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August 13, 2021                   **Delivered by Hand and by Email to: tbeshore@nevada.k12.mo.us**  
Dr. Tyson Beshore               **Also emailed to board members present for the August 11 Meeting**  
Superintendent, Nevada R-V School District  
811 W Hickory Street  
Nevada, Missouri 64772

Re: School Board Meetings & Minutes

Dear Dr. Beshore:

I was one of the many citizens in the audience during the August 11, 2021 school board session. I was pleased to see so many parents and community members take an interest in the agenda of the board and hoped there would ensue a meaningful exchange of information and concerns. I'm sure you would agree the bulk of that interest was generated by the agenda item involving mask protocols. I think you would also agree the majority of people in attendance disagreed with the Board's decision to put a mask mandate in place, based solely on the opinions of board members.

Mr. McCaffree opened the meeting by stating, "*The board is interested in hearing your thoughts and concerns and we're happy you have taken an interest*". Then, in the next breath he informed everyone there would be no opportunity to speak as the board's rules don't allow public comment! His statement: "...*please be aware there is no time set aside for public comment during this meeting*." He went on to point out any comments we wanted to express would need to be submitted in writing five days before the meeting. As was pointed out by more than one individual, the agenda was posted four days before the meeting. Even the poor quality of math students we graduate these days can spot the problem with that formula.

The message from the board and the ultimate outcome of the vote did accomplish two things, however: (1) It demonstrated how tone deaf the board is, and you can read that as "indifferent to public opinion" because that's certainly the message the audience received loudly and clearly, and (2) It generated a new Facebook group dedicated to changing the perceived indifference of the board and district, and that brand new group grew to over 600 members in less than 48 hours. You have awakened formerly dormant voters, and they are not happy to discover the District choosing, yet again, mandates based on Personal Opinion rather than Science and/or Parental Choice. They will not tolerate the 2021-22 school year being a repeat of 2020-21. As I think about it, you have actually accomplished a third item as well, namely the hastening of full school choice. I was told by a state representative last year school choice would only happen when enough parents got angry enough to make their voices heard in Jefferson City. Congratulations! You and the board are doing your part to accomplish that goal. Ultimately, your school board may get to rule over empty buildings, including the new one you can't wait to build.

I will divide the remainder of this correspondence into two sections: (1) meetings and minutes in general and (2) issues surrounding decisions to mask our children.

### **Meetings and Minutes in General**

I think it worth mentioning that while the board is charged with setting policy and monitoring performance relevant to district goals, it is also supposed to represent the interests of parents and the public. Lest you say that's what voting for board members accomplishes, I would suggest that obligation doesn't end at the ballot box. It does not lie comatose to resurface only at the next election cycle. I offer you this from the StateUniversity.com website (emphasis added):

*“Local school boards have been an integral feature of the U.S. public education system for nearly 100 years, and they are widely regarded as the principal democratic body capable of representing citizens in local education decisions.”*

The complete disdain and flagrant annoyance on display from the board towards those in attendance Wednesday was unprofessional and unacceptable, and certainly didn't leave anyone feeling like the board was “representing citizens in local education decisions”. It felt instead like the board was imposing it's will UPON the citizens in local education decisions. More on that in the next section.

I am appalled by the lack of accommodation of a speaking period for public input. “No public comment” is not a state law, but a local decision that quite literally says to parents and community, “Sit down and shut up”. The clear response from the public is, “How dare you ignore us!” The good news is, since it's a local decision it can be changed. I am aware there are other districts that adhere to this same self-imposed and self-aggrandizing mandate, but there are also Missouri districts that allow citizens to register upon arriving, and allow a specific time for citizen input, limiting the amount of time per speaker. You could easily do the same, and I suspect citizens are going to demand the accommodation. The present policy of treating concerned community members like misbehaving children in time out is arrogant and must change.

I would suggest the following, as I suspect attendance at your meetings is going to continue to increase.

1. A PA system so that audience members can hear Board discussions and votes;
2. An allotted speaking time for citizens to provide their input, both positive and negative;
3. A separate microphone for those registered to speak;
4. Sensitivity training for Board Members on professionalism and civil conduct.

