

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep mask mandate please

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**Valerie** <valeriekrex@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 6:04 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

The masks are working. As delta rages through unmasked districts, our schools have been relatively safe places to send kids and have not had the closures that unmasked districts have. Montana is the 4th worst Covid state per 100k people in the country and we need these masks at school more than ever. I urge you to keep the masks until every Montanan of ALL age groups has had the chance to be vaccinated. This way, all who want this level of protection can have it before any other mitigation strategies like masks be removed.

Thank you for your hard work on this.

Valerie Krex  
Paxson district

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Daniel Lochridge** <dclochridge@mcpsmt.org>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 7:32 AM

Hi,  
I am a teacher in the MCPS School District (Sentinel High School).  
I am sure you are receiving a lot of input about mask mandates. I would love to keep the mask mandate in place until the numbers start to fall again; not only for the safety of our students and staff, but to also help lessen the burden on the public health system. I also would hate to see us have to go back to remote learning if we remove the mask mandate and have a huge outbreak at a particular school.  
So, thank you for your consideration.

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masks and covid safety

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**Alison Reintjes** <alisonreintjes@hotmail.com>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 8:27 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Thank you for the work you are doing to keep our schools and Missoula community safe.

I am writing as the mother of two MCPS students and as a contract teacher (through the Montana Natural History Center and SPARK! Arts) in MCPS schools.

I am strongly in support of requiring masks for all students, staff, and visitors. Ventilation and vaccination are equally important. However, MCPS has no control over which families and individuals choose to vaccinate. And, of course, our younger students do not even have that option yet.

My children homeschooled from March 2020- May 2021. They are loving being part of the in-person school community again. That would not be an option for our family without universal masking. Please help us continue to have our kids at school.

The plan for the first 6-weeks of school has allowed teachers to remove their mask in the classroom during instruction. My two kids feel unsafe when teachers who chose to remove their mask. Removing masks also fails to model the behavior we are asking of students. And, in many cases, it is likely our least cautious teachers who choose to remove their masks.

I ask that teachers stay masked in all indoor classroom settings.

Alison Reintjes  
ph: 330.806.2478  
www.alisonreintjes.com

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask wearing

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**Caroline Lonski** <clonski@bigsky.net>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 11:31 AM

Dear esteemed MCPS Board members,

Thank you for requiring masks in MCPSs. Masks have been proven to reduce the transmission of harmful viruses with no ill effects to people without special respiratory needs. Wearing a mask at school is far more desirable for my son than having to return to online schooling, and protects the health of students and our community. Please continue to keep our administrators, teachers, and students safe throughout this school year by continuing to follow CDC and WHO recommendations for mask wearing in public schools.

Thank you and stay well,  
Caroline Lonski

[https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR3OpGW2JICsOikEvL9s6tRV\\_PpuyCvcikA6xfBv8fEHYh76u83RDBM1MUg](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR3OpGW2JICsOikEvL9s6tRV_PpuyCvcikA6xfBv8fEHYh76u83RDBM1MUg)

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## mask mandate

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**Lorena Hillis** <mlhillis@charter.net>  
To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 11:40 AM

I support a mask mandate in public schools. No one should have the right to spread a nasty disease because they don't want to wear a mask. Set up remote learning for unmasked kids, or put them all together, away from masked kids. It would be interesting, altho not very moral, to not have remote learning, but put all unmasked kids together and keep track of the Covid rates for both groups.

Lorena Hillis, Missoula

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks in School

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**Kirsten Cherubini** <kqcherubini@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 12:00 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

This may be too late. Please keep  
the mask policy in place. I will my child out of school if not protected by others during this surge.

Thank You,

Kirsten Cherubini

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Kirsten Cherubini  
Main Street Pilates LLC  
Missoula, MT 59802  
406-541-2673

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## Please keep school mask requirements

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**Ashley Connell** <ashleyaconnell@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 12:16 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear MCPS Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your ongoing work to keep our children and school staff safe amidst the high rates of COVID in our county, while also prioritizing children's education and wellbeing. I am the mother of a first grade student who just returned to school after a 12-day quarantine following two vaccinated family members testing positive. We are so grateful that our kids did not get sick, and to have them back in school. I'm writing to state my support for the current school mask requirements, and urge you to continue them. Overall, kids have adapted incredibly well to wearing masks, and more than anything, they need to be in school. Masking has proven to reduce transmission rates, as two new CDC studies have just shown. See <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/24/health/schools-mask-mandate-outbreaks-cdc.html> (excerpt below).

We cannot afford to remove masks at a time when cases are soaring, our hospitals and healthcare workers are overwhelmed, and our children are still unable to vaccinate. Masking is a small price to pay to keep our community safe and keep our kids in school.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Ashley Connell Melwani  
Parent, Paxson Elementary

**Excerpt from New York Times article cited above:**

One study, conducted in Arizona, where children returned to school in July, found that schools that did not require staff and students to wear masks were 3.5 times as likely to have a virus outbreak as schools that required universal masking.

A second study looked at infections among all children in 520 different counties across the United States, and found that once the public school year started, pediatric cases increased at a far higher rate in counties where schools did not require masks.

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**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 12:16 PM

To: ashleyaconnell@gmail.com

Thank you for submitting your public comment. Just like comments made in person at a public board meeting, the comments you submit through email are public record and are available for any member of the Board and public to read. Please refrain from referring to confidential student or staff information, or making derogatory comments about students or staff members. If you do provide private confidential information, we will redact that information before placing it in any public document. Please refer to Board Policy 1441 for more information about public comments in general. Thank you!



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks at School

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**Lindsay Guttermuth** <guttermuth@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 12:57 PM

Bcc: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello-

What factors are you taking into account at the upcoming board meeting in order to lift the mask mandate in public schools?

Regards,  
Lindsay Guttermuth

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Please continue mask mandate

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**Pelah Hoyt** <hoyt.pelah@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 1:25 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Cc: Pam Wright <pcwright@mcpsmt.org>, rwatson@mcpsmt.org

Hello MCPS School Board,

Thank you for agreeing to require masks at school for the first six weeks of the year and for all of your work to keep students safe and in school. I urge you to continue the mask mandate. The mask mandate benefits students and our community by reducing the spread of covid in schools and reducing the number of children who miss school because they are close contacts. Reducing the spread of covid will also reduce pressures on our health care system which is extremely strained by the pandemic.

There is even more evidence supporting the value of masks in schools now than at the beginning of this school year including the studies the CDC released showing the effectiveness of masks in two counties in Arizona and a nationwide study. I have provided links to both studies here:

[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7039e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e1.htm?s_cid=mm7039e1_w)

[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e3.htm?s\\_cid=mm7039e3\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e3.htm?s_cid=mm7039e3_w)

Closer to home Gallatin County released figures showing that schools without mask mandates has much higher incidence of covid than schools that required masks. Please see article here: [https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gallatin-county-data-shows-fewer-covid-19-cases-in-schools-requiring-masks/article\\_30db68bd-7e32-59e0-8f72-82a867a0e465.html](https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gallatin-county-data-shows-fewer-covid-19-cases-in-schools-requiring-masks/article_30db68bd-7e32-59e0-8f72-82a867a0e465.html)

My two sons attend elementary school in Missoula. Universal masking at school helps keep them safe. It does not harm them. They are happy to wear them because they know it will help our community get through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Pelah Hoyt

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**Thank you**

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**Elaine Higuera** <elaine.higuera@target.k12.mt.us>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 3:14 PM

Hello, MCPS School Board.

Thank you for making the difficult decision to have students wear masks while in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible while at school. I believe that your efforts have prevented countless cases and additional community spread of Covid 19. It is easier to react once something bad happens than it is to take action to prevent something bad from happening. I am sure you are receiving many angry emails and other complaints but rest assured, the silent majority just want to keep the kids safe and at school. Thank you for your time and effort trying to protect our children.

Sincerely,

*Elaine Higuera*

Technology Director

Target Range School District 23

Missoula, MT

**TARGET RANGE  
SCHOOL***Learn - Grow - Succeed*



Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Mandatory masking in school

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**Charissa Henderson** <hcharissa@ymail.com>

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 7:38 AM

Reply-To: Charissa Henderson &lt;hcharissa@ymail.com&gt;

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Hello, my name is Charissa Packer and my son is a senior at Big Sky Highschool. I am writing to express my support for continued mandatory masking in schools, due to the corona virus pandemic. The virus case count is the highest it's ever been, our kids are in close contact and social distancing in school is near impossible. Our household takes care of my parents who are at severe risk if they contact the virus. My father had two cancer surgeries this year and my mother is a week out of the hospital after having quadruple bypass open heart surgery. It scares me to death that my son will bring home the virus from school and spread it to our family. Please consider the risks of removing the mask mandate. I highly encourage the school board to continue masking in schools, as my family's lives may depend on it.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Continued mask use

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**Armond Duwell** <armond.duwell@googlemail.com>

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 12:58 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider the following remarks when considering future mask policy.

The daily new infection rate is as high as it has been in the pandemic, hospitals are overflowing, and we are dealing with a more infectious virus than we were last year that is airborne. Furthermore, school age children under 12 have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. This is not the time to back off on a mask mandate.

Both my son and daughter, who are part of the MCPS school district, have had teachers and members of their classes out because of COVID. The virus is all around our children. Had mask mandates not been in place, many more children would have missed school. If you want to keep moving forward on the good work of educating our children, and to do that one needs them to be in school, please maintain the mask mandate.

Sincerely,

-Armond Duwell

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**mask mandate in schools**

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**Whitney Guthrie** <jamesandwhitney2@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 4:13 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

To Whom It May Concern-

I am very disappointed in a lot of the comments I have read. It's very simple.

Our community spread of Covid is out of control right now. Our numbers are the highest they have ever been and the majority of people in our community are NOT wearing masks. As we have all seen being vaccinated does not cover you 100%. Vaccinated people are still getting very sick and spreading it.

In our schools the number of students contracting Covid is also increasing. However, they are not contracting it through the schools. They are getting Covid out in the community when they are NOT wearing masks. Masks in the schools are working. Masks are absolutely slowing the spread of Covid.

I know many parents don't want their kids wearing masks but I'm begging you to please support the mask mandate. Please do it for the health and safety of every person that works closely with your kids. I am a mother (my kids wear masks at school) and I'm one of the people who works closely with your kids. I also desperately don't want to get Covid.

Sincerely,

W. Guthrie

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask comment

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**Lorena Hillis** <mlhillis@charter.net>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 5:17 PM

I would like to add a comment for your school board discussion of mask mandates in school.

Start out the meeting with a question: How many of you do not want your children to get covid?

Follow that with: What can be done to prevent them from getting covid?

Maybe list their ideas on a white board.

Have an expert on hand that understand viral transmission and Covid characteristics.

This might be really helpful to parents who are resistant to masks.

Respectfully, Lorena Hillis, Missoula

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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## Mask mandate

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**Soazig Le Bihan** <soazig.lebihan@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 6:54 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To whom it may concern, .

I am reach out as the mother of two children in the wonderful public schools of Missoula. I want to voice my full support for the mask mandate in our schools. Until children can be vaccinated, the situation is highly precarious. Cases in Missoula have been at an all time high. The flu and cold season will be here soon and make things worse. It is a moral imperative to keep our children and our community as safe as possible. Having school children wear masks is one way to move toward that goal.

Please maintain the mask mandate.

Thanks,

Soazig Le Bihan

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please mask at school

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**Jenn Morris Banna** <jenniferbanna@hotmail.com>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 2:24 PM

I have 2 children attending Big Sky High School in Missoula. Thank you for keeping masking in place to start the school year. Please continue masks at school until COVID is no longer a threat to the most vulnerable populations. Our family depends on masking at school and other layers of protection to continue to work and care for those who are disabled or cannot be vaccinated.

Jenn Banna  
406-370-2290

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## Question

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**Gabriel Earle** <gabrielearle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 9:01 PM

To: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "javgeris@mcpsmt.org" <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, "gdecker@mcpsmt.org" <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, "mgehl@mcpsmt.org" <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, "nhobbins@mcpsmt.org" <nhobbins@mcpsmt.org>, "dlorzen@mcpsmt.org" <dlorzen@mcpsmt.org>, "vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org" <vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org>, "kmercerc@mcpsmt.org" <kmercerc@mcpsmt.org>, "woldperson@mcpsmt.org" <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, "jvogel@mcpsmt.org" <jvogel@mcpsmt.org>, "awake@mcpsmt.org" <awake@mcpsmt.org>, "awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org" <awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org>

Mask Mandaters -

Based on your stunned silence, I've realized answering hard questions isn't necessarily your strong point.

I'll make this one easy for you, mkay?

How does having masks at school, but not school events, stop covid?

Give it a try, I know you can do it. I believe in you, really.

We The Parents will NEVER stop fighting for our children, rest assured.

Muah.

Gabriel Earle

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**(no subject)**

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**Abi Durnell** <22durabi@student.mcpsmt.org>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 2:24 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

There is a huge shortage in substitutes, teachers can't get coverage for their classes and in turn have to cover classes that aren't even theirs. This is also affecting the students, for example for the BPA our advisors who are teachers can't go because one is sick and the other can't find a substitute. Having teachers sub for other teachers is a violation of section 7.6 in the teachers contract. Not only is this putting a lot of strain on the moral of the school but many teachers don't have time to grade work or prep for their next class. If we want to improve the system before we have to shut down schools for lack of teachers, we must address the substitute issue. Most subs don't make much more then the students they teach and they don't get paid for periods they aren't teaching (ex: teaches 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> period). You need to address this issue before it starts to affect the states education.

Sent from Mail for Windows

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**RE: supporting the mask mandate**

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**Woessner, Bill** <william.woessner@mso.umt.edu>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>  
Cc: "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 10:07 PM

Dear MCPS Board Members and Superintendent Watson,

As a Missoula resident, retired university educator, I want to thank you for protecting the most vulnerable in our community by requiring masks in all indoor settings in Missoula County Public Schools.

I am glad to see so few positive cases appearing in Missoula schools and other school districts that require masking.

Masks work, despite what the very vocal minority might say. Masks, along with distancing and hand-washing, are our youngest children's only defense against this virus. We surely do not wish that schools be closed again, which is the logical outcome should viral spread be enabled by unmasking.

I support continued required masking in the schools at all levels.

Sincerely,

William W. Woessner

126 McLeod Avenue

Missoula, MT.

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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**Please Continue to Require Face Coverings and Consider Other Precautions as well.**

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Janel Chin &lt;janelfalk@netscape.net&gt;

Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 7:01 AM

Reply-To: Janel Chin &lt;janelfalk@netscape.net&gt;

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Dear Public School Decision Makers:

Thanks for your work to keep Missoula's children educated during these challenging time. My seven year old, like many young children has not been able to attend school as much as she or I would like and feel is in her best interest during the pandemic. I believe that requiring face coverings and other mitigation efforts have been key in allowing her the valuable opportunities she has had to attend school in person.

We were recently notified by her school that she was a "close contact" of someone with COVID earlier this week and are in the midst of canceling a week of work and family activities to accommodate the request that she stay home. In talking with her about possible exposures I have been shocked to learn how many different individuals she is exposed to during her school day. I am very glad that at least most of those potential exposures were where both she and the other individual were wearing a face covering. I would be very reluctant to send her back to school if less mitigation strategies were in place, especially given how dire the situation is with healthcare staffing right now in our hospitals etc.

I am sure you are all familiar with the research in face coverings preventing illness but here's some information in case you would like to read more: [https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/24/health/school-masking-covid-outbreak/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3KSmmYXNgCl6vWPXh6DSovLWkDeWqhKVLbqC\\_1gShNji0v4vuRc\\_MqYyY](https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/24/health/school-masking-covid-outbreak/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3KSmmYXNgCl6vWPXh6DSovLWkDeWqhKVLbqC_1gShNji0v4vuRc_MqYyY); <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>; <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/4/e2014564118>; <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/11/11/933903848/wear-masks-to-protect-yourself-from-the-coronavirus-not-only-others-cdc-stresses>; <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02801-8>; <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/06/417906/still-confused-about-masks-heres-science-behind-how-face-masks-prevent> & [https://files.fast.ai/papers/masks\\_lit\\_review.pdf](https://files.fast.ai/papers/masks_lit_review.pdf).

I wish you the best as you decide the best path forward for education in our community. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Janel

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## Public Comment

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Oakland Jennifer <jenniferloakland@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Sat, Oct 2, 2021 at 9:53 AM

Dear MCPS Trustee:

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your service and your dedication to make sound and data-based decisions for the safety and wellbeing of our community's students and staff. This past year has been excruciating and your service to our community should not be overlooked. I am writing today simply to thank you for your service, and to also support your work in making data-based decisions that will allow schools to continue to stay open.

We've learned that across the country many school board members are being threatened, harrassed, bullied, and mobbed by protesters, loudly threatening trustees to cast votes to "unmask our children" in the name of "freedom." I do not personally see how a cloth mask has become some statement of freedom or not, but I also recognize that sadly this pandemic has brought out the worst in many. As a parent of MCPS students, a community member, a voter, a taxpayer, I want to lend my support in elected officials' decisions that are science-based and data driven- also with the caution that should be employed at times when we don't have all the answers- we don't yet know what we don't yet know- especially with an evolving virus. What I do know is that my children want to be in school, and **I support measures that allow schools to stay open for students and staff, safely.** I urge a taskforce to make decisions based on caution, knowing that sound scientific findings take time, and therefore guidance must often often change with time and data maturity. Stay diligent, stay the course, act with logic, compassion, caution, and a scientific mind. Across the country we are seeing real-time that schools that do not require children to wear masks are experiencing massive covid outbreaks, resulting in more disease spread, overwhelmed hospitals, and mass quarantines/school closures- do we really want OUR children to be the guinea pigs, and do I want my children's school to close? Personally, I do not.

My children and I are completely thrilled that school buildings are open- children can learn amongst their friends and teachers, in the most normal way possible right now.

According to the data (and lack of data) available now, I support making decisions with caution, and I support measures to keep pubic school learning in-person, including the current rule for children and staff to mask.

**Thank you for your very hard work.**

With respect,  
Jennifer Oakland

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## Mask Mandate and the Life Long Learning Center

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**Dominique Robinson** <robinsondominique75@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 9:28 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

My daughter and I are participating in a Yoga class at the Lifelong Learning Center. My question is, half of the class does not wear their masks. I asked what the Mask Policy was because MCPS has a Mask mandate even in the Ad. building and they told me that the Mask was optional, because it was a school for adults and they have access to the vaccination. Well I'm not comfortable with that. Last summer they allowed us to use the Gym for our yoga and that provided safe distancing and the Covid threat appeared to be decreasing. This Fall they moved the yoga class into a small classroom and the class consists of at least 15 people. Yoga requires deep breathing exercises. Thus Covid safety requirements are not adhered too. I have no problem performing yoga with a mask. I am a recently retired 66 year old teacher, with health complications and fully vaccinated. I do not feel I should be penalized for doing all that I can to prevent the spread of Covid, nor does my daughter. We will not be able to continue our Yoga class unless the Mask Policy is enforced at the Lifelong Learning center due to fear of contracting Covid. Please enforce the Mask Mandate at the Lifelong learning Center.

Sent from Mail for Windows

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**carolbrett89@gmail.com** <carolbrett89@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 2:28 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I enthusiastically support the MCPS's mask mandate. It is a simple way to help keep the children from getting sick from COVID. Carol Brett

Sent from my iPhone

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## Allocations of Covid Grant Money

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**daniel geary** <dancgear@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us

Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 7:18 PM

Greetings All:

I write tonight as a private citizen on personal email while on break as a janitor for MCPS.

Please, Board of Trustees, encourage---in fact mandate---that if the \$45,000.00 Covid grant is received, some of it will be used to pay substitute janitors and for district janitors working overtime. Currently the policy is to make cutbacks in the overtime allocation. Thus, someone asked to clean an 8-hour assignment in overtime is forced by allocation priorities to clean that assignment in half the time. This made little sense in pre-Covid times; it makes no sense in Covid times. We cannot dismiss the hand-contact potential of any illness...be it cold, flu or Covid. Yet we are.

Please say "not yet" to proposals to allocate all of this grant money to: administrative costs and/or testing. Testing is important; testing is not the entire defense. Please don't let this allocation be lost in the maze of vague data assessment by experts....when the real experts are the men and women working at car wash wates (one car wash in Missoula is offering \$18.00 per hour) to make sure nothing brown is found on the flush handles and door latches of bathrooms frequented by 300-400 children ages 5-11.

Thank you!

Daniel Geary, janitor

."...so much attention is paid to the aggressive sins, such as violence and cruelty, and greed with all their tragic effects, that too little attention is paid to the passive sins, such as apathy and laziness, which in the long run can have a more devastating and destructive effect upon society than the others." — **Eleanor Roosevelt**



**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask mandate

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**Steve Zellmer** <szconsulting@msn.com>

Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 10:08 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for continuing the mask mandate in Missoula Public Schools. Let's do the right thing and keep protecting our children and community from ignorance and this virus!

Steve Zellmer

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Yes to masks

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**Ginger Sillars** <gingerzsillars@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 2:30 PM

I am in full favor of masks for all teachers, staff, and students until numbers in Missoula County drop and remain low; or my child, and other school-age children, have the option for vaccination.

I am a Certified Pediatric Nurse and the evidence shows that masks, hand washing, and distancing reduce the likelihood of transmission. I also believe the evidence that our children will learn and grow in a supportive classroom setting with their peers and teachers. My son is in first grade this year, and although this isn't what I hoped for his first years of school, I am willing to send him because the appropriate safety measures are in place, including masks.

Please continue to set the example that the safety and health of our children are important.

Thank you,  
Ginger Sillars

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## Shortage of Substitute Teachers

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**Emma Fancher** <emcfan03@icloud.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 11:05 AM

Dear School Board,

It has come to the attention of teachers and students that the amount of substitutes available to the school is very limited. Not only does this cause stress for teachers who need to take a day off or feel the need to come to school less than 100 percent healthy, but the students are then suffering as a result. A sick teacher will not be able to effectively teach their subject or a substitute without any knowledge on the subject will be given the job of administering the knowledge. In addition, you ask teachers, who already have a massive workload, to take what little free time they have and use it to substitute for another teacher. How do you expect those same teachers to get their own work done? Teachers are given "prep time" to catch up on their own work, go to meetings, or help struggling students with work. Not only are these expectations something that induce stress for everyone involved, but it also creates a work environment that is no longer seen as worthwhile.

Why would a person want to work as a substitute when they are getting paid a little over twelve dollars? The answer is they wouldn't. The students' educations and teachers' well beings are put at risk because you, as the school board, refuse to increase the pay of essential workers. I am a fully committed high-school student, but I am also a student with a job. As a shift supervisor at Starbucks I make over fifteen dollars. I have the education of a high-school student and yet I am valued at more than a person with a college degree. Fast food chains are increasing pay to 16-17 dollars plus a bonus after the first month worked. I myself am losing baristas to other high paying jobs. Yet you, the school board, continue at the same pay.

I am writing to you because I assume that you know how far this issue has come. I have had one third of my classes, in this week alone, with a substitute teacher or a teacher with prep time. This is no longer an issue that you can ignore. This is something that you need to fix and I implore you to do so quickly.

Thank you,  
Emma Fancher

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**Masks in MCPS buildings.**

1 message

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**lisa thomas** <mtlisathomas@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 9, 2021 at 12:30 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thank you for your service to Missoula County students, families, staff and community.

Missoula is still being hit hard by a pandemic and the delta variant. MCPS had 32 positive cases reported just one day last week. Contact tracing and close contact is keeping some staff and students out of school.

I am writing to support the continuation of mask wearing until the December board meeting. The data at this time does NOT support loosening our mitigation strategies. Better safe than sorry, very sorry.

I am a kindergarten teacher at Rattlesnake school and resident of East Missoula. I feel the cautious and data driven start to school is keeping learning and school activities going. I do NOT want to slip backwards. I want my kids at school 5 days a week and all day. If masks make that happen, so be it.

To those who call out about the trauma of masks on young children, I call BS. It is adults yelling and threatening each other that traumatizes, NOT a face covering.

To parents who want to choose for their child; they may be maskless while enrolled in MOA. I was a kindergarten teacher with MOA and we delivered an excellent learning and online class experience.

Please continue mitigation strategies that keep us all safe and moving forward together.

