

Agenda

I. Call to Order / WebEx Login

<https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m4db6a35d9d1d6e8b3b5d5104b27736e3>

Meeting number (access code): 2491 804 5050

Meeting password: r2wXgr433qF

This meeting is being conducted as a hybrid meeting consistent with Connecticut Public Act 22-3. The public may attend in person at the location indicated above, with social distancing required. The public may also attend electronically via WebEx. The link is provided above.

II. Correspondence - *Please feel free to submit Correspondence via email no later than 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10 to mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org*

III. Public Comment - *The Board welcomes public participation. We ask that speakers please limit their comments to three minutes. Please be aware that the Board will not respond to any comments made during the public comment period, except to clarify issues, but we will take into consideration your comments, and when appropriate, district administration will follow-up with you at a later point in time.*

IV. Review of COVID-19 data and BRS Mitigation Strategies

V. Adjournment



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] 5/10/2022 Special Meeting

1 message

Bonazzoli, Juliet <jbonazzoli@cl-law.com>

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 10:40 AM

To: "mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org" <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Board,

As a parent of a child at Beecher Road School, please accept this communication as expression of my strong opposition to any re-introduction of a mask mandate. I respect the choice of parents and students to wear masks if they desire. However, I believe the converse also should be respected. In my opinion and experience, masks negatively impact children's psychological and emotional development, including but not limited to, self-esteem, self-confidence, social interaction skills, and joyful attitude towards academic experiences and life in general.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this issue and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best,

M. Juliet Bonazzoli

Juliet Bonazzoli, Esq.

Associate, Litigation Group

CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC

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Biography

www.cl-law.com

STAMFORD | GREENWICH | WEST HARTFORD | NAPLES | BONITA SPRINGS | PALM BEACH GARDENS

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Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Covid-19 BOE comment

1 message

Melanie Rogers <melanie.rovinsky@gmail.com>
To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Mon, May 9, 2022 at 4:15 PM

Good afternoon,

I understand the BOE is meeting to discuss Covid-19 mitigation strategies in light of the current uptick in Covid-19 cases in our area. I would like the following to be read aloud or brought to the board for consideration:

1. Mask choice does not prevent those who wish to resume wearing masks from doing so. Mask **choice** should be continued through the duration of the school year.
2. There is approximately one month left in the school year. A vote to resume wearing masks in our classroom would not be aiding in disease prevention but only causing an unnecessary disruption to the already busy end of the school year. Again, let those who wish to wear masks continue to do so without needing to make a new policy on it. By the time masks would be reinforced, the peak would be over, anyway.
3. Is the Amity school district also having an emergency meeting to resume mask wearing? If not, there is little point in having our school do so, when siblings, friends, etc. are coming home to the same house as our Beecher students.
4. **What percentage of positive Covid cases at Beecher are in children/ staff who have continued wearing their masks? Unless you can provide results on this, there is absolutely no evidence to say that those who are wearing masks are better protected.**
5. Were you present at the school-wide PTO sponsored icecream social? Did you review the social media content following the event, which was overwhelmingly full of gratitude from parents who claimed it to be their first event at school since their child started? Did you see the icecream-smudged smiles of the children running around at that event? I would strongly encourage the board to look at a picture from that event and put it side by side a photo of masked children in the classroom. What is more detrimental - permanently stunting their social development or having them catch a cold?
6. At this point, Covid is no different than the flu has been previously. Yes, an illness that can cause death in those in high-risk categories; yes, an illness that we will likely have an annual vaccination against - but no longer an illness that should be preventing normal life. **If we had millions of government-issued home tests and widely available drive thru tests to detect the common cold or flu each year - what do you think the positivity rate would be during peak seasons?**

We need to look beyond the positivity rate. We need to move to a place where this is behind us. We need to allow our community to move to a position where our children will have the opportunity to show us just how resilient they can be. If we do not, they will be products of this with absolutely no chance to thrive.

Our school district ranking is slipping. Our focus is no longer on academics, no longer on education, no longer on setting our children up for success. I strongly urge the board to remember that their responsibility is for the EDUCATION of our community. Please focus on what you are there for and leave the health and wellness of our children to the parents.

