

July 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

My name is Jean Molot. I live at 60 Dillon Road in Woodbridge. My two children are Beecher and Amity graduates and I have been a math specialist at Beecher for 15 years.

Beecher teachers are dedicated, hard-working, creative, and loving people. We want to be teaching students in our classrooms. However, at the present moment, during this Covid-19 pandemic, many of us feel that returning to our school building will be unsafe. Some members of the public do not seem to fully understand this perspective.

So imagine, if you will, that you work in an office building with about 900 other people. Most of these people work in groups of about 20, in spaces about the size of a very large conference room. Most of your colleagues remember to stay in their designated seats, which are supposed to be six feet apart, but sometimes they get up and move about the room, or they move their chairs closer to you so that they can hear you better or so that they can show you their work. Most of the people in your group try to remember that they must keep their masks on all day, but some forget. Some remove their masks to rub their noses and then forget to put the mask back on. Others remove their masks to drink from their water bottle and then forget to put their mask back on. Some of the younger office workers refuse to wear a mask at all.

The bottom line is this, and it's a question you all need to answer before you make the decision to send teachers back into the classroom: In your office, would you be comfortable working in that conference room with 20 other people for over six hours a day, five days a week? If not, how can you expect teachers to do the same?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Jean Molot*

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