

**July 16, 2020 Meeting  
Views and Comments Submitted Electronically**

1. 7/10/20 Sarah Renish & 116 additional supporters
2. 7/12/20 Maddie Gallo (Shaw)
3. 7/13/20 Laura Marran
4. 7/13/20 Anonymous
5. 7/13/20 Kimberly Gerber
6. 7/14/20 Michelle Ishmael Wright
7. 7/14/20 Laura Kanetzke
8. 7/14/20 Cheryl Johson & 15 additional supporters
9. 7/14/20 Jillian Heise
10. 7/14/20 Nichole (Lachman) Visintainer
11. 7/15/20 Kyle Flood
12. 7/16/20 Amanda Robillard
13. 7/16/20 David Strash
14. 7/16/20 Adriana VanDenBergh
15. 7/16/20 Sabrina Morgan
16. 7/16/20 Karen Kempininen

**Added after meeting per request**

17. 7/16/20 Elissa Werve
18. 7/16/20 Larissa Arellano
19. 7/17/20 Suzanne Jarmakowicz
20. 7/17/20 Amanda Robillard
21. 7/17/20 Tanya Kitts

**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Sarah Renish [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2020 8:15 AM  
**To:** Tom Duncan; Mary Modder; Yolanda Adams; Dan Wade; Todd Battle; Tony Garcia; Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Please Read my Letter To School Board Regarding School Safety and COVID-19  
**Attachments:** Dear School Board Members,.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear School Board Members,

I am requesting that this letter be read to the entire school board at the July 16th meeting as part of the public comments section if I am unable to attend in person. I have shared my letter with some of my colleagues and friends in our community and 116 of them have asked that I also sign their names on to this letter in support of what I have to say. This letter reflects concerns shared by many others in our schools and community with the current plans for reopening for in-person learning in September.

-Sarah Ratelis  
Kenosha, WI

Dear School Board Members,

To get schools back up and running for the fall, Wisconsin had only one job to do this spring and summer, slow the spread of COVID-19. We now have higher COVID diagnoses than we did back in April. Our infection trajectory as a nation is the **WORST IN THE WORLD**. Even more frustrating is I am witnessing public shaming of teachers and educators for taking a stand to protect themselves and their students.

While I can hope that they are a small minority, there is a group that are **EXTREMELY VOCAL** and are publishing letters and opinions in our local newspaper and on social media chastising any educator who is hesitant to return to in-person instruction and anyone that takes a stand that masks are an essential part of our public hygiene safety plan. I've read it more than once, "Who cares if you are a teacher worried about your health? How dare you not put the children first!"

Let us get one thing very clear here, teachers are not to blame for this. Anyone who is not taking this seriously and is fighting our public health guidelines is to blame.

Personally, I am utterly flabbergasted that we are not requiring all individuals over the age of 2, as per the most recent Public Health guidelines, to wear masks while in our buildings and classrooms. The most recent data on COVID-19 is now showing that it is spread by tiny air borne droplets. I direct your attention to an open letter signed by 239 researchers addressed to the World Health Organization, published Monday, July 7th in Clinical Infectious Diseases, that outlines a new route of transmission, tiny respiratory particles that float in the air and are called aerosols and that, as the researchers state, could be responsible for infecting someone who comes along and breathes them in. "Hand-washing and social distancing are appropriate, but in our view, insufficient to provide protection from virus-carrying respiratory microdroplets released into the air by infected people." **WEARING MASKS** in public areas with gatherings of people is **NOT** about a personal choice or opinion about your own risk analysis. Masks are **PART OF OUR HYGIENE PLANS** and if you are unable to use all the tools available to protect students and staff **INCLUDING REQUIRING ALL INDIVIDUALS TO WEAR MASKS**, then we cannot open for in-person instruction.

Our students do need adults around to care and monitor them all day. That is a given. This sudden concern about gaps in learning is not the real reason for the rush for in-person learning. This is about having childcare/supervision so parents can be pushed back to work. If returning to in person learning is about our students and their needs, we need to acknowledge that with the amount of stuff going on, the stresses on family, the deaths of members of our community etc., we are going to have a bunch of extra Maslow needs to address before we can even get into the learning, let alone trying to double down on closing an achievement gap.

Do not misunderstand me, we all want students back into school as soon as we are able to develop and follow a complete safety protocol built around the three hygienic principles in the most current public health recommendations as of July 8th, 2020. However, we need to put the public safety of every member of our community first and foremost in every decision we make.

One. limit contact between groups so there are fewer sources of new infection. This means small class sizes, limited movement of adults between groups, keeping students in pods. Our buildings were not designed for isolation of groups of students, many buildings having large common areas for lunch and shared hallways and locker areas. Even with a class size of 25 students, our rooms are going to be very hard to set up with desks to even meet the minimum

distancing requirements of 3ft part. We will need more staffing to spread out students into smaller groupings and to limit the amount of adults who interact with them to reduce the number of contacts.

**Two. frequent washing of hands and high-touch areas to limit contact spread of the virus.** We don't have individual classroom bathrooms, but rather a single larger bathroom shared by 5-8 classrooms, this shared bathroom design also means that we don't have many sinks for hand washing, in my school bathrooms have one shared sink! Even if we expect the minimum amount of hand washing, once before we start school for the day, and once before lunch, we are looking at significant logistical time issues. If I am optimistic that my students can complete the entire handwashing process in 30 seconds each, with two sinks available, it will take the six classrooms of 25 students each that share those bathrooms over 35 minutes to complete the entire process just once. Even getting more cleaning on high touch areas in my classroom is going to take more time, I have not seen any plans for adjusting the student contact times so that teachers/staff and have time during the day to help do light cleaning on high touch surfaces to free up custodians for bathrooms and other common high traffic areas for more thorough cleanings. I have not seen any evidence that more custodial staff will be hired for more regular cleaning cycles. I have not seen any plans for increasing the number of handwashing stations for classrooms

**Three. the virus is spread by respiratory droplets that you exhale so we must have MANDATORY FACE MASKS.** You know how in the winter you can see your breath when it is really cold? Those are the droplets you exhale every time you breathe, talk, or sing. Wearing a face mask for the general public is more about stopping those droplets from getting too far away from your face, than from stopping them from coming in. Mask wearing for anyone over the age of 2 CANNOT BE OPTIONAL. If an individual cannot wear a mask, then we should and can work on accommodations for them, but we cannot say we care about BIPOC, know about the higher risks they face, and then make wearing masks, which are an IMPORTANT PART OF HYGIENE right now, optional. Recent case reports also suggest that having both healthy and infected people all wearing masks can prevent transmission in high-risk scenarios. In late May, two hair stylists in Missouri had close contact with 140 clients while sick with COVID-19. Everyone wore a mask and none of the clients tested positive. (<https://tinyurl.com/y9kwnmuo>) The use of the masks by everyone PROTECTED EVERYONE. Deciding to only "recommend" the use of face masks in public is malpractice. For schools to be safe for in-person learning, FACE MASKS MUST BE MANDATORY and enforced. Madison and Milwaukee have already passed measures requiring face masks. Why is Kenosha lagging behind?

This drive to reopen with so little action on protecting the health of our entire school community is also very concerning because long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put some members of racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting COVID-19 or experiencing severe illness, regardless of age. We are making our BIPOC families have to take on a higher risk with COVID than other groups in a face to face setting. Southeastern Wisconsin is, unfortunately, an especially high-risk area for BIPOC with them experiencing 200-300% more complications and deaths from a COVID-19 infection. Schools and daycares are not safer for opening just because they are filled with children. I direct your attention to Texas daycares that are seeing a rapid increase in COVID cases, currently at over 1300 cases in over 850 different facilities as of July 6th with 441 of those cases being

children. (<https://tinyurl.com/y83j68wk>) This demonstrates that the original data being cited by some to push reopening schools as soon as possible because they thought children are not being infected by COVID-19 or not being spreaders of COVID-19 is actually a false hope. While some will continue to argue, based on what is now shown to be incomplete research data, that children are at lower risks than adults, we have to also look at the data for Wisconsin and see that age does not protect our BIPOC students and staff as all BIPOC individuals are at higher risks in all age groups. The harsh reality is that in person learning will put our BIPOC staff and students at a greater risk than others. Also, some have argued that distance learning is of a lower quality than in person. I disagree with this assertion that virtual learning is of lower quality having taught for the Kenosha e-school for 3 years on an extended contract. However, if we truly believe that in-person learning is of higher quality, we cannot accept that as a district, through our decisions to not enforce universal mask wearing, we are making our BIPOC community have to make an even harder choice of increasing their risk of illness or death for themselves or extended households to attend in-person school, often having to ride public transportation or school buses which also increases risk, or choose to learn at home but receive a lesser quality education.

As I mentioned earlier some people argue that face-to-face is superior to online, yet, I have to advise you that next year my in-person lessons will be very similar to what I could plan for online lessons this fall. Why? I would love to go back to teaching in the hands on, interactive style that I believe most helps my students learn and grow ASAP, however the COVID-19 safety demands that my classroom look far different for at least the Fall and possible beyond. I want to see more leaders acknowledge and address the simple reality that one way or the other, my classroom during this pandemic will not and cannot function as it has in the past. I teach middle school science and my face to face classes are usually a buzzing hive of activity: the hands-on labs, card sorts, think -pair shares, the group projects, the movement in my classroom, the shared supplies, shared computers, shared whiteboards, students interacting with my SMART board as part of the lesson, the science classroom library, and science review games. Yep, I am pretty sure that is all out for next year. Any type of collaboration we do will not be much more than what we could or would do on a computer in a virtual classroom, because of social distancing requirements.

Truly, I am OK with taking on a SMALL risk of contracting COVID-19 associated with going back face to face IF and that's a big IF WE DO ALL WE CAN TO REDUCE THAT RISK TO AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE. There are ways to do that: small pods of students, social distancing, face masks and more. I have seen these in action in articles about schools reopening in Europe and Asia. The big issue right now, for me, is the alarming number of parents and community members who are demanding that we go back to face to face instruction without a mask requirement for all individuals and clearly set up procedures to enforce hygienic guidelines for social distancing. That is why I am so hesitant.

Please show leadership for our district in being proactive in creating a hygiene plan that will use all three tools for safety: distancing ourselves from each other, consistent wearing of face masks for all individuals, and adequate handwashing.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Ratelis

Mahone MS Science Teacher

I have shared this letter with others and the following 116 people have asked that I sign their names to show support for this.

**KUSD EDUCATORS**

Jamian Knuth  
Beth Herrendeen Smith  
Karen Bowman  
Callie Mikolajczk  
Corrin Mildenberg  
Lucinda Michaelis  
Jo Doucette McGrath  
Tammy Gerdes  
Shawn Keller Verborg  
Diana Petre  
Marcelo Perez  
Lindsey Edwards  
Pamela Dombkowski  
Susan Krantz.  
Brittany Chase  
Maggie F White  
Melanie Stein  
Katie Poole  
Jill Jensen  
Dave Koel  
Geoff Poole  
Melody Kaelber  
April Solms  
Margaret Jagel  
Kailin Virden  
Annamarie Alibright  
Maria Macias  
Diane Hilbrink  
Jean Carbajal  
Leigh-Anne Peper  
Laura Zajicek-Bagenski  
Dorothy Mc Millan  
Lynn Parks  
Jodi Larsen  
Will Kouris  
Laura Marran  
Charity Eigenberger  
Sheri Wawiorka

Jeanine Cruz Ferguson  
Deb Zuleger Bronhuetter  
Stacy Keckler  
Amber Stone  
Michelle Brean  
Christina Miller  
Michelle Biegler  
Stephen Dollar  
Erin Gray  
Christina Díaz  
Jillian Heise  
Melisa Garbie  
Amanda Spaulding  
Laura Rogers  
Jennifer Martin  
Scott McDonald  
James Cetera  
Cindy Cetera  
Justine Jerry  
Benjamin Jerry  
Kurt Bushman  
Marie Kilps  
Andrea Shike  
Kelsi Rakow  
Dorinda Aldridge  
Nicole Gamez  
Heidi Buss  
Tracy Lowe  
Danielle DeFazio  
Suzanne Bryan  
Silvana Sampedro  
Megan Heinrich  
Elizabeth Lliddicoat  
Marianna Alho  
Deborah Matthews  
Jessica Neiweem  
Katie Starosta  
Kristina Niemi Johnson

Judith Lee  
Rea Solomon  
Mary Towers  
Sarah Nolan  
Alan Skripsky  
Sandy Vittone  
Steven Los  
Valerie Sereno  
Randy Rovik  
Shay James  
Denise Maniscalco  
Katie Radke  
Sandra Fonk  
Maureen Wilson  
Maria Del Real  
Julie Nudi-Scott  
Luann Sinnen  
Beth Smith  
Kathleen Crane  
Kim Broderick  
Pat Milock  
Katherine  
    Andrysiak-Montemurro  
Jeanne Hoffman  
Samantha White  
Judy Wynstra  
Lorie Kanetzke  
Yanika Patterson  
Emily Kopnick  
Carmen Carrera  
C. Taylor  
Tanya Kitts-Lewinski  
Pamela Reynolds  
Kristin Canfield  
Karen Kempinen  
Jenn Seivert

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Ray Ratelis**

**Christine Pollard**

**David Tower**

**Samantha Kutz**

**Charlotte Calhoun**

## Stacy Busby

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**From:** Tom Duncan  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 12:11 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis; Stacy Busby; Tanya Ruder  
**Subject:** Fwd: Return to School 2020-2021

Tom Duncan  
KUSD Board President

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Maddie L. Gallo" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 11, 2020 at 7:15:04 PM CDT  
**To:** Tom Duncan <tduncan@kUSD.edu>, Dan Wade <dwade@kUSD.edu>, Yolanda Adams <yadams@kUSD.edu>, Todd Battle <tbattle@kUSD.edu>, Tony Garcia <tgarcia@kUSD.edu>, Rebecca Stevens <rstevens@kUSD.edu>, Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** Return to School 2020-2021

Respected Members of the Board;

I ask that my statements be read aloud at this meeting.

