

Video Public Comment:

[Marcie Longo - Mask Mandate](#)

Valerie Rye	Keep masks in school until younger children can be vaccinated!	As a parent of unvaccinated children and children who don't even have access to a vaccine yet, I implore you to keep masks in school until all children can be vaccinated. I have a high risk child who is a cancer survivor, who wants and needs to go back to school - she needs peers to be either wearing masks or vaccinated to keep her safe. You have the power to keep our children safe until they can be vaccinated - please keep masks until all children in schools can be vaccinated. Thank you.
Sarah Stoeckel	Please keep masks in schools until ALL kids can be vaccinated	I'm writing to please ask the Board to continue to require masks indoors for schools without regard to federal or state guidance that might be more permissive, until all students can be vaccinated. Thank you!!
Lauren Buslinger	Keep mask requirement for schools	With mask mandates changing, please continue to protect children who cannot yet be vaccinated, by keeping masking requirements in Wake Co schools. Once all children (and staff) who can be vaccinated have the chance to get inoculated, then potentially the requirements can be changed. My daughter has an autoimmune disorder and asthma and hope the board agrees caution is safest at this time.

Andy Cox	In support of masks in indoor school settings	<p>The Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines have given us hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, and real world data so far has shown that widespread vaccination can reduce community spread and severity of disease for those infected by the COVID-19 virus.</p> <p>The recent change in C.D.C. guidance suggests that fully vaccinated people should be safe without masks, but makes no such claim for unvaccinated people. However, 65 percent of Wake County residents (as of May 14) are not yet fully vaccinated, including all students in elementary and middle schools. Children younger than 12 will not be eligible for vaccination by the start of the 2021-22 school year (whether year-round in July or traditional in August).</p> <p>Despite the mask requirements and other precautions currently in place, reports of positive COVID-19 among WCPSS students and staff arrive nearly every day in my inbox, and the positive test rate among children increases despite the decreases in the overall community test rate. That will only continue to get worse if masks requirements are lifted for the 2021-22 year with schools likely to be nearly full.</p> <p>My children attended Virtual Academy during the 2020-21 school year and are looking forward to returning to in-person school in 2021-22. We agreed and signed them up for in-person under the assumption that masking requirements and other precautions would follow the latest science and guidance of public health officials. Until a significant</p>
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		<p>portion of the population - including children - is fully vaccinated and community spread becomes negligible, it is premature to remove requirements for indoor masking in Wake County schools.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention.</p>
Victoria Cater	Remove masks in schools	<p>Remove mask mandates for school children!! It is hypocritical to lift mandates for almost all other areas of life, yet require children and young adults to wear them in school settings. It has been proven that little to no transmission occurs in a school setting and that children have the least consequences for the virus. If teachers are afraid, let them wear mask by CHOICE, NOT by FORCING children to wear masks. The psychological and physical damage from mask wearing to children is yet to be seen to its fullest extent.</p> <p>From The New England Journal of Medicine, April 1, 2020 www.NEJM.org</p> <p>“ It is also clear that masks serve symbolic roles. Masks are not only tools, they are also talismans that may help increase health care workers’ perceived sense of safety, well-being, and trust in their hospitals. Although such reactions may not be strictly logical, we are all subject to fear and anxiety, especially during times of crisis. One might argue that fear and anxiety are better countered with data and education than with a marginally beneficial mask, particularly in light of the worldwide mask shortage, but it is difficult to get clinicians to hear this message in the heat of the current crisis.</p> <p>Expanded masking protocols’ greatest contribution may be to reduce the transmission</p>

of anxiety, over and above whatever role they may play in reducing transmission of Covid-19.

Masks do not prevent virus respiratory illness. Size matters!

Viruses are 50x smaller than bacteria and 1000x smaller than a hair

size of bacteria = 5 micrometer (5 μm)

size of particles in wood smoke (wildfire): 0.4-0.7 micrometers (0.5 μm) size of virus = 0.1 micrometer (Influenza and SARS-CoV-2) (0.1 μm) comparison: human hair is 100 micrometers (100 μm)

(one million micrometers = one meter)

CDC: "Cloth masks do not catch small harmful particles in smoke."

Stop teaching FEAR. Instead empower children.

Erin Bridges	COVID mitigation efforts in schools	<p>As the mask mandates are lifted by the governor, please keep them in our schools.</p> <p>The CDC guidance allows for fully vaccinated people to go without a mask, not everyone. The governor's guidance also recommends it for unvaccinated. Elementary and some middle school children still are not eligible for the vaccine. All 12-15 year olds were just approved to receive it and therefore cannot yet be fully vaccinated. Without a vaccinated population, masks must remain.</p> <p>Furthermore, this board and the WCPSS leadership as a whole have been very clear in the desire to get kids back in school. Communication to families about virtual options for next year discouraged the option for most families stressing the benefits of in-person learning. While nearly half of all students remain virtual this year, the majority of families (often reluctantly) chose to send their kids back to the building next year, trusting the schools to take every available precaution to keep their kids healthy. Some pediatricians even encouraged the return to in-person learning, citing the successful mitigation measures in place right now. To lift a mask mandate at this point is unnecessarily risky and undermines the efforts to get kids back in school.</p> <p>Additionally, considering the low vaccination numbers among adults combined with a high level of community spread in Wake County (above 5% as I write this), masks are still recommended by most epidemiologists when indoors and in close contact with people outside of our households.</p>
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		<p>Please stay the course so we can help our kids return to a version of normal in the safest way possible.</p>
Sara Marie	Support School Masks	<p>I am writing in support of masking in schools until a time when all children are eligible to receive both doses of covid vaccines and are considered fully vaccinated. As a parent who has struggled immensely with making the decision for in person learning next school year, I would not be comfortable with my rising first grader in the building if mask mandates are dropped. I hope that a VA option would be given to parents again if masks are dropped and that protection is taken away, just like the consideration for moving from VA to in person will take place once vaccines become more widely available. Thank you for your time.</p>
Rochelle DeSantos	High School Summer School	<p>Dear WCPSS Board of Education,</p> <p>WCPSS has received a large amount of Covid money for education recovery for all students.</p> <p>However the summer school being offered at the high school level is on site - on line learning.</p> <p>Why is this permissible? If younger grades are receiving in person instruction why would high school students not receive the same opportunity.</p>

		<p>How is this equity?</p> <p>Online learning has been difficult for many students but we are going to only offer that option to the most vulnerable our failing youth.</p> <p>Where is Covid money going to?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
Dr. Colleen Fuller	In support of masks in schools	<p>I urge the board to support an indoor mask mandate in schools until community transmission of covid-19 is under control and the risk of contracting the disease is minimal. Firstly, the fewer cases of the disease (symptomatic or asymptomatic), the fewer opportunities for the virus to mutate into another, potentially more dangerous variant. Secondly, masks are known to reduce transmission of many non-covid respiratory illnesses. When a child gets a cough from a common cold they might lose educational time unnecessarily, because of the need for covid testing while the pandemic is ongoing. Masks will help keep children in the classroom. Finally, masks in school will help protect children at high risk from complications of covid, and any family members at risk. For some, the vaccine is not a choice for valid medical reasons, or may not be effective because of a medical condition. I believe that until all children are able to be vaccinated they should continue to wear masks indoors.</p>
Amy Tash	Bell Schedule	<p>The issue isn't the bell schedule. It is parents not regulating and setting standards of</p>

		<p>when their child should go to bed. Take away electronic and go to sleep earlier. What about the low income households that rely on their older child to watch their kids. If there should be any change, it should be Middle, elementary, than high. An older sibling needs to be home for the elementary kids. Period. Please stop catering to the parents who don't want to be accountable for their kids poor habits. Science also show that people who wake up early and start their day are more productive as well.</p>
The Rev. Suzanne P. Miller	SRO MOU	<p>I am requesting WCPSS add the following to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the School Resource Officers (SROs):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong language prohibiting the use of force by police officers in schools. 2. A grievance form and essential process to hold police officers accountable for their actions by an independent body. 3. Transparent data collection and reporting that includes SRO interactions with students with disabilities. 4. Removal of SROs from elementary and middle schools and investing in counselors/crisis interventionists. <p>Recent data shows that Black students make up 22% of the student body but 62% of all School Resource Officers (SRO's) referrals to juvenile and criminal courts. It is important to me that these revisions are not removed before final board approval!</p>
Jennifer Castillo	SRO MOU Feedback	<p>My strong preference is for WCPSS to invest more in student support services and having professional recommendation ratios for counselors and social workers. However</p>

		<p>if there is no other option but to have SRO's in school, I would request the MOU be updated to include:</p> <p>Strong language prohibiting the use of force by police officers in schools.</p> <p>A grievance form and essential process to hold police officers accountable for their actions by an independent body.</p> <p>Transparent data collection and reporting that includes SRO interactions with students with disabilities.</p> <p>Removal of SROs from elementary and middle schools and investing in counselors/crisis interventionists.</p>
Daniel Cusimano	Critical race theory	<p>Critical race theory is a Marxist doctrine promoting the belief that a person is bad, and an oppressor based on the color of their skin. This is in direct violation of the Civil Rights Acts and our constitution guaranteeing equal standing before the law.</p> <p>Critical race theory employs Karl Marx's tactics to eliminate the good accomplishments and aspirations of a nation and replace them with a focus on failures in the past.</p> <p>Specifically, it does not recognize the fact 300,000 white men who died to set slaves free in the Civil War. Men and women of conscience have been driving towards a society envisioned by our American hero, Dr Martin Luther King for decades. The goal to judge a person by the quality of their character instead of the color of their skin.</p>

		<p>As a taxpayer , father, Uncle and more I strongly object to a philosophy which sees white people as evil and black people as weak.</p> <p>Please speak directly to your intentions to promote or not promote the Marxist doctrine of Critical race theory.</p>
Clair Cooper	Require masking for students that are below the age that can be vaccinated.	I implore Wake County schools to require masking for all grades in the 2021-2022 school year that potentially have students that are not able to be vaccinated yet (11 and under at this writing). When kids are unable to be vaccinated they should not have to be around people who are potentially carrying COVID, including other adults and children) and should be protected when going back to school.
Mimosa Hines	Keep Masks in Elementary/Middle Schools This Fall	Given that vaccines are not available yet for children under 12, I implore you to continue to require students in middle and elementary settings to wear masks. We are currently virtual but plan to return in the fall and hope to do so in the safest of environments. Especially is social distancing is going to be harder to enforce, the mask rule should be a given. Please help us to keep our children as safe as possible while attending school. Thank you.
Christy Rains	Unmask our children and teachers	Wake County School Board members - please vote to make masks optional for our children and teachers. The teachers have worked hard to comply and create virtual learning work, but we all know it is not the same as in person. The teachers have met the call to get vaccinated early for in person class set up for fall only to be slapped down with this new restriction.

