

**The following is a transcript of the Zoom listening session for Grant, McDaniel, Jefferson and MPG families on October 19, 2021:**

Courtney Westling:

That's a resounding... going to kick us off. Good evening, everybody. My name's Courtney Westling. I am the Government Relations Director for Portland Public Schools, and I am going to get us kicked over to the board in a second. But we just thank you for being here and joining us tonight to share your thoughts as a proposed mandate on the COVID vaccine is being discussed for 12 and older.

We're going to have some ground rules that I'll let our board discuss with you, but I want to just welcome you, thank you for being here and taking time out of your evening. I can hear my own kids in the background, so I appreciate it. I'm going to ask Chair DePass to get us started. Or actually, I'm sorry, I'm going to have our board members introduce themselves first and our staff introduce themselves first and then we'll get started. I'm sorry. I always skip the important part. So maybe Chair DePass, you can start? And you are muted.

Speaker 1:

You're muted.

Courtney Westling:

It happens every time guys. Somebody's got to be the first one.

Michelle DePass:

Someone has to start falling forward first. Hi, everyone. My name is Michelle DePass. I'm the Board Chair this year. I'm interested in being here, and my role here today is to listen. I'm a PPS parent and I'm a product of PPS, as well, and have lived in and around the district all of my life. Thanks. I'll turn it over to my colleague, Director Hollands.

Gary Hollands:

Hello. Hello, everyone. My name is Gary Hollands. I'm a newly elected Director of PPS. Once again, I'm here as well just to listen and learn from the community on this very important topic. Lifelong Oregonian, got web feet, and so I'm just really excited to hear what our community has to say.

Courtney Westling:

Okay. Thank you. Dr. Byrd, do you want to introduce yourself?

Shawn Bird:

Hi. Good evening, everyone. I'm Shawn Byrd. I'm the Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and School Communities. I'm also just here to listen. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Great. Thank you. And Roseanne, I think you're the last staffer that needs to tell people who you are.

Roseanne Powell:

Thank you. I'm Roseanne Powell and I'm the Board Manager.

Courtney Westling:

Great. Thank you. I'm going to have Director Hollands get us started and share some of the, why we're here and then we'll move into all of your comments. We're going to do the best we can to get everybody

heard. So, we're going to move pretty rapidly and we will have to tell you when your time is getting near the end, but I'll have our directors lay out some of the ground rules. Thank you.

Gary Hollands:

Thank you, Courtney. So as you guys all know, our number one priority at the school district is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, family, and our staff, which is why we have worked hard to implement safety measures across the system to safely open schools this fall. To date, as best as we can, we've tried to implement safety measures, including mask wearing, physical distancing, screening, testing, isolation of quarantining individuals with positive cases of folks that have been in close contact, regular hand-washing, of course, cleaning and disinfecting, in between, tried to upgrade our ventilation and air systems, and of course, we're requiring all our staff, volunteers, contractors, coaches, to be vaccinated. Like many districts around Oregon and U.S., We are discussing the possibility of requiring vaccines for students 12 and up.

Now, we know this is a personal and highly sensitive issue, which is why we want to hear from you guys and want to hear from as many of you, in the time that we have allotted. We know that we're not going to be able to hear from everyone, as there is a lot of people who wants to weigh in on this, and rightfully so. We're going to just ask if you guys can limit your comments to two minutes and then staff will time you and let you know when we need to end. Staff will let you guys kind of know when you need to end, so we can move on to the next person.

Again, we're just here to listen. We're not here to try to debate and find out what's going on and all that. It's literally just for us to listen to what you guys have to say. So it won't be like a question and answer session. It'll mostly just be for you guys to let us know where you guys are at about this decision of mandating vaccines for our kids or not. That's all I got to say. We'll move on to Ms. Chair DePass.

Michelle DePass:

Thank you, Director Hollands. Hi, everyone. Please know, that as a community, we value each individual's beliefs and principles. We've heard and seen from school board members across the country and even in Oregon, that vaccines, masking and COVID response are difficult topics. So, I want to acknowledge that fact, and also mention that we will not tolerate disrespectful or hurtful comments. If you express disrespect, we will have to mute you, especially, if you interfere with another's inability to listen and share their comments. We'll have a hard stop at 8:00, and we'll get through as many of your comments as possible. Again, we value your input. This is a listening session for us, so we can make our decisions more informed. If we do not get to all of you, you can share your comments in writing, using our Let's Talk contact form, which is available at [pps.net/contact](https://pps.net/contact).

Following tonight's listening sessions, the board will have a discussion at the October 26th meeting on the merits, consequences and impacts of a vaccine requirement. If the board decides to move forward with a vaccine requirement, we would consider and vote on a student vaccine requirement at the November 2nd board meeting. Please know that this session is being live streamed and recorded, and during your two minutes, we welcome your opinion on these two questions or would ask for your opinion. Again, if you, if you can wrap up sooner than two minutes, we'll have time to hear from more of your neighbors.

We're asking for your opinion on these two questions. If PPS requires students 12 and up to be vaccinated against COVID-19, how will it impact your students' experience at school? And two, if PPS requires students 12 and up to be vaccinated against COVID-19, what resources and supports are the

most essential to support your student. I'm going to turn it back to Courtney now, to get us started, and thank you for being here.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, directors. Appreciate the intro. So we're going to get started. I'm going to go based on when people RSVP'ed for this meeting, just because I want to do this in a way that makes sense to me, and I hope that works for everyone. I also want to let you know that I think there are some members of the media here. They're just listening. This is an important topic. So, I just want everyone to be aware of that fact. So we will get started.

I'm going to try to put the questions up on a share screen, but it's also kind of tough to juggle looking at Google list. So I'll try to do my best, but let us know if you need the questions repeated and again, thank you for being here.

Okay. So, the first person I have on my list and I didn't see him in the room. So, if it's a minute or a few seconds and I'm not hearing from anybody, we'll move on. I have Steven Dell [Guidicca 00:08:00], I think I said that, right. Hopefully.

Roseanne Powell:

I don't see him in the room.

Courtney Westling:

Yeah. I don't see him. Okay. We'll move on. So next I have [Kara Eckhardt 00:08:11] . And of course, sometimes people RSVP and then things come up. So, it's okay. We're just going to keep moving. Kara? Okay. Jenny [McClister 00:08:25] .

Roseanne Powell:

I don't see her either.

Courtney Westling:

Rachel Hall I saw. But I'm not seeing her now, so we'll move on. Jennifer Blankenbaker.

Roseanne Powell:

I see Jennifer and she's on mute.

Jennifer Blankenbaker:

I'm just here to listen.

Courtney Westling:

Great. Okay. Thank you very much. Thanks for letting us know. Andy [Rontal 00:08:59]. I did see Rachel Hall and I want to give her a chance to...

Roseanne Powell:

I think Rachel's unmuted.

Rachell Hall:

I here to listen, also.

Courtney Westling:

Okay. Thank you. Okay, Richard, you're up. Richard Pitcairn.

