

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, July 29, 2021
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
William Oros, Vice Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Secretary
Michael Sobol
Robert Williams

Board Members Absent:

Mary Kortmann
Christina Williams

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience Members Present:

Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning and one citizen.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

J. Beausoleil read the emails that were submitted, which are attached to these minutes.

Lisa Garay of 1386 South Street said she was present to speak about the masks. She said her concern is that rules that are set should go across the board. She feels there was a lot of favoritism across the Board at the high school in regard to mask wearing this past year.

IV. Information: BoardBook Software

There were no serious concerns.

V. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed a few activities taking place during the summer. He talked about the district waiting for guidelines to come from the Department of Public Health on reopening schools. He said the details are not covered in the Governor's Executive Orders. He said he understands that parents want to know what the plans are, he said he does too. He said they are at the mercy of the state agencies.

E. Marchand asked about fall sports. Dr. Petrone said fall sports are 'on' at the moment. He reviewed a few details about the season.

R. Williams asked about lunch and recess. Dr. Petrone said the State has indicated lunch will look similar to last year. He added, for recess, it will look like it did in the spring with no masks. He reiterated that they are waiting for the details from the State.

Dr. Petrone continued and discussed, there will be no need for plexiglass, students will be collaborating in groups [as best we can allow], and we look forward to having student teachers on site.

A. Information: Open Choice Update

Dr. Petrone reviewed the attached report as an update on where the district is with Open Choice and welcoming students in September.

B. Information: ESSER III - ARP Update

Dr. Petrone noted that the report detailing the plan is attached for the Board. He shared a presentation listing the priorities. He added that these targets are dictated by the State based on our data.

M. Sobol said he thinks it is well thought out.

R. Williams asked about the .5 FTE math specialist. Dr. Petrone explained that we already have a .5 FTE, so it will make the position whole. Dr. Petrone added, the staff have been hired.

E. Marchand asked about recruiting students for afterschool and summer programs. Dr. Petrone said it was not an issue this summer; he does not think it will be a problem in the future.

M. Sobol asked about the afterschool outreach. Dr. Petrone said there will be staff support from each school. He said input will be gleaned from the social workers and psychologists on how and what support could be provided to families.

R. Williams asked about the chronic absenteeism number shared. Dr. Petrone said that is Coventry's number and it is up from the pandemic. He added that it isn't nearly as bad as some other districts.

The Board discussed various aspects of the plan for the funds. There was agreement, it was a good plan.

C. Information: Curriculum Update

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Mullaly who shared her presentation updating the Board on curriculum.

R. Williams talked about the 58 units of instruction that were changed. Ms. Mullaly explained that those are the units across the districts that were upgraded; these were apart from the work that was done due to the pandemic.

The Board discussed the curriculum update cycle and the platform used to make adjustments.

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil said she is very excited about the small incremental return to normalcy. She mentioned the CABE/CAPSS Convention is happening in November. She continued and noted that she and M. Kortmann, with the assistance of Ms. Mullaly, nominated Dr. Petrone for Superintendent of the Year.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of June 24, 2021

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 24, 2021

By: W. Oros

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passed unanimously

IX. Old Business

A. Information and Possible VOTE: Microgrid MOU and Non-Binding Term Sheet

J. Beausoleil reviewed the current status of the project. She said we are being asked to approve the MOU before us, which is non-binding, but allows the project to move forward. She said the Board will still have the opportunity to vote on the execution of the project.

Dr. Petrone noted that the MOU was reviewed by independent counsel for the BOE to verify it is non-binding. Dr. Petrone talked about the recommendations of the counsel.

MOTION: To allow the Superintendent to sign the MOU, provided the recommendations by the attorney are incorporated.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Sobol

M. Sobol said the recommendations make sense. W. Oros verified that the changes need to be made before the Superintendent signs. J. Beausoleil confirmed that was correct.

