



Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

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## Re: Masks

1 message

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**Roy Seitsinger** <seitsingerr@prestonschools.org>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 12:00 PM

To: Amanda Phelps <phelpsusn@gmail.com>, Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

Good morning Amanda,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. I will share this email with the Board tonight. I think the general metrics you describe may be helpful. The current Governors' Executive Order expires on September 30. In that message, masking is strongly recommended. The southeastern Connecticut health directors and DPH also recommending masking. Interestingly, there may also be insurance and legal consequences for the Board if they move against the recommendations. Essentially, if they act against the recommendations insurers may not indemnify the Board and thus they would be personally liable for illness and other consequences.

Either Sean or I will read your email tonight.

Thank you again. Be well.

Roy

### **Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., Ph.D.** **Superintendent of Schools**

Follow me on Facebook: **Preston Panthers Superintendent**

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#### **FIND YOUR PURPOSE: Be informed, Not inflamed ! (RMS)**

**"We are all traveling through time together. Let's do our best to relish this remarkable ride!" (unknown)**

**" Take care of yourself. Take care of each other. Take care of this place." Frey, Fisher, Smith (2019).**

On Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 11:52 AM Amanda Phelps <phelpsusn@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Roy,

As we await the Governor's mandate on masking for the upcoming school year, I understand that you and the Board of Education have a tough conversation ahead of you this evening. I can surmise from the BoE Agenda, that there will be discussion about the use of masks for the upcoming school year. I understand the position that you are in wanting to keep the entire Community safe from harm. I understand the other side of the argument, as well, that some feel that masks are not useful and can be damaging to the physical and social-emotional health of our Community. I am not fanatical either way. I would rather have our Community wear masks than have virtual learning and/or no in-person activities, but I can appreciate the idea that it doesn't have to be either/or.

If the Governor allows districts to make the decision on their own, I would request that Preston's decision be re-evaluated on a frequent (perhaps monthly) basis. If community spread warrants masks (according to the actual data, not haphazard observations by Community members) then we use them. If community spread does not support the need for masks (by the same metric), we don't. After all the upheaval of the past year and a half, switching between masks/no masks is an easy change and I think that Community members would appreciate the careful weighing of their concerns and the data.

I do not envy your position and I recognize that you and the Board will act in "the abundance of caution," I just think that there has to be a way to bring people on both sides of this argument to the center. I realize that the "buck stops" with you and the Board, but having an open and honest dialogue about the topic will help cool tempers and will allow those who feel strongly either way to speak their piece. Masks and other controversies will come and go, the notion that we are a Community that respects one another and communicates well is long-lasting.

I will not be able to join tonight's meeting, but please know that my thoughts are with you all!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Phelps



Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

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## Board of Ed meeting letter

1 message

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AMY CHMELECKI <amyfc@comcast.net>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 11:58 AM

To: "homiskig@prestonschools.org" <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

Good afternoon,

I am a parent of two teenagers that use the transportation to NFA as well as Grasso Tech. I am writing to express my concerns about the masks mandate being continued for the children in schools as well as on the busses . I have children that have been affected just as all have been by the last year and half, some children express it and others do not . The youth have had to perceive through many unknown days, weeks, months and now years with having no consistency to their schedules and routines they once had. I have children that do have 504 plans in place for such health concerns that the masks are actually amplifying which is one of many reasons that I am writing this to you, the board of education . I do believe that we can all do better for the children in society and in our community, having to endure the extreme levels of change that is occurring. I am asking for choice, some parents may feel protected by their child using a mask where as others prefer letting their child breathe without obstruction and seeing smiles which is so important . The psychological disturbance for children by blocking their mouths is so damaging and the studies as well as knowledge even prior to now . Their are children who need to read lips and have sensory issues that seeing a persons smile is all they need to reassure them as well as confidence in themself.

I will additionally say that I am not addressing this issue to make waves, I am genuinely worried about the health of children in our community as well as the entire nation . I appreciate your attention to this matter without judgement to those who want choice and why we are bringing this forward .

I would also like to express that I do not judge others who prefer a mask at all times, we must do better with one another and especially in the small town of Preston .

