Subject: Comment for Feb 16 board Meeting
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 at 2:11:06 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Rhonda Figone <smt3@icloud.com>
To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

I encourage our schools to drop the mask mandate as soon as the state drops the mask mandate. The children need to be mask free for all learning and athletics for social emotional as well as physical health.
Thank you,
Rhonda
Hi

Please remove the mask mandate for our children in schools.

It is not healthy for our kids to be wearing masks all day long. They do much more harm than good.

Thank you

Tony Victorino

Sent from my iPhone
Date: 02/14/2022

SAN MATEO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

RE: CDPH Guidance Allows School Districts to Develop a Mask Policy of Limited Enforcement

Dear SAN MATEO COUNTY School Board Members,

I submit this letter with support of California Parents United and Protection of the Educational Rights of Kids which are non-partisan organizations who advocate for children. We are writing with a request that this district follow the CDPH guidelines and develop a policy for SAN MATEO COUNTY that will limit enforcement of mask wearing by children. Sufficient enforcement can include posting a notice, sending a letter home, and/or discussion with parents/guardians regarding the risks and benefits of mask wearing. The data is clear that it is time to let parents decide whether or not to send their children to school with masks because continued mandated mask wearing of children impedes learning, physically impacts children negatively, and creates unnecessary liability for teachers and administrators when not approved by parents or their physicians. THE SAN MATEO COUNTY OF EDUCATION can allow parents to decide and follow CDPH guidelines.

As you may know, CDPH guidelines MAY change to return mask enforcement choices to school districts. Recognizing within hours that their original guidance which mandated refusal to educate, suspension or expulsion violated the actual law found in the Education Code, the CDPH is now only requiring schools to determine how to enforce. It states in pertinent part as follows:

- Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements.

Clearly, the only “mandate” or “directive” from CDPH that school districts “must” follow is that they develop a local “protocol.” By California law, the protocol can respond to the unique needs of the school district and its surrounding community. The California Constitution states very clearly that it is the legislature, not unelected government officials, that give this power and broad discretion to school boards. This means that THE SAN MATEO COUNTY OF EDUCATION is within its legal rights to develop a policy that encourages masks, educates parents on the risks and benefits of making their choice, but does not punish a child for not wearing one with illegal expulsion or suspension.
In fact, it is in a school district’s best interest to develop a policy in this recommended manner because the opposite choice of mandating masks or refusing to allow children an in person education violates the law and could subject the district to civil liability. If a school, or agent of the school such as a teacher, enforces mask wearing and it adversely impacts a child in any way, including but not limited to psychological damage, physical harm, impeding academic progress, then the school could be civilly liable by law*. Schools are not even allowed to “use a physical restraint technique that obstructs a pupil’s respiratory airway” in the first place by law **.

In the event there is any doubt that an actual risk of harm to a child exists in the event they are forced against their parent’s will to wear a mask by a school district employee, I respectfully direct you to the complaint filed against Los Angeles Unified School District on June 19, 2021 in Case No. 2:21-cv-05009-VAP-MRW. This list of physical and other symptoms is long including increased lactate concentration, stress hormone levels, muscle tension, loss of concentration, loss of reaction time, long-term neurodegenerative disease, hypertension, premature aging, death, fear, mood disturbances, compromised cognitive performance and more. The masks dehumanize people and hide facial expressions and nonverbal communication our most vulnerable members of society need to thrive and prosper. Clearly, there is risk and now school districts across California are on notice of this very real liability.

Considering the foregoing, the respectful recommendation is that THE SAN MATEO COUNTY OF EDUCATION immediately draft a new protocol or modify the recent protocol to simply create a policy for all staff to create a choice in mask wearing without denying educational rights. A call could be made to the parent to confirm their directive and discuss the benefits and risks or a letter could simply go home to the parent to encourage reconsideration of their decision. This would respect the CDPH guidance, relieve the district of liability because the ultimate decision would be the parents, and comply with any individual's concerns over mask choice as an option.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you immediately develop a policy that encourages, educates but limits enforcement of masking children. Please advise how I can further be of service to THE SAN MATEO COUNTY OF EDUCATION.