The Board reviewed the working group meeting details.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. Report of Board Members

A. Information: Transportation Committee Report of July 21, 2021 Meeting

M. Sobol reviewed the details of the Transportation Committee meeting. He said there were no significant changes to the routes. He added that the routes were approved as

submitted. He talked about the pandemic effects and that those riding the bus will still have to wear masks, because it is considered public transportation. He also reviewed the status of the routing software, GPS software, and the change in E. O. Smith's schedule.

B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report of July 29, 2021 Meeting

W. Oros reviewed the details of the Fiscal Committee meeting. He added that the year ended in the black and about \$8,000 is going back to the Town. He said the HEEC budget was approved for 2021-22.

Mr. Carroll said the air conditioning unit at the complex LMC needs repair for about \$11,000. He said this is an emergency, which needs to be fixed.

MOTION: To add an agenda item to vote on authorizing the superintendent to request the Town Council's authorization for use of the 1% account for emergency repairs to the airconditioning compressor unit in the library media center.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Vote on authorizing the superintendent to request the Town Council's authorization for use of the 1% account for emergency repairs to the airconditioning compressor unit in the Library Media Center.

M. Sobol asked if this is something we can draw from the ARP-ESSER funds. Dr. Petrone said it can be used for issues like this; but specifically for this, as a repair - he would need to find out for sure. E. Marchand said it would take money out of the ARP-ESSER plan; the 1% account is for this type of issue specifically.

MOTION: To authorize the superintendent to send a letter to the Town Council requesting use of the 1% account for the cost to repair the airconditioning unit in the Library Media Center that has failed.

By: W. Oros

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

By: R. Williams

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: August 26, 2021

From: [Michael Petro](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on School Reopening Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:53:39 AM

Let me begin by giving credit to Dr. Petrone and the entire staff in the Coventry Schools this past academic year. Navigating through an academic year always presents challenges, and a pandemic made for challenges unlike any other. Through it all, Dr. Petrone and the entire team in the Coventry Schools provided timely, well-reasoned information, and our kids experienced a full academic year with minimal disruptions.

My comments today are encouragement to continue on this path of measured and informed decision-making. As a parent of two in the district, I read, with some concern, the "Audience of Citizens" emails from last meeting, and saw that all came in on the side of unmasking kids. The majority of Coventry students will be unvaccinated come the start of school year, a combination of vaccination rates for those 12 and older, being lower, and no vaccine being available for those younger than 12.

As such, I would offer my support as a voice for masks to continue in our schools until such time as vaccines are widely available and distributed broadly. Masks worked in 2020-21, and they can carry us through another year, reducing transmission of disease, and reducing stress on teachers and staff.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Petro

From: [Dawn Vieira](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Cc: [David Petrone](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: UPDATED version Unmask our children!!
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 11:14:14 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Vieira <BELDA74@aol.com>
Date: July 23, 2021 at 2:45:30 PM EDT
To: audienceBOE@coventryct.org
Subject: Unmask our children!!

I am urging you to do what is right and advocate for unmasking our children. Please take a moment and consider the factual and scientific evidence to support mask wearing is not only detrimental both short and long term but simply DOES NOT prevent any spread of COVID-19.

1.) Since alleviating the mask mandates, CT has continued to remain at less than 1% total COVID cases. In most recent statistics(even considering this new Delta variant and no mask mandates, state cases remain low at approximately 2.5%).

Transmission rates among children have been statistically and scientifically proven to be minimal to none (less than 1%)and recovery rates close to 100%.

2.)Cloth and/or store bought masks(which are worn by the vast majority of the student population), DO NOT prevent the spread of COVID-19. We need to allow our children's bodies to do what they are physiologically capable of doing by way of developing antibodies naturally(which the vast majority of the world's population has done over the past 2 years). In the true spirit of concern for Covid protection among staff and students and to put this mask wear into perspective, both populations would need to wear N95 masks all day for any benefit. N95 masks should exceed wear no more than 4 hours total in a day(for adults)..... Masking our children is NOT the answer!!!

3.)This very mandate is an infringement on all our constitutional rights. This is MY child and MY choice as it is for others to decide for their children.

