 messages

emily dorgan

Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 7:02 PM

To: hanniganp@hawthorn73.org

Cc: Greg Dorgan < , schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Good evening,

We just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your email tonight and continued commitment to the safety of the students, staff, and Hawthorn D73 community. We have to imagine you are receiving emails tonight that are very different than this one, so we wanted to make sure you heard from parents who appreciate the difficult position you are in during this global health crisis.

We are both teachers in surrounding local districts, and know how challenging the last two school years have been for everyone in the education community. We have been especially impressed by the handling of this pandemic by you and our school board. We know the pressure put on school leaders during a "typical" school year is hard enough; so we can't even imagine how stressful the last two years have been.

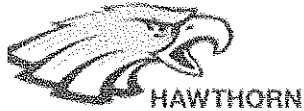
Our daughter was in 1st grade in 2020 when the world stopped, and we can honestly say that we feel she has received the same wonderful school experience we would hope for even when she was remote, hybrid, and now full in-person. This of course is a huge testament to our wonderful school staff, but also to you as the leader of this district.

We know there are many difficult decisions that will have to be made in the future regarding the pandemic in our schools, and you will hear from both grateful and unhappy parents; but we just wanted to let you know we appreciate your data and safety driven decision making, and have confidence in your leadership for our school community.

Sincerely,

Emily and Greg Dorgan

(Hawthorn North Elementary parents)



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Robin Cloak <rcloakr@hawthorn73.org>

Thank you for keeping students safe

3 messages

MaryJane Wang

Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 7:51 PM

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org, Peter Hannigan <hanniganp@hawthorn73.org>

Cc: andy wang

Dear Dr. Hannigan and School Board Members,

Thank you very much for doing all you can to protect the lives and safety of everyone in D73. Masking allows the district to maximize in-person learning for students with minimal disruption; something we all hope to preserve.

It protects not just students, but also staff, families, and those in our broader community who are high risk. Countless D73 families include a student or immediate family member with a high risk condition (for example: a parent undergoing cancer treatment, a student with an autoimmune condition, a teacher with a premature baby, etc.) And vaccines are not yet available for children under 5. Staff and students rely on masking to keep transmission low and keep everyone safe. It's really a very small price to pay.

Thank you for doing the utmost to protect everyone at D73.

Sincerely,
Andy and MaryJane Wang

Sent from my iPhone

It protects n.



Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Thank you

5 messages

Linda DiGati

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7:26 AM

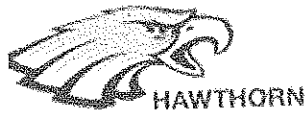
To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Thank you for helping to ensure the safety of our children in this district. I know this ruling is a big challenge and I'm hoping it can be overcome to maintain masks as school policy. I am glad D73 not named in the suit. We are grateful our kids are in person because of masking and other requirements. I know these have been challenging days and more challenging days ahead. I thank you for having the safety of our children, teachers and staff at heart. These are unbelievable times and we are praying for the right outcomes to mask and keep kids safe and continue to slow the spread.

You have many many parents behind you.

Stay strong and have a good day,
Linda DiGati
MSS parent

Sent from my iPhone



Robin Cleet <cleetr@hawthorn73.org>

Thank you!

5 messages

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:46 PM

'Laura Akers' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>
Reply-To: Laura Akers
To: "schoolboard@hawthorn73.org" <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Dear School Board Member and Dr. Hannigan,
Thank you for continuing to put the safety of your students and staff first. I would ask that you continue to keep the existing mitigation in place - they are working!

Thank you!
Laura Akers
- parent of two Dual Language students



Robin Cies  rcies@hawthorn73.org

Thank You!

5 messages

Angela Espino < >
To: Schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 6:26 PM

Dear Hawthorn Board,
Thank you for keeping our kids safe by implementing and maintaining COVID mitigations.
Please keep the existing measurements in place to ensure the containment of COVID and
to keep our children safe.

Sincerely,



7 Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Reconsider COVID mandatory masking and other kid restrictions

5 messages

Susan Townsend <

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Cc: Joseph Townsend <

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:09 PM

Hi School Board,

I am writing to you to ask that you consider making masks optional and removing other COVID restrictions in our district. We know more now and need to take a balanced view that puts COVID in perspective.

We know more about COVID, a vaccine is available to all of our students to prevent severe COVID, and treatment options are available. The current Omicron variant, which has crested in the US, is relatively mild and less likely to cause severe illness. We also know that COVID death is rare, even if you go back to the onset of the pandemic when vaccines and treatment were not available. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention cited 748 recorded deaths among those 0-17 that were classified as having COVID involved since January 2019 (source: <https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Deaths-by-Sex-and-Age/9bhg-hcku>). While any death is tragic, we need to put this in perspective. The death toll of children who died *with* COVID-19 over the last two years is about one-half of children who died from pneumonia and influenza—*without* COVID—during the same time period.