With the new school year starting in 6.5 weeks, as an educator, I would usually be feeling excited. I should be enjoying the feeling of revising my lesson plans and activities, picking up school supplies, and setting goals for the coming school year. I love the feeling of a fresh, new school year.

Instead, I am filled with dread and anxiety. Four years ago, my mother contracted a very severe case of pneumonia that quickly turned to sepsis. She suffered multi-system organ failure. She had to have parts of her hands and feet amputated, and eventually had to have her right leg amputated below the knee. She is bedridden. My husband and I live at home with my mother and near-70 year old father for the purpose of helping him take care of my mother. She is severely immuno-compromised. Her lungs suffered major damage, and puts her in an extremely high risk category when considering COVID-19.



The fear of going back to in-person teaching literally has me frozen and in tears. There is no way of maintaining adequate social distancing in a classroom. Thus far, there is no mask mandate. Every single day I will be walking in to my classroom, in to a potentially deadly situation for my parents, my husband, or myself. I will have to choose between my career and my parents' survival.

This being said, I am absolutely appalled at the lack of consideration being given to the safety of staff and students with this coming school year. We are lacking leadership on this issue at the national, state, and local levels. Our leaders are failing us. Our district needs to take a stand and make a strong statement about how much we truly care about the safety and well being of our staff, our students, and community.

There is absolutely no way we can truly return to school in-person, safely. The only way we can return to school safely is through virtual learning. Teachers have shown time and time again that we can adapt to new teaching methods - we can make virtual learning work. Do not make us choose between keeping our careers that we love, and the health and safety of our loved ones, students, and ourselves.

Maddie Shaw

Social Studies Teacher, Indian Trail High School and Academy

**Maddie Gallo** (*formerly Shaw*)

Teacher - Social Studies Seminar, World History, Military History  
Kenosha Military Academy (KMA)

Kenosha Unified School District | Indian Trail High School and Academy | 6800 60th Street | Kenosha, WI 53144  
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KUSD 20

*Mission: Provide excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.*

*I would like this read into the public record at the School Board Meeting on July 16.  
Thank you,  
Laura Marran  
Kindergarten Special Ed teacher (Brass Community School), and parent of 2 KUSD alums.*

July 13, 2020

Dear KUSD School Board Members and Administration:

When we left school on March 13, we had no idea we'd be out of the building the rest of the year. When we wrapped up online instruction June 11, we assumed we'd return in the fall, not knowing that the once-flattening curve would alarmingly climb back to record levels. When we began to plan for safe re-opening, I was excited to be part of the process, and was optimistic that the resulting plan would protect all involved. A great effort was made, even as COVID circumstances changed beneath our feet. Because of those changing circumstances, coupled with the information presented to reactor groups, I am disheartened. At this point I do not believe the critical safety needs of students and staff are met under the plans outlined so far.

The main points I want to address are:

- Lack of safety measures
- Inequities and inconsistencies in serving families
- Unanswered questions concerning staff and overall safety  
(Sources noted below)

**Lack of safety measures:** The CDC, Wisconsin DHS, and other widely-accepted sources agree that to stop the spread of coronavirus we need masks, social distancing, no large gatherings indoors ( 25% percent capacity and social distancing are recommended as minimum indoor requirements [1]), and contact tracing/isolation of positive cases. Our in-person school plan offers none of those safety measures. Optional masks are the same as no masks. It only takes one COVID-positive person without a mask to infect others in a building (Even with a mask, we are at considerable risk if the infected individual is not wearing one; however transmission drops to a small percentage chance when all present are properly wearing masks, [2]). We have myriad rules students and staff, notably dress codes that have varying purposes including safety (ex: no flip flops in elementary school, sandals must have backs for playground safety). If masks cannot be required, those other requirements seem inconsistent.

The very act of opening the schools with no reduction of class size contradicts advice on indoor gatherings referenced above. While class size remains the same, so does the procedure for monitoring student health. Assuming families will take temperatures and screen for symptoms is no different than standard policy, and we are all aware that children come to school sick for a variety of reasons. In ordinary circumstances this is a solvable problem. During this pandemic, a child who enters the classroom with a fever or cough could put peers and adults at risk. It presents an immediate problem that must be handled by the teacher while also conducting regularly scheduled instruction and closely monitoring safety.

**Inequities in serving families:** There is no question that closing buildings due to COVID-19 puts pressure on families in many ways. However, the repeated claim that closing schools prevents families from working, or interferes with their work schedules reveals a huge inequity in the families we "see" and serve. In many schools, including ours, we know that parents have second and third shift jobs, and work multiple jobs. As a district we do not take on responsibility for helping those parents meet their childcare needs. So when the district refers to school's role in providing child care relief for working parents, that demonstrates that we are catering only to those with weekday, first shift employment. Of course we are not expected to provide childcare during off hours, but to maintain equity, we cannot use first-shift childcare as an argument for opening despite safety concerns.

The recent district survey reached 8,500 families. Is there data available on how many responses came from each school, how many Black and Latino families were represented, how many responses were from families whose first language is not English, and how many came from schools with high percentages of free-reduced lunch? What effort was made to reach families without home internet access?

Information is unclear on whether or not families must choose in-person or virtual learning for the entire year. **I would like to speak strongly against forcing families to make a binding decision for the entire year, especially coming off a year that changed so abruptly.** As noted in my first paragraph, no one in our district could have predicted how 2019-20 would play out. The trajectory of the virus changed dramatically, and has recently changed again. Wisconsin has the worst COVID growth in the nation as of mid-July, and Kenosha has been identified as a "hot spot." [3]. This is ever-changing, and we have no way of knowing what these numbers will look like quarterly in November, January and March.

Family situations change - jobs are lost and regained, unemployment benefits are complicated, and health concerns may change a family's outlook. To expect a family to make this huge decision - one that even the district was understandably unable to make back in March - is unreasonable, disrespectful, and even trauma inducing. Can you imagine having to make this decision with your Senior, who may opt out only to find that the communities' virus numbers are vastly improved in January? What about families brand new to our district (whether transfer or first child entering 4K) - what message does this send? Students who left the buildings March 13, 2020 should be allowed to return when both their families and county/state health departments decide it is safe to do so. This could be done with reasonable notice, such as a quarter, rather than forcing families to make a decision now that will last until September 2021.

Conversely, what if a family trusts the safety measures only to find that they are unsatisfied and gravely concerned once the year begins? Perhaps the cases begin to rise, or the school has far fewer mask-wearers than the family believed would be the case. To be stuck in a situation they feel is unsafe when an online option does exist seems almost punitive.

**Unanswered questions:** With the first day of school just 6 weeks away, it seems we have more questions than answers. I realize this problem is not unique to KUSD. However, in order to return to buildings safely and without overwhelming emotional uncertainty, we need answers. Here are a few of the most pressing questions I have:

- In the case of team teaching, or special education/ESP interaction, if one member of that team exhibits symptoms and must leave school for testing, would the other adult in close proximity also need to leave for testing and/or to await the results of the symptomatic colleague? It would be reckless for a potentially exposed adult to continue to have contact with children. In that case, would it count against the exposed (asymptomatic) adult's sick time?
- What method do we have, considering privacy issues, of determining if a student is coming from a household where a family member has tested positive for COVID?
- We anticipate that the ongoing sub shortage and issue of uncovered classes may escalate. Will a district-wide plan be implemented (tailored to elementary, MS and HS) to assure consistency and equity across schools? For example, at our school students in uncovered classes are divided between the other classrooms at their grade level, increasing class size considerably for the duration of the absence. In other schools, instructional coaches and even some principals are willing to occasionally cover classes. We need a consistent directive from KUSD so that sub shortages and substitute preferences don't dictate staff and student safety disproportionately.
- PBIS requires a great deal of movement throughout the building, including buddy rooms and intervention by other adults in the building when needed. Even calming areas will need to be sanitized between uses. How will this movement be addressed?
- Will staff entrances, mailbox area, bathrooms, and lounge be cleaned/sanitized any differently than in previous years?
- Will IEPs, staff meetings, PD, and grade level collaboration be allowed to be virtual at the request of any of the participants?

In closing, I ask you to consider the consequences if the district plan comes up short on safety measures and equity, and leaves critical questions unanswered. I firmly believe that strong safety measures, including perhaps delaying return to buildings until it is safer to do so, will send a message to our community that we need to come together to crush COVID curve by cooperatively following research-based directives provided by local, state, and national health experts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Marran

[1] CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/community-based.html>

[2] Mask data (analysis of several sources)

<https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/06/417906/still-confused-about-masks-heres-science-behind-how-face-masks-prevent>

[3] Wisconsin updated state and county data

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/wisconsin-coronavirus-cases.html>

Stacy Busby

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**From:** Mary Modder  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 10:00 AM  
**To:** Stacy Busby; Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter for School Board  
**Attachments:** school board letter.docx; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Blind Account <ablind113@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 13, 2020 at 9:59:05 AM CDT  
**To:** Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** Letter for School Board

Hello, Ms. Modder,

I saw at the last school board meeting that I watched that you read some letters from the community. I would appreciate it if you could read mine at the next meeting. If there is a process for submitting letters, please advise. Because my husband is a staff member in the district, and I don't want him to face any backlash due to my letter, I would like to keep my name private. Thank you so much!

I appreciate if you are able to read my letter at the next school board meeting.

7/11/2020

Dear Dr. Sue and School Board Members,

I appreciate the hard work and research that the team members are putting in to try and open schools in the safest ways possible. I know that nobody wants to put our students or staff at risk. My understanding is that they are using CDC and WI Dept. of Health guidelines. I wonder if you have also read through the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines

(<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

). They have some very good ideas and resources for both staff and parents.

As a community member with a compromised immune system, a parent of two high schoolers, the wife of a staff member, and a tutor to several KUSD students at different buildings, my biggest concern is what in-person learning will look like. I have no doubt in my mind that the teachers and support staff are thinking about every possible way to make learning challenging, engaging, and productive. The question I have revolves around the one phrase that keeps me up at night: “we *highly recommend* wearing face coverings.”

This phrase makes me, my husband, and my children incredibly uncomfortable, and here is why. If my husband has a student come into his office crying or yelling about something, both of which are normal occurrences, and is not wearing a mask, his or her droplets are going to go everywhere. Even if my husband is wearing a mask or face shield, those particles are spreading far and wide. He can very easily become infected from a child who carries the virus but is completely asymptomatic. If that same child came in wearing a mask, his or her feelings would be just as real, just as clear, but the majority of the droplets would stay with them in their mask. Thus, my husband, or other teachers in a similar situation, are not as likely to catch COVID from such an interaction.

Both of my boys are in high school. With the sheer number of students at IT, Tremper, and Bradford, and the small buildings with narrow hallways at Lakeview and Reuther/Harborside, social distancing will be near impossible. This makes the need for masks even higher. Students who choose to not wear masks will not only be breathing on, talking at, and potentially coughing or sneezing on each other, they will be doing all of that on students who do care enough to wear masks for their own safety and for the safety of others, as well as on teachers and staff.

As teachers begin to get sick, even with the typical colds, bronchitis, and flu that occur in the fall and winter, who is going to sub? The district has been notoriously short on subs for years. I can't imagine someone would be willing to come into a building where the simplest of measures to protect their health are not being followed.

My question for the school board and Dr. Sue is. "Why won't you make masks ***mandatory*** in the schools?" Yes, you will have a very small number of students who, because of legitimate physical, cognitive, and mental disabilities may not be able to wear a mask full time 5 days a week. The AAP website actually has resources for Behavior Lessons and Social Stories to help with this. But, the majority of students at elementary, middle, and high schools can and should be wearing masks to protect themselves and their peers.

As of July 10, Kenosha County had 1717 COVID positive cases and 46 deaths, which is a death rate of 2.68% (their website actually puts it at 3% <https://kenosha-county-covid-19-response-kenoshacounty.hub.arcgis.com/>). Numbers are currently rising across the state. There are currently about 21,233 students and 4,292 employees in KUSD. Even a rate of 1% would mean over 255 deaths in our district.

For all of KUSD's talk about being a family, a community, I think that if you choose to not make masks mandatory, then you are showing contempt for the very people you claim to value. And you are setting yourselves up for some very difficult discussions when someone dies because of this decision. Masks are seen by scientists and doctors, the people who literally study disease for a living, as an effective way to slow the spread of COVID. It is the bare minimum we, as a society, can do to protect one another.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Name withheld to protect staff member

A couple of additional questions that have come up in our home:

1. If a student does not wear a mask, does a staff member have the right to ask them to stand 6 feet away from them?
2. Does a staff member in an office have the right to ask a student to put on a mask before entering a small, enclosed space with them?
3. What will be the repercussions for using coughs, spit, etc. as a threat/assault. This is happening in the community; you know it will happen in the schools.



## **Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** Kim Fischer; Wendy Tindall; Angela Andersson - KTEC; Ann Fredriksson; Anthony Casper; Brian Geiger; Edward Kupka; Jennifer E. Folkers; Jenny Schmidt; Jessica Doyle-Rudin; Leadership Council; Lisa Ruediger; Martin Pitts; Patricia Clements; Patrick Finnemore; Robert Neu  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns Regarding Fall 2020 In School Learning

FYI

**From:** Kimberly Gerber  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** Tom Duncan <tduncan@kUSD.edu>; Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>; Dan Wade <dwade@kUSD.edu>; Yolanda Adams <yadams@kUSD.edu>; Todd Battle <tbattle@kUSD.edu>; Tony Garcia <tgarcia@kUSD.edu>; Rebecca Stevens <rstevens@kUSD.edu>; Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <ssavaglio@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Fall 2020 In School Learning

I am requesting this letter be read aloud on the July 16th, 2020 board meeting.

Dear Board Members and Dr. Savaglio-Jarvis,

The state of Wisconsin now ranks as the worst state in the country for Covid-19 spread and Kenosha county remains a hot spot as cases continue to rise. As a county that borders Illinois, I am quite concerned for the health and well being of not only our students, but of myself as a teacher. Our elected officials have failed to keep us safe and curb the spread of Covid-19. I am sorely disappointed with the measures our leaders took to undermine Governor Evers and further disappointed in the lack of measures our federal Government has provided us. I have seen some of the notes from participants of the reactor groups and I must say that I am now MORE apprehensive for the return to in-person learning in the fall that I was before. Many schools and large districts around the nation are having to make tough decisions; as of July 13, 2020 LA and San Diego school districts will be returning to school VIRTUALLY in the fall. I believe this is the decision that Kenosha Unified needs to take. I work at Bradford High School and I do not see any way that students can be socially distanced in our school building. Teachers see upwards of 150+ students daily, the hallways are completely crowded during passing time and specialists see a staggering amount of students daily. I am considered high-risk and regularly use nearly all of my sick days every school year just trying to get through a regular cold/flu season as I am on immunosuppressant medication. I am very apprehensive of returning to in-person learning after hearing KUSD's "plans". If a teacher elects to be a virtual teacher, why are they required to put themselves at risk to drive into the building (with 3,000 other students and staff) to provide virtual learning if they can effectively do so at home? At the high school level, why aren't masks being required? Why aren't we putting more effort in to how we can effectively provide virtual learning to students at home. I implore you to reconsider re-opening schools and do what is safe for our students and staff. Please make Fall 2020 virtual for students and staff and re-assess opening schools up after fall/winter. As an added safety measure, this would also allow me to provide my own child with home learning making things much safer all around. We need to work with our community to come up with solutions to address some of the issues/questions virtual learning presents rather than trying to open up too soon. Our country failed to protect us and as a result, many of our communities are suffering the effects of that right now seeing spikes in Covid-19 cases. This is a pandemic. How would KUSD handle a student or staff member's death?

Thank you,

**Kimberly Gerber**  
Bradford High School ESL Teacher

**Kimberly Gerber**  
ESL English Teacher



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**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Tom Duncan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis; Stacy Busby; Tanya Ruder  
**Subject:** Fwd: letter to the School Board, re: fall plans

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI

Tom Duncan  
KUSD Board President

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Michelle Ishmael [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 14, 2020 at 10:40:01 AM CDT  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <ssavagli@kUSD.edu>, Tom Duncan <tduncan@kUSD.edu>, Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>, Dan Wade <dwade@kUSD.edu>, Yolanda Adams <yadams@kUSD.edu>, Todd Battle <tbattle@kUSD.edu>, Tony Garcia <tgarcia@kUSD.edu>, Rebecca Stevens <rstevens@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** letter to the School Board, re: fall plans

School Board Members,

I would like this letter read at the upcoming school board meeting on July 16, 2020.

As the start of the school year draws near and the board considers how best to move forward, I feel the focus of our district's collaborative energy needs to change. We will not be able to satisfy every stakeholder, regardless of the options we provide.

Several years ago, this district made huge cuts to the World Language program and moved German to eSchool only. Around that time, the district also adopted an online program for credit recovery and adult learning. As a teacher for all three of those programs, I can attest that virtual programs CAN WORK, even if all parties would prefer to be in person.

The infection rate and death rate are still climbing in this country. And now that more children are attending daycares and summer camps, we are seeing that children are not 'safe from COVID' as many wanted to claim. As a parent of an incoming 5th grader, I want his teachers to be as prepared as possible to meet his needs virtually. I value his life far more than the opportunities one year in the classroom might bring. Learning can be recovered; lives can not.

Instead of trying to make in-person and virtual learning happen, we should focus on how to make virtual learning as authentic as possible. How can we get real books to students? How can we distribute art supplies and musical instruments? Which activities can be done

independently and which should teachers plan to cover in live sessions? What will virtual group work look like? What should teachers do to engage reluctant learners and create a relationship with them? What kinds of lessons can support staff provide to meet the social and emotional needs of kids? How can teachers with virtual experience share their expertise with others?

Scheduled in-person learning in the fall will undoubtedly be interrupted. The most responsible thing we can do is to dedicate our resources to making a comprehensive, safe, virtual learning experience for all, staff and students alike.

Thank you,

## **Michelle Ishmael Wright**

Credit Recovery / German Teacher



Maximizing the Brilliance of Children

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## Stacy Busby

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**From:** Tom Duncan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:27 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis; Stacy Busby; Tanya Ruder  
**Subject:** Fwd: re-opening schools  
**Attachments:** Letter to school board members.docx; ATT00001.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI

Tom Duncan

KUSD Board President

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lorie Kanetzke [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 14, 2020 at 11:45:25 AM CDT  
**To:** Tom Duncan <tduncan@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** re-opening schools

Dear Mr. Duncan,

I am writing this letter out of concern for re-opening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Please read the following attachment. My concerns may be read out loud as part of the public views and comments at the school board meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Sincerely,

Lorie Kanetzke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

Somers Elementary School

July 14, 2020

Dear Mr. Duncan,

I am writing this letter because of concerns I have regarding the re-opening of schools in KUSD. I am presently a second grade teacher at Somers Elementary School. I tentatively have 26 students assigned to my class for the coming school year. I am very concerned about re-opening schools without making face masks mandatory for everyone who enters the building. Without having them mandatory, the spread of germs will be out of control in my classroom and in our building.

I am also concerned about having 26 students in my classroom at one time. Six feet social distancing will not be possible with 26 students and myself in the classroom at the same time. One option being considered is having students come to school on alternate days and learning virtually when they are home. Six feet social distancing would still be difficult with this option but much more operable than with all students in the classroom all day every day.

Since the number of people contracting Covid-19 in Racine and Kenosha counties continues to rise, I feel the best option at this time would be to open schools virtually. As dedicated teachers in KUSD, we have shown that we can make virtual learning a successful option for students and families. I have been taking classes and doing on-line trainings all summer long to prepare myself for virtual learning. I am exploring and gaining expertise for using SeeSaw, ScreenCastify, and Mobile Mind as needed throughout the 2020-2021 school year to enhance student learning.

One of my biggest fears is for the safety of my family and myself. I will be turning 60 years old in a few weeks. My husband will soon be 64. We are in the older age bracket where concerns are higher for contracting the virus. Although we are basically healthy people, my husband does have asthma and allergies. He has an inhaler that he uses as needed. As I go to school each day, I am worried about bringing Covid-19 home to my family members. I would be putting all of us at risk for contracting the disease.

Please consider opening schools virtually this fall. If this is not an option, please make face masks mandatory for everyone who comes into school buildings. Also consider ways for social distancing to be possible in the classroom setting, such as students being engaged in learning through a combination of being in the classroom part of the time and learning virtually at home the rest of the time. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lorie Kanetzke, Teacher

Somers Elementary School

**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:57 PM  
**To:** Jessica Doyle-Rudin; Kathleen DeLabio; Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** FW: Return 2020 Concerns - Board Meeting Statement

Sincerely,  
Dr. Sue

**Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis**  
Superintendent of Kenosha Unified School District  
[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu) | P: 262.359.6320 | Fax: 262.359.7381

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**From:** Jillian Heise [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:45 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu)>; Tom Duncan <[tduncan@kUSD.edu](mailto:tduncan@kUSD.edu)>; Mary Modder <[mmodder@kUSD.edu](mailto:mmodder@kUSD.edu)>; Dan Wade <[dwade@kUSD.edu](mailto:dwade@kUSD.edu)>; Yolanda Adams <[yadams@kUSD.edu](mailto:yadams@kUSD.edu)>; Todd Battle <[tbattle@kUSD.edu](mailto:tbattle@kUSD.edu)>; Tony Garcia <[tgarcia@kUSD.edu](mailto:tgarcia@kUSD.edu)>; Rebecca Stevens <[rstevens@kUSD.edu](mailto:rstevens@kUSD.edu)>  
**Subject:** Return 2020 Concerns - Board Meeting Statement

Dear Dr. Sue and Kenosha Unified School Board Members:

I am requesting this letter be read aloud at the special board meeting regarding Return 2020 on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

As a KUSD employee and the Library Media Teacher at Jefferson and Wilson Elementary Schools, I want to express my serious concerns about the life and death decisions being made in regards to reopening schools in person. My most pertinent questions for all of you right now are this: How many lives lost are you accepting to be worth the cost of reopening schools in person? What plans do you have in place to support students, families, and staff through the collective trauma of deaths and/or serious and significant long-term health issues caused by COVID-19 in their school community? And are you willing to put your risk tolerance for teacher, staff, student, and students' families deaths on the record and in print to be shared with all members of this community? This is not hyperbole – I truly want to know the Board's consideration of these likelihoods. When we started planning in May, I'm sure we all imagined we'd be in a different spot by now. But if late June and early July are showing us anything, it is that this pandemic is not under control in this country. I implore you to act in the interest of protecting lives first and foremost.

Knowing the increase in COVID-19 cases in our state and the newest scientific understandings of how this novel virus can spread, the danger of being in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation, as our school buildings are, for longer than ten minutes with people not from the same household represent a very real fear for my

life and those of people I know and love in both my home and school communities. Whether students are in the building or not, and it will be worse when they are because it exponentially increases exposure possibilities, we are all at risk by being in shared spaces with shared air. Distancing and masking and limiting contact are important, but if they are not required or feasible with the space and number of students or staff, we have not created a safe learning or teaching environment. Even with them, they are not completely reliable for stopping the airborne particles that can be spread through being in the same physical space. As a teacher at an extended year school who is expected back in the building in just two weeks and as an LMT who works in the same room with a library aide, these elements are of urgent concern to me. With the technology we have available now for staff and students, what purpose does it serve to put everyone at risk when staff could have the option to work from our homes where we can be safer with less exposure, and therefore more able to work effectively? With the known potential for asymptomatic spread, and simply relying on self-monitoring or self-reporting without testing and contact tracing measures in place, we won't have the timely information needed to keep everyone safe. You are ultimately asking school staff and students to be put into a position to wonder if they are the reason someone close to them has gotten seriously ill or died. Can you live with that decision knowing you did not take every possible measure to ensure safety? Have you considered the planning and resources that will become necessary to support us all through that collective trauma?

Virtual teaching may not be ideal, but it seems a better option than the 'some kids and staff will get sick and die option'. We can all acknowledge that spring was not a great or equitable example of true distance learning - it was emergency triage. Knowing where the spread of COVID-19 is at in this country and state right now, how can we be asked to spend any more time focusing on ways to try to reopen SAFELY when it is clear the funding and class sizes and building structures and testing capabilities are not in place to do so? As KUSD has solved equity issues around technology devices and access, we could be spending this last bit of summer focusing on strengthening remote teaching skills and planning for robust virtual instruction. We could do this right in a life-saving way, planning for a quarter at a time, holding off on an in person return until benchmarks for cases and spread are met, testing with quick results is available conveniently for all school staff and students, and every safety measure possible is required and able to be implemented to keep all staff and students safe. Because right now it is unequivocally unsafe for people to gather in groups in indoor locations - especially ones with poor ventilation - in this state. We need a data-driven opening, not one based on being the usual time of year and parents want an in person option opening. One can save lives, the other will without doubt risk them.

I implore you: please do not risk the lives of any members of the KUSD community. Please consider that your choices and votes right now are literally those that will kill people, or those that can help limit loss of life. Please do what is in the interest of keeping as many people as you can as safe as possible. It is unconscionable to ask educators to return in person to school buildings, with or without students, with what is currently known about how this virus spreads & the reality of how our schools are designed. It simply means you are willing to risk lives. Please show that you care if staff, children, and families live or die. Please don't put yourselves and all of us KUSD staff in a position to regret that we did not do enough to protect lives. Please don't ask teachers to make impossible decisions between their livelihood or their families and their literal lives. Please show that you respect us enough to want us all to come out of this alive on the other side instead of as a memory of one of the hundreds of thousands of lives we lost to this global pandemic.

Students need to feel that school is a safe place. Reopening in person schools will not feel safe. Even the plan for the Board meeting has masks required and number of people limited for spacing - our schools are not set up for that. With a two week incubation period and asymptomatic spread, even if all of the CDC recommended measures were put in place, schools are not going to feel like the welcoming place students are



used to. Instead, as a family and child therapist has shared, more trauma will be inflicted on students emotional health from:

- Experiencing so much more death of their loved ones, friend's loved ones, and community members.
- Having to obey rigid and developmentally inappropriate behavioral expectations to maintain social distancing for hours at a time.
- Restricting their engagement with their peers even though those peers are right in front of them.
- Having to constantly actively participate in cleaning rituals that keep their community trauma present with them.
- Somehow having to have the executive functioning within all of this to meet educational standards and possibly experiencing overwhelm, shame, and self-doubt when they reasonably can't.
- Being unable to receive age appropriate comfort from teachers and staff when dysregulated from all of this, [or just in the normal course of the emotions at the start of a school year.]
- Lack of any predictability as COVID takes staff members out for weeks at a time with no warning while children wonder if that staff will die as well as the looming threat of going back into quarantine any random day."

None of what would be required for a SAFE in person opening will be conducive to a supportive and productive learning environment. For these reasons, KUSD should be virtual until we are in a better spot to mitigate exposure, limit spread, and return SAFELY. Please do what is ethically and morally right in these unprecedented times and act in the interest of saving as many lives as possible by not putting staff or students in unsafe and life-threatening situations in our school buildings.

Respectfully and hopefully,  
Jillian Heise, NBCT  
Library Media Teacher  
Jefferson Elementary & Wilson Elementary  
Kenosha Unified School District

**Jillian Heise, NBCT**  
**Library Media Teacher**  
**Jefferson Elementary | Wilson Elementary**

she/her/hers

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Wilson Elementary School | 4520 33rd Ave. | Kenosha, WI 53144  
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## Stacy Busby

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**From:** Mary Modder  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:25 PM  
**To:** Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter of Concern  
**Attachments:** Letter of Concern .pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nicole Visintainer [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 14, 2020 at 8:57:35 PM CDT  
**To:** Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** Letter of Concern

Hello,

My name is Nicole (Lachman) Visintainer, I am a parent of [REDACTED] who is a student in the KUSD. I wrote a letter that is attached to this email. I would greatly appreciate it if you would take the time to read it and see from my perspective where I am coming from with the concern over COVID-19. I am just one voice, but I am hoping that my voice can and will be heard. As a parent and as a person I have been silent for far too long. Not only am I thinking of my daughter but I am thinking of this community, state, and country as a whole. I would like this read in comments at the meeting if possible.

Thank you for your time.

Nicole (Lachman) Visintainer

**December 1, 2015: I will never forget that day. My daughter was diagnosed with heart failure. You may have heard of her; most of you supported her and still follow her story to this very day. Her name is [REDACTED]. When she was just six and a half years old, [REDACTED] was misdiagnosed two times before her final diagnosis. First, she was diagnosed with a sinus infection, and then she was diagnosed with bronchitis. Her x-ray showed an enlarged heart, but I was told that it was common in x-rays of children who have bronchitis. In my gut, I knew it was something more, but this was the second visit to the ER and second diagnosis, and they made me feel crazy.**



**I went home and followed up with her doctor that Monday. [REDACTED] was not getting better after her appointment, and the next day, she was diagnosed with heart failure at the ER for the third time. Once at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, we found out that a virus, yes, you heard me correctly, a virus had attacked her heart. A virus brought out a genetic mutation of dilated cardiomyopathy. My daughter was then put on a transplant list. My perfectly healthy six and a half-year-old girl, who was the picture of health, was dying. In the course of 2 months, [REDACTED] had blood clots in her heart, was put on a ventilator, ended up with vocal cord paralysis because of the ventilator, had a stroke that left her with left side paralysis, which she still has to this very day, and she had a heart transplant. Reading all of that, did you understand that she contracted a virus? I cannot help but stress; my daughter was six and a half, happy, healthy, and now was waiting for a new heart all because of a virus. Once upon a time, I was that parent who always said how lucky I was that my child never got sick—looking back at then to what I know now. I was wrong.**

**Coming from me, a parent who has sat by my daughter's bedside, watching her fight for her life, I can tell you that viruses are not a hoax and are not political. Lastly, no one is stronger than a virus. As a mom, who now has a daughter whose immune system is compromised, it hurts to hear people negatively talk about the virus and not take it seriously. I have heard people talk about the virus and how it is affecting their freedom and politics in general. I have heard people talk about how they won't live in fear and that they are invincible, and Covid-19 can't touch them. I have heard people talk about how only the elderly and those with compromised immune systems and health conditions should worry and are affected. I could go on and on with other things I have heard. The virus goes beyond the elderly, compromised immune systems, and those with health conditions.**

**A virus does not discriminate. Covid-19 isn't like the flu, contrary to what people want to believe. Covid-19 is uncharted territory, and we do not know enough about this virus for it to be safe for anyone. We cannot compare this to the flu or any other illness by any means.**

**Four years ago, the whole community and a lot of people from around the country and internationally heard of [redacted] story and rallied to support her and support our family. We are forever grateful for that. The monetary donations, the prayers, the cards, the gifts, the phone calls, e-mails, letters: those meant the world to us. We were so blessed to have the support that we needed to get through such a difficult time in our lives. It's easier to understand after you have walked in someone else's shoes. I don't want anyone to have to walk in my shoes. Every day I pray, no one will ever have to understand where I am coming from by going through what we have gone through. Hence, this is why now, I am using my voice to speak up. That being said, my question is, why can't we rally together as a community to help stop COVID and prevent the spread of the virus? Still, we can unite together as a community when someone is sick and dying, has died, or is in need in another type of way? When this happens, we can give our prayers, monetary donations, share a Facebook post, the list goes on. I ask again, what makes now any different? We should be supporting one another. We should be helping one another get through this health crisis together.**

**What we are facing is a health crisis. It's a pandemic. We shouldn't be watching people get sick and die because we are worried about our "freedoms" and then support them and their fundraisers when they are in the hospital fighting for their life or when they die. We have large populations of both students of color and students living in poverty; two groups that are disproportionately impacted by the virus and are the most vulnerable. What are we doing for them? Why is this not being addressed, and why are we so willing to sacrifice these children (but really, all children)?**



**As a mother of a child whose immune system is compromised, [redacted] father, stepmom, stepdad, and I all go to work. That's the one risk we take because we have to. When COVID first emerged, everyone was worried about things staying open, being essential, and working. I get that. We need to work to make a living and survive. Not everyone is fortunate enough to work from home. I understand that too. If you can't work at home, then go to work. Let's use our voices to ensure that places of employment have procedures in place to keep employees safe. Multiple local businesses are taking precautions to ensure that their employees and their patrons are kept safe to the best of their abilities. These businesses go above and beyond what they need to, to ensure that their community remains safe. These businesses also go above and beyond to make sure their employees stay healthy.**

**Let's be honest, though; this goes beyond work. It's about what you do after work. What we do after work is our choice. It's your choice. It's about using your best judgment and being safe to ensure that you limit the spread. How can we all do our part to stop the spread? We can start by the obvious which is washing our hands and using hand sanitizer when soap is not available. There is social distancing, outdoor socializing, shelter at home as much as possible, and the next part, a lot of you are not going to like, but it can save lives like my daughter's life, wear masks. Covid-19 prevention is not about fear or asking you to stop living; it's asking you to take a step back, be safe in what you're doing and think about the people you come in contact with daily and the community as a whole. The numbers are not going away.**

**With all this being said, if you are still reading this, the last part I hope to instill in all of you, is that going back to school is going to be a challenge. There is no easy way around it.**

**The 2020-2021 school year is going to be vastly different, with its challenges. We all need to rise above and come together to help our children make this transition into the new school year, a good one, no matter what the outcome may be. It is not easy on us parents, teachers, or school officials by any means, but for our children, they look up to us, and they will feel the stress and tension if we allow it. The situation was not ideal when we entered it in March, and it will not be ideal no matter what in September, but these are the cards that have been dealt with, and it is up to us to decide how we handle it from here. Whether we choose to go the in-person or online schooling route, we need to think and do what is best for our children and ourselves. Yes, ourselves too. We need to think about everyone's health first. A month or two into the school year, cold and flu season is going to hit, as it always does, and it will hit hard. Covid-19 is not going away, and if our numbers don't start to decrease, they will only increase. There will be several illnesses and some deaths. Whose Go Fund me are you going to share and support?**

**Nicole (Lachman) Visintainer**

**[REDACTED] mom, Kenosha, Wisconsin.**



**[REDACTED] beginning 5<sup>th</sup> grade**



**[REDACTED] 1 year post transplant**



**[REDACTED] doing e-school**

**Subject:** FW: Please read my letter at the school board meeting.

On Jul 14, 2020, at 10:51 PM, Cheryl J. Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:

My apologies....In the long letter I sent, I forgot to request that this letter be read at the school board meeting. I realize I alone have only 3 minutes of time. Likely this letter will require more time than three minutes to read. For this reason, other colleagues of mine have submitted the same letter, that they support, to have their three minutes pick up in reading this letter where my three minutes is "up" and leave off. We felt overall, as we all have the same concern for wearing masks, reading my one longer letter, would still save time over reading the 20 plus letters that would have been coming in, all addressing the same concern over masks.