4.)The risks of prolonged mask wear of any kind(especially with medical grade masks)far outweigh any possible benefits. Increase amongst our very own student population of headaches, nausea, fatigue, decreased capacity for proper O2/CO2 exchange all having detrimental affects on the brain, in turn learning capacity.

As cited from a scientific study by

Dr.Denis Rancourt on 2/22/21, "long term practice of wearing face masks has strong potential for devastating health consequences. Prolonged hypoxia-hypercapnic state(increased CO2 levels in the blood stream)compromises normal physiological and psychological balance, deteriorating health and promotes the developing and progression of chronic diseases...such physiological and psychological effects including hypoxia, hypercapnia, shortness of breath,

increased acidity and toxicity, activation of fear/stress response, rise in stress hormones/chronic stress, immunosuppression, fatigue, headaches, decline in cognitive performance, predisposition for viral and infectious illnesses, anxiety, and depression”.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS TO OUR CHILDREN?!!

Do not allow our children to be used as political pawns.

We need to continue moving forward as a community, promoting normalcy, and allowing our children the FREEDOM they deserve to learn, grow, and develop in an environment free from government coercion. We need to nurture their very physical and psychological well being by which promoting mask wear does NOT do. The science and the factual evidence/information exists. Please be the advocates for our children in this community by sending them back to an environment where they are taught CHOICE not COERCION and have their FREEDOMS not faced with segregation and discrimination. We owe this to our children.

Sincerely,
Dawn Vieira

From: [Chrissy](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] rowilliams@coventryct.org
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 8:03:03 AM

Christina Williams
436 Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry

My heart aches tonight. Due to a pre-planned trip to visit my father, I will not be in attendance to tonight's meeting. However I feel very strongly about the re-opening plan and want to ensure my thoughts are heard.

Coventry public schools have done a phenomenal job of keeping our children safe. In a time when an unknown virus wreaked havoc and fear across the world we responded with reasonable precautions to combat an unknown enemy prioritizing safety and education.

Today, we look different. Today, we very much have a known enemy - who isn't going anywhere anytime soon. The Hartford Courant quoted Governor Lamont yesterday:

"It's tougher now," Lamont said. "Two weeks ago, the Capitol was being circled by protesters saying the emergency is over, get off my back. That didn't happen nine months ago. Nine months ago, [when] we were talking about some of the rules, Connecticut had been hit hard along with New York and New Jersey and people were ready to do everything they could to keep themselves and their families safe. So there's a little bit of a balance you have to get there"

We as a district need to find that balance. The re-opening plan for last year - was good for last year. We need to re-look at the restrictions, and determine what is right for this year.

I am looking for the board of education to request the school re-opening plan be modified to meet the governors order and not over-extend into unnecessary restrictions placing additional burdens on our teachers and students and prohibiting effective academic instruction and social-emotional development.

Specifically->

- 1) If not specifically required by the governor, face coverings are optional by all parties
- 2) Parents/Visitors are allowed back into school for child pickups, early dismissal, volunteering, etc
- 3) Classrooms return to collaboration tables, restrictions on small group instruction/intervention be removed.
- 4) One-way halls, arrows in hallways, and traffic management be eliminated.
- 5) Students are allowed to use lockers/storage cubbies again at all grade levels
- 6) Playground allocation be eliminated - kids can play at all/any playground during recess
- 7) Lunch tables return

- 8) Lunch buddies eliminated/ or at a minimum student selected.
- 9) Allow specials, PE, math, social studies, and science to happen in their respective rooms - (yes, kids should go to the library and pick their books, and science labs return!)
- 10) Classroom libraries return
- 11) Classroom plexiglass removed.
- 12) The three day quarantine on supplies be eliminated. - (ie Book buddies, etc)

I have reviewed in detail all the governor's executive orders - Items 2-12 are not mandated in any form. Funding is not contingent upon any of these. I have requested from Dr. Petrone the guidance dictating any of the above - and have received nothing - but it is guidance from various organizations. Guidance is not a mandate.