Respectfully,
Manuela Seitz-Hipkins, Parent and Special Education Professional

CC: Superintendent - Sean McPhetridge
County Superintendent - Nancy Magee
County Board of Education

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1 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743
2 Masks are defined by federal law as experimental, only emergency use authorized, and thus require informed co § 360bbb-3
3 Cal Ed Codes §§48213, 48900
4 Cal Ed Code § 35160 – 35160.2; American Civil Rights Foundation v. Berkeley Unified School Dist., 172 Cal. A (“…the Legislature has granted school boards wide authority to set policies for the communities they serve”)
5 Cal Const, Art. IX § 14
6 Schools can only exclude students from attendance if there is a clear and present danger which requires actual fa or drugs to support such an act. Cal Ed Codes §§48213, 48900
7 Cal Gov Code § 815.2; Dailey v. Los Angeles Unified Sch. Dist., 2 Cal. 3d 741, 747 (“Under section 815.2, subd Government Code, a school district is vicariously liable for injuries proximately caused by such negligence.”)
*California Civil Code Sections 51, 52 & 51.7 -California Civil Code Section 52 provides MINIMUM
civil penalties of $4K per person, per occurrence. If there is use of "intimidation or threat of violence"
it is a $25K minimum under Civil Code 51.7.
**CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE §49005.8 PROHIBITS PHYSICAL RESTRAINT
TECHNIQUES THAT OBSTRUCTS A PUPIL’S RESPIRATORY AIRWAY OR IMPAIRS
THE PUPIL’S BREATHING OR RESPIRATORY CAPACITY
Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.
All Voting Board Members

Please vote against masking the children.

Please stop harming our children and LET THEM BREATHE!

thank you,
Teresa Findley
I am writing as a parent of children in CUSD. Our kids deserve to breathe, to see their friends smiles and share theirs. Enough already, stop hurting these kids they have suffered enough. The children are the least vulnerable group to be medically affected by Covid and it’s beyond time we start treating them like it. If CA can hold the Super Bowl and attend parties with friends without masks our kids can sure attend school without masks. It’s time our CUSD Board and Superintendent put the kids first. Stand up to the governor and say no more! Enough is enough! Two years of this is enough!

For those that want to mask they can but they shouldn’t stop others that don’t, your mask should protect you from that, right?!

It’s time CUSD Board and superintendent take a stand for the kids! Look at the the real problems in our district and not mask mandates.

Thank you
Hannah
--
Thank you
Hannah Melo
Hi,
My name is Diana and I have 2 children at Cabrillo Unified School District. The state has said in the following weeks that they will be lifting school mask mandates in school. I urge you to please remove the mask mandate as soon as the state does. These children need to see smiles. They need the anxiety gone. I as a parent will even sign a waiver, if need be, to have my children to not have masks on during class. Please, I urge you to listen to the parents. It should be an individual decision that should be made by the parents not by any one else. Human faces, to steal a line from Walt Whitman, contain multitudes. Whether it’s the righteous joy embodied by an open-mouthed laugh or the subtle contempt of a curled lip, people of all ages rely on others’ faces to help them navigate their social environments. Our expressions, whether we intend them to or not, convey all manner of vital information. Those bashful smiles and pursed lips reveal quite a bit about what we feel—and offer guidance to others on how to best respond to us. This is especially the case if our words and expressions do not match. Please let individual families decide what’s best for their families if they chose to have their children wear a mask or not in school.

Thank you,
Diana
Subject: Comment for February 16 Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 3:19:21 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Kerrie DeMartini <kerriedemartini@gmail.com>

To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

Dear San Mateo County Office of Ed,

Please read this aloud at the meeting....

I am writing to you as both a parent and teacher. It looks like the state will soon be lifting the mask mandates for schools in the next couple of weeks. When they do I urge you to follow suit and lift the mask mandate within our county schools. At this point the vaccine has been available to all who are interested. Those who would like to still mask can do so if they want that extra level of protection. But for those of us who are ready to drop the masks it is time!

We communicate so much with our facial expressions and there is an entire generation of children falling behind in this skill. For my younger son I am more concerned about all the places he puts his mask during the day before it goes back on his mouth, it is gross to think about. As a teacher the masks that most of my students and colleagues wear are thin pieces of material that do nothing to stop a virus. **It is time to make masking optional.** It is time to see each other's smiles!

Please do not entertain any ideas of tying mask choice to vaccination status. That would be medical discrimination and I would hate to see our schools and county get tied up in legal battles.

