



485 S. Fifth Street, Lebanon, Oregon 97355 • Phone: (541) 451-8511 • Fax: (541) 259-6857

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DATE: February 10, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Becky West

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Dear Bo Yates & Board,

I am sure by now you have heard that there are many parents who are disappointed and frustrated with the decision made to push back school by three more weeks. I understand that since this decision has already been made there is no changing the decision.

The peaceful protest members that are here tonight want to make sure that our true message is heard. Although we are frustrated with the decision of when to go back to school, we are more frustrated with the lack of communication between the board and parents. Our purpose here tonight is to ask for better communication and transparency from the board. As parents we want to be included in our children's education. We have been vocal because we are invested in our children and their education. We want to have a voice and that voice be heard.

Moving forward I hope that we are able to find better ways to work together. Also, I would like to thank Bo Yates for the apology letter that he sent this last week. It was very appreciated.

Thank you for your time,  
Becky West

DATE: February 11, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: David Schroeder

RE: Public Comment to the Board

It is the feeling of myself, and other parents in the community, that Todd Gestrin broke two of the standards on the Board Member Standards of Conduct on February 7, 2021 during a Facebook exchange with parents and community members. Standards can be found here: <http://lebanon.k12.or.us/media/2020/04/BBF.pdf>

- 20 – Use social media, websites, or other electronic communication judiciously, respectfully, and in a manner that does not violate Oregon’s Public Meetings Laws;
- 21 – When posting online or to social media, Board members will treat and refer to other Board members, staff, students and the public with respect, and will not post confidential information about students, staff or district business;

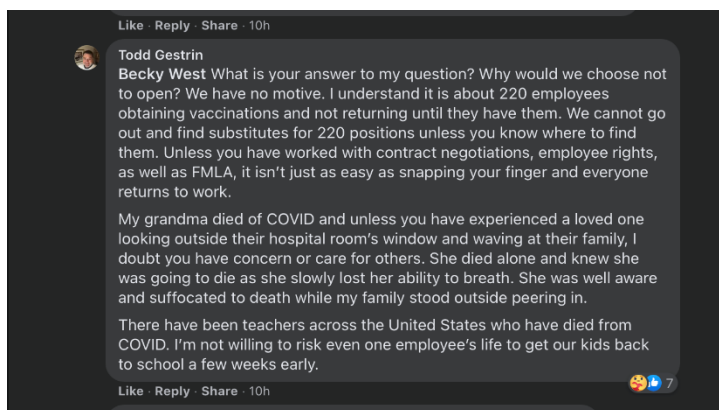
We have asked Todd Gestrin to apologize for his comments made to these individuals, and as of today, February 10, 2021, he has refused to apologize.

These actions create an environment in which parents will hesitate to speak up in fear of retaliation.

The posts made are included below with reference to the quotes we feel were disrespectful to the public.