		<p>How do we expect children to thrive in early education when they cannot see their teachers face during language arts? Why do we feel masks are mandatory for a child's 99.97% recovery rate? Why do children who have already had the virus and built natural antibodies should be forced to wear a mask? None of this makes sense. We aren't truly following the science of this mandate applies to our children. For our wonderful school staff and beautiful children, please lift the mandate on masks!</p> <p>Sincerely, Christy Rains Parent of two handsome boys that love oxygen, playing without restriction and seeing a smiling face at school.</p>
Emanuela Prister	Masking of minors and attempts to vaccinate minors	<p>I am writing in opposition of WCPSS' policy to continue forcing our children to be masked indoors. The data does not support it. This is both oppressive and unscientific. Children don't transmit covid at the rates that adults do and don't get as sick. Also I object that the protracted and forced masking of children causes both health and psychological damage to our children. You all are supposed to be educators but what you are doing is causing fear and psychosis in our kids. I also object to any attempt or campaign to vaccinate minors. This is simply not your job and minors cannot legally consent to any medical procedure. Also, you are counting on peer pressure to press children into getting the vaccine. Since no disclosures are made as to the low rate of infections and transmission or even the rate of mortality for kids, that implies that consent legally cannot be freely given. You ought to be ashamed</p>

Megan Kohne	Keep Masks mandatory in schools!	Please keep masks mandatory in schools the rest of this year and until the littlest of kids are eligible for vaccinations! I also hope you'll make this vaccination mandatory! Covid is still way too real and too prevalent to remove the school mandate now! Not until all kids can get vaccinated!
Tricia Bordman	Masks	I'm writing to you regarding the policy that children and teachers continue masking at school. For a year now, we've been told you are following the science. However, well over 6 mo ago the science concluded that children were not as susceptible as adults. So are you still following the science or has this moved way beyond science and now in the control phase? Are you awaiting your marching orders from the teachers union? Are they asking for something and holding our children hostage in masks until they get it? Every Wake teacher has had the opportunity to receive the vaccine and students are starting to get out now. What gives? Why do the goal posts continue to move? Why aren't you honoring mask exemptions? There are many questions that you have not given acceptable answers to and parents deserve to know.
Dustin Prescott	Remove the Mask Mandate For Our Children	I am writing to ask that the board REMOVE the mask mandate for children in Wake County Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. I understand the mandate was to protect children, teachers, and staff while the virus was at its' peak and research was still being done to understand Covid-19. However, with the availability of the vaccine, the state of the virus has now changed. Parents should have the freedom to make the decision whether their children wear a mask to school. Those that are concerned with their child contracting the virus can choose to have their child masked or continue to learn

virtually.

The American Association of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association have released numerous articles and updates showing that children are less likely than any other age group to contract Covid-19 and are even far less likely to be hospitalized. The article released in their Pediatrics journal in August of 2020 also referenced numerous studies that showed through contact tracing that children rarely responsible for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19). 1,2

Additionally, there are many studies that show the negative impact of masks on children including physical, psychological and behavioral issues. These include headaches, lack of concentration, anxiety, impaired learning and drowsiness or fatigue.³

Our children have suffered quietly through this pandemic. It is time to remove these masks and allow them to be children, to learn and develop their social skills and lasting friendships. So much communication and empathy is lost through the cover of a mask. It is time we follow the science and data and remove the mask mandate from our schools.

I understand you may feel this is not in your control and that it is a state mandate from the governor but we have elected you to be advocates for our children and to stand up for what is best for them. You represent the largest school system in the state, please push for the 2021-2022 school year to be one without masks.

Lastly, there should be no requirement or suggestion of COVID-19 vaccinations for children. This is not the flu, measles or polio, diseases which are actually dangerous to children. Those vaccinations are highly tested and provide protection from diseases that

		<p>pose real danger to children. Thank you for your support.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Dustin Prescott 10509 Tree Bark Ct. Raleigh, NC 27613</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children and COVID-19: State Data Report. (n.d.). Retrieved May 17, 2021, from https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP%20and%20CHA%20-%20Children%20and%20COVID-19%20State%20Data%20Report%202.4.21%20FINAL.pdf 2. Lee, B., & Raszka, W. V. (2020). COVID-19 Transmission and Children: The Child Is Not to Blame. Pediatrics. https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-004879 3. LifeSiteNews.com. (n.d.). Study shows how masks are harming children. LifeSiteNews. https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/study-shows-how-masks-are-harming-children
Nazach Snapp	Mask Policy	<p>I am writing in opposition of continuing WCPSS policy of requiring school age children to wear a mask while on school campus and during school related activities. Children simply do not transmit COVID at the same rate as adults and if they are diagnosed with COVID, most have minor symptoms. Yet, we continue to require the most vulnerable</p>