Thank you again for your time and as I have never come to the board with a concern before if I am missing something or need to submit this differently please let me know so I can take corrective action.

Have a good evening,

**Cheryl J. Johnson**

Dean of Students

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Cheryl J. Johnson

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:45 PM

**To:** Tom Duncan; Mary Modder; Dan Wade; Yolanda Adams; Todd Battle; Tony Garcia; Rebecca Stevens; Sue Savaglio-Jarvis

**Subject:** Letter requesting Mask be made Mandatory for all

Dear Board Members Tom Duncan, Mary Modder, Dan Wade, Yolanda Adams, Todd Battle, Tony Garcia, Rebecca Stevens and Dr. Sue respectively,

I am writing to you to address a concern I am having with reopening schools in the fall. Full disclosure, I am not in favor of schools reopening for in-person sessions, until this virus is better controlled, or with viable treatments that might mitigate the current risk of death or a life of debilitating conditions as an after effect from having caught this terrible disease. This letter however is not as much about opening schools or not opening them. What this letter IS about is the conditions for which we might open, and the expectation, or lack thereof for wearing masks by all stakeholders, staff and students alike. This issue seems to be the contentious question, with a multitude of opinions on both sides. I want to share mine,

with my unique perspective based on my assigned role as a Dean of Students, and perhaps not so unique to me, my concern for my fragile family that waits at home for me to return every day, hoping I do not bring this virus to our doorstep, which would surely be the demise of my elderly parents. I am hoping that in sharing this perspective I will bring you solutions for mandating masks with the reasoning to do so.

So here goes...we have before us a known problem, and a known solution. The problem being working in an enclosed environment with a virus that is known to be aerosolized and can stay in the air for HOURS. A school type of environment is a perfect storm for spread of this virus, with little chance for those in the building to escape it. This is a problem for all stakeholders. This variable is further exacerbated by those who choose not to want to wear masks. Their CHOICE to not mask, puts all others at a heightened risk, as they (the mask wearers) are forced to breathe more virus concentrated air that could have been greatly contained had the others, the non-mask wearer, been wearing a masks. This virus concentrated and contaminated air will permeate the air spaces within the school building. But I suspect this argument is nothing you have not heard before.

If I as a staff member have to wear a mask to do all I can to protect my students, is it asking too much that students do all THEY CAN to optimize the safety of the others around us (teachers, staff, and other students alike)? This is literally a matter of life and death for many, and lifelong debilitation for others who will likely never fully recover to the health they once enjoyed. Isn't safety for all what we espouse every day under ordinary circumstances in our shared building? Why now would we even consider not doing ALL WE CAN, taking every precaution possible, to optimize a safe learning and working environment for all? In my opinion it would be foolhardy to not expect that wearing masks for onsite learning, in a shared building, with little to no outside ventilation, for a virus we now have learned spreads through aerosolized means to not mandate that wearing a mask/face covering of both the mouth and nose is now our standard way of doing business. This must be part of the new dress code, until such a time that life is back to normal (with vaccines, treatments, or virus otherwise under control). Wearing a mask for all who enter our shared building is the LEAST we can do for the betterment of our fellow man.

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In the absence of a concrete federal plan for schools reopening, CDC guidelines appear to be the closest thing to a coordinated U.S. approach. I realize each of you in this letter are tasked with the unimaginable. In that, my hat is off to you with what you are trying to do, with no guidance for an unprecedented situation. I hope some of my insight has provided you with an opportunity for solutions, to answer to those who will not like a mask wearing mandate, to be able to justify why one is needed, and take action through policy accordingly. I will end with our district's PBIS mission of fostering and promoting a safe and positive school environment that enhances learning under the points of being respectful, responsible, and SAFE. If we as a district espouse these values throughout our buildings, wearing MASKS this year, for all the reasons I have delineated in this letter **MUST BE REQUIRED. SAFETY MUST BE FIRST.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Johnson/Dean of Students

**With additional signatures and support for this letter from:**

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Nicole Dake

LeAnne Pritzlaff

Jennifer Sepanski

Stacy Kopp

Don Kauffman

Amy Goldstein

Ryan Peyer

Lisa Chilsen

Jen Cantrell

(and more in the process of coming in)

**Cheryl J. Johnson**

Dean of Students



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Instagram.com/kenoshaschools | KUSD 20

*Mission: Provide excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.*


## Stacy Busby

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**From:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:11 PM  
**To:** Jessica Doyle-Rudin; Kathleen DeLabio; Stacy Busby  
**Cc:** Wendy Tindall; Kim Fischer; Angela Andersson - KTEC; Ann Fredriksson; Anthony Casper; Brian Geiger; Edward Kupka; Jennifer E. Folkers; Jenny Schmidt; Leadership Council; Lisa Ruediger; Martin Pitts; Patricia Clements; Patrick Finnemore; Robert Neu  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to be Read Aloud for the School Board Meeting on 6/16/2020 Please

*learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.*

---

**From:** Karen Burrow-Niemeyer   
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:56 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <ssavagli@kUSD.edu>; Tom Duncan <tduncan@kUSD.edu>; Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>; Dan Wade <dwade@kUSD.edu>; Yolanda Adams <yadams@kUSD.edu>; Todd Battle <tbattle@kUSD.edu>; Tony Garcia <tgarcia@kUSD.edu>; Rebecca Stevens <rstevens@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** Letter to be Read Aloud for the School Board Meeting on 6/16/2020 Please

Dear Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis and Board Members: Tom Duncan, Mary Modder, Dan Wade, Yolanda Adams, Todd Battle, Tony Garcia, and Rebecca Stevens respectively.

Submitted to you, by me, is a letter written by Cheryl Johnson, Dean of Students at Bradford High School. I am submitting her letter, in support of what she has written in an effort to keep all stakeholders in a school safe during this Covid crisis. I am requesting that her letter be read at the board meeting, and am giving my minutes to the reading of this lengthy letter, so that it facilitates fitting in the time frame for being read rather than the 17 plus of us listed on this letter, each writing our individual letters, on the same topic, which would take more time to read into the minutes (51 minutes had we each written and submitted individual letters). Please in lieu of individually written letters, read the letter written by Cheryl which myself and the list of others support, as we share the same concerns. Here is the letter I wish for you to read:

Dear Members of the School Board,

I am writing to you to address a concern I am having with reopening schools in the fall. Full disclosure, I am not in favor of schools reopening for in-person sessions, until this virus is better controlled, or with viable treatments that might mitigate the current risk of death or a life of debilitating conditions as an after effect from having caught this terrible disease. This letter however is not as much about opening schools or not opening them. What this letter IS about is the conditions for which we might open, and the expectation, or lack thereof for wearing masks by all stakeholders, staff and students alike. This issue seems to be the contentious question, with a multitude of opinions on both sides. I want to share mine, with my unique perspective based on my assigned role as a Dean of Students, and perhaps not so unique to me, my concern for my fragile family that waits at home for me to return every day, hoping I do not bring this virus to our doorstep, which would surely be the demise of my elderly parents. I am hoping that in sharing this perspective I will bring you solutions for mandating masks with the reasoning to do so.

So here goes...we have before us a known problem, and a known solution. The problem being working in an enclosed environment with a virus that is known to be aerosolized and can stay in the air for HOURS. A school type of environment is a perfect storm for spread of this virus, with little chance for those in the building to escape it. This is a problem for all stakeholders. This variable is further exacerbated by those who choose not to want to wear masks. Their CHOICE to not mask, puts all others at a heightened risk, as they (the mask wearers) are forced to breathe more virus concentrated air that could have been greatly contained had the others, the non-mask wearer, been wearing a masks. This virus concentrated and contaminated air will permeate the air spaces within the school building. But I suspect this argument is

nothing you have not heard before.

If I as a staff member have to wear a mask to do all I can to protect my students, is it asking too much that students do all THEY CAN to optimize the safety of the others around us (teachers, staff, and other students alike)? This is literally a matter of life and death for many, and lifelong debilitation for others who will likely never fully recover to the health they once enjoyed. Isn't safety for all what we espouse every day under ordinary circumstances in our shared building? Why now would we even consider not doing ALL WE CAN, taking every precaution possible, to optimize a safe learning and working environment for all? In my opinion it would be foolhardy to not expect that wearing masks for onsite learning, in a shared building, with little to no outside ventilation, for a virus we now have learned spreads through aerosolized means to not mandate that wearing a mask/face covering of both the mouth and nose is now our standard way of doing business. This must be part of the new dress code, until such a time that life is back to normal (with vaccines, treatments, or virus otherwise under control). Wearing a mask for all who enter our shared building is the LEAST we can do for the betterment of our fellow man.

To accommodate non-mask wearers, there are alternate educational solutions put in place whereby they can receive an education from home, without undo risk to others as they will not be sharing the air with others when at home. If we are going to error, should we not err on the side of caution, with those who will abide by doing all they can to protect others, and be safe? Why would we ever lean the other way? It is part of Bradford's motto to "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe." Many schools in our district have adopted similar mottos. This motto is mask wearing to a tee. It is the respectful and responsible thing to do for the sake of all that report to our buildings. It offers a degree of safety, that otherwise would be lacking if a mask were not worn. We espouse these values and work on these with our students to the point of addressing the minutiae of how one should proceed down a shared hall to using a shared bathroom space. We have rules for sharing bathrooms, hallways, classrooms, lunchrooms etc. and what that looks like to so in a respectful, responsible and SAFE manner. We have posters covering the walls of our buildings delineating all these points. We need to take this a step further to now addressing the shared airspace. Now when we are facing a danger, the likes of which we have never seen in our lifetime, how can we in good conscience err on any side other than the side of safety for all stakeholders when it comes to sharing the airspace in the building? To this I say we cannot, and we must not. Masks must be mandatory in our buildings to meet our mission of keeping students (and staff) safe. It is the respectful and responsible thing to do. We can't control much with this virus, but we can control how many droplets and airborne particles are allowed to freely be expelled into our airspace and covering our schools' surfaces.

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**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Kyle Flood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 4:39 PM  
**To:** Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 7-16-20 School Board meeting

Stacy,

I would like the following comment to be read aloud at the School Board meeting on July 16th per Board Policy in lieu of physically presenting the comments:

Mr. President, Dr. Sue, Board of Education:

Tonight you are discussing an extremely important topic. I have thought about this matter for some time and this is what I have come up with.

It is not moral or ethical to physically open schools this Fall.

No amount of planning, no measures of prevention, and no policy can ensure that 100% of students, staff, and district families would be safe if students are physically in the class room. However the question you all have to ask is not simply about student learning, it's about life or death.

The question comes down to three paths- a lot of death, some death, or no death. The path you should all choose should be quite obvious. The path that is currently outlined by this Board would allow parents to choose to still send their children to physical school buildings. This is the some death path. It's irresponsible and creates a huge risk of death for our students, families, and staff.

If schools are to physically reopen, is this Board prepared to cut class sizes so low that all individuals may maintain a distance of 6 ft while in the classroom? Is this Board able to adjust the 5 day week to a 3 day week of every other day so that rooms can be properly cleaned on off days? Is this Board willing to require that all individuals wear masks within the building? And is all of this even enough?

Instead the School Board should decide to put the safety of our KUSD community first. Do not take a vote that will help spread the virus and ensure more death. The responsible thing to do would be to implement online learning for all, develop a procedure for semi-regular 1:1 virtual instruction outside of e-learning classrooms. A program should be developed with community partners to provide safe and socially distant locations for students whose parents must work and cannot provide supervision during school hours.

How do you afford this while your budget is being reduced? When I was on the Board I recall the amount of money that was put into reserve funds each year. The fund was built up for a rainy day and that rainy day has come. Now is the time to use those funds to ensure we can deliver education in the most effective manner while protecting the lives of our community. Should these funds not be enough, it is certainly time to bring up a referendum to increase KUSD funding from our community and I would hope that every Board member can support that effort.

I know this decision seems difficult, but it really shouldn't be, it's a decision between life or death. This School Board and this School District does not need anymore blood on their hands. Do the right thing and protect our community.

Thank you and feel free to reach out with any questions or help with brainstorming.

**Kyle Flood**

*Kenosha Advocate*

Twitter: @kyle\_flood

**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** amanda robillard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:34 AM  
**To:** Stacy Busby; Info @. KUSD; Tom Duncan; Mary Modder; Dan Wade; Yolanda Adams; Todd Battle; Tony Garcia; Rebecca Stevens  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Special Board Meeting - July 16, 2020  
**Attachments:** KUSD Public Comment Letter 20200716.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached letter submitted as public comment for tonight's board meeting. My understanding, based on instruction provided by Stacy Busby via email, is that letters submitted by noon today will be included in the public comment portion of the meeting if time allows.

Thank you,  
Amanda

Dear KUSD Board Member,

I am writing in regards to the district's proposed "re-opening" plan as a parent of children who will be attending 4K and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at KTEC West. I commend the time and effort the committees have put into developing these plans, and that the board and administration has put into reviewing them. However, I must say that I disagree vehemently with any plan to return to school physically this autumn as scheduled, particularly a plan that does not require masks or allow for social distancing.

My family will elect to attend virtually. It will not be fun. We know it will be a struggle. We recognize that there is a very good chance our children will fall behind academically. But we also know that they will likely bounce back from these challenges in time. We know that sending them into a physical classroom without at least 6 feet between them, or the guarantee of masks worn, is not a safe environment for them or their teachers. And we know we do not want to be complicit in their teachers' serious illness or death.

Given the proposed reopening plan, we can choose to keep our particular family's children safe with the virtual attendance option, and I thank you for that if it passes your vote. However, teachers deserve to be safe too. And the plan as proposed does not allow for their safety. Nor does it allow for likely continuity of education throughout the year in KUSD schools as teachers inevitably need to self-isolate after exposure or fall ill themselves. It strikes me that the physical portion of the return plan is rooted in wishful thinking and outdated data. Much has been released recently though, updating what we knew when planning began. Recent studies and data show the importance of wearing masks, and specifically the role the masks worn by others who may be COVID-19 positive play in YOUR safety if you are not. Other data shows cases of COVID-19 being on the rise in our community currently, with projections of ICUs nearing capacity within 60 days if masks are not adopted or when schools re-open physically. Scientific studies of indoor airflow and its role in infection patterns also point to the importance HVAC systems and building airflow patterns can play in infection, though no information on KUSD HVAC systems or airflow patterns has been shared. UGA's COVID calculator indicates a 35% chance a room with 25 people in Kenosha County contains a person who has COVID-19 as of July 15th, which is a fair approximation of the number of people in a KUSD classroom within our county. In my opinion, none of this indicates a safe physical reopening is possible at this time.

At best, a physical reopening is short sighted for students and teachers alike- at worst it's willfully negligent. Either way, it does not serve safety or education. It serves the economy, and allows parents to return to work, but at the expense of students and educators. While I am aware KUSD operates within a larger ecosystem in our community, I hope you will prioritize the safety of students and teachers by following the precedent set by those districts in our vicinity who have most recently announced their plans to keep physical buildings closed for the start of the school year.

Sincerely,

Amanda Robillard  
Parent at KTEC West

PS. As members of the school board, you are leaders in the Kenosha community. Your actions set a precedent for others to follow. Those of you attending public meetings within your official capacity

without wearing a mask is irresponsible. Please consider wearing one in the future when officially representing KUSD.

## Stacy Busby

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**From:** Dave Strash [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 8:34 AM  
**To:** Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Re: Return 2020 plan 7/16 meeting

Thank you! And if I may I would like to also state the following(or I can send in a separate email if you like)...

We also expect that there will be a police presence in the schools as has been the case in the past. Teachers should not be in position to have to be the exclusive enforcers of the rules, And keepers of the peace, while needing to teach. A Police presence causes a sense of safety which allows for a calm attitude for students, which allows for an environment to learn.

Thanks!

Dave Strash

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 16, 2020, at 7:52 AM, Stacy Busby <[sbusby@kUSD.edu](mailto:sbusby@kUSD.edu)> wrote:

Received.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

**Stacy Busby**  
Executive Assistant/School Board Secretary  
Office of the Superintendent  
[sbusby@kUSD.edu](mailto:sbusby@kUSD.edu) | P: 262.359.6172 | F: 262.359.7672

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**From:** David or Tricia Strash [mailto:[\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** Stacy Busby <[sbusby@kUSD.edu](mailto:sbusby@kUSD.edu)>  
**Subject:** Return 2020 plan 7/16 meeting

Our family's viewpoint is that the kids should be back in school, in person, as previously scheduled this Fall. I have two that are ready to go back and will wear a mask and abide by whatever rules you lay down on social distancing.

If the plan is to go online, there had better be a realistic plan/curriculum in place, and access to an actual teacher when needed. If we are all shooting from the hip, then it isn't going to work. And if kids are required to turn in assignments, then they better ALL be required to turn them in. No more giving some a break while telling others that "you'll be docked a letter grade if this isn't turned in". Follow through on threats like that, but actually do it, and do it to all. Some kids are going to fail. Probably more than if we were in person learning. I want to see you actually fail them and make them take the grade over again in 2021. My bet is you won't. Everyone will get by and move on to the next grade.

And I'd like to know what the reimbursement plan will be by the district for home wifi and computers and other items that come into play. Thank you.

David Strash  


**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Tom Duncan  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 11:44 AM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis; Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Fw: Board meeting tonight

FYI

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**From:** Adriana VanDenBergh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 8:33 AM  
**To:** Tom Duncan  
**Subject:** Board meeting tonight

Mr. Duncan, I would like to give an idea for school reopening as a tax payer. I am Sure this has already been considered and dismissed as too confusing and costly but here are my 2 cents. I don't want to come Out tonight in a crowded room but would like my voice heard. I am Worried if Unified will reopen with all students coming in at once. I am Referring to a recent article about Lake Zurich High when 32 students tested positive at a sports camp. They contracted it over the summer at non school related gatherings. Now all students and teachers and parents are tested and they will start virtual. Can we learn from This and be the smart leaders n the State? At least have all highschool kids tested and teachers too right before they would start face to face? We can prevent a terrible outbreak because these kids will not social Distance during and after school, the majority has not done this the past months as the news reports about young people's attitude and Ignorance But also parents who Ignore and are not practicing safety standards. School kids will bring the virus home eventually including to vulnerable elderly family over 60 Etc . This is a way to start with a clean slate, test before return to in school classes. Then gradually to 2 days a week smaller groups in school and watch the statistics and increase when it looks safe and healthy. Thanks for your time and consideration, Anita Vandenberg.

Sent from my iPhone



## Stacy Busby

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**From:** Morgan, Sabrina [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Letter to the Board  
**Attachments:** KUSD Board Meeting Letter. S Morgan 7.16.2020.pdf

Greetings Stacy,

Happy Virtual Thursday! Please see my attached letter to the board that I would request if possible to be read by all board members tonight.

Thanking you in advance!

--

**Sabrina Morgan**  
Promise Coordinator  
Pre-College Program  
Gateway Technical College  
**Phone:** [REDACTED]

July 16, 2020

Tom, Duncan, President  
Members of the Board of Education  
Kenosha Unified School District  
3600 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Kenosha, WI 53144

RE: 2020/2021 School Reopening Proposals

Dear President Duncan and Members of the School Board,

My name is Sabrina Morgan and I am the parent of two boys that attend a school within Kenosha Unified School District. My children are currently in elementary and middle school. I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the proposed 2020/2021 school reopening plans. Undoubtedly a great deal of time and effort from district administrators went into the development of the proposals. As we have witnessed globally the pandemic has crippled the nation and brought about uncertainties. I am confident that the board will examine all of the pieces presented from the proposals, teachers, staff, parents, students and health experts to make a final determination that is in the best interest, safety and health of all those directly impacted.

I attended the special board and community meetings in June as well as participated in two reactor groups and viewed the materials on the KUSD and State site. After reviewing and gathering all of the information I was compelled to be the voice of advocacy on behalf of my children. I wanted to address two specific areas of concerns which are the learning options, in person and virtual. Regarding in person instruction my concern is the lack of social distancing, large class sizes and the none mandatory requirements of wearing masks. Additionally, with those not being required or altered the cleaning process and schedule in the classrooms and shared common spaces. I and many other parents propose to hire additional custodial/cleaners that can take on this sanitation responsibility throughout the school day. The CDC and state reports both recommend social distancing however this was not suggested in the proposal. Without putting these requirements in place could lead to a greater opportunity for the spread of the virus throughout our community. Specifically, we also see this virus disproportionately affecting communities of color. The CDC has reported the following:

“Among some racial and ethnic minority groups, including non-Hispanic black persons, Hispanics and Latinos, and American Indians/Alaska Natives, evidence points to higher rates of hospitalization or death from COVID-19 than among non-Hispanic white persons. As of June 12, 2020, age-adjusted hospitalization rates are highest among non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native and non-Hispanic black persons, followed by Hispanic or Latino persons.”

Being a mother of two African American boys I am highly concerned to send them to the in person environment with the way the proposal is written now. The second concern was the virtual learning proposed timings with students. Children depend on teachers to learn course materials therefore I hope the majority of the lessons for all ages would be hands on synchronous learning and reflective of the face to face scheduling.

Again, this is a very challenging yet important decision to make regarding the education and the safety of the students and staff. I am hoping that you look at all concerns and suggestions prior to making the final decision.

Warm Regards,

Sabrina Morgan

Sabrina Morgan  
Parent of KUSD students



Stacy Busby

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**From:** Karen Kempinen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Tom Duncan; Mary Modder; Dan Wade; Yolanda Adams; Todd Battle; Tony Garcia; Rebecca Stevens; Sue Savaglio-Jarvis; Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Virtual instruction to effectively address the achievement gap  
**Attachments:** Letter to KUSD School Board July 16 2020.pdf

Hello, All,

Please see the attached.

Stacy, I would like to have the attached letter read aloud at tonight's school board meeting. If you run out of time with citizen comments tonight, please then read it aloud at the July 28, 2020 regular school board meeting.

Thank you,

—

Karen Kempinen  
[she, her]  
Co-Chair, ESN Legislative Committee  
Co-Director, Empower Uptown  
Chair, CUSH Affordable Housing Task Force  
Substitute Teacher, KUSD

To: KUSD Superintendent Sue Savaglio-Jarvis and KUSD Board members Tom Duncan, Yolanda Santos-Adams, Mary Modder, Rebecca Stevens, Tony Garcia, Dan Wade, and Todd Battle

The White House's own "Opening Up America Again" document specifies, as one of its criteria, a "Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period or [a] Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests)". (1) In contrast, positive COVID-19 cases in Kenosha County have never declined, but instead, are increasing by greater numbers each week. On July 2, the Kenosha County Health Department Director Jen Freiheit said that positive cases were averaging about 10-15 per day. (2) That daily number has continued to increase, with Director Freiheit noting that the number of cases on July 15 was an increase of 45 from the previous day. (3) Clearly, Kenosha County has not come close to meeting the White House guideline of a 14-day decline in cases as a criterion for reopening; in fact, the rate of increase in positive cases is accelerating in Kenosha County.

In upper elementary school and middle school, we teachers introduce students to the scientific method. This middle school lesson plan for the scientific method states,

•**Controlling variables.** A variable is a part of the experiment that can change. To be sure of your results, nothing should change when an experiment is repeated. Everything that could vary, such as the amounts of a substance, the kind of a substance, the time of day, or the environment, should be "held constant" or "controlled."

•**Changing only one variable at a time.** All variables in an experiment affect the outcome. That's why, when comparing experiments, it's important to change only one variable at a time. This allows you to attribute differences in outcome correctly. For example, if you want to find out how a plant's growth rate is affected by watering, you would control all variables (soil, light, air temperature) other than watering levels. (4)

As an argument for opening school buildings to in-person instruction, many people cite data that appears to show that children are not very likely to contract or spread COVID-19. Remembering the scientific method and control of variables, the current data has been gathered under conditions that do not replicate the conditions of in-person instruction with hundreds or thousands of students and staff enclosed in school buildings, many of which have old ventilation systems. Instead, the current data has been collected in areas where warm weather allows people to avoid gathering in large numbers in crowded indoor spaces for seven or more hours per day for a minimum of five days every week. In addition, children have been tested at lower rates than adults.

Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, noted during a task force briefing last week that "the mortality rate in under-25 from the CDC data is less than 0.1%" and so far that has "been holding."

But she also implied that the nation does not yet have enough data -- because of the limited testing of children at this point -- to draw conclusions about the infection rate among children. The biggest risk is that children could serve as carriers who pass on the virus to teachers or members of their families in multi-generational homes.