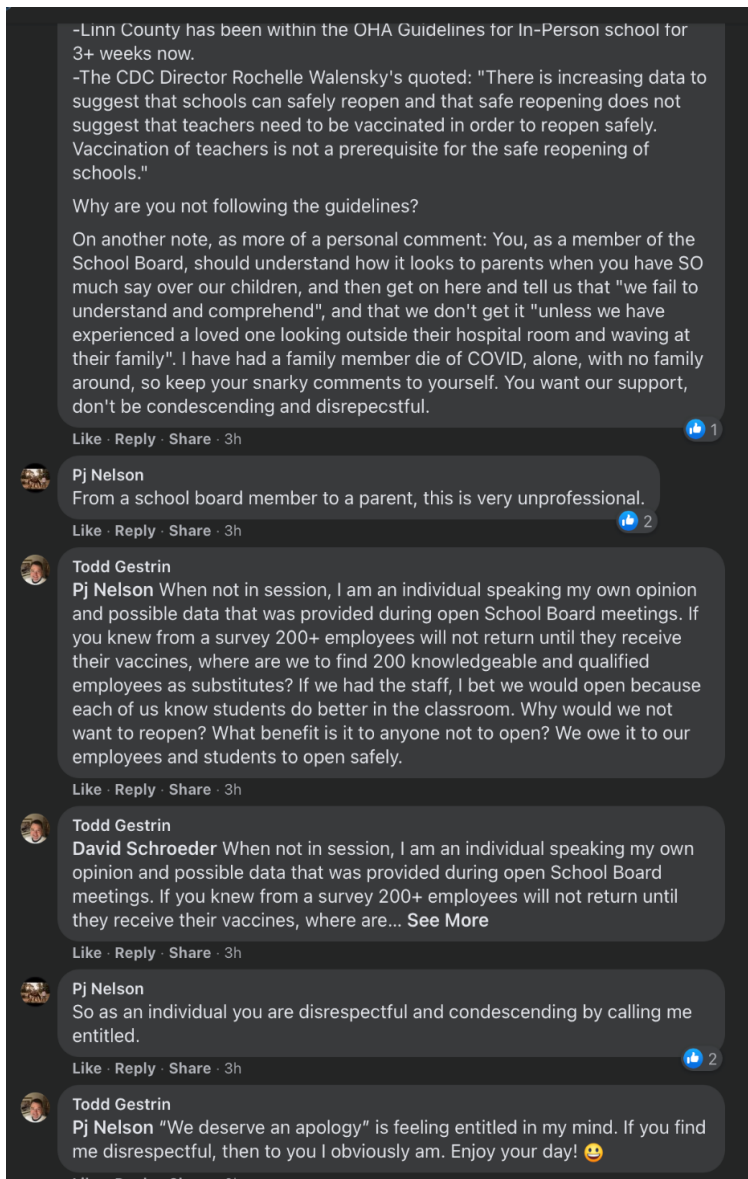
Example 1 –

- The statement “I doubt you have concern or care for others”. This is in response to questions being asked as to why school opening was delayed as other school districts have already opened.



Example 2 –

- When multiple community members pointed out Todd’s behavior as condescending, disrespectful, and unprofessional. His response was “‘We deserve an apology’ is feeling entitled in my mind. If you find me disrespectful, then to you I obviously am. Enjoy your day! 😊”.





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DATE: February 11, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jaclyn Robertson

RE: Public Comment to the Board

Lebanon School Board and Bo Yates-

Please read this email in tonight's board meeting. I am reaching out to you all to please consider overturning Bo's decision to hold off on our children going back to school on the 16th.

It has been just shy of ONE YEAR!! I have sat back patiently waiting for you all to make the right decision for the students and parents within our school district. After the newsletter release it was made loud and clear that bringing our children back to school is not going to be a priority. I do not feel our children's well-being was thought of, because if it was they would be in school already. Just like the rest of the United States.

The take away from last weeks letter is: our teachers are more important than anyone else in the state. They deserve to have all of their needs met above all others. It is also saying they are more important than the other surrounding school districts that have gone back to school without all vaccinations, all health care workers that have actually been dealing with COVID directly, every single fast food worker, grocery store worker, etc.

Has anyone talked to a child in the school district and asked them what they wanted? If you had asked them, you would know they WANT to be in school. They are desperately seeking the social interaction, in person instruction, and time away from the computer screen.

Please know that I am not an uninvolved parent just not wanting to teach my own children. I spent almost every single day at my children's school before covid. Countless hours fundraising to help all of the teachers and students, volunteered at every event, and whole heartedly cared for all of the students at our school. I have seen first hand the less fortunate children being loved on, supported, fed, and cared for while in school. What is happening to those children this last year? Have they even been thought of? School is their safe spot, without school where do they go?

To say that this news release was a disappointment is an understatement. There are MANY of us parents that have the same feeling. There are many of us now trying to decided if keeping our children within the district is even the best thing for them anymore. The longer you all continue to deprive our kids of in person schooling the easier it is for us parents to pull together and start our own coop, homeschool, or even start sending our children to private school.



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Children have been going back to school for small group instruction, with all safety protocols in place and they have been successful. I beg you all to stand up and fight for ALL of our children and send them back to school now and not later.

Jaclyn Robertson