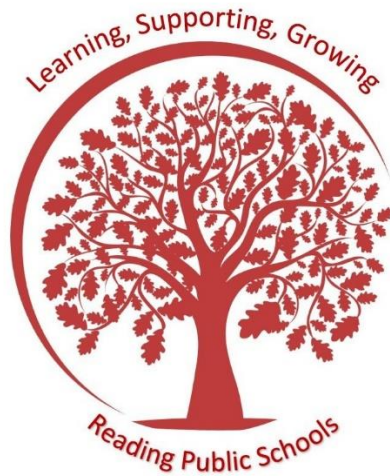


Reading Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Packet
February 17, 2022



Open Session 7:00 p.m.

RMHS Schettini Library



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

School Committee

Date: 2022-02-17

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: School - Memorial High

Location: School Library

Address: 62 Oakland Road

Agenda:

Purpose: Open Session

Meeting Called By: Samantha LaPierre on behalf of the Chair

Notices and agendas are to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meetings excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Legal Holidays. Please keep in mind the Town Clerk's hours of operation and make necessary arrangements to be sure your posting is made in an adequate amount of time. A listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting must be on the agenda.

All Meeting Postings must be submitted in typed format; handwritten notices will not be accepted.

Topics of Discussion:

7:00 p.m.	A.	Call to Order
7:02 p.m.	D.	Old Business 1. Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Presentation & Vote
7:15 p.m.	E.	New Business 1. Coolidge Math Challenge
7:30 p.m.	D.	Old Business 2. Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings Update, Discussion & Vote
8:15 p.m.	B.	Public Comment Consent Agenda 1. Minutes (01-27-2022) 2. The Coolidge School Science Olympiad, Inc. Donation 3. Ragged Mountain Resort Field Trip 4. RMHS Basketball Support Team Donation 5. Barrows PTO Board Donation 6. Robotics Competition Field Trip Reports 1. Student 2. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services 3. Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching 4. Director of Finance and Operations 5. Superintendent 6. Liaison/Sub-Committee
8:30 p.m.	E.	New Business 2. Select Board ARPA Advisory Committee Appointment 3. FY22 Quarterly Budget Update & Vote

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Surplus Material Disposal Vote 5. Superintendent Mid-Year Formative Introduction & Goals Review 6. Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Entry Plan Updates
	F.	<p>Information / Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEEM Collaborative Approved FY2023 Budget Highlights 2. Email from Jared Belliveau – RE: RDTC Meet the Candidates Night 3. Email from Michelle Greenwalt – RE: 2022-23 Budget and Academic Challenges from the Pandemic 4. Email from Karl Weld – RE: END the mask mandates. 5. Email from Frederick Van Magness – RE: Letter to the School Committee re. High School Track and Field Replacement 6. Email from Christopher & Randi Skeper – RE: Killam grade 4 2022-2023 7. Email from Rick Camuso – RE: Note from Rick Camuso to your Facebook Page Reading, MA School Committee. 8. Email from John Sullivan – RE: New study on mask effectiveness 9. Email from Brian Paulsen – RE: The Time is NOW!!! 10. Email from Emmy Dove – RE: Household clusters 11. Email from Andrena Silva – RE: Mask Mandate 12. Email from Christina Eckenroth – RE: Support for continuing the mask mandate in schools 13. Email from Erin Oliveira – RE: End the Mask Mandate in all Reading Schools 14. Email from Lee Farris – RE: Concerns for 4th grade at Killam next year 15. Email from Marisa Lara – RE: Lift mask mandate please 16. Email from Kaitlyn Vallera – RE: Lift the school mask mandate for our kids 17. Email from Donaghey House Email – RE: Unmask Our Kids 18. Email from Lina Gearity – RE: Mask mandates in school – parent option 19. Email from Paul Donaghey – RE: Unmask the Children Feb 28th 20. Email from Diana Busa – RE: Rescind mask mandate 21. Email from Robert Gracilieri – RE: K-12 Masks 22. Email from John Barmoy – RE: Please Keep Mask Requirements in Schools 23. Email from Julie Draper – RE: Mask Guidance 24. Email from Rosie Martel-Foley – RE: Please KEEP universal masking requirement for RPS 25. Email from Domenic Sorrentino – RE: Mask mandates for school 26. Email from Lisa Orr – RE: It's time 27. Email from Brian Skeffington – RE: Mask Mandate Vote 28. Email from Kasie Gates – RE: Feedback- Mask Mandate 29. Email from Katie Shaw – RE: Mask 30. Email from Andrew Shaw – RE: Mask Mandate 31. Email from Jenepher Lalicata – RE: Please lift the mask mandate 32. Email from Taylor Pittsinger – RE: Unmask our kids 33. Email from Kiril Daskalov – RE: Covid Restrictions 34. Email from Ivelina Sokolova – RE: Lift mask mandate in schools 35. Email from Jarra Finnegan Carney – RE: Please lift the mask mandate

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

36. Email from Danielle Austin – RE: Writing in support of lifting the mask mandate
37. Email from Tara Cahill – RE: Mask mandate policy for meeting tonight
38. Email from Tanya Croteau – RE: End masking in our schools
39. Email from Effie Duplessis – RE: Rescind the mask mandate in schools!
40. Email from Susan Kneeland – RE: Request to end mask mandate
41. Email from Karen Janowski – RE: Masking
42. Email from Lauren Walton – RE: Please Protect Our Preschoolers
43. Email from Mark Ricciardelli – RE: Mask Policy post 2/28/2022
44. Email from Brooke & Mike Sakraida – RE: Mask Mandate
45. Email from Lisa Treacy – RE: Masks in school
46. Email from Ali White – RE: Mask policy
47. Email from Aurianne and Geoff Lopatka – RE: Lifting the Reading Public Schools mask mandate
48. Email from Sherilyn Friedman – RE: Make Masks Optional in Schools
49. Email from Jessica Lynch – RE: Masks
50. Email from Julie Silbovitz – RE: Mask Removal
51. Email from Stephanie Cuffe – RE: Masks – elementary school
52. Email from Jacquelyn Teplitsky – RE: Masking in Elementary
53. Email from Holly Weinberg – RE: Mask Requirement
54. Email from Dan Weinberg – RE: Ending masking mandate in elementary schools
55. Email from Alicia Williams – RE: Masks Off, please!
56. Email from Alicia Williams – RE: Please watch
57. Email from Heather Bruntel – RE: Advocate for Mask Choice in Reading Public Schools
58. Email from Parris Wellman – RE: Children and Mask Mandates
59. Email from Jeff Ashburner – RE: Data-driven masking
60. Email from Jennifer Corwin – RE: In consideration of masks
61. Email from Kathy Donnelly – RE: Mask Mandate – SCHOOL
62. Email from Mike Flaherty – RE: No More Masks
63. Email from Julie Ross – RE: Public comment for upcoming meeting
64. Email from Melissa DeCroteau – RE: In support of lifting the mask mandate
65. Email from Sophie Gellot – RE: mask mandate in schools
66. Email from Marissa Monagle – RE: Mask consideration
67. Email from Shana Barmoy – RE: Please keep masks in Elementary schools
68. Email from Shannon Vittozzi – RE: 02/17 Vote on Face Coverings
69. Email from Taylor and Lindsey Byrnes – RE: Feedback: Masking
70. Email from Tim Busa – RE: End Mask Mandates in Reading
71. Email from Elizabeth and Storti – RE: Removing mask at school
72. Email from Deidre Arnold – RE: Mask Mandate in our Schools
73. Email from Kristen Granara – RE: Rescind mask mandate for Reading Schools
74. Email from Andrea McLauchlan – RE: Lift Mask Mandate
75. Email from Liz Oliphant – RE: Lift the mandate

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">76. Email from Dan Oliphant – RE: Lifting the mask mandate77. Email from Megan Day – RE: 2/17 Vote78. Email from Marybeth Baker – RE: Please vote to make masks optional79. Email from Rebecca Liberman – RE: Masks in schools should remain for unvaccinated80. Email from Katie Shaw – RE: Masks81. Email from Ann Gullotti – RE: End mask mandate, please82. Email from Ellen Haggerty – RE: RPS Mask Requirement83. Email from David Day – RE: 2/17 Vote84. Email from Etain O’Dea – RE: Thank you / request around Feb vacation return85. Email from Colleen and Mile Lacey – RE: Mask Mandate86. Email from Andrena Silva – RE: VOTE TO UNMASK OUR CHILDREN87. Email from Mia Boudreau – RE: Lifting mask mandate88. Email from Kayla Iacopucci – RE: Mask mandate for the schools89. Email from Cheryl Webster – RE: Yes to lifting mask mandate90. Email from Mackeil Family – RE: Mask Mandates Decision91. Email from Lori and Chris Barcikowski – RE: Masks92. Email from Jennifer Carrant – RE: Masks90. Email from Amy Cole – RE: Mask Policy91. Email from Mark Pandolfo – RE: Unmask our Kids92. Email from Andrea Lindmark – RE: End the mask mandate93. Email from Joseph Cardarelli Sr. – RE: Note from Joseph Cardarelli Sr to your Facebook Page Reading, MA School Committee91. Email from Kate & Tom Grant – RE: Please extend the mask mandate92. Email from Meredith Miller – RE: End the Mask Mandate93. Email from Michael DeCroteau – RE: End masks94. Email from Jaimee Mace – RE: mask vote95. Email from Derek and Vicki Brown – RE: School mask mandate96. Email from Sharon Finberg – RE: Masks97. Email from Rebecca Bailey – RE: Letter in the School Committee packet98. Email from Kevin and Amy Crotty – RE: Please lift the RPS mask mandate99. Email from Kristen and Dan Charest – RE: RPS Masking100. Email from Debbie Hattery – Re: Support for a mask optional policy for RPS101. Email from Eryn MacDonald and James Davis – RE: masks in schools102. Email from Johanna Chesley – RE: Mask mandate considerations and planning103. Email from Josh Olivier- Mason – RE: When to drop the mask mandate in our schools104. Email from Frank and Janet Marengi – RE: Please make masks optional105. Email from Karen Janowski – RE: Choose to put children first – end the mask mandate106. Email from Jaclyn Collins – RE: Drop the Mask Mandate107. Email from Stephanie Balaouras – RE: Feedback on mask policy
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This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.

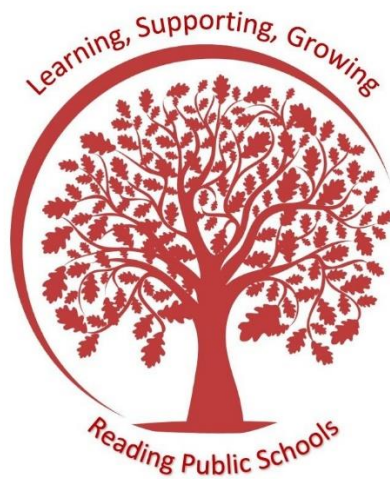


Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

		108. Email from Angela Binda – RE: Keep masks, they work! 109. Email from Emmy Dove – RE: mask policy 110. Email from Helena Johnson – RE: Mask mandate 111. Email from Octavia Brauner – RE: Delay unmasking 112. Email from Kevin Sexton – RE: It's time 113. Email from Amanda Holmen – RE: Mask Policy
9:30 p.m.		Adjourn

**Times are approximate

Reading Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Packet
February 17, 2022



Consent Agenda



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

2016-09-22 LAG

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

School Committee

Date: 2022-01-27

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: School - Memorial High

Location: School Library

Address: 62 Oakland Road

Session: Open Session

Purpose: Open Session

Version: Draft

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Erin Gaffen, Sarah McLaughlin, Tom Wise, Carla Nazzaro, Chuck Robinson and Shawn Brandt

Members - Not Present:

Others Present:

Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Stys, Director of Finance Susan Botta, Smritha Srinivasan, Superintendent Thomas Milaschewski (via phone)

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Samantha LaPierre on behalf of the Chair

Topics of Discussion:

A. Call to Order

Chair Wise called open session to order at 7:00p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Brandt moved seconded by Mr. Robinson to take the student report out of order. The vote carried 6-0. Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Gaffen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Wise.

Mr. Ross called finance committee to order at 7:04pm.

Mr. Wise stated that Dr. Milaschewski would be participating virtually.

B. Routine Matters

1. Public Input

Mr. Wise called for public comment. There was none.

2. Consent Agenda

Mr. Brandt moved, second by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the consent agenda. The vote carried 6-0. Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Gaffen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Wise.

3. Reports

Smritha Srinivasan stated the boys swim team was going to states and junior Liam Synnott made it to all national honors choir. She stated the students were updated by Principal Tracey

that a secure network can be created for students during the school day, she thanked Mr. Tracey and the leadership team for listening to the students.

Dr. Milaschewski stated there would be a change in the Covid testing, in accordance with DESE. Test kits will be sent home with staff and students and we will stop the test and stay program.

Dr. Jen Stys – No Report

Mrs. Susan Bottan – No Report

Mrs. Nazzaro – No Report

Mrs. Gaffen – No Report

Mr. Wise stated the ARPA subcommittee has been put on the select board agenda for next Tuesday.

Ms. McLaughlin – No Report

Mr. Robinson stated the coalition met last night; Erica McNamara discussed the teen mental health first aid course they held. He stated they are still trying to fill the public safety clinician role and the interface program in town has been paused by the vendor.

Mr. Brandt – No Report

C. New Business

Mr. Brandt moved, seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to take out of order item E1- Turf 1 Project Overview. The vote carried 6-0. Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Gaffen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Wise.

1. Turf 1 Project Overview

Mark Novac and Steve Crisafulli from Activitas provided an overview and schedule for the turf 1 and stadium project. They stated that the \$3 million construction budget was approved by the town in April 2021 under Article 13. As part of the \$3 million budget, it includes a new track, turf field, scoreboard, lights, landscape and circulation improvements and equipment.

Tom Zaya answered questions from the committee about how this would affect sports and extracurricular activities.

Marianne Downing, Heather Drive

Asked to keep Joe Mulligan in mind, when informing organizations about the use of the field, since the band also uses this in the start of the season.

Ed Ross, Kensington Ave

Asked if there was a list of add alt in case we come in under budget.

2. Cafeteria Workers FY23 Joint Labor Management Committee

Mrs. Bottan stated there was an agreement to create a joint labor management council in order to reevaluate the cafeteria workers salaries. The joint labor council will consist of Michelle Roach director of human resources, Susan Bottan director of finance, Danielle Collins director of school

nutrition and 1school committee member to engage in conversations with the bargaining unit. The result is due by April 2022. Mr. Wise asked if anyone on the committee was interested in participating Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Nazzaro stated they were interested. Mr. Robinson will serve on behalf of the committee.

D. Old Business

1. FY23 Budget Discussion & Final Vote

Mr. Wise asked if there was any further committee discussion. There was none. Mr. Wise asked if there were any questions from the Finance Committee.

Marianne Downing, Heather Drive

What does this mean in terms of the budget in regard to full day kindergarten for next year.

Jeanne Borawski, Johnson Woods Dr.

Asked if there was a scenario where the tuition goes back up in FY24.

Mr. Brandt moved, seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the Superintendents recommended budget of \$51,783,363. The vote carried 6-0. Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Gaffen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Wise.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:43pm.

2. FY23 School Calendar Review & Vote

Mr. Wise asked if the committee had any feedback.

Mrs. Gaffen stated she like the color-coded calendar better than the new one.

Mr. Brandt mentioned the month of November having a short week every week, and if there was anything that could be adjusted to change this.

Mr. Brandt moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the FY23 school calendar. The vote carried 6-0. Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Gaffen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Wise.

Geoffrey Coram, Ridge Rd.

Asked for clarification when the Jewish holiday began.

E. Adjournment

Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Brandt to adjourn. The roll call vote carried 6-0. Mr. Brandt, Mrs. Gaffen, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wise.

The meeting adjourned 7:50at p.m.

NOTE: The minutes reflect the order as stated in the posted meeting agenda not the order they occurred during the meeting.

Link to meeting video: [School Committee 01-27-2022 - YouTube](#)

COOLIDGE
SCIENCE



Coolidge School Science Olympiad • 89 Birch Meadow Drive • Reading, MA 01867 • 781/942-9158

January 25, 2022

Dear Mrs. Marchant, Dr. Milaschewski, Dr. Hardy, and the Reading School Committee:

The Coolidge School Science Olympiad, Inc. (CSSO) hereby requests that the Reading Public Schools accept our donation in the amount of \$4,500 for the purpose of compensating the following teachers who are co-coaches for CSSO science team. This stipend is for their accepting coaching responsibilities for science team duties performed during the 2021-2022 school year.

- Mr. Daniel Cody: \$1,500,
- Mr. Jerald Coyne: \$1,500,
- Mr. Paul Guidetti: \$1,500

We hope that our donation will be accepted and remain grateful as always for the support that you and the Reading Public Schools continue to display for science education.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Linda Kiene'.

Linda Kiene
CSSO 2021-2022 Treasurer



Reading Public Schools
Field Trip Plan

This information should
be kept on file for a
minimum of 3 years.

1. Trip Coordinator Jane Shea School RMHS Grade(s) Attending 9-12
2. Destination Ragged Mountain Resort, Danbury NH
3. Type of Trip: Day Extended Overnight Out of State International
4. Purpose of Trip Recreational Ski
5. Field Trip Connection to Curriculum Frameworks (Be specific to actual grade level curriculum alignment)
connected to the club's mission.
6. Date(s) of Trip March 13, 2022 Time of Departure 7:30AM Time of Return 6:00 PM
7. Cost of Trip Depends on # of students Will there be fundraising? If yes, please attach plan.
8. No. of Students Attending 40+? No. of Teachers TBD No. of other adults TBD
9. Name of Travel Company (if applicable) N/A
10. Transportation Required (Circle) Bus Train Boat Plane Private Car Other
11. Name of Company Providing Transportation MBT Worldwide
12. If this is an overnight trip, is the bus driver getting sufficient rest in accordance with federal regulations and common sense? _____
13. Departure Information (location and carrier) RMHS Parking lot
14. Return Trip Information (location and carrier) RMHS Parking lot
15. Food and Lodging (if applicable) will be provided by N/A
16. Address and Phone No. of Lodging (if applicable) N/A
17. Has the school determined that the facility has adequate insurance consistent with the level of risk involved (e.g. sedentary trip as opposed to outdoor, physically active trip)? YES If yes, attach a copy of the policy.
18. If swimming is involved, the school has determined that a lifeguard will be on duty at all times when students are in the water. Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

19. Please describe below the educational alternative for those students who will not be attending the trip.

N/A

20. If there are students with disabilities or individual needs attending the trip, what accommodations/transportation have been put in place to assure that the student(s) has equal access to the experience?

Equipment ~~AAA~~ - Lessons are available
rental is optional. for new skiers/ boarders.

21. Please describe the process that will be used to determine student eligibility for the trip.

Chaperone Information

Paid dues and permission slips turned in

22. Names of Chaperones Attending Trip

Jane Sheen

TBD

23. Names of Chaperones who will be receiving compensation from Travel Company or other source (if applicable)

24. Source of Compensation for Chaperones (if applicable)

25. Have all adults had the necessary CORI and/or SAFIS Criminal Background Checks yes

26. Please attach the following to this document:

- a. A detailed itinerary of the trip
- b. Signed state ethics financial disclosure forms from all teachers whose field trip cost will be covered. This is for any field trip where the cost per person is over \$50. To access the form, go to <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/disclosure-forms/municipal-employee-disclosure-forms/> and complete Form 11d, *Disclosure of Travel Expenses for Non-Elected/Appointed Employee required by 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)1*.
- c. A copy of any contract associated with the field trip.

The Following Section is for Out of Country Field Trips Only

A. Are there any current travel warnings or advisories issued by the State Department? Please go to www.cdc.gov or www.travel.state.gov . Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain _____

B. Have you purchased medical insurance for each day of an out of country field trip? Yes ___ No ___
(attach a copy of the policy)

C. Is medical preclearance required? Yes _____ No _____

D. Does each student and staff member have the appropriate documentation necessary for travel to the country/countries being visited and for return to the United States? Yes _____ No _____

E. Copies of all students' passports shall be maintained by the Trip Coordinator.

F. At least one staff member accompanying the students must have a phone number with international service.

Name of Staff Member _____

Telephone Number _____

To be completed by Reading Public School Administration

I certify that all requirements of the Reading Public Schools Field Trip Policy have been fulfilled.

27. APPROVED  _____ DATE 2/3/22
Principal (For All Field Trips)

28. APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Superintendent of Schools (For All Extended, Overnight, Out of State, and International Field Trips)

School Committee Approval Date (For Overnight, Out of State, and International Field Trips) _____

February 8, 2022

Reading School Committee

82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867

To Whom It May Concern,

The RMHS Basketball Support Team would like to donate \$2,500.00 to pay for the salary of the girls assistant coach, John Campbell. Please make the payment to:

John Campbell
142 Pleasant Valley St
Apt 20102
Methuen, MA 01844

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Sundstrom". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Jennifer Sundstrom on behalf of the RMHS Basketball Support Team

ALICE M. BARROWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO
16 EDGEMONT AVENUE
READING, MA 01867


February 9, 2022


To The Reading School Committee:

The Barrows PTO Board is writing this letter to inform you that we will be gifting \$12,000 (Twelve thousand dollars) to the Barrows Elementary school for the purchase of a new Kiln and any accessories required. The remaining funds will go towards technology for the school at Mrs. Beth Leavitt's discretion.

Thank you for your review and approval.

Best,


Deanna Dodge
Co-President


Julie Silbovitz
Co-President

Reading Public Schools
Field Trip Plan

This information should
be kept on file for a
minimum of 3 years.

1. Trip Coordinator Chuck Strout School RMHS Grade(s) Attending 9-12
2. Destination Salem High School - First Robotics Competition
3. Type of Trip: Day Extended Overnight Out of State International
4. Purpose of Trip to compete at the NE First Granite State Event
5. Field Trip Connection to Curriculum Frameworks (Be specific to actual grade level curriculum alignment)

6. Date(s) of Trip 3/3, 3/4, 3/5 Time of Departure _____ Time of Return _____
7. Cost of Trip \$ 0 Will there be fundraising? _____ If yes, please attach plan.
8. No. of Students Attending 230 No. of Teachers 1 No. of other adults 5
9. Name of Travel Company (if applicable) _____
10. Transportation Required (Circle): Bus Train Boat Plane Private Car Other
11. Name of Company Providing Transportation _____
12. If this is an overnight trip, is the bus driver getting sufficient rest in accordance with federal regulations and common sense? _____
13. Departure Information (location and carrier) RMHS parking lot
14. Return Trip Information (location and carrier) RMHS parking lot
15. Food and Lodging (if applicable) will be provided by students provide ^{their} lunch & snacks
16. Address and Phone No. of Lodging (if applicable) _____
17. Has the school determined that the facility has adequate insurance consistent with the level of risk involved (e.g. sedentary trip as opposed to outdoor, physically active trip)? _____ If yes, attach a copy of the policy.
18. If swimming is involved, the school has determined that a lifeguard will be on duty at all times when students are in the water. Yes _____ No N/A _____

19. Please describe below the educational alternative for those students who will not be attending the trip.

N/A

20. If there are students with disabilities or individual needs attending the trip, what accommodations/transportation have been put in place to assure that the student(s) has equal access to the experience?

N/A

21. Please describe the process that will be used to determine student eligibility for the trip.

Seniors & leads first and a lottery for remaining spots if necessary due to Covid constraints

Chaperone Information

22. Names of Chaperones Attending Trip

TBD

23. Names of Chaperones who will be receiving compensation from Travel Company or other source (if applicable)

none

24. Source of Compensation for Chaperones (if applicable)

25. Have all adults had the necessary CORI and/or SAFIS Criminal Background Checks yes

26. Please attach the following to this document:

- a. A detailed itinerary of the trip
- b. Signed state ethics financial disclosure forms from all teachers whose field trip cost will be covered. This is for any field trip where the cost per person is over \$50. To access the form, go to <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/disclosure-forms/municipal-employee-disclosure-forms/> and complete Form 11d, *Disclosure of Travel Expenses for Non-Elected/Appointed Employee required by 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)1*.
- c. A copy of any contract associated with the field trip.

Robotics Field Trip Itinerary

Thursday March 3 (Only a small group will attend)

4:00pm – Depart RMHS

4:30pm – Arrive Salem High School

5 – 8:00pm – Work on Robot

8:00pm Depart

8:30pm Return RMHS

Friday March 4

6:30am – Depart RMHS

8:00am – Arrive Salem High School

8am – 8:00pm – Work on Robot and Compete in Matches

8:00pm Depart Salem High School

9:30pm Return RMHS

Friday April 15 (Note: This is not a school day.)

8:30am – Depart RMHS

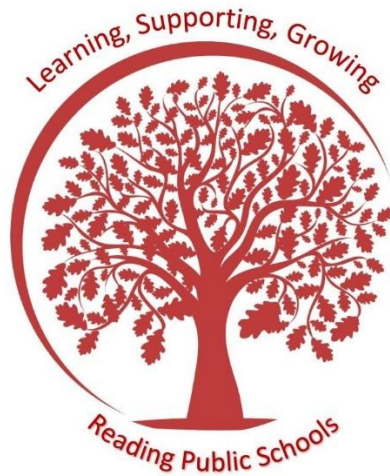
9:00am – Arrive Salem High School

9am – 6:00pm – Work on robot and compete in matches

6:00pm Depart Salem High School

6:30pm Return RMHS

Reading Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Packet
February 17, 2022



Old Business



Administrative Offices
82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
781 944-5800

READING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thomas Wise Chair
Shawn Brandt Vice-Chair

Erin Gaffen
Sarah McLaughlin
Carla Nazzaro
Charles Robinson

Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TO: Reading School Committee
FROM: Thomas Wise, Reading School Committee Chair
DATE: February 14, 2022
TOPIC: Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Update and Vote

As you may recall, in May of 2021 a presentation was provided to us by request from Kevin Bohmiller, Reading Veterans' Services Officer and Brigadier General Jack Hammond, to place a Vietnam Veteran Memorial on RMHS property to honor all those from Reading who served during the Vietnam War.

The Committee unanimously supported the request, and we were notified that Mr. Bohmiller and Brigadier General Jack Hammond would return to the Committee to ask for our final approval on the design and placement of the memorial. Therefore, we will be reviewing that design and placement and voting to approve the implementation.

As a reminder, the project and ongoing maintenance will be funded by The Reading Veterans Memorial Trust Fund along with donations.

Vietnam Veteran Memorial To ALL those who served!

Kevin Bohmiller

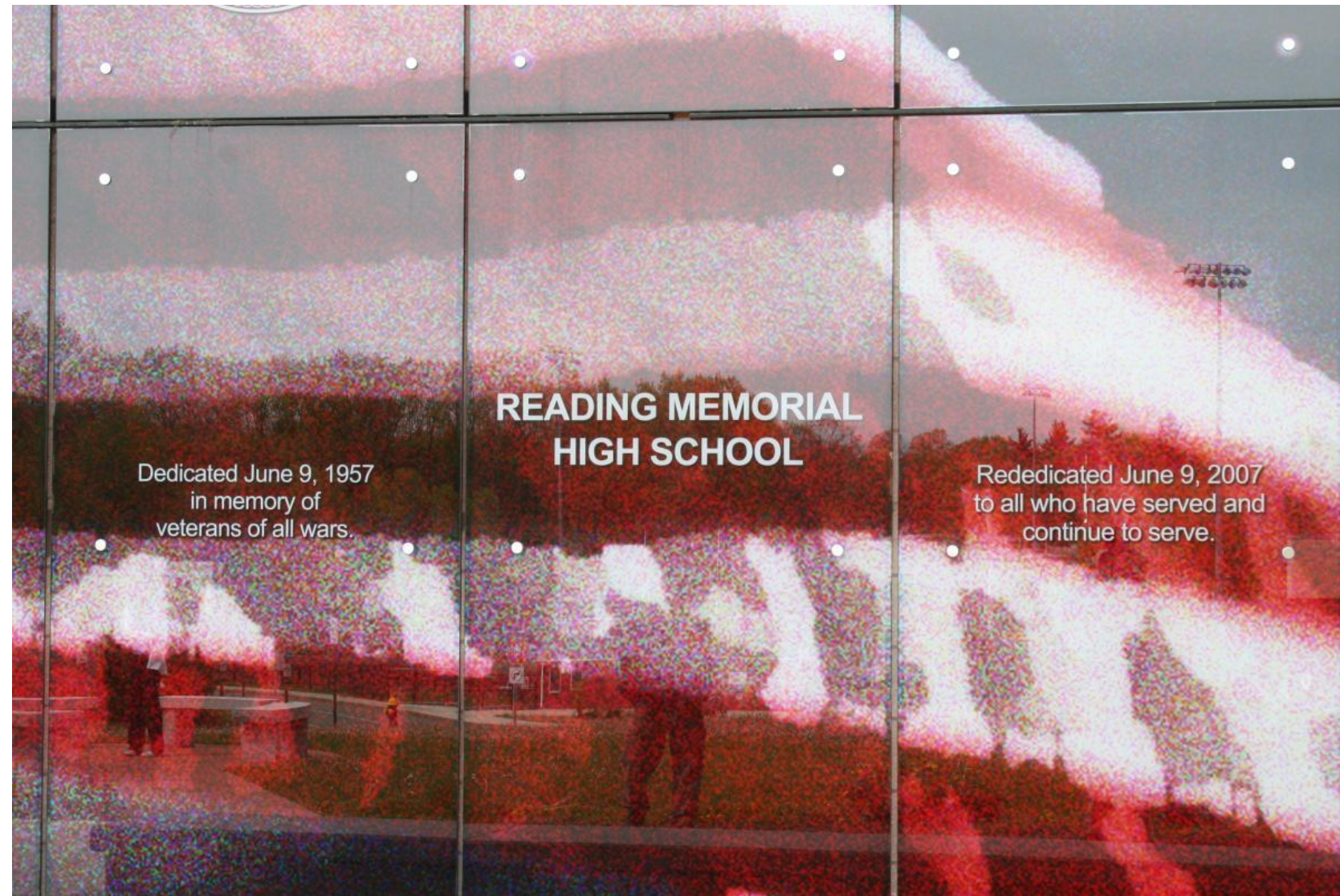
Reading Veterans Services' Officer

Community Services Director

Brigadier General Jack Hammond

R.M.H.S. class of 1979

Executive Director of Home Base Program, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for Veterans of all eras.



This American Life Project 2017



Honoring

-Service

-Valor

-Sacrifice



Join the Nation ... Thank a Vietnam Veteran!

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181 § 598) empowers the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program on behalf of the Nation that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This law also authorizes the Secretary to coordinate, support and facilitate federal, state and local government commemorative programs and activities. To that end, "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" was formed.

By presidential proclamations on May 25, 2012, and November 20, 2017, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this Commemoration:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9 million Americans served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War; approximately 6.2 million are living in America and abroad today. To reach these large numbers, the Commemoration has enlisted the assistance of many thousands of Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct hometown-centric events and activities that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in their local communities.

Join us in this noble mission! Your organization can apply online to become a Commemorative Partner. Visit www.vietnamwar50th.com for more information and access to Vietnam veteran oral histories, photos, event videos and other compelling Commemoration material.

Published: November 2020

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

vietnamwar50th.com

What: A Memorial at the Reading Memorial High School to honor **ALL** those from Reading who served during the Vietnam War.

Why now: They are still with us but we have lost many since their return. This is an opportunity to again welcome them home and to honor them along with their families.

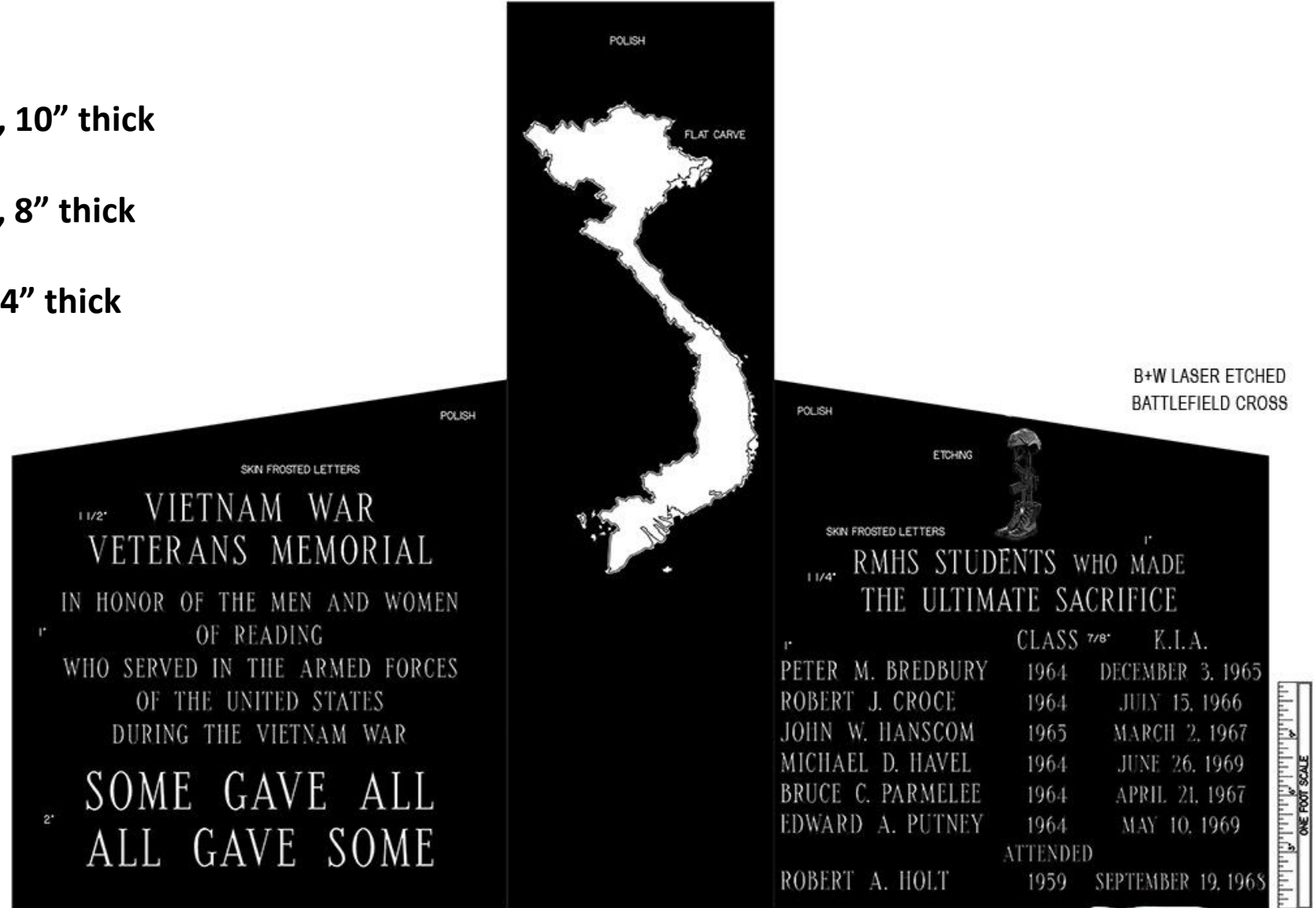
How: Funding from The Reading Veterans Memorial Trust Fund along with a GoFundMe campaign in which many have shown interest in making a contribution.

When: Approximately 4 months from final approval of design.

-Center 4' High, 14" wide, 10" thick

-Sides 26" wide, 28" high, 8" thick

-Base 6' wide, 12" high, 14" thick



ADAMS 724-853236 (VIETNAM MEMORIALS)
1-2 X 0-10 X 4-0 AMERICAN BLACK DIE
ALL POLISH. FLAT TOP. STR. ENDS. NO TAPER
S/B CARVED I
(2) 2-2 X 0-8 X 2-4 AMERICAN BLACK WINGS
POLISH 4, SAWN INSIDE END, 1/2 ROOF TOP W/ 4" DROP
S/B LETTERED I - DD 2/11/2022



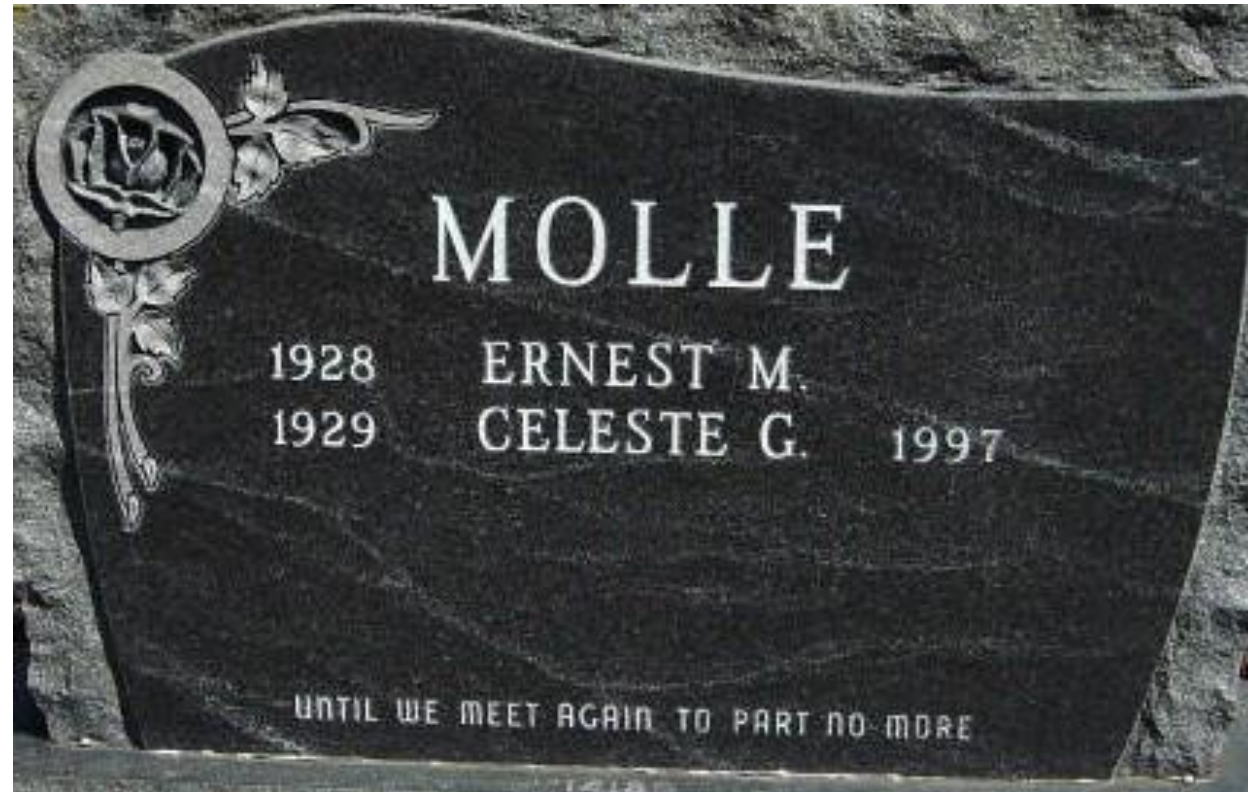
Bench for reflection.

-4' long, 18" deep, 18" high

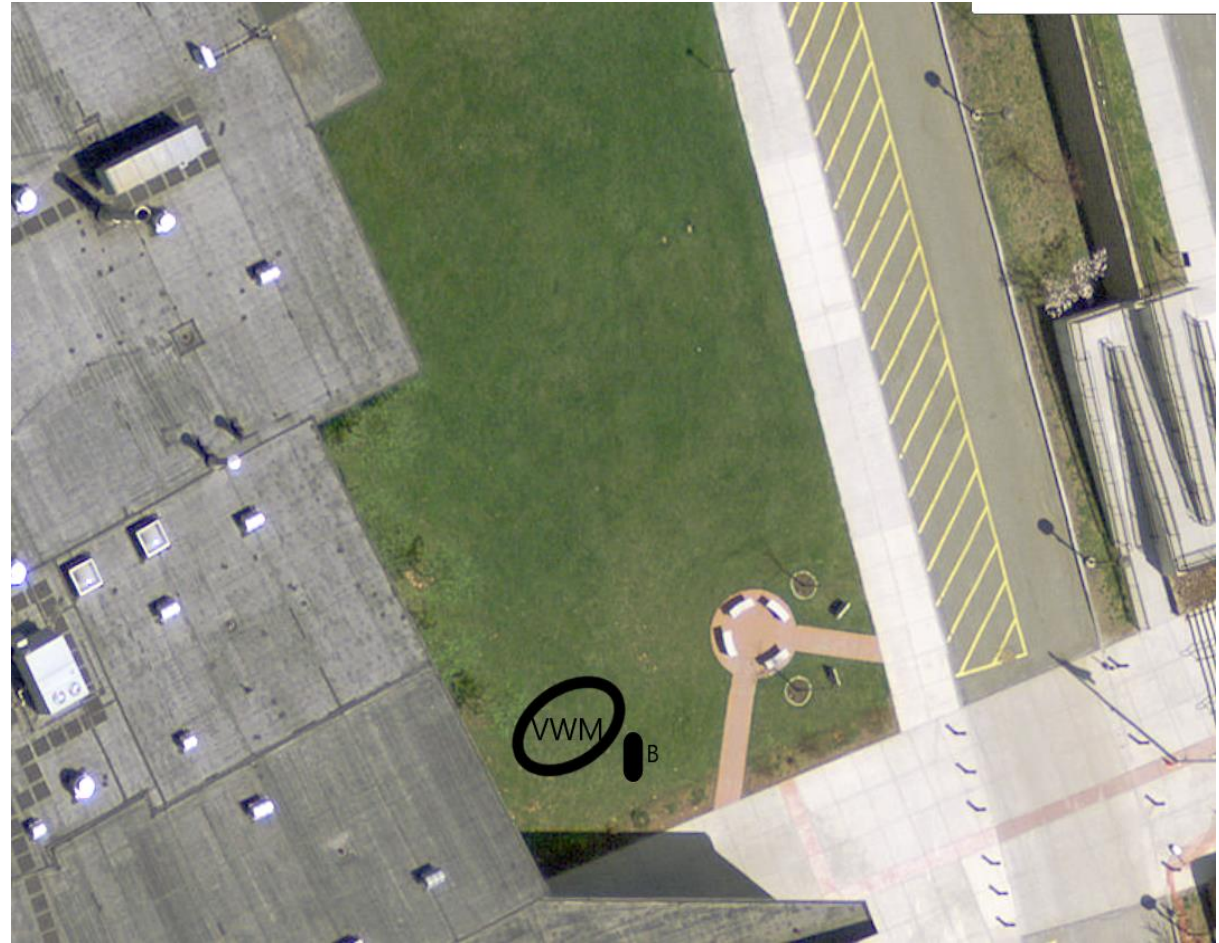


WOODLAWN MEMORIALS 724-853236 (VIETNAM MEMORIAL)
 4-0 X 1-2 X 0-4 AMERICAN BLACK SEAT
 S/B LETTERED I
 3-6 X 0-8 X 1-2 AMERICAN BLACK SUPPORT
 POLISH 2, SAWN FLAT TOP, BRP
 S/B CARVED I - DD 2/11/2022





American Black Granite from
Pennsylvania



Recommended site at entrance to High School.

Diameter of 9/11 Memorial Circle is 13'

Comments and
questions welcome.

Thank you!!

Reading Public Schools

Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow



82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

To: Reading School Committee
From: Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Date: February 15, 2022
Re: Policy EBCFA

Please find the attached letter outlining our recommendation for the EBCFA policy discussion, signed jointly by the RPS Superintendent (Tom Milaschewski), RPS Director of Nursing (Mary Giuliana), Reading Teachers' Association President (Eric Goldstein), Reading Director of Public Health (Ade Solarin) and the Reading Public Schools' Physician (Francisco Brincheiro, MD). This letter was shared with RPS staff on February 15th.

I have also attached a document that includes data relating to COVID-19 and our schools. This document includes positive student cases by week, positive staff cases by week, student in-school transmission by school, and student and staff vaccination rates by school.

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Dear Reading School Committee,

We know that there has been much conversation over the past few days, both at the state and local levels, regarding masking requirements. This past week, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) [announced that they would not extend the mask mandate after February 28th](#), leaving school mask protocols and policies fully up to local school committees. Also this past week, the Reading Board of Health lifted the town indoor mask requirement, effective immediately. These updates have coincided with our ongoing, internal conversations about the current masking requirement in the Reading Public Schools. At this time, we are recommending that the Reading School Committee revise the district's face coverings policy (EBCFA) and move to a "Mask Optional" environment effective February 28, 2022.

We collaborate as teachers, administrators, school nurses, school physicians and public health officials to provide safe in-person learning for our students. In doing so we are grateful for the recent decrease in COVID-19 cases in our community and in our schools, as well as an increase in vaccination rates among our students and staff. Last week we were able to end our contact tracing protocols and provide at home test kits to any families or staff who request them, in addition to our pooled testing and symptomatic testing programs which provide early identification of positive cases. We believe that the improvement in case numbers and positivity rates, as well as the access to testing and vaccines, have made the current environment one where masking in school can be optional for students and staff. With a shift to optional masking, we would be intentional about creating environments where students feel comfortable to continue wearing a mask if they would like. We will discuss these plans in more detail during the February 17th School Committee meeting. This plan will certainly include a commitment from many administrators, teachers, and leaders to continue to wear masks during the transition to this change in protocol. Also, it is important to note that the following mitigation strategies would not change:

- Weekly pooled testing
- Distribution of one test kit per week (2 kits distributed every 2 weeks) for students and staff that opt-in for the at-home test kit distribution
- Testing opportunities for symptomatic individuals
- Continued messaging regarding the availability of vaccination/booster clinic opportunities for families and staff

Over the past two years, masks have been proven to be an effective mitigation strategy. As we continue to move forward in a pandemic world, we may have to again update our COVID protocols in response to future outbreaks. We hope that by providing testing and vaccination opportunities to all families, we are supporting a safe learning experience for all of our students, which could now include optional masking in school. We thank you for your continued partnership as we support our students. Following the February 17th School Committee meeting, we will share an update with our entire RPS community with the path forward.

Best regards,

Tom Milaschewski - RPS Superintendent

Mary Giuliana - RPS Director of Nursing

Eric Goldstein - Reading Teachers' Association President

Ade Solarin - Reading Director of Public Health

Francisco Brincheiro, MD - Reading Public Schools' Physician

Reading Public Schools

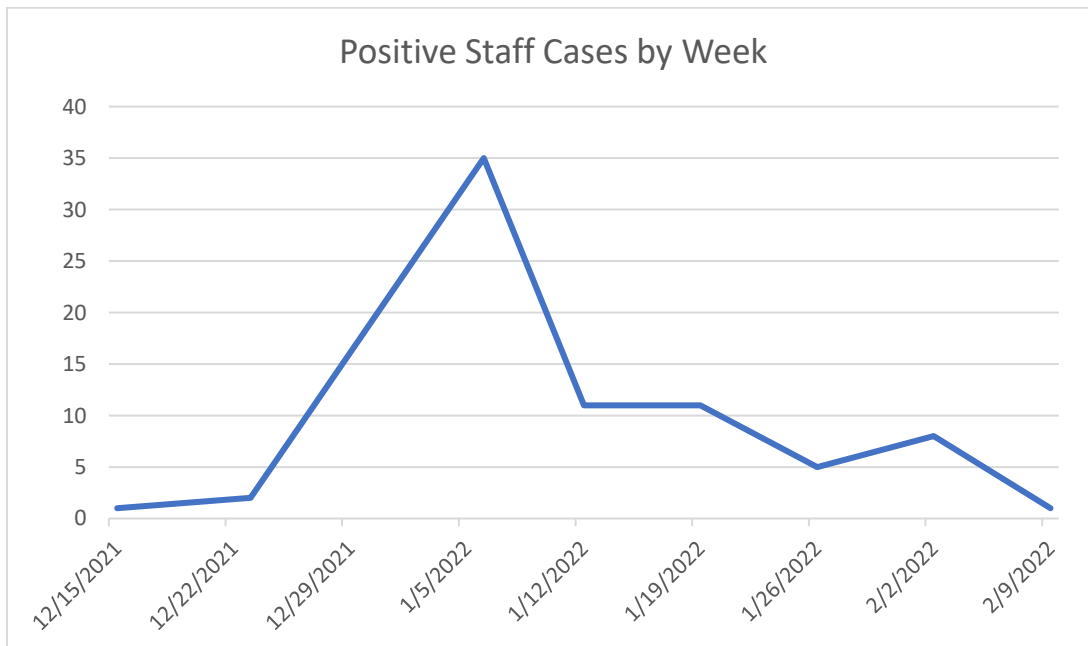
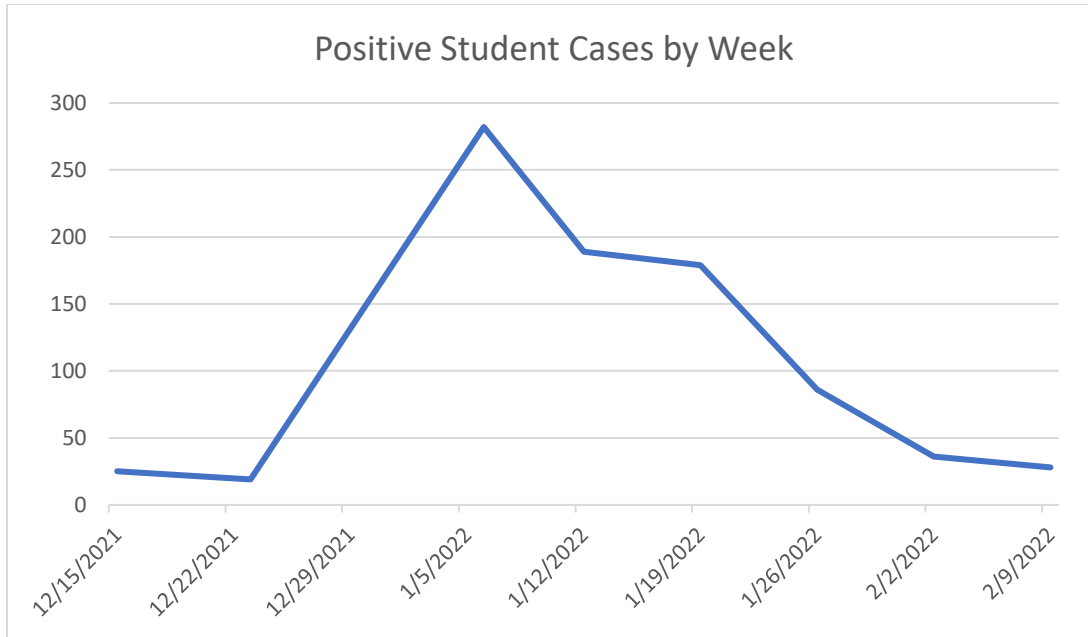
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82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

To: Reading School Committee
From: Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Date: February 15, 2022
Re: Policy EBCFA

This document includes data relating to COVID-19 and our schools:



Reported Student Vaccination Rates by School		
School	Fully Vaccinated	Percent
Barrows	273	77.00%
Birch Meadow	249	74.00%
Joshua Eaton	267	71.00%
Killam	266	66.00%
Wood End	174	74.00%
Coolidge	340	82.00%
Parker	388	80.00%
RMHS	1003	88.00%

Reported Staff Vaccination Rates by School		
School	Fully Vaccinated	Percent
Barrows	64	94.12%
Birch Meadow	69	90.79%
Joshua Eaton	60	95.24%
Killam	62	92.54%
Wood End	71	91.03%
Coolidge	72	94.74%
Parker	70	92.11%
RMHS	222	93.00%



Administrative Offices
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781 944-5800

READING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thomas Wise Chair
Shawn Brandt Vice-Chair

Erin Gaffen
Sarah McLaughlin
Carla Nazzaro
Charles Robinson

Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TO: Reading School Committee
FROM: Thomas Wise, Reading School Committee Chair
DATE: February 14, 2022
TOPIC: Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings: Review & Discussion Process

As many of you know, this is a charged topic throughout our community and the country in general. We have already received over 65 e-mails on this topic, and we appreciate the productive, positive tone of the great majority of them. We want to continue to encourage the public to send in their thoughts as we read them all.

With that said, after consultation with Dr. Milaschewski and Vice Chair Shawn Brandt, we will be conducting this portion of the meeting in the following fashion with the goal of covering this topic adequately and fairly while acknowledging we have many important topics following it on the agenda:

- (1) We will begin by allowing each committee member to comment for a maximum of five minutes, similar to how we proceeded for the discussion around the Superintendent selection back in February of 2021.
- (2) After our discussion, if there is an audience that has demonstrated an interest in participating in this topic, we will provide guidance for public discourse.
 - a. We will ask members of the public to sign in when they come in and names will be put in a hat or bucket for random selection.
 - b. We will welcome feedback from members of the public while noting that we have received numerous e-mails on the topic and have read them all. We will also encourage those members to stay cordial and respectful in their feedback.
 - c. We will limit the public discussion on this topic to twenty minutes in total as we have a large agenda with a lot of important business topics following this discussion on the agenda.
 - d. We will select names randomly out of the hat or bucket and each selected member of the public will be given a maximum of two minutes to provide input.
 - e. Public input will be managed via a 30 second warning denoted by a laminated yellow piece of paper and a "time is up" via laminated red piece of paper.
 - f. We respectfully ask the public to respect the time limit and step away from the microphone when their time is up.
- (3) After the School Committee and public input, I will ask for a motion with respect to Policy EBCFA and we will vote on it.
- (4) If any initial motion does not pass, I will ask the Committee to approve proceeding to discussion on amendments to Policy EBCFA under the emergency clause of Policy BGB – Policy Adoption. If approval is given, we will proceed with amending the Policy on the floor. Once amendments are complete, we will vote on those amendments.

Thank you in advance for your understanding as to why we will be conducting this portion of the meeting in this fashion.

Policy EBCFA Discussion

Reading School Committee
February 17th, 2022



Recommendation

- “Mask Optional” Environment
- Effective February 28, 2022
- Signed jointly by Superintendent (Tom Milaschewski), Director of Nursing (Mary Giuliana), Reading Teachers’ Association President (Eric Goldstein), Reading Director of Public Health (Ade Solarin), Reading Public Schools’ Physician (Francisco Brincheiro, MD)



Logistics

- Students and staff can wear masks by choice for remainder of the school year
- Masks still required on buses (per federal guidelines) and in health offices/medical waiting rooms
- Individuals who are considered close contacts or who have tested positive must follow the isolation and quarantine guidance which includes wearing a mask in public for 5 more days after they leave isolation or quarantine on day 5 (per DESE/DPH)
- Masks still recommended for all unvaccinated individuals (per DESE/DPH)
- Administration will use data-driven decision making to target responses (including masking) to shifting dynamics of pandemic. These responses could be at various levels (grade, classroom, team, etc)



Ongoing mitigation strategies

- Weekly pooled testing
- Distribution of one test kit per week (2 kits distributed every 2 weeks) for students and staff that opt-in for the at-home test kit distribution
- Testing opportunities for symptomatic individuals
- Continued messaging regarding the availability of vaccination/booster clinic opportunities for families and staff



Rationale

- Alignment to DESE/DPH Guidance
- High Student/Staff Vaccination Rates
- Increased Access to Testing
- Decreasing Case Numbers (Town and School)

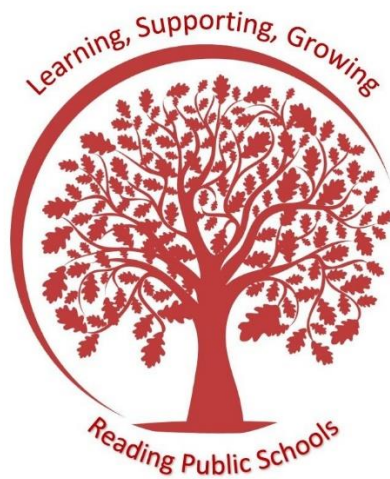


Considerations: Supporting all students and staff

- Why February 28th?
- What about R.I.S.E.?
- How will we work to make our schools “mask optional” environments and not simply “no mask” environments?
- How will we support our staff and students through this transition?



Reading Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Packet
February 17, 2022



New Business

Reading Public Schools

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82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

To: Reading School Committee
From: Heather Leonard, STEM Curriculum Coordinator
Date: February 17, 2022
Re: Coolidge Math Challenge

A group of 6th grade students from Coolidge Middle School will be sharing their experience in Math Class. The students will highlight what math looks like and sounds like with the newly adopted Illustrative Math curriculum tools, and will engage with the school committee in exploring a math problem from the IM program.



Administrative Offices
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781 944-5800

READING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thomas Wise Chair
Shawn Brandt Vice-Chair

Erin Gaffen
Sarah McLaughlin
Carla Nazzaro
Charles Robinson

Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TO: Reading School Committee
FROM: Thomas Wise, Reading School Committee Chair
DATE: February 14, 2022
TOPIC: Reading ARPA Advisory Committee (RAAC) Appointments

As mentioned at a few of our previous meetings, the Select Board decided to form the Reading ARPA Advisory Committee themselves and did so on the 1st of February. Therefore, our previous appointments to the Finance Committee ARPA Committee are null and void and I need to assign two of our members to this new committee. I will plan to do that at our meeting on Thursday, the 17th of February. For your reference, the details of RAAC, as pulled from the Select Board packet from the 1st and as amended during their discussion are:

Membership The ARPA Advisory Committee will have seven (8) members composed as follows:

- 2 Select Board Members (ex-officio, appointed by the Select Board)
- 3 Finance Committee Members (ex-officio, appointed by the Finance committee)
- 2 School Committee Members (ex-officio, appointed by the School Committee)
- 1 Board of Library Trustees Member (ex-officio, appointed by the Board of Library Trustees).

In order to help the Committee carry out its purpose, the Select Board invites the following staff will lend their professional guidance and advice to the Committee.

- Town Manager
- Town Accountant
- School Superintendent
- School Director of Finance

Administrative support will be provided by Town Hall staff (scheduling and posting meetings, taking minutes, etc.)

Purpose The purpose of this Committee is to serve as an advisory Committee to the Reading Select Board for the purpose of recommending allowed use of local and county American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds to fund community priorities.

The Committee shall gather input from its members and the broader community and shall consider in forming its recommendations inputs such as “free cash” balances, current and future planned debt, the capital plan and potential additional ARPA grants as may be available from the Commonwealth of MA.

The Select Board is empowered to authorize the expenditure of ARPA. While the Select Board’s intent is for the Committee to provide guidance and direction consistent with recovery of the effects of COVID,

lost revenue and other allowed uses under the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act, the Select Board may authorize the expenditure of these funds at any time and without consulting with Committee.

Deliverable The Committee shall begin its work by April 2022 and shall submit a list of ARPA spending recommendations to the Select Board no later than October 31, 2022, unless another date is agreed to by the Select Board.

Sunset The Committee shall sunset on December 31, 2022 but may be extended by a Select Board vote.

Public Body The meetings and deliberations of the Committee shall be subject to the Open Meeting Law.

Thank you.

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82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

To: Reading School Committee
From: Susan Bottan, Director of Finance and Operations
Date: February 15, 2022
Re: FY2022 Second Quarter Financial Report

In the spring of 2021, Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$49,695,998 to the Reading Public Schools for the Fiscal Year 2022. The School Department expects to meet all financial obligations within the total funds appropriated.

Please find on the pages to follow a second quarter financial overview of the School Department's FY22 budget spanning the period from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021 with remaining requirements and projected end-year balances. The School Committee's policy DI calls for periodic financial updates and best practices recommend that quarterly financial reports be prepared and submitted to the School Committee for acceptance. The Quarter 2 Financial Report will be presented to School Committee in public session on February 17, 2022.

This Second Quarter Report is organized into four sections:

1. Financial Summary of the Operating Fund by Cost Center
2. Description of the Drivers Impacting Projected Fund Balances by Cost Center
3. Recommendation for Transfers between Cost Centers
4. Financial Summary of Other Sources of Funding: Grants and Special Revenue Fund Offsets

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information related to the FY22 Second Quarter Financial Report.

Thank you.

FY2022 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Financial Summary of the Operating Fund by Cost Center

READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FY 22 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

COST CENTER	Original Budget	Transfers	Revised Budget	Q2 Expenditures	Q2 Encumb./Req.	Q2 Available	Q2 % USED	Remaining Requirement	Projected End Year Balance*
Administration	1,278,967 3%	-	1,278,967	619,869	67,333	591,765	53.7%	580,765	11,000
Regular Day	28,395,443 57%	64,680	28,460,123	10,304,588	350,391	17,805,144	37.4%	17,750,144	55,000
Special Education	16,329,409 33%	(64,680)	16,264,729	4,888,316	3,089,868	8,286,545	49.1%	7,817,545	469,000
District Wide:									
Health Services	710,385	-	710,385	320,736	1,229	388,419	45.3%	443,419	(55,000)
Extra Curricular	84,388	-	84,388	37,216	4,125	43,047	49.0%	43,047	-
Athletics	688,662	-	688,662	402,289	17,695	268,678	61.0%	268,678	-
Technology	<u>630,540</u>	-	<u>630,540</u>	<u>310,664</u>	<u>19,372</u>	<u>300,504</u>	<u>52.3%</u>	<u>350,504</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
Sub-total District Wide	2,113,975 4%	-	2,113,975	1,070,905	42,422	1,000,648	52.7%	1,105,648	(105,000)
School Facilities	1,578,204 3%	-	1,578,204	700,968	197,086	680,150	56.9%	668,150	12,000
GRAND TOTAL	49,695,998	-	49,695,998	17,584,646	3,747,099	28,364,252	42.9%	27,922,252	442,000

At the end of Quarter 2, 42.9% of the appropriated funds had been expended and \$442,000 was projected as an end-year balance. Please note, consideration is being given to deploy anticipated year-end savings in the form of one-time expenditures on services and supplies that will move students forward in their learning this spring. The categories of programs being considered include interventions to accelerate learning, enrichments to support social-emotional culture and engagement, and support structures to position Reading Public Schools for the future.

It is important to note that the Quarter 2 projected balance may fluctuate during the last half of the fiscal year due to several factors that influence and drive expenditures. Factors that may impact the projected balance include, but are not limited to, staff medical and maternity leaves, new student enrollment, changes in student needs, staff turnover, delays in hiring, and lack of substitute teaching and paraprofessional coverage. Each subsequent quarterly report will reflect updated data and project an end-of-year status based on historical trends and information available.

2. Description of the Drivers Impacting Projected Fund Balances by Cost Center

The Reading Public Schools' general fund consists of five cost centers, which are approved by the Reading School Committee annually. The drivers impacting the Q2 projected balances are described below:

Administration

At the end of Quarter 2, 53.7% of the appropriated Administration Cost Center budget had been expended and encumbered. A positive balance of \$11,000 was projected for year- end. This balance was driven by salary savings generated from differences in budgeted and contracted salaries and the delay in filling positions after July 1. The salary savings reflected have been offset slightly by plans to increase the efficiency of the central office workspaces and improve services to the public.

Regular Day

At the end of Quarter 2, 37.4% of the appropriated General Education Cost Center budget had been expended and encumbered. A projected end-year balance of \$55,000 was forecasted. This balance reflects salary savings generated through the difference in amounts between outgoing and incoming salaries, through delays in hiring, and lack of substitute coverage for tutors and paraprofessionals. Projected savings identified in the previous Quarter 1 report were re-invested to target and address learning delays and grow student achievement in grades K through 12. The new programs funded from savings re-allocated this year include the following:

- February Vacation Academy and MCAS Prep, estimated cost of \$45,000
- Endicott College Dual Enrollment program, two courses, cost of \$9,000.
- North Shore Community College Gateway to College program, cost of \$4,350
- Elementary Math Curriculum Materials, estimated cost of \$198,000
- Participation in Secondary Scheduling Institute for RMHS leadership team, cost of \$14,500
- Increase of substitute and paraprofessional substitute wages, estimated cost of \$60,000

Special Education

At the end of Quarter 2, 49.1% of the appropriated Special Education Cost Center budget had been expended and encumbered. A positive end-year balance of \$469,000 was projected, driven not only by salary savings generated through the difference in amounts between outgoing and incoming salaries, delays in hiring, savings from lack of substitute coverage for special education paraprofessionals but mostly from tuition and transportation savings from successfully addressing students needs within our schools.

Consideration is being given to deploy savings identified in the Q2 report to develop interventions to accelerate students' learning, to offer new enrichments to support students' social-emotional needs and increase their engagement in school, and to invest in support structures to position Reading Public Schools for the future. Principals and District Leaders have engaged in discussions and are evaluating options for implementation this year. Funds that remain in the Special Education out of district tuition accounts may be allocated to pre-pay FY 23's tuition fees, consistent with the practice of prior years. Massachusetts General Laws allow out of district pre-payments of up to three months of any approved private placement where students are attending.

District Wide

At the end of Quarter 2, 52.7% of the appropriated District Wide Cost Center budget had been expended and encumbered. A total negative end of year balance of (\$105,000) was projected. Each subgroup that comprises the District Wide Cost Center and their projected end-year balances is described below.

- Health Service – a shortfall of (\$55,000) is projected for a year-end balance due to the addition of hiring substitute nurses to meet the driving needs created by the Pandemic. Although a Floater Nurse was approved earlier in the school year for hire, the position has been difficult to fill. Instead, substitute nurses have been deployed to provide services. During Quarter 2, between 40 and 50 hours per week of additional nursing hours were required to contact trace and conduct COVID-19 testing and support services.
- Extracurricular – a break-even balance was projected at the end of Quarter 2.

- Athletics - a break-even balance was projected at the end of Quarter 2. Although a shortfall in transportation of approximately (\$26,000) is anticipated due to a new, three-year bus contract that was executed at the end of FY21, the shortfall will be offset by the savings forecasted in the coaching stipend account. Savings in the coaching stipend account were generated by not filling positions that were not required this year, such as a Gymnastics Head Coach team.
- Technology – an end-year shortfall of (\$50,000) was projected in Technology due to the need for protective laptop cases for the one-to-one program at RMHS and the new audio-visual equipment for public meetings, which will also be used for professional development events.

School Facilities - At the end of Quarter 2, 56.9% of the appropriated budget had been expended and encumbered. A balance of \$12,000 is anticipated resulting from the pre-purchase in FY21 of bathroom receptacles. The savings generated by the pre-purchase was slightly offset by the increased cost of petroleum-based products used in cleaning and trash supplies.

3. Recommendation for Transfers between Cost Centers

As the close of Quarter 2, the following transfer of funds between cost centers is recommended to address projected end of year shortfalls and to correct an error created in the FY22 budget process:

Recommendation:

Transfer \$50,000 in funds from Regular Day to District wide Technology:

Transfer from: Regular Day, Class Computer Equipment- the surplus that has resulted in class computers was generated from the June 2021 computer laptop purchases, using end-year savings, to complete the one-to-one program for implementation this school year. Computers planned for purchase this year were pre-purchased in June.

Transfer to: \$24,000 to District Wide Technology, Tech Supplies - to pay for the purchase of protective device covers for high school students' one-to-one laptops.

\$26,000 to District Wide Technology, Non-Instructional Equipment - to cover the cost of the audio/visual equipment and SMART panel for public meetings.

Transfer \$55,000 from Special Education to District Wide Health Services

Transfer from: Special Education, Paraprofessional Substitute – the surplus identified in this account is the result of an inability to hire paraprofessional substitutes due to the shortage of labor.

Transfer to: \$55,000 to District Wide Health Services, Nurse Substitute - in lieu of hiring the Floater Nurse, as approved by School Committee, health services are being covered through substitutes. The position for a Floater Nurse is still posted.

Transfer \$64,680 from Special Education to Regular Day (“housekeeping” adjustment to correct budgeting error)

Transfer from: Special Education, Out of District Tuition and Transportation – an error in the FY22 budgeting process placed funds within special education accounts intended for Regular Day students.

Transfer to: \$35,820 to Regular Day, Pupil Transportation – the transfer of funds is to correct a budget error. These funds were budgeted to a Special Education transportation account for Regular Day students.

\$28,860 to Regular Day RMHS Tuition – the transfer of funds is required to correct a budget error. These funds were budgeted to a Special Education out of district account when the funds were intended for Regular Day out of district account.

4. Financial Summary of Other Sources of Funding: Grants and Special Revenue Funds

In addition to the General Fund, grants and special revenue fund offsets support the delivery of services and supplies students attending Reading Public Schools. Please find below the Quarter 2 financial summary and description of each grant awarded followed by a summary of the Special Revenue Fund Offsets budgeted for FY22:

Grants

All FY 22 grants awarded to the Reading Public Schools have been approved by School Committee. Some grants are expended across fiscal years. Illustrated in the table below are the grants for which funds were available for expenditure in FY22. Please find below the data reflected in this table:

- amount of funding available at the start of FY22
- total amount of expenditures and encumbrances committed through Q2
- projected remaining requirement for FY22
- projected end-year balances

Using the Title I grant as an example of how to read the data in the table on the page to follow, the reader will see that there has been activity this fiscal year for Title 1 FY20, Title 1 FY21 and Title 1 FY22. The Title 1 FY20 grant had a fund balance of \$47,387 at the start of FY22. Through the end of December 2021, the district spent/encumbered \$1,941. The anticipated remaining requirement to spend through the balance of FY22 is \$45,447 and \$0 funds are anticipated to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year. Title 1 FY21 grant reflects the balance at the beginning of FY22, activity through Q2, remaining requirements and year-end balance. Lastly, the Title 1 FY22 grant follows the same format and reflects the amount awarded this year.

