

Olentangy Schools Public Participation Comments for May 20, 2021

4/26/21 21:47:41

Cara Randolph Care-a Randolph
6529 Lilac Lane

I would just like to send support to the board, administration and staff for their continued dedication to growth in the area of inclusive education. I appreciate the hard work that many administrators teachers and staff have put into creating safe, and rich learning spaces for all children. I appreciate the work that individuals and schools are doing to educate themselves and take the bold and brave steps to be authentic and have tough conversations as well as finding creative ways to innovate and construct lessons so that all children are represented seen within literature and content area texts. I want you to know that your work is not unnoticed and is these best practices are working to help students feel supported, safe and valued within our schools which we know in turn creates an environment for maximum learning. Thank you and please know that I along with many others in our community support all of your efforts!

4/27/21 14:06:58

Norma kamerer Can er er Not ma
5439 Grand Ridge Drive Galena Oh 43021

Re surfacing Walnut Creek Elentary front backdrop has not occurred since we moved here 18 years ago. Partial very front and back has been done. When will y to hat be finished in total?

5/3/21 9:03:20

Virginia Yoder vir-gin-i-a yo-der
2177 Ben Brush Place

Dear Olentangy School Board, I am writing in support of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work that has taken place over the past few years. The Dear OLSD letters last summer were a wake up call that there were issues in our schools that needed to be addressed. I was so glad to see Olentangy take action in response with the work of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Team. The One Community programming has been outstanding, especially the most recent one featuring the voices of students from our schools. Addressing diversity, equity and inclusion in schools has been shown to reduce bullying, have positive effects on learning and test scores, improve classroom management and create a positive school community. These issues are being discussed at colleges as well as in the workplace to create a culture of respect for one another. Continuing this work in our schools prepares students academically and socially for life after they graduate. Keep up the great work!

5/6/21 18:10:35

Lisa Heintz lee-sah hine-ts (long i) -- like Heinz ketchup but add a T before the z sound
3457 McCammon Chase Dr Lewis Center OH

Dear Olentangy School Board members, I am the proud parent of an OOHS graduate, Olentangy community member of 16 years, and an educator. In OLSD, my son experienced some of the best education available. Diagnosed with Autism, ADHD, and identified as "gifted" prior to 3rd grade, there were plenty of obstacles to his school success. Educators, administrators and staff were willing to accept my son just as he was and worked hard to propel him forward with a sense of accomplishment, worth

and pride. Bullying by peers was dealt with professionally with compassion, just-in-time teaching, dignity and a belief that he would thrive as long as he was in their classes. Academic expectations and supports were tailored to his cognitive and social-emotional needs. He had the benefit of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)-a legal document which mandated many of the supports he received. As a volunteer throughout his schooling, I also witnessed his peers receiving just as much attention, consideration and goal-driven curriculum as he was afforded. In my experience, the OLSD teachers and staff went above and beyond in countless ways to accommodate the individual needs of all their students, regardless of ethnicity, ability, gender identification, religion, financial status or mandate. All students benefited from this positive, inclusive approach. This is the hallmark of quality teachers providing quality education. This reflects, in part, what is meant by "inclusion"--a sense of belonging and worth for all students. This is the education that all of our students need and deserve. I'm aware of parents in OLSD who are concerned that Critical Race Theory (which is beyond the scope of a K-12 classroom, and has been refuted by our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director) is being taught. They want teachers to "only teach academics" and leave the "soft" skills to them. Somehow inclusive teaching has become one of these "soft" skills. Teaching is a job laden with values-driven teachable moments. I believe that most teachers, community members and parents can agree that we want our children to learn important "soft" or non-academic skills, such as: Right from wrong Kindness, empathy and compassion Integrity Communication and listening Respect Responsibility and perseverance Critical thinking and others qualities not found in textbooks As a parent and teacher, I realize that these types of skills require values, and are not taught in isolation. They are taught in real-life moments when the lesson is brief, clear, relevant and immediate. Teachable moments pop up dozens of times every school day, and cannot be made a Homework assignment to be learned out of context at a later time. Limiting teachers to academics-only devalues educators and denies all students the rich whole-child education they deserve--and we all want for them. Teachable moments are time- and situation-sensitive. I thank you for facilitating growth by enabling teachers and students to learn about and discuss the many ways in which our differences can be embraced and combined with our strengths to make us all better citizens of a broader world. I'm sure we can agree that there is more work to be done in D, E & I in our schools and community so that all of OLSD can be proud of the diversity accepted within and outside our rather sheltered area. That challenging work is modeled by you and facilitated by your support of administrators and teachers. Please secure a more inclusive future for our increasingly diverse district by communicating the value of learning important life skills when it matters most. The Board would do well to model this by changing the Braves name to fully reflect its commitment to D, E & I which you have so clearly supported thus far. This is your teachable moment! Use it to make clear and tangible the integrity, inclusion and quality this district values. There is a large community here supporting real history and real-life skills taught in our district.

5/15/21 12:16:04

Cara Stefanko

4575 Cascade Dr. Powell, OH

I want to talk for just a moment about truth and honesty. I think we can all agree that these are two fundamental qualities and that without them we sow seeds of distrust. Without them, we have no bedrock on which to build anything. How will a community ever come together and educate children without these two principles? Certainly, we desire for our children to be honest and have integrity. Even our student handbook outlines consequences for dishonest behavior, or the supplying of false

information. However, lies and dishonesty is exactly what this community is getting from this board, our superintendent, and our Chief academic officer. We have been told on multiple occasions that Critical Race theory is not being taught in our schools, but that, in a nutshell, is a lie. Though you may call it by other names, the tenants are present. When you use multiple professional development days to train teachers with teachings from Hasan Kwame Jefferies, include books for student instruction by Robin Diangelo, and Ibram Kendi, and push social activism into the academics of our classrooms, we are not hoodwinked. One need only to read those texts, or listen to those presentations to know that the foundations of CRT are already in our classrooms. Saying that you are not teaching CRT, or avoiding direct answers to that question is simply dishonest. Addressing racism in our community and classrooms can certainly be done, no one is suggesting that we don't, but using the foundations of CRT based models is not the answer. These models are based on racism themselves, and ask our students to divide themselves into groups based on race, or gender, or sexual preference, thereby only perpetuating racism. Our students are not a collective, they are individuals, with individual needs. I'm going to assume you already know that in light of the mission statement at Olentangy "to provide maximum learning for every student," unless of course you are being dishonest about your desire to live out that mission. Like anything in this life, you get more of what you focus on. If all we focus on is race, we will get racism. Our focus should be on providing equality of opportunity for all students. Providing equality of opportunity necessarily involves treating all people regardless of race, gender, religion or sexual preference in ways that support and encourage their individuality and natural gifts and talents. CRT merely focuses on race and does not provide any solution. CRT promotes the idea that we must have equality of outcome. Thus, it will never be satisfied and will only water down academics, until the very people it claims to want to liberate are imprisoned by their inability to compete academically. No one wants to deny that we have a history of slavery and racism in our country. If we're honest about our history, it has affected people of many different nationalities, Black, Irish, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Native Americans There are horrible periods in our past where ethnic groups were treated unfairly, all based on a group identity. So let's not repeat it again. CRT promulgates group identities over which we have no control. It makes that group identity the focus (race, religion, gender, etc.) How can that be anything but divisive? This is not a good or logical solution. It takes away the notion of merit, self-determination and responsibility. We need to learn from our past, and move forward. To remain stuck in the past, repeating our previous mistakes is an error we cannot afford. There should be penalties and punishment for true acts of racism. But not everything is racism. Commenting on strange smells of unfamiliar food, or being fascinated or curious about hair that doesn't look like your own is not racism, its lack of knowledge, maybe even ignorance. But ignorance should not be punished, it should be educated. So, let's educate in a truthful and honest manner that supports the integrity of all of our st

5/16/21 17:03:07

Amanda Clark

3215 Marcliff Dr Lewis center OH 43035

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. I have been a nurse for 18 years and nurse practitioner for almost 15 of those years. My experience and medical knowledge has been beneficial in understanding the manipulation that is occurring with regards to COVID, mask mandates and the gene modification experimental drug they are calling vaccine. I would be happy to meet with all of you to discuss the details of the below statements but do due time limitations I will try to be brief. I stand here today to be the voice for our children. The same children that you were