The evidence is very clear that this pandemic is taking a tremendous toll on our young learners. The recent data on mental health is alarming!

I feel very strongly that the masks should be optional. As a concerned parent, how do I ensure my voice and that of my kids are heard and the appropriate people are listening?

I look forward to your response.

See attached for additional notes

Regards,
Susan and Joseph Townsend



Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Reconsider COVID mandatory masking and other kid restrictions

Susan Townsend <

To: Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Cc: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>, Joseph Townsend <

Sun, Feb 13, 2022 at 9:22 PM

Hi Robin,

Thank you for the consideration and follow up. We would like our letter to be read out loud for public comment and captured in the minutes.

Please note that I added the following to the letter below: "upgraded masks (N95, KN95) are also available for those that desire them."

If there is a decision to stay the course with COVID restrictions, we ask for transparency into your plan, timing and key contributing factors.

Regards,
Sue and Joe Townsend

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Mike Marvin

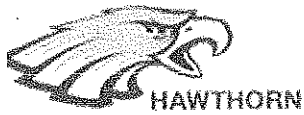
106 Marimac

As apparent of a 3rd and 1st grader at Aspen, I would like to ask the school board to follow our neighboring school districts who have made the decision to move to mask optional. I would also like the school board to provide us with a plan and timeline to reverse any other mitigations currently in place that are isolating our children. We have endured and abided by these mitigations long enough. Our children have already missed too much of what should be their most formative years and what should also be some of their most fun and memorable years. It broke my heart the other day when I mentioned something to my son about eating lunch with his friends at school only for him to reminded me that he has to eat alone, isolated at a desk. Let our kids be kids again.

There is no longer a need to argue over any scientific studies on the effectiveness of masks. We now have enough history behind us that all we need to do is look around. Illinois has maintained the strictest mask rules in the Midwest and some of the strictest in the country yet fared no better with any of the recent covid surges. We saw the same spikes and declines across the country in both areas of masking and no masking. Masks are no longer about logic or health and safety; they are now about feelings, a political statement, they've become a pseudo religion. This is an ideology that I am asking the school board to stop pushing onto my children.

I've also heard multiple times that the board is waiting on direction from the public health experts. We did not elect the public health experts to run our schools, we elected you. Please be the leaders you were voted in to be. It is time to remove the mask mandate, remove the isolation and remove the fear the state has been perpetuating. Our children only get one childhood and enough has already been stolen from them. I am asking the school board to let us parents once again decide what is best for our own children. I have gone along with these measures I disagree with long enough and am now prepared to move forward with whatever it takes to get my kids their childhood back.

To those who wish to continue masking, you are more than welcome to. If you truly believe they work, then the unmasked around you should be of no concern.



Robin Clerk (a)@hawthorn73.org

Submission ID 5574 Received for Email BOE Members

1 message

'mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>
Reply-To: mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org
To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 11:54 AM



HAWTHORN DISTRICT 73
Learning For All. Every One. Every Day.



You've got a new form submission!

Email BOE Members

Submission Date: 2/8/2022 11:54 AM

Name - First Name: Melisa

Name - Last Name: Stephen

Email Address:

Subject: Court Ruling / Mask Mandate

Dear Board: Re: Recent Court Ruling In clarification, the Judge declared the emergency rules at issue from the Governor, IDPH, and ISBE, Void. "Thus, non-named Plaintiffs and School Districts throughout the State may govern themselves accordingly," she wrote. Per this ruling District 73 is no longer subject to the emergency rule/mandate. Please advise under which

Message: authority District 73 will continue to require masks? Many districts, not part of the TRO, have moved to mask optional. Local districts that are now mask

optional include Libertyville, Barrington, Lake Forest
and Buffalo Grove among others. What requirements
need to be met before D73 will be doing the same?
Please move to mask optional. Thank you, Melisa
Stephen



Submission ID 5579 Received for Email BOE Members

1 message

'mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>
Reply-To: mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org
To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 6:13 PM



HAWTHORN DISTRICT 73
Learning For All. Every One. Every Day.



You've got a new form submission!

Email BOE Members

Submission Date: 2/8/2022 6:13 PM

Name - First Name: Curtis

Name - Last Name: Buck

Email Address:

Subject: Public comment

Message: For public comment section: Please - I understand that many people are tired of masks. I get it. Now is not the time to remove masks from our schools. We are within 6 weeks of 6mo - 4 year olds from being eligible for vaccination. Please don't make us fear what our kids will bring home from school and give to our infants. Just wait a few weeks. Fwiw I live at 219 Autumn Ln, Vernon Hills IL 60061



Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Masking in District 73

4 messages

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 1:13 PM

Gulati Family <

To: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>, Peter Hannigan <hanniganp@hawthorn73.org>

Dear Ms. Cleek, Respected District 73 Board Members & Dr. Hannigan,

I hope that this email finds you and your families healthy and well.

My name is Simran Dang and I am a parent of two children at Aspen Elementary School. On behalf of both my husband and I, I am writing this quick note to extend my support for continued mandatory masking by all students, staff and visitors in D73 schools. The declining covid rates are certainly encouraging; however, at this time Lake County continues to have a substantial rate of community transmission. Consistent with CDC guidance, it appears too early to remove mask mandates for schools.

Thank you for your careful consideration and consistent leadership in this matter.

best wishes,
Simran Dang



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Robin Clegg <clegg@hawthorn73.org>

Thank you

0 messages

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 4:06 PM

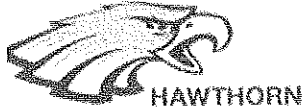
Jen Perlis-Glassman
To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Hello Dr. Hannigan and board,
First, thank you so much to all of you for the support and guidance you are providing our son and the rest of the students within the district! You are shouldering so much beyond the scope of your work as leaders and we are very, very grateful. You've all managed it with so much grace, composure, kindness, respect, and extraordinary patience!

We believe that your views are to protect all of the students within the district and we are grateful that you have put the collective interests of the kids first. We are also grateful for your consideration of the staff's health and emotional needs first as well. We hope you are aware of how cherished your support has been for the community. Our family supports wearing masks at this time: I personally worry for those children who are medically fragile to be unmasked. I worry for those that are not vaccinated, however I know whatever you decide, we will support you 100% because once again, you are thinking of the greater population. We trust you and your decisions.

Thank you thank you for all you do.
We are so lucky to be in this community alongside all of you.
Fondly,
Jen and Jay

--
Mrs. Jen Perlis-Glassman



13

Robin Clock <clockr@hawthorn73.org>

Public Comment 2/10 board meeting

5 messages

Kim McAuliffe <

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 6:37 PM

To: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Dear Schoolboard, Dr. Hannigan, and Admin,

My husband and I would like to thank you for all you have done to keep our kids safe this school year. It's worked out well and I would strongly encourage to keep the mask mandate and protocols in place. The goal was for in personal learning and you have achieved that. With just a few months left of this school year, we hope the protocols can remain.

We would also like to thank Mr. Fredricksen and the Aspen staff for all they have done. Mr. Fredricksen is outside at drop off every single morning greeting all the kids by first name. The staff is keeping the kids safe and we so appreciate it.

Thank you again,

Kim McAuliffe



14

Robin Cleek <rcleek@hawthorn73.org>

Submission ID 5654 Received for Email BOE Members

1 message

'mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>
Reply-To: mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org
To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 1:34 PM



HAWTHORN DISTRICT 73
Learning For All. Every One. Every Day.



You've got a new form submission!

Email BOE Members

Submission Date: 2/10/2022 1:34 PM

Name - First Name: Anne

Name - Last Name: Bailey

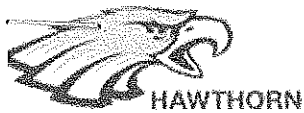
Email Address:

Subject: In support of the decision to continue masking requirements in schools

Hello! My name is Anne Bailey- my son is a first grader at Aspen. I just wanted to write a quick note in support of the decision to continue mask requirements in schools while the ongoing lawsuit makes its way through legal channels. I appreciate the cautious approach the district has taken all along during the

Message: pandemic. I support the decision Dr. Hannigan made and agree with the reasons he outlined in his email to parents. I continue to be impressed with how well both

the superintendent and the school board have
responded to these unprecedented challenges and
thank you for your service to our community. Thank
you! Anne Bailey



15

Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Submission ID 5659 Received for Email BOE Members

1 message

'mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 8:43 PM

Reply-To: mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org



HAWTHORN DISTRICT 73
Learning For All. Every One. Every Day.



You've got a new form submission!