FY 22 Quarter 2 Grant Balance												
Grant	FY20				FY21				FY22			
	Beginning FY22 Year Balance	Q2 Expended & Encumb.	Remaining Requirement	Projected End Year Balance	Beginning FY22 Year Balance	Q2 Expended & Encumb.	Remaining Requirement	Projected End Year Balance	Amount of FY22 Award	Q2 Expended & Encumb.	Remaining Requirement	Projected End Year Balance
STATE												
METCO					\$ 44,761	\$ 44,761	\$ -		\$ 765,074	\$ 267,840	\$ 497,234	\$ -
Dept. of Public Health									\$ 29,600	\$ 425	\$ 29,175	\$ -
TOTAL STATE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,761	\$ 44,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 794,674	\$ 268,265	\$ 526,409	\$ -
FEDERAL												
Title I	\$ 47,387	\$ 1,941	\$ 45,447	\$ -	\$ 102,092	\$ 11,634	\$ 90,459	\$ -	\$ 105,656	\$ 2,353	\$ 103,303	\$ -
Title II	\$ 33,670	\$ 5,718	\$ 27,952	\$ -	\$ 50,391	\$ 15,232	\$ 35,159	\$ -	\$ 47,472	\$ -	\$ 47,472	\$ -
Title IV	\$ 601	\$ -	\$ 601	\$ -	\$ 8,639	\$ 1,239	\$ 7,400	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
IDEA 240	\$ 40,603	\$ -	\$ 40,603	\$ -	\$ 72,015	\$ -	\$ 72,015	\$ -	\$ 1,104,730	\$ 373,702	\$ 731,028	\$ -
IDEA 262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 298	\$ -	\$ 298	\$ -	\$ 20,410	\$ 1,173	\$ 19,237	\$ -
ARP 252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 244,902	\$ 12,782	\$ 232,120	\$ -
ARP 264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 21,790	\$ -	\$ 21,790	\$ -
ESSER II	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ 383,259	\$ 121,826	\$ 261,433	\$ -
ESSER III*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ 838,876	\$ 79,846	\$ 246,030	\$ 513,000
<i>*ESSER III grant extends through FY 23</i>												
TOTAL FEDERAL	\$ 122,260	\$ 7,659	\$ 114,601	\$ -	\$ 233,435	\$ 28,105	\$ 205,331	\$ -	\$ 2,777,095	\$ 591,682	\$ 1,672,413	\$ 513,000

Descriptions of each grant and the way in which the funds have been allocated follows below:
State Grants:

- METCO –the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity is a state funded, voluntary educational desegregation program designed to eliminate racial imbalance through the busing of children from Boston, MA and Springfield, MA to suburban public schools in 38 communities. These funds pay for program coordination, transportation, and instructional services related to Boston resident students attending Reading Public Schools through participation in the METCO program.
- Department of Public Health – provides for mandated screenings, professional development, and substitute coverage for nurses.
- *Note – although not a grant, DESE reimburses school districts for a portion of out of district tuition placement and transportation costs. In FY 22, DESE will defray \$1,410,278 in tuition and transportation costs.*

Federal Grants:

- Title I - aids schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. These funds are allocated to paraprofessional and extended school year instructional services.
- Title II A - provides supplemental resources to school districts to support systems of support for excellent teaching and leading. The priorities of Title IIA are to: increase student achievement consistent with the challenging State academic standards; improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders; Increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools; and provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders. These funds are allocated to provide professional development for teachers.
- Title IV -ensures that all students have access to a high-quality educational experience. The priorities of Title IV are to: support well-rounded educational opportunities; support safe and

healthy students; and support effective use of technology. These funds pay for technology integration activities and materials for teachers and classrooms.

- IDEA 240- provides appropriate special education services for eligible students and to maintain state/local effort in special education. These funds pay for program administration, special education teachers, BCBA, and professional development.
- IDEA 262 - ensures that eligible 3, 4, and 5-year-old children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs in the least restrictive environment. These funds pay for early childhood instruction and professional development.
- ARP 252 – addresses challenges related to the pandemic, including school re-entry, disruption in the education of children with disabilities, mental health services; sustainability; focuses on issues of equity in special education and early intervention services. Funds are allocated to provide professional development, instructional materials, and testing/assessment materials.
- ARP 264 - addresses early childhood special education and family engagement, such as improving systems to assist with the transition from early intervention to pre-kindergarten to kindergarten to increase educational outcomes for students. Funds from this grant are allocated to fund student assessment, induction, and transition programs.'
- ESSER II – addresses learning loss and provides mental health services and supports. These funds are allocated to pay for special education teachers, adjustment counselors and tutors and social-emotional curriculum.
- ESSER III - helps schools safely reopen and respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are allocated to pay for team leaders, special education teachers, adjustment counselors and tutors.

Special Revenue Funds

Special Revenue Funds are comprised of fee-based programs, extracurricular activities, and donations. Apart from donations, a total of \$2.0M was budgeted to offset the FY 22 operating budget with the fees generated by some of the funds named below:

- RISE Preschool - Fees are paid by families for enrollment in the RISE preschool program. Offset = \$350,000
- Full Day Kindergarten – Fees are paid by families for enrollment in the Full Day Kindergarten program. Offset = \$1,100,000
- Athletics - Fees are paid by families for students' participation in athletics. Offset = \$366,900
- SPED Tuition – tuition fees paid by other districts for students to receive services. Offset = \$40,000
- Extended Day, Drivers Education, Community Education – Fees are paid by families for students to participate in extended day programs and drivers' education. Fees paid by individuals for participation in Community Education events and courses. Offset = \$25,000
- Building Use – Some community organizations which use school facilities pay a fee for space and/or custodial coverage. Offset = \$80,000
- Student Activities – consists of Drama, Transportation– Fees are paid by families for students' participation. Offset = \$64,000

Reading Public Schools

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82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

TO: Reading School Committee
FROM: Susan Bottan, Director of Finance and Operations
CC: Thomas Milaschewski, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 17, 2022
RE: Surplus Property

The School Technology department has identified SMART White Boards and Projectors in classrooms K-12 that are at end-of-life and are no longer functional. To ensure compliance with the surplus disposition requirements of Massachusetts procurement law MGL Chapter 30B, we ask that the School Committee declare the items outlined below as surplus property:

- 1.) 174 SMART White Boards, all of which were purchased in 2014. Boards are past useful life, can no longer be repaired (support ended in 2018) and are being replaced during the week of February 23, 2022.
- 2.) 168 Projectors of varying age and models. Projectors can no longer be repaired, are past their useful life and/or replacements bulbs exceed the cost of projector replacement. Please find age and quantities of projectors illustrated in table below.

PROJECTORS	
Age Years/Model	Sum of Qty
5	14
Epson 680	12
Epson 685Wi	2
7	63
Epson 965h	63
8	31
Epson 530	1
Epson 580	23
Epson 585Wi	2
Epson 595Wi	5
9	6
Epson 965	6
10	15
Epson 480	13
Epson 485Wi	2
11	1
Epson 905	1
13	11

Epson 84	8
Epson 84+	2
NEC 610S	1
14	15
Epson 83+	3
Unifi 45	8
Unifi 55	3
Unifi 75	1
15	2
Epson 83c	2
16	3
NEC VT695	3
17	3
NEC VT676	1
Unifi 35	2
18	4
NEC VT470	2
NEC VT570	1
NEC VT670	1
Grand Total	168

Once so declared, the school department will take the required steps to appropriately recycle and/or dispose of these items, which have been deemed to have no residual value. All items will be disposed of in accordance with all laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please contact me with questions about this request at 781-670-2880 or susan.bottan@reading.k12.ma.us.

Thank you.



Administrative Offices
82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
781 944-5800

READING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thomas Wise Chair
Shawn Brandt Vice-Chair

Erin Gaffen
Sarah McLaughlin
Carla Nazzaro
Charles Robinson

Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

TO: Reading School Committee
FROM: Thomas Wise, Reading School Committee Chair
DATE: February 14, 2022
TOPIC: Mid-Year Formative Assessment Plan

At our meeting on Thursday, we will commence the Mid-Year Formative Assessment process for the Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Milaschewski. As a point of quick reference, the guidelines for the review process can be found on the [DESE website](#).

As you know, we approved his goals for the year during our meeting on October 14th. Dr. Milaschewski will provide a brief update against those goals with a primary focus on the fourth goal. You may recall the goals are:

Goal 1: Effective Entry and Direction Setting. By late spring, the district will have broad recognition by key stakeholder groups about the district's most critical needs and will have a widely-understood process underway to identify the strategies and goals that will address those needs most effectively, and the measures that will be used to assess progress.

Goal 2: Maintaining Momentum During the Transition. Keep the district moving forward during this year's transition in leadership by working with principals and other district leaders to ensure that meaningful progress is made on critical district and school goals.

Goal 3: (Professional Practice) New Superintendent Induction Program. Develop skills in strategy development, data analysis, and instructional leadership by actively engaging in the first year of the New Superintendent Induction Program.

Goal 4: (Student Learning Goal): Coaching, Developing, and Supporting Principals. Design and implement a district strategy for coaching, supporting, and developing principal talent

The focus will be the fourth goal as the other three goals are goals, we have seen progress against and the process of throughout the year. This presentation will serve as the progress report that is outlined in the Formative Review section of the DESE documentation.

Following the meeting, and prior to the next meeting in March, we are asking each School Committee member to submit a brief written document outlining their feedback. We ask that the individual documents be no more than two pages. The individual documents will be collected and shared in the packet for our next meeting, and we will then formalize the feedback publicly as we discuss the Committee's thoughts on any mid-year adjustments that will be necessary. This is a bit different than our past process, but it is one that we believe will allow the Committee to hear the progress, process the progress and provide feedback in a more substantive, but not overwhelming fashion.

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82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

To: Reading School Committee
From: Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Date: February 17, 2022
Re: Superintendent Mid-Year Formative Introduction & Goals Review

During the February 17th School Committee meeting, I will present a mid-year update on the progress towards my Superintendent goals. I have attached the presentation that outlines these goals in more detail. In addition, I am also including a presentation that I will use to discuss my progress towards Goal #4 around coaching, developing, and supporting school leaders.

Superintendent Formative Assessment - Goals

February 17th, 2021 School Committee Meeting



Superintendent Goals - Overview

- Goal 1 (District Improvement Goal): Effective Entry and Direction Setting
- Goal 2 (District Improvement Goal): Maintaining Momentum During the Transition
- Goal 3 (Professional Practice Goal): New Superintendent Induction Program
- Goal 4 (Student Learning Goal): Coaching, Supporting, and Developing School Leaders



Goal 1 (District Improvement Goal): Effective Entry and Direction Setting

By late spring, the district will have broad recognition by key stakeholder groups about the district's most critical needs and will have a widely understood process underway to identify the strategies and goals that will address those needs most effectively, and the measures that will be used to assess progress.



Goal 1: Effective Entry and Direction Setting

Key Actions

1. By mid-August, present to the school committee a written ***Entry Plan***, including (a) types of evidence to be analyzed, (b) stakeholders to be interviewed, (c) methods for assessing instructional practice, d) processes to be used to identify any access and achievement gaps, and (e) methods for assessing district systems of support including financial management, human resources, and operations.
2. By February, complete and present a ***Report of Entry Findings*** that (a) synthesizes evidence collected, (b) identifies strengths of the system and the most critical areas for improvement that require further inquiry, and (c) identifies next steps for study.
3. By May, launch a process to engage key stakeholders in identifying key strategies to improve student learning and other district systems of support.



Goal 1: Effective Entry and Direction Setting

Benchmarks

1. Presentations completed on schedule (process).
2. Strategy Development process launched (process).
3. Results of spring survey of key leaders including administrators, teacher leaders, school committee, and union leaders) demonstrate awareness (90 percent) and engagement (75 percent) in the entry process and confidence (75 percent) that the Report of Entry Findings captured important insights about the state of the district and the issues that most require attention.



Goal 2 (District Improvement Goal): Maintaining Momentum During the Transition

Keep the district moving forward during this year's transition in leadership by working with principals and other district leaders to ensure that meaningful progress is made on critical district and school goals.



Goal 2: Maintaining Momentum During the Transition

Key Actions

1. By November 1, review and establish student learning, professional practice and district/school improvement goals with all principals and district administrators.
2. By March 1, complete Formative Evaluation conferences with each principal and district administrator the superintendent supervises.
3. By late spring, conduct at least three school visits to each school.
4. By June 30, analyze progress on goals and complete Summative Evaluation Reports for all supervisees.



Goal 2: Maintaining Momentum During the Transition

Benchmarks

1. Completed Educator Evaluation Plans (process).
2. Log or notes demonstrating at least three visits per school (process).
3. Analysis of Summative Evaluation Reports demonstrates “meets” or “exceeds” rating on 75 percent of principal and district administrator goals (outcome).
4. Survey of district leadership team (principals, coordinators, directors, central office leadership) assessing progress towards district goals



Goal 3 (Professional Practice): New Superintendent Induction Program

Develop skills in strategy development, data analysis, and instructional leadership by actively engaging in the first year of the New Superintendent Induction Program.



Goal 3: New Superintendent Induction Program

Key Actions

1. Attend eight day-long sessions.
2. Complete all NSIP assignments.
3. Meet with assigned coach at least monthly.



Goal 3: New Superintendent Induction Program

Benchmarks

1. Calendar documents attendance and contact with coach (process).
2. Verification from NSIP that superintendent actively engaged in first year of the program (process and outcome).
3. Superintendent written reflection on impact of NSIP on leadership practice
4. NSIP Coach written reflection on evidence of NSIP on Superintendent's practice



Goal 4:
Coaching, Developing, and Supporting Principals

Design and implement a district strategy for coaching, supporting, and developing principal talent.



Goal 4: Coaching, Developing, and Supporting Principals

Key Actions

1. Research best practices for coaching, supporting, and developing principals
2. Complete gap analysis between current practices and best practices in this area
3. Design structures to close this gap that reflect these best practices and align to Reading context
4. Onboard school leaders with goals, rationale, and structures for district approach in coaching, supporting, and developing principal talent
5. Consistently monitor progress and effectiveness to drive adjustments in strategy or approach



Goal 4: Coaching, Developing, and Supporting Principals

Benchmarks

1. Analysis of agendas, protocols, and resources with a focus on the connection to student learning (process)
2. Formative feedback through ongoing principal surveys addressing impact of strategy on student learning (process)
3. Interviews with principals addressing impact of strategy on student learning (process)
4. Analysis of statewide student growth measures, common assessment data, student work samples, and teacher instructional practice (outcome)



**Cultivating Leadership: Coaching,
Supporting, and Developing School Leaders
in the Reading Public Schools**



Principal Leadership Really Matters!

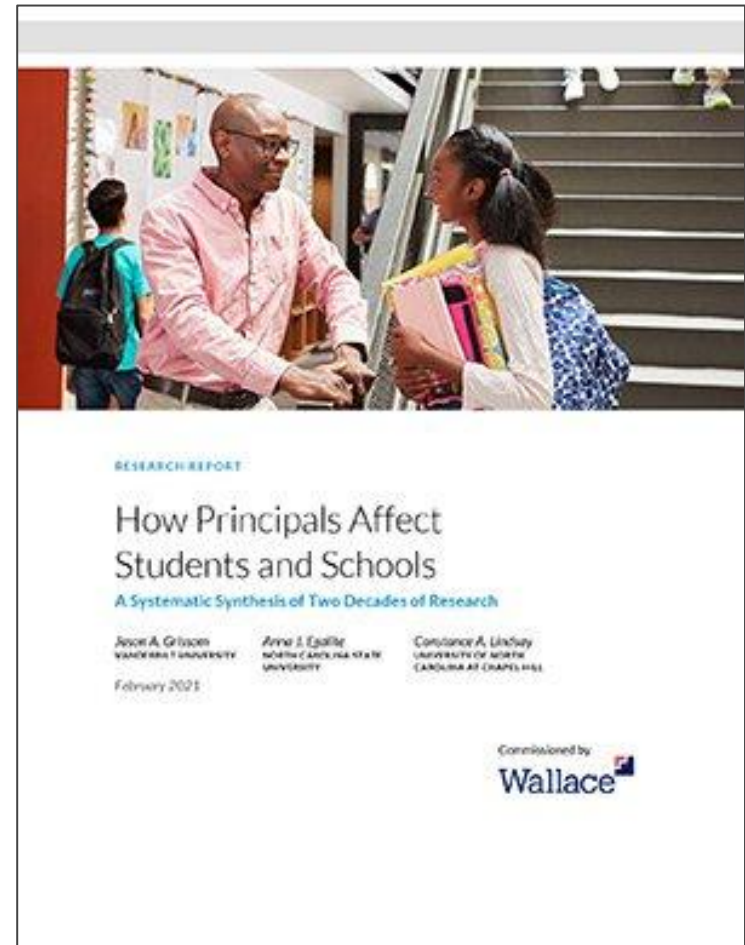
- “To date, we have not found a single case of a school improving its student achievement record in the absence of talented leadership” (Louis, Leithwood, Wahlstrom, and Anderson, 2003, p. 3)
- “Highly effective principals raise the achievement of a typical student in their schools by between two and seven months of learning in a single school year; ineffective principals lower achievement by the same amount” (Branch, Rivkin & Hanushek, 2012, para. 3)

Louis, K. S., Wahlstrom, K. L., Michlin, M., Gordon, M., Thomas, E., Leithwood, K., Anderson, S. E., Mascal, B., Strauss, T., & Moore, S. (2010). Final Report of Research to the Wallace Foundation. (p. 333). New York: Wallace Foundation.

*Branch, G. F., Hanushek, E. A., & Rivkin, S. (2012). School Leaders Matter. *Education Next*, 13(1). Retrieved from <https://www.educationnext.org/school-leaders-matter>*

Impact of Principal PD

"It is difficult to envision an investment in K–12 education with a higher ceiling on its potential return than improving school leadership" (p.xiv).



Grissom, J. A., Egalite, A. J., & Lindsay, C. A. (2021, February). *How Principals Affect Students and Schools: A Systematic Synthesis of Two Decades of Research*. New York: Wallace Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/principalsynthesis>

Current PD Structure

Across K-12 Education Sector...

Operations-Focused

Inconsistent

One-way

Research/Best Practice

1. **Role of central office** in supporting principal instructional leadership development
2. Effective **structures** and requisite **conditions**
3. Leading **change** in the times of **challenge and crisis**

Central Office Role

- Creating and protecting time and space for this work
- Enacting structures that:
 - Foster collaboration
 - Require group problem solving
 - Leverage principal expertise
 - Individualize support
 - Allow for reflection
- Facilitating through a “teaching and learning” approach

Structures/Conditions

Psychological Safety

Principal PD

- Supports principals in solving challenging and complex problems
- Infuses research and best practice into problem solving process

1:1 Coaching

- Provides job-embedded, authentic, individualized learning opportunity
- Situated within inquiry cycle structure
- Occurs while principals lead schools in real-time

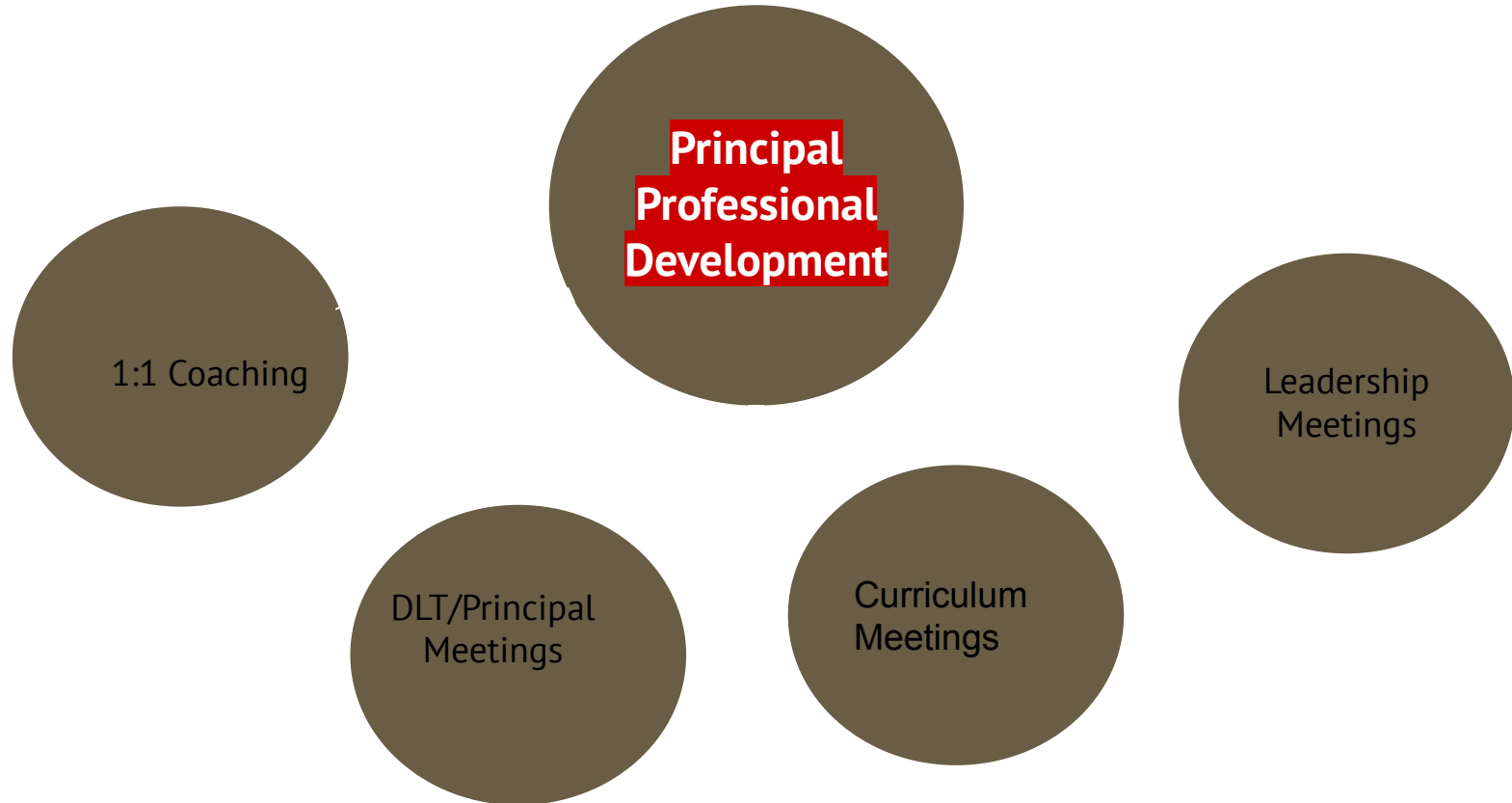
Crisis Leadership

- “It is tempting to resort to command and control in a crisis, but it is leaders who **hold** instead that help us work through it” (Petriglieri, 2020, para. 17)
- “Leadership in an uncertain, fast-moving crisis means making oneself available to feel what it is like to be in another’s shoes - to lead with **empathy**” (Kerrissey & Edmondson, 2020, para. 5)

Petriglieri, G. (2020, April 22). The Psychology Behind Effective Crisis Leadership. Harvard Business Review. Retrieved from <https://hbr.org/2020/04/the-psychology-behind-effective-crisis-leadership>

Kerrissey, M. J., & Edmondson, A. C. (2020, April 13). What Good Leadership Looks Like During This Pandemic. Harvard Business Review. Retrieved from <https://hbr.org/2020/04/what-good-leadership-looks-like-during-this-pandemic>

Four-Pronged Approach



Leadership Meetings - Structure and Content

Leadership Meeting Structure

- Meet once a week, virtually, for 45 minutes
- Intended for principals and APs with Director of Finance & Asst. Supts.
- Split by levels (ES, MS, HS)

Leadership Meeting Content

- Tied to Strategy #3 - “Develop and communicate common operational systems”
- Focused on logistics/”nuts and bolts”

DLT/Principal Meetings - Structure and Content

DLT/Principal Meeting Structure

- 90 minutes every other week
- Rotates principals and entire DLT
- Separate time allocated for APs

DLT/Principal Meeting Content

- Tied to Strategy #4 - “Develop shared mindset and practices around needs of all learners”
- Share best practices and ideas around teaching and learning
- Collaboratively address challenges and problems of practice
- Engage in dialogue, sharing, and collaboration around topics of principal/DLT interest and relevance

1:1 Coaching - Structure and Content

1:1 Coaching Structure

- Meet at least 1x/per month
- Focused on principals

1:1 Coaching Content

- Tied to Strategy #4 - “Develop shared mindset and practices around needs of all learners”
- Designed around 1-2 collaboratively developed, individualized goals
- Facilitated through inquiry cycle process



Curriculum Meetings - Structure and Content

Curriculum Meeting Structure

- Meet 1x/month
- Learning & Teaching Office meets with elem. principals and MS principals
- Asst. Supt. joins HS Dept. Heads when focused on learning and teaching

Curriculum Meeting Content

- Tied to Strategy #2 “Develop shared mindset & practices around needs of all learners
- Focused on implementation and improvement of curriculum, instruction and assessment
- Collaboratively set goals based on examination of assessments and student work

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82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867
Phone: 781-944-5800
Fax: 781-942-9149

To: Reading School Committee
From: Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.
Date: February 15, 2022
Re: Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Entry Plan Updates

Since beginning as Superintendent in July, I have committed to leading a structured entry process that would guide my transition to the district. I have attached a copy of this entry plan to provide more specifics around the goals, structures, and intended outcomes of this process.

During the February 17th School Committee meeting, I will share my initial findings from this entry process with our Reading community. I have merged these findings with what our Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, Dr. Sarah Hardy, has learned through her own entry process. We hope that this presentation will provide our community with a shared understanding of some of the strengths, challenges, and opportunities facing our district and set the stage for the collaborative work of defining a path forward for RPS.

We look forward to the feedback from the School Committee and the larger Reading community. Following this presentation, we will share a more detailed, written, document outlining these entry findings.

SUPERINTENDENT ENTRY PLAN

Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.



July 1, 2021



READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



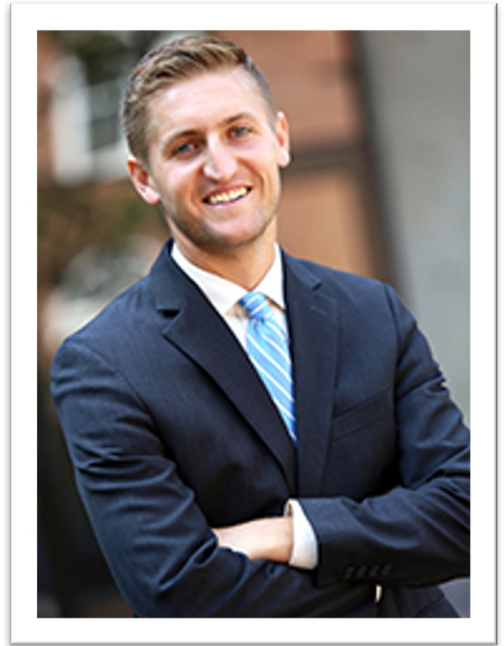
SUPERINTENDENT ENTRY PLAN

Dear Reading Community,

I am excited and honored to lead the Reading Public Schools as your next Superintendent. Throughout the search process, I was compelled by so many of the core strengths that define the Reading Public Schools. From a tremendous staff of educators, to a deeply supportive community, to a tradition of high-quality academic and extracurricular programming, it is clear that the district operates from a position of strength. I am humbled by the trust that the Reading School Committee and the Reading community have placed in me to build on these strengths and to deliver on the promise of a world-class education for every student in the Reading Public Schools.

In order to begin this collaborative work, I will be using a structured entry plan to guide my transition while managing the day-to-day operations of the district. As you can see in the plan, this entry process will provide me with the opportunity to start to build the relationships with staff, families, students and the Reading community that will be so critical for our work together. Through this entry process, our community will develop a shared understanding of some of the strengths, challenges, and opportunities facing our district. At the same time, what we learn through this process will guide us in defining a common vision for the future and in developing a path to lead us there.

“...build an excellent, inclusive, and bold future for the Reading Public Schools.”



Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.

I recognize that this leadership transition comes at a critical time as we navigate the impact of the pandemic and grapple with how to prepare our students for an ever-changing world. By using your thoughts, ideas, and perspectives, this entry process will position us to leverage these challenges as opportunities and build an excellent, inclusive, and bold future for the Reading Public Schools.

I will be in touch soon with more information regarding each of the entry activities outlined in this plan. I look forward to working with you!

With gratitude,
Tom

Core Values

Throughout this entry process, the community will have the opportunity to learn about my leadership style, beliefs, and values. As I begin this process, I wanted to share the three core values that will not only guide my entry process, but will serve at the core of my leadership throughout my time in Reading.

Collaboration

The best work occurs when it is done collaboratively. As a district, we must ensure that we foster collaborative structures between and across stakeholder groups - staff, families, students, and the community. High-quality collaboration enables us to leverage the rich diversity of perspectives, ideas, and experiences that are essential to any sustainable improvement effort.

Equity

We must provide every student with what they need to be successful. This requires us to identify, analyze and confront gaps in opportunities and outcomes for all of our students, including across lines of race, socio-economic background, and disability status. When we are unwavering in our commitment to equity, we support every student in maximizing their individual potential.

Excellence

All students are capable of incredible accomplishment. When we hold our students to the highest of expectations and provide them with the appropriate support, we can foster a culture of excellence and expect excellence from each of our students. As educators, we must model, recognize, and celebrate excellence in all areas, including academics, extracurriculars, and in character.



General Goals for the Entry Process:

1. Establish strong working relationship with the Reading School Committee that is grounded in a common set of goals and priorities
2. Build relationships with as many stakeholders as I can across the community, including staff, families, students, community leadership/members, and local/school organizations
3. Collaborate with School Committee to set year 1 goals for my leadership
4. Develop a shared understanding of the district's core strengths, challenges, and opportunities and also the district's current operating and instructional practices, structures, and systems
5. Utilize data trends to collaboratively determine district's goals, priorities, and strategic actions
6. Assess district's strategic plan and collaboratively make adjustments for implementation starting in SY 2022-2023

Entry Phases:

The entry plan consists of 4 phases. During each of these phases, I will continue to lead the implementation of the district's current strategic plan and manage the day-to-day operations of the district.

Phase 1: Pre-Entry (March-July)

During this phase, I will be seeking to learn more about the Reading context and preparing for the leadership transition. The goal of this phase is to ensure as smooth of a leadership transition as possible.

Phase 2: Listening and Learning (July-January)

During this phase, I will build relationships with community stakeholders and listen to learn about the strengths, challenges, and opportunities facing RPS as well as the current systems, structures, and practices that guide the district. The goal of this phase is to develop a deep understanding of the multiple perspectives and the complexity around each of the aforementioned themes and to gather the data that will serve at the foundation of the district's strategic plan.

Phase 3: Analysis and Sharing (February-March)

During this phase, I will share and analyze the data I collected during the "Learning and Listening" phase. The goal of this phase is for our community to develop a shared understanding of some of the strengths, challenges, and opportunities within the district and also some of the current practices, systems, and structures that guide the district.

Phase 4: Planning (April - June)

During this phase, I will use the data from the "Analysis and Sharing" phase to collaboratively develop district-wide goals with the Reading School Committee and determine the district's strategic priorities and actions. I will organize a smaller team of key district and school leaders to develop a plan for implementing the goals, priorities, and actions within the district context. The goal of this phase is to assess and modify the district's strategic plan and prepare for implementation.



Key Activities Within Each Phase

Phase 1: Pre-Entry

- ◇ Lead informal, 1-on-1, meet and greet sessions with school principals, central office administrators, Town Manager, and School Committee members
- ◇ Consult with central office administrative team within each of the district's hiring processes
- ◇ Observe each School Committee meeting and other community meetings (Town Meeting)
- ◇ Organize series of transition meetings with Superintendent Doherty

Phase 2: Listening and Learning

- ◇ Engage in full-day visits to each school community
- ◇ Lead Central Office Meetings to calibrate on structures, systems, practices and progress in the following areas:
 - ◇ Teaching and Learning (Curriculum, instruction, assessment and intervention), Technology, Data Use, Talent Management, Special Education, English Learner programs, METCO, Title 1, Health and Safety, Strategic Planning and Budgeting
- ◇ Lead 1:1 & Group Meetings to discuss district strengths, challenges, and opportunities
 - ◇ School Committee (Individual)
 - ◇ Administrative Leadership Team (Individual and Group)
 - ◇ Principals, Directors, Coordinators, Department Chairs
 - ◇ Town Leadership (Individually)
 - ◇ Town Manager, Town Accountant, Police Chief, Fire Chief, School Resource Officers, Coalition Executive Director, Library Director, Director of Facilities, Finance Committee, Select Board
 - ◇ District Staff (Group - by building and unit)
 - ◇ Classroom Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Custodial Staff, Secretarial Staff, Collective-Bargaining Unit Leadership
 - ◇ Parents/Caregivers (Group - by school and by organization)
 - ◇ PTOs, School Councils, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Reading Education Foundation, METCO Families
 - ◇ Students (Group - by school and organization)
 - ◇ General Community (Group)
 - ◇ Community Organizations (Group)
 - ◇ Clergy Association, Rotary/Chamber of Commerce/Lions, RCTV, Early childhood care centers, Local media outlets



SUPERINTENDENT ENTRY PLAN

Key Activities Within Each Phase, continued:

Phase 2: Listening and Learning, continued

In these meetings, I will ask stakeholders a common set of 4 questions (listed below) to generate conversation:

1. *What are our district's core strengths (1-2)? How do you know?*
2. *What are the biggest challenges (1-2) facing our district? How could we go about addressing them?*
3. *Imagine 5 years from now RPS is regarded as one of the top districts in both our state and country. What did we do to get there?*
4. *What do you need most from me as a leader right now?*

Phase 3: Analysis and Sharing

- ◇ Analyze and organize data from each component of the entry process
- ◇ Share data and analysis of trends, across all stakeholder groups, with the community through a Reading School Committee meeting

Phase 4: Planning

- ◇ Collaborate with School Committee to set district goals
- ◇ Convene guiding coalition, of school and district leadership, to make sense of data trends and organize strategic plan for meeting district goals
- ◇ Determine timelines and process for providing updates on the progress of the strategic plan
- ◇ Host a retreat with management team to finalize the strategic plan and organize for implementation

Conclusion:

I would like to thank the entire Reading community in advance for engaging with me throughout this entry process. This leadership transition presents our entire community with the opportunity to deeply analyze our current approaches, gain a shared understanding of our core strengths, challenges, and opportunities, envision what our future could look like, and develop a plan to get us there. I am eager to begin this collaborative work with you through this entry process.

I look forward to meeting each of you soon in meetings, at schools, and around the community!

Thomas Milaschewski, Ed.D.



Report of Entry Findings: Overview

Presentation to the Reading School Committee
February 17th, 2022



Framing the Entry Plan

- Context of Entry Plan
- Goals of Entry Plan
- Purpose of Tonight's Overview



Entry Activities

- Meet and Greets
- Staff Office Hours
- Full Day School Visits
- Staff Listening Sessions
- Entry Interviews with Community Stakeholders
- Ongoing School and Classroom Visits
- Attendance at School/Community Events



Entry Questions

1. What are our district's core strengths (1-2)? How do you know?
2. What are the biggest challenges (1-2) facing our district? How could we go about addressing them?
3. Imagine 5 years from now RPS is regarded as one of the top districts in both our state and country. What did we do to get there?
4. What do you need most from me as a leader right now?



Stakeholders



Students



Families



Educators



Staff



Union Leaders



Education Partners



Community Organizations



City Governance



Businesses



Community Leaders



Local Press



School Committee



Core Strengths

- Staff
- Community
- Communication
- Extracurricular Opportunities
- Student Experience



Staff

- “There are many strengths in district, but the number one most important / influential aspect on my kids’ education has been the teachers”
- “The district's core strength is the staff, 100%. The staff is dedicated to guiding each and every student to reach their fullest potential, caring about their social/emotional development even to the point of taking it home with us every day, and setting clear goals and high expectations for them while providing the supports to get them there.”
- “Teachers are outstanding, hard working and care deeply for the students.”
- “The district core strength is the dedication its staff has to their students. It is not uncommon to see teacher parking lots half full early morning and well after dismissal in our district. What other district has teaching staff asking for weekend access to work? The students in this district are at the forefront of staff's actions and thoughts.”