Dr. Richard Pitcairn:

Hello there. My name is Dr. Richard Pitcairn, and boy, this is going to be a really fast two minutes. I'm going to have to talk pretty quick here. First, I want to acknowledge that the COVID vaccines have a really good benefit for the at-risk population in keeping them out of hospitals and from worse things happening. There was recently a faculty staff from HSU that was on CBS news on October 14th. The subject matter was American's Broken Relationship with COVID Math. And the bottom line is... what they were stating is, COVID is pretty much age driven. So, young children are simply not at the risk doctors that elderly are. With that, kids respond, like they do with other respiratory illnesses, and they do quite well.

This morning on OPB, OHSU is having an outbreak in their fully vaxxed both staff and students. The University of Oregon is having an outbreak and their students are at 96.3% vaccinated. If you look at Israel, you'll see the fully vaccinated people are having a lot of problems. The vaccine is awesome, but I don't think it belongs in our children as a mandate. They call these a leaky vaccines, meaning they decrease severity, but they still do not stop transmission.

The CDC published a paper on a town in Massachusetts where 74% of their outbreak was in the fully vaccinated. The other 26% were in a mixed status. The CDC also is acknowledging that vaccine vaccinated people with COVID carry the same viral load in their nasal pharynx.

What else do I have for you on that? Oh, well, I guess, there's a risk. Vaccines carry a risk. That's just a reality. There's a woman who just passed away. Her name is Jessica Wilson, age 37 up in Seattle leaving two young girls without a mom. A 16-year-old was just reported. She died one day after her Pfizer vaccine. A 15 year-old-boy died six days after his Pfizer vaccine, they did an autopsy and it showed bleeding in his brain and heart damage. And so I think today's discussion should also recognize that five-year-olds are around the corner in this. If we make a policy right now, they're going to be next. I think this should be a student-centered discussion and I think the reality is, this is more adult centered. This is to protect the adults, the elderly, the comorbidities, the teachers. Our children don't need this to survive it. They just simply don't. So, I think it would be a travesty-

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. Sorry that we can't keep going. Appreciate your feedback. Catherine Potter.

Catherine Potter:

I'm here. Can you hear me? Yeah. Okay. Hi, I'm a parent of a grant student and I'm just here to express my support for vaccinations for the 12 and older. I'm not speaking about the younger children, but for the 12 and older, I think there is good evidence that vaccines are good for our population and that the more people we have vaccinated, the better for all of us. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Catherine. And just to clarify everyone, we are speaking to the question of vaccines for 12-years-old and up. So I just want to be really clear. Next is Myles [Ellenby 00:12:48] .

Miles, are you going to speak tonight? Miles Ellenby. We can come back. Rafael Hernandez? Erin Snyder?

Erin Snyder:

Hi there, I'm a parent of a student at Jefferson, and I just wanted to say that I strongly believe that the decision whether or not to vaccinate is a personal one, and it shouldn't be something that the school

**forces onto our kids.** I think it's an extremely polarizing and divisive topic, at the moment. And I'm afraid for how my daughter and her friends will be able to interact and discuss what's happening, if a set of kids are then not going to be in school, if that's the case, if they decide that they don't want to take the vaccine.

I'm just really worried and scared about what's going to happen if it is a mandate, and I just think, if the kids have already been in school part of the year last year and already now, why not just continue the way it is, it should be a personal decision. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks, Erin. Phillip Johnson. Crystal Ball. Catherine Gentle.

Catherine Gentle:

I'm here. Hi. Thank you. I did speak at last week's board meeting. I do want to quickly say, I really appreciate everybody's effort and have great sensitivity to the fears that a lot of people are feeling right around this subject matter. And I do want to support the previous parents that expressed concern regarding the vaccinating of children to protect vulnerable population. **I have a great concern about that.** I also have a great concern regarding mandating something that should be a personal choice, which there still are a lot of unknowns and lots of questions and lots of data points that raise further questions.

My fear is that this would advocate a one size for all. It would add further division. It would impact our family. We would need to consider leaving the district, if this were to pass.

I just can't support school intervening and medical measures when this should be solely purely done between our trusted professionals. Everything feels so rushed. If we could have more dialogue and spend some more time to talk about the true risks to our kids, early treatment options, and actually dedicating resources and time to promote programs that really talk about prevention and what we can do to be empowered as a community today. Not wait for a vaccine. What can we do today that would really aid and by us some time, so that we can have further robust discussion on this topic.

But I cannot support a requirement in a public school where you're tasked to represent a very diverse population. And we don't know the medical conditions of every person. We don't know their religious beliefs. We don't know viral loads in people. We don't know other, undiagnosed situations. We would be putting the school district at great liability. And that's the problem, as well. There is no liability. It would fall solely on the burden of the families to pick up the pieces for any adverse events and there are many-

Roseanne Powell:

We're at two minutes.

Catherine Gentle:

Thank you. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Catherine. Next is Sarah Hayes. Amelia Palmer Hanson.

Chris:

Hi. We've got Amelia and Chris. Amelia asked me to start, and then she might chime in. Immunization mandate is nothing new for a public school system. This vaccine has been fully vetted. **So, we fully support having the vaccine mandate.** The benefit for our child and other children is a decreased risk of isolation, of kids having to quarantine, of teachers getting sick, of kids getting sick.

I understand the anecdotes that the earlier doctor said, but I support the science that PPS is looking at for this mandate. I think it's a benefit for our child and at Madison High School. And for many others.

Amelia Palmer:

I'll just add that this is a no-brainer, and I can't understand why we are having such a controversy about this. We already vaccinate our children for MMR and all these other things. This is just a no-brainer. **We should protect our children by having the vaccine.** It's McDaniel High School that are our student goes to.

Chris:

Yes. Thanks.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. I see somebody's hand up, and I can't acknowledge that. If you're on the list, I will allow you to speak when we get to you. Otherwise, we'll encourage you to submit written comment, or if we have time at the end, I'll of course, offer it. I just want to be clear. Next is Margo [Manson 00:19:17]. Melinda Proud. Or maybe it's Prond. Sorry. Eric Lambert. Saw that one.

Eric Lambert:

Yes. Thank you. Yeah. As a person who actually is immunocompromised and booster vaccinated, I just have mixed feelings. When I think we really look at this from a public health lens, we need to look a little bit more holistically about more than just protecting the most vulnerable populations, like myself.

I think that the fallout from students missing school or alternative, educational measures having to be implemented from people unwilling to take the vaccine, is something that really needs to be weighed heavily. I honestly would say that, we're better off trying to encourage people to get the vaccine, if they feel it's appropriate for them, **rather than mandating it.**

Courtney Westling:

Thanks, Eric. Brendan McCool.

Brenda McCool:

Yeah. Let me put my video on, if I can, let me see here. Maybe I won't be able to put my video on. Can you hear me?

Courtney Westling:

We can.

Brenda McCool:

Okay, great. So I'm a physician as well, and there're several points I'd like to make. Number one, is when we talk about science, we really need to just look no further than the CDC and the VAERS website. You can get all the statistics on [openvaers.com](https://openvaers.com). Since this vaccine has been allowed, there have been nearly 800,000 COVID vaccine, adverse events reported. There's been 16,766 COVID vaccine deaths reported. Now that's out of 25,799,000 total deaths for all vaccines ever given over a 20 year period.

This is not a safe vaccine. This is not accounting for the children. Once we start incorporating them into the picture, there is no liability. There is no recourse for the children that will be injured, and that will die from this vaccine. A UC Davis report done by Hogue scientists, reported that...

Brenda McCool:

... report done by [inaudible 00:22:01] scientist reported that children are more likely to be hospitalized with myocarditis from the vaccine than from COVID, so it's just a huge risk for our children. I am treating vaccine injured children in my practice now. I have one that is on a heart transplant list at Doernbecher's. He's 16 years old. And I have another young gal who is having major menstrual issues that she never had prior to vaccination. We know this travels. The spike protein travels to the brain, the heart, the ovaries. There are no safety studies on this vaccine.

There is no safe safety board. This is not safe for our children. I think there are much better ways to protect our vulnerable, than risking our children. And I also just want to say that the current policy for quarantining unvaccinated kids and letting vaccinated kids, if there's an exposure, come to school is completely... That just doesn't make sense at all because we all know that this vaccine does not prevent transmission. It does not prevent infection. It just prevents severity of the illness. And children are very unlikely to have a severe illness from this given their innate immune systems. And-

Courtney Westling:  
You're at two minutes.

Brenda McCool:  
Okay. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:  
Thank you, Brenda. Rachel O'Rourke?

Rachel O'Rourke:

Hi. Yeah, just one second. I'm going to pull up my notes here. My name's Rachel O'Rourke. This is my husband Quinn. We of three students in Portland Public Schools, a freshman at Grant, a senior at Grant, and a sixth grader at Harriet Tubman. When it comes to the topic of school mandates for the COVID vaccine, I believe that we need to discuss the risk versus reward of the vaccine in order to determine if the mandates are the best solution. Let's start with the reward of getting the vaccine for children under 18. Studies are indicating that vaccinated individuals, regardless of age, may reduce transmission, though, how much is yet to be determined. However, even if transmission is reduced, vaccinated people can and still are spreading COVID, as seen in countries such as Israel, as somebody mentioned before.

Another benefit, our children who are at higher risk of hospitalization may have a reduction in the severity of symptoms. Let's talk about their risk really quick of getting the vaccine. As she mentioned before, recent U.S. researchers have found that boys 12 to 17 with no underlying health conditions are four to six times more likely to experience vaccine induced myocarditis than they are of ending up in the hospital with COVID. The most updated VAERS information shows in just 12 to 17 year olds, 21,652 total adverse reactions, including 1,304 rated to serious and 24 deaths. We also have no idea how this is going to affect our kids long term. Let's talk about the risks of our children getting COVID. The current COVID fatality rate for children under 18 is 0.007.

Healthy kids are likely going to breeze through this, so there is risk and there is a reward. However, we need to weigh out those risks and I think it needs to be a family decision. Now I do want to talk about real quick about how we are currently handling the outbreaks. Our oldest son, who is a senior, recently contracted COVID from school/football. He had received his first Pfizer dose about two weeks prior. As a healthy young person, he quickly recovered. Nobody else in our house got the virus. None of

us. All other four of us are vaccinated. It was very interesting to see though how the schools handled the outbreak. If the student is exposed to COVID and is vaccinated, they can go right back to school. If the student is exposed-

Speaker 2:

Your two minutes are up, Miss O'Rourke.

Rachel O'Rourke:

Okay. Well 20 days, my kids are missing school because they're unvaccinated with two negative tests.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Rachel. I'm sorry. I have to keep moving. Shauna Noon?

Shauna Noon:

Hi. I didn't realize I was on the list. I have a daughter in the Japanese Immersion Program, and currently going to Mount Tabor in sixth grade. And so she is just getting to almost to the age where this would be affecting her. She's 11. She's going to be 12 next year. **And I am not in support of the vaccine for 12 and up. I feel so strongly against that mandate that,** I think the question was, how will that affect us? And we will not continue with Portland Public Schools, and it would be a shame that she would have to be out of the program. Really, we don't know the long term effects of the vaccination. And if we were talking about a vaccine that was a sterilizing vaccine, and you said that people would not be able to get it or spread it, then we would definitely look harder at it for our children.

But I think the risk, reward, like the last person said, is not there. We don't know the long term effects of vaccination. And a lot of kids that have had it and have natural immunity, that's what their immune systems are supposed to do. And giving the vaccine, I feel like is going to interrupt their immune systems, and it's just not for us. And I really feel like it can't be compared to the measles, or the mumps, or polio, or any of the other vaccines. And we happily give our kids that, but like I said, it's too new. I don't think that that age group is a high risk factor. And I am not in support of the public school telling me how I should care for my 11 year old daughter.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. Deborah Weston? Westom? Danielle Bristo? Okay. I think I see Emerald Mansfield with a cute little kid on her lap.

Emerald Mansfield:

Yeah, maybe if you can come back to me, if I can occupy her with something else because I'm sure I'm not going to be able to say much with her here. She's chatting away, but I do have a lot to say, so please come back.

Courtney Westling:

I will make a note and I will come back to you. Justin McBurnett?

Justin McBurnett:

Yeah. Hey. Yeah. I have two children in the Portland Public School system, one at McDaniel and one at Roseway Heights. And I would like to say, focusing on children, we have our kids in school for education. And I think that one of the lessons of the education is to learn from our mistakes and actually be present with each other. I notice sometimes it seems like this is all just being pushed through and the deliberations are already done. I've heard people say things like, "This is a no brainer," and I think a lot of



what we've done in our society indicates that people are just assuming that things are great because science says so. Well, the science isn't settled. They've been working on this vaccine for years. And with that in mind, there's evidence that shows it may not be safe, but that evidence isn't being shown.

And there's that saying, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me," so we need to teach our kids to look more closely at things. Now, I'm not going to get into the science that other people have. If you really want to know the possible side effects, you can find out, but you have to first make the assumption that maybe you need to take more time doing so. There's public relations firms who work for these corporations who make sure that less information is getting out in the mass media, so it's not a conspiracy. It's just a fact. Look what happen with DDT. Let's get rid of malaria, spray our children, spray our public places and beaches with DDT. It'll be great. We'll get rid of malaria. Oh, whoops. Long term side effects is, causes a lot of problems. Oh, how about RoundUp?

That was all approved just like DDT was right. Okay. Now we find out RoundUp is causing answer. Okay, so let's learn from our mistakes. My daughter almost died from Kawasaki's disease, which is very similar to some of the effects of COVID, and I don't feel comfortable with her taking this vaccine. Okay. It hasn't been thoroughly researched. Some of the research has indicates there's going to be problems. Knowing that, you want to ask, if you're already planning to put this vaccine mandate into effect, my daughter's not going to go to school in PPS and neither will my son because I'm going to protect them. Okay. Now, don't think that I don't want the protection of other people. Vaccines is not the only way to do it in this instance. Okay. So-

Courtney Westling:  
Thank you, Justin.

