
Please read at the board meeting 11.23.20

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 7:37 AM

[REDACTED]
To: "keh2@oregonsd.org" <keh2@oregonsd.org>

Please read at the OSD Board Meeting on 11.23.20:

To Dr. Bergstrom and the Oregon School Board Members,

I'm writing to urge you to reconsider your stance on only providing virtual learning opportunities.

It's been stated multiple times that students are receiving virtual education that is equivalent to in person instruction as far as educational quality and student welfare. This is simply not true.

It was just discovered recently that my son's attendance for a class has been overlooked for the entire first quarter. Apparently, my son's name was on the class roster but it wasn't discovered that he was missing from class until I inquired about a test score via his homeroom teacher. We never received any sort of outreach that he was missing from his twice a week class for an entire quarter. In addition to no welfare outreach, he didn't receive any instruction for this period of time. I believe he would continue to be overlooked had I not inquired about a score. I was informed by the teacher that the error occur because she has 'not collaborated with his homeroom teacher because they are not working in the same building currently.' This is not acceptable.

I don't believe a child's absence from an entire quarter of education would have occurred if he was going to school in person.

Our children deserve better. If I can get my hair cut, go out to eat, and shop at a retail store, my child should be able to go to school.

Jenny Fahey

Fwd: Please read at the school board meeting

Leslie Bergstrom <lcb2@oregonsd.net>
To: Katie Heitz <keh2@oregonsd.net>

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 12:56 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Malia King** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Please read at the school board meeting
To: Leslie Bergstrom <lcb2@oregonsd.org>, Steve Zach <sbsz@oregonsd.org>, Ahna Bizjak <sbab@oregonsd.org>, Krista Flanagan <sbkf@oregonsd.org>, Tim LeBrun <sbt1@oregonsd.org>, Troy Pankratz <sbtp@oregonsd.org>, Kevin Mehring <sbkm@oregonsd.org>, Heather Garrison <sbhg@oregonsd.org>

Dr. Bergstrom,

I am addressing this letter to you, since you are the one making decisions for our school district. I would like to go on record stating I think it is wrong the school board is not participating in the decision making process, and sharing in the responsibility.

The Waunakee Community School District has announced plans to have all their students back in the classroom for the start of second semester. Their middle and high school students will be back in a hybrid model. This move is based on the recommendations of their medical advisory board, the recommendations of the CDC, the WHO, Dr. Joseph Allen principal investigator of the Harvard Study, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Leadership in Waunakee is dedicated to educating the students they serve. They have had their students K-4 back in the classroom since October 26th. Grades 5-12 will be back January 26th. While community spread continues to grow we now know schools are not a contributing factor to the rise in numbers. We have two months to plan and three vaccines hitting the market between now and second semester. Oregon failed to plan to get kids back in school in September. We could have had at least two months of learning under our belt before the actual spike in cases we are seeing now hit. Do not fail to plan again. Do not fail to get them back in January. This community expects an option for in person learning second semester. The question is do you have the will to make it so.

Malia King
Bring Kids Back Oregon

The Right Time Passed Us By - REVISED EMAIL

Kim Palmer [REDACTED]
To: Katie Heitz <keh2@oregonsd.org>

Sun, Nov 22, 2020 at 2:03 PM

Dear Katie,
I accidentally sent the following email and forgot to request that it be read at the School Board Meeting on Monday night.
Thank you,
Kim Palmer

Dear Dr. Bergstrom and OSD School Board Members,

The burden of deciding whether to return to in-person instruction is a huge responsibility not to be taken lightly. Late in the summer, when these decisions were being made, there was little evidence on how schools could open safely. You were making decisions blind. Professionals could only speculate on what might happen. We now have actual evidence that can be used to make more educated decisions. There have been cases in schools and some spread, but the preponderance of the evidence has shown that schools are safe.

Schools which opened early in the school year have seen cases ebb and flow and have skillfully managed operations. They had systems in place when students had to be at home, and they have the flexibility now to move in and out of in-person learning as necessary. Oregon has none of that. We did not start in the fall when the case counts for our area were low. We do not have systems in place to move back and forth as needed. Now, you find yourselves in the untenable position of thinking that PHMDC's gating criteria might have been too stringent, but with climbing cases in the county, you don't dare move forward. As an administration and board, your inability to act when you could have has put us in this place.

This week, the CDC Director stated, "there is extensive data [that] confirms...K-12 schools can operate with face-to-face learning and they can do it safely and they can do it responsibly."