Dozens of other school districts in surrounding areas across our state have successfully been able to revise the back to school plans to maintain the deep cleaning and safety standards, but return to more normal educational practices, just like they had previously returned board of education meetings. We are overdue for an appropriate adjustment.

I strongly urge re-consideration of the re-opening plan.

Thank you.
Chrissy

From: [Jennifer Petro](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audience of Citizens 7/29/21
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:27:47 PM

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our school district for all of their efforts this past year to give our children a successful in-person experience. As I spoke to friends and family across the country this past year, I recognized how fortunate our children were to have the option of an entire year in person as it was not the case for so many communities.

I would encourage the Board of Education to continue supporting a data-informed approach to the school year by continuing to adhere to CDC recommendations for the health and safety of the school community including use of masks in school. The context has not changed for the majority of children in district who do not have a vaccination option available at this point. While I imagine there are opportunities for different flexibilities in the coming year based on what has been learned and observed, consideration of discontinuing the use of masks at this point would seem premature.

Many thanks to you all for your service to the community and our children.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Petro

From: [Jennifer Garlock](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reopening 21-22
Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:45:57 PM

To the Coventry Board of Education

Thank you for hearing my concerns once again. I am asking that you revise the re-opening plan for next school year.

At the last Board of Ed meeting we sat and listened as each parental request was denied with the same response, "that is the current guidance". After the governor's press conference in Vernon on July 27th we know that's no longer true. Connecticut students are currently enjoying a summer of fun at museums and educational centers where they're packed in like sardines with very few masks in sight. The infection rate among children in our state remains extremely low, and it is time to give the decision making powers back to the parents. We should be the ones deciding what is in the best interest of our children. This parent is going on record that sitting in a wet, dirty mask all day is not in the best interest of my child. My oldest came home from school nearly every day in a wet, snack stained, blackened mask. She went to school each day with 5 extras in a ziplock bag inside her backpack, and somehow nobody thought to say, "Emma, you just sneezed in your mask, maybe now is a good time to get a new one" or "Emma, I see that your mask is wet, maybe it's time we swap it out for a dry one". No, that was the responsibility of my 5 year old with special needs. Will my three year old be expected to make that call when she attends school in the fall? Now, I know the teachers are busy. They have their hands full with not only teaching their class, but PPT meetings, 504 planning, calls to parents, and providing extra help to students who have fallen behind over the past 16 months. I'm not saying masks should be banned, but I am saying the choice should be handed back to the parents.

I'd like to remind you of my last statement. I introduced my daughter, Emma to you. As you may remember she is an incoming first grader at Coventry Grammar and on the autism spectrum. Isolation and the inability to see the faces of her teachers and peers has hindered her social and speech development and her ability to learn. I watched as each of you removed your masks during your last meeting when it was your turn to speak. You did this because if you didn't, your voices would be muffled and board members seated just a few feet away would be unable to hear you. Now, imagine being 6 and sitting in the back of the classroom. Your teacher is trying to teach you a math problem, but you can't hear her from under her mask. She removes it, but you still can't hear because she's behind plexiglass. This is not the appropriate education that our children are entitled to. If she can go to the aquarium, playground, amusement parks, a concert or beach, unmasked with hundreds of other people why can't she sit in a classroom with 15 other students and her teacher without one? She can't play on the school playground with her classmates or participate in outdoor gym class without one? What makes the playground at school more dangerous than the packed Adam's Adventure playground?

The isolation policy in the cafeteria has got to go! Our children are inside a classroom with the same kids all day. They are in cohorts that cannot intermingle, and the entire class in k-5 has to quarantine if there is an exposure. How can we expect the kids to eat with the same student all year round? How can we say that it's ok for a student to eat alone every day if they aren't matched with a buddy on day one because there's an odd number of students in the class. How can you sit there and say that this is good for a child's social development? These kids deserve the chance to get to know all of their classmates. Lunch is one of the few social times the kids get in the day and to limit that to one other student for the entire year is unreasonable.

I'd also like to see some changes to the locker and cubby policies going forward next year as well. This past year my daughter was unable to leave snow gear in her cubby, but was required to leave extra clothing in a bin that also contained the extra clothing for every other child in her class. We've long known that Covid-19 isn't being spread through contact with objects. So why are we still acting like our healthy children's snow pants will infect the entire school? Emma had to carry a backpack too large for her back and forth to school every day in order to take her snow gear. It was not only inconvenient, but it made climbing up and down the bus steps unsafe.

I have a three year old who will be starting school at Hale this year. She deserves to know the joy of school, the excitement of meeting new friends, and she deserves to be greeted by a preschool teacher with a kind smile. She

should have the ability to meet her teacher and see her classroom before the first day that she is dropped off. She should be able to walk in feeling safe and secure not unaware and afraid. We have the opportunity to provide that for her.

I'm urging you to put yourself in my children's shoes. Ask yourself how you would feel eating alone, playing alone, struggling to hear your teacher, and wearing a wet and dirty mask all day.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Garlock

From: [Heather Kinsley](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July BOE
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:24:02 PM

Board of Education Members,

Hello,

My Name is Heather Gregan and I have been a Coventry resident for 8 years. I am thankful that Coventry was able to maintain an in person learning experience for our children in this town. While I did not take advantage of this until fairly late in the year for our son, I can appreciate the lengths the schools, teachers and administration took to make this a possibility.

My husband and I moved here for the small town atmosphere and the quality of education and I was nervous but excited to have my child attend Kindergarten in 2020, but life happened, Covid happened and him being the introverted kid who had just started coming out of his shell, we kept him where he was in the fall and he thrived. I had hope for his transition into Coventry's public school system but knew there could be some bumps, so I registered him to finish out the last few weeks of this past year.

In five weeks, he had 3 canker sores which he has never had in his life, multiple headaches and was constantly coming home tired. He dreaded going to school, hated his mask, he cried almost every morning and there were times when I did as well. I am sick of hearing children are resilient! I'm sick of hearing that the kids are ok with this. I hate being passed aside because it seems to be unheard of when children have a hard time with masks. My 5 year old should not have to be resilient! My shy 5 year old should be able to feel that comfort of walking into school and seeing smiles from teachers and students, learn to recognize non-verbal responses with whole faces, and his teacher should be able to recognize him without his mask on. Probably the most important point is that my child should not be coming home with a dirty wet mask on his face that's been festering with whatever bacteria for who knows how long against his little face. How is that keeping him healthy?

We locked down, we wore masks, we complied, we've gotten vaccinated. We did it all to protect the elderly, the immunocompromised and unhealthy however it seems the needs of our children are last on everyone's list. The covid numbers in children do not support the need for masks. The only thing we are seeing in children is increases in clinical depression diagnosis, rates of self harm, suicidal thoughts. The kids are safe. They always have been. Children have a higher rate of dying from the flu than they do of covid and are 3 times more likely to drown. Children make up about 20% of the entire population and only 331 have died from COVID. We've asked so much of them and it's time for us to give them the break. Where are the studies that show these masks will not be more harmful than the actual virus we are trying to prevent? Our children have been the least effected by covid yet the ones to suffer the most. They have given enough of themselves and it's time to let them breathe. It's time to let them see their teacher's faces, let them see their friends smiles.

My child has been going to a center throughout the pandemic along with other essential worker's kids, 2 just in his class that work at

Manchester Memorial Hospital and not one case. They've practiced good hygiene, have a new schedule for washing hands and surfaces at night and it works. **We waited until we were through the worst last year to even begin to mask the children and we have never masked them for their own safety, but for the safety of others.**

Our vaccination rates in the area are high, our most fragile communities 65+ are reportedly 100% vaccinated. Connecticut has one of the highest vaccination rates across the country yet we still mask our children. The Governor has stated it is the Superintendents that have to make the call for how strict their district needs to be based on the numbers of cases and vaccinations in their area why can't we choose to be less stringent when our numbers support that? We are not in the same situation as urban areas in CT.

