



# EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS

Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow

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August 31, 2021

Kalyn Macchia  
664 Brockway Ave  
Crystal Lake, IL. 60014

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Dear Ms. Macchia:

On Wednesday, August 25, 2021, Crystal Lake School District No. 47 received a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Request from you via email, in which you requested the following:

- emails & correspondences between Kathy Hinz and Board members with Lisa Messinger between 1/1/21 - current

The information provided below fulfills our obligation to your FOIA request.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 815-788-5000.

Sincerely,

Clare F. Bourne  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Crystal Lake School District 47

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300 Commerce Dr. Crystal Lake, IL 60014 815.788.5000

[www.d47.org](http://www.d47.org) D47schools [crystallakesd47](https://twitter.com/crystallakesd47)

**REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS**  
**PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (5ILCS 140)**

Date of Request:	<u>8/25/2021</u>	FOIA Record #	_____
Name:	<u>K. Macchia</u>	Organization:	_____
Address:	<u>664 Broadway Ave</u> <u>Crystal Lake, IL</u>	Phone Number:	<u>815-451-6111</u>

**I HEREBY REQUEST ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING RECORDS:**

Please attach any emails & correspondences between Kathy Hinz and

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Board Members with Lisa Messinger between 1/1/21-current.

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Within 5 business days of the District receiving your request, you are entitled to a response, or notice that the district is in need of addition processing time (not to exceed an additional 5 business days).When our response is complete, we will contact you.

The District’s response, including all supporting documents, and FOIA request with all submitted information, will be posted online under “Freedom of Information” on the District 47 website. District 47 provides this service as a public courtesy for no fee. Documents will be posted within 10 business days from our response to your request.

Fees will apply after the initial limited amount of black and white copies are provided. Actual cost of color or abnormal size copies will apply.

On Sun, Jul 25, 2021 at 9:47 AM L [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Hinz,

As a Pediatrician in Crystal Lake, I would like to express my dismay regarding the school board's recent decision to make masks optional for students in D47. I have very serious concerns for the health and well being of my patients who will be attending school this fall. Specifically, those children who are too young to be vaccinated against covid-19. I have children in my practice with asthma, type1 diabetes, and cancer. By not mandating masks for unvaccinated children, these high risk children after being placed in a potentially life threatening environment by attending school. As I am sure you are aware, the American Academy of Pediatrics supports masking all children at this time. Of course, IDPH and the CDC also support masking for children indoors.

In addition to some parents opposing a mask mandate, I am hearing some parents now intend to ignore or be dishonest on the health screening questionnaire. I am also hearing that some parents plan to ignore the quarantine or isolation mandates from the health department or the school. We already saw that many families refused to cooperate with contact tracing through the health department last year. I would like to know how the school district plans to handle these situations. Will covid testing be required for symptomatic children to return to school? Will a doctor's visit or note be required?

As a local pediatrician, I have seen first hand how much our children have suffered this past year due to remote learning and missing out on important sports and social clubs. I want nothing more than to keep the kids in school as much as possible. For my part I have been encouraging all of my patients to get vaccinated if they are eligible and mask up for indoor activities, especially school. This, along with other mitigation efforts is how we maintain in person school this year.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Messinger

Good morning,

I have blind copied the board on my response as I understand you may have emailed them separately and I want to keep them in the loop of communication without violating the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Thank you so much for your email and for sharing your feedback and concerns about masking and quarantine when the school year opens next month.

Our goal has been and continues to be providing a safe and healthy environment that supports our students academically, socially, and emotionally. I also want to say that we are following the guidance of the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE. The guidance stresses layered mitigations, which our plan contains. The guidance also recommends face masks for those that are not vaccinated. We support that recommendation and will have signage at all of our buildings informing people of the guidance. We also will have masks available in all of our buildings for people who ask for/need one. I know that some people have equated recommended to must or required; however, the guidance uses the terms "should" and "recommended" for school buildings and "must" on buses. This shows a clear delineation in the guidance between the two areas as they also stressed the importance of local control for decision-making. We understand that the AAP came out with differing recommendations last week; however, the guidance that public schools are overseen by are those issued by the IDPH and ISBE. As we did all last year, we will continue to monitor the metrics and consult with the health department and, if needed, we will adjust our mitigations.