		<p>population to wear a mask five days a week for six hours or more. The Governor lifts the mask mandate, yet, says children must continue to wear masks at school. How does that make any sense?</p> <p>Parents should determine if their child should wear a mask, not school systems or the Governor. NCAE pushed to make the COVID vaccine accessible to teachers sooner rather than later. They achieved that goal. Teachers and school staff concerned about their health should take their own precautions. No child (especially when asymptomatic) should bear the burden of keeping them healthy. Virtual school is an option next year and parents concerned that their child (or a family member) will become sick should choose this option. Our family did just that at the start of the pandemic when we lived in another state. On the other hand, there is evidence that children having to wear masks causes adverse psychological, educational and physical health problems at an unprecedented rate. Mask wearings should not be dependent on whether a child is vaccinated or not. Lastly, the promoting of the COVID vaccine should not occur in schools. Children should not be asked by teachers or school staff if they plan on getting the vaccine. My child was asked by a staff person. Why? Such conversations are between a child and his/her family. Children should not feel obligated to share with teachers, school staff, or peers if they plan on getting vaccinated. Never before have we expected adults let along children to share their medical history or future medical plans. This is not the time to start. Make masking wearing an option!</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Shauna Hillcox	WCPSS proving	Dear Mr. Sutton, Ms. Moore, Ms. Mahafee and the remainder of Wake County School

	Vendors parent email addresses	<p>Board</p> <p>Please note that my first born will be a rising senior and we have never purchased anything from Jostens. Yet I am getting slammed with Jostens emails referring to his name and the school he attends.</p> <p>Why are we allowing companies to market to parents without consent. Does wake county public schools receive a kick back meaning a portion of the proceeds for selling and providing email addresses?</p> <p>This is unacceptable!</p> <p>Shauna Hillcox</p>
Mr & Mrs Barry Joubert	Parents not Allowed in School Building	<p>Dear WCPSS BOE</p> <p>When will parents be allowed in the school building? Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted it only makes sense to permit us inside.</p> <p>Please address.</p>
Sandra Luihn	Masks in school	<p>I am in support of lifting mask mandates at school. I believe the science supports safely letting kids attend school without masks, adults have the ability to be vaccinated, kids 11 and older can also be vaccinated. If anyone objects, they can continue to mask their children, but those of us who do not wish to continue with masks, should be allowed to</p>

		<p>give our children the freedom and choice. Please do not require masks in any Wake County School, let it be a choice.</p>
Marisol Leonard	Excessive Absences	<p>To the WCPSS Board of Education</p> <p>My high schooler has excessive absences that that are mis recorded. Why has Wake County never notified our family via robo call to let us know he was absent? What is WCPSS doing to resolve this issue? It will not look good on transcripts.</p> <p>Please address as we are a large group.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Marisol Leonard</p>
Kathy Anne Hinnings	Mis coded Excessive Absences	<p>To the WCPSS Board of Education</p> <p>My high schooler has excessive absences that that are mis recorded. Why has Wake County never notified our family via robo call to let us know he was absent? What is WCPSS doing to resolve this issue? It will not look good on transcripts.</p> <p>Please address as we are a large group.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Melissa Mclaurin	UnMask our children!!!	

		<p>I am writing in opposition of WCPSS’ policy to continue forcing our children to be masked indoors. The data does not support it. This is both oppressive and unscientific. Children don’t transmit covid at the rates that adults do and don’t get as sick. Also I object that the protracted and forced masking of children causes both health and psychological damage to our children. You all are supposed to be educators but what you are doing is causing fear and psychosis in our kids. I also object to any attempt or campaign to vaccinate minors. This is simply not your job and minors cannot legally consent to any medical procedure. Also, you are counting on peer pressure to press children into getting the vaccine. Since no disclosures are made as to the low rate of infections and transmission or even the rate of mortality for kids, that implies that consent legally cannot be freely given. You ought to be ashamed!</p> <p>We had a teacher message my then 15 year old and her entire class advocate for for students to get vaccinated without parental consent with the link to waiver for minors. This is reckless behavior and the school and principal were informed. What if a child has underline medical issues that they are not aware of, that could cause harm and or death by getting this vaccine. WCPSS teachers/staff should not be allowed to do this! As a parent I am responsible for my child’s healthcare and this includes wearing a medical device (mask).</p>
Sheila Bishop	MisCoded Excessive	To the WCPSS Board of Education

	Absences	<p>Students especially high schoolers have excessive absences that that are mis recorded.</p> <p>Why has Wake County never notified families daily via robo call to let us know absences were accrued?</p> <p>What is WCPSS doing to resolve this issue? It will not look good on transcripts.</p> <p>Please address as we are a large group.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Rhonda Heddingam	Inaccurate Absences Must be Addressed	<p>To the WCPSS Board of Education</p> <p>Students especially high schoolers have excessive absences that have been mis recorded. Why has Wake County never notified families daily via robo call to let us that there child was marked absent? Why do we have 97 combined absences and zero communication?</p> <p>What is WCPSS doing to resolve this issue? It will not look good on transcripts.</p> <p>Please address as we are a large group of concern parents.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Rhonda</p>
Shannon Travis	Incorrect Absences	<p>To the WCPSS Board of Education</p> <p>Students especially high schoolers have received excessive absences that are mis</p>