Going forward, what learning experience will my child have in Coventry if he chooses not to wear a mask? Will he be denied an education that is so granted to him by the state of Connecticut's own constitution? What arrangements will be made by this town to support that right? We are a month away from schools opening and parents who choose to not mask their child any longer need a plan!

“Wow, I’ve never seen your face before” a direct quote from one of my wife’s students as we walked past them in public. What a shame that a developing child is unable to interact with their fellow students and teachers without a mask covering their face. Young and developing children rely heavily on facial cues, and masking will negatively affect these children in the future. These ordinances and mandates are already negatively affecting our youth. Mental health hospital visits since COVID affecting children ages 5-11 has increased over 25%. We need to stop the nonsense now and let our kids be kids again!

Sincerely,
Coventry Resident

From: [Lisa Thomas](#)
To: [Jennifer Beausoleil](#)
Cc: [David Petrone](#); [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] masks in schools
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 3:05:32 PM

Dear Chairwoman Beausoleil and Superintendent Petrone,

I implore you not to follow the lead of the "Unmask Our Kids" movement. I'm sure you understand how important it is to maintain the greatest safety in our schools - schools where children and adults with a wide variety of health vulnerabilities spend their days for 10 months or more of the year. Coventry Public Schools staff have probably already shared with you, or perhaps you observed yourself, that we teachers found many ways to help kids adapt to mask wearing, including communicating their feelings and needs. And as parents, we know exactly how much can be communicated with an eye roll! The reality is, if a child really was not able to get their thoughts across to us when they were masked, we were able to step outside or behind shields to remove our masks. It really isn't that difficult. Do you know what did not happen in schools this past year? High absentee levels due to flu, stomach virus, strep throat and other illnesses that typically roar through our schools. That was a bonus for learning!

A last thought. Do you know anyone who died of COVID? I lost 2 family members. Do you know kids who lost family members to COVID, including their mom or dad? I had at least 5 current and former students last year who did. Some of them worry, still, that it was their fault if they brought the virus home from school. Is it worth taking a chance just because some find it inconvenient to "mask up"? Are those same people opposed to wearing their "shirt and shoes" into stores and restaurants? Do they make sure their young children wear football helmets, catcher's masks and other protective sports gear?

Please include this in the next BOE audience of citizens and please have the courage to protect the children and staff in our schools.

Thank you,

Lisa Thomas

255 Geraldine Drive

Lisa Thomas
Facebook @ [LisaForEasternCT](#)
Coventry Town Councilwoman
860.930.7303
"You promote what you tolerate"

From: [Emma Eaton](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AOC 7/29/21
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:57:52 PM

Good evening Dr. Petrone and Board members,

I'm writing to once again extend thanks to Dr. Petrone and the entirety of the Coventry Public Schools staff for the remarkable job they did last school year continuing to provide high quality, in-person education to all of our students, beginning in September, during a year when only about 30% of schools in Connecticut were doing so due to the pandemic. Dr. Petrone's well-informed leadership and close working relationship with Rob Miller at Eastern Highlands Health District helped navigate us through a necessarily ever-changing landscape of guidance and regulations.

As we look forward into the 21-22 school year the end of this pandemic is not yet in sight. Worse, with the far more transmissible Delta variant on a steep rise throughout the country, including in Connecticut per the CDC, case counts are increasing again. At least half of our overall student body is not yet eligible to receive vaccine due to their age, eliminating the best source of protection as a possibility for them.

I am so proud and thankful that our district has maintained a factual, data-driven methodology in planning to keep our staff, students, and families safe throughout this time. It's clear from the recommendations of both the AAP and CDC that the data points to enhanced safety protocols still being the best tool we have to protect all of Coventry's families as we enter into the 2021-2022 school year and anticipate another successful academic year. I think it's fair to say that every family looks forward to the time when students can return to school "the way it was" before the pandemic, but it seems that the data tell us that time has not yet arrived.

With thanks for all you do,

Emma Eaton
41 Sean Circle