elected to protect. Our children are being forced to carry the burden of decisions based on emotion, not truths. Let me begin with stating that in the beginning of this so called pandemic, I too was fearful. At that time, none of us understood how this virus would impact our lives. I had to make the difficult choice of continuing to work in the career I loved while possibly placing my family at risk. I would come home from a mentally and physically exhausting shift, change out of my clothes, throw them in the washer and run upstairs without touching or kissing my family to shower. I lost countless hours of sleep wondering if my career was important enough to place my family in harms way. That fear motivated me to do my own research. Today, I stand before you as an educated Mother that not only understands the hard truths but one that is not going to sit back quietly and allow bureaucrats to make unlawful decisions that are harmful to our children. I don't want to hear "we are listening to the experts" because if you think Dr. Fauci, the CDC or most of those making these ludicrous recommendations are being truthful than I encourage you to take the time to educate yourselves. We did not vote for the elected officials of the CDC, we voted for you. We elected you to make these difficult decisions for our children. Our children are suffering in the hands of people we trusted to care for them. If its education you, your faculty or the students need than I come here today to offer that education. If you turn off the MSM and listen to the hundreds of experts that are brave enough to come forward with scientific facts, it would be impossible for you to justify masking our children. 1. Neither cloth nor surgical masks have any detectable effect against transmission of viral infections. If you listen to industrial hygienist and PPE experts they will undeniable prove masks do not protect you against the coronavirus. Not only do they not protect you, they can actually cause multiple diseases. It only takes seconds to minutes for your body to become oxygen deprived creating an acidic environment. Bacteria, viruses and cancer cells love an acidic environment. Dentists are seeing horrible oral bacterial infections in our children. We are requiring our child to wear a mask that will undoubtedly increases their risk for infections in mouths that are still losing teeth, growing teeth and many have braces. Did you know that Fauci wrote a paper in 2008 stating that more people died from secondary bacterial pneumonia than the virus that was responsible for the 1918 Spanish flu. He concluded that masks were likely the cause of this pneumonia. His story changes to fit his agenda not science. 2. This so called pandemic has been inflated by statistics and promoted by fear. As if that isn't horrible enough, we have a propaganda machine lying to the public about the safety of this "vaccine". None of these mandates can be justified based on science. From testing asymptomatic people to misuse of the PCR tests, statistics have been and continue to be falsely elevated. Even the definition of pandemic was changed to justify calling this a pandemic. If we were really in a pandemic, why are we not stepping over hundreds of dead homeless people that often have a lifestyle that certainly doesn't promote healthy immune systems? Why are the Amish seemin"

5/17/21 13:39:55

Lara Kretler Lara (like Sara) Krett-ler

5585 Ketch St, Lewis Center, OH 43035 May 20, 2021 To the leaders and board of Olentangy Schools:

I want to thank you with all my heart for the time and effort that have been put into diversity, equity and inclusion at our schools this year. Nothing is more important to our family than living in a school district where differences are celebrated and children can feel safe, supported and truly flourish.

Diversity, equity and inclusion have always been very important to me. I am a member of the local community groups Parent Diversity Network and Women for Embetterment. We want continual improvements in diversity, equity and inclusion at Olentangy Schools so that children from all races, nationalities, sexual orientations, genders, ability levels and walks of life can feel safe, supported and

able to thrive. I also write the LewisCenterMom.com blog and have been both a strong supporter and a harsh critic of OLSD. I still feel strongly that OLSD must change the OHS mascot and team name to something that does not offend and disrespect the Native American community. But that is not the purpose of this letter. The purpose of this letter is to thank the OLSD Diversity and Inclusion team and the Alum Creek Elementary team for all that they have done this year to make school a safer and more supportive place for my child. You see, during this school year, my fifth grader came out as nonbinary and gay. This was on top of an already stressful and unprecedented year for everyone due to Covid. You can imagine our feelings as parents having to navigate an entirely new reality - on top of already living in a new world due to Covid. It was a lot! The actions of Olentangy's D&I team, as well as the Alum Creek principal, counselor and teacher we interact with every day and who are copied above, made all the difference. Our child knows that if they face difficulties or discrimination during a school day, they always have a safe place with trusted adults like Mrs. Worth and Mrs. Walker who have their back. In addition, as parents, hearing the voices of student leaders like Parker, who spoke about being transgender during the ONE Community Conference, gave us hope and strength. Seeing the district's commitment to making incremental steps forward to be more equitable, diverse and inclusive meant the world to our family. I realize there are voices in our community that oppose diversity, equity and inclusion. I can't personally fathom how anyone could be against these positive values, but I understand and recognize there is a vocal minority who come from a place of fear, intolerance, hatred and refusal to change. I am sorry for the difficult position this puts you all in every day. I want to thank everyone copied on this email for standing up to fear and intolerance in our community. I implore you to continue efforts to move toward equity, inclusion and celebration of differences. Now that I have a child who is part of a marginalized group, I feel even more strongly that we're in the right school district. Our family will continue to do everything we can to make Olentangy a place where our child can feel safe, supported and truly flourish. Thanks for your time in reading this, and for all of your work to further and fight the good fight. If I can be of any help to any of you as leaders of Olentangy Schools, please let me know.

5/17/21 15:05:04

David Ruggieri David Ra-JERRY

5583 Jeffries Court Westerville OH 43082

As the father of two high school students, I'm writing to express concern about the curriculum changes in district classrooms that were never shared with parents. I send my teens to school to learn academics, but this year the district's Equity and Inclusion Team and some educators are placing greater emphasis on divisive social justice issues than academic content. "Culturally responsive teaching," "Critical Race Theory," or "Equity and inclusion"—no matter what you call it—is an injection of radical politics into our students' lives. Here are examples: Some 10th grade teachers are using the book *Stamped*, by Ibram X Kendi, a writer who stated that white people who adopt children of other races are using their children as props so that they can be perceived as white saviors, all the while stripping the kids from their culture. As the dad of two adopted Guatemalan children, I find this comment insensitive, racist and offensive. I object to teachers claiming this author is a social justice expert, when he's actually a profit-driven activist who bashes capitalism and emphasizes that skin color defines identity. One of the district's equity and inclusion team members posted a passage critical of Abraham Lincoln from this book on social media with the hashtag "Truth." This is a direct endorsement of Kendi. I'm teaching my son and daughter that merit matters and that they are more than the color of their skin. Should

educators be allowed to contradict our family's truth? Second, there is a bulletin board in my daughter's high school promoting the 1619 project—an error filled proclamation that America's Revolution was designed to protect slavery, therefore condemning our country as being systemically racist. Do you all agree with this? Third, your board-endorsed professional development speaker, Dr. Jeffries, promotes CRT, 1619 and BLM and has taunted and blocked Ohio families on Twitter who have spoken up against school districts paying for his services. Fourth, some teachers are abandoning all classic literature, important for AP and state testing, and instead only teaching rigor-lacking YA lit filled with racially charged narratives. Finally, teachers in various buildings are wearing Black Lives Matter t-shirts, passing out BLM coloring pages, and promoting a movement that has criticized the nuclear family, endorsed violent and destructive protests, and promoted socialism over capitalism. Through all of this, there has never been any communication with parents about the injection of these materials into our children's lives, nor has there been any balance of ideas. My family and I believe that black lives matter. We believe that more work needs to be done to build understanding and appreciation of Asian and Latino cultures. We believe in cognitive dissonance and strong democratic debates, and just because we do not endorse CRT does not mean that we are denying that racism exists, that we are having a moment of "white fragility," or that we have internalized our bias. We do not want to send our teens to school to be indoctrinated, bullied, and coerced into assignments that are rooted in radical politics, which is exactly what is occurring in some of our classrooms. Too many parents in this district are being silenced because they fear retribution. We will not stand by and be patronized by those promoting equity and inclusion while denying equality and the U.S. Constitution. We urge OLSD leadership to acknowledge this issue, consider parental concerns, and rethink its equity platform. We are asking you to turn down federal dollars that require "equity and inclusion" instruction. We are at a crossroads, and we need assurance that you will rethink your ONE Olentangy platform. Otherwise, you will be disenfranchising the people you serve and dividing the district you say that you want to unite. We are asking you, as parents and tax payers, to listen to us. Please listen.

5/18/21 10:14:56

Kariena Turner car-ee-na

265 Tara Glen Dr Delaware Ohio 43015 May 20, 2021 Dear Board members, I want to publicly thank our amazing principal, Mr. Spinner at Berlin High School. As you know we had an unfortunate incident where our beautiful building was treated as the sounding board for discontent. Mr. Spinner and our amazing head custodian Dewey, and others unknown but appreciated, quickly removed the graffiti, rallied the kids for a double blue Monday and hung a large banner echoing our Berlin culture, that Berlin pride is forever. I am grateful daily that my daughter gets to attend a high school where the principal and staff truly care about our children. "Claws Up". I also wanted to let you know of a forum that was hosted by the 'Berlin Student Association for Cultural Awareness'. This was an event where the group invited African American police officers and a firefighter from Delaware and Columbus as well as our Berlin resource officer, Deputy Scott Gaines. They met with students and had hard conversations. I was so impressed and proud of the advisor, Tanisha Murphy and the students and law enforcement for doing this. I was not there in person but was able to view the recording. I wanted to bring these moments to your attention, so they get the applause they deserve and the district families can hear about the positive things happening in our district. Thank you, Kariena Turner