		<p>recorded.</p> <p>Why has Wake County not notified parents daily via robo call to let us know their child was not in class?</p> <p>What is WCPSS doing to resolve this issue? It will not look good on college transcripts. Please address as we are a large group.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Shannon Travis</p>
Amy Thomas	InAccurate Absences	<p>To the WCPSS Board of Education</p> <p>Students especially high schoolers have received excessive absences that are mis recorded.</p> <p>Why has Wake County not notified parents daily via robo call to let us know their child was not in class?</p> <p>What is WCPSS doing to resolve this issue? It will not look good on college transcripts. Please address as we are a large group.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Amy</p>
Kayla Markensburg	Public Comment Not Read during	<p>Dear WCPSS</p> <p>I have been following this board for the past several months. It is difficult for me to</p>

	Covid	<p>understand why the board members do not respond to public comment. It is also disturbing that board members ghost parents when emailed directly. It is embarrassing that BAC meetings are invite only.</p> <p>It is sad to see student rights not being at the center of this district's why!</p> <p>Why have entire public comments not been read during a pandemic. Do you care about the community? It doesn't seem like it.</p> <p>Kayla Markensburg</p>
Mrs. Molly Wilson	Inaccurate absences / Covid Cases	<p>Dear WCPSS</p> <p>I am a concerned parent that false absences are being recorded for my child. I watched student sections not socially distanced for every home football game while 3 assistant principals attended the games and chatted away as if it was social hour.</p> <p>I followed social media posts on a public platform</p> <p>Where a parent bragged that their student female athlete was playing two sports at the same time during a pandemic. Basketball and Lacrosse overlapped and she attended both sports simultaneously. Running from court to field.</p> <p>We still have Covid cases at school 2-3 times a week. We have teachers eating and snacking in the classroom. We have had female athletes not wearing masks in game uniforms hugging and taking pictures,. My child has been fearful of attending school since we chose face to face learning and the surrounding occurrences. We were told we could not switch. My child is attending google meets and being marked absent. The absences are skewed and it's hurting our kids.</p> <p>Mrs. Molly Wilson</p>

Kristin Boyd	Unmask Our Kids	<p>I am writing in opposition of WCPSS' policy to continue forcing our children to be masked indoors. The data does not support it. This is both oppressive and unscientific. Children don't transmit covid at the rates that adults do and don't get as sick. Adults who want the vaccine have all had the chance to get it by now. Adults (as well as children who wish to) can also continue to wear their masks, but it should be optional. I also object to any attempt or campaign to vaccinate minors. This is simply not your job and minors cannot legally consent to any medical procedure. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves.</p>
Diane Chandler	WCPSS Mask Mandate	<p>I am writing in opposition to WCPSS's decision to continue to mask our children. The data does not warrant it or support it. First, transmission rates of children are very low. Secondly, children are at very low risk of suffering severe reactions and/or death from Covid. However, there ARE severe harm that can be done to children's mental and physical health from wearing masks for 5-6 hours a day.</p> <p>I personally pulled my oldest child from Wake County Schools for this current year because I was not okay with the Covid protocols and how it would affect my child's educational experience. Both of my children have enjoyed a year of gathering and learning with their friends in a homeschool co-op unmasked. No outbreaks occurred. Unfortunately, changing circumstances mean that I will have to return my children to a WCPSS school. And I'm not 100% happy with that, and neither are my children. A big reason for this feeling is the mask policy.</p>

		<p>I am also a school crossing guard for a WCPSS school and I can tell you that there is a marked difference in the social mood of the children when they are unmasked. They connect more. They converse more. Recently, after the lifting of the mandate outside, I asked a kindergartener how her day was. Her reply was “It was great! We got to take our masks off at recess.” That broke my heart. That should not be the highlight of any child’s day.</p> <p>In conclusion, I ask you - who are we protecting by requiring the children to wear masks? We’ve already established that the children are not the ones at risk. The teachers can get vaccinated if they are concerned about their health. Many already have. They can also wear masks if they choose. It’s enough. No more sacrificing our kids to protect the teachers because they can protect themselves. Everyone who wants to wear a mask to protect themselves can but there is no need for a mandate. I would also like to add that I vehemently oppose any attempt to require the vaccination for children or to campaign to encourage the children to get it. That is not the school’s place.</p>
Julie Savage	The respiration trash muzzle	<p>Dear Sir/Ma’am,</p> <p>As a parent of a first grader and soon to be kindergartener, we ask that you please end the respiration trash muzzle requirement in school. Our children should not be breathing in their CO2. There is no scientific reason for our children to wear them and they are the least likely to get sick. If you have spent any time with children you would understand that children are constantly touching their faces. They are building their God</p>

		<p>given immune systems. People get sick because they have low vitamin D. You would do better to recommend to the students to take a vitamin, eat healthy, get sunshine, drink water, exercise, play with friends and get dirty. That's how children stay healthy. Covering their faces reduces their oxygen levels and forces the children to breathe in bacteria laden CO2. Not to mention how terrible it is for their dental health and it creates bad breathe because of the bacteria. Are you prepared to cover our children's dental needs when more and more children have tooth decay from breathing in the warm, moist, bacteria CO2? Doctors in surgery wear them for about thirty minutes and then change them out. Students aren't doing that. The doctors do it to help create a barrier so not to spit on their patient in surgery situations, not for preventing viruses. If a doctor were sick, he/she would stay home. The respiration trash muzzle's only point is to promote fear. Fear to make students scared of each other and fear to push the experimental mRNA EUA shot. Please stop using our students as pawns for political motivation and let them wear their faces and smiles. You are asking more of them than God asks of them. He desires us to breathe freely. That is how He designed our bodies. Inhale Oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Please remove the mask mandate. It is only for theatrics and our students did not sign up to be your actors.</p>
Surena Johnson	Transparency in SRO usage	<p>Strong language prohibiting the use of force by police officers in schools.</p> <p>A grievance form and essential process to hold police officers accountable for their actions by an independent body.</p> <p>Transparent data collection and reporting that includes SRO interactions with students with disabilities.</p>