--

Thank you,

Melanie Rogers
melanie.rovinsky@gmail.com
(203) 537-9201



[External Email] May 11th special meeting

1 message

Jim Ruskowski <jimruszkowski@gmail.com>
To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Mon, May 9, 2022 at 3:43 PM

Board of Education committee members, we are nearly 3 years into this, I adamantly and unequivocally oppose any mandate that restricts my children's ability to exercise their own desires when it comes wearing a mask. The common cloth or surgical mask has been proven to not prevent or slow the transmission and that has not changed. We can all make our own decisions as to what's best for our own children and do not need you to decide for us.

Jim Ruskowski

Sent from my iPhone



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Professional Electrostatic Systems

1 message

Michael Paolino <MPaolino@drew-marine.com>

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 8:45 AM

To: "mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org" <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Beecher administration,

As a resident in town, I was made aware of the upcoming special session for Covid mitigation strategies.

My company, Drew Marine, is a representative for ByoPlanet Electrostatic Systems. These systems efficiently apply one of the safest chemicals on the market for disinfecting against Covid and numerous other pathogens found in schools.

Please pass along the attached brochure and my contact information to the facilities and maintenance staff for their review. I would be happy to answer any questions and provide a demonstration at their convenience.

Thanks and best regards,

Mike

Mike Paolino

Global Product Manager,

Maintenance Specialties | Innovation

Drew Marine

400 Captain Neville Drive, Waterbury, CT 06705

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 MS-700 Domestic Sell Sheet-08-DM.pdf
4664K



WSD Safe Return Update

Woodbridge Board of Education

May 11, 2022

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

Why We're Here

- Feb. 23: BOE motion directed the administration to develop a data-based metric to provide thresholds of risk to convene a meeting of the WBOE to discuss potential reinstatement of the currently suspended mask policies
- March 21: Administration presented such a metric:
 - Should:
 - the New Haven County COVID-19 Community level rise to the “High” level, and/or
 - there exists clear evidence of significant in-school transmission at BRS,the Superintendent would request that the WBOE convene a Special Meeting to review:
 - more specific data relevant to the Town of Woodbridge as well as BRS, including
 - the use of prior, current, and potential mitigation strategies such as but not limited to masking.
- May 5: New Haven County COVID-19 Community level rose to the “High” level.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in BRS Community

- March 7: Mask choice began
- March 7-18: 10 confirmed cases (*average = 0.8 / day*)
- March 19 - April 18: 14 confirmed cases (*average = 0.5 / day*)
- April 19 - May 6: 29 confirmed cases (*average = 1.6 / day*)
- May 7-10: 18 confirmed cases (*average = 4.5 / day*)

- No evidence of significant in-school transmission as defined by QHVD

Key Town of Woodbridge Data (as of 5/6/22)

- Daily rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Woodbridge:
 - 40.0 (representing 4/17/22 - 4/30/22)
 - *was 38.4 when masks were made optional*
- Town residents with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination:
 - 94.07%
 - *was 93.07% when masks were made optional*

Permanent/Ongoing Mitigation Strategies

- Enhanced air filtration & ventilation systems
- Enhanced cleaning & disinfection
- Enhanced use of handwashing / hand sanitizer
- Increased attention to staying home if symptomatic/sick
- Isolation at home if COVID-positive (*with recommended mask-wearing upon return*)
- Quarantine at home if out-of-school close contact to COVID-positive individual
- Parent option for in-school weekly COVID testing
- Availability of free rapid COVID-19 self-test kits

Currently Sunsetting Mitigation Strategies

- Mandatory masking (*moved to mask choice 3/7/22*)
- Quarantine at home if in-school close contact to COVID-positive individual (*moved to notification of contacts in lieu of specific contact tracing*)
- Assigned seating on school buses (as related to COVID-19)
- Cohorting at recess
- Restriction on school visitors
- Restriction on field trips
- Use of desk shields in offices

Currently Continuing Mitigation Strategies

- Use of cafeteria
 - March 2020 - April 2022: No use
 - April 2022 - current: 50% capacity
 - Based on current data: Further expansion is paused
- Social distancing in classrooms
 - March 2020 - June 2021: 6 feet between individuals
 - August 2021 - April 2022: 3 feet between individuals
 - April 2022 - current: No required social distancing
 - Based on current data: Will return to 3 feet
- Use of desk shields in classrooms & cafeteria will continue for snack & lunch
- Cohorting at dismissal will continue