5/18/21 10:56:40

Margo Seyboldt

6922 Saint Nininian's St; Lewis Center, OH 43035

It is unfortunate that someone else is reading this public comment for me because the school board and the superintendent chose to keep the BOE meetings closed to in-person attendance. A large number of people are asking why these meetings are still closed to in-person attendance. Likewise, a large number of people in this district are asking why an in-person graduation was denied to our Olentangy students. In fact over 1,110 people signed a petition asking for an in-person graduation. In other words, over 1,110 people do not want a pandemic style graduation. Many of those signatures are those of actual seniors who are Patriots, Braves, Pioneers and Bears. I am Margo Seyboldt. I have lived in this school district for almost 18 years. I have been an active participant in my children's education since my oldest son attended Preschool in OLSD beginning at age 3 1/2. That's almost 15 years of spending countless hours in classrooms, reading books, being a room mom, volunteering at parties, attending performances, helping with show choir, chaperoning school outings, organizing supergames, fundraising and attending sporting events at schools around the district. While I only pay \$48 more dollars in taxes per year than the BOE President, Julie Wagner Feasel, who no longer has students in the district, I believe every parent in this district pays enough taxes to expect the members of the school board to remember they are elected to be public servants which means they are to represent the voices of district citizens. They are elected to respect us and not mock us. They are elected to put themselves in the shoes of parents and students and think about the impact the decisions the superintendent and staff make in regards to education, budgeting, extra-curriculars and to live up to the inclusive culture you promote to our students and community members. Through advocating for an in-person graduation for my son and every other student, I discovered the school board and superintendent had no other intention but to treat this year's graduation as another pandemic style event. Interestingly enough every other school district in over a 30 mile radius is managing to offer a real life, in-person graduation. Marysville schools are allowing 6 guests per graduate, DeSales High School in Franklin county is allowing 10 guests per graduate.

5/18/21 12:34:02 5

Justin Debord Justin Dee Board

217 Weatherburn Drive Powell OH 43065

As I prepare for my son's graduation this weekend, I cannot miss the opportunity to express how disappointed I am with Superintendent Raiff, all the Principals and this school board in not holding a Traditional Graduation. You can point fingers at each other all day long like Keystone Cops, but you made the decisions that we are having to adjust to. You made it for reasons that we still don't fully understand. OSU offered the 22nd to go along with the 23rd. The money was never really as much as you told the public and even now your Communications Director went on ABC 6 and did not tell the truth when she said Audio and Visual expenses were extra. You have embarrassed the District and you should be ashamed of yourselves. We are now the only Central Ohio District that is not having a Traditional Graduation and held a Busch League Formal with no dancing. We are supposed to be leaders in the Ohio educational system for excellence, results driven outcomes and vast course offerings. All we lead in now is being the laughing stock of Columbus and a merry band of amateurs. What a shame and laughing stock you have all become. Our children deserved better and you do as you want regardless of how it impacts the very people you are supposed to serve.