Regarding #4, you cannot expect audience members to be respectful of a Board that goes out of its way to treat the audience with such arrogant condescension and unconcealed disdain. The compromise here is a period for audience participation and in turn, the requirement of respectful behavior for all parties in the room.

That brings me to the minutes of the meeting. I read the minutes of the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, and noted the following record of votes for both the first and second votes taken regarding masks.

*“The motion was seconded and the board disapproved 2/3.” and “A motion for mandatory masks...was seconded and the board approved 4/1.”*

Seriously? There is no recorded notation of how each board member voted? How do you expect citizens to make informed choices at the ballot box when there is no reference in the official minutes of the votes taken by each board member on all agenda items requiring votes? ...Or is that the whole point? This is completely unacceptable and may actually violate state laws and/or the Missouri Sunshine Law. I must insist you correct the August 11th minutes to reflect how each board member voted on all items on the agenda. In the future, record individual votes must become a part of all minutes so the public may become aware of how each board member voted on all decisions that come before the board. It appears a similar sloppy recording method is typically used for all votes taken. Again, this is unprofessional, uninformative, and possibly illegal. At the very least, it underscores the complete vacuum of accountability and utter autonomy from public review by which the Board seems to feel it is entitled to function.

So, added to the above list of four items:

5. All minutes to include a role call vote, recorded per member, for all voting decisions made.

## **Issues Surrounding the Decision to Put Masks on Children**

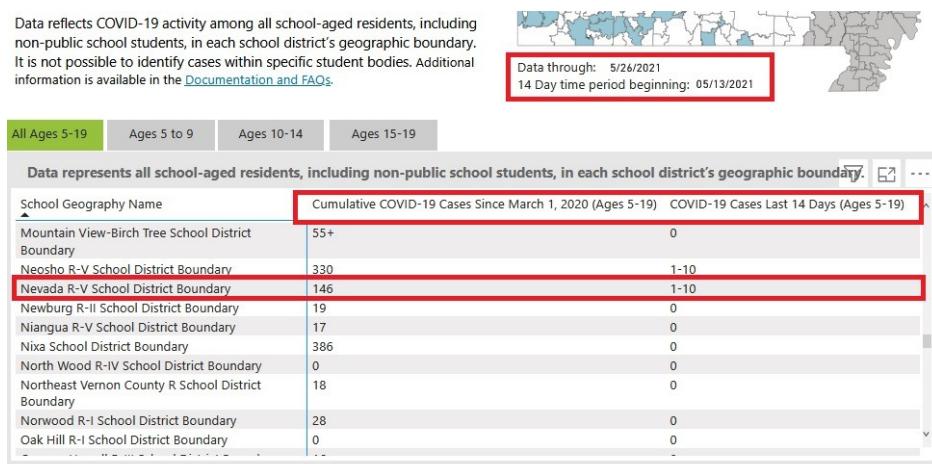
You have to know this is a town that largely opposes masking at all, let alone masking of our children. (If you doubt that, I would refer you to last November's town hall that left the City Manager and Council with no doubts on the matter.)

Even though citizens repeatedly asked board members to speak up, the Board made only minimal attempts to do so, and even when they did it was very short amounts of time. Surely, you had to know the mask issue would generate an increase in attendance. Surely, you could have accommodated the likely increase by having a PA system set up and in use. Surely, it would have been possible for members to speak above casual conversational tones knowing an interested public was straining to hear what was being said. Although the conversation was whispered, it screamed volumes about the lack of concern for your audience.

I am most concerned by the reliance on purely personal opinion by board members who wanted children once again masked. We should all be relying on the latest up-to-date science and data. (Information that doesn't solely rely on the CDC since they've been caught repeatedly lying lately.)

Here are the facts, and the sources are medical professionals. I will provide links to those sources at the end of this correspondence. They will be clickable links in the email copy of this letter.

This chart is the latest information available, as of 8/13/21, from health.mo.gov. The numbers do not support the drastic decision to mask every child in the R-5 school district. (Emphasis added.)

