



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Letter regarding school re-opening

1 message

Robin Froehle <robinfroehle@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 11:21 PM

To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Good morning,

I have written a letter to the BOE in regards to school reopening. Thank you.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Robin Froehle and I live at [252 Ansonia Road](#). I have three children at Beecher Road School and I am also a nurse. I have just returned to my job as a nursing instructor in a nursing home with students three weeks ago. I must wear a mask and have a Covid test weekly. The students, who are adult learners, would typically have a 9 hour day at their clinical site. Right now they only go for four hours daily because it has been determined that asking more from them would be too much. Again, these are adults. But we are asking our children, ages 4-12, to sit in a classroom with a mask on for close to 7 hours per day. Other nurses try to tell teachers to just relax and that they will get used to it, as most nurses had to. But teachers are not nurses. They did not go into this career knowing that their health could be jeopardized by their job and it is unreasonable for people to think that they should do so without objection. As a nurse, I am given the proper PPE to wear when I am exposed to ONE SINGLE PATIENT. I have never, as a nurse, been trapped in a room with 20 plus patients, any of whom may be carrying Covid asymptomatically. That is what we are asking of our teachers. And I used the word trapped because that is exactly what it will be for the teachers.

If the CDC thinks that it is safe for students to return to class, then one model should be universal. But just about every town has a different plan across the state and the country. We are treating returning to school like an experiment and our children and teachers/aides/support staff/etc. are the test subjects. This makes no sense to me and I am unsure how it makes sense to anyone else. I know that people have to work. I also have to work as does my husband. It is the job of the state to educate our children. It is not their job to babysit them. My family will figure out how to make it work because my children's lives are more important to me than anything.

My final concerns have to do with the lack of communication about a couple of issues. First, parents were not shown what the privacy shields look like. When I got my first view of them in the teachers' letter, I was taken aback. They look like something you would see in a prison when you visit someone. I am not even sure how the teacher could see each student without walking around the room, which they cannot do. Second, the teachers' survey showed that about ¼ of Beecher teachers will not return to school to teach if we do in person learning. Who will be teaching our children? The substitute teachers that now only need to be 18 with a high school diploma? This is unacceptable. This is information that all parents should have had prior to returning our own survey. It would have drastically affected my response. Distance learning is not ideal. I think we all agree on that. But what is the point of physically sending children to school if they are not even being taught by certified teachers? Please do the right thing, the safe thing and start with distance learning for all.

Sincerely,

Robin Froehle MSN, RN