5/18/21 15:13:40

Lori Moore

990 Dale Ford Road, Delaware

Superintendent Raiff and Members of the Olentangy Local School District School Board: I am writing you to express my concern about what is being taught in our schools and what Professional Development the employees of the district have been required to do. I have been a resident of the district since 1997. We moved to OLSD because of the academic excellence the district promised. Unfortunately the focus of the district has changed since 2010. I want to share my personal experience with you. I was a teacher at a prominent private school for 24 years. I resigned in October. I felt terrible leaving my students at the beginning of an unprecedented academic year but for my own sanity I needed to do it. The school was forcing Critical Race Theory on the faculty. I got to a point where I was questioning my own belief system. How could I be an effective teacher when I could not make sense of the information and activities that I was forced to participate in? I was made to believe that I was given privilege because of the color of my skin. I needed to apologize for it. I had to read writings from Ibram Kendi and watch Oprah Winfrey documentaries. There were facilitators that demanded our participation. We were told we would feel uncomfortable and that was fine. I was way more than uncomfortable. It shook me to my core and effected every aspect of my life. I went down a rabbit hole that I am just starting to come out of thanks to the special needs students I now work one on one with. Fundamentally I could not make sense of it. My grandparents were immigrants. They came to America in a boat with the clothes on their back and change in their pockets. They entered the USA the legal way and had to teach themselves English. Nothing was given to them. They worked for everything they had. My grandmother worked in a factory until she was 88 years old. My parents grew up poor. The only Christmas gift they received was from the Charity Newsies. They along with my grandparents taught us to work hard and be kind to others. This is the key to life. They also taught us Moral Courage to stand up for our beliefs. The last straw for me was when my employer sent out an email with a link to Defund the Police. This was sent in June at the height of the riots. My husband, a police officer was in the middle of the riots. We felt like we were on an island. Critical Race Theory, Equity, Social Justice, Diversity and Inclusion, and Culturally Responsive Teaching are all ways to push the agenda of separating and dividing people based on the color of their skin. One of the four dispositions of the OLSD is KIND. "Learners bring out the best in others". "They respect different points of view and demonstrate empathy for people both inside and outside of their community". Student are encouraged to explore diverse perspectives, become increasingly open-minded, solve problems alongside people who are different than themselves, and make decisions that benefit society of a whole. This along with Purposeful, Resilient, and Curious are the portrait of an Olentangy learner. How is this possible when the district pays a speaker to address the faculty and staff to judge people by the color of their skin? Apologize for it and say they will do better. This is exactly what sent me down a rabbit hole. If I cannot make sense of it as an adult how are children going to make sense of it? Please take the time to examine the curriculum and what agenda you are pushing. The hearts and minds of our children and grandchildren depend on it! Get back to academic excellence.

5/19/21 6:50:40

RYAN PUCKETT

Please consider researching the 1620 Project.

5/19/21 11:35:50

Dan Loew Dan Low

5234 Sandy Dr., Lewis Center, OH 43035

As the proud parents of two young girls ages 3 and 6, our decision to relocate to Lewis Center back in 2015 was made in no small part due to the stellar ratings of Olentangy School District. However, over the past few years we have grown increasingly more concerned over the trajectory that public education seems to be taking across the nation as a whole, and would like some reassurances. We are firm believers in freedom of choice for ALL people regardless of race, gender, religion, or sexual preference, even in instances where we vehemently disagree with a particular position ourselves. To that extent, what steps are OLSD taking to ensure parents are allowed to exercise their parental freedom of choice in order to make educated decisions as it pertains to whether or not their children should be vaccinated and/or wear facial coverings? Over the past few years, it seems that the line between academia and activism is ever-blurring, with many curriculums prioritizing the infusion of highly contested political ideologies championing anti-patriotism, sexual promiscuity, and outright discrimination over developing the practical and technical skills of students. What implementations are being put in place at OLSD to ensure our children will receive a comprehensive STEM-centered education delivered in an apolitical environment that will allow them to grow and thrive? Thanks in advance for fielding my questions, and I look forward to hearing your responses.

5/19/21 11:20:18

Jill Wood

3915 Hampshire Ave Powell OH 43065

Parents and Students entered the 2020-2021 school year at Olentangy expecting the district to take the initiative to protect all children and parents rights to freely breathe and socialize with their friends. We expected a normal in person graduation for our senior class, however we were met with an angry defensive board of education where many were caught in emails mocking parents and acting as if they were the almighty authority that our community must bow down to. The arrogance we as parents have witnessed from the controlling overreach the Olentangy school district has shown this year and last has proven the entire board and administration must be removed from any decision making powers. You are either too weak to stand up and take control of the district or you are in agreement with the tyrannical overreach of Ohio's Governor Mike DeWine. Each district and superintendent has the authority to "interpret" a governors mandate and do what is right for their school district. The fact that you all have chosen to keep our healthy children masked all day even at recess and PE is nothing short of child abuse. You all should be ashamed and held accountable for your total disregard for each and every child's mental and physical health. We have two daughters we have had to take to see a doctor to release them from all facial coverings required by you! We as their parents know what is best for our children. Our girls are both extremely intelligent and both have scored advanced scores across the nation and are in the top percentile in the state of Ohio, yet they have struggled this year and no longer even want to attend public school. They both are rule followers, and they are kind, and active but at age 11 and 15 they feel controlled and forced to learn things they feel uncomfortable learning. The books Olentangy is pushing in ELA in middle school and high school that embrace how great LGBTQ is and promoting racial bias etc is all an agenda. Most of us can see why this divisive agenda is being pushed. We will not allow our tax dollars to go towards a system that does not teach what we want our children to learn. Stop trying to indoctrinate our children. We know the masks are being used as a fear tactic to

