

Dear School Board, Administration and Other Relevant Persons,

I am writing as a concerned parent regarding the upcoming mandates for teachers in our schools. There are a handful of reasons I as a parent, community member and educated citizen do not support these mandates and feel it is important to share these reasons with you.

I am concerned regarding my children's mental health if you are to proceed with these mandates. During COVID it has already been particularly hard as a family and I have noticed the difference in my children's social and mental health since things such as mask mandates and self-isolation have been introduced into our lives. My concern is the continuous and long-term disruption these vaccine mandates will bring to my children's lives by removing familiar and loving adults from their lives. What I know of children is that consistency is very important, and they are particularly sensitive to change during this time. Their teachers are significant adult figures in their lives whom I do not wish to see removed based on their personal medical choices.

I personally do not feel concerned regarding my children's teachers' medical choices. The research I have done leads me to believe that my kids are quite safe at school and that the consequences of firing their teachers, whom they look up to, will have a far greater negative impact than any sickness they might catch. As a parent who tries to teach my children to ask respectful questions when they are confused or don't agree with something, I have been disappointed in the lack of invitation as a parent to ask questions regarding these mandates.

It is for this reason I also write to you, as you and my children's teachers have a responsibility to care for our children in more ways than just physical. I am an advocate for mental health and believe that mental health is something we must be considering during these decision-making processes, too.

From my observation as a parent and conversations with others, the school system is already struggling to find enough people to fill positions of teacher and support staff. To bring a mandate that would potentially fire even more employees seems irresponsible and not considerate of the greater whole in ways beyond COVID alone. Without diminishing the realities and implications of COVID in society, fundamental laws must also be upheld, such as medical freedom. If we fail to uphold constitutional rights, what kind of world are we creating for my children?

With that I would like to sign this letter stating my opposition to the vaccine mandates for teachers and expect you to consider my thoughts with as much consideration as

you would offer any parent in your district. As school board members are voted by the community this is an expectation that is not out of place. I also would like to state that if you are to move forward with these mandates you can prepare for further conversation from myself and many other families. I trust you will consider all of this with integrity as you move forward in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,