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Subject: [External Email] Letter to BOE

To: Jonathan Budd <[jbudd@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:jbudd@woodbridgeps.org)>, Analisa Sherman <[asherman@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:asherman@woodbridgeps.org)>

Dear Dr. Budd and Principal Sherman, please see letter below and share with the BOE.

As a parent of two students at Beecher Road School, I have several concerns about current procedures in place regarding the Covid 19 virus. First is the quarantining of entire classrooms when a student tests "positive" for Covid. I have spoken with parents in several surrounding towns including Orange, Milford, Bethany and also on the shoreline in Guilford. Their elementary schools only quarantine the child who tested positive and anyone who sits within 3 feet of him/her. This seems much more reasonable (although still overkill in my mind). Quarantining for 10 days is unnecessarily disruptive first and foremost to our kids' education but also is extremely burdensome on working parents who cannot stay home for weeks at a time putting their careers in jeopardy. There is also no data to support that this is a necessary action.

A second concern is the mask wearing policy. Our kids should be allowed to breathe. Again, I have consulted with parents from surrounding towns and masks are NOT required when the kids are outside. This should be the same for Beecher. This risk that Covid poses in an outdoor environment is miniscule and my children have told me that they get "yelled at" if their mask even falls below their nose when they are outside! This is outrageous to me. They shouldn't live in fear that they are going to get in trouble while playing outdoors where the likelihood of transmission is extremely low. They also do not get enough mask breaks as it is which poses more of a health threat...especially for those children with asthma or respiratory allergies.

Another concern is the militant environment that seems to be going on while indoors. They are reprimanded in the lunch line and in the halls if they get too close. Even while fully masked!

I also do not feel that our children are being provided with a well rounded school experience. There are no field trips, no school band or opportunity to learn an instrument, no school plays and no opportunities for parents to see their children in the classroom. This is extremely disappointing as these activities are so important for our kids to experience.

Finally, the fact that no parent is allowed to enter the school for seemingly any circumstance is absolutely criminal. Our children are minors and we as the parents have the right to be with our child AT ANY TIME.

I am a health care professional, working at Yale New Haven Hospital. I am well aware of Covid statistics and at this point in time it simply has not been shown to have the same threat to children vs the older population. Furthermore, with the vaccine, the threat to adults is now significantly diminished.

These policies at Beecher are completely unwarranted and are in fact, harmful to our children's emotional well being as well as to their academic development. Please reconsider some of these issues mentioned above and come up with a more reasonable plan. I do not understand why B.R.S. needs to be any more stringent with their Covid procedures than other schools in our community.

Thank you for your attention,

Jennifer Hughes, APRN, Yale Diabetes Center

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