Email BOE Members

Submission Date: 2/10/2022 8:43 PM

Name - First Name: Katie

Name - Last Name: Ori

Email Address:

Subject: A Public Statement

To the Board of Education Members: I am saddened what happened at tonight's board meeting and that the meeting had to be cancelled. I wanted to calmly and respectfully make a public statement. Since I am not able to, I would like to share it here. My name is Katie Ori and I live in the community of Arlington Heights. I am a speech/language pathologist for Hawthorn District 73. Before I make my statement, I'd like to recognize the Board's hard work in making difficult decisions during the past 2 years to keep our school

community safe. Thank you. But I am here tonight to ask the Board to please consider making masks optional. I know first hand as a speech/language

Message: pathologist how masks have negatively effected students' learning and their ability to improve their overall communication skills. Students with articulation/phonological, oral motor delays, auditory processing difficulties, hearing impairment and autism need to see the instructor's mouth and facial expressions to help with understanding and share and adapt emotions in social situations. 70 to 90 % of all communication is non-verbal. The numbers of Covid cases and hospitalizations are down in the Hawthorn community. Hawthorn has always been progressive. Let's not be the last district to put the students first. Please consider making masks optional. Thank you again.



16

Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Rescheduled Schoolboard Mtg

John Hetzel <

Mon, Feb 14, 2022 at 8:00 AM

To: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>, Peter Hannigan <hanniganp@hawthorn73.org>

Cc: taylorl@hawthorn73.org

D73 Schoolboard and President Robin Cleek –

We have been informed and shown email from other parents sent by Robin Cleek stating the D73 Schoolboard Mtg that was abruptly cancelled last week, will now be rescheduled for remote only/zoom participation. Yet, we have not seen a district-wide correspondence sent to parents and families in the community providing this information, why? Selective communication?

The mask wearing on kids in school is doing nothing to prevent transmission and causing our kids to regress socially, emotionally and physically while also compounded by their desire to even want to attend school any longer. So if kids are now starting to have sick days or mental health days because they are exhausted and restricted by mask wearing, what is really being accomplished by kids wearing masks any longer in school?

The current research studies, science and data shows wearing masks, especially cloth masks worn by most, doesn't prevent transmission. And the simple fact, mask wearing isn't properly worn virtually everywhere in society today, including the mass public areas, school kids and many teachers, if at all around us or in most states for that matter. What is the point at this stage for wearing masks other than control or political science agenda, because the science and data doesn't support it?

Its become simply illogical the D73 Schoolboard has decided to continue to enforce mask wearing requirements and not provide mask optional choice for kids and families in the community. Similar to how you handled Remote-Only for one full school year and one trimester. Remarkable, you would think you would LEARN from your mistakes, but instead you double-down.

If parents or kids want to wear masks in school, let those kids and families wear masks, but don't force our kids any longer to wear masks. We should be mask optional and have the freedom of choice after 2 years of the schoolboard forcibly controlling our kids and families in this community. The educational, social, emotional, mental and financial harm you have caused kids and families in this community far outweighs anything accomplished by your restrictive controls you enforced thru force majeure.

States all over the country are lifting mask mandates, most in schools as well, including many, many districts all around us and throughout Illinois, but the choice for mask optional is still being controlled by the D73 Schoolboard without measurable results preventing transmission according to all research science and data today.

Our daughters also tell us D73 is having the kids wipe down and clean their desks after each class, eventhough 18 months ago research supports the coronavirus is not transferable by contact, its transmitted as an aerosol like most viruses, so why are we wasting our kids learning time by having them clean at the end of classes daily v. learning, and why are we wasting district financial resources with cleaning supplies not required?

Also, the fact that the Schoolboard mtg has been moved to virtual zoom format is just another way it seems the D73 Schoolboard can control the narrative, by preventing in-person freedom of speech and can now solicit supporters of mask wearing to submit emails for such a requirement, eventhough none of these mask-only parents are protesting for wearing mask in school, so it will be quite ironic to hear the emails from parents now once you have moved the mtg to zoom. Quite the tricky ploy.

We are providing permission for this email to be read at the virtual, remote only/zoom D73 Schoolboard Mtg. being rescheduled after the Feb. 10th Schoolboard meeting was abruptly cancelled last week. This email is well under the 3 minutes read time allocated by the D73 Schoolboard for public comment, and we fully expect it to be read in the public forum.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding on these matters above.

John Hetzel

110 Birmingham Place

VH, IL 60061

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Submission ID 5725 Received for Email BOE Members

1 message

'mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Mon, Feb 14, 2022 at 9:53 AM

Reply-To: mcfarlinm@hawthorn73.org

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Email BOE Members

Submission Date: 2/14/2022 9:53 AM

Name - First Name: Malgorzata

Name - Last Name: Milczarek

Email Address:

Subject: Please remove all the mask, testing and quarantine mandates

Message: Good morning, My kids are so stressed they are afraid to go to school, they do not want to go to school because they are scared. For the last two years they have been mentally scared that if they do not wear masks, they will expose their parents and grandparents to the virus. They've been told to stay away from friends and keep the distance from others. I thought the school supposed to fight with bullying, instead teachers are becoming the biggest bullies of all, screaming at kids and scaring them that there's going to be consequences if they don't wear mask properly, even now when we know it's illegal. It's going to take a long time to restore a kids trust in a teachers again, and for them to feel safe at school. I remember when I was signing my kids to school and on those parents meetings principles were telling that school is like a second home, it surely doesn't feel like it anymore. I'm not threatening. Legal action has been initiated after you decided to cancel the meeting without listening the parents concerns. Keep up the bad work. Sincerely, Malgorzata

PUBLIC COMMENT - February 16, 2022

Jane <
To: <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

JANE ZHANG

Mon, Feb 14, 8:50 PM

Let's start with data. Students have a survival rate over 99.99%. In the state of Illinois, a FOIA request revealed that as of July 2021, there have only been NINETEEN children COVID deaths. With about 2.8 million children in the state, that means only 0.0007% of children died from COVID. That said, how long will you continue to live in fear? When will you embrace reality? What are you waiting for to continue living your life?

Medical interventions, such as masks, testing, vaccines, should always be a choice for families. If you believe masks work, then wear one. If you don't believe they do, don't wear one. If we look at the highest-quality scientific studies - the randomized-controlled trials, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses, they conclude that there is no statistically significant difference between wearing a mask or not in preventing the spread of respiratory illnesses.

As you know, on February 4, Judge Grischow ruled that the emergency mask mandate and guidance from the governor, IDPH, and ISBE are null and void. It states in the ruling that "Although this court denied plaintiffs' request for class certification...this court has declared IDPH's emergency rules void. Any non-named plaintiffs and school districts throughout this state may govern themselves accordingly."

How does D73's "legal team" interpret this language differently than other districts in the state? These mandates have NEVER been laws, and schools have been operating unlawfully the past two years. As a district, D73 is continuing to enforce its UNLAWFUL policies pertaining to masks, testing, quarantine, etc. Over 500+ Illinois school districts have gone mask optional since the 2/4 ruling. Some include Libertyville D70, Lake Forest D115, Lake Zurich D95, Barrington D220, and more.

Did you know that out of the fifty states of the US, Illinois remains only 1 of EIGHT states that have a statewide school mask mandate? Other schools in the vast majority of the country have been mask optional for a LONG time, and they are operating smoothly with thriving students. In fact, when you compare Illinois' COVID cases to our neighboring midwest states, they actually rise faster and fall at a similar rate. So... is the mask mandate helping? Think for yourself.

Let's talk hypocrisy at its finest. In 2021, Lollapalooza (one of the largest music events of the year) was held in Chicago with no masks. Yet, weeks later, students with the lowest risk were still forced to wear masks in schools. Make it make sense. This past Sunday, the SuperBowl was held in Los Angeles where they claim there is a state of emergency. If you can hold a sporting event with over 700,000 in a stadium with no masks, why do students need to be forced to wear a mask in schools? Make it make sense. Finally, restaurants. Walk into a restaurant; maybe have a mask on; sit down at your table, and BOOM - magically, COVID disappears and masks off. Yet, students walk into their classrooms and sit down at their desks, but still are forced to wear masks. Make it make sense.

Why is it so important to speak up now more than ever? This ends when we all stand together, regardless of our different opinions. This all started with "two weeks to slow the spread", which turned into mask mandates, then vaccine mandates to participate in school, work, or society. This will NEVER end until we all say NO. Let's stand together - UNIFIED. Thank you for your time!

Public Comment for 2/16 Board Meeting

Jessica Kruswicki

Tue, Feb 15, 7:43 AM

To: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>, Peter Hannigan <hanniganp@hawthorn73.org>

Dear D73 BOE:

I would like my letter read for public comment at the upcoming board meeting and attached to the board meeting minutes.

First, I want to thank all of you for your service and support as we have worked through the last 2 years of very challenging times for all.

After watching what has transpired over the last week across our state with the lawsuit around the TRO and districts across the state revising their mitigation plans to a mask optional choice, I wanted to express some concerns and feedback on this issue. First, I understand the district's rationale to not move to mask optional out of the gate for the chance an appeal is granted and a higher court rules in favor of the governor's mandates as enforceable which the downstate judge recently ruled as void. It makes sense that you do not want to add to further disruption within the schools or learning in the event we would have to revert back to masking at that point. However, as of today over 530 school districts out of roughly 850 have changed their policy and are now mask optional. It appears that the mask mandates are not enforceable. I would expect that our district will be moving toward a mask optional approach as we get closer to the end of the month.. We are going on 2 years dealing with this and all the science and data have shown over and over again that younger children are at the lowest risk and schools are not where the transmission is happening. Recent data also has shown that masks are not effective in preventing the spread. COVID is not going away and we need your leadership as our elected officials to do what is best for your constituents and students in our community and at this point in time, provide a choice for masking. It is only right that parents wherever they stand on the issue have a choice on what is best for their children and their families and we all need to respect everyone's choice to mask or not to mask.

