



Jonathan Budd <[jbudd@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:jbudd@woodbridgeps.org)>

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**[External Email] Re: [External Email] Re: Information from Superintendent Budd**

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**Josh Gelder** <[jdgelder79@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgelder79@yahoo.com)>  
Reply-To: Josh Gelder <[jdgelder79@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgelder79@yahoo.com)>  
To: Jonathan Budd <[jbudd@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:jbudd@woodbridgeps.org)>  
Cc: "anetagelder@gmail.com" <[anetagelder@gmail.com](mailto:anetagelder@gmail.com)>

Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 1:22 PM

Good day Jonathan. Thank you for the quick response. You have my permission to share my email. I would like to add that my email represents other parents as well that have formed Facebook groups to work together in the BOWA region to fight against mask mandates and likely vaccine mandates if this is tried on our children. The overarching message that we would like to deliver to both the town schools, the school board, and the state leaders, is that WE the PARENTS should be the ones making medical decisions for our children, NOT the state or the school system. If there are parents who want their children to wear masks, that's fine. We all believe in personal medical freedom and would never try and impose our choices for our kids onto other parents. That being said, those parents that don't not want their children in masks should be able to make that same choice. None of this should be forced and it should have been shot down from day one without supporting scientific evidence that masks stop corona virus.

As you said at the end of your email, you want the best experience for our children. I highly doubt that anyone, be it a teacher, a principal, a superintendent or a state leader would argue that forcing children with a .001% chance of dying from covid to wear a mask for two years, with no end in sight, is a good experience. I've never been one to try and play hardball with a school, but considering that we are the taxpayers, we the parents should have the final say on these decisions, not the school, or the state, period. I understand that there are "executive orders" that you must follow. The reason they are executive orders and not laws is because there is no chance that harsh laws like this would ever be passed. These are mandates made without the say or the representation of the people they affect.

With this being said, the political warfare at the state and federal level should NOT affect our children. I am asking you, as a representative for our children, to stand up and do the right thing and work with others in the school system to push back against the state and local executive 'orders' to drop these very unhealthy mask mandates that have not a single scientific study to back them up. Our children are counting on all members of the school system to do the right thing for them, not for the politicians.

Thank you for your time and you are free to share this and the previous email.

Respectfully,

Joshua D. Gelder

[jdgelder79@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgelder79@yahoo.com)

203-685-6475

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 08:11:23 AM EDT, Jonathan Budd <[jbudd@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:jbudd@woodbridgeps.org)> wrote:

Good morning, Joshua,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful e-mail. Given the hour, I'm e-mailing, but please let me know if you'd like to speak on the phone, and I'll be happy to reach out there as well.

To answer your question frankly, there has not been State guidance on when the mask mandate will be lifted. I hear only the news reports that you probably do as well, that the Governor is considering extending it past the end of September, especially for schools like ours where very few students can be vaccinated because there is no vaccine currently for under age 12. We as Superintendents typically receive information from the State at, or immediately before, the time when the public receives it.

Yes, you are correct that on this and several other health issues, we follow the State's guidance, including as it changes. In the case of masks, there are also Executive Orders that must be followed by local school districts; those carry more weight (and compliance requirements) than the State's guidance on typical things.

Would you be comfortable with my sharing your e-mail with our Board of Education? I ask this because of your questions related to the Board in your final paragraph. I cannot speak for the Board in terms of what it may plan to do. I can say, however, that the Board members value public input, and if you would like me to pass this e-mail on, I will be happy to do so. We also have a Board of Education meeting next Monday night at 7:00 p.m. Public Comment will be on that agenda, including an opportunity for any member of the public to speak on an issue such as you bring up. If you would like me to share your e-mail with the Board, it will be summarized in the Correspondence section of that meeting.

I know that as a parent you are busy. Your having written such a thorough e-mail tells me itself how important this issue is to you. We share the goal of the best experience for our students at Beecher. If you would be interested in a phone call to discuss more, again, just let me know.

Thanks again,

Jonathan

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Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Woodbridge, CT School District  
[jbudd@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:jbudd@woodbridgeps.org)  
203-387-6631

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marsha DeGennaro** <[mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org)>  
Date: Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 4:17 PM  
Subject: Fwd: [External Email] Re: Information from Superintendent Budd  
To: Jonathan Budd <[jbudd@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:jbudd@woodbridgeps.org)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josh Gelder** <[jdgelder79@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgelder79@yahoo.com)>  
Date: Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 4:03 PM  
Subject: [External Email] Re: Information from Superintendent Budd  
To: Woodbridge School District - Beecher Road School <[mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org)>  
Cc: Anetagelder <[anetagelder@gmail.com](mailto:anetagelder@gmail.com)>

Good afternoon,

Has there been any guidance as to when the mask mandate for our children will be dropped? At this point I think it has been well documented that masks are ineffective as stopping the spread of Covid. In addition to this, there was a major study done on masks that showed that they actually INCREASE the spread of not only covid but of other airborne bacteria/viruses. I feel that this is a major unnecessary requirement for children especially considering the extremely low transmission rate among their age group. I can go on with a lot more specific details but the short of the story is that I and many other parents are growing tired of putting our kids through school with their mouths covered when there hasn't been a single peer reviewed study that proves that masks have any effect at fighting the spread of covid. At the start of covid in early 2020 we were all in this together as we were scared and there was ne real information out there yet, so the best choice at the time was to be as protective as possible until more information was made available. Fast forward to today and we now have a lot more information about the effectiveness of these measures and masks have certainly proved to be highly ineffective and often used for political theater as we see many of the same politicians who mandate these rules not following their own mask mandates.

Through conversations with other parents who have spoken to the board about this in the past, I am aware that you are just trying to follow the 'guidance' from the state. That said, I and many other parents have now reached a point where we are looking for the individual school boards to stand up and be advocates for our children and to push back against unsound medical mandates from out state. Is there or are there any plans in the future for the Woodbridge board of education to go to bat for our children so they can go back to school like normal children who are able to see their peers mouths and smile at one another? We are two years into this now where our kids are forced to wear masks at school while adults are able to pack stadiums, go to restaurants, and go shopping in the State of CT without masks. Please let me know what the school board is doing to end this for our children so they can go back to being normal kids again.

Respectfully,

Joshua D. Gelder

[jdgelder79@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgelder79@yahoo.com)

203-685-6475

On Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 03:01:00 PM EDT, Woodbridge School District - Beecher Road School <[mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org)> wrote:



**Woodbridge School District**  
*Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.*  
Superintendent

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Good afternoon, WSD Community,

This e-mail updates you on two important topics: (1) contact tracing guidelines; and (2) upcoming Board of Education meetings.

(1) When we engage in contact tracing related to COVID-19, we follow the guidelines of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The guidelines were updated yesterday with minor adjustments for this school year. [You can find the full guidelines here](#); please reach out with any questions you may have.

(2) Upcoming meetings of the Woodbridge Board of Education and its Committees are posted on the District website under "District Information," then "Board of Education." [Here is a direct link](#). This afternoon at 4:30 will be a meeting of the Finance Committee. Next Monday evening (Sept. 20) at 7:00 p.m. will be a full Board of Education meeting. All meetings are currently conducted remotely. The public is welcome to attend remotely, and Public Comment is included on each agenda.

Please reach out if you have any questions at any time.

Sincerely,

***Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.***

Superintendent

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[Website](#)

[unsubscribe](#)



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Marsha DeGennaro  
Administrative Assistant  
Superintendent's Office  
Woodbridge School District  
(203) 387-6631  
(203) 397-0724 FAX

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