		<p>Removal of SROs from elementary and middle schools and investing in counselors/crisis interventionists.</p> <p>We need our children to be educated in calm loving environments where the discipline is giving from their teachers and not orchestrated by law enforcement.. we have suffered as a whole in schooling with adding this element of fear to education. Please listen to what the people want to create a better learning space for all children.</p>
Natalie Brickell	Keep the Masks until Vaccines Available	<p>Hello! I'm a parent of an incoming year round Kindergartener and 2nd grader and I have heard that some are requesting that mask requirements be lifted for students. The entire reason I felt comfortable sending my students back in person this year is because the masks were still required. They have proven to be helpful in preventing the spread in schools and I hope that these measures will continue to be taken to protect our under 12 year old children in the school building until a vaccine becomes available to them. My children are so excited to see their friends and teachers in person again after all this time and I would like to plead that these safety measures are kept in place so that they can enjoy a more normal, safe school environment. They have waited so long for this day and July is just around the corner. Let's not stop protecting them when we are this close to the finish line where everyone has access to life saving vaccines. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Connie Davies	Covid Money for SPED Services	Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton Ms Mchaffey and the Board of Education

		<p>How and when will special education students be given the resource they so deserve and never received within WCPSS?</p> <p>For years families have been told no money and not enough resources.</p> <p>This board compliments Ms Hamilton on her great value of work. Yet she has not advocated on her students needs and services,</p> <p>What dollar money is allocated to special education? How do parents request 1-1 recovery services? Tax payers want to ensure all necessary monies are going to the children first.</p> <p>I look forward in having this discussed.</p> <p>Ms. Davies</p>
Robert Morrow	COVID Policies	<p>The BOE should adopt a policy of strict minimal compliance with any State laws or executive orders regarding COVID-19. The BOE should not put into place any rule or policy that goes above and beyond what is legally required. Masks should not be required unless mandated by law. Do not adopt any special vaccine restrictions. Do not offer vaccines in school or attempt to persuade students from getting a vaccine.</p>
Cynthia Bales	Face Mask Policy In Public Schools	<p>"I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually."</p>

Emma Olson	Number of Missing Unaccounted Students	<p>Dear WCPSS</p> <p>As this school year winds down clearly a number exists of students that have never logged on to a device. What is the breakdown of elementary middle and high school students unaccounted for?</p> <p>Is WCPSS still searching for these children? What is the plan for them shall they return to school next year? How will we serve these students? Why is the school board not speaking on behalf of these students and families?</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Emma Olson</p>
Michelle Henson	Remove masks in the classroom	<p>It is time to remove the masks in and out of the classroom. It is NOT healthy for these kids to sit in a mask all day. Please think about the kids!!!</p>
Cheryl Demaio	Summer School Bonuses	<p>Dear WCPSS School Board</p> <p>You mentioned that summer school will be more of a camp for kids, it will be fun, engaging,, close to full day with meals provided.</p> <p>You mention bonus for teachers for each student not proficient in the beginning of summer school that will reach proficiency at the end of summer school?</p> <p>How will this be measured? How do you hold this measure accountable? What if the assessment is slightly fudged by staff? What if student is almost there but just slightly below the threshold? Money is a motivator how do you as a system have a check</p>

		<p>system in place.</p> <p>We don't want to burn students out in the process and take out the fun in learning.</p> <p>Ms. Cheryl Demaio</p>
Kirsten Hamstra	WCPSS Mask Mandate	<p>I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually.</p>
Kristin McCormick	Changing of times--Moving High School later	<p>The idea of moving High school later or switching them with Elementary School is a terrible idea. Here are some key points of why this just won't work:</p> <p>--Sports and Arts rehearsals after school--There are no rehearsals or sports practices after school in the Elementary school. By moving High school to a later end time, you are now putting these practices after 4pm. Most rehearsals/practices last 2 hours--sometimes up to 3 hrs. This means they are now going to need dinner (not sure where that money is coming from) because they are at school till 6:30 or 7pm</p> <p>--Sports and arts rehearsals in the morning are not equitable--MANY students rely on busses to get them to and from school. They are able to do sports and arts rehearsals because they are ALREADY at rehearsal. Evening pick up and much more feasible for working parents. Also, this will discourage many students from participating because of ride disparities</p> <p>--Sports games--We already have MANY sports who have to leave school around 1:30 to make it to a game that is away or needs to start early (JV and Varsity, Golf, Track and field, games in other counties..etc...) How many hours are these teachers/coaches and</p>

