
Mask Policy

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 9:25:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Dr. Melton and Chair Hammond,

I would like to reiterate my concerns that students in District 5 should not be required to wear masks outdoors. I understand what the policy says. The reality is that students are having to wear masks at outside recess. The current school year began in-person in the fall, with cooler weather and different circumstances. We are now at the end of the school year, we have more information, teachers have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and the weather is beginning to become consistently warmer. I have heard several concerns (and I share them for my own children) that requiring masks outdoors is causing issues, especially with smaller children. There appears to be confusion with the way that the policy is written or there is lack of consistency as to how the policy is being applied or enforced.

As you both know, I firmly believe the policy is an overreach and I believe we need to address it in the next board meetings. In addition, this is a fluid situation that has been made increasingly political with Governor's commentary. Although his comments are not a directive to school districts, I am aware that there is a possibility that he issues an Executive Order to lift the mandate, prior to the SCDOE changing it at the end of the school year. Unless or until that happens, I do not feel it appropriate to hold an emergency meeting; however, I would strongly request that the issue of outdoor activities be addressed now, to allow choice for students.

Personally, I would like to see our board and administration work together on this issue on a united front. I understand this is a divisive topic for some.

I appreciate you both.

Kind regards,
Rebecca

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Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Board Trustee
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties