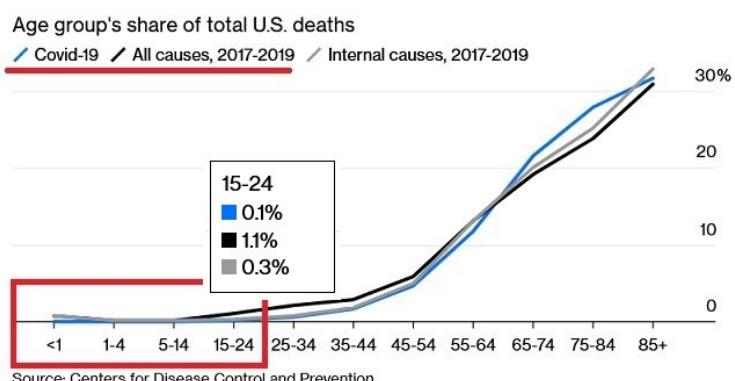


This chart comes from the CDC, since the board likes to reference them. It was reported on Bloomberg and compares death from Covid to all other causes. (Emphasis added.)

Note that deaths for school age children is zero until you get to the 15-24 age group, and even then, it is 0.1%. It is likely in the Nevada R-5 District it actually remains zero.

How, then, do you justify mandatory masking of our healthy children as a prophylactic for even one day?

The overall number isn't the whole story. **Eighty-one percent of U.S. Covid fatalities have been people 65 and older.** There's nothing unusual about this age profile – in fact, the different age groups' share of Covid deaths is strikingly similar to their share of deaths, period.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Let's next look at the actual masks. In the year and a half that mask mandates have survived, there has yet to be even one study proving any efficacy for their use. There is, however, plenty of evidence that they actually do virtually nothing, especially for children who already have a low rate of infection and a very high rate of recovery. Yet, we were told by three board members, two of whom were masked themselves, that forcing our children to wear face coverings over their mouths and noses was medically valid. Actually think about that. Trapping dirt, snot, and spit for hours at a time is OK. Inhibiting the visual learning for young children that occurs from verbal cues received from others is OK. Telling children in perhaps their first social setting that they should be afraid of others is OK. Trapping CO<sub>2</sub> for an entire day is OK. Show any of us the scientific proof for these absurd assumptions, and then tell us why the flu, which also carries risk for children, does not garner the same unfounded panic.

This is from Mayo Clinic:

*"Children of all ages can become ill with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). But most kids who are infected typically don't become as sick as adults and some might not show any symptoms at all. Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in babies and children, why children might be affected differently by COVID-19 and what you can do to prevent the spread of the virus."*

***How likely is it for a child to become sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?***

*"While all children are capable of getting the virus that causes COVID-19, they don't become sick as often as adults. Most children have mild symptoms or no symptoms."*

They go on to suggest this might be because children are exposed to all kinds of corona viruses and their immune systems are primed to fight them.

Here is a July 2021 article from "The Federalist", reporting on an AMA article about the harm masks are actually doing to children (as opposed to the Board's opinion of their efficacy).

*"A new report published by an American Medical Association journal revealed forcing children to wear face masks leads to adverse health effects.... The JAMA report measured averages of 13,120 to 13,910 ppm of carbon dioxide in the inhaled air of children wearing masks, which is over six times higher than the unsafe threshold. The study further pointed out this measurement was after only three minutes of wearing a mask. Children forced to wear masks at school find themselves wearing masks for hours, five days a week."*

*"Many governments have made nose and mouth covering or face masks compulsory for schoolchildren. The evidence base for this is weak," the study found. "We suggest that decision-makers weigh the hard evidence produced by these experimental measurements accordingly, which suggest that children should not be forced to wear face masks"*

Here's another actual study of healthy individuals and the efficacy of wearing masks to prevent the spread of the virus. Note the study evaluated surgical masks. After reading the information, ask yourself what use there is in the simple cloth and paper masks commonly being worn. This comes from "Foundation for Economic Education":