Community

- “A strength is community support of education and the schools. This is evident by passing the override in 2018 and all the ‘we love Reading teachers’ signs on people’s lawns.”
- “Strong sense of community thanks to our neighborhood schools. Evident in family interactions at drop off and pickup.”
- “Community- you can just feel it! Events that involve families and local community helpers.”
- “We have strong community ties facilitated by small neighborhood schools, phenomenal PTO fundraising and involvement, dedicated and informed teachers, investment in character education and mental health.”



Communication

- “Clear communication and attention to student needs is a strength. We receive regular updates from the district that are clear and transparent. Our children’s principal is a fantastic communicator. I know what is going on at the school each week and beyond, and if I forget, I know where to look.”
- “Continually impressed with communication from our children’s teachers, principal’s weekly newsletter and the email communications from the district.”
- “One strength is communication between teachers and parents. I always receive prompt responses to emails and when I’ve requested a meeting it is set up as soon as possible”



Extracurricular Opportunities

- “The extracurricular offerings in Reading are at the core of my child’s educational experience. They have been instrumental in the growth and development of my child.”
- “Reading boasts the absolute best extracurricular - arts, athletics, music, clubs. There is something for everyone and they all perform at a high level.”
- “The amazing extracurricular activities set the Reading Public Schools apart from other schools, both public and private.”



Student Experience

- “High level classes at high school provide strong preparation for college. My children who graduated are academically successful in college”
- “Both of our elementary children have enjoyed school and have grown tremendously in their academic skills and developed a love for school and learning.”
- “The schools have done an amazing job at meeting the kids where they are and growing them into stronger and caring scholars.”



Strategic Objectives from Current Strategic Plan

***Strategic Objective
A Redesigning
School (2020-2021
School Year)***

Based on our work since March, 2020, the school district will build a foundation of teaching and learning practices, infrastructure changes, assessment practices, and operations efficiencies to prepare schools for current conditions and future challenges in a post-pandemic world. This strategic objective may be extended based on the trajectory of the pandemic.

***Strategic Objective B
Coherent Instructional
Systems (2020-2023
School Years)***

Based on qualitative and quantitative data analysis, the school district will evaluate and refine standards-based instructional systems to meet the needs of all learners. Please note that state standardized data will look different and may be less available in a post pandemic world.

***Strategic Objective C
Supportive and Safe
Learning Environment
(2020-2023 School
Years)***

Based on quantitative and qualitative data analysis, the school district will review our equity and social justice practices, analyze student social emotional growth, and refine systems of support to ensure a healthy and successful learning community while meeting the unique needs of students.



Opportunities by Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective A: Redesigning Schools

Strategic Objective B: Coherent Instructional Systems

Strategic Objective C: Supportive and Safe Learning Environments



Entry Plan Core Values

- Excellence
- Equity
- Collaboration



Redesigning School

Pandemic Impact

- Academic
- Social-Emotional

Human Resources

- Recruitment
- Development
- Retention

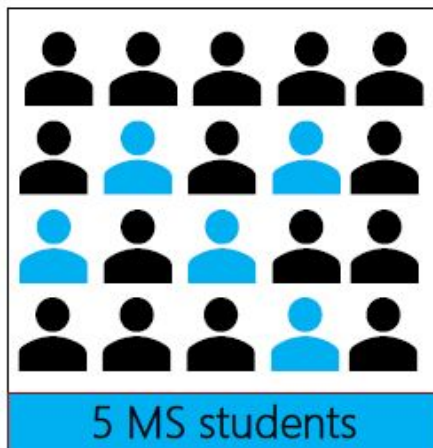


Youth Behavior Risk Survey - Spring 2021

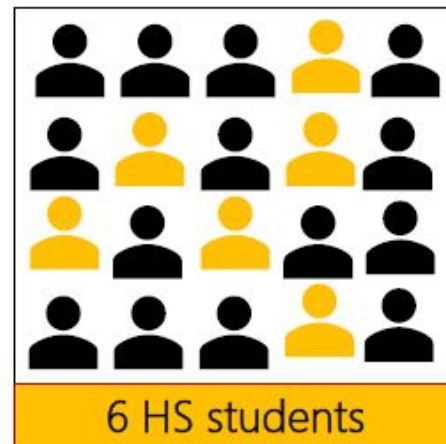
Anatomy of a Pandemic Classroom

(20 students)

During the pandemic, 23% of Reading MS students and 31% of Reading HS students reported their "mental health was not good 'all' or 'most of the time'".



In a MS classroom of 20 students, this would be about 5 students impacted.



In a HS classroom of 20 students, this would be about 6 students impacted.

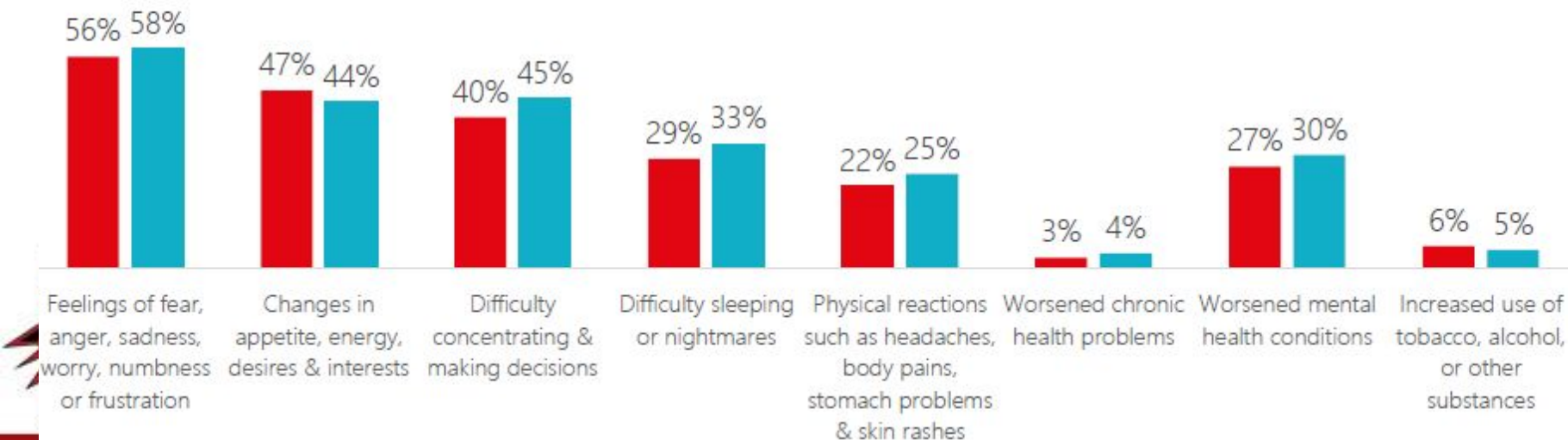


Youth Behavior Risk Survey - Spring 2021

Reading YRBS Pandemic Related

During the pandemic, have you experienced any of the following? (Yes is bar below)

■ Reading MS/HS 2021 ■ ML MS/HS 2021



Staffing Data

2020 Staffing Retention Rates

	District			State Totals Roll-Up		
	Total	# Retained	% Retained	Total	# Retained	% Retained
Superintendent	1	1	100.0	400	325	81.3
Principals	9	9	100.0	1,889	1,647	87.2
Teachers	335	288	86.0	77,781	68,779	88.4



Staffing Data

Staffing Data by Race, Ethnicity, Gender

	District	State
African American	1.6	6,273.5
Asian	5.5	2,291.3
Hispanic	3.8	6,734.3
White	521.2	120,120.9
Native American	0.0	133.6
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.0	79.4
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	1.0	716.7
Males	83.3	27,782.9
Females	449.7	108,536.1
FTE Count	533.0	136,349.7



Redesigning School

Access

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Enrichment for Elementary and Middle School
- Coursework/Pathways Aligned to Student Interest at Secondary Level
- Tracks/Leveling at High School
- Innovations at High School
- Math Pathways Grades 6-12
- METCO Program



Redesigning School

Time on Learning

- Scheduling
- Vacations, Summer, Before and After School
- Elementary Half-Days



Coherent Instructional Systems

Raising Academic Bar

- Improve Academic Outcomes
- Academic Success for English Learners, Economically Disadvantaged Students, Students with Disabilities, Students of Color
- Path for Highest Achieving Learners
- Consistency Across Schools
- Celebrate Student Success



Comparable Districts Overview

District Name	2021 Enrollment				2021 Next Gen MCAS								
	Total Enrollment #	Eco. Dis. %	SWD %	ELL %	% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations					Growth average SGP			
					Grades 3-8		Grade 10		Grades 5 and 8	Grades 3-8		Grade 10	
					ELA	Math	ELA	Math		Science	ELA	Math	ELA
Franklin*	4,830	11.3	18.2	1.5	60%	48%	79%	65%	58%	34.8	30.5	58.6	33.6
Hanover*	2,614	9.3	18.4	1.0	59%	52%	83%	71%	58%	42.9	40.7	57.0	42.4
Longmeadow*	2,751	10.4	18.1	0.4	64%	46%	79%	76%	55%	38.0	28.4	42.7	38.2
Marshfield*	3,760	14.1	18.9	1.2	65%	50%	81%	66%	58%	37.3	29.6	53.6	33.8
Nashoba*	3,086	10.2	17.4	3.0	66%	53%	82%	75%	64%	39.1	35.0	51.3	39.4
North Reading*	2,309	9.5	18.1	0.5	70%	61%	83%	69%	76%	43.6	36.5	53.9	37.6
Reading*	3,951	8.9	17.8	1.1	64%	49%	84%	72%	60%	41.9	32.4	52.7	33.0
Wellesley*	4,432	6.9	17.1	1.9	75%	62%	92%	88%	69%	43.8	34.5	58.0	51.2
Westford*	4,714	7.3	15.5	1.7	73%	65%	89%	83%	69%	47.5	39.2	66.1	44.7
Westwood*	2,952	6.2	18.3	0.8	75%	62%	84%	80%	70%	43.7	31.2	52.6	47.8
Wilmington*	2,830	11.9	16.9	0.8	56%	46%	81%	65%	50%	35.2	31.0	58.8	30.0



Grades 3-8 - ELA Spring 2021 Results

	% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
All Students	64
Reported Subgroups	
Economically Disadvantaged	39
Students w/ Disabilities	25
High Needs	33
Race/Ethnicity	
African Amer./Black	32
Asian	74
Hispanic/Latino	41
Multi-Race, Non-Hisp./Lat.	63
White	65

Grades 3-8 - Mathematics Spring 2021 Results

	% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
All Students	49
Reported Subgroups	
Economically Disadvantaged	15
Students w/ Disabilities	14
High Needs	18
EL	5
Race/Ethnicity	
African Amer./Black	21
Asian	59
Hispanic/Latino	23
Multi-Race, Non-Hisp./Lat.	48
White	50



Grade 10 - ELA Spring 2021 Results	
	% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
All Students	84
Reported Subgroups	
Economically Disadvantaged	69
Students w/ Disabilities	41
High Needs	51
Race/Ethnicity	
Asian	94
White	86

Grade 10 - Mathematics Spring 2021 Results	
	% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
All Students	72
Reported Subgroups	
Economically Disadvantaged	46
Students w/ Disabilities	23
High Needs	32
Race/Ethnicity	
Asian	100
White	72



Advanced Course Completion in Reading Public Schools

	All	Econ. Dis.	High Needs	SWD	African American/ Black	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	White
2020/2021	68.2%	27.3%	26.9%	22.3%	23.5%	83.9%	35.7%	69.7%
2019/2020	65.9%	43.4%	38.5%	30.9%	55.6%	76.5%	42.9%	66.0%
2018/2019	67.1%	49.1%	39.0%	32.2%	44.4%	74.3%	66.7%	67.9%
2017/2018	61.5%	25.0%	26.9%	25.2%	23.1%	74.1%	27.3%	62.5%



Attendance Data

Student Attendance (2020-21) - End of Year					
Student Group	Attendance Rate	Average # of Absences	Absent 10 or more days	Chronically Absent (10% or more)	Unexcused > 9 days
All Student	96.5	5.8	15.5	6.9	2.5
Female	96.5	5.9	15.7	6.8	2.3
Male	96.5	5.8	15.3	7.0	2.7
Economically Disadvantaged	91.4	13.8	40.4	24.3	11.5
High Needs	93.7	10.3	29.4	16.6	6.9
LEP English language learner	89.1	17.1	38.9	24.1	16.7
Students with disabilities	94.0	9.8	28.0	15.4	6.3
African American/Black	92.4	12.0	41.9	22.9	7.6
American Indian or Alaskan Native					
Asian	97.5	4.0	9.0	4.5	1.4
Hispanic or Latino	93.4	10.7	33.8	19.9	5.9
Multi-race, non-Hispanic or Latino	95.3	7.6	20.0	12.4	1.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander					
White	96.7	5.5	14.3	5.9	2.3



Per Pupil Comparisons

Finance Committee Criteria	
Municipality	FY20 In-District Per Pupil
Dedham	\$ 19,957
Mansfield	\$ 16,734
Westford	\$ 14,748
Marshfield	\$ 14,715
Chelmsford	\$ 14,621
Winchester	\$ 14,560
Milton	\$ 14,471
Hingham	\$ 14,255
Reading	\$ 14,245
North Andover	\$ 14,044
Easton	\$ 13,892
Belmont	\$ 13,844
Shrewsbury	\$ 13,537

Middlesex League	
Municipality	FY20 In-District Per Pupil
Watertown	\$ 21,346
Burlington	\$ 20,793
Lexington	\$ 18,363
Woburn	\$ 17,987
Wilmington	\$ 17,217
Stoneham	\$ 17,098
Wakefield	\$ 15,930
Arlington	\$ 14,805
Winchester	\$ 14,560
Reading	\$ 14,245
Belmont	\$ 13,844
Melrose	\$ 11,857

DESE DART	
Municipality	FY20 In-District Per Pupil
Wellesley	\$ 20,054
Westwood	\$ 19,402
Nashoba	\$ 17,585
Wilmington	\$ 17,217
North Reading	\$ 16,323
Longmeadow	\$ 14,943
Westford	\$ 14,748
Marshfield	\$ 14,715
Franklin	\$ 14,698
Hanover	\$ 14,321
Reading	\$ 14,245



Coherent Instructional Systems

Implementation of Curriculum

- Curricular Materials
- Instructional Practices
- Curriculum Review

Assessment Systems

- Benchmark and Screening Assessments
- Systems for Data Analysis



Coherent Instructional Systems

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

- Student Support Teams
- Selecting Interventions
- Monitoring Progress

Leadership

- Focus on Instructional Leadership
- Use of Educator Evaluation
- Curriculum Leadership Structure



Supportive and Safe Learning Environment

Culture

- Trust/Morale
- Public Relations

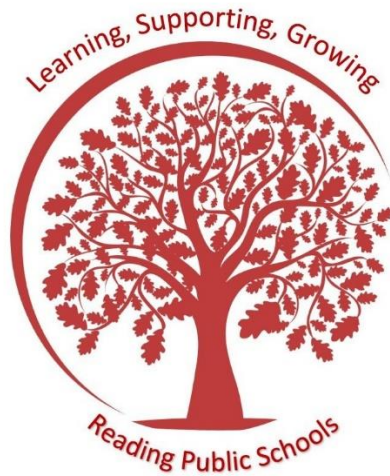
Inclusive Environment

- Addressing Hate/Racism
- Student Belonging

Community Engagement



Reading Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Packet
February 17, 2022



Information/ Correspondence

SEEM COLLABORATIVE APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The FY23 Budget is set up to build on one section to the next as follows:

- Enrollment Headcount
- Enrollment FTE (Full Time Equivalency)
- Extended Year Enrollment
- Tuition and Service Rates
- Impact of Tuition Recommendation
- Revenue
- Staffing FTE
- Salary Scales
- General Fund Revenue and Expense by Category
- Non-General Fund Revenue and Expense
- Supplemental Material to the FY2018 Budget
 - Individual Program Budgets
 - Revenue and Expense Summary
 - Expense Summary by Category
 - Summary Detail - General Fund
 - Summary Detail – Non-General Fund

Information from past years is included to provide some history and to be used for comparison purposes.

Included is an Administrative Allocation Expense as an effort to demonstrate true program costs. The allocation is established by calculating the total of the programs listed below and the percentage each is of the total. The Administrative Expense Allocation is included in the Budget Backup pages of:

- Assessment Center
- TLC
- Campus
- Middle
- Prep
- DHOH

SEEM COLLABORATIVE APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Budget is presented in accordance with the SEEM Collaborative mission, vision, beliefs and purpose and reflects the following goals:

- Position SEEM Collaborative for continued improvement of educational programs and student achievement.
- Continue to be responsive to our districts’ revolving needs and the needs of an increasingly complex population of students.
- Exercise fiscal responsibility to minimize expenses while maximizing services.
- Exist as a viable option to school districts by attracting and retaining qualified staff while offering competitive salary and benefits.
- Use methodology to determine tuition and fee for service rates that is based on determining projected expenses and projected enrollment, and then establishing tuition and fees at a level that will generate enough revenue to cover the projected expenses.

Enrollment:

The FY23 Budget is developed to support a projected school year enrollment of 337 student FTE, a decrease of 9 FTE compared to the FY22 budgeted FTE, a projected extended year enrollment of 226 students, a decrease of 26 FTE compared to FY22. Compared to the actual FTE for the FY22 EYP the FY23 EYP FTE reflects an increase of 9 FTE.

Staffing:

The staffing FTE for FY23 reflects a net increase of 3.6 FTE compared to the current FY22 staffing FTE. 2 FTE are teaching positions, 1 FTE is a job coach positions, and .6 FTE is a BCBA position. The additional teaching positons at TLC will allow for program growth and the acceptance of additional students. The job coach and BCBA positions at Prep will allow for additional student supports.

If enrollment projections are exceeded or not met adjustments to staffing will be made if possible dependent on IEPs in place at the time.

Tuition Rate Increases

All Tuition Rates are set in accordance with the SEEM Collaborative Articles which states that tuition and service fees will be set at no more than 40% above Member tuitions and fees with a goal of no more than 30% above member rates. For FY23 the average tuition differential is 37.41% and the average differentials for service fees is 25.41%.

The tuition rates and the service rates presented in the FY23 Budget reflect the supports needed to accommodate the increased social emotional needs of the students that are currently enrolled and the social emotional needs of the students currently being referred to all of our programs.

The FY23 Budget includes the following tuition increases:

FY23 Tuition Increases						
	180-Day Program		Assessment Center		Extended Year Program	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
FY23	3.44%	3.31%	3.54%	3.26%	3.25%	3.15%

SEEM COLLABORATIVE APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE

The general fund projected revenue for FY23 is \$35,750,681. This amount represents an increase of \$258,077; an increase of .73% compared to FY22 budgeted projected revenue.

The following is a list of significant revenue increases:

- \$250,000 Transportation – based on projected increase in participation
- \$186,331 Tuition School Year – based on projected enrollment and tuition increase
- \$117,654 Interest/Other Services – Addition of Equity position after FY22 Budget was approved

The following is a list of significant revenue decreases:

- \$109,794 Extended Year Tuition – based on projected enrollment
- \$75,000 Professional Development – based on a reduction in requests and opportunities
- \$74,823 ABA Services – based on projected requests
- \$35,000 Transition Services – based on projected requests

EXPENSE

The general fund projected expense amount for FY23 is \$35,750,681, this represents an increase of \$259,387; an increase of .73% compared to the FY22 budgeted projected expense.

Included are the following reductions and increases:

Reductions:

- \$196,824 Benefits Health Insurance – related to no premium increase and to 3 less enrollees Compared to FY22
- \$54,314 Dues-Subscriptions-Memberships – related to shift to Supplies and Materials and for items no longer needed
- \$37,100 Building Maintenance – based on lower need of facility repairs/projects

Increases:

- \$18,854 Supplies and Materials - related to shift from Dues-Subscriptions-Memberships
- 19,600 Building Utilities – related to relocation of TLC and Assessment
- \$472,674 Payroll - this includes:
 - Step Increases for 114 employees
 - 2.44% salary increase
 - Added positions (2 Teachers, 1 Aide, and .6 BCBA)

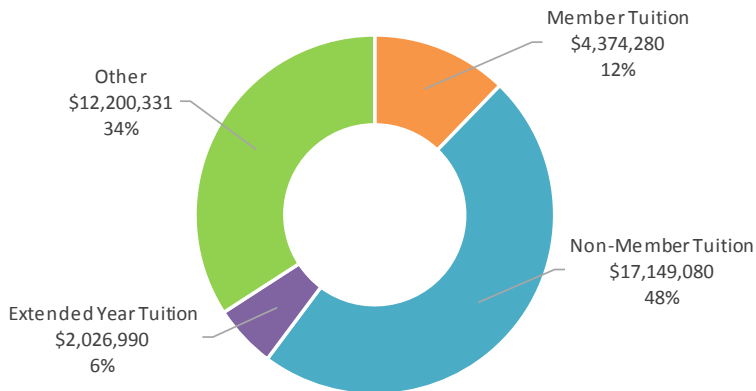
SEEM Collaborative has and will continue to explore and identify additional cost avoidance opportunities, expense reductions and additional funding opportunities so that it can continue with the goal of having the least amount of financial impact on districts while providing high quality services.

SEEM COLLABORATIVE APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

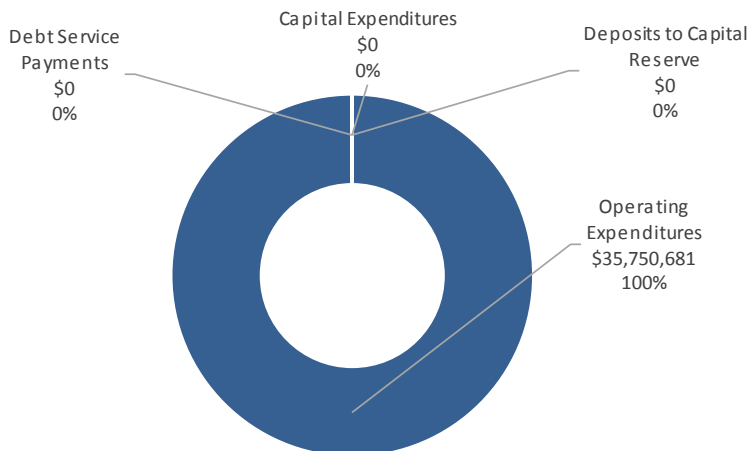
As a Collaborative, we must categorize expenses into four categories; Operating Expenditures, Capital Expenditures, Debt Service Payments, and Deposits to Capital Reserve. Below is a summary of revenue and budgeted expenses for each category.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET Revenue and Expense by Category	Actual FY2021	Budget FY2022	Budget FY2023	+/-	% Change
REVENUE					
Member Tuition	\$3,546,151	\$4,266,260	\$4,374,280	\$108,020	2.53%
Non-Member Tuition	\$15,271,562	\$17,075,560	\$17,149,080	\$73,520	0.43%
Extended Year Tuition	\$1,543,219	\$2,136,784	\$2,026,990	-\$109,794	-5.14%
Other	\$10,639,256	\$12,014,000	\$12,200,331	\$186,331	1.55%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$31,000,188	\$35,492,604	\$35,750,681	\$258,077	0.73%
EXPENSES					
Operating Expenditures	\$30,715,806	\$35,491,293	\$35,750,681	\$259,387	0.73%
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Debt Service Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Deposits to Capital Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,715,806	\$35,491,293	\$35,750,681	\$259,387	0.73%
NET	\$284,382	\$1,311	\$0	-\$1,310	-99.97%

FY23 Revenue Sources and Percentages of Total



FY23 Expenses and Percentages of Total

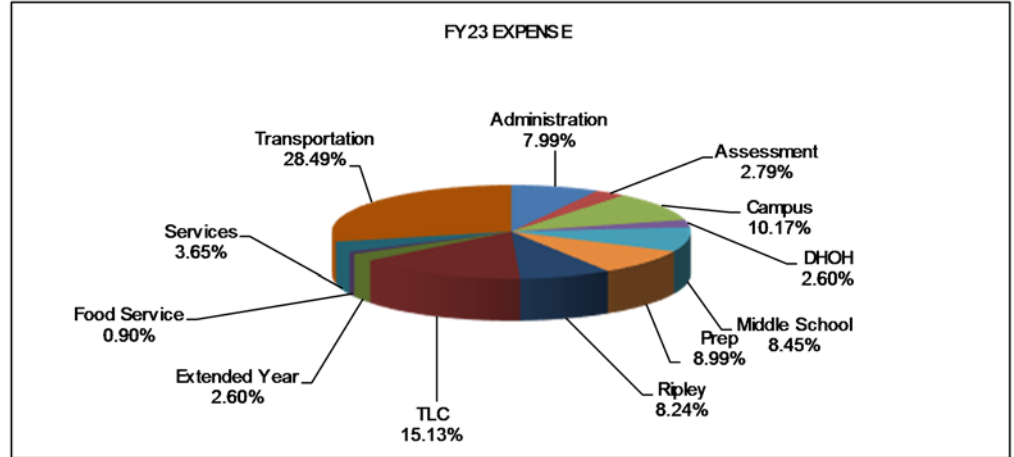
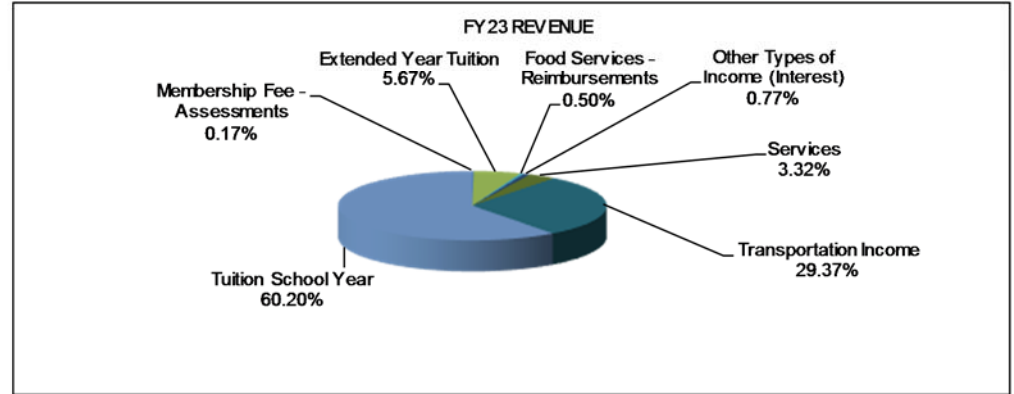


SEEM COLLABORATIVE APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The following information is supplemental budget information which provides a breakdown of revenue sources and expenditures by program/service.

REVENUE	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	+/-	% Change
Membership Fee - Assessments	\$60,500	\$60,500	\$60,500	\$0	0.00%
Extended Year Tuition	\$1,543,219	\$2,136,784	\$2,026,990	-\$109,794	-5.14%
Food Services - Reimbursements	\$185,728	\$170,000	\$180,000	\$10,000	5.88%
Other Types of Income (Interest)	\$152,054	\$156,000	\$273,654	\$117,654	75.42%
Services	\$1,065,194	\$1,377,500	\$1,186,177	-\$191,323	-13.89%
Transportation Income	\$9,175,780	\$10,250,000	\$10,500,000	\$250,000	2.44%
Tuition School Year	\$18,817,713	\$21,341,820	\$21,523,360	\$181,540	0.85%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$31,000,188	\$35,492,604	\$35,750,681	\$258,077	0.73%

EXPENSE	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	+/-	% Change
Administration	\$2,278,091	\$2,605,603	\$2,855,305	\$249,702	9.58%
Assessment	\$807,962	\$1,027,150	\$998,737	-\$28,412	-2.77%
Campus	\$3,269,320	\$3,690,787	\$3,635,307	-\$55,480	-1.50%
DHOH	\$759,723	\$819,996	\$929,693	\$109,696	13.38%
Middle School	\$3,033,279	\$3,121,707	\$3,019,813	-\$101,894	-3.26%
Prep	\$2,764,495	\$3,327,685	\$3,215,745	-\$111,940	-3.36%
Ripley	\$2,659,847	\$2,956,988	\$2,945,764	-\$11,224	-0.38%
TLC	\$4,176,529	\$5,339,771	\$5,408,739	\$68,968	1.29%
Extended Year	\$563,613	\$889,594	\$930,290	\$40,696	4.57%
Food Service	\$296,158	\$324,516	\$321,394	-\$3,122	-0.96%
Services	\$1,209,546	\$1,202,497	\$1,304,893	\$102,397	8.52%
Transportation	\$8,897,241	\$10,185,000	\$10,185,000	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$30,715,806	\$35,491,293	\$35,750,681	\$259,387	0.73%
NET	\$284,382	\$1,311	\$0	-\$1,310	-99.97%



**SEEM COLLABORATIVE
APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The following information is supplemental budget information which provides a breakdown of revenue sources and expenditures by line item.

Summary Detail General Fund	Budget FY2021	Budget FY2022	Budget FY2023	+/-	% Change
REVENUE					
Membership Fee - Assessments	\$60,500	\$60,500	\$60,500	\$0	0.00%
Extended Year Tuition	\$1,543,219	\$2,136,784	\$2,026,990	-\$109,794	-5.14%
Food Services - Reimbursements	\$185,728	\$170,000	\$180,000	\$10,000	5.88%
Other Types of Income (Interest)	\$152,054	\$156,000	\$273,654	\$117,654	75.42%
Services	\$1,065,194	\$1,377,500	\$1,186,177	-\$191,323	-13.89%
Transportation Income	\$9,175,780	\$10,250,000	\$10,500,000	\$250,000	2.44%
Tuition School Year	\$18,817,713	\$21,341,820	\$21,523,360	\$181,540	0.85%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$31,000,188	\$35,492,604	\$35,750,681	\$258,077	0.73%
EXPENSES					
Auditing Services	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0	0.00%
Benefits Free Life and Disability Insurance	\$29,739	\$49,972	\$50,975	\$1,003	2.01%
Benefits Health Insurance	\$2,018,998	\$2,292,748	\$2,095,924	-\$196,824	-8.58%
Benefits Pension Contribution - State	\$323,794	\$398,439	\$400,258	\$1,819	0.46%
Benefits Workers Compensation Insurance	\$93,865	\$129,815	\$128,511	-\$1,304	-1.00%
Benefits Employer Taxes Medicare	\$213,524	\$252,418	\$257,045	\$4,627	1.83%
Building Maintenance	\$480,831	\$500,000	\$462,900	-\$37,100	-7.42%
Building Rent	\$1,001,601	\$1,531,206	\$1,520,280	-\$10,926	-0.71%
Building Utilities	\$221,828	\$274,000	\$293,600	\$19,600	7.15%
Contracted Services	\$371,585	\$377,179	\$376,028	-\$1,150	-0.30%
Dues-Subscriptions-Memberships	\$107,859	\$81,051	\$26,737	-\$54,314	-67.01%
Equipment - Technology	\$73,767	\$34,030	\$39,231	\$5,201	15.29%
Equipment Rental	\$27,041	\$51,217	\$48,536	-\$2,681	-5.24%
Equipment Supplies	\$9,069	\$34,809	\$29,956	-\$4,853	-13.94%
Field Trips	\$845	\$14,982	\$18,094	\$3,112	20.77%
Furniture	\$24,868	\$7,670	\$9,570	\$1,900	24.77%
Internet	\$4,076	\$17,296	\$18,652	\$1,356	7.84%
Legal Services	\$6,510	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Liability Insurance	\$11,613	\$12,615	\$13,418	\$803	6.37%
Nursing Supplies	\$7,083	\$16,630	\$16,287	-\$343	-2.06%
Payroll	\$15,598,113	\$17,450,024	\$17,922,698	\$472,674	2.71%
Payroll Processing Services	\$26,725	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0	0.00%
Payroll Student Vocational	\$8,348	\$28,000	\$29,500	\$1,500	5.36%
Postage	\$11,742	\$8,834	\$8,863	\$29	0.32%
Professional Development	\$37,781	\$57,980	\$52,835	-\$5,145	-8.87%
Retiree Health Insurance	\$71,909	\$92,863	\$96,506	\$3,643	3.92%
Supplies and Materials	\$296,500	\$391,870	\$410,725	\$18,854	4.81%
Telephone	\$40,517	\$43,091	\$44,749	\$1,658	3.85%
Transportation	\$8,897,241	\$10,185,000	\$10,185,000	\$0	0.00%
Travel Reimbursement	\$10,306	\$48,415	\$46,465	-\$1,950	-4.03%
Treasurer	\$8,184	\$8,766	\$9,029	\$263	3.00%
Tuition Reimbursement	\$10,947	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$5,000	25.00%
Umbrella Insurance	\$67,846	\$74,624	\$64,800	-\$9,824	-13.16%
Unemployment	\$5,245	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	0.00%
Van Maintenance	\$15,291	\$23,400	\$24,840	\$1,440	6.15%
Van Rental/Purchase	\$0	\$6,755	\$7,380	\$625	9.25%
Extended Year Expense	\$618	\$49,560	\$50,650	\$1,090	2.20%
Payroll Extended Year	\$562,995	\$840,034	\$879,640	\$39,606	4.71%
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Debt Service Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Deposits to Capital Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,715,806	\$35,491,293	\$35,750,681	\$259,387	0.73%

**SEEM COLLABORATIVE
APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The following chart provides an example of the full school year tuition impact based on recommended tuition rates for FY23 using the current student headcount (November 30, 2021). If all things remained constant, the tuition and Aide impact would be as indicated below.