As you know, schools do not exist in a vacuum. It is unfortunate and unhelpful for everyone when people do not follow the procedures put in place to help fight the pandemic and that continues to be a frustration of ours; however, the sole responsibility of mitigation implementation does not fall on the schools. For example, although the county health department has received significant funds to support contact tracing, we have not received any support in this process. As a result, many staff in the district have spent countless hours 24/7 over the past 17 months contact tracing and enforcing the quarantines at our facilities above and beyond their other assigned roles and responsibilities. We have not allowed people to return during their quarantine period and even had an article run in the Herald about a person who tried to send their child and was refused. Additionally, schools have been noted as one of the places where transmission is very low due to our ability to implement numerous layered mitigation measures consistently. Very few, if any, of our positive cases last year could be definitively traced back to contact within the schools. However, we ended up quarantining countless hundreds of people for contact that they had outside of schools which either resulted in them testing positive or coming in contact with someone who has tested positive. As a result, all of our mitigation efforts can not stop the spread if people do not attend to the mitigation measures outside of our facilities in the broader community. If people are not following the quarantine guidelines outside of the schools in public, we can not monitor and/or enforce that and it's inappropriate to hold the public schools responsible for what people do in their personal lives. I hope that you are also asking the health department and other organizations what they are doing to help support and enforce mitigations in the community at large.

Over the past 16 months, I have collaborated extensively with other area school districts as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the

McHenry County Health Department to ensure our decisions are made with the most up-to-date information. I will continue this consultation throughout the 2021/22 school year, and we will modify our mitigations as needed (as we did throughout the 2020/21 school year). We know that everyone will not agree with our plan. We do appreciate you taking the time to share your feedback and concerns as it helps us reflect and continue to plan. Thank you.

**Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.**

*Superintendent*

*(she/her/ella)*



**CORE Center**

300 Commerce Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815.788.5012

[www.d47.org](http://www.d47.org)

***“Empowering All Students: Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow”***

7/25/2021

Thank you for taking the time to communicate with me regarding your thoughts/concerns for the upcoming school year. I’m reaching out as one of seven board members and do not speak for the board collectively.

Our superintendent, Dr. Kathy Hinz, has, and will continue to spend countless hours in communication with our local and state health departments. She updates us on those communications and District 47 will continue to make decisions that will provide a safe learning environment for the whole child. I know that I will continue to ask Dr. Hinz for updates regarding the health department recommendations and I will always give my input to follow the science and health experts to provide a safe learning environment for our children.

We know that there will be decisions made that will not please everyone but we will continue to strive to take all information to inform our decisions.

Thank you for your support,

Jonathan Powell

7/27/2021

Dr. Messinger,

Thank you for your email. I appreciated your comments at our board meeting last Monday. As you were present for our meeting, you are aware that we did not vote on the matter. Our superintendent made a recommendation that we as a school board supported. As Dr. Hinz addressed we are utilizing other mediations. I appreciate your passion.

Thanks

Rob

On Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 11:57 AM L [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dr. Hinz,

Thank you for your thoughtful response. Since my last email, the CDC has revised the recommendations regarding masking. Yesterday, IDPH adopted these recommendations as well. IDPH released this statement:

"On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) given new evidence on the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant currently circulating in the United States. In summary, CDC recommends that unvaccinated and fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#). CDC also recommends **universal indoor masking** for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status."

Given that IDPH is now recommending **universal indoor masking in schools**, when can we expect our district will be changing the policy regarding masking?

Thank you,

Lisa Messinger, M.D., F.A.A.P.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email and question. I was actually on the open phone call conference with the CDC yesterday at 2 pm as they shared their updated guidance and conducted a Q&A. I also just had my weekly call with the McHenry County Health Department. We are diligently examining, analyzing, and evaluating the ever-changing guidance regarding COVID preventative measures and mitigation strategies. We expect to receive updated guidance and clarification in the upcoming weeks. In order to finalize our reopening plan, we will continue to watch and monitor current local conditions and consult with the health department as we plan for school opening on August 18th. We understand and acknowledge the conflicting community views on the topic. We are being deliberate in our approach and planning for the 2021/22 school year with a focus on student learning and engagement as well as safety. Thank you for contacting me about your concerns. We will update the community on our reopening plan as soon as all guidance has been released and we have finalized our plans.

**Kathy J Hinz, Ed. D.**  
*Superintendent*  
*(she/her/ella)*



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