Justin McBurnett:  
Thanks.

Courtney Westling:  
Thank you. Jenny Lind? Jenny, feel free to unmute, if you want to speak. Otherwise, we'll move on.

Jenny Lind:  
Hi. Hi there. I didn't know that I would be talking, but I'm happy to. And I'm going to echo another father. I am immune compromised and I had a booster. I also realized that this is a very divisive issue and very emotional. I think it's really hard to know what the right step might be. That being said, I am pro-vaccination and I am pro-mandate for the school's for 12 and up. I have a 13 year old at Beaumont Middle School. I am not aware of the science for younger kids, and I do understand the hesitancy for mandating that element of the education system. But I think that for in the middle school and high school, it is pretty important to have the kids be in there safely. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:  
Thanks, Jenny. Shelly Langdon?

Shelley Langdon:  
Yes. Hi. Thank you. I want to explain why I oppose the mandate for all eligible students to be vaccinated in order to attend school. It has already been mentioned, there's not enough data to demonstrate safety nor efficacy for this shot for young children. And by contrast, we now have a good amount of data to show potential harm to older kids, and adults, and to teens, particularly by way of myocarditis at the very least. You can't presume to know each child's health situation and whether this shot is a good

choice for them. Because the drug companies cannot be indemnified if there is harm, is the district willing to take responsibility for any harm that might come of mandating a medical product?

Because the responsibility should fall to them. Moving forward without a mandate allows families who are on board with this product to make that choice for their children. Issuing a mandate takes that choice away from families who are not on board with this shot. In terms of how this would affect my family, I have one child, he's a third grader at Portland Charter School, and this is the third school that he's attended so far in the district, and he's finally very happy and very is successful. If a vaccine mandate was issued, we would be leaving the district. And that feels like a real shame and a real missed opportunity for him to continue experiencing success at school. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks, Shelley. Stephanie Savali? Tiara Salmon? Molly Simmons? I think I saw her.

Jeff:

Hi. I'm Molly's husband, Jeff. I just wanted to say, **if this mandate takes place, I have three kids in Portland Public Schools that I would have to pull out.** I just don't support the mandate. I believe in personal choice and I have several reasons. The vaccines don't stop transmission or infection. Even the CDC is admitting this. The vaccines pose a greater risk to kids than COVID. And we know about myocarditis and there's other dangers out there. We don't even know about the long term effects. I also worry about a lot of the vaccines are just one shot and then you're immune for life. These aren't sterilizing immunity vaccines. And I just don't want my kids taking boosters for their entire time while they're in school. Also, the vaccines, I believe for under 16, aren't even FDA approved still under the UA. And I just feel like we're rushing into this. I don't feel like kids should be used to protect adults, especially when the vaccines are available to anyone that needs it. And that's about all I have. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks, I think you said Jeff. Thank you, Jeff. Ry Baird? Deanna Schindler-Oard? Okay, Paul Papak, I see you next to me on the screen.

Paul Papak:

Thank you. I am next to you on the screen. I don't want to repeat all the comments that have already been made. And I thank all the people who've spoken. **I too am against the vaccine mandate.** I've written the board with my comments, many of which echo what's been said here, so I'm going to limit my comment to just one topic that I think is relevant. And that is, we've been talking about whether the vaccine protects against infection and transmission, which seems to me to be a major reason for why PPS is considering a mandate. If you can stop the infection rate and the transmission rate, fewer cases in the school, fewer cases go home, et cetera.

And I think the CDC throws around numbers that suggests four or five times as many unvaccinated people get the virus as do the vaccinated, but I think those numbers are confounding. And I just want to point to a study that came to my attention just a day or so ago that's been published in the European Journal of Epidemiology by a couple of Harvard professors. This study was at Harvard. And the subject is, topic is, increases in COVID 19 are unrelated to levels of vaccination across 68 countries and 2,947 counties in the United States.

And what the authors of that study did was compared places like Iceland and Portugal who have 90% plus rates of vaccination, with Thailand and South Africa where they have 10%, and found that the COVID rates are much higher in the vaccinated countries. Similar, in the United States, in the 2,947 counties, many of the higher vaccinated counties had higher rates of COVID. And if we're not protecting against transmission and infection in Portland Public, then I think the underlying basis for the mandate

disappears. And now, the cost benefit analysis is, do the kids really benefit from the vaccine? And it's clear. It seems to me it's pretty clear that they don't, that they get through COVID pretty well. And what are the risks? And we've pointed out the risks in myocarditis and other-

Courtney Westling:

Mr. Papak, I'm sorry. We have to move on, but thank you.

Paul Papak:

Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Spencer Silar? Krista van Englen? Engelen?

Paul Papak:

Krista van Englen is my wife.

Courtney Westling:

Oh, okay.

Paul Papak:

I could do two more minutes to my time, but she's on another Zoom meeting, so I'll just have to say she's not available.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you for yielding her time. Nazanin Mansouri?

Nazanin Mansouri:

Hi. I apologize first that I don't have video. I agree with most of the parents who spoke here tonight. And even though I'm not in the field of medicine, I'm an engineer, but I have been a researcher for many years of my life and I have followed this. Any study that I could get my hands on, I have looked through and tried to make sense of it, so it did not seem no brainer to me. And I want to point out that our child goes to Lincoln. We couldn't attend that meeting because it's overbooked and we are here to speak, but we have had five cases of individuals in Lincoln since the beginning of the school year. I think this is a minimal thing. I have seen kids that they got COVID and recovered within days, within four or five days. High fever and discomfort, but they tolerated it very well.

As opposed to that, we talk about all of these side effects that I think we just have to weigh in and figure out what makes, in our conscious, in our heart, what we are comfortable with the risks that we expose our children to. And unfortunately, my child is really, really devastated. She's a 4.0 student. You have parents that both have PhDs, but I want my kid to be healthy. I want my kid to be alive and I don't feel comfortable with these risks. And if it comes to choosing between her education and her.. I will move somewhere else. And I know it is going to be hard, but I wanted to say that. And it appears to me, you're trying to fix a nonexistent problem because five cases. That's very well contained. I don't see the reason for mandating for everybody, and getting the choice from all the parents, and thinking that the school knows better.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. Thank you, Miss Mansouri. Taes Lomax? Taes? Taes? Julia Causey?

Julia Causey:

Hi, thank you. So I have four kids in Portland Public, two at Grant and two who at Alameda, and I'm against this mandate. One of our Grant High School students was in a group that was exposed. And because he was not vaccinated, he was sent home for 10 days where he couldn't complete school. And his friends were all texting him, "Where are you? What are you doing? What's going on? Do you have COVID?" And he was trying to lay low because he was worried about the ramifications of his friends knowing. And when he came back out to school, they all put two and two together, and he was outed, and he was bullied, and harassed on his first day back, which was yesterday.

