

I am a Parent / Taxpayer who does NOT want Policy ADD removed or revised, or District time wasted with special meeting

email: Sarah Ostergaard"

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 9:01:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "rlhardy@lexrich5.org Robin Hardy"

To the Board of Trustees:

As I have written and said before, I am a parent, teacher, homeowner, taxpayer, voter, and community member in this district. I have a lot of reasons to have a voice and I NEED MY VOICE HEARD:

(1) Do not revoke or amend Policy ADD this school year. Like most of the children you serve, my daughter is too young to be vaccinated. Even though you personally may disagree that masks work, our doctor tells me they do (Lexington Family Practice in Ballentine), the CDC tells you they do, DHEC tells you they do, State Superintendent Molly Spearman tells you they do. There is already discretion in the current policy; masks may already be removed at recess.

(2) Do not waste my taxpayer dollars or my district's time in emergency meetings. There is no emergency here that cannot wait 6 days for the regularly scheduled meeting.

I have been consistent in this message and feel this message is consistently disregarded. It should not matter whether you agree or disagree personally; you were elected to serve ALL people and not allow a small, vocal group to rule over us all.

No one likes "mandates." I am also a tried-and-true Republican who believes in local governance, so I understand the concern against mandating masks. I understand the slippery slope argument and the "don't tread on me" loyalty. There are times, however, when even we conservatives have to defer to the collective need and put our own preferences to the side *for a short while*. The school year has 33 more days. We can make it 33 more days with the current policy.

You and I are not scientists; I will not argue with you about what science does or does not say. I do know good governance, best practices, and ethics. I will ask you to keep in mind proper process and procedure, and respect for your employees' time. All of those point to keeping Policy ADD unchanged for the rest of this school year and not calling emergency meetings when there is no emergency.

Do you know?

-- FIVE students, the ones who are home because they want to avoid contact with the virus, are soon heading to school to take state-required tests f2f in classrooms with other students. These virtual students have to GO TO SCHOOL to take high-stress tests and this is NOT the time to remove or loosen the mask policy.

-- Teacher contracts are due May 10 and teachers are watching. I need them there next year for my daughter and our LR5 community. I need her talented and trained AP teachers, IB teachers, CATE teachers. You need them to see a reason to stay.

-- The training (I watched the video) said you can do as you please but to remember that the District employees are people. They have lives and regular, full jobs. I need them to do the work of leading the

district that is educating my daughter, and not the work of preparing for emergency meetings when there is no emergency.

In case I was unclear, I am a parent, etc. who is insisting that she be heard -- Policy ADD should remain in place for the rest of the school year and emergency meetings should be reserved for true emergencies.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ostergaard

email: Sarah Ostergaard"

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:09:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "rlhardy@lexrich5.org Robin Hardy"

Good afternoon, Trustee Huddle, and thank you for responding.

I appreciate hearing back from you.

I contacted you from my personal email address, on my personal time, primarily as a parent, and I take my different roles very seriously. While I am happy to answer teacher-related questions, I respectfully request that you send those inquiries to my teacher email address rather than my personal email address.

Thank you for your understanding, and I have added back the original recipients for clear communication.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ostergaard

On Tue, May 4, 2021 at 7:52 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ms. Ostergaard, Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this matter. The superintendent has the power to make amendments under the current policy and I understand that principals communicated some exemptions to our policy last week to teachers. Did that happen in your school and can you tell me what those exemptions were? It would help me to understand what expectations teachers now have.

Thank-you,
Catherine Huddle

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 9:02 PM Sarah Ostergaard wrote:

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Sarah Ostergaard

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee
