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From: **Paul Hofmann** <pdhofmann2020@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 3:51 PM

Subject: August 9 Public Comment - Masks

To: boardofeducation@harlem122.org <boardofeducation@harlem122.org>

Dear Harlem School Board Member:

I have attached my public comment that I will ask to make at this evening's board meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Paul Hofmann

I as well as others are strongly opposed to enforcing a mask 'required' mandate upon the students of the Harlem School district. I urge the School Board to make mask wearing optional. The basics of disease prevention including stay home if you have a fever, hand washing and facility cleanliness should always be in place.

There have been several articles in the Wall Street Journal this past week that I offer as reasons to oppose this mask required mandate:

1) 'CDC's Covid-19 Mask Guidance Clouded by Flawed Data'¹ highlights faulty data and analysis being used.

2) 'Maybe With Delta the CDC Will Learn to Count'² editorial describes the progress Britain has made and why their policies have loosened. The subtitle, 'In Britain, they know 92% of the public have antibodies; here we panic in the dark', describes our present confusion.

3) 'If Biden Is Serious about Covid, He'll Protect the Border'³ highlights the immense lack of consistency in policy pronouncements. Is it any wonder that there is reasonable doubt and anger at this mask required mandate?

Furthermore:

4) We know that States mandating masks and those that did not over the past year had similar disease progression curves and per capita data.

5) All the talk of increasing Covid-19 cases ignores the fact that CDC recorded death counts⁴ in July are less than 10% of their peak this year.

6) Children are at little to no risk from this disease. If a parent or child wish to wear masks, let them. Violating parents rights and freedom of choice is not justified at this point.

I understand the difficulty of opposing the experts and governmental policies. But we are the government of the people, by the people and for the people. It is a time for courage to renew this leadership.

Notes:

- WSJ ² Maybe With Delta the CDC Will Learn to Count -

¹ CDC's Covid-19 Mask Guidance Clouded by Flawed Data

WSJ ³ If Biden Is Serious About Covid, He'll Protect the