District	Member Status	Student Headcount as of 11/17/20	Projected FY21 Tuition	Projected FY22 Tuition	Projected Financial Impact	Projected % Change	Projected Number of 1:1 Aides
Lynnfield	Member	5	\$201,080	\$208,000	\$6,920	3.44%	1
Melrose	Member	12	\$573,500	\$593,200	\$19,700	3.44%	1
North Andover	Member	3	\$325,260	\$336,420	\$11,160	3.43%	1
North Reading	Member	2	\$183,780	\$190,080	\$6,300	3.43%	1
Reading	Member	3	\$141,480	\$146,340	\$4,860	3.44%	
Saugus	Member	9	\$474,320	\$490,600	\$16,280	3.43%	2
Stoneham	Member	5	\$208,660	\$215,840	\$7,180	3.44%	1
Wakefield	Member	3	\$84,480	\$87,420	\$2,940	3.48%	
Wilmington	Member	5	\$201,080	\$208,000	\$6,920	3.44%	
Winchester	Member	4	\$235,800	\$243,900	\$8,100	3.44%	
Woburn	Member	20	\$1,264,180	\$1,307,540	\$43,360	3.43%	8
Amesbury	Non-Member	2	\$130,680	\$135,000	\$4,320	3.31%	
Arlington	Non-Member	5	\$326,700	\$337,500	\$10,800	3.31%	
Belmont	Non-Member	4	\$303,660	\$313,740	\$10,080	3.32%	1
Beverly	Non-Member	10	\$689,860	\$712,740	\$22,880	3.32%	2
Billerica	Non-Member	3	\$261,360	\$270,000	\$8,640	3.31%	
Boston	Non-Member	5	\$369,000	\$381,240	\$12,240	3.32%	1
Brookline	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Burlington	Non-Member	2	\$147,880	\$152,760	\$4,880	3.30%	
Cambridge	Non-Member	4	\$213,220	\$220,260	\$7,040	3.30%	
Chelsea	Non-Member	35	\$2,713,680	\$2,803,680	\$90,000	3.32%	8
Concord	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Danvers	Non-Member	2	\$147,880	\$152,760	\$4,880	3.30%	
Essex Tech	Non-Member	1	\$17,200	\$17,760	\$560	3.26%	
Everett	Non-Member	18	\$1,645,200	\$1,699,920	\$54,720	3.33%	8
Gloucester	Non-Member	3	\$196,020	\$202,500	\$6,480	3.31%	
Haverhill	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Lawrence	Non-Member	2	\$130,680	\$135,000	\$4,320	3.31%	
Lexington	Non-Member	1	\$107,640	\$111,240	\$3,600	3.34%	1
Lincoln	Non-Member	3	\$147,880	\$152,760	\$4,880	3.30%	
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Lowell	Non-Member	2	\$196,020	\$202,500	\$6,480	3.31%	
Lynn	Non-Member	26	\$2,214,000	\$2,287,440	\$73,440	3.32%	6
Malden	Non-Member	12	\$934,020	\$964,980	\$30,960	3.31%	2
Manchester Essex Reg	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Marblehead	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Masconomet	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Medford	Non-Member	3	\$280,620	\$289,980	\$9,360	3.34%	2
Methuen	Non-Member	3	\$196,020	\$202,500	\$6,480	3.31%	
Natick	Non-Member	3	\$196,020	\$202,500	\$6,480	3.31%	
Newburyport	Non-Member	3	\$196,020	\$202,500	\$6,480	3.31%	
No. Middlesex RSD	Non-Member	2	\$130,680	\$135,000	\$4,320	3.31%	
Peabody	Non-Member	5	\$392,040	\$405,000	\$12,960	3.31%	
Pentucket	Non-Member	2	\$82,540	\$85,260	\$2,720	3.30%	
Revere	Non-Member	36	\$2,805,840	\$2,898,720	\$92,880	3.31%	3
Salem	Non-Member	1	\$172,980	\$178,740	\$5,760	3.33%	1
Somerville	Non-Member	2	\$130,680	\$135,000	\$4,320	3.31%	
Sudbury	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	
Tewksbury	Non-Member	2	\$196,020	\$202,500	\$6,480	3.31%	
Waltham	Non-Member	5	\$392,040	\$405,000	\$12,960	3.31%	
Westford	Non-Member	2	\$130,680	\$135,000	\$4,320	3.31%	
Winthrop	Non-Member	3	\$238,320	\$246,240	\$7,920	3.32%	1
Worcester	Non-Member	1	\$65,340	\$67,500	\$2,160	3.31%	

SEEM COLLABORATIVE APPROVED FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

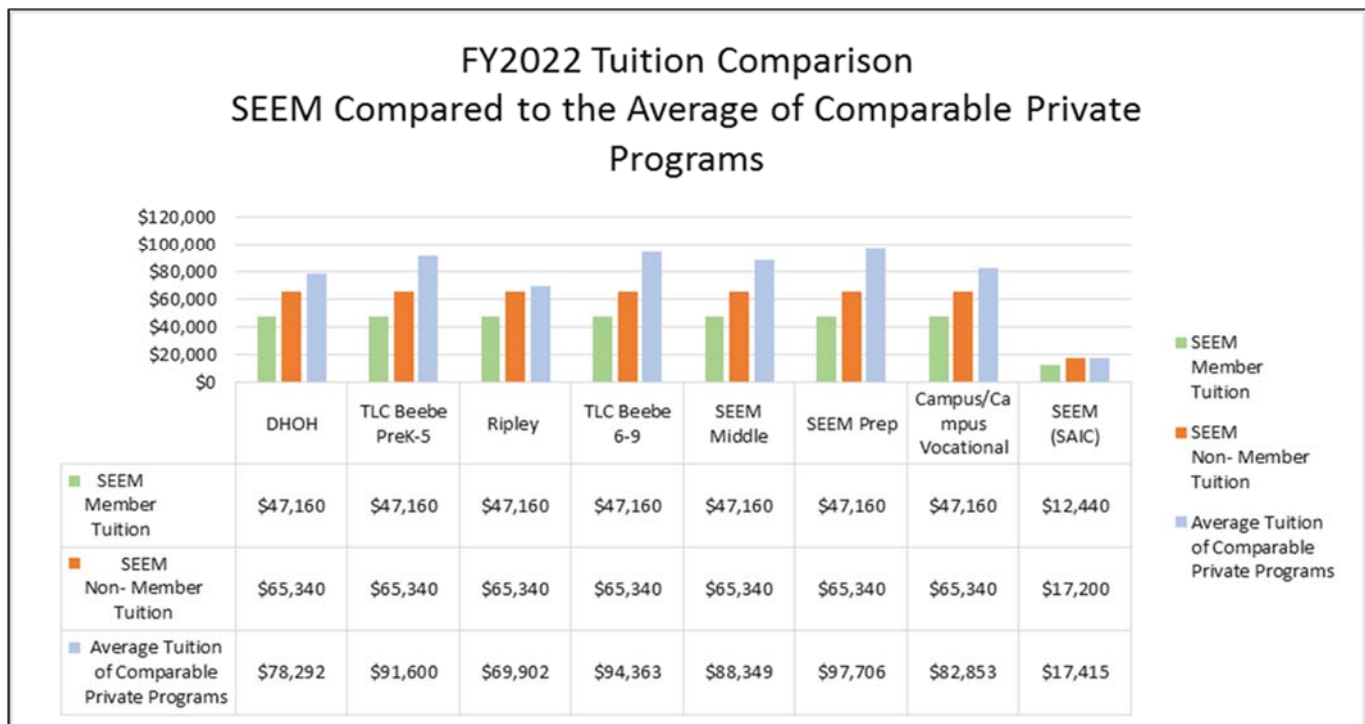
Tuition Cost Avoidance:

As a result of membership, Member Districts have a total tuition cost avoidance of \$2,005,921 projected for FY22 based on current enrollment (November 30, 2021), current tuition rates, and the FY22 Private Program Special Education rates published by Commonwealth of Massachusetts Operational Services Division.

Tuition Cost Avoidance by Member District:

Member District	Students	1:1 Aides	Expense as Member	Expense if enrolled in Comparable Private Programs	Member Cost Avoidance
Lynnfield	5	1	\$201,080	\$363,680	\$162,600
Melrose	12	1	\$573,500	\$865,945	\$292,445
North Andover	3	1	\$325,260	\$484,167	\$158,907
North Reading	2	1	\$183,780	\$255,866	\$72,086
Reading	3		\$141,480	\$228,153	\$86,673
Saugus	9	2	\$474,320	\$719,245	\$244,925
Stoneham	5	1	\$208,660	\$288,957	\$80,297
Wakefield	3		\$84,480	\$122,147	\$37,667
Wilmington	5		\$201,080	\$336,811	\$135,731
Winchester	4		\$235,800	\$419,761	\$183,961
Woburn	20	8	\$1,264,180	\$1,814,809	\$550,629
Totals	71	15	\$3,893,620	\$5,899,541	\$2,005,921

The following chart that provides a comparison of SEEM Collaborative tuition rates to the average tuition rates of comparable private programs.



Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:18 AM
To: Jared Belliveau
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: RDTC Meet the Candidates Night

Jared –

Thank you for sharing the notice of the below.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Jared Belliveau <jaredpbelliveau@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:40 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: RDTC Meet the Candidates Night

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members:

The Reading Democratic Town Committee will be holding their annual "Meet the Candidates" night for Reading Select Board and School Committee candidates on the evening of Wednesday, March 16th, 2022. As always, this will be a non-partisan community outreach event that provides a wonderful opportunity for voters to hear from and get to know the candidates. Additional details will be forthcoming, but please save the date in the meantime.

Sincerely,
Jared Belliveau
Grand Street

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Michelle Greenwalt
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: 2022-23 Budget and Academic Challenges From the Pandemic

Michelle & Vivian –

Thank you for sharing this feedback and for putting together the numbers below. They are stark, but important for us to know and understand.

Thank you as well for offering ideas for improvement. I think both the Committee as a whole and the Administration has recognized the need for improvement at the High School. We are working towards that as well with many of the changes you outlined and more to come.

As for ARPA, we will be working with the Select Board and the Finance Committee on that throughout the Spring. We cannot make any decisions ourselves and there isn't any specific allotment of ARPA money for the schools. We will have to weigh our needs with the needs of the greater community and advocate appropriately. We certainly have ideas, many of which you outlined below, but we need to build consensus across the Boards and the greater community. Participation from the public in those discussions will be encouraged.

Thank you for your engagement.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Michelle Greenwalt <greenwalt1221@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 10:53 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: 2022-23 Budget and Academic Challenges From the Pandemic

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

School Committee members -

While you review and get ready for your vote on the budget for the upcoming year, I'd like to share some thoughts regarding funding and use of possible ARPA funds for the schools. I listened to your last meeting and the detailed information put together for full day kindergarten. Shawn Brandt's comment about how preschoolers had a very disruptive educational

experience during the pandemic stuck out to me. I want to make sure that the Committee understands the magnitude of the academic and socio emotional losses older students in RPS have experienced over these last 22 months.

To give you some insight, I asked my daughter, RMHS class of 2023, if she would like to share her thoughts on the last two years. Her letter is included below. I would also like to share my view as a parent over the last 2 years and some thoughts about how we can move forward.

School shut down right before the last quarter of my daughter's Freshman year. The move to remote teaching and learning was not an easy one for either students or teachers. While teachers and students did their best, the remainder of the year was hit or miss for meaningful learning. Pass/Fail left many kids ambivalent about doing any work. Everything changed.

Sophomore year the high school changed to a block schedule with 80-minute blocks instead of the usual 58 minutes, including 2 full flex blocks each week. Every Friday was a half day - mornings were quick, 20-minute classes and the afternoons were for instructor planning, meetings, etc. (per Principal Boynton's hybrid learning plan.) That gave each class **200** minutes per week of instruction, instead of the **232** under the former schedule, essentially wiping out 2 hours of instructional time each week.

DESE mandated secondary schools have a total of **935** instructional hours for the 2020-21, 170-day school year. Most students at RMHS received **714** instructional hours with that block schedule. Flex blocks were called "structured learning time" but I was told by the prior administration that they were for IEP instruction and counseling services. While students could make appointments with teachers for help during those blocks, they were not "instructional learning time for *all* students." For my student that meant that a total of 2-4 times over the entire year there were class meetings during Flex. 714 hours is not enough hours to thoroughly get through an entire year's curriculum.

As a result of the new block schedule all AP Science classes lost their extra lab block which stripped away even more learning time, leaving them with 60% of the class time to get through 100% of the course material. Add to that a year of being remote, or half remote and half in person, then everyone in person but distanced, teachers having to teach to kids in person and on a computer screen at the same time, I doubt very few classes got through their entire curriculum thoroughly during that extraordinary year.

At back-to-school night this fall several of my daughter's teachers said that they were spending time on material that should have been covered the previous year, putting them even more behind. Some teachers plowed ahead assuming students had a solid grasp of last year's material, leading to failed tests and more stress as students struggled to keep up.

Students and teachers simply weren't set up for success because of the limitations of the pandemic. Each year builds on the previous, but our previous 2 are shaky at best which doesn't lead to a sturdy academic foundation moving forward.

We need to better support both our students and teachers and set them up for success. I would like to encourage the district to direct funding and at least a portion of the district's ARPA funds towards supporting students at the high school, middle and elementary schools who have been dealing with Covid induced limitations for the past 22 months and implement supports to strengthen these foundations.

The proposed budget has some wonderful additions, like adjustment counselors and some Tier 2 supports, but more is needed, and it's needed now. The Tier 2 supports that were promised in 2017 should be implemented now at the high school, and at a level that allows our students to catch-up, and then continue to succeed. The longer we wait to help these students the more damage is done.

If money were no object, I'd hope for more counselors at all levels who could focus on the mental health of students, which has declined dramatically over the course of the pandemic. I'd love to see more programs like the February Vacation academy throughout the school year to give students an extra boost. At the high school more class options that will allow students to follow their passions, like expanding our STEM classes from the 1 computer science and 2 engineering we have now (compared to North Reading's 11 offerings in those areas.) The dual enrollment classes being offered to Seniors only this spring are a great start but could be expanded to Juniors as well and in more subject areas both on and off campus. More teachers at the high school would help alleviate scheduling conflicts that keep students from academic classes and required

electives. I can only speak on our experience these past 2 years at the high school, but I'm sure that middle and elementary parents have wish lists as well.

As much as I would like to fund free full day kindergarten and give that opportunity to those 10% of students, I cannot imagine doing so when it could mean cuts for the other 90% of students in the district who have been dealing with Covid and its impact over the past 22 months.

We need to support our students who have not had a normal school day since March of 2020 and we must support our teachers who are working in conditions they never could have dreamed of.

Michelle Greenwalt
Strawberry Hill Ln

Dear School Committee,

My name is Vivian Greenwalt. I'm a junior at Reading High. COVID-19 cut my freshman year down the middle. Even before lockdown began, I remember hearing my teachers try to explain a pandemic to us, or talking to my friends about calling in sick to stay safe, or about 'flattening the curve,' and how sure we were that we would be 'back to normal' in two weeks. It's been two years. When the world went into isolation, I was 14. I'm 16 now.

Think about your own memories from those two years - dances, dates, football games, hanging out with friends, being a teenager - and then about the children you see today. Instead of mono going around, it's a deadly virus. My teenage years have been sculpted by loss; not only of lives, but of experiences. I went into high school hoping to make friends, go to prom, participate in spirit weeks.

Now, I, as do my peers, have to drag myself through classes. More of my classmates are absent every week, due to a new variant. I've started to forget my friend's faces beneath their masks, as new memories are made with COVID as a third party. The last time I went out with my friends was April of 2021, instead opting for small bubbles of interactions. It's high school without any of the social aspect.

We're burnt out. Academically, we're stranded. Teachers are either moving on like nothing happened or are going over what we missed in the last two years, but either way, we're losing education. You cannot separate the social/academic sides of this. The two are too intertwined, and it shows more and more as students continue to struggle in both. We're expected to carry on like the adults around us did.

The world is rapidly changing around us and we are desperately playing catch-up, like we're stuck in a riptide. Every time we manage to get a breath, we're pulled back under again. It may seem dramatic, but it feels like a natural outlook when your adolescence has been dominated by a pandemic, though I guess that's the difference.

People on the School Committee, even any adults, don't actually understand what it's like to be a teenager during this. We adapt, yes, but at what cost? While people are worrying about younger children, we're fending for ourselves. We cannot say that one group has struggled much more than any other - we're all children, we're all suffering.

I urge you to remember your time in high school, no matter how long ago it may have been. I urge you to think of us now. We may seem nameless, faceless, moody at best, but I hope you remember that we are in a cycle of perpetual loss. It's not what has been lost. It's what has been taken from us. I can only hope nothing more is taken, but that is not in my hands.

Vivian Greenwalt

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Karl Weld
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: END the mask mandates.

Karl –

Thank you for writing in and sharing this video and perspective.

As you know, the mandate is two pronged – with a State level mandate from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and a local Policy (EBCFA). The next review of our Face Covering Policy is currently scheduled for the 17th of February. That review will include review of the most recent data for the Schools, input from the Administration, most recent feedback from the Reading Board of Health, and most recent regulations from the State. Based on that, we can modify, rescind or leave intact the Policy while determining the best path to be compliant with the State mandate and its associated regulations.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Karl Weld <k.weld1@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 12:30 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: END the mask mandates.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My daughter is a junior in high school and has not had a normal year yet, thanks to the complete overreaction to Covid in children. YOU have the power to fix that. Use it. You all KNOW masking kids is pointless in stopping the spread of Covid, and has been for the past year. We have long since reached the 80% vaccination threshold, yet you are still masking out kids. You have the power to make that optional. At this point, it should be the parents' decision, or the kids themselves, at least in the high school, to decide if they want to wear the face diapers, especially given the growing evidence of mental health issues in our kids related to the trauma that has been inflicted upon them by supposedly smart people. It's time to get back to normal. We're adults. We're supposed to be the ones assuming greater risk so our kids don't have to.

I now refer you to this brave young woman in Illinois to help you make the right decision.

<https://www.newsweek.com/voice-silenced-suffering-generation-opinion-1672493>

I will spare you from having to watch the entire board meeting video in the attached link. Here is the transcript of Addison's comments to her local school board. I only wish one of our students had the courage to say this to YOU.

"I am here to say thank you. Thank you, school board and Superintendent Bridges for not using your power to push back on the state of Illinois about the mask mandate. We get to wear masks all day, every day now. Isn't that great!

Thank you for forcing me to wear a mask so I no longer have to brush my teeth or wash my face. Seriously, my life is so much easier. I don't wear glasses, but if I did I would thank you for concealing my eyes with the fog from my breath, too. Thank you for teaching students that our own mental health is much less important than making triple-vaccinated adults feel safe.

Thank you for teaching me that even the most minute risk is not worth taking. Life is best when you take the path of least resistance with no chance of failure—and definitely no chance of catching a cold.

Thank you for not reaching out to the students to ask how we feel about masks. Because, if you did, the majority of students would say that they hate masks. And then you might second guess your decision to make us wear them.

SEP

Thank you for allowing me to experience the anxiety associated with never seeing facial expressions.

Thank you for teaching us that we should never question authority or think critically, but instead, we should follow whatever the people in charge tell us to do. Obedience is best. I realize now that thinking for yourself is overrated, and not really necessary when you can just make decisions based on fear.

Thank you for pushing your irrational fears and anxieties on me. Because I didn't already have enough to worry about. I realize now how easy I had it when I only had to worry about my classes, my grades, the SAT and getting into college.

Thank you for teaching me that being a morally superior person only requires that I cover my face for eight hours a day. And that the most morally superior people wear two masks. Or even three masks! As you know, states around us—Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota (which have 2.5 times more students than Illinois)—don't force kids to wear masks. I am with you, though! These states are out of control. Recklessly putting kids at risk of misery and death every day. Masks work! Even if the states have the same outcomes as Illinois. Speaking of data, thank you for staying silent about masking despite the fact that COVID has a very high survival rate in kids my age. Who needs data anyway, though? We all know that it will never be safe to see anyone's face ever again.

Thank you for not challenging this irrational fear and ineffective COVID policy of masking. After all, of the \$42 billion spent in research by the NIH, not one dollar went toward studying the mental health aspect of kids. I ask you: Don't give in. Stay strong. Stay courageous. Stay quiet. And let's keep masks on kids forever. Thank you."

Karl Weld

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Frederick Van Magness
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Letter to the School Committee re. High School Track and Field Replacement

Frederick -

First, my sincere apologies for the delay in my response to you. Unfortunately, your e-mail inadvertently got buried in my inbox.

Second, thank you for writing in to express your concerns. We are in agreement that our students have been through a lot over the last few years. With respect to the Seniors, the administration is doing everything they can to make their final year a special year. With respect to graduation, while we are considering other locations, we are also considering leveraging the Field House, as we did for many years prior to the last two. Prior to the last two years, the Field House was the standard location. If that were to be possible, then our Seniors would absolutely graduate at Reading Memorial High School. However, it is possible that may not work so multiple other avenues are being considered.

Third, as you may be aware, the track is in bad shape. It has been patched and repaired many times over the last few years. At this point, it is well beyond its usable life and needs to be replaced from a safety perspective.

Therefore, with those two things in mind, we do not expect to be pushing the plan back. The plan as constructed, leverages the period of time whereby the Stadium and Track are least used - the Summer. Further, the plan calls for starting the project at a time in which the Contractors are more likely to have bandwidth and thus, more likely to give Reading priority in completing on time and on budget. With the experience we gained from redoing Turf 2 a few years ago, we learned that starting early is much better than starting late. Additionally, with some COVID induced supply chain challenges, we do not want to risk the project going out longer and longer due to materials shortages. In short, it is a complex project with a complex plan.

Finally, thank you for writing in to express your concerns. If you wish to discuss this more, please let me know.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us

SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us

Mobile: (617) 869-6825

Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Frederick Van Magness <fredvanmagness@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 8:04 PM

To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Letter to the School Committee re. High School Track and Field Replacement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members:

Respectfully, I am very disappointed to have watched the presentation given at your January 27, 2022 meeting regarding upcoming renovations to the High School track and field. I'm sorry not to have been able to attend your meeting but I was fortunate to watch the meeting on RCTV this weekend.

I understand this capital improvement project was approved by Town Meeting last year. I don't object to it, nor do I ask you to reconsider it. Improving our town's infrastructure for the future is always welcome and I give thanks to those working on this project. However, I am very concerned by the reported timing of the project, and I'm asking you to further consider your intentions in this regard as you put the project out to bid.

As I understand it, renovations are scheduled to begin in mid-April of this year, with a substantial completion date of mid-August. This schedule would disrupt spring sports that rely on the stadium and also graduation ceremonies. My understanding from your presentation is that arrangements are currently in the works for certain sports to take place at other venues, including Austin Prep. Also, the town is exploring off-site locations, including town-owned properties and other facilities "in the area," for graduation.

I am strongly dissatisfied with this plan.

I am the parent of three students, including two RMHS students who intend to participate in spring track. One of these student athletes is a graduating senior. I find it quite objectionable that some or all of my son's senior-year spring track experience will not take place on home facilities. I find it even more objectionable that he will not expect to graduate from Reading High School at Reading High School.

Despite the shared nature of our collective experience in recent years, please allow me a moment to place these thoughts into proper perspective.

I believe our children have sacrificed and suffered enough setbacks and disappointments during the pandemic. This year's senior class began the pandemic with having their then-sophomore semi formal dance canceled due to health concerns. They spent the next year or so "remote learning."

They are now back at school, but they are forced to wear masks throughout the school day. From a student perspective, the best they can look forward to is to complete their high school experience on terms that are as close to normal as possible.

Those hopes are, at best, murky given the current status of the world.

Much of this is well beyond our control. However, following your presentation the other evening, two things well within our control seem unfortunately clear – spring sports won't take place at the High School, and graduation will take place somewhere else, possibly not even within this town.

Please take a moment to place yourselves in the shoes of a graduating senior facing this prospect, and the disappointment that is associated with it.

How much more are we going to ask these students to sacrifice? How many disappointments do we expect them to sit back and suffer?

Life these days has its setbacks. We're all becoming accustomed to dealing with that because we all understand the difficulty of what's happening globally. And, we all do our part. Plus, I'm sure that from the School Committee's perspective completing this project on-time and on-budget is made only more difficult because of inflation and supply chain issues. I sympathize with these concerns.

However, I also believe it is the job of the School Committee to see that projects like this are completed with due regard for the well-being of the student body our schools are there to serve. The current time frame proposed for this project clearly fails that for student athletes and particularly graduating seniors.

I graduated from Reading High School in 1992. I chose to stay in this town specifically so my kids would benefit from the quality school system I once enjoyed. In recent years, it has been a keen wish of mine to watch my senior graduate from Reading High School, followed by his siblings. I've held that vision in my mind as a hopeful bookend to the setbacks of the pandemic. Apparently, it was all just a dream. And sadly, that result is not due to some circumstance beyond our control, but rather due to a conscious policy decision made by the town.

Please reconsider the proposed project time frame so it better accommodates student needs, especially with regard to graduation. As I said, I'm all for making capital improvements. But if we truly value education in this town, I'd also like to think we can put plans to replace the football field on-hold for a couple of weeks in the name of graduating our senior class on-campus.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Frederick Van Magness, Jr.
28 Kieran Road, Reading

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 9:39 AM
To: skeperfoster@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Leveque, Sarah; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Killam grade 4 2022-2023

Chris & Randi –

Thank you for writing in to express your concerns about next year's fourth grade class at Killam.

At the current time, the District is forecasting class sizes of 23, 24, and 24 for fourth grade at Killam next year. Unless we have students move into the Killam district, there should not be class sizes of 25 or more. Class sizes of 23 and 24 are well within the historical guidelines for grades 3 through 5 of 22- 25 students. This sort of reduction from four classes to three classes has happened many times in the past and will likely happen many times in the future. It is almost an expected standard since the guidance for K – 2 class sizes is 18 – 22 students and the 3 – 5 has been 22 – 25. It is also important to note that this reduction in classes is NOT causing a reduction in teaching staff, but rather aligning to existing staff.

What we are doing next year to support students further is bringing in a fourth teacher for the three classrooms. However, that teacher will be able to rotate throughout the classes to support the three primary teachers as necessary and enable more pull out instruction for those students that need it. We are doing this via the Endicott Fellows program that allows us to bring in a certified teacher that is completing the last year of their Master program at Endicott. The Fellows are high quality, fully certified teachers. Our Fellow will be able to support both the teachers and students and will be specifically allocated to the fourth grade at Killam. As an additional benefit, considering the number of absences we faced this year and last due to COVID, this would also provide a built in substitute that knows the students across the grade and can step in where necessary in case of teacher absences next year.

The decision was a collaborative one between the Central Office and Killam Principal with the support of the School Committee. It was also discussed among the broader leadership team as we are doing the same thing at Joshua Eaton next year as well. It aligns to our historical standards while creatively improving our student to adult ratio and enabling more flexibility and support for the students. It also could provide a future pipeline to bring in teachers that know our district after they get their Masters at Endicott should we have openings in the following year.

I hope this explains the historical context, the rationale (including how we think this will help support both teachers and students) and who made the decision. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out for a discussion or send a follow up e-mail.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us

SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us

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From: Chris & Randi Skeper <skeperfoster@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 2:11 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Killam grade 4 2022-2023

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members,

We are writing to you with concerns over the plans for the Killam fourth grade class in the upcoming school year, 2022-2023. We have a student in this class and are very concerned to hear that there are plans to reduce the number of classes from four to three. This would result in an increase of approximately 6 children per classroom for about 25 students per class. In the past, we were told that ideally class sizes should not be higher than approximately 22 students so we do not understand why an entire class would be eliminated, thus increasing every single class in the grade over that benchmark. These students are already trying to catch up after falling behind due to COVID, and we personally know of many students whose needs are currently not being met. It seems like a terrible decision to make conditions even worse for these students and their teachers.

Could you please explain the rationale behind this decision and what can be done to prevent such large classes for this grade? Also, who is behind this decision in the first place?

As it currently stands, we are in complete opposition to this decision and request that it be reconsidered.

Sincerely,
Christopher & Randi Skeper

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Milaschewski, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11:04 AM
To: skeperfoster@gmail.com
Cc: Wise, Thomas
Subject: RE: Killam's 2022-2023 4th grade class

Hi Chris and Randi,

Thanks for following up with your additional questions and concerns. I will provide more context on this decision and process below, but I'm also happy to set up a time to discuss in more detail over the phone if you would like.

We believe that this budget strongly reflects teacher voice and perspectives from across the district, and this is certainly the case at the elementary level. As our central office built this budget throughout the fall and early winter, we spent time in over 90% of our elementary classrooms and also met with teachers in each school community through an in-person after-school forum. In addition, we have met with many teachers individually and in small groups to hear their views on what's needed to move our district forward. Through these observations, meetings, and conversations, two major needs emerged at the elementary level. First, teachers felt strongly that we needed to provide more social-emotional support for our students, especially at the Tier 1 level. Therefore, our biggest investment in the budget was the additional of a full-time adjustment counselor (who will also serve as a school-specific METCO Coordinator) at each of our elementary schools to support the social-emotional needs of all of our students. Secondly, teachers emphasized the need for more EL staffing to support the needs of our English Learners. Therefore, we increased our EL staffing for the district by 1.2 FTE. While it would be impossible for the budget to reflect every need or request from across the district, we feel strongly that the two biggest concerns from elementary school teachers across the district have been reflected in the budget. Similarly, I don't think we can expect teachers to advocate for the consolidation of classes within their own school, but that does not mean that their voices weren't reflected in this process. We know that unfortunately, the budget requires trade-offs, and we feel that this budget reflects teacher voice and also what's best for students across our district.

In terms of the Killam projected class sizes, we are anticipating class sizes of 23, 24, and 24 in 4th grade next year. While we are projecting other class sizes of 21, 22, 23 across the district next year, we are providing Killam 4th grade (and JE 4th grade) with the additional support of a full-time teacher through an Endicott Fellow. This is a licensed-teacher, working full-time while they pursue their Masters degree, that will work within each of the three classes. These three classes at both Killam and JE will actually have more support, and better student-teacher ratios, than classes of similar sizes in other grades/schools that will not have the support of this Fellow. We believe that this Fellow will provide significant support, both academically and social-emotionally, to this grade of students and teachers. We think that this resource will be especially impactful in our COVID-19 context, where we have seen a significant impact both academically and social-emotionally on students. As you could expect, teachers across all of our schools and grade levels report this pandemic impact on students.

In terms of Killam's third grade for next year, we are projecting 78 students to be split up in four classes. There are no plans to consolidate this cohort as this would project to 26 students per class.

Again, we appreciate you reaching out with your concerns, feedback, and questions and I'd be happy to set up a time to discuss in more detail if you would like.

Best,
Tom

From: Chris & Randi Skeper <skeperfoster@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Killam's 2022-2023 4th grade class

Hello Dr. Milaschewski,

Thank you for your response. We did receive an email from Mr. Wise but still have concerns about the situation.

We understand that this decision was made by Ms. Leveque and administration, however, it does not sound like the teachers were consulted. In fact, it was teachers who brought their concern about the class consolidation to parents and that makes this particularly troubling and does not lend much confidence in the decision to us as parents. Were any teachers consulted and was there support for it?

We do understand that consolidating is the historical norm. Do the teachers consider this grade to be at the normal level compared to previous classes pre-Covid?

Also, it was mentioned that there is a similar consolidation planned at JE. What this tells us is that the remaining three elementary schools are not experiencing similar class size increases. If the classes across all the elementary schools were arranged to max out at 22 for the younger grades, then it would seem the majority of the 4th graders in Reading will be in smaller classes than the Killam students. What are the class sizes expected to be at the other elementary schools?

Could you also comment on what will happen with the current second grade class at Killam? They also currently have 4 teachers for the grade. Our child that is currently in second grade has been in larger classes than his brother in third. If the second grade class size average is 20 (which is an assumption based on our son's class sizes), then their grade could not drop a class without going over 25 students per class. If you would need to add an extra teacher the following year, why not for both years?

Overall, we are still very concerned about increasing the class sizes by 33% in the wake of Covid, when the students and teachers need more support, not less. We do not have confidence that this decision is taking into account what is best for the students at this time.

Thank you for your time.

Chris & Randi Skeper

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 10:36 AM Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Chris and Randi,

Thanks for reaching out with your feedback and concerns. I know that you recently received a response from our SC Chair, Tom Wise, but let me know if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss in more detail.

Best,

Tom

From: Chris & Randi Skeper <skeperfoster@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 2:14 PM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Killam's 2022-2023 4th grade class

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Milaschewski,

We are writing to you with concerns over the plans for the Killam fourth grade class in the upcoming school year, 2022-2023. We have a student in this class and are very concerned to hear that there are plans to reduce the number of classes from four to three. This would result in an increase of approximately 6 children per classroom for about 25 students per class. In the past, we were told that ideally class sizes should not be higher than approximately 22 students so we do not understand why an entire class would be eliminated, thus increasing every single class in the grade over that benchmark. These students are already trying to catch up after falling behind due to COVID, and we personally know of many students whose needs are currently not being met. It seems like a terrible decision to make conditions even worse for these students and their teachers.

Could you please explain the rationale behind this decision and what can be done to prevent such large classes for this grade? Also, who is behind this decision in the first place?

As it currently stands, we are in complete opposition to this decision and request that it be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

Christopher & Randi Skeper

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 2:40 PM
To: rick camuso
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Note from Rick Camuso to your Facebook Page Reading, MA School Committee.

Rick –

Thank you for your message.

The School Committee will be conducting our next review of the data and the Face Covering Policy on the 17th of February. As you may be aware, there are two prongs / pillars we need to work with / within:

- (1) DESE Statewide Regulations.
- (2) Reading School Committee Policy.

Both the DESE regulations and our process calls for the involvement of local health officials. We have done that through both our Nurses and getting input from Reading's Board of Health.

The Statewide Regulations currently call for masks in schools through February 28th. That, however, does include what they call an off ramp. The off ramp allows for:

- (a) Removal of masks for schools with more than 80% vaccination rates...
- (b) In consultation with local health officials.

Further, previously the Statewide mandate required unvaccinated individuals to remain masked. That is no longer the case as long as we can comply with (a) and (b) above. With that said, at last night's Board of Health meeting, the Reading Board of Health elected to continue their indoor mask mandate for all of Reading's town buildings and businesses. As such, at the current time, while some schools have jumped hurdle (a) above, the Town as a whole has not jumped hurdle (b) above. The next Board of Health meeting is also scheduled for the 17th of February.

So, in short, we first need the Reading Board of Health to repeal their indoor mask mandate. We then, as a Committee, with input from our Administration and Nurses and with analysis of the most recent available data, would need to agree to adjust our own Policy. That may happen on the 17th, but timing could be tricky with the Board of Health meeting happening the same night.

I hope that helps outline the next steps, dependencies and process. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to call using the number below or respond to this e-mail.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: rick camuso <rickcamuso@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 5:19 PM

To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>

Subject: Note from Rick Camuso to your Facebook Page Reading, MA School Committee.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Please end the school mask mandate now. My son is triple vaccinated and wears a mask all day. This has to stop, it's ridiculous.

Thanks,

Rick Camuso

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:14 AM
To: John Sullivan
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: New study on mask effectiveness

John –

Thank you for sharing the links to the studies.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: John Sullivan <johnsullivan3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:15 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: New study on mask effectiveness

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee,

I understand that the school committee will soon be revisiting the mask requirements at our schools. I wanted to make sure you were all aware of the new study published today (Feb 4) by the CDC. This case-controlled study found that wearing (any) masks in indoor, public settings reduced COVID infections by (a statistically significant) 54% compared to not wearing a mask. Furthermore, surgical masks were found to reduce infections by 66% and n95s by 83%. The full study can be found [here](#).

I would also note that the reduced risk of infection found in this CDC study is in line with a metaanalysis published in the British Medical Journal this past October which found masking reduced incidences of COVID by 53%. (Study [here](#)).

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important issue.

John Sullivan
Weston Rd.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:07 AM
To: bp94960@yahoo.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: The Time is NOW!!!

Brian –

Thank you for the e-mail.

Thank you as well for continuing to stay engaged in a respectful manner. I do believe we all want was is best for our children. As you know, at this time our next meeting is scheduled for the 17th of February. Prior to that meeting, we should know more from both the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Reading's Board of Health.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: Brian Paulsen <bp94960@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 2:49 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: The Time is NOW!!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

RPS School Committee,

I am writing to you about the concerns many of us in the community have about continuing to mask our children. Many of us think it's now time to unmask our children (based on science and facts). Not just high school and middle school students...ALL STUDENTS!!

The Johns Hopkins studies shows there is "little to no effect" from masking, shutdowns and separation. Here are some facts that I am sure you are aware of: The average age of death from Covid is 82 years old. The chance of being hospitalized or death with people ages 17 and under are .003%. Do we honestly believe that these low hospitalization rates and deaths are really due to mask wearing, or do we think that specific population has better

immune systems? No one wants to entertain this question because we have all become scared of being different. There are also studies that show the ineffectiveness of masks for catching/transmitting covid. The CDC has recently said cloth masks offer very little if not zero protection. The only mask that offers protection to the wearer is a well fitted N95 mask.

On the flip side depression, fear, anxiety, and frustration are very real within all of our kids minds. No matter what some parents say, every single child has been negatively affected by being forced to wear a mask all day in school. We won't know the full damage for years to come.

Kids do their best to wear masks but I can assure you that none of them do so properly all day. No human can do that, let alone our children. I do not think this is intentional but they are kids – they pull their masks down to talk to each other, they remove them to eat, they fall on the ground etc. Let's be real here, this should be optional. If someone wants to wear a mask then by all means go for it but we should also have to choice to unmask our children. It has gone on long enough and the psychological damage is real.

At the very least, I think it's time for a real discussion because if we don't, this will just continue to demoralize our children. We are making history right now. This time will be studied and scrutinized for many many years and right now YOU are on the wrong side of history. It's time for us to be different and use common sense, facts and science to our advantage.

The time is NOW to remove masks and all separation in schools....FOREVER.

The time is NOW to tell our children that they aren't deadly virus spreading monsters.

The time is NOW to take down the barriers in the cafeteria and stop treating them like animals.

The time is NOW for them to let them breathe fresh air.

The time is NOW to let them know school is a safe place.

The time is NOW to give them their childhood back.

The time is NOW to give us parents a choice.

You are going to say "Our hands are tied". It's time to untie them.

Let's dare to be different. Let's dare to be the first district in the state to go against DESE for the sake of our children. Let's dare to show some courage.

Thanks,
Brian Paulsen
John Carver Rd

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:01 AM
To: Emmy Dove
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Household clusters

Emmy –

Thank you for the e-mail. Your point of clarification on the Cluster Data is well received and appreciated.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Emmy Dove <elbdove@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 3:16 PM
To: asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Household clusters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To the members of the Board of Health and School Committee:

I have heard much discussion of the state-reported cluster data in both Board of Health and School Committee meetings and believe there is an incomplete understanding of the data. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that once the virus enters a household, it greatly increases the risk of infection to the members of that household. There are few exposure settings with comparable risk levels due to extended close contact, lack of consistent mask use, and less favorable ventilation and filtration. The state data on household clusters is pretty good because they don't require anything other than the date of positive test and address of case. This is not true of other settings such as retail, restaurants, and athletic programs, which require active tracing and accurate reporting from infected individuals. Thus household clusters are dramatically overrepresented in the data. This has been exacerbated by the limited tracing resources during the Omicron surge. Further, a cluster is defined as 2 or more cases associated with the same exposure. If Jane infects 4 other individuals, 2 at unique settings and 2 at home, that is only reported as a household cluster and ignores the cases from the unique settings.

But are household clusters the source of most cases? No. From the report dated 2/3/2022, the household cluster-associated cases account for 38% of total cases from 1/2/2022-1/29/22. While that represents the majority of cluster cases (in part, for some of the reasons stated above), that leaves over 60% of cases

not associated with a cluster of any type (thus either 1:1 transmission, unknown source, or unreported source). In other words, most transmission appears to be from activities *outside* the home.

But does any of this make sense logically? Yes! If the vast majority of transmission occurred inside the home, we would expect the cases to flame out once everyone in the home has been infected. There would be no sustained transmission.

I hope this clarifies some misconceptions about the role of household clusters in the pandemic.

Thank you all for your care and thoughtfulness on this issue.

Emmy Dove
Charles St.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:00 AM
To: Andrena Silva
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Mandate

Andrena –

Thank you for the e-mail. The distribution list you sent this to will reach each Committee member.

Thank you as well for continuing to stay engaged in a respectful manner. I do believe we all want what is best for our children. As you know, at this time our next meeting is scheduled for the 17th of February. Prior to that meeting, we should know more from both the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Reading's Board of Health.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Andrena Silva <andrena.m.silva@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:34 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Mandate

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RSC,

Please see the letter attached regarding my plea to rescind the mask mandate in RPS. I would like this letter to reach each person in the committee. I was going to email each of you individually but I see that only the chair and vice chair have individual contact info.

Thank you,
Andrena Silva
96 Beaver Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:51 PM
To: C Eckenroth
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Support for continuing the mask mandate in schools

Christina –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: C.Eckenroth <graffc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:23 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Support for continuing the mask mandate in schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Committee:

I understand that the Committee may be considering lifting the mask mandate for Reading Public Schools. I have a child in elementary school and strongly support continuing the mask mandate for the protection of all students and staff. I urge the Committee to proceed with caution and continue the mandate through the winter cold/flu season when weather prevents extended outdoor activities and open air ventilation. Please reconsider the mask mandate in spring based upon community spread, vaccination rates, and other health system indicators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina Eckenroth
Woburn St
Reading, MA

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:52 PM
To: oliveiraerin484@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End the Mask Mandate in all Reading Schools

Erin –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: erin oliveira <oliveiraerin484@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:32 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Fwd: End the Mask Mandate in all Reading Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To the Members of the School Committee,

I am writing on behalf of my 9 year old daughter who attends elementary school in Reading. Recently, Governor Baker, alongside DESE, announced the end of the mask mandates in public schools as of 2/28/22. I fully believe that it is time to end these mandates in our schools!

As many of you are aware, we have little to no covid transmission among adolescents in the school setting. Most transmissions are happening at events and in homes outside of school. Even looking at current data, on the number of students/teachers testing positive for covid, it is still less than 4% of the school population. I believe we are at a place now, that it is safe for children to be unmasked. I also believe that if a family still feels unsafe, then they should continue to wear an appropriate mask. But this should NOT be the assumption for ALL.

School has not been a "normal" place for my daughter since the second half of first grade. We have had such HIGH expectations for children to follow more rules than most adults follow, between separating classes, they couldn't turn around to enjoy peer interactions (which is CRUCIAL to the development of children), they couldn't talk at lunch, wear a mask OUTSIDE at recess, testing became a common topic of conversation between children daily, all they hear about is COVID COVID COVID. Its time, for the town to make the appropriate decision of making it OPTIONAL for masks if needed, NOT mandatory. You have put these children through so much, between making it a heavy recommendation they test in school, test out of school, masks.

These constant restrictions, mandates, cancelled events, can't talk to peers, never have seen the bottom half of teachers faces, constant chatter regarding COVID has resulted in SEVERE anxiety in many children and teens, so much that the mental health system is overwhelmed. Imagine the mental health crisis that will be coming from this! Never mind how important the "mouth" is to learning, facial expressions that cannot be seen or learned because a mask covers your mouth. How is a Speech Therapist supposed to help someone learn sounds, and mouth shape, if a student can't see it and barely hear it??!! So many children depend on seeing expressions, learning what they mean and how to respond, they innately watch the mouth of most adults as to see how words are made/sound. Imagine a whole generation of kids that have no idea what expressions mean because they haven't seen them in over 2 years.

In 2020, when the schools suddenly were locked up, to "stop the spread" and parents were supposed to be working full time, supporting their kids while trying to support their families, teachers struggled to juggle teaching and their families as well (and we were lucky to have such AMAZING TEACHERS...I COMMEND ALL TEACHERS!!!!!!!!!!) They spend a year at home, some parents lost their jobs, the world was in turmoil. The spread in 2021-2022 was WORSE than anything in 2020. We had HIGHER infection rates in January 2022, than the years before, and it wasn't in schools.

It's time to let parents make the best choice for their child, if they would like to have their child wear a mask, then they can. Teachers should have the same right. Imagine 6 plus hours of talking, teaching in a mask?? How often are you masked, for how long? Do you spend 6 plus hours a day in a mask, learning, working, etc.?

END THE MANDATE!

Sincerely,
Erin O.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:57 PM
To: Farris, Lee A
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha; Leveque, Sarah
Subject: RE: Concerns for 4th grade at Killam next year

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Lee –

First, let me apologize for the delayed response. Your concerns here warrant a detailed response and I wanted to make sure that I pulled together the correct information. As such, please see the below that outlines the response to your feedback and questions:

- (1) At the current time, the District is forecasting class sizes of 23, 24, and 24 for fourth grade at Killam next year. Unless we have students move into the Killam district, there should not be class sizes of 25 or more. Class sizes of 23 and 24 are well within the historical guidelines for grades 3 through 5 of 22- 25 students. This sort of reduction from four classes to three classes has happened many times in the past and will likely happen many times in the future. It is almost an expected standard since the guidance for K – 2 class sizes is 18 – 22 students and the 3 – 5 has been 22 – 25.
- (2) What we are doing next year to support students further is bringing in a fourth teacher for the three classrooms. However, that teacher will be able to rotate throughout the classes to support the three primary teachers as necessary and enable more pull out instruction for those students that need it. We are doing this via the Endicott Fellows program that allows us to bring in a certified teacher that is completing the last year of their Master program at Endicott. The Fellows are high quality, fully certified teachers. Our Fellow will be able to support both the teachers and students and will be specifically allocated to the fourth grade at Killam. As an additional benefit, considering the number of absences we faced this year and last due to COVID, this would also provide a built in substitute that knows the students across the grade and can step in where necessary in case of teacher absences next year.
- (3) The decision was a collaborative one between the Central Office and Killam Principal with the support of the School Committee. It was also discussed among the broader leadership team as we are doing the same thing at Joshua Eaton next year as well. It aligns to our historical standards while creatively improving our student to adult ratio and enabling more flexibility and support for the students. It also could provide a future pipeline to bring in teachers that know our district after they get their Masters at Endicott should we have openings in the following year.
- (4) We believe that this budget strongly reflects teacher voice and perspectives from across the district, and this is certainly the case at the elementary level. As our central office built this budget throughout the fall and early winter, we spent time in over 90% of our elementary classrooms and also met with teachers in each school community through an in-person after-school forum. In addition, we have met with many teachers individually and in small groups to hear their views on what's needed to move our district forward. Through these observations, meetings, and conversations, two major needs emerged at the elementary level.
 - a. First, teachers felt strongly that we needed to provide more social-emotional support for our students, especially at the Tier 1 level. Therefore, our biggest investment in the budget was the additional of a

full-time adjustment counselor (who will also serve as a school-specific METCO Coordinator) at each of our elementary schools to support the social-emotional needs of all of our students.

- b. Secondly, teachers emphasized the need for more EL staffing to support the needs of our English Learners. Therefore, we increased our EL staffing for the district by 1.2 FTE.

While it would be impossible for the budget to reflect every need or request from across the district, we feel strongly that the two biggest concerns from elementary school teachers across the district have been reflected in the budget.

- (5) It is important to note that this reduction in classes is NOT causing a reduction in teaching staff, but rather aligning to existing staff.

I hope this e-mail addresses your concerns. However, if you have follow up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Milaschewski or myself.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us

SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us

Mobile: (617) 869-6825

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From: Farris, Lee A <leeanne@bu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 2:38 PM

To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>

Subject: Concerns for 4th grade at Killam next year

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the School Committee,

The current Killam 3rd graders have had four classes since their first-grade year. The decision to realign the number of 4th grade classes at Killam and Joshua Eaton for the 2022-2023 school year is confusing. I understand that historically class size increases as children get older. However, despite their physical growth, their education has not followed the same trajectory.

The parents have been repeatedly told that due to Covid our children are not performing where they should be because of remote education so it seems counterproductive to increase class size in, what I hope will be, their first normal school year since Kindergarten. A class with 25 second graders would not be deemed conducive to learning.

Three 4th grade classes for next year would have 25 students in one of those classes. The largest current Killam 4th grade class maxes out at 22 students. These students were privy to an additional year of traditional in-person education learning the basics that their 3rd grade schoolmates lost due to Covid. During this time,

our third graders would have been mastering skills making it possible for them to work independently, preparing them for a time when class sizes increase. Sadly, they missed out on that and expecting this of them next year is unfair. Looking forward to two years from now, you will be faced with the same situation as the current Killam second grade has almost identical numbers to the current third grade.

The plan to hire one dedicated 4th grade Fellow is shortsighted. I'm not understanding how one person will be able to provide support to three classrooms as well as act as a substitute on days when a 4th grade teacher is out? One Fellow per grade will not make up for an additional 6 children per classroom. Perhaps if one Fellow was hired for each of the three proposed classrooms, next year wouldn't look so bleak.

Please speak with the teachers and consider alternatives to the three-classroom plan for the 2022-2023 school year. The third graders are a good group of kids who have been asked to adapt, accept, and learn under tiring and uncomfortable conditions for the past two years. Please give them the school environment they deserve and do not stand in the way of their happiness and success.

Thank you,
Lee Farris

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:53 PM
To: Marisa Lara
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lift mask mandate please

Marisa -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Marisa Lara <ris1520@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:14 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lift mask mandate please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi,
I am writing to encourage lifting the mask mandate for our children in schools. I have children both at the Reading Baptist day school and Joshua Eaton and they deserve to have the OPTION to wear a mask or not.
Thank you,
Marisa Lara

Marisa Lara
68 Hillcrest Rd.
Reading, MA 01867
617-901-3292

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:52 PM
To: Kaitlyn Vallera
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lift the school mask mandate for our kids

Kaitlyn –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Kaitlyn Vallera <kaitlynvallera@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:11 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lift the school mask mandate for our kids

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Hi, I'm writing on behalf of both my children. They are in half day kindergarten at JE and at the Baptist day school in reading. I'm strongly urging you to lift the mask mandate for our children, making it optional. These kids deserve a normal year.

Thank you, Kaitlyn Vallera

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Donaghey House Email
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha; asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us
Subject: RE: Unmask Our Kids

Good evening.

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Donaghey House Email <20sturges@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:13 PM
To: asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Unmask Our Kids

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this on behalf of my 2 boys who are currently attending JE Elementary School.

It is beyond time to unmask our kids! It has been long enough. It is time for the kids to see their classmates' smiles! These kids have suffered long enough.

Please do the right thing by our children and lift the mandate!!!!

Sincerely,
A concerned parent

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:00 PM
To: Lina Gearity
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask mandates in school - parent opinion

Lina -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Lina Gearity <lina.gearity@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:26 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask mandates in school - parent opinion

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello -

I was informed that you are considering and soliciting input from parents on the mask mandates for the school district, given that the state mandate is expiring 2/28.

If so, I would like to please put my vote in for eliminating the mask mandates, and making them purely optional. My rationale is three-fold.

1. Lack of efficacy - according to the latest data, the masks that these kids are wearing are not even able to protect them for the entire school day. That's assuming they are even wearing appropriately (so many kids have them under the nose on a regular basis), and they are not removing them for 15 minutes or more during the day, which we know they need to do during lunch and recess. Cloth masks will only protect them for up to 27 minutes of exposure, which does not need to be consecutive, and can be cumulative throughout the entire day. Surgical masks will protect them for only up to 1 hour. Even if one person is wearing an n95 mask, it protects them for only up to 5 hours, and the school day is longer than that. Only if both are wearing n95 masks will they be protected for the entire school day, and again this would be true if they don't remove them at all for lunch or recess, which is not a feasible option. Net, the kids and adults are not protected for the entire school day, even with masks.

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING				
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95	
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours	It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours	
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours	
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours	

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily.
Source: ACGIH's Pandemic Response Task Force

source link: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/cloth-face-mask-omicron-11640984082>

2. At this point, vaccination rates are higher and continue to grow, so masks may no longer be needed. Massachusetts has the 2nd highest vaccination rate among children in the country. And vaccines have been so widely available for so long, that it has now become a choice. Those who are unvaccinated remain at a higher risk, and they can choose to live with that or mask up, as masks can remain optional. But forcing everyone to mask is unnecessary at this point, particularly given point 1 above about its lack of efficacy for an extended period of time such as what a school environment requires.

3. Masks have a variety of negative consequences on mood, development, and health, especially for children. They hide half our face and make it more challenging to hear and see others. This influences communication, perception of emotions, language development, and clear articulation. It's particularly challenging for children who wear glasses (they fog up), are hard of hearing (sounds are muffled and they can't lip-read for extra cues), have difficulties breathing, or are behind their peers in language development, articulation, or emotional intelligence and socialization. Additionally, the masks get nasty and wet with saliva and mucus, which contributes to skin irritation and acne and can turn masks into vectors for pathogens. If children learn to compensate for any difficulty breathing by breathing through their mouths, it can lead to facial deformities and block their nasal airways, especially over time. Plus, masks are uncomfortable and can hurt ears after being worn for even a short period of time. In this case, they are wearing them for up to 8 hour a day, 5 days a week; that's A LOT! For our youngest children in Kindergarten, mask-wearing has been a constant for up to 40% of their lives! It's time to move on and let our faces be free again. It's been too much and for too long now. And if not now when vaccines are available, transmission has been low, tests are available, and cases are on the decline, then when?

Thank you very much for reading and the opportunity to provide input.

Best,
Lina Gearity

716.440.7590

Lina.Gearity@gmail.com

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:57 PM
To: paul donaghey
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Unmask the Children Feb 28th

Paul –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: paul donaghey <p_donaghey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:38 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Unmask the Children Feb 28th

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I hope you are doing well and I am sure that you are receiving a number of these emails given the Governor's announcement.

As a Reading resident (20 Sturges Rd) with 2 children in the public school system, I want to voice my SUPPORT to eliminate the mask mandate in our schools effective February 28, 2022.

Thank you for your service and your voice for our community!

Paul Donaghey
20 Sturges Rd
Reading, MA 01867
339-227-2596

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:58 PM
To: Diana Busa
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Rescind Mask Mandate

Diana –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Diana Busa <dianatbusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:45 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Rescind Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello Members of the School Committee,

As a concerned parent of two young children, I am emailing you to ask that the School Board Committee rescind the mask mandate for Reading Public Schools.

Today, Governor Baker has joined dozens of other states across the country in removing statewide mandates.

My children have both suffered through this mask mandate in ways that are impossible to ignore. My son, who is three, has been in speech therapy for over a year now due to a speech delay. I am convinced, along with his speech therapist, that it is because all of the adults that he's ever talked to are wearing masks. He is not able to see their mouths move when they talk or even see their full facial expressions, which are crucial to speech development. My daughter has had her social development severely impacted during important developmental years. And what's the most frustrating is that despite the consistent mask-wearing, they both have been sick with COVID. The masks offered no benefits (which the data also now supports), did not serve their intended purpose, and have only slowed our children down.

We have been hearing for two years that we should follow the data and the science. And now two years into the pandemic, we have fallen into a trap. We are ignoring what the data is telling us about how the pandemic has changed over the past two years.

We are in fear based panic mode now. There was a time when this was appropriate. But things have changed in the last two years for the better. So few individuals in public health at this point are willing to stand up, take a look at how the landscape has changed in the last 23 months and say the truth: it is time for this mentality to change. Now is the time to change how we think about COVID, take sensible steps as individuals to protect ourselves and our families and get back to normalcy in our lives even though there is and most likely forever will be risk to us all from COVID.

If there are families who still want their children to wear masks - that is their own personal decision which I 100% respect. I ask that we be given the same opportunity to make health decisions for our children.

I am speaking on behalf of my family, but I know there are other families in our community who feel the same.

I appreciate your time and I hope that you truly consider rescinding the mask mandate for Reading Public Schools.

Thank you,
Diana Busa

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:58 PM
To: Robert Gracilieri
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha; asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us
Subject: RE: K-12 Masks

Robert -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Gracilieri <rgracilieri@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:53 PM
To: asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: K-12 Masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Today, the Governor lifted the mask mandate by the end of February, I understand there is a meeting tomorrow evening on this topic. I would strongly recommend Reading moves on this as well, our childrens have suffered enough, the "Science" fully supports no more mask mandate for them. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:00 PM
To: John Barmoy
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please Keep Mask Requirements in Schools

John –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: John Barmoy <jbarmoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:09 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please Keep Mask Requirements in Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please keep the mask requirements in Reading elementary schools. This aligns with CDC recommendations and can help protect our families, teachers and siblings of the students who are still too young to be vaccinated. Not to mention flu season and upcoming school vacation week. Thank you.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:02 PM
To: Julie Draper
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Guidance

Julie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Julie Draper <julie.draper@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:27 PM
To: asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Guidance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing with relation to the changes in mask guidance in regards to the schools that took place this week. I know we are putting this to vote in this week's meeting.

Let me start off by saying I don't want to at all take away from the seriousness of COVID. Myself and my family have followed everything. I spent countless hours helping people secure vaccination appointments. My husband, kids, and I all got vaccinated the first few days possible. We have worn the masks no matter how annoying they have been and my kids adapted fine. We also all caught COVID, which we also weathered fine. We lost loved ones to COVID. I do take it seriously.

What I also take seriously is my kids mental health and all the things they have missed. I have been happy in the past just that they were able to return to school, but it's time to remove the masks. Our kids need some part of this school year to feel normal. The kids like my son struggle learning with masks on. This is an endemic time when we need to focus on

living with COVID And not calling this a new normal. We need to go back to normal. I beg you to remove this mandate in the schools.

Thank you,

Julie Silbovitz
26 Milton Road, Reading

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:03 PM
To: Rosie Martel-Foley
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please KEEP universal masking requirement for RPS

Rosie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Rosie Martel-Foley <rosiemartelfoley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:41 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>; Lapierre, Samantha <Samantha.Lapierre@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please KEEP universal masking requirement for RPS

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear members of the School Committee,

I am asking you to **maintain** the in-school mask mandate for Reading Public Schools that was established in August prior to the state-wide DESE mandate.

The CDC still supports universal masking in K-12 settings (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#:~:text=CDC%20recommends%20universal%20indoor%20masking,layered%20prevention%20strategies%20in%20place>), and large, randomized, peer-reviewed research has shown masks to be effective at protecting against the spread of Covid (<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776536>).

I distinctly remember during discussion on Reading's mask mandate in August Tom Wise asked for metrics on when masks could be removed and Director of Nursing, Mary Giuliana responded saying that if in school transmission and case counts were low, it was a sign that **masks were working**. This consistent policy has

helped our kids navigate two separate Covid variant surges, and with more cases of the Omicron Stealth variant growing in Europe, keeping masks would help us stave another surge.

The potential inconvenience of wearing a mask is not nearly as disruptive as quarantines and isolations due to contracting Covid or being a close contact, and the very low rates of in-school transmission in Reading are indicative of how our current system is working. Masks have been an instrumental part in keeping most of our students in school all fall despite in school close contacts. By comparison, my 4 year old and 1 year old who are in a daycare setting in Woburn have missed 10 total weeks of daycare due to close contacts because they are not old enough to be able to rely on consistent masking and cannot be vaccinated. My kindergartener has not missed a single day of school for covid-related reasons.

Reading, and the state of Massachusetts, is very lucky to have such high vaccination rates but *not all children are eligible for vaccination yet*. The kids in Reading Public School have siblings and cousins and neighbors and friends under the age of 5 who cannot be vaccinated yet, and who are relying on adults to make community-based decisions to protect them. Please, do what is right for the community and keep masks on in our schools, at least until vaccines and other mitigation options like warmer weather for fresh air are available to everyone in our community.

Thank you for your time,

Rosie Martel-Foley

96 Avalon Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Domenic Sorrentino, NEL Corp.
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask mandates for school

Domenic –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Domenic Sorrentino, NEL Corp. <domenic@nelcorporation.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:10 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask mandates for school

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

I write this letter to you as a concerned parent. As a parent of three, two of which are in the school system I hope you take the time to review this and respect our opinion. Our children have been in school now for 100 days and none of which would be considered normal. The masks hide their expressions and emotions. They can't even see if a friend or teacher is smiling or laughing. Imagine how this would have affected oneself at such a young age. Everyone has endured so much throughout the last two years but now is the time that we can make a change for the better with our children. A change that will make such a huge difference in them. That is why I write you to lift the mask mandate in Reading schools. Our children need us more than every right now. We need to make the right decision for them.

Thank you.

Dom Sorrentino

N.E.L. Corporation
P.O. Box 929
3 Ajootian Way, Bldg. B
Middleton, MA 01949

Office: 978-777-2085
Cell: 781-258-2469
Fax: 978-777-2719

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:03 PM
To: Lisa Orr
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: It's time

Lisa -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Orr <lrr714@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:24 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: It's time

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Reading School Committee Members,

It's time.

Tears fell from my eyes as I watched Governor Baker announce that the school mask mandate would be lifted effective February 28th. Picturing my boys going to school without half of their faces covered brings me more joy than I know how to capture here with words. These kids have been through so much... we all have, but it's time.

The recommendation to end the school mask mandate is coming from the very people who are in charge of our state. They are highly respected individuals who clearly do not take decisions such as this one lightly. They use SCIENCE to make their decisions... and lucky for all of us, the science shows that unmasking these kids is the right call.

It's time.

It's time to let them smile with their friends again.

It's time for them to see the smiling face of their teachers again.

It's time for parents to be allowed to make health related decisions for their own children.

Parents who wish to continue to mask your child - I respect your decision.

Parents who wish to allow their child to go to school without a mask - I am with you.

We are at a point, two years into this pandemic, where it is time to TRULY listen to the science and to allow our children to have some sense of normalcy back.

It's time.

We have followed all recommendations during this pandemic. The children have proven to be resilient and strong, but it has been two years.

It's time.

I took a deep breath when I realized that my younger son will enter kindergarten and be able to learn to read while actually being able to fully see and hear what his teacher is teaching him.

I took a deep breath when I realized that for the first time in two years, my older son will be able to see the smile of some of his classmates as they learn together.

I took a deep breath knowing that after two years, we have done so much to protect those who need protecting, and will continue to do so.

I took a deep breath knowing that our children have done all we have asked of them, even though they are least at risk for experiencing severe illness with this virus.

I took a deep breath when I pictured my husband and I sharing this life-changing news with our kids.

I took a deep, deep breath... and now these kids can, too.

Thank you!

Lisa Orr

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Brian Skeffington <bskeff@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:32 AM
To: Wise, Thomas
Cc: Lapierre, Samantha; Milaschewski, Thomas
Subject: Re: Mask Mandate Vote

Hi, I realize that I was misinformed on the date so thanks for the response. Also, thanks for all that you and the other members do for our schools!

Best,
Brian

On Sat, Feb 12, 2022 at 11:03 PM Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Brian –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas
Wise

Chair

Reading
School
Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us

SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us

Mobile: (617) 869-6825

Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Brian Skeffington <bskeff@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:24 PM

To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>

Subject: Mask Mandate Vote

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good evening. I received this email address from a friend who said that she believes there will be a vote at the school committee meeting tomorrow night regarding the mask mandate in Reading. As a resident of Reading, I would like to voice my **support for lifting the mask mandate** in Reading Public Schools and moving to an optional mask policy. I am also a teacher in Woburn, and while I understand people's concerns about this topic, I believe at this point the negative consequences of the masks are outweighing the benefits for our children. This is especially true for those of us who have gotten our children vaccinated and plan to get them boosters when the time comes to do so. According to all medical experts' opinions, vaccines/boosters are much more important in curbing the spread of COVID than wearing masks.

At the same time, I respect others who choose to wear masks to protect themselves and their families, but again, I do not believe those people's personal choices should dictate everyone's choices at this point in time. I hope you consider lifting the mask mandate for our students and teachers in Reading Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Brian Skeffington

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:05 PM
To: Michael and Kasie Gates
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Feedback - Mask Mandate

Kasie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: Michael and Kasie Gates <mikeandkasie123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 8:49 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Feedback - Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To our valued School Leadership,

I fully appreciate that there is a continued balance between social and emotional health and physical health risks in our third school year impacted by COVID. We have made great progress with our understanding and management of COVID during this time.

As a parent of a 3 year old and 1 year old I'm uncomfortable with the masks mandate potentially being lifted in RISE. Especially after the recent significant surge. I respectfully request we wait until they are able to be fully vaccinated. My child has worn masks well since 18 months and she does not know school without them. Even with the masks I think she's thriving. I am so grateful.

I recommend continued use until the under five year olds are fully vaccinated and/or until the end of this academic year. We can re-assess for Sept with the assumed optimistic plan we will be able to retire the masks.

Thank you for all you do to keep our children safe.

Best,

Kasie Gates
978-549-9394

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:05 PM
To: Katie Shaw
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask

Katie -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Katie Shaw <kcorley22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 8:55 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Mask

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

> Hello Masks should be dropped for the kids. It is time and the kids have suffered enough. It's been too long and we need to drop these!

>>

>> Mom of 4th and 6th grader

>> Katie Shaw

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:07 PM
To: ANDREW SHAW
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Mandate

Andrew –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: ANDREW SHAW <andrew_shaw@us.aflac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:09 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Please follow the guidance from the state and remove the mask mandate for schools K-12.

Andy Shaw | Regional Sales Coordinator
Massachusetts—Boston
American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (Aflac)
859 Willard St, Suite 400, Quincy, MA 02169

Tel: 508.331.0527
andrew_shaw@us.aflac.com | aflac.com
• A Fortune 500 Company
• Fortune's Best Companies to Work For
• Fortune's Most Admired Companies

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:07 PM
To: Jenepher Lalicata
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please lift the mask mandate

Jenepher -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jenepher Lalicata <jlalicata823@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:15 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please lift the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear RPS School Committee,

I'm writing to express my support of the mask mandate being lifted.

Our children have been behind masks for far too long. They have not seen each other smile, they have not been able to breathe appropriately and have been beyond uncomfortable. I believe it's fair to say, the masks have inhibited their full ability to learn.

Please let them have the sense of normalcy they deserve, free of the restrictions of a mask. They have lost so much of the last two years, it's time to start moving forward.

Sincerely,
Jenepher Lalicata
Parent to Enzo (Coolidge Connections Program, grade 8) and Stella, Barrows grade 4.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Miłaszewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: FW: Unmask our kids

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:07 PM
To: Taylor Kloss <tellenkloss@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Unmask our kids

Taylor -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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disseminate, or otherwise use the information. Also, please indicate to the sender that you have received this email in error, and delete the copy you received.

-----Original Message-----

From: Taylor Kloss <tellenkloss@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:48 PM

To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>

Subject: Unmask our kids

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm a reading resident with a child about to go into your kindergarten next year. I'm 110% on board with unmasking our children! The school has great vaccination rates and with the covid vaccine and medicines available, it can be managed for those in need.

As someone who is high risk, I beg of you to let our kids be kids. Enough is enough!

Thank you,
Taylor Pittsinger

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:08 PM
To: kiril daskalov
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Covid restrictions

Kiril –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: kiril daskalov <kiril_daskalov@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 1:37 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>; Brandt, Shawn <Shawn.Brandt@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Covid restrictions

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To: Reading School District
Reading School Committee

From: Kiril Daskalov
3 Archstone Cir.
Unit 204
Reading, MA, 01867

Dear Madams/Sirs,

I am Kiril Daskalov, the father of two students within the Reading School District, and more specifically - Joshua Eaton Elementary.

This is the fifth or maybe sixth email that I am writing to you.

All of my emails are dedicated to one single topic - to be removed all covid related restrictions.
To let my children breathe and live free.

We are a family from Bulgaria.

There is no country in Europe, where children were forced to wear masks at school!

Not a single country. Not for a single day during the last two years.

There is no country in Europe where children under 5 years old were forced to wear masks, under any circumstances - on airplanes, in hospitals, etc.

There is no country in Europe where children were forced to get a covid vaccine, so to be allowed to go to school. More over - the majority of the doctors in Europe are advising against the vaccination of children and young people.

The World Health Organization issued repeated official statements advising that children under 12 years old should not wear masks.

The World Health Organization issued repeated official statements advising against the vaccination of children and young people.

Children should not wear masks and should not be required covid vaccinations - simply because covid is harmless for them. And if you do not explicitly need it - you do not inject chemicals into your body.

Why have you forced the masks on my children faces for 7 hours a day at school for 2 years now?

When my children come out of school in the afternoon - their masks are soaking wet. They can not breathe well.

After two years of masking and distancing and all kinds of other insanities - most of the children can not develop proper social skills.

A lot of children have speech issues. Looking at the other person's face is crucial for learning to properly speak.

A lot of children develop depressions.

Do you actually care? You certainly do not.

Why did you do this to my children? For what?

Why did you suppress the medical science?

You are only driven by your own political careers, and nothing else.

Like some of the doctors in this country - just a lackeys to the political power.

And if other doctors dare to express a different opinion, or just to convey the opinion of the doctors in Europe - they are getting canceled, fired, their lives ruined.

This is immoral. It's is despicable.

I came from an ex-communist country. You are not much different from the totalitarian communist/socialist regime.

Kiril Daskalov

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:08 PM
To: Ivelina Sokolova
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lift mask mandate in schools

Ivelina –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Ivelina Sokolova <ivet.sokolova@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 6:52 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lift mask mandate in schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing as a Reading resident and parent of a child in the RPS system. Yesterday, DESE announced that they are lifting the mask recommendation for all school districts around MA effective 2/28. I am writing to ask the School Committee to lift the mask mandate for Reading schools and make it voluntary only. I understand there are parents still not comfortable with their kids going unmasked but they would still have the option to wear a mask if they want to. Other kids should have the opportunity to not wear one and enjoy much needed face to face interaction with their peers.

These kids havent seen their classmates faces and thats not normal. We have to return to living life freely.

Best regards,
Ivelina
Charles street

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:09 PM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: FW: Please lift the mask mandate

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:09 PM
To: Jarra Carney <jarra14@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Please lift the mask mandate

Jarra –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Jarra Carney <jarra14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 7:24 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please lift the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee,

Thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you for the countless hours of time you dedicate to our community and our students. Please lift the mask mandate tonight and allow students and faculty the choice to mask. The right to choose to mask is so important, just as important as the right to choose to vaccinate. In an attempt to bring our community closer, to help families feel heard and supported and to give our students a bit of happiness please, please, please lift the mask mandate.

The numbers are down, the death rate is less than that of influenza, it is time. Continuing the mandate will be seen as a political showing of strength of the union rather than a thoughtful consideration of what is best for the students and community. Please try to put aside any personal feelings, political views or any want to demonstrate power and consider our students and faculty.

I am a healthcare provider in Boston and have been working with Covid patients throughout the pandemic, I have a deep understanding of the importance of decreasing the spread to protect our vulnerable population. But, it's time to unmask in certain situations. The healthcare community has learned so much over the past two years and covid is being very successfully treated. Covid will be with us forever, we have learned to cope and treat and prevent. It is now time to return to normal, as normal as we'll ever be again, and have the choice to unmask. It's a scary step but it's time.

Please, for our students, for our community, please, please, please allow the choice to unmask. And thank you again for everything you do.

Jarra Finnegan Carney

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:09 PM
To: danielleaustin77@yahoo.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Writing in support of lifting the mask mandate

Danielle –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Danielle Austin <danielleaustin77@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:42 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Writing in support of lifting the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am writing in support to please consider lifting the mask mandate in schools. Please allow families a choice to wear them if they choose to. Even myself, who is definitely is considered to be a "nervous nelly" feel its time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Danielle Austin, Birch Mom

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:10 PM
To: Tara Cahill
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask mandate policy for meeting tonight

Tara -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tara Cahill <tcahill@Bacardi.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:14 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask mandate policy for meeting tonight

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a little confused by the talk about mask mandates. My understanding was mask mandates were being dropped after Feb vacation. However I am hearing that may not be the case. As one of the last states to lift mask mandate I was very excited for my children to finally be able to see and hear their teachers. This is the 3rd year and my now 2nd grader hasn't seen a classmates or teachers face since kindergarten. My 5th grader is about to go to middle school and needs a normal end to his elementary school years. Enough is enough follow every other state in lifting this as our kids have had enough. I am all for health and wellness as my entire family also had Covid while following strict guidelines but let's move forward. This is life now and as much as the mandates have helped they have also hurt our children. Let's give them a chance to return to normal.

Thank you,

Tara Cahill

Jackson (grade 5) and Brooklyn Cahill (grade 2) Birchmeadow

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:11 PM
To: Tanya Leigh
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End masking in our schools

Tanya -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tanya Leigh <tcroteau17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:20 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: End masking in our schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

RPS School Committee,

I am writing to you about the concerns many of us in the community have about continuing to mask our children. Given Governor Baker's decision to end the mask mandate in schools it is time unmask our children in Reading.