Thank you

Lisa Thomas

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Comment for BOT meeting Oct 12

2 messages

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**Amanda Attard** <amandamae.attard@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 10, 2021 at 1:11 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello,

October 4 marks the start of the sixth week of school, the timeline promised by Mr. Watson for reviewing the district's mask mandate. October 12 is when the board meeting is scheduled.

Will you be reviewing the mask mandate as promised?

What information will you be reviewing in reference to whether to keep or amend the mask mandate?

What is the criteria for lifting or amending the mask mandate?

Will you commit to providing MCPS parents with a definitive answer regarding the criteria for lifting or amending the mask mandate?

Please remember, your responsibility is to our children and their education. Anything that impedes on their quality of education, their health (mental, emotional, physical), or their safety, is not acceptable.

Any answers to these questions that include any variation of the phrase "I wish I knew" is not acceptable, because YOU are in the decision-making seat for our kids. It is your job to know and to give answers.

Thank you,

Amanda

To those on the Board of Trustees, in the decision-making seat for our kids, I urge you to please consider ALL factors affecting our children's education and their health and general well-being. I can make my concerns known to the task force, but it is you MCPS board members that can actually make a difference for our kids, that can create some sense of normalcy for them amidst an already trying and tumultuous time.

Please consider these questions during your board meeting:

How long will our kids be required to wear masks?

What criteria is required in order to lift or amend the mask mandate?

What data and information is being reviewed to inform your decisions?

**\*\*\*Are you considering data that directly pertains to school-aged children, rather than the whole populace?**

**\*\*\*Are you considering the LACK of clear and conclusive data, including the potential long-term effects on our kids' social, emotional, and mental health and development?**

Will you commit to providing MCPS parents with clear answers on the subject?

Please remember, these decisions being made for our kids are going to have long-term effects, and there is no way of knowing how this will affect them until it is too late to do anything about that. By that point, it will no longer be your concern, and I will be left to try and help repair the damage for my children while you board members go on living your lives.

*As parents, we don't force our kids to make sacrifices to make us feel more safe and comfortable- WE make sacrifices for our kids for THEIR comfort and safety. **What I see is a group of adults forcing our children to make unnecessary and potentially damaging sacrifices for their own comfort and safety, and it does not sit well with me.***

I am very glad our schools have not had to close. After last school year, it is abundantly clear my kids need to be IN school. Their mental health and capacity for learning suffered during those grueling months of online learning. And as I'm sure you're well aware, online learning is not a viable option for the majority of kids in Missoula. There are issues with accessibility to devices and internet, issues regarding creating a safe and effective learning environment at home, especially for kids that are at risk for neglect and abuse. As I'm also sure you know, teachers are the front line for identifying neglect and abuse and *shoving those kids out the door to do school online from home is perpetuating a greater issue to their health and safety*. I'm also sure you are aware of the growing mental health crisis among youth in the Missoula valley. It is already documented that MCPS student mental health was negatively affected last year. Our school aged kids are several times more likely to die by suicide than by Covid. Why then are we taking precautions only for the spread of Covid, when suicide takes more of our kids lives?

My question to you now is, will you commit to considering and discussing these questions from my email at your forthcoming board meeting?

Thank you

Show quoted text

Show quoted text

Show quoted text

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## Please maintain masks in schools

2 messages

Logan Jones &lt;LKJones83@gmail.com&gt;

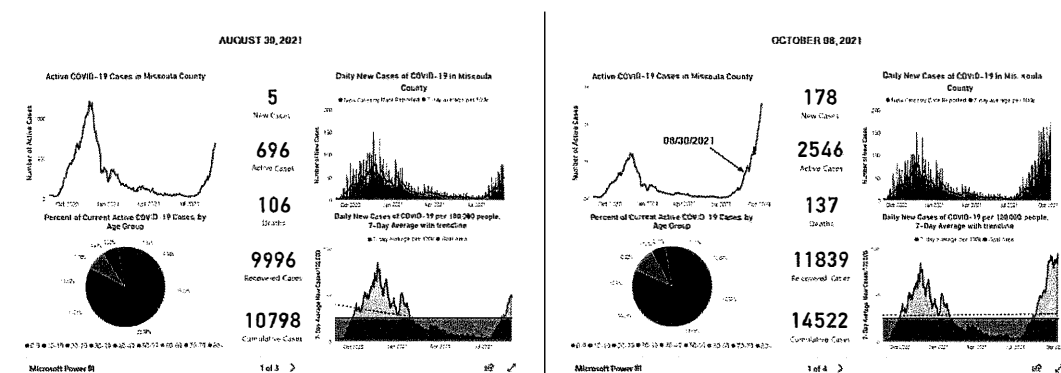
Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 1:53 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello,

I strongly urge you to maintain the mask requirements in Missoula's public schools at least through to the winter break. We are, hopefully, almost to the point where students under 12 can begin being vaccinated and reasonably protected from the SARS-CoV-2 virus and prevent spread of the COVID-19 disease.

Look at the daily numbers here in Missoula county. We are far beyond the case load, active cases, daily new cases, etc... that we were in 6 weeks ago when the school mask requirement was first put in place. COVID-19 is in our schools. Many studies across the nation show that schools without masks spread the disease at rates far greater than schools that maintain masking.



<https://i.imgur.com/BX4Tyd9.png> (link in case images don't get saved)

This thing is going to continue to get worse before it gets better. Until kids can be vaccinated, no one is safe. We have got to maintain safety in the schools or we will have a wave of sick kids on our hands and a not-small-percentage of them are going to suffer for years to come from the long term effects of this vile disease.

Our hospitals are filling up. Some are full. Some are rationing care (read: denying help to those they've deemed doomed to die in favor of those with a chance of living). This could have been prevented, but sadly our state lacks leadership.

Our schools in Missoula have good leadership.

Please, continue the masking, at least through winter break. Give these kids the chance to get vaccinated before being thrown into a petri dish.

Thank you,

-Logan Jones





Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Support for Mandatory Masking

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**Sarah Fangsrud** <sarahfangs@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 2:11 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Dear MCPS School Board of Trustees,

Thank you for keeping our vulnerable children safe this year with the mandatory mask mandate in schools. Despite the COVID-19 cases raging in our community, the case counts in MCPS school have remained low. I appreciate your continued support protecting our children. Masks are safe and effective against COVID-19 and have no harmful effects. Continued mandatory masking is the least we can do to keep children in our community safe.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fangsrud  
Parent of a Paxson Kindergartener and 3rd grader

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Sarah Fangsrud

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep mask mandate

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**Michael & Roselynn Bowman** <bowman112709@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 2:29 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

I do not engage in commenting on the mask mandate, but I feel so strongly that we must mask up, that I'm compelled to use my voice. The science is there. I appreciate the mask mandate you enacted amongst the political outrage to do so.

Please keep up the strong support of our unvaccinated children's health.

Roselynn Bowman

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks in schools

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**Janna Cunningham** <jannacunningham07@gmail.com>  
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 3:03 PM

Hi. I am writing to let you know I strongly support the mcps school mask policy. I hope that the mask policy continues in the schools this year.

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021, 10:59 AM Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org> wrote:



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Vote Yes for Masks!

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**Clarke McGibben** <cmcgibben@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 3:40 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello MCPS Board of Trustees,

I am emailing in support of continued masks in our schools. If we removed masks, instruction would be incredibly difficult and not efficient. To spread the children to required distances out would be near impossible in our current spaces with the materials and furniture we have available. Children wouldn't be able to work in varied academic groupings for different subjects, therefore decreasing the frequency I could meet with students who are in great need of targeted intervention. Currently, numbers are rising in our community and schools. In order to keep our children and staff safe, masks must continue.

In addition, when teachers are sick, they are feeling tremendous guilt to keep working. We have an unprecedented sub shortage. Para's and SPED teachers are being pulled to cover absences which then leaves children without the crucial support they need to learn and feel safe in our buildings. If we remove masks, we will undoubtedly see teachers sick more often, thus creating even more problems having classes covered.

Please vote to keep masks in schools.

Thank you,

Clarke McGibben

1st Grade Teacher

Rattlesnake Elementary

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Pro-Mask

2 messages

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**Lynn Fields** <lynnwood13@icloud.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 4:26 PM

Thank you for voting for keeping the mask mandate at schools until kids can be vaccinated. My student goes to Chief Charlo and masks are working!