And it's not okay. But the big issue is, the people he was exposed to were students who were vaccinated and they spread it to him, but he didn't get COVID. We've tested him three times. He was negative. No symptoms or nothing. And so he stayed home for 10 days doing nothing. He's perfectly healthy, happy as a clam, but if you were in that exposed group and you were vaccinated, you got to go back to school without being tested. That makes no sense. Why is not every person who is exposed mandated to be tested before you return to the school? That doesn't make sense.

Julia Casey:

Before you return to the school. That doesn't make sense. In addition, why can he, who has zero symptoms, healthy as can be multiple days in a row of negative tests, five days in a row, let him go back to school. He needs to be in school. They need to all be in school and this makes zero sense and the bullying and the harassing, because now every kid in high school has figured it out is not acceptable. And I will not be able to keep my four children in Portland public schools if these mandates come down. There's absolutely no way and it breaks my heart. And I'm finished.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Julia. Lincoln Wheeler. Andrea Hafelt. I know some of these names I'm not seeing, but sometimes they're disguised in other names or the other person in the family. So I just want to make sure. Lori Geller and Greg Nye, I think I saw Greg.

Greg Nye:

Yes, okay, I didn't realize I was even on the list. I wasn't even ready.

Courtney Westling:

You're on the list and you've got two minutes if you want it.

Greg Nye:

Excellent, I will take my two minutes. I am a grandparent. I am a physician. I am also a medical researcher. I have published peer-reviewed publication on these vaccinations. And the publication, we went through a long list of potential unintended consequences of these vaccinations. And at the time that we published it, that was back in May of this year, it never occurred to us as we were doing our research that this could possibly end up being mandated for kids. This whole drive is being fueled by just a pretty extreme misperception of risk and it's too much to go into in detail, but the data is easily available that the population that we're talking about vaccinating here is not at risk for severe disease or death. It's not as though it never happens, the idea of trying to achieve a zero COVID world is not... That's not a rational policy, but the risk to these kids is very low.

The possible consequences that we're putting on these kids is really astounding and I'm attaching the paper that we published and there are others out there in a comment that I am submitting to the board, but really it includes autoimmune disease and cancers and a number of other... And these aren't really just hypothetical, there are very well established ways that this could be happening with

these vaccinations that we're doing in these kids. And it is really unconscionable to me that we would be vaccinating these kids and putting them at risk for-

Courtney Westling:

And Greg, Mr. Nye, I'm sorry. We have to move on, but thank you. And we've reshared the questions on the screen, just because I think we want to stick to the questions that we're asking tonight. So I'm going to move on to Jessica Colbert or Colbert. T Tarver.

T Tarver:

Yes, in response to your question, how will it impact my students experience? My family has already been impacted. I have three children within Portland public, and I totally, totally do not trust anything about PPS process of there are protocols right now with COVID being that I see the numbers of outbreaks in the schools and I'm sorry, but y'all traumatized me with that lead in the water and the radon and every other toxin that you guys have had around our kids in the last few years. So my kids are actually in the online program. And so my family's already been impacted because I have one that did not get in and so has been already pushed out despite there not being a vaccine mandate. And so for me, what I foresee in the future is more students being pushed out. You guys already have over 600 students on your wait list that haven't got in yet.

So you're already running a couple a tiers of separate and unequal schools. The education that my children are getting in your online program definitely was not thought out very well. We are definitely not getting the type of education that they would be if they were in school. Last I recall, you guys had a commitment to students of color, and I'm not being able to tell that. There's no advanced classes, there's very limited CTE, I have one that's a junior getting ready to graduate, doesn't have very many credits that she needs, but can't get advanced classes that she needs. Can't get dual credit, can't get AP classes, so I'm kind of having a problem with that too. So when you guys are implementing these, please look at the consequences because some of our families are already suffering because of the choices that you guys are making willynilly without planning first.

So pretty much this year, I'm counting as another loss of education for my kids, which really sucks because they deserve a good education just like every other kid whose family chooses to go into the building. I feel like we're being punished because we're not going inside the building. And that's something I'm hoping if there's some attorneys or other parents that want to rally, we need to do something because all of our kids are not being educated. We're not getting the type of education. We're not getting access to resources that students in the school building are getting and so you guys are already punishing us, those families who don't want to get the vaccination, those who don't trust you with good reason-

Courtney Westling:

Thank you very much, Miss Tarver we have to move on, but I really appreciate it. Jasmine Gady. Maya Van Geldren. Maya, I can see, there you go.

Maya Van Geldren:

I'll yield my time. I didn't realize I was going to speak.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Brooke Ferrell. Anthony Mastrid. B-E-A with the last name with an a. B-A.

Bea:

Hi, that's me. Can you hear me?

Courtney Westling:  
We can.

Bea:

Great, I just want to say first, thank you to everyone who has spoken with all of the concerns and all of the data and all of the risks. So I don't need to repeat all of that, but I'm in full agreeance and understanding that there are great risks. I feel that the school district is absolutely rushing this decision and not taking into account all of the various things, whether it be people's... Their family decisions and beliefs, their religious beliefs, their medical issues, all the various things. I have four children in PPS schools who I will remove from school if there is a mandate, I'm not in support of the mandate. I believe it is a family choice. I think that we really do need to look at the vers data. There has been some real harm cause to all age groups, definitely the 12 to 18 age group is huge in that.

So I would encourage anyone to look at the adverse event reporting system that is a CDC maintained website, and really look into that. An online, like the last person just said, an online program is not equal, will not be equal, and there's a lot of kids who are on that waiting list who won't be receiving the same kinds of things as kids in school will be. I've also, as another parent echoed, have heard of a lot of bullying and singling out of kids that are not vaccinated and I think that's completely intolerable just as any other form of bullying or profiling is in our system. And I'm not sure why us parents and administrators and teachers are allowing this to go on. I think that's a real issue that needs to be attended to let me see if I have anything else. Wow, thanks everybody for all you've spoken. Yeah, personal choice please. Family choice, do not mandate this vaccine. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:  
Thanks Bea. I have an M, initial M Reed, R-E-E-D. Amber Bailey.

Amber Bailey:

I just wanted to kind of chime in. Everyone's already given the data. I have a senior at McDaniel High School and a freshman at Jefferson. I am not for mandating this for my children, especially for my boys and our family has already been affected. One of my sons already had COVID, he's feeling much better. He's back on the foot football field, but unfortunately I will not be able to attend his senior night this Friday because I am not vaccinated. So it's having a major impact on not only my children, but my family. So I am not for the mandate. Thank you for this time.

Courtney Westling:  
Thanks Amber. Vesna Devonovic.

Speaker 3:  
Can you take your questions down so we can see the speakers?

Courtney Westling:  
Yeah, thank you. Yeah, we can just wanted to remind everyone what we were hoping to hear about. Thank you.

Bea:  
Nobody cares about the stupid questions.

Courtney Westling:

Sorry, Vesna Devonovic. Daniel Harvey.

Daniel Harvey:  
I yield my time.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks Daniel. Lisa Scudamore, Scudamore. Okay, and then last on my list is Tracer Johnson. Okay, so what I'm going to do is I want to go back to Emerald, because I know that she wanted me to come back to her. So see if that works for her now.