As a result of masking our children many have suffered and continue to experience depression, fear, anxiety, and just plain frustration. In general, every child has been negatively affected by being forced to wear a mask all day in school and as Governor Baker mentioned yesterday, we won't know the full damage for years to come.

The choice should be decided at home. If a parent wants their child to wear a mask then by all means. As Governor Baker stated yesterday everyone should support and respect a families decision to mask or unmask.

This has gone on long enough and the psychological damage is real. The time is now to remove masks and all separation in our schools. Our children need to get back to a sense of normalcy in schools which is supposed to be a safe and supportive place. Not a place of isolation and fear.

The time is now to give us parents a choice.

Thank you,
Tanya Croteau
(Jalen Ajudua 5th grade, Ashton Ajudua 1st grade)

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:09 AM
To: Effie
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Rescind the mask mandate in schools!

Effie –

Yes. The meeting is open to the public. It was be at 7 p.m. at the RMHS Library.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Effie <effiedup@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:33 AM
To: Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>; Lapierre, Samantha <Samantha.Lapierre@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Rescind the mask mandate in schools!

Is the meeting open to the public? If so, where and what time?

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2022, at 11:11 PM, Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Effie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Effie Duplessis <effiedup@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:57 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us
Subject: Rescind the mask mandate in schools!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello to all,

By now I'm sure you have all seen it or read it. Governor Baker's address to rescind the mask mandates in school. In case you missed it, here are a few impactful quotes from yesterday's press conference.

"Our kids have had to put up with a lot of disruption, a lot of time alone, and has suffered a real learning loss over the past two years. There's no debating those points, no matter where you stand"

"During the past two years, the impact of COVID on children has caused a strain on their mental health, emotional well being and academic success," Riley said. "We are relieved to now be in a place where we can provide young people additional relief from COVID 19 restrictions, so they can continue to move towards normalcy in the classroom."

"Given the extremely low risk for young people, the widespread availability and the proven effectiveness of vaccines and the distribution of accurate test protocols and tests, it's time to give our kids a sense of normalcy and lift the mask mandate on a statewide basis for schools,"

Reading has always said they would follow science in their decision making, now is the time to act on it. The ice grounds and sidewalks around the Barrow school poses a more harmful threat than Covid. We need to get back to living a normal life. If families still want their children wearing masks, that is their personal decision and we respect that.

I urge you to rescind the mask mandates in school and follow Governor Baker's lead.
Thank you for your consideration,
Effie Duplessis

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:13 PM
To: SUSAN KNEELAND
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha; asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us
Subject: RE: Request to end mask mandate

Susan –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: SUSAN KNEELAND <rskneeland@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 10:21 AM
To: asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Request to end mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

School Committee Members & Board of Health Members,

I am writing to request an end to the indoor mask mandate in Reading and in the Reading Public Schools.

Given the lower positivity rates and the high vaccination rates of our residents, I believe that it is safe to give Reading residents the choice to wear a mask and remove the current mandate. The students of Reading Public Schools should also be given the same choice. Governor Baker is lifting the school mask mandate on 2/28, and I fully urge the Reading Board of Health and Reading School Committee to also remove the mask mandate in our indoor spaces and public schools.

Thank you.

Susan Kneeland
68 Longwood Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:15 PM
To: Karen Janowski
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masking

Karen –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Karen Janowski <karen.janowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 11:12 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masking

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

It is excellent news that DESE has finally decided to remove the mask mandate in public schools in the state (although this move is many months overdue). My understanding is that districts can continue to require masks in their schools. I am writing today to implore you to remove the mask mandate from PK-12. The harm to children's language and social-emotional development is beyond our understanding and the consequences of this decision will be far-reaching.

Children need to see their teachers' smiles. Children need to see the smiles of the school secretary, lunch ladies, paraprofessionals, and custodians. Children need to see the faces of their peers. Children need to know that school is a safe space where learning occurs without restrictions. Removing the mask mandate allows choice - if a child wants to wear one, that is allowed. If a child does not want to wear one as it impedes learning, they are allowed, without consequences.

I am not sending any articles about mask effectiveness as even the CDC has finally admitted cloth masks are ineffective (two years too late). I ask you instead to review these articles prior to your meeting next week. I think you will find them informative about what is best for learners from a social-emotional and health perspective.

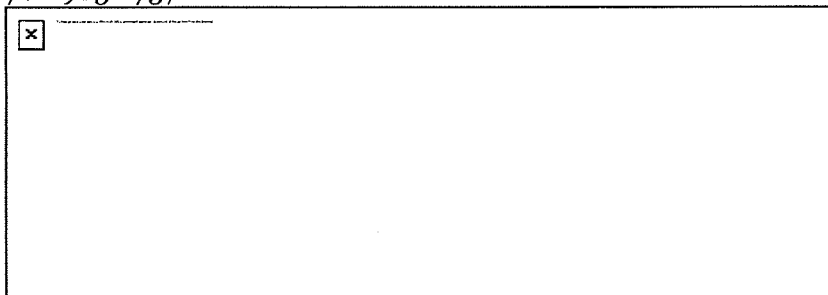
Psychologist's Perspective on Masks and Children
Should we Let Children Catch Omicron?
It's Time to End Mandatory Masks in Schools

Please make a decision that puts children FIRST.

Thank you.

Karen Janowski
30 Azalea Circle

--
Karen Janowski, MS Ed, President
EdTech Solutions Inc
131 Main Street Reading, MA 01867
781-983-1737



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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:15 PM
To: Laurie Walton
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please Protect Our Preschoolers

Laurie -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie Walton <lauriew57@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 1:02 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>; Brandt, Shawn <Shawn.Brandt@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please Protect Our Preschoolers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the School Committee,

I am a parent of an elementary school student and a preschooler. I am writing to urge the School Committee not to make masks optional in school until preschoolers are able to be fully vaccinated. Since Reading's preschools are inside the same buildings as the elementary schools and the high school, optional masking would leave preschoolers very vulnerable to the extremely contagious virus. Many elementary school students also have siblings who are under age 5. As we have masked as a community to keep students and staff safe in the past, I am requesting that we keep the youngest members of our community (children under age 5) safe as well by maintaining mandatory masking until children in that youngest age group are able to be fully vaccinated. The CDC also recommends that everyone in schools wear masks at this time. Thank you for helping protect the health of everyone in our community.

Best,
Lauren Walton

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:33 PM
To: Mark Ricciardelli
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Policy post 2/28/2022

Mark -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Ricciardelli <maricciardelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:39 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Policy post 2/28/2022

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Reading School Board,

I am writing as a parent of a 2 children in Reading, including a pre schooler whose school piggybacks off Reading Public School policy. Please end the mask mandate. It has done enough harm to our children. There are no studies providing any proof the cloth masks most students wear provided any protection the last 2 years. It was all virtue signaling. Be a leader not a follower. Do what's right. Let parents decide, not teachers unions. Children's mental health is at stake here which is far more dangerous than any Covid variant on children. In fact, I encourage you to try to find one proven case of a child without severe co-morbidities dying from Covid, if you can, I respectfully ask you to consider the source, because it isn't a legitimate one.

Again, I ask you to lead, and not follow the mass hysteria that unmasking children will cause death or even severe illness. It is unfounded.

Sincerely,

Mark Ricciardelli

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:18 PM
To: Brooke Sakraida
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha; asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us
Subject: RE: Mask Mandate

Brooke & Mike –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Brooke Sakraida <brooke.choate@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 5:28 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; asolar@ci.readingma.us; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Michael Sakraida <msakraida@gmail.com>
Subject: Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family as a parent of two elementary school children (1st and 3rd grade). I am asking that the Superintendent, School Board and Board of health to rethink and reverse the mandatory masks for kids at school and follow the recommendation of Gov. Charlie Baker and the DESE Commissioner who both announced that masks be dismissed on Feb 28th.

Since the spring of 2020 we have followed all the various restrictions imposed to keep our community safe, sometimes in the absence of science, because at the time we believed them to be understandable. Little was known at the start of the pandemic of what we were dealing with

and everyone was doing their best to make decisions based on the little information we had. We have followed every guidelines, vaccinated ourselves, gotten boosters and had our children vaccinated. Now, two years later we have significant data and studies that show it is no longer justifiable to continue to keep such rigorous measures in place; specifically mask mandates in school. We have also seen firsthand the destruction this pandemic has had on families, particularly impressionable elementary kids. There has been a huge impact on our youngest learners; kids are riddled with anxiety, falling behind in school, suffering with psychosocial development, having delayed speech and more. These kids have done everything asked of them and it is time that we allow them to have the option of normalcy. We are privileged to live in a highly vaccinated area and if we are going to look to science to make decisions then we need to follow what it says which is to remove the masks.

It is understandable that there will be some uncomfortable for a variety of reasons. This is exactly why it now needs to be a choice, a parent choice. If people feel uncomfortable for all means put a mask on but for those that have done all they can, read the science and are ready then they need the opportunity to do what they believe is best for their kids.

I implore you to reverse the mandate and let our kids get back to normal.

Sincerely,

Brooke & Mike Sakraida

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:31 PM
To: Lisa Treacy
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks in school

Lisa -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Treacy <ltreacy8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:30 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks in school

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members,

As an elementary teacher at the Killam School, I would you to consider carefully the dates to lift the mask mandate. March 1, falls just after our February break when families and staff will be traveling and visiting. Our last spike of Covid came right after our winter break, so I would think it would make more sense to wait a week or two before masks are removed from schools.

Thank you.
Lisa Treacy

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:32 PM
To: Gmail
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask policy

Ali -

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts on this matter. As you may have seen, we were also forwarded the feedback you share with the Board of Health.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Gmail <amilona84@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 10:14 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask policy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my support for any mask change policies in the Reading Public Schools to allow the unmasking of our children in schools. I feel very strongly about not sending my child to school in a mask all day. If other people want to mask their children, let that be their choice.
It's time to unmask our kids!!!

Thank you for your consideration,
Ali White
(Parent of Barrows 1st grader and incoming Kindergartener)

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:26 PM
To: Aurianne Lopatka; Geoff Lopatka
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lifting the Reading Public Schools mask mandate

Aurianne & Geoff –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Aurianne Lopatka <auriannelopatka@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 1:46 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Geoff Lopatka <glopatka@hotmail.com>; Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lifting the Reading Public Schools mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

We are writing to the Superintendent of the Reading Public Schools as well the School Committee to show our support and ask that the **mask mandate be lifted for Reading Public Schools**.

We are so encouraged by the Governor of Massachusetts announcing on 2/9/2022 that the mask mandate will be lifted state-wide as of 2/28/2022; and that schools in the Commonwealth no longer require a waiver from DESE to lift their own mask mandate. We attended the Reading Board of Health meeting last night and understand that Reading's town mask mandate has been lifted immediately with certain caveats. We are also thrilled that to date, rescinding the mask mandate has NOT involved a distinction between being vaccinated or not.

We are all overwhelmed with an excess of data and graphs on the topic of masking. We could present to you a graph that indicates masks are useless to preventing the spread of COVID, and we could present to you a graph that indicates masks are very helpful. At this point, data can be presented to show whatever the user wants it to show.

That said, we are not citing data, but would like to speak pragmatically and from the heart. It's time to give our kids the normal school environment that they deserve. Remote learning, cancelled proms and sports and field trips, and general lack of fun over the past two years has caused our children social and emotional suffering. Lifting the mask mandate is the next step to our children getting back to being healthy and happy, and experiencing a non-disrupted school environment.

If one thinks that kids are "used to masks" at this point or "don't mind them much," just wait for their reaction when they are told they don't have to wear masks anymore. Don't confuse compliance with acceptance!

Additionally, we absolutely accept parent choice in this matter. We expect that some families, including close friends of ours, will choose to continue to have their kids wear masks in school. We should support these families and children in their choices, as they should respect our choices.

Thank you so much for your time in reading this and your consideration.

Sincerely,
Aurianne and Geoff Lopatka

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:26 PM
To: sherilynfriedman
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Make Masks Optional in Schools

Sherilyn –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: sherilynfriedman <sherilynfriedman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 2:01 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Make Masks Optional in Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello School Committee,

I am writing in support of making masks optional for all students and staff in Reading Public Schools. Please follow DESE in rescinding the school mask mandate.

Thank you,
Sherilyn Friedman
26 Echo Avenue

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:28 PM
To: Jessica Lynch
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks

Jessica -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Jessica Lynch <jessica_meehan@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 4:37 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Please rescind the mask mandate for our elementary aged children, per the guidance given by DESE. This has gone on long enough, time to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jessica Lynch

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:28 PM
To: Julie Draper
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Removal

Julie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Julie Draper <julie.draper@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 4:43 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Removal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi,
I had reached out before but I am hearing rumors that we might decide to keep masks at the elementary level because parents want them. As a parent I am actually hearing the exact opposite of this. The schools that have already voted to remove them are rejoicing. I feel like this 100 percent needs to be the parents decision to make and not committees. All for having it as an optional choice but I hope this is an easy decision to remove them at all levels.
Thanks,
Julie Silbovitz
Milton Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:29 PM
To: Stephanie Cuffe
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks - elementary school

Stephanie -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Stephanie Cuffe <scuffe426@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 4:46 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks - elementary school

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I'm a parent of a first and third grader and I would like the chance to share my opinion on masks. I think the school committee should vote to remove the mask mandate for all schools, including elementary. I believe it is time to move forward in this pandemic and as a parent of two fully vaccinated children, I would like to see masks as optional. It is vital to the social and emotional growth of these young children to be able to see another persons facial expressions.

Thank you for all that you do to ensure our children have the best educational experience.

Stephanie Cuffe

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:29 PM
To: Teplitsky, Jacquelyn
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masking in Elementary

Jacquelyn -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Teplitsky, Jacquelyn <Jacquelyn.Teplitsky@takeda.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 5:11 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masking in Elementary

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I have 3 children in elementary school and strongly feel that the mask mandate should be lifted, to follow the guidance and recommendations of DESE. This is particularly important for our younger children, who are learning to read and process sounds.

Personally, I have concerns for my kindergartner with special needs. He just came home with an evaluation indicating that he's having trouble with blending sounds. While I don't know if this can be attributed to masks, the use of masks certainly can't be helping. He also has PT challenges and is more prone to falls, again, certainly not something that is being helped by masking.

Parents should be given the choice, not forced, to mask their kids.

Thank you.

Jacquelyn Teplitsky (mother of 3 at Joshua Eaton).

Sent from my iPhone

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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:30 PM
To: hollys722@hotmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask requirement

Holly -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Holly Weinberg <hollys722@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 6:24 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask requirement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing as an elementary parent (and teacher in another district). I believe we should have the option of whether our students wear masks or not beginning February 28. Parents who'd like their children to wear masks can. I would like my children to have the option not to wear a mask.

Thank you
Holly Weinberg

Choose kindness. 🙏

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:30 PM
To: Dan Weinberg
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Ending masking mandate in elementary schools

Dan –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: Dan Weinberg <danweinberg77@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 6:25 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Ending masking mandate in elementary schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern -

As the parent of a 3rd grader and 1st grader at a Joshua Eaton, I'm writing to respectfully request that the school committee please follow the guidance provided by Governor Baker and end the masking mandate in RPS elementary schools. I understand there are some who will oppose the end to this mandate, however, those parents can continue to mask their children at their option.

It is time we return to some semblance of normalcy and allow our children and teachers to go unmasked at their option.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Weinberg
617-216-5413 mobile

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:30 PM
To: Alicia Williams
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks Off, please!

Alicia –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Alicia Williams <aw@cordelephotography.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 7:00 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks Off, please!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee

Respectfully, It's time to remove the masks. If not now, *when?* What is your end date? What is your data point; Zero? We will **never** be at zero. In April of 2021 Reading had **20 people** with covid... **and the kids wore masks**. Around May 20th 2021, there were **7 people** in town with covid and **the kids wore masks**. I fear if you don't take the masks off now, you never ever will. It will never be "safe" as long as we have spikes, new variants and "covid". It wasn't safe when there were 7 people, or 20. When will it be safe????

The *mental health* of the children in our district is a bigger problem than Covid. Our children are the ones wearing masks 30 hours for a week for the "greater good". Some METCO students ride the bus wearing a mask 9.5 HOURS a day; 47.5 hours a week. If you'd like talk about equity, how is *that* equitable?? On average 3 hours a day longer than a student in who goes to their neighborhood school.

In March 2020, the U.S. government had the slogan "15 days to *SLOW* the spread" not STOP. SLOW. |

In 2020 the Wall Street Journal had an article that said and I quote "*The most important question for about Covid was not risk to children but rather the risk to adults—parents, teachers and school staff.*" So I ask - why are we

masking the children; when in a quick Facebook search you can find some of our very own staff and parents having large parties at their homes unmasked, or out to dinner in a restaurant. High school students TikTok's can be seen pulling their masks down all over the school unsupervised.

In October 2021, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) found "soaring rates of mental health challenges among children, adolescents, and their families over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic." (Please [review that here](#))

In December 2021, U.S. Surgeon General emphasizing mental health in children saying "...the effect on their mental health has been *devastating*," (You can read that on [HHS.gov](#) here)

Within the last week, the US News reported [this article](#) about people and students with disabilities The effect all of this has had on the generation of kids is shaping who they are in ways *none of us will ever understand*.

My daughter pleaded with me to stop wearing a mask, she doesn't understand why they wear them, she said everyone in school either has had covid (and recovered) or has had a vaccine. She went on to state that the kids don't wear the masks correctly. A simple search of tiktoks from local students can be found with them walking around in the bathroom with no mask on hanging out together. Staff Facebook page reveal photos of them having holiday parties, and hanging out at restaurants.

My 1st grader has never been in a class without wearing a mask. Teachers can't fully read a child's face that is struggling to understand a concept. Special Ed students with sensory issues are uncomfortable and some can't vocalize it. A child with autism who spent years learning how to read facial cues has lost YEARS of work.

Please, take the masks off. Turn the page, and let these kids have a sense of normal. Help these kids. Two years is long enough.

I know in the end you are all volunteers and you have a thankless job, and I don't envy the amount of frustration coming at you. Please know, no one is telling students NOT to wear masks, **we are asking if students could have a choice.**

Respectfully
Alicia Williams

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:32 PM
To: Alicia Williams
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please watch

Alicia –

Thank you for sharing this video.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Alicia Williams <aw@cordelephotography.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 1:19 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please watch

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear SC,

This is a 15 second clip from twitter. If this doesn't tell you how kids feel about masks (even through some say they kids don't care) needs to watch this.

<https://twitter.com/hollandcourtney/status/1491996868829614081?s=20&t=vtZt6M-TuOJ4EY5Dv1C6vA>

Volume up.

Thank you
Alicia

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 11:32 PM
To: Heather Bruntil
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Advocate for Mask Choice in Reading Public Schools

Heather –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Heather Bruntil <heather@bruntil.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 3:45 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Advocate for Mask Choice in Reading Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To Members of the School Committee:

In light of the expiration of the DESE mask mandate, I am writing today to encourage the school committee to vote to allow mask choice for all in Reading Public Schools. Mask choice is a common sense way to keep everyone safe, connected, teaching, and learning. Mask choice offers individuals to be able to make the best decision for their individual situation.

As a community and a school system I can say that I am proud of how everyone has navigated this pandemic for the past two years. There has been excellent communication, thoughtful dialogue, and the utmost care and concern for the health and continued development of our entire school community. I am grateful for the quality decisions that have been made for Reading Public Schools thus far during these unprecedented times.

We all have learned so much and our tools to mitigate spread have improved. We recognize that higher quality face masks are now available that are able to offer protection to the wearer. This offers an opportunity for healthy students, teachers, administrators and visitors to choose their best decision regarding wearing a mask without being concerned they may negatively impact another.

For some, masks may have proven to be an obstacle for teaching or accessing the curriculum. Mask choice allows those who have faced those obstacles to teach or learn in the way that best suits them without worry they will negatively impact another.

I appreciate all the Reading Public School district has done to support the teaching and learning within our school community during this time. I know that the decisions that are made are considered from many perspectives and with the intention to provide the best opportunity for all within the school community to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Heather Bruntil

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:45 AM
To: Jennifer Corwin
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: In consideration of masks

Dr. Corwin –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA next Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Jennifer Corwin <jennifermcorwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 7:45 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: In consideration of masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing in advance of your planned meeting where I know you will be discussing the upcoming end to the school mask mandate in MA. I am writing to urge that you consider a data driven approach to ending the universal mask mandate at RPS, rather than one that is driven purely by the calendar.

I am so pleased that our numbers across the state seem to be improving. The peak of the omicron surge hit us all hard, and the month of January brought more pediatric covid cases than I had seen in the entirety of the pandemic. Luckily things improved nearly as rapidly as they had deteriorated, and we continue to move in the right direction.

However, covid is not over. As much as we all want to "return to normal", learning to "live with covid" means learning to live *smart* with covid. This means we must use data and evidence, and not public pressure or an arbitrary date on the calendar, to dictate our public health policies.

I would propose at the very least that we wait until community transmission in Reading is low before we lift the mask mandate in the schools. This would mean a less than 5% positive rate (per the CDC). As of today, Reading is at nearly 8% positive. Given that, I believe it is much too soon to consider ending the mask mandate.

Even if the town is at a positive rate < 5% by 2/28, my second concern is the timing of possibly ending the mandate the Monday after students return from February vacation. We have seen spikes in cases after every other holiday break, there is no reason to assume the same will not be true after February vacation. I would ask you to strongly consider at the very least giving a 2 week "buffer" after February vacation to monitor any change in the positivity rate before potentially ending the mask mandate.

Additionally, I would urge you to consider what surveillance measures will be used in the schools to monitor for transmission events if universal masking is to end. Since "test and stay" has ended, will the "opt in" home testing be changed to "opt out"? Will families still be notified if their child is a close contact? Given the potential for unmasked close contact events, frequent testing and contact tracing seems crucial. We should also be clear about what criteria will be used to determine whether universal mask policies will be put back into place. We all know that further mutations are likely and additional covid "surges" are possible. I would hope a policy would be put into place making it clear what metrics will determine if schools will go back to a mask mandate.

Finally, before considering ending the mask mandate, I would ask you to take into account the students who do not yet have access to vaccines. The pediatrics community was disappointed this weekend when Pfizer withdrew their EUA for their 6mo-5yo vaccine, as we have all been waiting for access to vaccines for some of our youngest patients. Now that vaccine approval is not on the immediate horizon, many of the RISE students now face potentially being in school without universal masking before they even have access to a vaccine. Please remember that while covid is "mild" in most pediatric patients, it is not benign, and even "mild" cases can cause significant symptoms in younger children - and at the very least significant school absence and inconvenience for working families. If masking, which has been proven to be one of our most effective tools to stem in school transmission events, is to end in Reading, I would ask you to consider how you will continue to protect the youngest of our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Corwin MD
26 Boswell Road
Killam Parent and Pediatrician at Dowd Medical

Jennifer Corwin
she/her/hers
(c) (646) 453-9462

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Jeff Ashburner
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Data-driven masking

Dr. Ashburner –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Jeff Ashburner <jeff.ashburner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Data-driven masking

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Milaschewski and School Committee,

I have a few comments in light of the announcement from DESE and Governor Baker about the school mask mandate ending on 2/28.

As you have done throughout the pandemic, I urge you to continue using data in your decision making rather than using an arbitrary end date as DESE has done. The pandemic has not yet changed as to justify a change and we don't know that it will by 2/28. Middlesex County, and virtually everywhere else in the US, is still labeled as an area of high transmission where masks should be worn indoors. There is a significant difference between cases and hospitalizations declining (from a very large peak) and cases and hospitalizations being low. DESE and Governor Baker mentioned that schools have not been a large source of transmission. This is true in Reading, where I believe everyone has done an unbelievable job. However, this is with masking in place.

Throughout this pandemic, at both the state and federal level, we have been quick to remove mitigation measures and slow to implement them. I want our kids to be able to go to school without masks, but it does seem that 2/28 is too soon given the current data.

When the mask mandate is removed in Reading Public Schools, I also believe that a data-driven mask policy should be in place to determine if and when masks should be required again. The pandemic is not over and we will have future surges. Let's be quick to act based on available data so we can re-implement a universal mask policy when the data dictates. Masks are highly effective in reducing airborne disease transmission, and, during these periods, universal masks mitigate disease spread more than one-way masking.

I look forward to the discussion at the School Committee meeting this week. When masks do become optional, please also be clear about transmission thresholds where they may be required again. I'm happy to help in any way.

Jeff Ashburner, PhD, MPH
Epidemiologist, MGH

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Parris Wellman
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Children and Mask Mandates

Parris –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Parris Wellman <parris.wellman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:31 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Children and Mask Mandates

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members and Superintendent Milaschewski,

I am writing today because I understand you will be voting on whether or not to lift the mask mandate in Reading public schools. As a father of an 11 year old in the district, I think the time has come to allow parents to make their own choices for their children. By now, there is enough information available that all parents are capable of weighing the risks and benefits. The decision to wear or not to wear a mask should be made on an individual basis.

I urge you to lift the mandate now and allow parents to make decisions that are appropriate for their children.

Yours truly,

Parris Wellman

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Kathy Donnelly
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Mandate - SCHOOL

Kathy –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Kathy Donnelly <kathydonnelly525@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:52 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Mandate - SCHOOL

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members,

As a parent of a RMHS Junior (and sophomore attending out of town Catholic high school), we have seen COVID impact their social, emotional as well as educational experiences over these two years. The cumulative toll of masking students is now being researched. Per the CDC, on Feb 4, 2022, "The real-world effectiveness of face coverings to prevent acquisition of SARS-CoV-2 infection has not been widely studied."

Further, to paraphrase public comments at from past SC meetings "it's simple to wear a mask if it even protects a little" –in my opinion, does not fully balance the impact of long-term masking, the current vaccination rate in RMHS, Middle & elementary schools, nor the efficacy of cloth masks that are widely in use by our students. That 'simple' daily task of wearing a mask, going on TWO years, and considering recent low COVID infection rates, no longer is beneficial.

"Given the low extremely low-risk for young people, the widespread availability and the proven effectiveness of vaccines and the distribution of accurate test protocols and tests, it is time to give our kids a sense of normalcy and lift the mask mandate on a statewide basis for schools," Gov. Charlie Baker said.

Reading schools' switch to at-home testing was a major shift as result of COVID 'burning itself out' per Daily Times Chronicle cover page on 2/8/22.

We ask that the Reading School Committee rescind Reading Public School's masking mandate; in conjunction with the Gov of MA rescission, the Town of Reading BOH rescission on 2/11/2022, as well as DESE's updated mask mandate. MIAA will allow masking protocols for student athletes to end when the school mandate expires on Feb. 28.

We ask the rescission of the school mask mandate be effective no later than Feb 28, 2022.

The vaccination rate at RMHS is already sufficient to no longer require masks. We ask that this essential rescission should apply to all students & faculty regardless of vaccination status, grade, and school. Masking would then be optional – a personal choice - at school and school activities.

Allow teachers to fully see their students, reconnect and engage with smiles and clearly hearing each other speak.

Thank you.

Kathy Donnelly
246 Charles Street
Reading, MA
C: 617-953-5514

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Mike Flaherty
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: No More Masks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mike-

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Mike Flaherty <mdflats@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:50 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: No More Masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

I currently have two elementary school age children in the Reading Public Schools. The Town of Reading School Committee should vote to lift their mask mandate without delay when the statewide mandate expires on Feb. 28.

It is time to let kids get back to a normal classroom setting without having their learning hindered by a mask. There will always be a reason we could wait to be "safer". The Reading School system email on January 28th 2022, referenced the statewide data showing "98.6% of test and stay tests produced negative results pointing to limited in school transmission" Cloth masks are now considered the least effective mask and most children were wearing cloth masks during the period that produced the 98.6% negative results. This seems like compelling evidence to go without masks.

Please vote for "no more masks" and let our kids be kids.

Sincerely,
Mike Flaherty
Woodland St
Reading, MA

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:16 PM
To: jccjulie@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Public comment for upcoming meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Julie -

I appreciate the concern demonstrated in this e-mail.

Meeting management is something we have been discussing. I believe we have a plan that will work to allow productive conversation and public feedback while keeping the focus of the meeting on the business at hand and the meeting moving forward.

Thank you for writing in.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Ross <jccjulie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:28 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Public comment for upcoming meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the School Committee,
I wanted to reach out and ask that your upcoming meeting be moderated in a way that values input from the public and also stresses a respect for facts around public health. I have seen numerous inaccurate suggestions lately stating that vaccines are not effective or that cloth masks do not work. This was addressed at the last Board of Health meeting

because they have heard the same claims from residents so I don't doubt that you have received letters recently of a similar nature.

It may help to clearly state the expectations for public comment so all participants understand how much time each speaker will have and what is and is not appropriate. It does not seem necessary to withhold public comment as has been done for past agenda items but it seems that guidelines are needed when discussing public health issues right now.

Please continue to rely on current data, input from our nursing staff and our vaccination rates to inform your decisions. I respect the time that you have given to ensure the best outcomes for RPS students during the pandemic and I am confident that you will remain focused when deliberating on what comes next.

Thank you,
Julie Ross

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:28 PM
To: Melissa DeCroteau
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: In support of lifting the mask mandate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Melissa -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa DeCroteau <mllavigne21@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:26 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: In support of lifting the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

I am emailing to support the lifting of the mask mandate in our schools. The kids have given their time to this for a long time now. Most of the towns surrounding us have already stated they are lifting theirs. Our children play sports after school with friends from in class without masks already. Please let our children get back to a more normal school day. My youngest has never had a regular school experience. It is time.

Thank you for taking the time to read everyone's emails!

Melissa

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:36 PM
To: sophie_gellot@yahoo.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: mask mandate in schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sophie -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Sophie Gellot <sophie_gellot@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:36 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: mask mandate in schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear school committee,

I hope that you will vote in favor of rescinding the mask mandate in schools. Children have been wearing masks for 2 years now and are ready to take them off. It's time for them to see their peers and teachers faces and smiles. These masks have taken a toll on our children's education, social and emotional well being.

This virus is and will be with us for decades as new variants will come along just like the flu. We have to learn to live with it and stop being afraid. We now know through scientific observations that our immunity through vaccines or covid past infections will limit severe cases as it does for the flu.

What saddens me is that some children are now hesitant to remove their masks not because they are afraid of the virus but because they have learned to feel comfortable hiding their faces. They are now worried to show their faces, their smiles and their emotions to others. Becoming comfortable and accepting to be hidden is a scary societal and emotional issue that needs to be addressed. The longer we wait the harder it will be thus making our kids more vulnerable to emotional distress.

It is time to remove masks in schools and make them optional.

Sincerely,

Sophie Gellot

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:37 PM
To: marissa.monagle@yahoo.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask consideration

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Marissa -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Marissa Monagle <marissa.monagle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 6:06 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask consideration

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee,

Thank you for the time that you put into our students and school community. I understand that there is an upcoming decision to be made this week regarding mask mandates in our schools. I am hoping that you will strongly consider making it a personal choice.

My son is a 2nd grader at Barrows and I think his learning experience would greatly improve with being able to see his teacher's face and mouth. He is working on critical reading skills, particularly around the sound of letters and I really think he needs to see his teacher and other students' faces as they try to master these skills.

He also wears glasses and this has been such a struggle for him and our family. We have bought every type of mask and eye glass wipes & sprays imaginable. It is so hard for him. We have found that he does best with the disposable masks but he complains that by the end of the day, he has tiny white fibers stuck in his mouth and throat.

I'm also concerned that the warm weather is coming. Our schools are not air conditioned and I am worried that students and staff will be overheating in the buildings while masked.

In closing, I'm a long term Reading resident and a graduate of Joshua Eaton, Parker and Reading High. I love our schools and and proud of the way our community has worked so well together for these last two years. I feel that by now, everyone who wants the vaccine has had access to it. My husband and I were vaccinated as soon as we were eligible and our son has been fully vaccinated since before Christmas. We were onboard with all the Covid precautions our schools and community took to protect the most vulnerable and were willing to be masked and distanced to do our part. But now that the access to the vaccine is there, I think we should let our kids return to normalcy.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss further or have any questions from.

Kindly,

Marissa (& Patrick Monagle) – parents of Will Monagle, 2nd grade - Barrows
781-316-5051

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Shana Barmoy
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please keep masks in Elementary schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Shana -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Shana Barmoy <secc723@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 6:31 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please keep masks in Elementary schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have a kindergartener in Reading, and we are humbly asking you please keep mask mandates in the public schools inline with CDC guidance. They have been working well at limiting in-school transmission and the kids are doing great. Please continue to protect our kids especially at the ages where vaccines are still in progress. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Shana Barmoy

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:34 PM
To: Shannon Vittozzi
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: 02/17 Vote on Face Coverings

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Shannon -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Shannon Vittozzi <shannon.vittozzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:15 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Paul Vittozzi <paul.vittozzi@gmail.com>
Subject: 02/17 Vote on Face Coverings

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Shannon Vittozzi. I am a mother of a first grader student at Barrows. I am writing in regards to the 02/17 vote for face coverings at the committee meeting.

I would like to kindly voice my opinion against mandatory face coverings for our young children in the classrooms.

I am greatly concerned that having our children wear face masks for extended periods of time has and will continue to hinder their educational and social development in the classroom.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Shannon Vittozzi

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Lindsey Byrnes
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Feedback: Masking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Taylor and Lindsey –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Lindsey Byrnes <lalevesque@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 7:01 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Feedback: Masking

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Reading School Board,

We have 3 children in RPS from grades K-5 and wanted to provide our support for removing the mask mandate at this point. Given the current state of the virus in our community and region we believe that the benefits significantly outweigh the risks. While we think all 3 of our children would get mental and emotional benefits from being able to learn and socialize without masks, we think there would be significant benefits for our youngest in kindergarten. He has challenges with speech and being able to learn in a mask free environment offers a real advantage when he can see his teacher's face/mouth.

Taylor and Lindsey Byrnes
Wood End
16 Collins Ave

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:40 PM
To: Tim Busa
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End Mask Mandates in Reading

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Tim -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Tim Busa <timbusa12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 7:34 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: End Mask Mandates in Reading

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

I am emailing you as a concerned parent on the topic of continuing mask requirements for our children in Reading schools.

Since Governor Baker along with dozens of other states across the country have removed the statewide mandates, I urge you to do the same here in Reading. The surrounding towns of North Reading, Burlington, Peabody, Lynnfield, Danvers, Stoneham, North Andover and more have already made this decision.

My children have both suffered through this mask mandate in ways that they are too young to appreciate or understand:

- My daughter has had her social development seriously hindered during important developmental years. She has become terrified of strangers, will not make eye contact, and has a strange false sense of security around masking.

- My son has suffered a severe speech delay that his state-funded speech pathologist attributes 100% to the wearing of masks at such a young age. He's fallen well behind his peers due to lack of socialization and the inability to read and react to facial cues.

The most frustrating part of all of this is that despite the consistent mask-wearing, they have both caught COVID. The masks offered no benefit, did not serve their intended purpose, and have only slowed our children down.