Districts across the United States have been mask optional and in-person all school year and their cases are no worse (some better) than what we have seen here in our area. Illinois is one of very few states left that continue to have these mitigations and mandates in place which have been proven to have a negligible impact on the slow or spread of COVID but impacted kids and families well being and our economy far more severely. There is no consistency across our county, our state and our country and even my children see this and the lack of common sense that is wreaking havoc on our students and their wellbeing. The only thing more contagious than COVID-19 within our schools is a smile, something our students have not seen within their schools for almost 2 years or 675 days in addition to any sort of true normalcy for them. We need to unmask our kids, allow them to socialize and sit together within our schools (they are doing this outside of school) so they can have a normal education again and can start to fully regain their social, emotional and mental well-being. It is mind boggling to me how this has not become a bigger concern for our district in comparison to the negative impacts the lockdowns, quarantines, and masking has had on our future, our children. Perhaps some do not feel that our students are deserving of this at this point and are making these recent decisions based on fear of liability or consequences from ISBE, the Governor etc., even after this ruling was clear that IDPH's and ISBE's Emergency Rules are VOID. ISBE and IDPH are not legislative law making bodies, they are merely administrative bodies that can provide guidance, not laws. With HB2789 not passing this Summer, IDPH has no powers within our schools.

Outside of schools, many of our students are having sleepovers with friends, attending events or get together without masks depending on the venue, car pooling, eating out, traveling, etc. and so is our staff. On 2/28 all mandates (except for schools) will be lifted and after that our students and staff will not be required to wear masks anywhere, except for in our schools. How does that make any logical sense? Over the weekend, many of us watched over 70,000 people in a sold out stadium cheer on the SuperBowl with almost NO masks in sight (even though they were provided at the door) yet school kids in California and Illinois both under what the governors have ruled still a "state of emergency" had to mask up come Monday morning? This is wrong!

We have done everything we can and that has been asked of us, vaccinate, get boosted, wear masks, etc. and the majority of us are still contracting COVID and will continue to do so as this is how viruses work...you can not eradicate them. Natural immunity and vaccines help us to live with them which is what we should be doing at this point. For those of us that have contracted COVID, especially our students under 18, symptoms are mild, they are very rarely life threatening. Our numbers are declining and we will never get to zero. Masks are proven useless except for N95 which the majority of staff and students are not even wearing or wearing any type of masks properly while at school or outside of school when forced to wear them. Most countries are now lifting all COVID protocols including masking, quarantining and vaccination status. Isn't it

time our district started treating this like we would any other virus?

Here are a few links to review: John Hopkins research from last week reviewing over 30 studies showing lockdowns did virtually nothing to prevent COVID deaths. There is a link to the study within the article.

https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/health-news-florida/2022-02-02/a-johns-hopkins-study-says-ill-founded-lockdowns-did-little-to-limit-covid-deaths?fbclid=IwAR3MZeqaRH2j1mDW-WlhG29d6sunw3O1SnfMQoV_O3FJWHldYcLhmJGzblw

<https://www.urgencyofnormal.com/our-statement>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/02/dr-scott-gottlieb-says-its-time-to-consider-dumping-school-covid-mask-mandates.html>

https://wirepoints.org/the-mask-is-off-illinois-has-no-science-behind-its-school-masking-mandate-wirepoints/?fbclid=IwAR28HMNHVz_ZEYSgxC7M3hfYJg6JY2N-z31IOEHp3hgBTanEfkXqmN80x6l

We greatly appreciate your consideration of the above as it relates to our next steps to a full return to normal within our buildings. Our hope is that as a school board you can get back to your core focus of educating students.

Thank you,

Kevin and Jessica Kruswicki, Parents of 2 students within D73

message for public comment for Feb 16 meeting

'Joy Levering' via schoolboard <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Tue, Feb 15, 8:42 AM

Reply-To: Joy Levering

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Dear Board,

Please give the kids the chance to see each other's smiling faces again at school. Masks inhibit full social expression and are depriving kids of receiving full and normal social cues from their peers. When you are in 7th grade (like my child), and full of the normal ups and downs of adolescence, the blankness of a masked face is easily construed as a negative social cue. No doubt this is one reason that the school so frequently sends out messages about poor behavior and increased anxiety and depression in students. Schools in other states have managed for months without masks; Covid vaccines are available to adults and teens and small children are at more risk from car crashes or the flu. The time for the drastic measure of masking the kids is over.