Thank you for your time,

Kerrie
Subject: Comment for February 16th board meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4:38:50 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Rob Aschero <robaschero@gmail.com>
To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

I would like it to be put on record that I support all school districts in San Mateo County, especially CUSD, be a mask optional district for all the teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents regardless of their vaccination status. At this point in time masks, vaccines and testing kits are readily available to all members of our community and those who choose to employ all or some of those remedies should do so. Conversely, those who choose to not mask, test or be vaccinated should not be discriminated against in any way, shape or form and be allowed the same freedoms of those who are vaccinated. For the record both my wife, one child and myself are vaccinated and my oldest is not as she is old enough to make her own informed decision.

Best regards,

Rob Aschero
Dear San Mateo County Board of Education,

Thank you for reading my comment at the meeting. I am a parent of two students at Cabrillo Unified School District. When the governor lifts the mask mandate in K-12 schools for California, I want San Mateo County to follow as well. I know that an announcement won't be made until the end of February, or possibly later, but when the policy is announced, I urge you to follow the recommendation that we can now unmask the children. San Mateo county has a very high vaccination rate, what more do we need? Many parents are ready, I am ready, our children are ready. Those who aren't comfortable with the changes can still wear a mask. This will be a crucial element in maintaining public trust in the recommended health response.

It is time to unmask, like the rest of us get to do outside of school. Our children need to remove their masks for the sake of healthy social and emotional development because it is safe to do so, now. Our teachers and staff have full access to the protection of the vaccine. The decision for optional masking for all, when the mandate lifts for K-12 schools from the State, is the right one.

Thank you!
Subject: Comment for February 16 Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 8:28:02 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Christina Sullivan <christina.sully@gmail.com>

To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

I am a parent of 3 students in San Mateo County. I am writing to ask that when the state lifts the mask mandate for K-12 schools, that the San Mateo county board of education be prepared to quickly follow suit and remove the mask mandate for all K-12 students, regardless of vaccination status for all the schools in our county.

Thank you,
Christina Sullivan
Good evening. My name is Libby Garcia. I have 3 kids in the CUSD. I am asking that mask mandates be dropped for our schools once the state eases mask mandates, regardless of vaccination status. Let parents make a choice based off of our families needs.

Thank you
Hello,
My name is Kristy I am a parent of two children here in San Mateo County school District. I am asking you to please do the right thing. Please do what the rest of the country is doing and allow mask choice for every individual family. Wearing a mask for nearly two years is doing more damage than catching Covid ever could have done to these children.
This is beyond “following the science “ because if we were “following the science “ kids would be mask free. The children have become political and financial pawns. It is a disgrace that California is using our children in this game. Please do what is right and unmask our children. The threat is and has been gone to them.

Thank you for your time,

Kristy Marzocca
Subject: Comment for Feb. 16 Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 10:32:51 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Rebecca Weber <lotsawebers2@yahoo.com>

To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

Dear San Mateo County Board of Education members,

Please immediately remove all mask requirements and mandates for all children in San Mateo County school districts. Masks do not help, as seen by recently documented studies, and they harm in multiple ways. Please do not wait for Governor Newsom on this issue, but lead our state in caring for our children and our entire community. Our school children should be free from all mask requirements.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Weber
Dear School Board,

Please take the masks off all of our children at school now. Many states have already done this and even certain school districts in California have done this. We have been in this for two years and our kids are suffering by not seeing each other’s facial expressions and not breathing in the amount of fresh air they should be. There has been research done on this and masking was never supposed to go on this long, let alone for kids to have to wear them all day inside the classroom. Please, please, please let our children breath and get rid of masking for our kids in our schools immediately!

Thank you so much,
Hannah

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone
Subject: Drop mask mandates.
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:23:23 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Liesl Taner <liesltaner@mac.com>
To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

I am so proud of our county and it’s almost 93% vaccination rate. One of the highest in the country! Our numbers of deaths and hospital numbers continue to be low.

It is time to drop the mask requirements at schools. Whether vaccinated or not. Myocarditis from vaccines continues to be a real concern. Especially among adolescent boys. People should not be discriminated against for making health decisions.

Masking continues to be a detriment to children. Speech development, making friends, communicating and isolation are all showing to be more of a risk for children than a positive case of Covid.

I’d like to encourage the education department to drop all masking requirements. Particularly in Cabrillo Unified (CUSD). Make masks and vaccines optional. Allow parents, and in some cases children, to make their own health decisions.

