

Mount Pleasant Central School District

Board of Education

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February 18, 2022

The Honorable Governor Kathy Hochul
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

The Superintendent and Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District call on the Governor and New York State officials to make the following changes to mask requirements in schools.

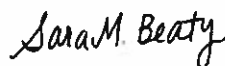
- The New York State Department of Health should allow the current mask mandate in schools to expire on February 21, 2022. Our position is based on the current availability of vaccinations for all school-aged children and low transmission rates in our schools, which remain well below county and community averages.
- Our neighboring states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut have already announced that they are ending masking requirements for schools. In an analysis of Johns Hopkins University Data, New York ranked 48th among states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis. We continue to support a family's decision to wear a mask if they so choose.
- With rates of community transmission so low, we believe that it is time for mask mandates to expire. The adverse impact on many students regarding their communication, learning, and social-emotional well-being is notable. Many are confused as they are no longer mandated to mask outside of school. Thus, we believe that the current low transmission rates support an individual family's ability to choose what is best for them and their children.

We thank you for your hard work and advocate for changes that are measured, appropriate, and timely. We ask for the expiration of the mask mandate on February 21, 2022.

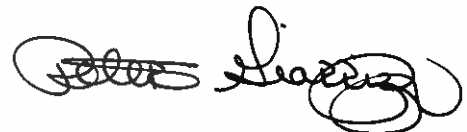
Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Michael Horan
President
Board of Education



Ms. Sara Beaty
Vice President
Board of Education



Dr. Peter Giarrizzo
Superintendent of Schools