Joy Levering
1129 S 4th Ave
Libertyville



21

Robin Clark <rclark@hawthorn73.org>

Regarding Mask at School

2 messages

Alina Stukova

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 10:02 AM

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org, hanniganp@hawthorn73.org

Dear board and School Superintendent,

I am writing this letter to you to express my parents' thoughts regarding masks at school. My opinion that masks in schools should be at the decision of parents. Because only parents are fully responsible for their children.

Two of my kids go to District 73. Last year I did homeschooling for my second grader because it was remote learning. But this year we went back to school, because children have only one childhood, they need to communicate with their friends.

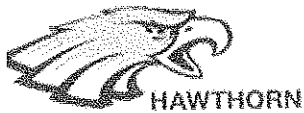
My family got covid two months ago, we have natural immunity, we cannot be carriers of the virus and cannot infect other people. Therefore, I believe that it will be better for my children for their health to be without masks. If we had the opportunity to choose, I would insist that my children take physical education lessons without masks.

I demand that the school proved this right to my children. It is not clear to me why my children are better/worse than the children of neighboring schools that have this opportunity.

I want to believe that my children have the right to freedom of choice. The court decided against masks at school. Give our kids a normal childhood. Give parents a choice of masks optional. So many schools in our area already went mask free. Now it's time to move forward for our District.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Alina Stukova



22

Robin Ciolek <rciolek@hawthorn73.org>

Comment for 2/16/22 Board of Education Meeting

2 messages

Nicole Stern <

>

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 10:36 AM

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

School is about more than education. It is about making connections, building lifelong friendships, and learning social skills - and masks inhibit this. My husband and I tell our son, every morning, to have a great day, learn something new, and to make someone smile! When we pick him up, we ask him how his day was, ask what he learned, and if he made someone smile. The other day, he told me about something he said to one of his classmates to try and make her smile. He said that he was pretty sure it made her happy, but he wasn't positive because she was wearing a mask so he couldn't tell. That is a problem. And we should not be ok with it. The common argument I hear is that masks don't bother kids; it's the parents that are up in arms. I couldn't agree more - masks don't bother kids. Kids are very adaptable. This seems completely normal to them. But it is our job as adults and their parents to realize how sad that is. We've abided by the guidelines for two years to protect our children's physical wellbeing. It is now time to remove the masks, reveal the smiles, and protect their psychological wellbeing.

Nicki Stern



23

Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Public Comment For School Board Meeting

2 messages

Ann Santori

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 10:40 AM

To: schoolboard@hawthorn73.org

Good morning!

I'm not sure if the issue of enforcing mask mandates in the schools is on the docket for discussion tonight, but I wanted to add my comments on the matter should it be discussed. Thank you so much.

Ann Santori

35 Monterey Dr, Vernon Hills, IL 60061

It is crucial to keep in mind that this is not an academic decision -- we cannot give into the impulse to politicize, to detach, or to de-humanize it.

We are talking about very real children, their short and long term health, and their very lives. The prospect of privileging some individuals' comfort and convenience over the potential of a child dying or having long-term health repercussions is, to me, deeply immoral.

We also have to consider the staff and children (and families of students) who are disabled/chronically ill and who are, with the dropping of mask mandates, getting the very clear message that they are disposable. Is that the kind of value system we want to teach our students? That they should only think of themselves and not of others -- especially the most vulnerable?

The myth that children are naturally 'immune' from COVID-19 infection is persistent, but inaccurate. Hospitalization and severe COVID metrics are on the rise in this population, and also increasing are the numbers of children being impacted by 'long COVID' (symptoms of which include several months or longer of extreme fatigue, shortness of breath, rapid heart rate, memory loss, depression, and more).

Finally, the cases of a severe complication from COVID-19 in children -- multisystem inflammatory syndrome, or MIS-C, which inflames the heart, lungs, brain, and other organs, are also reported to be on the rise.

All of this is to say that we currently have little to no understanding of how severe a detriment even the mildest or asymptomatic COVID-19 infections will prove to be to a child's growing and developing body.

Masks work; they've been estimated to have saved hundreds of thousands of lives throughout the pandemic.

The Duke University School of Medicine and the Duke Clinical Research Institute developed the ABC Science Collaborative in response to COVID-19 and its impact on schooling. This major research initiative involving nearly 1 million students from 100 school districts and 14 charter schools in North Carolina found that **universal masking policies helped keep transmission rates of the coronavirus within schools to under 1% last fall and spring.**

Please continue requiring and enforcing mask wearing at the District 73 schools. This is not forever. We are a community that can take care of each other, do these hard things, and get through this together.