Thank you,

Liesl Taner
Mother of 7 children ages 5-20
Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

I am a local voter, taxpayer and mother of elementary age children in San Mateo County. I'd like to contribute to the school board’s discussion on masking for students. Children statistically have the lowest risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19 and should not continue to shoulder the burden in schools by continued masking. Many U.S. states and indeed foreign countries do not require masking of young children or are now removing children’s masking requirements. It is time for San Mateo County to respect science and respect our children’s right to choose to remove their face coverings.

Respectfully,

Melanie Dobbs
Subject: Comment for February 16 Board Meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 11:31:22 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Matt Allen <capturetheflag@hotmail.com>
To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

Please read this letter out loud during the meeting, on and for the record.

Dear San Mateo County Board of Education,

As soon as the state announces that masks are no longer needed, I urge you to make the same policy change in our schools. We have two weeks to make final preparations for this huge improvement in our county's learning environment. I can't wait and neither can my two school-aged children. The experiment of wearing masks is over. It didn't help. Multiple studies show mask-wearing is, at best, 15% effective and results taper down to as low as "no effect at all," when it comes to stopping the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. In an effort to approach this situation with an abundance of caution, we have participated in mask-wearing. The time for this has passed. The harm they inflict on our children is now known. The harms of mask-wearing far outweigh any benefit. All students must be given the option to attend school, mask-free, regardless of vaccination status.

As we move forward and things continue to improve, do not violate our teachers' or students' civil rights. Forcing anyone that cannot or will not receive a shot is immoral. Coercion of any kind, including threat of loss of job or failure to make adequate accommodations is a violation of civil rights, medical malpractice, and a violation of the Nuremberg Code of 1947. I am a teacher in San Mateo County. I have felt completely safe and know that the County has employed the best strategy for safety in the classrooms. Weekly testing and the option to wear a mask will continue to provide ample protection and safety for everyone at school. Three cheers for getting rid of the masks and maintaining a school environment of safety and medical choice.

Sincerely,

Matt Allen
Subject: Comment for Feb 16th board meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 1:52:15 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Pete O <djpeteo@gmail.com>
To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

To whom it may concern

Please remove mask mandates. 37 other states have no school mask mandates. Why is California lagging behind in this? The World Health Organization has said children should not be forced to wear masks, and that children under 5 should not wear a mask [https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19].

More importantly, masks don’t work. There are zero randomized control trials that show masks work, this includes N95 masks. FYI, N stands for non oil resistant and 95 means it filters out 95% of air bourne particles, of which all viruses fit through. The capsules of this virus are oil capsules, hence it goes right through the mask.

Also there are zero randomized control trials that show that these masks stop upper respiratory diseases.

The only only mask that protects the wearer is a P 100.

Also please refer to the Swedish study by Dr. Ludvigsson, in the New England Jounal of Medicine, where schools were not closed and masks were not worn and NO children died and NO children were vaccinated [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7821981/]

Please follow the science and remove your head from the politics and do what’s best for our kids.

If you do not remove the mask mandate, WE will be filing a claim against your Public Official Surety Bonds and your insurance. These claims will not only cause you a financial burden, but also halt funding for the schools and relevant public officials will be held personally liable.

Pete Overfelt
Good Evening Superintendent and Board Members:

On January 19th, the School Board, voted to close classrooms in the K22 Special Education program and close the County Office of Education Community School. Teachers were advised of this decision in a zoom meeting one week before the Board’s vote.

California’s Department of Education has a valuable website. One article appearing on the website discusses good practices for closing schools, (https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/schoolclose.asp), and supports the preferred process they describe with California Ed Code and Government Code. Below is a section of this article with the applicable law:
Education Code Section 17387 specifies the Legislature's intent that there be community involvement "before decisions are made about school closure or the use of surplus space..." While this Section specifies a legislative "intent," not a mandate, its application is common sense and should be an integral part of school-closure decisions (see "Form a Committee" above for recommended membership and responsibilities).

Education Code Section 17388 mandates that the governing board appoint a District Advisory Committee (DAC) (often referred to as the "7/11 Committee") to advise the governing board in the development of district-wide policies governing the use of disposition of surplus property. Even though the DAC's responsibilities are specific to decisions after a school has been closed, those decisions should be made in concert with decisions about which schools, if any, to close. To restrict the DAC to post facto responsibilities is to neglect an integral component in the difficult decisions of school closure. DAC meetings are subject to the Brown Act and must be open to the public.

Education Code Section 17389 defines the required composition of the DAC.