deprogram students so the agenda as you move forward is to reprogram them into the indoctrination agenda. This district and all school systems need to stick with teaching the subjects without the subliminal messaging regarding race, sex, gender, sexual orientation etc. We as parents will not allow this to continue any longer without a fight on your hands. If this is what you want to waste your tax dollars on fighting us all the way through the Supreme Court we are rising up to fight for our children. We will create new systems that none of you will be a part of where our children are able to thrive and meet their full potential. This past year has exposed you all and has shown a light as to who is strong and who is weak all the way down to the local level. You have a choice to do the right thing and start fighting for our families, unmasking our healthy children, stop the indoctrination of this liberal ideology, and stand for something. You all work for us. We pay the taxes. We will make sure this system changes. You are either with us or against us. Enough is enough. Unmask our children now and Stop the social distancing and indoctrination NOW!

5/19/21 15:03:29

Tracy Kourie t-r-AI-s-ee kur-ee
2793 Coltsbridge Dr, Lewis Center

Good evening, I am here tonight at this rally to be the voice for my children/ our children. Our children deserve, as all children do, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This past year our children have had to endure one of the strangest and unfortunate set of circumstances the world has possibly ever experienced. Unfortunately, some children have taken their lives due to isolation, increase in drug and alcohol use, bullying, etc. Did you know that the suicide rate for adolescent ages 15-19 in Ohio went from 10.8/100,000 in 2019 to 11.9/100,000 in 2020 according to the America's Health Ranking? Suicide is the second leading cause of death in children/young adults ages 10-24. In 2018, 596 children ages 10-14 and 6211 children/young adults ages 15-24 took their life too soon. Our country has become very divisive and our children deserve better. As parents and educators we need to step up our game in our community. There will always be a difference of opinion but we must have common ground for the sake of our children. I believe when it comes to parenting and educating our children we are more similar than we are different. We all want our children to be healthy, kind, successful (in their own way), critical thinkers, and to have humility, integrity, diligence, determination, patience, honesty, curiosity, gratitude, and respect. Yes, most of our kids are resilient (others have not been so lucky) but we have no idea what the long term effects of the isolation and turmoil of the last year will have on their health physically and mentally. Our children have carried a burden they should have never had to carry. They have been manipulated to believe that if they visited grandma they might kill her by giving her a hug, that plexiglass barriers and 6 feet distancing will protect them from a deadly virus, they are carriers of disease even if they are not sick, they have to complete a viral test to prove they are not sick to play a sport or live on campus, they have to quarantine for 2 weeks even if they are asymptomatic to protect others, etc. I could go on and on. They deserve better than this! What about the health of the individual? Since when is someone else's health the responsibility of another person? We now know children and young adults are not vectors of disease, rarely do they have serious illness and die. With 32 deaths under the age of 29 in Ohio in over a year, 7 of which are under 19, I think it's pretty safe to say we can do better in our schools next year. Yes of course, we are going to hear about variants and so on but the fact of the matter is our children's immune systems are strong and they are way more effected by the flu. We do not impose these extreme, far-reaching measures on our children, or anyone else for that matter, for the flu. Shut down the fear mongering of teachers and parents as it is not based on the

facts. Cloth and Surgical Masks offer next no protection against virus particles or small aerosols and they are not PPE and like the vaccine they are EUA and not FDA approved and require consent on behalf of the wearer! Our children do not need hybrid learning, plexi-glass barriers, social distancing and masking any longer. None of these measures have ever proven to be effective in mitigating disease. I encourage you as the school year ends to reflect on the measures taken this past year in our schools. The final week of school please remove the mask mandate and follow in the courageous footsteps of other district leaders in Ohio and across the country!