Sincerely,

Kim Palmer, OSD Parent

on behalf of Bring Kids Back OSD

Letter to be read by school board at tonight's meeting

Rob Palmer [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 3:51 PM

To: Katie Heitz <keh2@oregonsd.net>

At the September 28th board meeting, Dr. Leslie Bergstrom said school districts are being given specific guidance from Public Health Madison Dane County and that Oregon School District is going to continue to follow it. That wasn't an entirely true statement. On Sept 1st, Kristine Omen of PHMDC sent an email to superintendents in Dane County stating that sports, extracurricular activities, school clubs, and open gyms could continue under EO #9. OSD did not allow any of those activities, not even low-risk sports such as cross country, tennis, or golf.

On October 26th, Dr. Bergstrom announced the creation of a Medical Review Committee to review health metrics, review student physical and mental health issues, and assess OSD positive and quarantine data. These are issues that demand immediate attention, yet four weeks later, the Medical Review Committee has not yet held its first meeting. Where is the sense of urgency?

In response to a public records request, Ms. Katie Heitz informed me on November 13th that 31 students have disenrolled from OSD since September 18th. Some of these students are being homeschooled. Some are attending private schools in Dane County. Some have enrolled in public schools in neighboring counties that permit in-person instruction. Some have even moved out of state so they can attend in-person and participate in athletics.

Doing less than allowed by PHMDC...foot-dragging on the Medical Review Committee...declining enrollment. As a parent and a taxpayer, I give OSD an "F" for this semester.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Palmer
[REDACTED]

Letter to the Board

Kari Reuter [REDACTED]

Sat, Nov 21, 2020 at 12:00 PM

To: "keh2@oregonsd.org" <keh2@oregonsd.org>

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of students having the option to return to school in-person. While I understand that COVID numbers in the community are on the rise, it has been shown that schools are not the hot spots for spread.

I am an in-person teacher in a nearby community for fifth graders. The students I have greatly appreciate the opportunity to be in school. The protocols in place have allowed students and teachers to feel safe. Families are grateful and supportive of their students being in school. Of course, there are times that students need to stay home due to contact. The majority of that contact has been outside of school. Families need to be on the same page as the schools for it to be successful.

My two children are experiencing regression in their learning, attitudes, and mental health. They need to be immersed in education to make the gains they need. They need their teachers and classmates.

Thank you to all the teachers who are working their hearts out to create the best engagement possible virtually.

Thank you,
Kari Reuter

Fwd: Give kids a choice

Leslie Bergstrom <lcb2@oregonsd.net>
To: Katie Heitz <keh2@oregonsd.net>

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 8:41 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott Tillema** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Nov 23, 2020, 8:39 AM
Subject: Give kids a choice
To: <lcb2@oregonsd.org>

Dr Bergstrom,

Please read this letter at the next School Board meeting.

As a parent of two children in Oregon, I'm writing to you and asking for your support and advocacy of science-based and expert supported decision making.

Recently, the Director of the CDC said that data support face-to-face learning in schools. If we are not listening to the advice of experts such as Dr Redfield, then whose opinion are we guided by? Experts and children -- my children -- want kids to be back in school. Who is stopping them?

By your decision making to date, my children have suffered irreversible harm to their intellectual and social growth. Their school schedule appeals to the lowest common denominator of standards for their education: essentially engaged in class only 4 half-days per week. They are not socializing and learning important skills about treating others with respect and fairness. They are not getting even casual exercise from moving about between classrooms.

Please help reverse this negative trend and give my kids the life they deserve.

Scott Tillema
Oregon, WI

Dr. Bergstrom and Oregon School Board,

Thank you for all your hard work over this most difficult school year. It has not been easy; I know you are trying to make decisions that support what had been put out by the PHMDC months ago. However Oregon needs to be a leader, allowing kids back to school when the new term starts in January. If you wait, based on your model we could not return until the spring semester. The CDC and APP's recommendation is that kids are safer in school. There has been no data to support in-person learning or sports have attributed to the rise in COVID cases in grades K-12. Outside of Dane county kids are back in school, playing sports and returning to some sense of normalcy. Why should a kid in Dane county not have the same opportunities of those outside of Dane county? Oregon needs to be a leader, set an example and get our kids back in school. I know some of your board members also believe in this as they have begun moving their kids out of the district. They want to provide their kids the opportunity for in-person learning. What example are we setting if our school board members are moving their kids out of the district to attend in-person classes we are unwilling to provide? Please return all our kids, not just the younger ones to school in January. They deserve a quality education that online schooling cannot provide.

Thanks,

The Weber's