Thanks,  
Lynn-Wood Fields  
406-249-6294

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Continue Mask Mandate

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**LBollwitt** <lbollwitt@bresnan.net>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 4:41 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am so impressed with the school board standing up to the bullies who want to try to control the conversation about not wearing masks without any intelligent reasoning behind it. Thank you for wanting to keep our children safe. I only wish the county had the authority to do it for the rest of the population in Missoula. Please don't give in! Our children want to go to school and this is the only safe way. I believe there are more people that support you than don't. It's only the loud ones that get the press.

Stay Strong!  
Lorinda Bollwitt

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Sydney Sweitzer** <swei0009@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 4:48 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hello - I am writing to ask that MCPS follow CDC guidance and continue to require masks for ALL students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. Zero tolerance for non-compliance.

All you need to do is look at the daily/weekly COVID numbers to see that we are nowhere near out of this.

I know that schools can enforce this because they enforce a dress code for female students. No mask? Here's a paper one. Won't wear it? Go home. Zero tolerance.

Thanks for all you do, and sorry about an the crazies about to come to the school board meeting to yell at you.

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**Thank you for keeping our kids and community safe!!!!**

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**Bridget Johnson** <bridget59804@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 5:24 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I strongly support your decision to require masks for Missoula County students and staff. This is a no brainer - it protects EVERYONE, but especially those kids that are still ineligible to get a vaccine. And by "EVERYONE", I mean the community at large: kids protected = family protected = friends and coworkers protected = retail and service workers protected, etc.

I'm sorry you have to deal with such irrational pushback - stay strong & thank you!!!!

Bridget Johnson  
4529 North Ave W  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406)370-6867





Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## In favor of masks

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**Annie Florin** <anniefloirin78@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 5:36 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for MCPS's commitment to student, staff, and community health by continuing to mandate masks for all in all MCPS facilities.

Our family is grateful for the district's commitment to public health and safety, and for modeling to children how science is to be trusted and relied upon.

We look forward to this continues commitment to masking until the science indicates it it safe to do otherwise.

In appreciation,  
Annie Florin (parent of 2 MCPS students)

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**Please keep wearing masks.**

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**spring mills** <springinmt@hotmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello MCPS-

I write in to express my gratitude for requiring masks this far into the school year. I am very hopeful that you will continue to do so. I believe that masks are keeping people safe, from Covid.

Thank you -

Spring Mills, parent of a Washington Middle Schooler.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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## Mask mandate

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**Kristen Sanders** <k10sanders@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 6:44 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Thank you so much for keeping our kids safe - well, at least safer than they would be without masks. The science is well known that mask wearing slows down the spreading of airborne viruses. Think about how much could be done with slowing down the flu at the same time. I hear that this year may be a bad one for the influenza virus.

Although our entire family of vaccinated, we are still at some risk of breakthrough covid. As a parent with cancer, it would be awful for my son to carry this virus home to me. If something were to happen to me, he would have to live with that the rest of his life.

Please stand strong and do not cave to the parents who, in my humble opinion, are simply whining about their children being forced to wear something that is a mild inconvenience. They are fighting for the sake of fighting and have no scientific evidence supporting their complaints.

We all must teach our children the importance of caring for others and that small sacrifices of comfort are worth the benefit to our families and society.

Thank you.

Kristen Sanders

Sent from my iPhone

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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**Vickie Reynolds** <midniteblue819@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:08 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Please consider KEEPING the mask mandate. I believe Science and believe masks aid in keeping our children saf(er) and in return keeping their contacts safe.

Thank you for listening.

Vickie R

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate.

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**Avis Chenoweth** <chenowethavis@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:15 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Tansi,  
Thank you for your time.  
Please keep staff and students safe by requiring masks.  
Thank you,  
Avis Chenoweth  
Missoula, MT 59801

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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**Pamela Gherlein** <pkgherlein@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:23 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Thank you so much for all of your efforts to keep our kids healthy and in class. As a grandma of a Paxson kindergartener it's extremely important to me that masks are worn by everyone during the school day.

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Mask Mandate

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**Tiffany Nunnally** <tiffanydavidson@hotmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:27 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

Dear Board of Trustees,

I will start off by saying that I know I am wasting my time in even writing this, because I see the superintendent already intends on recommending ongoing masking; however, I implore you to look past this suggestion and actually look at scientific data (ie: not the CDC, not Dr. Fauci), but SCIENCE. I don't generally like to involve myself in these discussions, but I'm tired of the craziness surrounding Covid and our kids. There is next to zero data showing that masking our children is effective at preventing the spread of Covid in school. Moreover, look to the data in other counties (those not requiring face coverings) to see that mask mandates make no difference in reducing covid. I am not going to post this data as you should have it at your disposal.

Moreover, I implore you to listen to those of us with actual children in the school system. A comment from one of the trustees at the last meeting regarding this issue essentially alluded to kids not caring about face coverings (not sure if he actually has children in school in the county). I have a 5 year old currently attending school (and he won't much longer if this mandate madness continues) but he hates the face covering requirement. He asks just about every day when he stops wearing it and I don't know what to tell him, because unfortunately the political governing body refuses to look at actual data to see that, thankfully, our children are not being impacted by Covid. Please, for the sake of our kids (not the adults who are fully able and capable of being vaccinated) stop making them wear these face coverings. If the data supported such a thing, I would support it, but it doesn't!

It's time for us to start learning how to live with this virus. Please, do the right thing and put an end to the ridiculousness of making our children wear face coverings. The negative impact this will have them going forward is much worse than a virus that has little impact on them.

For all of you adults out here commenting in favor of face coverings without children going to school - please stop with your political agenda as well. You are not in a position to understand the negative impact this is having on our children who are currently dealing with this. Please, just look at the actual data and stop this mandate!

Sincerely,

A sad, fed up, ready to move forward parent

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Holly Schleicher** <schleicher.holly@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:31 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Greetings,

I'd like to thank the school board and administrators for enforcing masks at school. I'd like mask use to continue to ensure student/staff/teacher safety.

Thank you,

Holly

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks Work

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**Danielle Fadness** <danielle.handcock@gmail.com>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:35 PM

Hello,

I've had children in MCPS for 10 years, and you've always done a great job keeping our children safe. Please continue to require masks during this time.  
Thank you !!

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Best Regards,  
Danielle Fadness  
505-553-0991

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masking

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**Mark Schleicher** <mark@uwalumni.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:36 PM

To: Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear MCPS School Board and Administration,

Thank you so very much for keeping our kids, teachers and staff safe by instituting masking requirements in schools. We appreciate the work and thought that has gone into this decision and our kids are healthy and happy masking up at school.

I ask that you continue mask requirements at this time to keep kids in school and healthy.

Thank you,  
Mark Schleicher  
Parent of a 3rd grader at and a 7th grader at Washington

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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**Brandi Davidson** <brandi.davidson@hotmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 8:14 PM

I am against the mask mandate, it is time to start living with the virus. There is zero scientific data stating that cloth face coverings reduce the transmission of Covid, kids are not susceptible to severe reaction to Covid, and the other developmental impacts of these face coverings are long term and severe, more than contracting Covid. It is time to end it, especially when anywhere else you go people are hardly wearing them, and when you do see them there not wearing them properly anyways.

Sent from my iPhone

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## Notice-for-Employers-and-Universities-Mandating-Covid-19-Vaccines.pdf

Amanda Attard <amandamae.attard@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 8:39 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

On July 8th, the preliminary conclusions for a multicenter academic study in Britain were released and submitted for publication. That 12 month study found that in the entire population of youth in Britain ages 0-17, the number of deaths attributed solely to Covid-19 was 25. This was a large pediatric study having a population size of over 12 million children. The mortality rate was 1 death per 481,000 children, or .00021%. Britain had no vaccine that had received approval to treat children under 18 at the time.

On July 11th, the CDC released the conclusions of a study in which 335 children aged 0-17 died from Covid-19 in the United States. The US population in that age category is estimated to be 73.4 million as of 2020. The CDC study does not separate the healthy and co-morbid population as the British study did. The CDC did not perform this analysis, and the reported mortality is for the combined group for an extended period of 18 months. Clinical data demonstrated that for all US children ages 0-17, the mortality rate was 1 death per 219,000, or .00046%.