Emerald:

Hi, yeah. Thank you. Can you guys hear me? Yeah, I'm also a physician I've been following all the data the Oregon health authority puts out and looking and reading articles on PubMed, all the research and everything. And that the information that is portrayed in the media does not match the science. And I just want to point out that we, as a culture, mandating a vaccine that really COVID is not that deadly. Overall case death rates are 0.82% during this Delta spike that we're currently having, which is barely more deadly than influenza. And I think the mandate is uncalled for, and really it's a very, very new vaccine. COVID is not a huge risk for children. They don't have the ACE receptors that the virus needs to get into the cells. And we've seen a lot of damage from the vaccine. If you look at the CDC wonder data, 30 years of vers data, there have been 10,000 deaths or so following vaccination. In just a short 20 months, we've seen 8,000. So almost just as many just from the COVID vaccination.

We have no idea what the long term effects of this vaccine is going to have on our children. There no long term studies. This is an experimental vaccine and our children are not to be experimented on. They need to be protected. It's really, really sad what's happening to people in terms of all of the adverse events, the disability and the death is happening following CDC vaccination. And the young adults we've seen one and nine young adults who receive the vaccine have adverse events and these kids are at low risk of getting COVID. If they do get it, they're not going to die from it. The death rate in children is practically zero. And like any medicine that people receive, it should be a choice and the district needs to honor. If they do have a mandate, they need to honor the Oregon law that allows religious, philosophical, and medical exemptions that are on par with what we've had before and not the CDC medical exemptions.

We need to honor this as a choice and we need to protect the health of our children because we have no idea what this is doing. The spike protein that the vaccine teaches your body to make causes inflammation and damage in all of our tissues and the heart and the pericarditis and myocarditis and pericarditis are side effects that we are seeing from the vaccine and-

Courtney Westling:

Emerald, I have to move us on and I want to get everybody... Thank you and I want to focus back on the questions at hand. I also, you have-

Amber Bailey:

Oh, I will also be removing my child from PPS if it is a mandate.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. I appreciate that. I think I'm going to go to those two that have raised her hand. If you want to use the raise hand function since we have additional time, but I don't have additional people on my list. So I'm going to start with Carey Spradlin, who I saw raise her hand first.



Carey Spradlin:

All right, thank you everybody for all of your thoughts. I just wanted to try and answer the two questions first, like what would the impact be to the students experience? And we would consider seriously removing our two children from the school system if the mandate did come down, just concerns about personal choice and health and integrity of our kids. And I also think that there is a real risk of harassment and bullying. And my sixth grader has already expressed fear about sharing any information with her friends or others about her status of vaccination or her family's status vaccination, because she's worried about being ostracized. So I think that's a real concern that is I don't think being taking very seriously and I would encourage the school district to really look at that and the resources and support, I don't think that that question is framed in a way that addresses the concerns of the parents here.

So that's very hard to answer because we want our kids to go to school and we, really like Portland public schools and they're getting a great education. So we don't need anything. We need not to be coerced into doing something we don't believe in. I also just wanted to note that the Nordic countries, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, have paused the Moderna vaccine for anyone under the age of 30 because of the risks, the potential risks and trade offs given the risk of myocarditis for those folks. And then if I think about, I just wanted to note, I feel like we need to be really careful of insinuation and dehumanizing language that people are throwing around. Like, "It's a no brainer, just do it," insinuating that people that aren't agreeing with the CDC recommendations are not thinking or stupid. And that is the root of why our kids are getting bullied and harassed because of how parents are addressing this with their kids. So that needs to be addressed in this meeting. And we can't let stuff like that go.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. Adrian Nunez.

Adrian Nunez:

Yes, can you hear me?

Courtney Westling:

We can.

Daniel Harvey:

So I just wanted shortly, I just wanted to raise my hand, answering the questions that definitely we are against the mandate. We do not believe in the mandate. How it will affect our family, we definitely will take our daughter out of the public schools and move to another district to be able to find out some or maybe a homeschooling or find another solution that they will definitely affect education. As all the parents have mentioned it before, besides all the risks that this vaccine has that we know, and all the unknowns that we don't know, we are seeing that it's doing a division in the community. We just want to join the communities. We do not want to divide communities. We are just actually making people fighting to be able to bullying, to be able to have issues based on that one.

So this should be a personal decision, should be a family decision and should be private. It should not be said outside. It should be completely private in the families and people be able to keep it to themselves. It shouldn't be discussed. It should be... They say it's not public, but as other parties has mentioned it, immediately, the kids they know. They put one to one and they put it together, they figure out why the kid is not coming to school, why he's taking longer to come to school. So they figure out all of this information. So it should be make it private and it should be a decision of the parents and again, I'm against the mandates. Thank you very much.



Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Adrian. I see Andrea Nelson's hand is up.

Andrea Nelson:

Hi, yeah. Thank you. I feel like the questions that were put up on the screen confirm my suspicion that the decisions already been made, just the way that those were phrased and the announcement that came out last week that parents can't go to their kids' football game outdoors if they're not vaccinated, that leads me to believe the decisions already made. But anyway, I had written down a bunch of my thoughts before I saw those questions. I think the doctors and the parents, here that have articulated so much better than I was prepared to about how I feel very strongly against the mandate for children. It is not safe and effective for everybody and nobody knows the long term effects. And I can't believe that's not brought up more, nobody knows the long term effects.

And yes, immunizations have been around for a long time and my kids have had all of them, but they've had years and years of study. And there are safety tests on those. I don't believe there have been safety tests on these. So it's just upsetting to me to think that our kids are not going to be able to go to public school if they're not vaccinated and I'm glad that people also brought up the discriminatory practice of the current vaccine mandate rules. It's just one more thing that makes no sense to me how vaccinated people are spreading it to other vaccinated people, but unvaccinated kids have to stay out of school with no online option for 10 days.

So I just find it upsetting and I don't understand what problem we're trying to solve here by excluding unvaccinated children from school. Because I think it's widely known now that we're all going to come into contact with COVID-19 whether we're vaccinated or not and we know vaccinated people are also transmitting it. So what problem are we trying to solve here? It just feels very discriminatory and exclusive to me and I care about my community. I want people to be safe and I'm glad people have the choice to have the vaccine if that's what feels right to them. But to me it just feels like such a personal private medical decision. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks Andrea.

Director Hollands:

Hey Courtney, let me just... I just want to address one thing. So the decision has not been made. So I want to make sure that everybody understands that, that the decision to vaccinate or not has not been made. This is not just a show pony get together or listening session. So I just want to make sure that we're getting the right information out. The decision has not been made and that's why we want to listen to what you guys are saying. So we can take all that in consideration. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Director Hollands. I was going to-

Speaker 4:

And thank you for saying that. I also wanted to address the questions and I'm a person that writes surveys. And so I'm very sensitive to about how questions are worded. And I agree with the commenter that said the questions could have been, they could have been written in a way to elicit more open ended conversation. So that's not to throw anybody under the bus, but just...