Thank you,

Amy A Fournier



Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

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## Public comment for BOE meeting tonight

1 message

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**Dawn Stanford** <dawnmfoleystanford@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 10:38 AM

To: homiskig@prestonschools.org, tdtpuckdrop@hotmail.com, dbgrabarek@sbcglobal.net, h-daniel@sbcglobal.net, hfb95@aol.com, s.t.nuge@gmail.com, seitsinger@prestonschools.org, craymond@99main.com

Dear BOE,

I am writing to you as a concerned taxpayer, parent, and as an educator with over 20 years of experience working with children of all ages from infants to grade 12. I have an associates degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree in Liberal & Professional Studies with concentrations in Early Childhood Education and Human Development. I know that Covid is a serious virus that can and does cause serious illness and death. I have personally lost loved ones to this horrible virus. I also know people with severe health conditions that survived without any adverse effects. I also personally know people who died from the vaccine (doctor verified).

I know as an educator that children learn best without distractions. I also know children learn through verbal and non verbal communications. The wearing of masks by children is a distraction to them and causes disruption in verbal and non verbal communication. There is scientific evidence proving this. I am providing a link to the relevant Scientific review of evidence based data that I am referencing. It is a long read. However, I would appreciate it if you read it in full before making your decision on masking or unmasking our children on buses and in schools. Pay particular attention to section 3.14 Paediatric Side Effects and Hazards. Wearing of masks can and does exacerbate previous health conditions such as Asthma and Anxiety, my son has both. Virtual learning was not a viable option for him and as most schools are not providing that option this year many students and their parents will be forced to make difficult decisions if you mandate masks for everyone. I implore you to make it a choice as to whether a child wears a mask or not.

Our children have had their education disrupted long enough. The Science backs giving parents and students the choice to mask or not. Here in CT the mortality rate has been steadily declining and is at almost zero. Yes the delta variant is more transmissible, however data in CT is showing that it is not more deadly. The week of May 14th-May 20th the mortality rate in CT was 2.59% with a positivity rate of 1.17%. (Information pulled directly from state of CT). The mortality rate does lag as most Covid deaths occur 18 days after onset of symptoms so I will give you the data in 3 week intervals. I started with the week of May14th-May 20th because that was when the mask mandate was lifted here in CT.

May 28th-June3rd the mortality rate was 2.78% and the positivity rate was .89%, June 18th-June 24th the mortality rate was 2.26% and the positivity rate was .46% ( This was the week it was reported that the Delta variant had been detected in CT), July 2nd-July 8th the mortality rate .24% and a positivity rate of .66%, July 16th-July22nd the mortality rate was .31% and the positivity rate was 1.83%, and last week July 30th-Aug 5th the mortality rate was .09% and the positivity rate was 2.96%. As you can see as the delta variant has taken hold in our state the positivity rate has gone up while the mortality rate has gone down. This is also during no mask mandates. The state of CT stopped reporting daily deaths as of July 1st because death rates have dropped. This was after the Delta variant had taken hold in our state. We have flattened the curve here in CT. Let our kids breathe freely while they learn.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Stanford  
8 Burdick Rd  
Preston CT

Scientific Data mentioned above  
Link to the <https://www.mdpi.com/1078850>



Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

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## BOE meeting tonight

1 message

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**Sarah Minei** <sarahluds@comcast.net>  
To: Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 12:12 PM

Hi Gloria,

I was just on the website and noticed that I need to submit this letter prior to 12 noon today in order for the comment to be "summarized" at tonight's meeting.

I ask the Board of Education to consider pioneering the "unmask our kids movement" and allow students to attend school in the Fall 2021 mask free. There are many studies to support that masks are in fact not effective and cause more harm than good which I will send in a separate email, I just want it to be on record that I vehemently oppose mask wearing especially in schools.

Perhaps a waiver/ opt out form parents can sign so that students do not have to wear masks.

Here is a video link that is relevant from a functional family medicine physician in Indiana:

<https://twitter.com/SebGorka/status/1424603849952829442>

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion and your consideration of my suggestions are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Minei