On July 19th, John's Hopkins University and Medical Center released their study for the same 0-17 age category. This population size was considerably smaller at 48,000, but it showed ZERO deaths over a 16 month period.

All three studies show similar results. The evidence is conclusive that any upturn in Covid-19 mortality was not associated with this 0-17 age group, but with older population groups.

On July 27th, the CDC issued their new guidelines recommending that students wear masks for the 2021-2022 school year. This flies directly in the face of the previous three studies (and many others not cited here that can be easily found in an online search) even though they represented the most recent data published on the 0-17 age population. The information used to form this recommendation hasn't been seen or published, according to the CDC itself. Therefore, this recommendation must be considered without merit and points to no identifiable clinical information or study that would support its decision.

There continues to be growing cumulative evidence that the use of masks in children and infants pose a severe threat to their physical and psychological health, also questioning the functional deterrence of masks against the Covid-19 virus.

The right to choose whether a child is vaccinated or wears a mask in class is a Parental decision, not the School Board's. Any decision by the MCPSBT that is in direct opposition to the studies above (and again, the countless others out there that can even be found directly on the CDC website) is baseless and clinically unsubstantiated. The most recent objective clinical conclusions should and must be considered when deciding upon mandates and prevention measures in the schools. Any continued use of masks for the 0-17 age population has no clinical foundation, and also places children in significant danger from emotional and psychological trauma. Any considerations other than the health, safety, and quality of education for children under the age of 18 is outside the realm of the school board's jurisdiction and concern.

I have also included a form that gives details from the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding Emergency Use Authorization, specifically applied to masks. I have copy and pasted it below, as I believe it to be directly relevant and crucial information regarding the board's Covid prevention methods:

### NOTICE FOR EMPLOYERS, UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS MANDATING COVID-19 MASKS

## Revised 6/4/21

This serves as notice that the mandate for any individual to wear a mask against COVID-19 for employment or attendance at a university or other institution violates federal law. All COVID-19 masks, whether surgical, N95 or other respirators, are authorized, not approved or

licensed, by the federal government; they are Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) only. They merely “may be effective.” Federal law states:

Title 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(I-III) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) states:

individuals to whom the product is administered are informed-

that the Secretary has authorized the emergency use of the product;

of the significant known and potential benefits and risks of such use, and of the extent to which such benefits and risks are unknown; and

of the option to accept or refuse administration of the product, of the consequences, if any, of refusing administration of the product, and of the alternatives to the product that are available and of their benefits and risks.

EUA products are by definition experimental and thus require the right to refuse. Under the Nuremberg Code, the foundation of ethical medicine, no one may be coerced to participate in a medical experiment. Consent of the individual is “absolutely essential.” A federal court held that even the U.S. military could not mandate EUA vaccines to soldiers. *Doe #1 v. Rumsfeld*, 297 F.Supp.2d 119 (2003).

In a letter dated April 24, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration stated that authorized face masks must be labelled accurately and may not be labeled in a way that misrepresents the product’s intended use as “source control to help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2.” The letter specifies that the labeling “may not state or imply that the product is intended for antimicrobial or antiviral protection or related uses or is for use such as infection prevention or reduction.” Any EUA mandate requiring individuals to wear face masks conflicts with Section 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(I-III), which provides that the person must be informed of the option to refuse to wear the device.

Liability for forced participation in a medical experiment, including possible injury, may be incalculable. Children’s Health Defense urges U.S. employers, universities and other institutions to respect and uphold the rights of individuals to refuse to wear EUA masks.

This notice is adapted from materials at Health Freedom Defense Fund, <https://healthfreedomdefense.org/>

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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## Mask mandate

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**abrei cloud** <abreicloud@hotmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 8:43 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Hello,

My husband Mike Schaedel and I are the parents of two students at Rattlesnake Elementary School. We strongly urge you to keep the mask mandate in place; at least until elementary school age children can get the vaccine. This is an ethical issue. We are currently in the middle a public health emergency and the only means of keeping our kids safe is to require masks. Please, please, please, do what is right for our children!

Best,

Abrei Cloud

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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**Please keep our children masked****Carroll Jones** <workingwriter2@aol.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 9:00 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

To whom it may concern.

I am a Missoula grandmother of a grandson who is a junior at Hellgate High School; his older brother graduated from Hellgate last year. After doing virtual schooling for the entire year while his brother who graduated only did it for half the year, he is an outstanding student, committed to all his classes and is a special lover of the several bands that he is in at Hellgate. When I ask him if he feels safe at school, he hesitates and says the halls are hugely crowded as classes change. But, though fully vaccinated, he is totally committed to maintaining masking and feels real fear, along with his parents and me, over the prospect of being around students not masked, many of whom may not be vaccinated. This is a no-brainer. And it's a no-hearter. Montana's Covid numbers are horrific on the national scale because of the legislature and our governor totally irresponsibly and brutally taking away mask mandates in our communities. Please leave masks on our students in their schools. Please. I'm pleading with you as a loving grandmother.

Thank you.

Carroll Jones

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks should be required in schools

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**Diane Stensland-Bickers** <diane.stenslandbickers@gmail.com>  
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 9:12 PM

Regarding the mask mandate:

As a school board you are required to protect the children while in your care. Please continue to require masks to be worn in our classrooms. We appreciate your decision to keep our kids safe!



**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>**

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## **please keep masking in schools**

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**Kelly McKinnie** <kellymckinnie@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 10:21 PM

Hi. Please keep masking mandatory in our school system. My daughter was recently a close contact to a covid positive and the fact that the kids were masked most of the time (except for lunch) in all likelihood kept her and her classmates safe. The numbers in Missoula county are ridiculously high right now. It is no time to even consider removing the mask mandate. Thank you very much for all you do for our kids.

Kelly McKinnie

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks in schools

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**Marisa Wright** <marisajwright@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 10:31 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Please, please, please keep masks required in schools! The evidence is pretty clear that they work. The kids don't mind them, and have a 5 and 9 year old who would rather be safe than not wear them. Please...

Marisa Wright

Sacred Roots Doula  
Spinning Babies® Certified Parent Educator  
Certified ISR Instructor  
(406) 880-3286

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Requirement Continuation

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**Kristi Steinberg** <krististeinberg18@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 6:18 AM

Hello,

Thank you for beginning the school year with the mask mandate in place to keep our kids safe. As a parent of a child unable to receive the vaccine yet, I respectfully request that mandate continue as Missoula and Montana see such large case numbers.

Sincerely,  
Kristine Steinberg

Sent from my iPhone

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Thank you for keeping our kids safe

Cori <heykori@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 6:49 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Cc: David Gray <graymatter.dg@gmail.com>

Thank you so very much for keeping our children safe by requiring masks during this pandemic. We are so thankful they can go to school due to this decision.

Sincerely,  
Cori and David Gray

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## PLEASE MAINTAIN THE MASK MANDATE

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**Carleen Hathaway** <chathaway@mcpsmt.org>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 7:34 AM

Dear Dr. Watson and Missoula County Public Schools Board of Trustees,

I am writing this morning to encourage you to maintain the current mask mandate that is in place and **protecting** our students, staff and community. Numbers don't lie, COVID cases in schools are up from where they were last year. And though vaccinations are the way to STOP this virus, mitigation strategies such as wearing masks in all MCPS buildings are vital to protecting everyone until this pandemic can be wiped out. With a break-through variant, with overcrowded hospitals, with people dying, this should be an easy decision.

As someone who has a compromised immune system due to medications for two immune system diseases, I am comfortable working in school knowing that those around me are going to be wearing masks.

Because I know you have dozens of emails/letters to wade through on this situation, I will keep my request short. Please don't go into this meeting with your mind made up to remove or otherwise alter the current mask mandate because some people are 'uncomfortable' in a mask. Data proves masks provide a layer of protection for everyone. And we SHOULD be thinking about protecting EVERYONE!

Thank you for your time. I understand you have a difficult job and I sincerely hope your consideration is on the side of **caution and care** for ALL the students and staff of MCPS as well as for our entire Missoula community. Please maintain the current mask mandate as written.

**Carleen L. Hathaway**  
MMCEO Secretary-Treasurer  
Porter Para Ed  
728-2400 ext 4696  
chathaway@mcpsmt.org



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please continue mask usage

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**Shannon O'Brien** <obriendumke@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 7:39 AM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear Trustees,

I simply want my child and all students, teachers and staff at MCPS to be healthy, happy learners. In order to minimize the risk of death and serious illness, please continue the research-based policy of mask requirements in our schools.