**"If you look across all of the tests that we've done... the portion that has been the lowest-tested portion is the under-10-year-olds," Birx said during Wednesday's coronavirus task force briefing. "Parents have done an amazing job of protecting their children."(5)**

**Since Kenosha County currently has an increasing rate of community spread of COVID-19, even with the opportunity for people to avoid being enclosed in large groups for long and regular periods of time, it is very possible that, if school buildings are open to in-person instruction, the community spread rate will dramatically increase, resulting in rolling closings of school buildings. The uncertainty associated with those closures would make it extremely difficult for KUSD families to fulfill their employment and other commitments. Therefore, releasing, in the next few weeks, a plan to begin the 2020-21 school year with virtual-only instruction clearly appears to be the best strategy to keep KUSD families and staff healthy and alive and allow for all of those persons to immediately begin to plan for this fall.**

**A silver lining of this pandemic has been the stark exposure of many deep and true causes of societal problems, including the school achievement gaps between white children and children of color and children from middle- and high-income families and low-income families. One of the major factors involved in these disparities is the presence of adult illiteracy in families.**

**The first step in solving a problem is seeing it clearly...**

**According to the International Literacy Association, there are 781 million people in the world who are either illiterate (cannot read a single word) or functionally illiterate (with a basic or below basic ability to read). Some 126 million of them are young people. That accounts for 12 percent of the world's population.**

**This is not just a problem in developing countries. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), 21 percent of adults in the United States (about 43 million) fall into the illiterate/functionally illiterate category. (6)**

**These parents love and care for their children, and they must have a seat at the table for decreasing the achievement gap. But these are the parents whose voices are not heard, because they do not receive the email surveys or cannot read hard copy flyers, no matter what language in which they are written. "Checking off the box" with surveys posted on the KUSD website will not engage these parents. Only respectful and honest relationship-building will do that. The Department of Public Instruction paper, "Reaching Out to Diverse Families: A Closer Look at the Research" states,**

**Repeated research shows that the low participation rates of diverse families can be attributed far more to differing needs, values, and levels of trust than it does to families' lack of interest or willingness to get involved. (7)**

**The 2020-21 school year is the perfect opportunity to revision the KUSD approach to increasing equity and raising achievement of all students. It offers a fresh start to include intentional virtual family literacy outreach. The current KUSD Even Start program staff could partner with all teachers who serve children from families with high literacy needs to develop ways to engage them with virtual instruction until the COVID-19 spread decreases in our community. In addition, delivery of Chromebooks and hot spots could be provided to the families who do not have transportation to pick up those devices at school sites. Building trust with families in need will**

not happen quickly, but it will reap many benefits for students and for the whole community. The time to begin is now.

Karen Kemplinen, KUSD Retired Teacher and Current Substitute Teacher,  
July 16, 2020

- 1) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-for-Opening-Up-America-Again.pdf>
- 2) [https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/more-young-people-testing-positive-for-covid-19-county-says/article\\_fc1e67f5-3bfd-55bb-8576-4f2b11ab66fb.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/more-young-people-testing-positive-for-covid-19-county-says/article_fc1e67f5-3bfd-55bb-8576-4f2b11ab66fb.html)
- 3) [https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/covid-19-cases-increase-in-county-no-outbreaks-associated-with-sports/article\\_a7a98521-2b14-5315-9670-a9112312ceb1.html](https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/covid-19-cases-increase-in-county-no-outbreaks-associated-with-sports/article_a7a98521-2b14-5315-9670-a9112312ceb1.html)
- 4) <https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/scientific-method-grades-k-12/>
- 5) <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/12/politics/betsy-devos-schools-reopening/index.html>
- 6) <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=How-Serious-Is-Americas-Literacy-Problem>
- 7) <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/mce/fscp/pdf/tk-divrs-fam.pdf>

**Stacy Busby**

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**Subject:** FW: School Reopening Plan

**From:** Elissa Werve <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:25 PM  
**To:** Mary Modder <[mmodder@kUSD.edu](mailto:mmodder@kUSD.edu)>; Tom Duncan <[tduncan@kUSD.edu](mailto:tduncan@kUSD.edu)>; Dan Wade <[dwade@kUSD.edu](mailto:dwade@kUSD.edu)>; Yolanda Adams <[yadams@kUSD.edu](mailto:yadams@kUSD.edu)>; Todd Battle <[tbattle@kUSD.edu](mailto:tbattle@kUSD.edu)>; Tony Garcia <[tgarcia@kUSD.edu](mailto:tgarcia@kUSD.edu)>; Rebecca Stevens <[rstevens@kUSD.edu](mailto:rstevens@kUSD.edu)>  
**Cc:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu)>; Susan Valeri <[svaleri@kUSD.edu](mailto:svaleri@kUSD.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: School Reopening Plan

I did ask that this letter be read tonight and my name was not listed in the board meeting. Can you please be sure that it is uploaded with the rest of the letters?

Sincerely,  
Elissa Werve

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2020, at 8:35 PM, Elissa Werve <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Elissa Werve  
[REDACTED]  
Kenosha, WI 53144

July 10, 2020

Kenosha Unified School Board  
3600 52nd St  
Kenosha, WI 53144

Dear Kenosha Unified School Board Members:

As a parent of three KUSD students who attend KTEC, Tremper High School and Indian Trail High School and Academy, I am deeply concerned by the KUSD return plans for the 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-19 Pandemic as presented by district administration at reactor meetings this week. Despite the data that displays the hard facts that Wisconsin has the worst COVID-19 spread rate in the nation as well as a positive test rate of approximately 11%, this is five times the positive test rate of New York City the former epicenter of the virus in the United States, KUSD has presented a plan that would potentially return all students to the classroom without a mandate for masks or any possible effective ways to socially distance children in the classroom. This is back to business as usual which puts our children and staff at risk. This being said, as a community member, I have many problems with the way that data was collected from

the stakeholders within the Kenosha Unified School District. There are many “red flags” in the plan and in the ways the data was collected in order to devise said “plan.”

The first issue with the “plan” is the way that data was collected by surveying the stakeholders in order to assess how the parents and guardians of the students in the district want education to be packaged and delivered to their children. In digging into how surveys were sent to families, I have uncovered that surveys were only sent electronically to families. My biggest question is, how is this equitable to all students in the district when we know that not all families have technology or internet capabilities. This means that data could only be collected from the “haves” and it leaves out the “have nots.” This means that many of the district’s low income families, who are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, were less likely to receive a survey in order to voice their opinions. By the way, did I mention that on May 29, 2020 WUWM 89.7 NPR released an article with statistics from the APM Research Lab that illustrated that Wisconsin had the third worst death disparity in the nation from COVID-19 between African Americans and other populations making them five times more likely to die in Wisconsin than their White counterparts? So, this leads to my next question, of the 8,500 surveys that were returned, that the district says accounts for 55% of the district's students. I am assuming this is attributed to families having multiple students, as there are kUSD website touts 21,233 students which means it would be closer to 40%. What schools did these surveys come from? Did we receive feedback that was consistent from all schools? Were low-income stakeholders and stakeholders of color taken into account in a time when we should be pushing for better for our students of color and other disadvantaged populations? For instance, how many surveys were returned from families of Brass Elementary School versus Forest Park or Mahone versus Lincoln? This is just some of my “food for thought.”

My second issue with the “plan” is that a decision will not be made by the school board on a plan to return until July 28, 2020. Once that “plan” is adopted, parents will be forced into a no win situation. They will have to choose either online or in person instruction and commit to this for an entire year by August 8, 2020. This “plan” is inherently flawed. If I am a parent and opt to send my student into a classroom, and then later find out that due to not hiring any additional cleaning staff and expecting teachers to become custodians, that the school environment is unsanitary and I want to switch to virtual learning, I would not have that option. In my case, I would also lose my son’s spot at KTEC. In addition this brings up a no win situation for our disadvantaged populations as part of the return plan outlines how free and reduced lunch would be provided to those who choose a virtual option. These students would only have the option of picking up their food at the ESC building. This could bring hardships to students who don’t have transportation and rely on school lunches. In this case, they would be forced to choose between food for their children or protecting their family’s health. This is a choice that no family should ever have to face, as is the choice between a quality education and health.

The last thing I would like you to consider is the wording of your mask suggestion. If you are not going to heed CDC and local guidelines for reopening, like 14 days of a downward trend in positive cases, then the least you can do is mandate mask use in the classroom. Every child should then look uniform to prevent mask shaming and bullying. This is especially important in situations where a parent has sent a child with a mask due to an underlying health condition. What happens when the “no mask” kid bullies the kid with the mask? This is going to cause many problems for educators. Let’s face it, right now masks are the only true mitigation effort that we have, since social distancing is out as well as limiting the number of children in classes.

In my honest opinion, the only way to safely start the school year is to offer high-quality virtual instruction. Learning losses can be recovered later. Lives lost to this virus can never be



recovered. I am sure you know that the wife of a well-respected employee at Indian Trail High School passed away this Spring from the virus. How will staff and students dying affect our children? How will the district recover from the exit of experienced educators who choose to leave the profession due to being forced back into a classroom during a pandemic? The district already has a shortage of substitute teachers, which will only get worse. As a parent of three KUSD students, I am deeply disheartened by the fact that stakeholders from all economic classes were not brought to the table. I am also dumbfounded by the fact that the district did not seize the opportunity to reimagine education for the future of our community. I hope that you can get past the age-old argument that schools need to be open so that parents can work. Schools are closed three months a year, and parents figure it out. Educators already sacrifice way too much. They should not have to sacrifice their own health or the health of their family when science tells us that we should be tightening restrictions.

Sincerely,

Elissa Werve

**Stacy Busby**

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**From:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 11:04 PM  
**To:** Kathleen DeLabio; Jessica Doyle-Rudin; Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please include with letters being posted online

FYI.

*Sincerely,  
Dr. Sue*

**Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis**  
Superintendent of Kenosha Unified School District  
[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu) | P: [262.359.6320](tel:262.359.6320) | Fax: [262.359.7381](tel:262.359.7381)

Kenosha Unified School District /3600 [52nd Street / Kenosha, WI 53144](#)  
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*Mission: Provide excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.*

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Larissa Arellano [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 16, 2020 at 10:05:50 PM CDT  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu)>, Tom Duncan <[tduncan@kUSD.edu](mailto:tduncan@kUSD.edu)>, Mary Modder <[mmodder@kUSD.edu](mailto:mmodder@kUSD.edu)>, Dan Wade <[dwade@kUSD.edu](mailto:dwade@kUSD.edu)>, Yolanda Adams <[yadams@kUSD.edu](mailto:yadams@kUSD.edu)>, Todd Battle <[tbattle@kUSD.edu](mailto:tbattle@kUSD.edu)>, Tony Garcia <[tgarcia@kUSD.edu](mailto:tgarcia@kUSD.edu)>, Rebecca Stevens <[rstevens@kUSD.edu](mailto:rstevens@kUSD.edu)>  
**Cc:** Jim Thierfelder [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please include with letters being posted online

We are encouraged after listening to the board member's concerns in the meeting tonight, thank you! Please include this email with those being posted online if it's not too late.

On Jul 16, 2020, at 2:19 PM, Larissa Arellano [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear KUSD Board Members and Superintendent Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis,

Our sincere apologies for the lateness of this letter. We have much to say but will try to keep it brief out of respect for your time. We don't pretend to know what's "best" in this very difficult situation. We really do not envy being in your position of having to make a decision with no good, clear answer and opinions incredibly divided on both extremes.