Michelle:

... Open ended conversations, so that's not to throw anybody under the bus, but just to acknowledge that you're not crazy. That was my thought too, about those questions. Again, we use those just to start the conversation and no one on the board, myself and director Hollands have made any decisions up, which is why we're having this listening session tonight and two others happening concurrently as well. So we're here to listen.

Speaker 5:  
Thanks.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks director. I'd like to hear from others who have not been heard yet. So if you have comments, please raise your hand. I just want to make sure that we're giving time to people who haven't been heard. I think it's Anna [Samintel 01:06:49].

Anna:

Yes. Hi. I am realizing how tender this topic is to everybody and I'm trying to step back and give it space and think of things separate from, I think, all of the medical piece. And I've talked with many internists in Portland asking questions and stuff, and they are all in support of mandating. However, I think that the board is going to be getting their information from professionals in the medical community. So I was trying to think about things from the perspective as a retired teacher and as a parent and a volunteer. And I was really thinking a lot about the view of equity. And when I look back, I've worked in PPS since 1999, and I've seen a lot of students struggle and equity has been work that's needed to be done all along.

And I think that the foundation that we need, I mean, there's so much to do, but the foundation that's needed for equity is to have kids in school and consistently, and to have teachers in school consistently. And I believe that a mandate for the vaccine would help with this, if you're following the CDC guidelines. And so for me, my heart is thinking about all of the kids who fall through the cracks. And if we don't even have that foundation where they have consistency of being in school with teachers there consistently, I think we know who will fall through the cracks and be hurt the most. If we look at this through a political view I think that, that will harm more children. So I'm really hopeful that the board gathers solid scientific information and makes a decision based on equity. And keeps-

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Anna. Thank you. Are there others who have not yet spoke tonight? I'd like to make sure to give you a chance before we go back to those who have already spoken.

Speaker 5:  
Hello?

Courtney Westling:

Oh, sorry. Director, did you say something? Oh, okay. I'm just hearing things. I see Mr. Rachel O'Rourke. That's technically a different person, so go ahead.

Rachael O'Rourke:

Correct. Can you hear me? Okay. Hi, I'm a parent of two students at Grant and one at Harriet Tubman. That's a great word actually, consistency. Yes. That's my biggest problem, is consistency. We have a giant group of kids at these schools who are vaccinated, who don't have to stay at home if they have symptoms, but kids who aren't vaccinated have to quarantine. If we want consistency, then we need

testing. We now have parents and we now have fans who want to go to sports, who want to go to sports organizations who can't, unless they provide vaccination or negative tests.

Why aren't everybody providing negative tests? If we want to slow the spread, then everyone should have negative testing. Vaccinated people are getting sick, vaccinated people are getting ill. This is ridiculous, so if someone wants consistency, then we should do consistent testing. If we really actually want to control this, otherwise we're wasting our time. And the answer to your question is, yes, our kids will not be going to PPS if this is going to be mandated because it's just not... The math doesn't work out. That's all I have to say.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. Justin, I'm not trying to ignore you. I just want to make sure that I'm offering space for others. Adriel Person.

Adriel Person:

Hi. So I guess my concern is simply that along with consistency there, we haven't mastered the basics yet of the testing, getting information back in a timely manner. By the time students are identified as COVID positive, so much time has passed that they have oftentimes, and I know this from experience with my niece who goes to Grant, exposed several people that may or may not have symptoms, which means they may or may not have been tested. So for me, before we could even mandate which by the way, I am totally against. Not enough research, not enough history, not enough of a lot of things in order to require our youth to be put in a situation where they could potentially have long term medical effects.

But before we could even cross that line, I believe that we need to be able to master the very basics of making sure that our spaces, where our students are, is safe. Making sure that all of the things that we would need to do to make sure students who are impacted, whether they're exposed or COVID positive or anything really even flu, that we have a system that will help mitigate exposure in real time. And right now, I mean the COVID dashboard hasn't even been up to date. So I just don't feel like we've gotten what we needed to do fundamentally before we can move on to a mandate for vaccination for our youth.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Adriel. Adriel. I see Janwyn [Toya 01:13:18] Blazer.

Eddie Blazer:

Yeah. Hi, that's my wife. So I'll speak for the two of us. My name's Eddie blazer. We've got two kids in the Grant system. I don't think there's anything more that I can add here, but in terms of answering those two questions, we would consider not sending our kids to PPS. And the impact that, that would have on us is that we need to find some sort of alternative education. I also want to just point out that I don't think a mandate would have the desired effect, based on what we're seeing with other schools that have near 99, near 100% vaccination. They're still having outbreaks. They're still having issues. So again, not sure that this would have the desired effect. That's really all I have to say. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Eddie.

Michelle:

And may I add that, that dashboard I've been told is updated four times a day and I would wonder if staff could follow up just to make sure that is happening four times a day. My understanding is that it was automated, but I don't know if somebody can speak to that.

Speaker 5:

Well, I can follow up with that.

Michelle:

Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Okay. We have 12 minutes until our hard stop. So I see Justin's hand up, but oh, wait. I got another hand up. Justin I will get back to you. [Tierra Salmon 01:14:50].

Tierra Salmon:

Thank you. Yeah. My name is Tierra Salmon, and I just wanted to comment. I first want to give gratitude to [Amber Lee 01:15:03] for letting me know this was going, because when I RSVPed, I did not get an email. So what I wanted to share in this space, and I'm glad to be here so that I can share in this space was that, our medical system lacks informed choice a lot. And if we're going to be talking about mandates, I think that it's really important that we also talk about informed choice. We're not making it a point right now to educate our youth, to then be asking to mandate consent over injecting something into their bodies. And whether our children would choose that or not, we're just not even taking that into consideration.

So I think what I wanted to bring up is the idea of informed choice. Having our kids be well educated, having some info sessions and only choosing to inject them with things that they have enthusiastic consent around. And this could be a great opportunity for our scientists, for our future doctors and biologists and future researchers to do some research around COVID and around vaccines and around pandemics and get them involved because they are our future. So that was my biggest push is can we involve their minds before we make decisions about their bodies?

Courtney Westling:

Thank you, Tierra.

Tierra Salmon:

Yeah. Thank you.

Courtney Westling:

Okay, Justin. Going back to you.

Justin McBurnett:

No, thanks. I really appreciate it. And I know everybody has the best intention in mind and I think whether you're for the vaccines or not for them, it shouldn't be considered a political matter, although it's been politicized. If I didn't have hope in everybody's best interests, I wouldn't even be here. And also the other issue is, by bullying in effect, this has been pushed into my face. And I think the bullying point is a really good point because I know it's been in my kid's face. My daughter told me that in school, one of the kids stood up in class and said, "Who here's vaccinated? How does that feel?" There's been talks about feeling like second class education because you have to go online. I mean, equity's a big deal, but I feel like people don't recognize how emotionally pushed they are by this and how a lot of people's decisions are being made on emotions.