I can't thank you enough for your commitment to our community.

Best,  
Shannon

Shannon O'Brien  
Senate District 46  
406-274-3805 (cell)

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## Masks Mandates

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**Sarah Avery** <savery@mcpsmt.org>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 7:43 AM

Dear members of the school board,

I am writing this letter to implore you to see the wisdom in keeping mask mandates for Missoula County Public Schools. It is apparent that a kind of frenzy has overtaken what should be a straightforward situation; we should do what is best for our community's health. What is best is wearing masks, social distancing, and getting vaccinated. Viruses do not care about political leanings or ideologies. The scientific and medical community is overwhelmingly in support of the measures listed and it is beyond foolish to ignore them.

As a parent, I receive daily updates regarding the number of identified Covid cases and those numbers continue to increase. My own children have been identified as close contacts and I have received that news with no little amount of fear and anxiety. Knowing that my children are vaccinated and that they and (most of) their peers follow masking guidelines brings some relief and to date, neither of my kids have tested positive for this virus. If the board were to decide to do away with the mask mandate, the likelihood of my children (and every child attending school) contracting a breakthrough infection drastically increases. This would be devastating for so many reasons.

As an MCPS employee, I have watched as staff and students disappear from the hallways due to either contracting the virus or from being identified as close contacts. I work with an individual who has a compromised immune system and must push through so much fear just to continue working in a profession she loves and has dedicated so much of her life to. Please understand, this is very literally life or death for her and for others in our community. Even with the mask mandate, many students have grown lax and flippant about wearing masks and they parrot back the shoddy soundbites about "no evidence" and "oppression." For these children to continue to be able to receive the education they so desperately need, the mandates have to stay in place. Otherwise, we'll be looking at a repeat of spring 2020. It is baffling to me that anyone would choose to actively march back toward that reality.

As a human being in general, it has been beyond frustrating and disappointing to see so many people use this public health crisis as a means of collecting political points. As I stated before, viruses do not care. Pretending that this illness that has claimed so many lives, over 700,000, doesn't exist or is some kind of hoax represents a level of willful ignorance that is mind-boggling. Clearly, public education has never been more necessary.

I beg you to act in the best interest of our Missoula community and vote to uphold the mask mandates in schools.

Sincerely,

Sarah Avery  
she/her  
Para Educator  
Structured Learning Program  
C.S. Porter Middle School  
(406) 728-2400 ext. 4696

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask requirement for in-person learning

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**Danny Tenenbaum** <drtenenbaum@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 8:10 AM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Dear MCPS Board of Trustees,

Please retain the mask requirement for in-person learning throughout MCPS.

The science is clear that school mask requirements help stop outbreaks. These outbreaks reach the entire Missoula community, not just students. Increased infections, hospitalizations, and deaths are the inevitable result.

To get past the Delta variant wave, and to minimize subsequent waves, we must normalize following CDC protocols for limiting the spread of infectious disease. The MCPS board can help normalize these protocols (and avoid unnecessary debate) by simply deciding to always follow CDC guidelines, both during and after this pandemic.

Thank you for your dedicated service and leadership during this difficult time.

Rep. Danny Tenenbaum  
House District 95

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Danny Tenenbaum  
Representative, House District 95  
406-285-1460

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## continued support for mask mandates

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**mask mandates now.** <zootownparent@protonmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 8:18 AM

Reply-To: "mask mandates now." <zootownparent@protonmail.com>

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Thanks for keeping them in place, and keeping our children and their families safe.

I wish there wasn't a very small and very loudly obnoxious handful of people who make life so difficult for the rest of us. I appreciate your stalwart strength and perseverance to do the right thing based on the science we know to be correct and safe at this time.

Also, if the very vocal minority is so concerned about masks during sports, then perhaps we should consider cancelling indoor sports for the remainder of the year? It seems like that one parent is deeply concerned about that.

Thanks so much,  
-parent of 2 kids in MCPS

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep doing great work!

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Tracy <tracehelen@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 8:40 AM

Good morning,

I am writing to provide support and appreciation for the Board and the decision to keep our kids, teachers, all staff, and family members safer by requiring masks at school.

While the cases continue to rise and the hospitals remain inundated with bed shortages, now is not the time to remove practice that is working to protect those in our schools. There will be a day when masks are no longer needed. That day is not today, and it may not be tomorrow, but we will all get through this faster together than if we take steps backwards.

Thank you for serving and all that you have done and continue to do to benefit the whole community!

Tracy Boehm Barrett

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep the masks

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**Tyler Bowen** <tdbowen@mcpsmt.org>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 8:46 AM

Thank you for following science and protecting students and staff in the schools by continuing with the mask mandate. Cases continue to go up throughout Missoula County and it's a necessity in preventing school shutdowns and mass breakouts in the schools, as we've seen in various schools without mask mandates throughout the state this year.

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Tyler Bowen, M.Ed.  
Missoula County Public Schools  
Sentinel High School  
*Health and Physical Education*

(406) 728-2400 ext. 7083

[tdbowen@mcpsmt.org](mailto:tdbowen@mcpsmt.org)  
<http://www.mcpsmt.org/>



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masks

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**Christine Scheffer** <csshuffle@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 9:26 AM

Good morning,

I am writing you this morning to thank you for keeping our kids safe by requiring masks in Missoula schools. I know in these changing times, re-evaluation is necessary and I appreciate that. I think we are heading towards ditching the masks at some point, but they don't think it is the time to risk going backwards by not requiring them too soon. Thank you so much for your time.

Christine Scheffer

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep the masks!

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**Reggie Spaulding** <rsspaulding@hotmail.com>  
To: "Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <Publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 10:18 AM

Hello,

I am writing to support masks in the schools (and an illegal vaccine mandate)!

I agree with Kristi Dalenberg that we should be looking at additional ways to prevent COVID-19 spread rather than getting rid of measures at this time. Let's get everyone vaccinated, require masks during sports, put HEPA filters in all classrooms, distance students as much as possible, etc.

I do not think that we can get rid of masks in high schools just because teenagers are **eligible** for vaccinations. I think that you need to set some benchmarks, like >80% of students have voluntarily been vaccinated and voluntarily submitted proof of vaccination, schools are seeing <0.1% of students and staff infected with COVID at any given time, etc. I think you should start up the incentives for vaccinating and bringing in proof of vaccination again.

Hospitals are really in crisis right now, please be responsible with your decisions.

Reggie Spaulding  
she/her  
406-241-2293

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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**Linda Torma** <ltorma50@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 10:45 AM

I am writing to support the continuation of the mask mandate in our public schools. The evidence is clear that masking reduces the risk of transmission and should be continued until the number of cases is significantly less in Missoula. As a retired nursing professor, I want to emphasize that masking is essential to ensure that our children, teachers and staff remain safe in our public spaces.

Thank you for your commitment to providing safe and high quality education in our community.

Linda Torma, PhD, APRN, GCNS-BC

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Comment on renewal of mask mandate in schools

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**Katrina Mullan** <katrinamullan@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 11:08 AM

I am emailing in support for continuation of the mask mandate in MCPS schools. I am impressed that in spite of record cases of Covid-19 in Missoula, schools have been able to continue to operate in-person with low levels of within-school transmission. Masks are part of this positive outcome. On a personal level, my 3rd grade and 6th grade children say that wearing a mask is not a big deal, and certainly preferable to returning to online learning.

Katrina Mullan

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask extension

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**Roxane Weikel** <roxane.weikel@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 11:18 AM

I support continuing with the requirement of masks in MCPS for the safety of our students and their families, our teachers and staff, and the community. With the significant community spread, it seems premature to me to have any discussions of loosening this policy.

Thanks for all your hard work and thoughtful consideration of all issues.

Roxane Weikel  
207 Takima Dr  
Missoula, MT



**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## **KEEP Masks required**

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**Amy J. Hetzler** <ajhetzler@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 11:27 AM

Keep everyone safe.

Thanks for all that you do!