To ensure that the school being closed does not continue to appear as open in the California Department of Education's (CDE) County-District-School (CDS) database, notify the CDS administration of the closure. The district's CDS coordinator should use the OPUS-CDS application for school closures. This closure notification will prevent the CDE from providing communications, testing materials, or funding to the closed school.

As a member of the public, I am asking the Superintendent and Board to provide the composition of the DAC committee and its meeting minutes to the public.

In the process of closing the Community School and reducing the number of classes in the K22 Special Education program, a cost benefit analysis would have been conducted and I would like the Superintendent and Board to make this available to the public.

With the reduction of the K22 and Community school credential staff (about 30% of SMCEA positions) and the 40 para-educators, the districts should see a substantial reduction in the cost per student for services provided by the County Office. I ask that the Superintendent and Board make these savings public.
Also, as a member of the public, I expect the County Office to provide a notice of public hearings and provide notifications to impacted families and districts of these reductions of service and closing of the Community school.

I believe these requests are essential for transparency of process and for demonstration of County Office leadership. By following best practices proposed by the California Department of Education, the County Office will avoid missteps and intrigue inherent in self created processes.

Respectfully,

Roger Wroblewski
Subject: Mask and experimental shots
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:02:55 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: JUSTIN D’ORIO <dddorio@yahoo.com>
To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

To whom it may concern
I have three daughters in the Cabrillo unified school district. My oldest is set to enter into middle school this fall at Cunja. I would love for her to be able to attend school with all of her friends that she has had since kindergarten at Farallon View Elementary school. However if the school board follows through with the vaccine mandates that Governor Newsom is trying to impose I will be forced to pull my children from public school and homeschool them. There is no scientific evidence that suggest children will benefit from this experimental shot that has proven to be ineffective and dangerous. There are numerous peer reviewed clinical trials that show when a country imposed vaccine mandates the higher the vaccination rate the higher the rates of cases, hospitalizations, and death rates occurred. Israel, the UK, and Gibraltar are just a few of the countries where this outcome occurred. My wife is fully vaccinated and my children have had every vaccine on the vaccine schedule recommended by the CDC. We are not anti-VAX. The risk simply does not outweigh the reward in this circumstance.

California is set to remove the mask mandate in the upcoming weeks. Why is it that they are still insisting the children must still wear them to attend school? Once again there is no clinical peer reviewed data that suggest that mask do anything to reduce the spread of Covid. In fact it is quite the opposite and there are over 100 peer-reviewed clinical trials that suggest that they do nothing to prevent the transmission of viruses.

We have put up with this for the last two years but enough is enough. Once again if you are insisting that my children continue to wear a mask for the upcoming school year we have decided we will be forced to pull all three of our children from the public school system.

Please do what is best for the children of the Cabrillo unified school district and end the mask mandate and do not impose a vaccine mandate that will only harm and kill our children without any benefits other than the financial one you are receiving from the pharmaceutical companies. We all know what you are doing and why you are doing it. It is truly disgraceful and it needs to stop immediately. Concerned parents in the community are ready to vote you out, and challenge your bond to remove you immediately if you do not comply with the wishes of the parents in the Coast side communities. It only takes 10 parents to challenge your bond to have you removed, and there are hundreds of us.

Sincerely a very concerned parent.
Justin D’Orio

Sent from my iPhone
Subject: Fwd: Comment for February 16 Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 8:39:05 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Victoria Lacerda <victoria.m.lacerda@gmail.com>
To: Nancy Magee <nmagee@smcoe.org>, Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>
CC: mcphetridges@cabrillo.k12.ca.us <mcphetridges@cabrillo.k12.ca.us>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Victoria Lacerda <victoria.m.lacerda@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 8:21 AM
Subject: Comment for February 16 Board Meeting
To: <audiov@smcoe.org>

Dear San Mateo County School Board Members,

Please represent your parents and stand for CHOICE to allow those that want to wear a mask, wear one, and those that don’t take it off. We need you to stand up to have an environment conducive to learning by ending these unnecessary requirements for masks, quarantines, testing and vaccines. Let children grow up with their beautiful smiles shining brightly.

Please think about the long-term effects on these children; speech development, communicating, social emotion skills, falling behind and the kid that more easily hides now behind a computer and a mask for 7-10 hours a day.

Please drop all masking, testing and vaccine requirements and allow parents to make their own health decisions.

Thank you,
Victoria
Mother of 2 elementary school boys & property taxpayer