**Our children attend Pleasant Prairie Elementary and Mahone Middle School. We have huge concerns about what will be proposed at tonight's board meeting and fear that you have not heard from enough of the parents, teachers and staff who are opposed to starting this Fall with in person learning. We don't believe it is possible to safely reopen schools yet and wish that the time spent searching for the impossible had been used to develop the best remote learning plan available.**

**All we have to do is look at the countries and states that re-opened too early without enough precautions to see what the future holds for our children, teachers and staff. Businesses re-opened in phases as cases and deaths were trending downwards. Why would we open schools now when they are trending upwards? Many companies are still allowing employees to work from home. I work for a large pharmaceutical company with doctors, many of whom share my concerns, and am still not even permitted to go back to the office. Besides the known risks to the vulnerable, there is so much unknown risk to healthy people of ALL ages, even those who are completely asymptomatic or recover.**

**We understand the difficulties with remote learning, and it will be very challenging for parents. Please believe that we do not think it is a "good" option. But when weighing the known risks and potential loss of lives, we believe it is the option that we will least regret in the end.**

**As you meet tonight with very limited seating due to social distancing and required face masks, I would ask that you to be prepared to provide the same safety measures for our children, teachers and staff before opening the buildings to them.**

**Thank you for all you do for our community, even more now in these unprecedented times.**

**Sincerely,**

**Larissa Arellano  
Jim Thierfelder**

## Stacy Busby

---

**From:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 6:28 AM  
**To:** Kathleen DeLabio; Jessica Doyle-Rudin; Stacy Busby  
**Cc:** Mary Modder; Tom Duncan; Tony Garcia; Yolanda Adams; Dan Wade; Rebecca Stevens  
**Subject:** Re: 2020-2021 SY

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Stacy,  
FYI.

*Sincerely,  
Dr. Sue*

**Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis**  
Superintendent of Kenosha Unified School District  
[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu) | P: [262.359.6320](tel:262.359.6320) | Fax: [262.359.7381](tel:262.359.7381)

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Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2020, at 3:26 AM, Suzanne Jarmakowicz  wrote:

I sent the below letter to all board members and requested it be read at the board meeting. I understand, but am not happy with the fact that because of the length of the meeting, you chose not to read any letters. My name was not mentioned as having submitted a letter to be read, so I wanted to resend it to be sure that you see it. As an aside, I know for a fact that others were also not mentioned.

When I originally sent it, it was a PDF attachment. I am copying it right into this email.

**I am requesting this letter be read at the school board meeting of 7/16/2020.**

**Dear Kenosha Unified School Board,**

**I am writing you today regarding the 2020-2021 school year. I have been teaching in the district since 2006, at Bradford and now at Indian Trall. I am sure you have received correspondence from my peers voicing concerns for the health and well-being of students, staff and all of our families. Because of the current trend in Covid-19 cases, I am opposed to In- person classes to open the school year.**

**We all want the same thing. A normal school year with In person classes. But the viewpoint that we will probably have to shut down, be it a school or the district , at some point, will be more chaotic and disruptive.**

**We should all have learned our lesson from the sudden reopening of our state in May that this is not the way to go. We cannot change what has happened, but should learn from our collective mistakes. Since the committees have determined that there will be no social distancing, no mandatory mask requirement, no way to follow CDC guidelines, it behooves us to err on the side of caution and begin the school year virtually. We need to listen to the science. We need to be New York and not Florida!**

**My colleagues and I worked very hard to do the best we could under the circumstances when we closed in March. Administration did the best they could setting forth policies to help, not harm, students and their families. We all know we can do better now, delivering a high quality virtual education. All students now have Chromebooks and access. Teachers are getting additional training. Expectations will be clear from the beginning. We have time to get things started on a sure footing virtually. We can follow the guidelines of the medical and scientific experts on when and how it is safe to reopen in-person.**

**We have time to plan on how to get necessary materials to all students, outline course expectations and plan on how to serve those with special needs. I think too, we need to consider those staff members who also have extenuating circumstances where family is a consideration for them. For example, I would have no problem teaching virtually from my school building, but know there may be some issues for some teachers with young children or elders who are in the same household. These should also be taken into consideration.**

**I do have some specific ideas and would be willing to share those should we decide to do the right thing, follow the experts and the data and begin our school year virtually.**

**Thank you so much for your hard work and attention during these unprecedented times.**

**Respectfully,**

**Suzanne Jarmakowicz**

**Math Teacher**

Stacy Busby

---

**From:** Info @. KUSD  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 11:54 AM  
**To:** Stacy Busby  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment for Special Board Meeting - July 16, 2020  
**Attachments:** KUSD Public Comment Letter 20200716.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**From:** amanda robillard [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:34 AM  
**To:** Stacy Busby <sbusby@kUSD.edu>; Info @. KUSD <Info@kUSD.edu>; Tom Duncan <tduncan@kUSD.edu>; Mary Modder <mmodder@kUSD.edu>; Dan Wade <dwade@kUSD.edu>; Yolanda Adams <yadams@kUSD.edu>; Todd Battle <tbattle@kUSD.edu>; Tony Garcia <tgarcia@kUSD.edu>; Rebecca Stevens <rstevens@kUSD.edu>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Special Board Meeting - July 16, 2020

Hello,

Please see the attached letter submitted as public comment for tonight's board meeting. My understanding, based on instruction provided by Stacy Busby via email, is that letters submitted by noon today will be included in the public comment portion of the meeting if time allows.

Thank you,  
Amanda

Dear KUSD Board Member,

I am writing in regards to the district's proposed "re-opening" plan as a parent of children who will be attending 4K and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at KTEC West. I commend the time and effort the committees have put into developing these plans, and that the board and administration has put into reviewing them. However, I must say that I disagree vehemently with any plan to return to school physically this autumn as scheduled, particularly a plan that does not require masks or allow for social distancing.

My family will elect to attend virtually. It will not be fun. We know it will be a struggle. We recognize that there is a very good chance our children will fall behind academically. But we also know that they will likely bounce back from these challenges in time. We know that sending them into a physical classroom without at least 6 feet between them, or the guarantee of masks worn, is not a safe environment for them or their teachers. And we know we do not want to be complicit in their teachers' serious illness or death.

Given the proposed reopening plan, we can choose to keep our particular family's children safe with the virtual attendance option, and I thank you for that if it passes your vote. However, teachers deserve to be safe too. And the plan as proposed does not allow for their safety. Nor does it allow for likely continuity of education throughout the year in KUSD schools as teachers inevitably need to self-isolate after exposure or fall ill themselves. It strikes me that the physical portion of the return plan is rooted in wishful thinking and outdated data. Much has been released recently though, updating what we knew when planning began. Recent studies and data show the importance of wearing masks, and specifically the role the masks worn by others who may be COVID-19 positive play in YOUR safety if you are not. Other data shows cases of COVID-19 being on the rise in our community currently, with projections of ICUs nearing capacity within 60 days if masks are not adopted or when schools re-open physically. Scientific studies of indoor airflow and its role in infection patterns also point to the importance HVAC systems and building airflow patterns can play in infection, though no information on KUSD HVAC systems or airflow patterns has been shared. UGA's COVID calculator indicates a 35% chance a room with 25 people in Kenosha County contains a person who has COVID-19 as of July 15th, which is a fair approximation of the number of people in a KUSD classroom within our county. In my opinion, none of this indicates a safe physical reopening is possible at this time.

At best, a physical reopening is short sighted for students and teachers alike- at worst its willfully negligent. Either way, it does not serve safety or education. It serves the economy, and allows parents to return to work, but at the expense of students and educators. While I am aware KUSD operates within a larger ecosystem in our community, I hope you will prioritize the safety of students and teachers by following the precedent set by those districts in our vicinity who have most recently announced their plans to keep physical buildings closed for the start of the school year.

Sincerely,

Amanda Robillard  
Parent at KTEC West

PS. As members of the school board, you are leaders in the Kenosha community. Your actions set a precedent for others to follow. Those of you attending public meetings within your official capacity

**without wearing a mask is irresponsible. Please consider wearing one in the future when officially representing KUSD.**



## Stacy Busby

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**Subject:** FW: Remarks for the Special Board meeting on 7/16/2020

**From:** Kitts, Tanya [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 3:18 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu)>; Tom Duncan <[tduncan@kUSD.edu](mailto:tduncan@kUSD.edu)>; Mary Modder <[mmodder@kUSD.edu](mailto:mmodder@kUSD.edu)>; Todd Battle <[tbattle@kUSD.edu](mailto:tbattle@kUSD.edu)>; Yolanda Adams <[yadams@kUSD.edu](mailto:yadams@kUSD.edu)>; Rebecca Stevens <[rstevens@kUSD.edu](mailto:rstevens@kUSD.edu)>; Tony Garcia <[tgarcia@kUSD.edu](mailto:tgarcia@kUSD.edu)>; Dan Wade <[dwade@kUSD.edu](mailto:dwade@kUSD.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Remarks for the Special Board meeting on 7/16/2020

Good afternoon. I am making note that I requested my remarks to be read aloud during public comments. My name was not listed when submitted names were read. I am disappointed that educators were not heard given that practice at each of the other virtual meeting was to read comments until the 45 minute allotment was complete.

Tanya Kitts-Lewinski, President  
Kenosha Education Association

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**From:** Kitts, Tanya  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:47 PM  
**To:** Sue Savaglio-Jarvis <[ssavagli@kUSD.edu](mailto:ssavagli@kUSD.edu)>; Tom Duncan <[tduncan@kUSD.edu](mailto:tduncan@kUSD.edu)>; Mary Modder <[mmodder@kUSD.edu](mailto:mmodder@kUSD.edu)>; Todd Battle <[tbattle@kUSD.edu](mailto:tbattle@kUSD.edu)>; Yolanda Adams <[yadams@kUSD.edu](mailto:yadams@kUSD.edu)>; Rebecca Stevens <[rstevens@kUSD.edu](mailto:rstevens@kUSD.edu)>; Tony Garcia <[tgarcia@kUSD.edu](mailto:tgarcia@kUSD.edu)>; Dan Wade <[dwade@kUSD.edu](mailto:dwade@kUSD.edu)>  
**Subject:** Remarks for the Special Board meeting on 7/16/2020

I am kindly requesting that my remarks below be read aloud during public comments.

President Duncan and Members of the Board. My name is Tanya Kitts-Lewinski and I am a Special Education Teacher and President of the Kenosha Education Association. As the elected representative for educators in KUSD, the KEA is calling for a full virtual beginning to the 2020-21 school year with a phased reopening following CDC guidelines. We would love nothing more than to be back in school as normal with our beloved students, but we cannot risk the lives of children, their families, or education workers when it is not safe. As of today, Covid-19 continues to surge in Wisconsin and in Kenosha.

Elected officials have failed at every turn to contain this virus and now educators are faced with unacceptable choices. Without a massive investment in our public schools at the federal level, our districts are unprepared to support a physical reopening. Our schools have been underfunded for years, and it is educators who fill the gaps. We do more with less. We purchase supplies out of our pockets. We teach without adequate prep time. We go years without a raise. We practice active shooter drills and imagine how we might keep our students alive.

Now we are being sent into the classroom while a pandemic is surging. Our staff cannot properly address the increased academic, social, and emotional needs of our students upon our return if we are in a constant state of fear because we don't have the most basic, universal protections in place for educators. When educators are asking questions like: How do I console a crying child or tie their shoes from 6 ft away? Are the schools prepared to have enough support staff available when and if an educator or student dies? What if I test positive and recover but my own child or a student doesn't survive? How do I live with that? Should I write a living will this summer? What about the risk to the grandparents and great grandparents who are raising our students? These are all real questions posed by KUSD educators.

And to those who say this is fear-mongering, I point out that at least 74 educators died in New York City from Covid 19- 30 teachers, 28 ESPs, 2 counselors, 2 facilities workers, and 2 administrators. This virus is real and our schools are not equipped to protect us. Which of us are you willing to sacrifice?, The acceptable number of student deaths is zero. The acceptable number of staff deaths is zero.

It does not bode well for our return, when I have already had to intervene to get staff working in schools this summer basic PPE like masks, hand sanitizer, and wipes. And it doesn't bode well that our request for a face covering requirement for students and staff has not been incorporated. Our educators are not ok with a middle of the road stance that masks will be highly recommended and not required. That is a political stance, not a stance based in science and public health. The current Center for Disease Control recommendation states: "To reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain."

And now, the message seems to be we will hold school in person this fall at any cost. We will not be pitted against our families and the communities we serve because make no mistake this is about them too. As a district serving a majority population of students and families of color, we cannot ignore the disproportionate impact of illness and death that Covid-19 has had on black and brown communities. When making decisions, we must consider who will be most impacted and protect those most vulnerable among us. To do anything less is negligent.

In closing, I implore you to begin the school year virtually for all. Allow educators to put aside worry and focus on preparing for high quality online instruction. When it is safe, according to CDC guidelines, return educators and students to the classroom with a face covering requirement and a plan to meet social distancing requirements. The decisions you make now may be a matter of life and death.

Sincerely,

Tanya Kitts-Lewinski, President  
Kenosha Education Association