5/20/21 7:06:38

Rachel Tate RAY CHEL TAY-T
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Thank you for your service to our schools and children. This has been an extremely difficult year and I have been severely disappointed in OLSD's leadership many times over, specifically over Senior and 5th grade graduations, hiring speakers (regardless of when) that taught blatant racism (their engagements should have been canceled at the first sense of racism), and the extraordinary efforts the Board and Superintendent went through to circle through and around the truths of how all of these issues came to be. We have 3 more children to graduate from OLSD, and while I love nearly every teacher we have encountered, if the leadership continues this way, we will look elsewhere for education. OLSD - you have to focus on your job- educate our children on the facts of math, reading, writing, and history - United States of America history - the way it actually happened and not the way certain people with it would have happened. If OLSD wants to get involved in teaching racism, politics, and health care at a personal level, I'm happy to come in and teach Jesus too. Our children need to know that they were created to do great things and can regardless of their color, stature, age, etc. As for the way OLSD managed the COVID 19 virus - you failed. Our children should never be placed in front of the older generations. Shame on anyone who believed so. It is our job as parents and adults to guide and protect them, not the reverse. My hope is OLSD will pull on their big boy pants and go head to head with the idiocy of the health department and Governor's office. Planes and bars are full and open. Time for each desk, lunch table, learning center, and classroom to be the same - masks optional. Remember why you all got involved in education - the children. Finally, you still have time to make Friday evening a true graduation for each OLSD Senior and their family. Some of these children (my Senior is one) were born during Operation Iraqi Freedom while their fathers or mothers were defending our American Freedoms. To sit in a car and watch our son graduate is a simple slap in the face to the service and sacrifice given simply on the day he was born. These are moments we had hoped to share as a family with all of the people who supported us during the war. OLSD has taken that freedom away. You can give it back and you should. You just have to have the stones to do it. I hope and pray that this does not become the new standard at OLSD, because it is simply embarrassing. It is NOT the OLSD we have supported for 13 years and that is heartbreaking.

5/20/21 10:46:28

Amanda Henry Ah-man-duh Hen-Ree
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Olentangy School Board, I want to start off by saying, I feel very fortunate to be in the Olentangy School District. I have utmost respect for the quality of education that is provided and I know the students are

always a priority. I am contacting you all to address the future mask requirements within the Olentangy School District and give some background on my thoughts on the issue. Governor DeWine recently came out and said, coming this fall, it will be at the districts' discretion whether they require masks for the students or not. I am begging you to please lift the mask requirement and allow our children to breathe freely for the 2021-22 school year. We know from studying the Covid virus for over a year now that adolescents are a low risk group for the virus. We also know that the majority of the teachers in the district have opted to be vaccinated. With the new CDC guidelines in place, vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask in group settings, meaning teachers should not be required in your schools. With the combination of adolescents being low risk and teachers being vaccinated; students should be allowed to breathe freely while they're learning and not wear masks. Masks limit the ability to understand and learn emotional responses. They limit the ability for children to learn to speak properly by watching how others' mouths move with the words. They limit the ability to articulate and communicate effectively. They also are a distraction, a stressor and honestly most kids are likely dropping them on the floor, putting them on tables and desks, touching them with dirty hands and then putting them right back up to their faces. I believe face masks are only effective if the wearer has symptoms of an infection. If they are sneezing, or coughing and expelling droplets frequently by doing these things, then yes, this person could probably help others by wearing facemask. In this instance though, there needs to be broader understanding that if you are sick, you should be staying at home for the day until feeling well enough to return to the classroom. Having every student wear a mask is not the answer; and masks are not a new magical invention that eliminate illnesses. I believe it is detrimental for our kids mental health, and for their overall well being. Kids are complaining of being anxious, and feeling claustrophobic in them. Feeling like they can't breathe, and its altering their view and feelings of school because of it. They are resenting their teachers, they are not enjoying school and excelling like they could be. They are distracted and upset at times because they do not see an end to this huge limitation. I was very happy to hear that just this month the district allowed kids to not wear their masks during recess, a very good choice and I am encouraged hearing that is already in place, but lets keep that same momentum and eliminate the use of them in the classrooms and hallways. We have learned from this virus over the past year and a half. We have done the due diligence, let's get back to learning, let's get back to smiling and talking with friends face to face without fear. Let's NOT give these kids another thing to stress about, or a reason to dread going to school everyday. Please, do not require our children to wear masks at Olentangy Schools. Please allow the teachers the option, just as you allowed them the option to get vaccinated. Let's use our common sense here and advocate for the students. Lets NOT treat the air like it is toxic, or like other humans are diseased. I know I am not alone in these thoughts. You may not be hearing from all the parents, but I can attest that I am one of 100s of parents in the district who feel this way. Please consider NO MASKS for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your time,