Robin Cleek <cleekr@hawthorn73.org>

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 1:11 PM



(24)

Robin Clegg <rclegg@hawthorn73.org>

Public Comment

William Callinan

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 11:22 AM

To: "schoolboard@hawthorn73.org" <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Will Callinan

626 Sycamore St. Vernon Hills

I am writing to express my displeasure in the Board's decision to hold a virtual meeting instead of listening "in-person" to the legitimate concerns of parents regarding the continued masking of children in school. This is an absolutely gutless decision by the Board and is a slap in the face to every parent with children in District 73. To pretend that the meeting is being held virtually due to "public health concerns" is disingenuous at best given that COVID cases have been on the decline for weeks and that prior BOE meetings have been safely held in-person. This is an obvious attempt to avoid giving parents an in-person opportunity to express their concerns to the Board over the mandatory masking of their kids in school.

Every member of the Board of Education was elected to represent all members of the community. This includes members of the community with differing opinions than they themselves hold. To now refuse to listen to the legitimate concerns of parents and to instead hide behind a computer screen is an abdication of your duty as a board member. It is incredibly disappointing. I hope that each of you are ashamed with this cowardly decision.

I will reserve any comments that I have regarding the ongoing mask mandate requirement in hopes that I will be able to address each one of you in-person at the next BOE meeting. Until then, I hope that each of you considers this one piece of advice: If you can't look parents in the eyes and stand behind the decision that you made, it's probably not the right decision.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this comment.

Regards,

Will Callinan

Parent, District 73

WILLIAM P. CALLINAN

MEMBER – LICENSED IN IL

311 S WACKER DR • STE 1050 • CHICAGO, IL 60606

Masks wearing at school

Irina Kravtsova

Wed, Feb 16, 1:54 PM

To: <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>, <hanniganp@hawthorn73.org>

Dear board.

My name is Irina, I have a daughter who is in third grade at Townline School.

I am writing this letter to you to express my parents' opinion regarding masks at school. The time has come to end mandates and give parents a choice of masks optional for our children.

I want to believe that my daughter has the right to freedom of choice. The court decided against masks at school. Give our kids a normal childhood. Give parents a choice of masks optional. So many schools in our area already went mask free. Now it's time to move forward for our District.

We listened, when COVID-19 became rampant in our country. We quarantined, we skipped holiday's, missed birthday celebrations, missed weddings and funerals. We isolated, we trusted, and we learned through the science that guided us through. We have "followed the science" for a long time now. That science is now telling us that cloth masking does not prevent the spread of COVID.

I would like to provide some information:

- In a study of 25,930 children, impairments caused by wearing the mask were reported included irritability (60%), headache (53%), difficulty concentrating (50%), less happiness (49%), reluctance to go to school (44%), malaise (42%) impaired learning (38%) and drowsiness or fatigue (37%).
- There are 74.2 million children in the US; fewer than 200 have died of Covid in 15 months. Of those that were positive, only 1.3% needed acute medical care. Children face 1.5x higher risk of dying from the flu, 3x higher risk of dying from car accidents, 10x higher risk of dying from drowning, and more than 20x higher risk of dying from homicide.
- 97% of viral particles from symptomatic carriers penetrate through cloth masks (the virus is 1000x smaller than the tightest cloth threading) while simultaneously increasing the risk of respiratory infection of the wearer by 6x.
- In the past year, children aged 5-11 have experienced a 25% increase in mental health crisis situations resulting in ER intervention, largely related to mandated interventions including masking and the impact it has had on their well-being. Children aged 12-18 have experienced a 32% increase.

This is a hot topic in society at the moment, so I thought you should have more information from parents.

Sincerely,
Irina

On Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 7:09 AM Sandi sandi@townline.net wrote:

As a mom of 2 in the district, Thank you BIG TIME for keeping the mask mandate.

My daughter in 4th grade at Townline has an autoimmune issue with arthritis. I have non stopped worried about her in school and without masks, I wonder what would our future look like. Thank you for making sure we can worry less.

Thank you to all for standing up for both our teachers and our students.

From: **Danya Sundh** <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>
Date: Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:07 PM
Subject: Thank You
To: <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>

Dear Dr. Hannigan and Board of Education,

I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for continuing to implement the COVID mitigation strategies that help to keep our schools open. I appreciate you keeping the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront of decision making. Knowing my kindergartner will be in a building implementing proper masking means a lot. I can't imagine what a difficult position you've been in over the past 2 years. Your time, energy and dedication are much appreciated!

Warmly,
Danya Sundh

Sent from my iPhone