		<p>students are they going to miss because of our late day?</p> <p>--After school care---With Elementary students getting out at 2:15, we are looking at extensive after school care problems. Many families rely on the High School children to take care of the younger children. Also, most YMCA after school programs, if you are able to afford them, are run by High School Counselors. What is going to happen with these programs if there are no part time workers?</p> <p>--After school Jobs--MANY high schoolers rely on their after school jobs as a source of income for their family or for their futures. Most evening shifts start at 4pm. As the schedule is now, students have an opportunity to get home, work on homework,, and then go to work. We are now asking students to not have a job, miss part of a school day, or not have a break in between. For that matter, many teachers also work multiple jobs to pay their bills.</p> <p>--Final Thought--Sports and Arts extra curricular were so HIGHLY valued during the pandemic that they were the only activities allowed to come back to the building in the Fall. These activities are what keep the students active in their school and sometimes, the only thing that motivates them to work hard. On a personal level, I enjoy being able to have a full two hour rehearsal (making my work day 10.5 hours long everyday) and get home to be with my family by 5/5:30pm. I know many coaches and directors who feel this way.</p>
Leigh Sershen	Mask Mandates for Children	I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate immediately. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually. There isn't enough

		time or space most likely to go into all the details of why logic has not played a part in these types of decisions so far, but please do the right thing and provide freedoms back to the people and allow them to make the choice on what is best for their families.
Kara Hart	Mask mandate for children	I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it is the parent's choice to make decisions for their child's well being, whether they should be unmasked or masked.
Sherri Bolton	Please keep the mask requirement for both teachers and students when inside schools, at least until everyone K-12 can be vaccinated.	Please continue the current requirements for wearing masks in schools, and on school grounds with the very few, specific exceptions that are in place now. The anti-maskers are all too frequently anti-vaxxers (at least this vax) as well, and I am seriously worried about that.
Christopher Rice	Masks	I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually.
Chris Hendricks	REMOVING the	"I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of

	mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year	REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually."
Aaron Herman	Equity Affairs - Critical Race Theory	To Wake County Board of Education Equity Affairs officer Mr. Trice has given notice after working in the district for 7 years. It appears his major duty has been involved in launching the release of Critical Race Theory with out parent consent. This is shameful of a district as large as Wake County to not provide parents with all necessary information. Regards Aaron Herman
Jen Kedrowski	Masks in schools	Please keep the mask requirement in our schools for the 2021-22 school year. Children cannot be vaccinated yet and even when they can, the rollout may be slow to get large percentages vaccinated. Many parents of school aged children in Wake have expressed this sentiment recently as well. If there is debate on this perhaps surveying parents would be appropriate, as the county did regarding in-person options. Thank you!
Dakota Hart	2021-2022 Masks for Kids	Members of the Board, Thank you for your hard work over these past 14 months navigating the pandemic. As

with anything in life, personal or professional, all we can do is make the best decision based on the information at hand in that moment. We will never make a perfect decision, and hindsight is always 20-20.

Given the information at hand today, it is imperative that we realize that the solution (masking children and teachers) has caused more harm than good to the development of our children. Children need to see facial features to understand speech and emotions portrayed by their teacher and classmates. For families in the middle and upper class, they can afford additional resources outside of the classroom to ensure their child is keeping pace intellectually. Lower income families are forced to deal with the decision you make, and the divide in mental and emotional development is growing larger with every day we spend behind masks. Middle and upper class families will always find a way. But for lower income families, the Board's way is their only way. Your decision affects those students the most. For the sake of giving every child the same opportunity to learn, grow, and develop, please drop this mask mandate for children and teachers.

Don't think about democrats, don't think about republicans, don't play politics with the children you have been entrusted to empower. Think about all these children, and what is best for their development. After all, that is your ultimate job. To enable students to learn without any barriers in their way.

Thank you and God Bless all of you

Jennifer Carlton	Masks Optional 2021-2022	<p>At the beginning of each board meeting, a board member reads aloud the number of positive tests among school age children in Wake County.</p> <p>A lot has been learned over the past year, and the data has shown that many of those positive tests are from asymptomatic students that were found through contact tracing. When we look around the country and around the globe – comparing data from areas where students are masked and where students are not – there is NO correlation between masking students and the number or severity of COVID cases among students or staff.</p> <p>For children, the risk of disease is not zero, but the mortality risk is comparable to that from seasonal influenza, and hospitalizations occur in about only 0.008 percent of diagnosed infections. Students have born the brunt of restrictions and have been given no hope to get their school days back to normal.</p> <p>This is not fair and the data does not justify it.</p> <p>In life, there is never going to be zero risk. But parents should have the right to evaluate risk and mitigate as they feel comfortable with.</p> <p>Continuing to mask children for the 2021-2022 school year is inhumane. It is time to be as honest about the social, emotional impact of continuing to mask children for the</p>
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		<p>upcoming school year.</p> <p>Adults are supposed to take care of children. Not the other way around. We should not be putting this burden on our children. The adults in school buildings were given the opportunity to be vaccinated.</p> <p>Please stand up for the children of WCPSS and demand masks be optional for the upcoming school year.</p>
Eric Birkenstaff	NCHSAA Hearing - Board Members	<p>Dear BOE and Parents</p> <p>Have you all seen and watched this hearing of our own State Athletic Association.</p> <p>Yet my grandson wore the same uniform for 4 years.</p> <p>Ms.Cathy Moore our wake county superintendent serves on this board.</p> <p>https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.highschoolot.com/finances-oversight-fair-play-the-focus-of-legislative-hearing-into-nchsaa/19628831/%3fversion=amp</p> <p>Eyebrows Raised????</p> <p>Eric Birkenstaff</p>