*"A newly released study in the academic journal Annals of Internal Medicine casts more doubt on policies that force healthy individuals to wear face coverings in hopes of limiting the spread of COVID-19."*

*“Researchers in Denmark reported on Wednesday that surgical masks did not protect the wearers against infection with the coronavirus in a large randomized clinical trial,” the New York Times reports.*

*“Governments forcing healthy people into mask-wearing was always an affront to the rights we hold over our own bodies and our basic human dignity.*

*“It’s also beginning to look more and more like an affront to science.”*

That brings us to the issue of segregating, and by that act, shaming unvaccinated students. Your draconian measures make it clear vaccinated students are “clean” and unvaccinated children are “contaminated”, and whether by design or not, the chilling effect of that policy amounts to segregating, denigrating, and punishing children whose parents are not willing to risk their child’s health by allowing the injection of an experimental drug. This is also unacceptable behavior and again disrespects and dismisses the rightful role of parents to make health choices for their children. Should you fall back on the reliance of CDC guidelines, let me point to a community with a far higher infection rate than the minimal exposure in the Nevada R-5 district, namely Joplin. From the Joplin School Board:

*“... masks for students and staff will be voluntary at all district buildings.*

*Additionally, students and staff who are identified as a close contact and required to quarantine, may remain in or immediately return to school, provided they wear a mask while in the district buildings, and exhibit no COVID symptoms. After 10 days, that person won’t have to wear a mask, or, if they provide negative test results within five days, they can stop wearing a mask at that time.”*

No quarantining. No segregating. No issues over vaccinated vs. unvaccinated. Simply, wear a mask for 10 days or get tested and eliminate the mask issue completely. So simple and so respectful of parental choices.

In the 72 hours since the Nevada School Board made the unhealthy choice to mandate masks for our children, Harrisonville, Belton, Sheldon, Bronaugh, and Joplin have all made masks optional, yet Nevada resisted and refused, essentially said to parents, “You are not competent to decide the best course for your children.” Given the actual Covid information for our area, the medical information surrounding masks on children, and the surrounding decisions being made by towns closest to us, I think you have no choice but to call an emergency meeting and revisit this issue.

**The real solution is simple: Parental Choice.**

Sincerely,

**Cyndia Haggard**

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References:

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<https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2391/School-Boards.html>

Vernon County Covid Chart: <https://health.mo.gov/living/>

Bloomberg, “How Covid's Toll Compares With Other Things That Kill Us”  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-03-01/covid-19-s-death-toll-compared-to-other-things-that-kill-us>

Mayo Clinic, “COVID-19 (coronavirus) in babies and children”  
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-in-babies-and-children/art-20484405>

The Federalist, “AMA Journal: Masks Are Bad For Your Kids. Quit Forcing Them To Wear Them”  
<https://thefederalist.com/2021/07/01/ama-journal-masks-are-bad-for-your-kids-quit-forcing-them-to-wear-them/>

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<https://fee.org/articles/new-danish-study-finds-masks-don-t-protect-wearers-from-covid-infection/?fbclid=IwAR2YYPh3COcrjAZL4VBXsbrrpkiH1yAEep6NehKzSM02iEjZo8XA89ozV4>

KOAM News, “Joplin School Board Approves Modified Re-Entry Plan”  
<https://www.koamnewsnow.com/joplin-school-board-approves-modified-re-entry-plan/?fbclid=IwAR0geqqC3gmnQX3A9NGvjFX1uqwBji-HBvPX41StJSBlI4ELQzRnRLsy3DM>

Items provided only through the email transmission of this letter.

Videos from medical professionals

- Dr. Ryan Cole, <https://rumble.com/embed/vial2a/?pub=c0uad>
- Dr. Dan Stock, <https://rumble.com/embed/viancn/?pub=c0uad>
- Dr. Byram Bridle, <https://rumble.com/embed/vgbke5/?pub=c0uad>

Articles

The Wentworth Report, <https://wentworthreport.com/2021/08/06/covid-vaccines-are-non-sterilizing/>

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