But yet we want to pretend we're all following the science, but the science is ample. If you really want to step outside your emotional charge and your prejudice to say, "Oh, I'm for this. I'm going to just go for it." If you look, there's a lot of evidence that shows there are dangers. The other thing you have to

look at is how are all of these studies that the media is putting out there constructed? And evidence is shown that some of those studies aren't constructed very well. Why? Because there's an intention to sell these things to people under the pretense that it's great. It's going to help. But I mean, you look at how the studies are performed. They're not always really ethical. I mean, like in Journal of Nature, they're saying, "Hey, the way studies are being performed, 75% of them can't be replicated."

That's like a foundation of science. And right now there's this epidemic where they can't replicate a lot of the studies that are being put out as, hey, the science says this. So what we're dealing with is something really complicated. I'm not trying to dismiss emotions or say that I'm only basing my decisions on science alone. I know it's emotional, but we need to look at this. And I'm just saying, I have faith in you guys. I have faith in our parents to really look again at the evidence that shows, if we want a foundation, let's feed our children better. Let's do other things and not just the vaccine.

Courtney Westling:  
Thanks, Justin. Thank you.

Justin McBurnett:  
Yeah.

Courtney Westling:  
Again, if there are no new people I'm going to just go back to those who have hands up. We have seven more minutes. Bea.

Bea:  
Yeah, hey. I just wanted to say that as far as this town hall, which I'm so happy that you did thank you very much for doing it. But I want to say that I did get an email as a PPS parent, but then if I wouldn't have remembered it was happening, it was a little bit difficult to find. It was on the PPS main page website. It wasn't clear there was an RSVP thing, and by the time I tried to get into my school session, I don't know whether it was full or they just locked it. But I'm actually in a different school than what your session is, but I couldn't get into my own session.

So I think that maybe having it be more advertised and available to more parents. I think a lot of people don't even know this is happening tonight. And also for the student one that's happening on Thursday, I noticed that you have it from 4:30 to 6:00. And I know that all my kids are in sports until six o'clock. And so no one in fall athletics is going to be able to participate in those sessions. And that's a good half of your students who are in athletics. So I think it would be great if you could do a later session or a second session for kids that aren't going to be able to attend that earlier time. That's all I wanted to say.

Courtney Westling:  
Really appreciate the feedback. Thank you.

Bea:  
Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Courtney Westling:  
And I do want to remind everyone that our contact system with the district is called Let's Talk. And if you go to [pps.net/contact](https://pps.net/contact), there's a form, and that goes to all of us. And we read your emails and we're sharing information with the board as they're making this decision. So I just want to throw that out there

again, if you hear from others who want to weigh in. Let's see. I see [Emerald 01:21:08] has their hand up.

Emerald:

Yeah, just really quick about the data that... So I looked at one of the FDA review for the COVID approvals for the vaccine. And they're presenting data that hospitalization rates in unvaccinated people is like 20 times that of vaccinated people. But if you look, they self selected the data from just some places. If you look at the Oregon Health Authority website, and plus they do a breakthrough report case every Thursday. And you look at the hospitalization rates and the case death rates in vaccinated versus unvaccinated, and they're almost the same. So 74 through 922, I went through and picked out all this data, but you can just get it yourself. But you have to put it on a spreadsheet because it's not easy to self-select it. But the hospitalization rate was 4.82%, which is pretty low and that's in all age groups.

And the vaccinated group was 4.53%. So probably not statistically significant. I'm not a statistician, I'm a physician so I'm not about data analysis. But then if you look at the case death rates, they're almost the same, 0.82% in unvaccinated people. And during the same time period, well, a couple extra days in vaccinated people, 0.89%. And the most recent report says that the case death rate for vaccinated people is 1%, which is starting to creep up a little bit higher than those who are unvaccinated. And we don't know if antibody dependent enhancement is something that we see in this vaccine. And that's something that the original COVID vaccine was not approved because when they gave it to monkeys, those who were exposed to the COVID, more of them who were vaccinated died because of antibody dependent enhancement. And we don't know if that's something that's happening with this vaccine.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you very much. We are just about done or not done, but time is almost up, I should say. 7:57, so Catherine, if you wanted to say anything else. Actually, sorry. Tierra was first.

Tierra Salmon:

Thank you. I just wanted to add, I didn't realize at first, but there was the other question around how this will impact my family if there were to be mandates. And my daughter is a senior and she really wants to graduate with her class and she's just not ready to make the decision to vaccinate yet. And that would mean that she would miss out on being in her graduating class. And she's right in the middle of applying for colleges. And that would be a huge disruption to finishing out primary education, moving on to secondary education for her. [crosstalk 01:24:02]. Yeah.

Michelle:

May I just share that it was just confirmed that the dashboard is updated regularly. It's four times a day and it's updated currently.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks director [Depass 01:24:16]. Catherine. You still have...

Catherine:

Thank you. Yeah. Thank you. I appreciate that. I guess I just want to speak to say quickly that my family has also experienced the bullying and the discrimination and the fear. My daughter was terrified for me to speak at the board meeting for reprisal. And so I really appreciate and encourage everything the district can do to address this equally pervasive issue. But even more so the beautiful suggestion about slowing down and bringing our kids into the conversation, critical thinking, and the informed consent. If I

could just please encourage, I do understand that there is a CDC guidance and that we are acting along those lines, but we need to equally address all fears and concerns within the student population and informed consent. We need to critically bring in opposing views at this point, maybe not to the students. I'm just saying, I am from the bottom of my heart pleading, please bring equal opportunity for physicians within our local community that have concern that can speak to both sides and the complexities of this issue. Thank you so much for your time.

Courtney Westling:

Thanks Catherine. And Adriel, you have the last word and then I'll let our board members offer any closing remarks.

Adriel Person:

Sorry. It took me a minute to get unmuted. I just wanted to say I stand corrected and I thank you for following up so quickly on that commissioner.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you. Director Hollands, director Depass, Would you like to anything before we close out the night and give people some evening back?

Michelle:

Yeah, I just really want to appreciate everyone that took the time to sign up and show up tonight. I have not made my mind up. I feel like I need to have more study. I need to understand more what the impacts are, unintended and intended. And I'm just very appreciative of you showing up. People that show up make our work better improve in the end. I think somebody talked about the difficulty of getting into the session. I really appreciate that too, because a town hall where we're talking about the potential to mandate vaccines should be very easy to find and very easy for people to show up to. And I apologize if you had difficulty and agree with you, we need to make it more accessible. So the people on both sides or all sides of the issues have an opportunity to weigh in. Thank you for being here.

Holland:

Yeah. I just wanted to thank everybody for being here. It is eight o'clock. I really appreciate everybody taking their time to come out, express their opinions. I like the heartfelt conversations. I like the real conversations. It just helps us to, or at least helps me to really be able to [inaudible 01:27:19] coming from a child centered spot. And so I just want to just thank everybody for being here and just wish everybody a good night.

Courtney Westling:

Thank you directors. Thank you everybody for being here and just a reminder that the process from here is a discussion with the board, the full board on October 26th. And if they decide to move forward, there would be a vote the following week. So right now we're moving into discussion phase and really appreciate your comments tonight and hope everyone has a good evening. Thank you.

END [01:27:54]