Stephanie Mitchell	Support keeping mask mandate in public schools	<p>I support keeping the mask mandate in public schools until all children are eligible for the COVID vaccine. Variants of COVID-19 continue to circulate. Some of the variants have the potential to be more harmful to children than the original variants discovered in 2020. This being said, until all children are eligible to be vaccinated it seems most prudent to continue masking in the public schools until vaccines are made available for all children. Masking will While it is an inconvenience to wear a mask it is NOT harmful. Many experts have stated that our country may not reach herd immunity which makes it more imperative that we protect our children until they can be vaccinated.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Shane Hamstra	2021-2022 School Year Mask Mandate	<p>WCPSS Board of Education, I am in favor of eliminating the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually. Just today we are seeing data from the state of Texas, that eliminating the mask mandate has not caused increased infection, but issues have plummeted.</p>
Jacob Johnson College Student	State Complaints - OCR Complaints	<p>Dear Ms. Moore, Mr. Sutton, Ms. Mahafey and Wake County Board Members</p> <p>I am in search of important information for my thesis paper.</p> <p>Where is it listed on WCPSS website, the number of state complaints, status of these complaints, as well as all open OCR complaints against Wake County Public Schools.</p>

		<p>Where does one find this information for a thesis?</p> <p>The pandemic has exposed the antiquated, layered broken school system and the disregard for student rights.</p>
Heidi Hendricks	Public school mask mandate	I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for public schools. I believe that parents should have the choice whether to send their child to school with a mask, without a mask, or to do virtual learning.
Kim Panian	Remove mask mandate for children	I am asking the WCPSS Board of Education to REMOVE the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked, or learn virtually. My younger sons have been back in daycare, unmasked, since July with no incidences of community spread. If parents choose to send their kids in with a mask to prevent spread of illnesses, they should be allowed to. If parents choose for their child not to wear a mask, they should be allowed to as well. I appreciate your consideration and hope you act with the children's best interests in mind and not your own.
Eric Panian	Remove mask mandate	I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. It should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked or masked. Now, with the CDC's latest guidance, I am able to shop and go about my business unmasked but yet my children will still be required to wear a mask for 9 hours a day. Please act in the children's best

		interest by removing the mask mandate and allowing this to be a personal choice.
April Blanks	Mask Mandate	I am writing to the WCPSS Board of Education to voice that I am in favor of REMOVING the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it should be the parent's choice whether their child should be unmasked, masked or learn virtually.
Shirley Tang	Please consider feedback from members of CELT and the community on Equity policy	<p>Dear Board Chair Sutton, Board members, and Superintendent Moore,</p> <p>It is encouraging to know that you will discuss Policy 1150 Equity at your Policy Committee meeting tomorrow. It is about time, since our community first presented our revisions and recommendations to WCPSS on the policy (draft) back in Jan. 2020.</p> <p>Fifteen members from our school community and CELT (Community Equity Leadership Team) had kindly devoted their time to review the policy from October 2019 to January 2020. Here is what we have presented to WCPSS a few times: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XzdtxjVZj1KAj1kifZ1TKvXVclTlaWa/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Background history: In Sept. 2019, at our CELT meeting, Dr. Rodney Trice, Assistant Superintendent for Equity Affairs, informed us that he was working on the draft of the Equity policy. We requested a copy of it to secure the time needed for review before the Board's normally swift process of adopting a policy. However, Dr. Trice said based on the legal instruction he received, he could not provide us such until the draft was</p>

presented to the Board.

I contacted the Board Attorney and cited a provision -- G.S. 132-1. "Public records" defined – under the North Carolina Public Records law. A copy of the draft Equity policy was subsequently provided to us. This incident perfectly highlighted how, for many years, WCPSS has successfully restricted our community's feedback on policies.

For months, our group diligently worked on revising the policy's language and adding suggested provisions. On 1/8/20, we presented a copy of the final revisions and recommendations to Dr. Trice at our CELT meeting. He informed us that he would bring the copy to Superintendent Moore's attention.

Two days before our next monthly CELT meeting, I emailed Ms. Moore the same copy of our recommendations. I let her know that we expected to hear her feedback, whether through Dr. Trice at our meeting or her response to my email.

In the end, Ms. Moore did not respond. And at our 2/12/20 CELT meeting, Dr. Trice said, "The administration will not provide feedback on what you all provided... Ms. Moore is not going to provide commentary feedback on what... you all offered in a suggestion. The administration presented its Equity policy. You all commented on that policy. We will accept that feedback, but we are not going to comment on it."

		<p>Since then, I have provided the same copy of our recommendations on the Equity policy to the Board members on a few occasions. But “COVID” was used to delay discussions on this policy until now. We surely hope you will consider our feedback and input seriously.</p> <p>Please show us community feedback matters. More importantly, please show us fair and equitable treatment for all students, especially those under various disadvantages, matters.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shirley Tang Founder of uCANcomplain, Inc. Member of CELT</p>
Alex Fernandez	Masks	<p>Children should no longer be required to wear masks in school; mask wearing should be optional and a decision of the family. There is very little evidence, if any, that masks prevent the spread of covid among children. There is more physical and psychological damage being caused by the mask mandates in schools. May and June are historically hot months and forcing children to not have fresh air is child abuse. There will certainly be instances of children feeling light headed, and there likely will be kids passing out because of the lack of oxygen. It is a genuine safety hazard to force our children to wear</p>

		these masks all day. I urge you to change the policy to optional.
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