Amy

Amy J. Hetzler

406-546-3450

"Realize how good you really are" ~ Og Mandino

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Keep mask mandate in place

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**Agatha Light Podrasky** <aslight42@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcps.k12.mt.us

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 11:41 AM

To the Board of Trustees:

Thank you for putting a mask mandate in place. Case numbers at my child's school have remained consistently low since the start of school, even while cases skyrocket in the Missoula community. Masks work- schools without them are seeing many more cases. My child feels much safer attending school with masks in place and is happy in a classroom where everyone is wearing a mask to help protect each other.

Case numbers are very high in the community and our medical system is overburdened. A vaccine has still not been approved for children under 12. Please continue to keep a mask mandate in place. It is the least you can do to help protect our children and decrease transmission of this awful virus.

Regards,  
Agatha Podrasky



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please continue masks

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**Amber Schwab** <amberd.schwab@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 12:12 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I am writing in support of continuing mask mandates in school, at least until the Covid vaccine is made available to young children. I appreciate your decision to keep our kids safe! Please keep up the good work and continue requiring masks for all students and teachers.

Thank you,

Amber Schwab

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Public Comment &lt;publiccomment@mcpsmt.org&gt;

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## Masking public comment

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**Doug Melzer** <dougmelzer@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 1:33 PM

Dear MCPS school board,

I am a local ER doctor and I have intimate knowledge of the strain on our health care resources during this current COVID-19 surge. Our hospital floors and ICUs are overcapacity with patients, and staff is stretched between more patients than they should be. Two nights ago we were in a situation where we had to decide who did and who didn't receive the last ventilator in the hospital and we are teetering on using crisis standards to triage care for dying patients. For over a month, I have had to make many tragically tough decisions to refuse transfer to Missoula of seriously ill patients with time-sensitive conditions, in effect, leaving them to potentially expire at smaller hospitals.

We have mounting evidence that school masking is a valuable tool to prevent spread of disease to vulnerable populations, even from data as near to home as Gallatin County.

Under these current crisis circumstances, it is our duty to our students, teachers, and public-at-large to continue to enforce a mask mandate to avoid preventable deaths.

Just as in seat belt laws decades ago, our younger generation were who influenced behavioral change in greater society that saved lives. Same is true for masks.

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas Melzer, MD

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**Thank you!**

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**Mikaela Badzioch** <mabadzioch@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 3:24 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

I appreciate you all so much! You have done your absolute best in trying to keep our kiddos safe! I'm sure you get plenty of hate-mail, but this parent is thankful for you!

-Mikaela Badzioch

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Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Masking

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**Julie K. Fogarty** <julesmiller32@hotmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 3:30 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

School Board,

Please continue to require students and staff to mask up while in school. I have two students in MCPS schools and they are happy to be wearing their masks and staying safe. Just within Missoula County, daycares, preschools and the Potomac school have seen outbreaks within classes where masking is not enforced. I appreciate the mask mandate in schools while cases in Missoula continue to surge and most students are still not vaccinated.

With much appreciation, Julie Fogarty

Sent from Mail for Windows

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Support for mask mandate

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**Bridgett Beal** <bridgettbeal@gmail.com>  
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 3:53 PM

Dear MCPS Trustees,

I am the parent of a 9th grader at Sentinel High School and I am writing to express my support for continuing the masking requirements for MCPS students and staff. Thank you for your time and consideration and for ensuring that our children are as safe as possible while attending school in person.

Sincerely,

Bridgett Beal  
Lolo, MT

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Support for masks in schools

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**lbond@bresnan.net** <lbond@bresnan.net>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 4:08 PM

To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, "rwatson@mcpsmt.org" <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>

To the MCPS Board of Trustees and Rob Watson, Superintendent of schools

I am writing to ask you to continue the mask usage policy. My son is an employee at Hawthorne school and we saw how mask wearing combined with vaccination helped keep him healthy last week when he was exposed to Covid 19.

We live in a state with no leadership right now and it is important that the public school system show its own sense of purpose and leadership by protecting the children and staff of our schools.

I thank you, in advance, as a parent of an employee and as a concerned community member.  
Loraine Bond

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**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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**Please continue masking for our children's safety**

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**S Shaw** <shawsuzl@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 5:21 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

As a physician deeply involved in Missoula county's horrific Covid surge, I beg you to continue the masking policy in all of our public schools.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne L Shaw, MD

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Please keep the mask mandate

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**Malinda Lueck** <malindallueck@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 5:32 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Dear MCPS Board of Trustees,

Please keep the indoor mask mandate for all MCPS students & staff. It keeps students safer and in person learning at school vs escalated numbers of close contacts & quarantine. The numbers in school per 10,000 cases is significantly lower than community spread in Missoula which is currently surging & taxing the health care system. I applauded your leadership in making rational & scientific decisions. Again please keep the mask mandate until every student becomes age eligible & has adequate time to be fully vaccinated.

Thank you,  
Malinda Gaudry

Sent from my iPad

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## Statement on behalf of 31 Missoula parents and taxpayers

Jill MH Taber <jill.michal@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 8:02 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Cc: Ann Wake <awake@mcpsmt.org>, Grace Decker <gdecker@mcpsmt.org>, Jeffrey Avgeris <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, Robert Watson <rwatson@mcpsmt.org>, Diane Lorenzen <dlorenzen@mcpsmt.org>, jvogel@mcpsmt.org, kmercier@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org, Michael Gehl <mgehl@mcpsmt.org>, Wilena Old Person <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>

As promised, here is the statement I delivered to the board this evening, followed by a list of supporters.

My name is Jill Taber. I'm delivering this statement on behalf of 33 Missoula parents. I will send this statement and their names to the public comment email after the meeting tonight.

MCPS does not have a COVID crisis.

MCPS has a respect crisis.

MCPS has a confidence crisis.

MCPS has a control crisis.

The Missoula County Health Department's data shows ZERO deaths for the 0-19 year-old age group – a 100% survival rate. Across all age groups, the survival rate is just over 99 percent.

The county cannot impose a mask mandate and even when it could, masking did nothing to curb spread.

MCPS continues to refuse to RESPECT the rights of families to make their own choices regarding face coverings. MCPS continues to disregard the CONFIDENCE of parents in their constitutionally-protected rights to make health care decisions for their children.

Yesterday afternoon, the task force seemed to agree that a benchmark for removing the mask mandate should be set. Thank you. But the task force and the administration is in no rush to set a number, stating they need time to assess.

The district wants to buy time to placate parents who want a benchmark until they can admit the truth out loud: the benchmark is ZERO. The district will only tolerate ZERO COVID cases as the metric for allowing parental choice regarding masks. MCPS will not release its grip on mitigation strategies. The can will be kicked down the road until vaccinations can be coerced or forced.

This circular, non-sensical, CONTROL-oriented thinking needs to stop. How much time is wasted discussing contact tracing, percentage of staff and students on "quarantine", and the difference between a 7-day average of 15 new cases versus 20 new cases?

When will we, as a community and as a school district, admit that COVID is here to stay? When will the fear-mongering cease? When will the district consider the most important data point of all: a county-wide survival rate of over 99 percent? When will we stop wringing our hands over CASE COUNTS? We will continue to voice opposition to these hypocritical mandates and mitigation strategies as long as these facts and questions go unvoiced, unasked, and unanswered by anyone involved in the recommendation or decision-making process.

The MCPS face covering policy does not need to be a zero-sum game. MCPS, restore your confidence in Missoula families.

The MCPS tagline is "Forward Thinking, High Achieving." It's a shame that inspired motto has been replaced by fear-based, control-seeking decision making that divides our community, disregards facts and data, and hurts our students – the very ones this district is meant to champion.

Nick and Jill Taber  
John Koch  
Terry and Carol Key  
Kendall Earle  
Gabriel Earle  
Patrick Morrison

Vicky Couch  
Ryan Darling  
Erin Darling  
Nicole Otto  
Amanda and Thomas Attard  
Matt and Sarah Stivers  
Kristy Tripp  
Stephanie Dwyer  
Alyse Tait  
Lindsay Guttermuth  
Katie McDonald  
Bretni Netzer  
Diana Wilsey  
Krystal Nelson  
Stuart and Michelle PicKell  
Jackie Mumm  
Faith Meusey  
Liz and Matt Manley  
Jen Gustafson

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**Jill MH Taber**

**MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Public Comment** <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

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## Mask Mandate

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To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Please keep our kids safe. I support the mask mandate.

Respectfully,  
Vicki Johnson

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