

Salem Vouras <sal3mvi3@gmail.com>

to me

6:03 PM (0 minutes ago)

Public Comment for WBOE meeting 8/17/2020

Dear Members of the Board,

I write today as a Beecher parent to express full support for all concerns cited and reopening procedures suggested by Beecher faculty in their letter to you of August 14th. Every Beecher parent should receive a copy of their letter.

No member of our community is expendable, and we have no right to expect our teachers to assume unnecessary risk to themselves, our children & greater community by forcing Beecher to reopen with a plan aligned neither with the realities of the daily needs and behavior of children nor with CDC guidelines.

I am at this point angry on our teachers' behalf; why is it upon them to outline a safe and practical plan consistent with the CDC? Why must they write to you to defend their own and our children's safety and well-being, when that is the job and due diligence of our state and the Board?

I urge you to receive the wisdom of our faculty and redirect the time and resources being spent to force an impractical and unsafe reopening into fortifying a remote start to the year and assisting teachers and working parents in finding childcare solutions to make that possible.

There is a reason that the theme of having the foresight to declare unpopular but vital wisdom, and the courage to receive it and act on it with highest integrity, persists throughout classic literature, from the ancient tale of Cassandra to Ibsen's enduringly relevant play *An Enemy of the People*: these stories are passed on so that when our moment comes, we might surmount whatever obstacles obscure our clear vision to make the right choice, and, if possible, avoid terrible, indelible regret. We are all valuable. And vulnerable, to disease and to disinformation. Though it may be inconvenient and challenging, let us meet our moment with choices we can all—alive and well—defend to our children in the future.

Respectfully,

Salem Vouras