I am sure that the mandate felt like the correct answer initially, you made the best decision you could with the data available to you at the time. We were assured at a prior school board meeting that this policy would be reviewed and that you would 'follow the science,' and this is your chance to do exactly that:

- It is overwhelmingly clear that COVID poses a similar threat to our children as the flu - there are millions of cases that can confirm this.

- The Board of Health, the body in charge of providing the scientific guidance that non-health officials are not equipped or elected to make, has already ended the mask mandates in local businesses in town.

Now is the time to live up to your promise of following the science. If the school board won't follow it now then it never will.

I do not begrudge any family who wants their children to wear masks - that is their decision and I respect it. If this continues, there is simply no way that I can continue sending my kids to Reading Public Schools - it is no longer in their best interest. There are countless families in town who feel the exact same way.

Please do the right thing.

Tim Busa

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:00 PM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: FW: Removing mask at school

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:59 PM
To: Elizabeth Storti <elizabeth.storti@pathai.com>
Subject: RE: Removing mask at school

Elizabeth and Jack-

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Elizabeth Storti <elizabeth.storti@pathai.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:48 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Removing mask at school

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee-

I want to first thank you for the time and consideration this committee and all the leaders in Reading have put into policies and procedures to keep our at-risk population, namely the elderly, safe during the past two years. I fully understand this meant making decisions with little information or time.

It has come to my attention that the School Committee will be discussing the mask mandate at the Reading schools this week. I am asking that you strongly consider making mask wearing a personal choice for all grades.

Two years ago we masked our children to stop the spread and slow the surge, as a community we told them that they were protecting the elderly and at-risk populations. We all decided the risk to the at risk populations out-weighed what the children were giving up. As a result, our children missed out on arguably some of the most important benefits of in person school including how to socialize, peer to peer problem solving, and emotional response. In addition to socialization, many families have shared challenges academically. My son Joey is having speech issues which his own teachers attributed to the mask wearing and inability to work on proper word formation.

I am incredibly proud of my three children (Anthony- 7, Joey- 4 and Kate 3), all of whom we found out were more resilient and nimble than we expected. When it was Anthony's turn to get vaccinated, he did it without a second thought (the extra trip to Target for more legos also helped :)).

My husband and I are both Rockets, myself graduating from Birch, Coolidge, and RMHS and Jack from Barrows, Parker, and RMHS. We love this community and feel blessed to raise our children here. Our family has fully complied with all the town policies and we are vaccinated. We strongly believe with vaccines available to the public, significant reduction in COVID cases, and the most current data about risk of COVID to children, it is time to lift the mandate.

Please reach out if there are any questions or concerns. I will also be at the meeting on Thursday and look forward to the discussion.

Kindly,

Elizabeth Storti (& Jack Storti)
Parents of Anthony Storti, 1st Grade Killiam, Joey Storti, PreK, Kate Storti, PreK

Elizabeth Storti

VP Finance and Operations
PathAI
Mobile: (617) 833-1234

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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:00 PM
To: Deidre Arnold
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Mandate in our Schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Deidre –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Deidre Arnold <deidre.freitas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:53 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Mandate in our Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee,

My name is Deidre Arnold and I have lived in Reading for much of my life and am a graduate of Joshua Eaton, Parker and RMHS. My husband and I are vaccinated (with boosters) and my children have been vaccinated since early December (as soon as able). We've understood and were supportive of all of the Covid precautions taken by the schools and community to protect those most vulnerable.

My children were enrolled at Barrows until the fall of 2020 when I made the decision to enroll my children in a private christian school in a neighboring town because the school was able to accommodate in person learning - a strong value of mine and something that the public schools could not accommodate under the state's guidance at the time. And as of this past fall (2021), my children's current school made the decision to not require masks and instead deferred to students and parents to make the decision. I would estimate that half the students / parents have chosen to continue wearing masks. Over the last 1.5 years, my children have missed very little school (no more than 3 days in total) due to

covid protocols (e.g., being a close contact with another student). In that same time, the frequency with which my children have expressed relief about no longer wearing masks for ~7 yrs a day, to not take mask breaks, to see their friends' faces, to see their teachers' expressions, to not dread walking into school when they went to find their masks while getting out of the car, has brought me so much relief it's hard to express.

Appreciating that this is only one small anecdote, I still share it because it is an example of a parent's gratitude and relief in seeing their children happy and thriving without a mask mandate and instead permitting masks at the parents' discretion.

Thank you for the time that you put into our students and school community. I hope you will consider making it a personal choice whether to wear a mask in our schools.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deidre Arnold
former Barrows mother (John and Gabriel, grades 4 and 2)

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:04 PM
To: kgranara@comcast.net
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Rescind mask mandate for Reading Schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kristen –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Kristen Taylor Granara <kgranara@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:02 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Rescind mask mandate for Reading Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,
I hope this finds you well.

I truly hope you plan to follow the recommendations of Gov. Baker, Education Secretary James Peyser, and Commissioner Jeffrey Riley who said the current statewide mask requirement for K-12 schools will not be extended past Feb. 28.

I implore you to please vote to remove the mask requirement in the schools, K-12.

We are a place where those who wish to do so can wear a well fitted N95 but others should not be mandated to do so.

As Governor Baker said, "We are relieved to now be in a place where we can provide young people additional relief from COVID 19 restrictions, so they can continue to move towards normalcy in the classroom."

Thank you for all of your hard work and time.

Kristen Granara
36 County Rd

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Andrea Mclauchlan
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lift Mask Mandate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Andrea -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Andrea Mclauchlan <andrea.mclauchlan@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:19 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lift Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good Evening,

I am writing as a concerned mother to 3 elementary aged children at Barrows Elementary. I have 2 kindergarteners, Gianna and Landon, as well as a 4th grader, Liam. While this pandemic has shook all of our worlds, it is time we allow those ready and willing to- to move on. Our kids have paid there dues, we have done our parts. My children are all fully vaccinated, we have quarantined, dodged covid, been close contacts, got covid, missed now years of Christmas', birthdays and holidays from such. Some of my kids have never seen what real school is without masks. And for those who have experienced it without masks, and then were forced to stay home, then return masked, they are seriously impacted by this.

As Charlie Baker mentioned, we need to return to normalcy. Mental health is critical in getting through this pandemic . I have a 4th grader suffering with social problems, as these kids missed a year of school and are really more like a year or 2 behind there age. How are these students supposed to engage fully with there peers if they can't read there facial expressions? It is hard enough trying to navigate through those years of life without masks!

More critical is the students with special needs. Like one of my own, Landon. He just turned 6 years old. He is developmentally delayed and has severe speech delays. He attended RISE preschool and got speech support there from the age of 3. He started private speech this past year as I have learned his speech development is so significantly delayed and impacted by the use of masks. How is he and many students in similar challenges, supposed to ever thrive and develop? Most definitely not with a face covering on all day. My sons speech has been impacted immensely by the long term use of mask wearing. And the progress is more like a regression at this point in time. His recent IEP evaluation shows all well below average scores on his speech and sounds. How is he ever going to get past this being masked? The sad truth is, he's not going to if wearing masks is a continued requirement. Our kids haven't seen faces! At the age of kindergarten, they are supposed to be learning social awareness, facial expressions, how to connect and engage with students. The mental impact it is having is not creating thriving, developing children. It is stunting growth mentally and in my sons case, stunting his speech physically. These young kids have learned to hide behind there masks because they have known no world other than that. My daughter Gianna is so incredibly shy. How in the world are we going to raise strong, confident children when we are hiding them with draping wet, germ filled coverings over there beautiful faces.

Time to let it go. Time to put MENTAL health first. Our kids are declining recklessly and the physical impacts on the already delayed students is critical.

PLEASE LIFT THE MASK MANDATE FOR READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS. We can be supporters of both those who choose to mask, and those who choose not to mask!

Thank you,
Andrea McLauchlan
Barrows Mom
781-507-5255

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:33 PM
To: Liz Oliphant
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lift the mandate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Liz -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Oliphant <lizoliphant12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:32 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lift the mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

As a parent of three children in (or soon to be) in the public school system, I fully support lifting the mask mandate. I believe it is imperative to the emotional health and the academic success of our children to attend school without masks. We have socially distanced, gotten them vaccinated, subjected them to repetitive testing. It's time to lift the mandate.

Thanks,
Liz Oliphant
617-894-7970

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:02 PM
To: Paul Vittozzi
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: No more masks for kids

Paul -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Vittozzi <paul.vittozzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:38 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: No more masks for kids

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

My name is Paul Vittozzi. I am a father of a first grader student at Barrows. I am writing in regards to the 02/17 vote for face coverings at the committee meeting.

I would like to kindly voice my opinion against mandatory face coverings for our young children in the classrooms.

I am greatly concerned that having our children wear face masks for extended periods of time has and will continue to hinder their educational and social development in the classroom.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Paul Vittozzi

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:02 PM
To: Dan Oliphant
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lifting the mask mandate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dan –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Dan Oliphant <doliphant@pbpmovers.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:43 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lifting the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to vote to suspend the mask mandate. I am all in favor of it being optional, but not forced. This is coming from a parent who vaxed both of my eligible children, both children had Covid after vaccination. I understand the risks. We as a family have done everything you asked of us. At this point, there is strong evidence that masks do more harm than good. Please have the bravery to discontinue the mandate.

Thanks,

Dan Oliphant

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:28 AM
To: megancatherineday@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: 2/17 vote

Megan -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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-----Original Message-----

From: Megan Day <megancatherineday@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:29 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: 2/17 vote

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi ! I have 2 boys that go to Killam, they are both vaccinated. I beg you to please end the mask mandate in schools and let it be personal choice. Let us see their smiles again. Thank you!
Megan Day

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Baker, Marybeth M.
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please vote to make masks optional

Marybeth –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Baker, Marybeth M. <MBAKER6@PARTNERS.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:50 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please vote to make masks optional

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Dr. Milaschewski and School Committee Members,

I am a healthcare provider and parent of 3 Reading Public School students. I am also the Associate Director of Quality and Safety for my healthcare organization. I mainly deliver primary care but was deployed to a COVID-19 unit at the start of the pandemic and have since worked in a vaccine clinic and currently provide monoclonal antibody infusion and oral antiviral treatments to patients infected with COVID-19.

I am writing from the perspective of a parent and healthcare provider intimately aware of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community. **I am urging you to lift the mask mandate in Reading Public Schools by Monday, February 28, 2022.** With markedly decreased COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and death rates, high vaccination rates, and widespread testing availability, this is the right move at the right time. Masking and other pandemic-related restrictions have been linked to increased mental health problems and decreased academic performance, particularly among children and teens who were already disadvantaged in some way. Research has also shown there is significant

educational value in seeing full faces, especially when kids are learning to read, speak, and for non-native English speakers and students with special needs.

Our understanding of face coverings has evolved throughout the pandemic. We now know that wearing a high-quality mask (K-N95, N-95) correctly, can protect an individual from getting infected. However, wearing a fabric mask or allowing it to drop below your nose or mouth is not very effective. If we allow the mask mandate to expire on February 28th, Reading families will have the option to decide what is best for their individual needs. Those who are unvaccinated or have an immunocompromised household member can choose to send their child to school in a high-quality face mask. Teachers or staff who have concerns can also opt to wear a high-quality mask during working hours. This is clearly the best solution for everyone.

Thank you,
Marybeth Baker

Marybeth Molly Baker, NP, APRN-BC
Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
Associate Director of Quality and Safety
NorthShore Physicians Group
Danvers, MA 01923

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Rebecca Liberman
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks in schools should remain for unvaccinated

Rebecca –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Rebecca Liberman <rfliberman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:53 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Fwd: Masks in schools should remain for unvaccinated

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Please share my letter below that I wrote to the health director and the Board of Health with the School Committee on Thursday, as I am unable to attend the meeting.

In addition to my comments below, I would like to point out that even if vaccination rates are high in a given age group and among staff, there could still be younger children or other vulnerable family members at home.

Thank you.

Rebecca Liberman
50 Pratt Street

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Rebecca Liberman** <rfliberman@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 10, 2022, 9:08 AM

Subject: Masks in schools should remain for unvaccinated

To: <asolarin@ci.reading.ma.us>

Dear Mr. Solarin,

I urge you and the Reading Board of Health to keep a mask mandate requirement in schools for unvaccinated individuals in order to protect vulnerable students and staff and to avoid Covid infections that would reduce in-person learning time. In particular, children in preschool who are too young to be vaccinated, those who are pregnant, and those with comorbid conditions are especially susceptible to severe illness. It would be premature to lift the mask mandate for those who remain unvaccinated. Teachers, staff, and students all deserve to feel safe in our schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Liberman, MPH
Epidemiologist

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Katie Shaw
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks

Katie -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
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-----Original Message-----

From: Katie Shaw <kcorley22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:55 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

I wanted to write another email as a mother of an elementary school child. These kids lives have been altered for too long the masks need to be dropped to let kids smile and see their friends smile.

Drop the masks for all kids!

Katie Shaw

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Ahiggott
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End mask mandate, please

Ann -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ahiggott <Ahiggott@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:48 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: End mask mandate, please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Greetings Reading School Committee,

I firmly recommend that the RPS School Committee immediately drop the mask mandate for ALL Reading students. The people of Reading and people around the state, including Governor Baker, have spoken loud and clear - enough with mask mandates! Many surrounding towns have already dropped the masks in school and Reading needs to follow.

The psychological damage of prolonged mask wearing in school is real. As a result of masking our children, many have suffered and continue to experience depression, fear, anxiety, and overall frustration. Every child has been negatively affected in a variety of ways by being forced to wear a mask all day in school. As Governor Baker mentioned recently, we won't know the full damage for years to come.

Our children need to return to a sense of normalcy both socially and academically. They need to be able to focus on their studies and try to work through major chunks of education lost in the last two years. They need to release worrying if they will get in trouble if they take their mask down to take a drink of water. They need to let go of contemplating if a mask break will be offered on a given day (they're told that their busy day does not allow time for a mask break!). They need to be able to interact on the playground with students in other classrooms. They need to be able to hear teacher instruction and kids voices clearly. They need to be able to simply look at the smiles of kids and teachers!

Decisions regarding our children need to be returned to parents as we know our children best! The time is now for parents to be telling their children to ditch the masks as we begin healing the psychological damage and demoralization caused from constantly wearing a mask at school for two years. The healing begins with your vote to immediately remove the masks from all Reading students. Do you support healing the students of Reading Schools?

Best,
Ann Gullotti
Parent of students at Coolidge and Birch Meadow

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Haggerty, Ellen
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: RPS Mask Requirement

Ellen –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Haggerty, Ellen <Ellen.Haggerty@lahey.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:28 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: RPS Mask Requirement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Committee Members,

This email serves as a request on behalf of myself, my husband and our 3 children who currently attend Reading High School and Parker Middle School. We respectfully request that you highly consider removing the mask mandate for our children and for all children in the RPS system. These kids have endured the worst of worst times through the pandemic and for the sake of their mental health and for the sake of them returning to normalcy and to be able to talk to each other and to teachers without wearing a mask, please vote to recommend a mask, not to require a mask.

Thank you,
Ellen Haggerty

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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:43 AM
To: David Day
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: 2/17 Vote

David –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
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From: David Day <davidlouisday@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:41 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: 2/17 Vote

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have two boys that attend Killam and are both vaccinated. For the vote on 2/17, I would support parents having the choice on whether their children can attend with or without a mask.

Thank you,
David Day

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:12 AM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: FW: Thank you / request around Feb vacation return

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:03 PM
To: Etain O'Dea <etainodea@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Thank you / request around Feb vacation return

Etain –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Etain O'Dea <etainodea@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:27 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Thank you / request around Feb vacation return

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee

As you get ready to discuss the mask mandate, I just wanted to say thank you for the research and debate you are putting into so many hard choices these past two years.

We are all tired of Covid, and we all want to keep our children safe. How we respond to those two things is different for many parents, and you have to navigate that while keeping every child's wellbeing front and center.

Personally, my kids have no problem at all wearing a mask; they will continue if the mandate is removed, to protect others and themselves. My 14 yr old said that might make kids feel uncomfortable/unequal, and asked me this morning if the school committee has asked the kids how they feel about it, since it seems to be parents being the loudest.

If you decide to remove the mandate, I would ask that you extend any change until we are back in school one week after school vacation; not to wait until we see numbers, since numbers are in general going down even if there is a little bump, just delay removing masks until the week of March 8th.

Thank you for your consideration.

Etain O'Dea
526 West St

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Lapierre, Samantha; Milaschewski, Thomas
Subject: FW: mask mandate

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:02 PM
To: Colleen <bateyc3@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: mask mandate

Colleen and Mike –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Colleen <bateyc3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:57 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>

Cc: Mike Lacey <mplacey89@gmail.com>

Subject: mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Reading School Committee-

Thank you for all of your time, care, and commitment to the children, families, faculty and staff of the Reading Public Schools. We are writing to you in hopes that you will vote to rescind the mask mandate in the schools.

As a speech-language pathologist in a local school district, I see the impact that masks have had, given the lack of visual and auditory input, on our children's speech and literacy development. The time is now. Please allow families to make their own decisions and unmask our children.

Colleen and Mike Lacey
9 Beacon St.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Andrena Silva
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: VOTE TO UNMASK OUR CHILDREN

Andrena –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

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Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Andrena Silva <andrena.m.silva@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:30 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: VOTE TO UNMASK OUR CHILDREN

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Good morning,

I hope all of you are doing well.

I've reviewed the agenda for Thursday's meeting and I see that your vote on masks comes before public comment. Why was that decision made? I feel that you are not giving the community the opportunity to speak on this topic before your final decision is made.

I am hoping and praying that you will all vote to unmask our children. IT IS TIME. Studies like this one <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016344532100548X> show that children, even immunocompromised ones, are **not** vulnerable to this disease. This disease is a risk to the elderly, the obese, and adults who are either immunocompromised or have multiple comorbidities. (Luckily we have vaccines and N95's to protect these people). It is not and never has been the responsibility of our children to keep these groups of people safe.

If you don't vote to remove these mandates, you will be voting to continue the systemic abuse of the children of Reading. This is your chance to put our children first- before money and fear. Many, many other towns around us have done the right thing and rescinded the mandate- follow their lead.

GIVE OUR CHILDREN THEIR INNOCENCE BACK.

Andrena Silva
96 Beaver Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Mia Graham
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Lifting mask mandate

Mia -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mia Graham <mgraham311@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:40 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Lifting mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi!

I have a daughter in kindergarten and am in full support of lifting the mask mandate. I work at my kids pediatricians office and the toll all of this is taking on kids mental health is getting worse and worse . It would be great for the kids to be able to see each other's smiles and get back to normal as much as possible . Thank you for considering this .

Mia boudreau

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Kayla Harrington
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask mandate for the schools

Kayla -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kayla Harrington <kaylamh17@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:57 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask mandate for the schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello! Just wanted to reach out and let you know that my husband and I are strongly supportive of removing the mask mandate for the schools. These kids have been such troopers these past two years and it is amazing how they do go with the flow but I truly believe there is more than their health as far as COVID to take into consideration. Mental health issues have spiked, speech delays and other issues with language learning have heightened. These are things we have the ability to change! COVID is here to stay, just as is the Flu and other viruses that we have dealt with for years and years. It's time to move on, teach healthy habits and see smiling faces!

"Smile! You never know who's day you will change!" Let's see these kids smiling faces!

Best of luck navigating all that will come with your decisions. I know you are not in an easy place! Let's take one more steps towards putting all this respectfully behind us!

Thank you for your time,
Kayla Iacopucci

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Webster, Cheryl
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Yes to lifting mask mandate

Cheryl –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
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From: Webster, Cheryl <Cheryl.Webster@reading.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:59 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Yes to lifting mask mandate

School Committee Members,

I know lifting the mask mandate is a difficult decision for you all to make and I appreciate your thoughtfulness behind your decision. As a teacher at Coolidge, I would really appreciate and welcome the ability to choose when I could take my mask off. I certainly don't plan to throw my masks in the trash and say goodbye forever, but I'm looking forward to simple things I get to start doing again. Smiling at my students as they walk into my classroom and have them see me do it would feel amazing. As a band director, I communicate a lot with the kids while they are playing and that facial feedback from me during rehearsals and performances would be so beneficial. I know people are concerned, but I truly believe that staff and students will make safe choices for themselves. It's been a long two years and with the encouraging vaccination rates in the middle and high school and the declining numbers in the state having the ability to connect with coworkers and students in a more meaningful way would be truly exciting.

Thank you so much,

Cheryl Webster

Instrumental Music Teacher at Coolidge.

Cheryl Webster

Instrumental Music Teacher

4/12/22 - 8th grade ArtsFest

4/13/22 - 6th grade ArtsFest

6/7/22 - Spring Concert

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:03 PM
To: ritamackeil@live.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Mandates Decision

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Rita –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Rita Mackeil <ritamackeil@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:44 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Mandates Decision

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee,

Thank you for all you do for our students. I am aware of an upcoming decision regarding the mask mandates. I am in support of making this a personal decision from the parents.

My son Michael attends Killam School and My husband and I are also long term residences and both attended Reading schools.

As parents we are expected to meet our child's emotional and physical needs. We are responsible for protecting our child from harm. As parents we should be able to make this decision of unmasking or masking our children. My son is fully vaccinated (not a choice we made easily) in hopes of removing the mask. It is our job to protect our children, not the other way around.

I feel Positive emotions such as laughing and smiling become less noticeable, and negative emotions get intensified. Bonding between teachers and students takes a hit. Overall, it is likely that masking amplifies the chances that a child will experience anxiety and depression, which are already at pandemic levels.

Our children have suffered enough and they should be able to breathe freely and share a smile. Seven hours of masking a day, five days a week is far too long for children (still developing) to be masked.

The case counts are down, there is a vaccine for those who choose that route, and the recovery rate for Covid-19 remains over 99%.

Given these truths, we know it is safe to end mandatory masking for our children.

As such, we prefer that masking should be **optional**.

Best Regards,

Mackeil Family
Parents to Michael 2nd Grade at Killam
617-721-2731

Sent from Mail for Windows

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:18 PM
To: loribarcikowski@yahoo.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Lori and Chris –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: loribarcikowski@yahoo.com <loribarcikowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:01 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi,
Before your meeting on Thursday, We wanted to pass along our FULL support on the NO mask mandate to be in effect immediately in all school settings, including elementary level.

Thank you,
Lori and Chris Barcikowski

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:43 PM
To: Jennifer Carrant
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Jennifer -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Carrant <jennifercurrant@art4smiles.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:38 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Please unmask our kids! If they feel better or their parents feel better with masks, let it be their individual decision. Enough is enough.

Jennifer Carrant M.A., LMFT, ATR-BC
Art4Smiles
22 Woburn Street, Suite 21
Reading, MA 01867
(c) 339.927.1501

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:23 PM
To: acole27@comcast.net
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Policy

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Amy –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: AMY COLE <acole27@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 3:40 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Policy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members,

As always, I thank you for your service. I feel it is unfortunate that the decision regarding mask policy for students has been pushed down to the local level. It is even more unfortunate that there are people who treat those making the decisions as adversaries. I am sorry for how you have been treated by many Reading residents.

I know you will base your decision on data and logic and that you will be very thoughtful in your debate. I don't envy you having to make this decision, and I will support it. I am confident that the safety of our students will be your absolute top priority.

Although I am sure you don't need more opinions, I would like to outline a few of my concerns. Even though we are all fatigued, we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and we still do not have approved vaccines for children under 5, many of whom have siblings in RPS. We are also just coming down from a surge and have another vacation next week. Additionally, while most of us can make decisions about where we go and whether we wear a mask, our students have no choice but to be in school. The decision to continue to wear a mask to protect oneself and/or one's family, when the majority of students drop them, will likely not be an easy or comfortable one. Many students have been hearing negative comments and experiencing heated emotions over masking for years. I can imagine a minority of masked students feeling some of that negativity directed at them. I hope I'm completely wrong, but it is a concern.

I know we all share the concern over the social and emotional toll this pandemic has had on our students. I wish that dropping masks would go a long way toward solving that, but I fear it will not. Students I know who have been exposed to positive comments and feelings on masking have been very resilient when it comes to wearing them, more so than many adults. And my understanding is that accommodations have been made for students who need to take off their masks for better learning (for example for work with language and speech). Dropping the mandate now will certainly lead, at least temporarily, to an illusion of normalcy, but it will not undo the majority of effects of the pandemic.

I teach courses at two colleges in Boston, and while I would like nothing more than to be able to remove my mask while teaching, those schools are not even discussing dropping the mandate at this point. In fact, I am required to test twice per week and wear an N95 mask for double mask.

If the decision is made to drop the mandate at RPS, please at least consider the timing. I think following DESE and dropping a mandate the day the students return from a vacation makes absolutely no sense. I continue to be surprised by the logic in that when there has been an increase in cases following every break. The absolute last thing I want is for us to have another surge which leads to remote learning. That is what has led to so many ongoing problems.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. And thank you for all you do for our students and our school community. I wish you the best with your debate and your decision.

Amy Cole
Bartlett Cir

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:30 PM
To: Mark Pandolfo
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Unmask our Kids

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mark –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Mark Pandolfo <markpando@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 4:24 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Unmask our Kids

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

To the School Committee,

My name is Mark Pandolfo, father of Luca and Della Pandolfo who both attend Reading Public schools. My son is in Kindergarten at Wood End, while my daughter is in the Rise Program at the High School. My son has spent most of his school days masked, while my daughter has never known a day of school without a mask. It is time to unmask our children!

I don't write this email as a plea, but as a hope that the board will do the right thing. For two years our kids have had to endure 8 hours a day masked while trying to learn, communicate, and advance in schooling. All we have heard for two years is that it is about protecting the kids. What exactly are we protecting them from? A virus that has a 99.99% survival rate in children per the CDC. We watch thousands gather for a SB maskless, but then turn around and mask our kids the very next morning for school. It is wrong and abusive.

Over the last year, my wife and I have seen significant behavioral changes in our children. Their ability to cope with simple things has been the most eye opening. While I am not a medical professional, I attribute this to the effects of masking and restrictions. Mental health should be our #1 priority when making decisions for our children. I would imagine we are not alone in these convictions and hope that the board will consider the parents calls for unmasking our children.

I appreciate the work you do and hope an open mind prevails in Thursday's board meeting.

Thank you,

Mark

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:31 PM
To: Andrea Lindmark
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End the mask mandate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Andrea –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Andrea Lindmark <alindmark@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:21 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: End the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee,

Thank you for your hard work and the time you put in for the children of our town. I am writing in support of making masks optional for students and staff in Reading. I currently have 2 children at the high school and one in elementary school and all three have vocalized that they hope they can be mask free after February break.

I work at a local school that just ended our mask mandate and I can't tell you how relieved I am to soon be mask free! I diligently wore my mask for the past 2 years, but have grown to dread every morning walking in and having it on for 7.5 hours. Some days are hard to get through with it on. The same goes for my children. They are all ready to move on from the mask. The winter months of wearing it all day long in school and then

an additional 2+ hours continuing on after school in their sports/activities have really pushed them to their max.

I hope the school committee votes to allow families to choose. This option allows those that wish to continue wearing masks wear them and those that don't not wear them.

Thank you,
Andrea Lindmark
Selfridge Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:19 PM
To: joecardarelli@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Note from Joseph Cardarelli Sr to your Facebook Page Reading, MA School Committee.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Joseph –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: joecardarelli@gmail.com <joecardarelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:08 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Note from Joseph Cardarelli Sr to your Facebook Page Reading, MA School Committee.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hi.
I am writing you to ask the SC to remove the mask mandate for my child, and make School Masking optional.

My son (Joseph Cardarelli Jr) has Asthma, and this Forced Masking has effected him negatively as it has done alot of children, we hoped the Masking would have been optional since beginning of the 2021/22 school year.

We also hoped the SC would have ended Forced Masking by now..
Each Date that was set this School Year to end Masking has Crushed my Son's hopes of having a normal childhood and high school experience.

I am asking you as a father to stop Force Masking my Child, and make Masks optional for all Students and Teacher's.

I watched my son play football in a Mask last season during Spring football and play track in a Mask.

I spoke to Nurse Meagan and the Superintendent about Masking kids with Asthma and their plans to help them.
I spoke to my Son's Doctor and no one would give him any relief.

I am now asking you the school board to help him.

Please Stop Masking Our Kids and my Child.

Please make Mask Optional.

Thank you for reading my note.

Joseph Cardarelli Sr.
Master Plumber
781-548-9559

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:25 AM
To: katefgrant@gmail.com; Tom Grant
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please extend the mask mandate

Kate & Tom –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Kate Grant <katefgrant@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:06 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Tom Grant <tgrant@sloan.mit.edu>
Subject: Please extend the mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Reading School Committee and RPS Administration,

Thank you for putting serious time and energy into discussing the RPS masking policy. We recognize that setting health policies for schools during a global pandemic is challenging. With four kids at three RPS schools, this matter is very important to us and affects the health of our whole family.

We know that there are people who feel strongly about both removing masks or keeping masks in schools. Our request is that when making this decision, please base it on data and analysis from public health experts. When everyone wears masks, the risks of spreading COVID is much lower. Given that there are people in our schools and school community who are unable to be vaccinated and/or are high risk, keeping the current mask mandate is the safest measure at this time. Please extend the mask mandate that is set to expire on February 28.

As you lay out the next steps for the mask mandate, it needs to be centered on clear data and metrics, both for when it is safer to unmask in schools, and for when masks should be required. If the positivity rate were to rise, it should not be

a matter of opinion or debate to go back to a mask mandate, but rather there should be a clear roadmap already in place that can be immediately implemented.

Finally, if you do decide to lift the mask mandate, we strongly encourage you to delay until well after the return from February school vacation. Given that there was a spike in COVID positivity rates after winter break, it would be prudent to keep the mask mandate in place following the upcoming vacation until it is clear there is no similar rise in COVID cases.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kate & Tom Grant
Lothrop Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:27 AM
To: Meredith Miller
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End the Mask Mandate

Meredith –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Meredith Miller <meredith.miller8@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:18 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>; Brandt, Shawn <Shawn.Brandt@reading.k12.ma.us>; Gaffen, Erin <Erin.Gaffen@reading.k12.ma.us>; McLaughlin, Sarah <Sarah.McLaughlin2@reading.k12.ma.us>; Nazzaro, Carla <Carla.Nazzaro@reading.k12.ma.us>; Robinson, Charles <Charles.Robinson@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: End the Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

I am a parent of a high school junior and am writing to you regarding lifting the mask mandate in the Reading Public Schools.

With widely available vaccines, treatments, and natural immunity to COVID, we are in a completely different position than we were when the pandemic started. Since March 2020, our kids have been forced to make immense sacrifices and have undertaken an unfair burden to protect the vulnerable, which is primarily the elderly and those with multiple underlying health conditions. It is our job as adults to protect our children, but we have been forcing kids to protect adults for 2 years! It is time to lift the mask mandate in our schools and free our kids of this responsibility. COVID poses extraordinarily negligible risk to children, the survival rate is 99.99%. <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP%20and%20CHA%20-%20Children%20and%20COVID-19%20State%20Data%20Report%202.10.22%20FINAL.pdf>

Studies have also shown that COVID has a MILDER impact on children than the seasonal flu leading to less hospitalizations and mortality. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34107134/>

For the general population, the Omicron variant is much less virulent, causing more mild symptoms with far less hospitalizations and death. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35065011/> and <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34971823/>. I recently listened to a doctor and professor from Yale University who stated that Omicron is a gift, it is paving the way out of the pandemic.

We have required universal masking even though masks have shown to be ineffective and in many cases are harmful. Masks pose health risks as well as negative impacts to social, emotional, communication and speech development. This document provides links to over 150 articles and studies citing the ineffectiveness of masks as well as the adverse effects they can cause.

<https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

We need to open our eyes and see the other critical issues the world is facing. The fear and COVID protocols have taken a toll on our kids, and it needs to stop now. One can only hope the harm that has been inflicted upon our innocent and vulnerable kids can be fixed with time. A study from Boston Children's hospital warns that an increase in mental health issues could cause a second pandemic. <https://answers.childrenshospital.org/covid-19-suicide-kids/>. The statistics around the increase in mental health issues among kids is alarming and needs to be considered when making any decisions especially those that effect our children.

Given the facts surrounding the little to no-risk that COVID poses to the pediatric population, the ineffectiveness and adverse effects of masks, the less virulent strain of COVID that is circulating, and the growing mental health crisis, I trust that the School Committee will make the right decision and no longer require masks in our schools.

Thank you.

Meredith Miller

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:58 PM
To: Michael DeCroteau
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: End masks

Michael -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Michael DeCroteau <mdecroteau@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:56 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: End masks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

The town recently voted to end the mask mandate due to the mental health concerns of its citizens. Please do the right thing and repeat this decision for our children. Do not give into the media's fear campaign or the ramblings of scared and out of touch residents. Give our children the same respect and concern you gave the general public. These kids play sports, visit relatives, visit friends, go to stores and play after school without masks. Keeping them only in the classroom is nonsensical. Keeping this mandate for our kids is the cowardly move. End this nonsense. The threat is over. Be brave and do the right thing for our kids. They have endured enough of this pandemic.

Michael DeCroteau
First responder and Reading resident.

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Jaimee Mace
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: mask vote

Jaimee –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
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From: Jaimee Mace <jmace24@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:52 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: mask vote

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Hello school committee members,

I am writing in support of dropping the mask mandate in our schools. I know people are concerned about February break and the amount of traveling. My suggestion is that the mask mandate be removed as of March 11. This would give us some space from February break and allow the sophomores to attend their sophomore semi without masks if they so choose. It is been long enough and at some point we need to start returning to some sense of normalcy. I think it's time that our kids have a choice, especially our high schoolers. How wonderful would it be for them if they could enjoy their end-of-the-year dances/celebrations without masks. I could go on and on but I won't because I'm sure you are receiving tons of email. That is my two cents on the situation, best of luck in your discussion.

Thank you for your time,
Jaimee Mace

--

Jaimee

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:56 AM
To: Derek Brown; Vicki Brown
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: School mask mandate

Derek, Vicki, Derek, and Brandon –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Derek Brown <dmbrown.cpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 10:56 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Vicki Brown <vbrown@agero.com>
Subject: School mask mandate

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School Committee Members,

Our family would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your diligence through these unprecedented times. These past two years must have provided monumental challenges and pressure-filled decisions by the Committee on a daily basis. We all appreciate the effort to protect those in the school system. However, as the pandemic wanes we have come to believe a return to normalcy should be underway and is frankly long overdue. In our family this means we support removing the school mask mandate immediately. To be clear, we support any person's right to wear a mask without repercussions just as we support those who choose not to wear a mask without judgement. We have been patient, compliant and empathetic but parents and families deserve the right to assess their own level of risk tolerance. We thank you in advance for your consideration of an optional mask policy.

Respectfully,
Derek M. Brown
Vicki Brown

Derek M. Brown, Jr. (age 7)
Brandon Brown (age 4)

--

Derek M. Brown, CPA
22 Rustic Lane
Reading, MA 01867
(p) 781.710.7628
(e) dmbrown.cpa@gmail.com

=====
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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:57 AM
To: Sharon Finberg
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Masks

Sharon -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon Finberg <sfinberg@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:15 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Masks

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Dear members of the school committee,

The one thing I want to add to the mask discussion is that for whenever the mask mandate is lifted, I think it would be good to add an explicit statement that students (& staff) are permitted to wear masks at their own discretion; no staff or teacher should require that a student remove their mask.

Sharon Finberg
sharon@finberg.org

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Milaschewski, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:18 AM
To: merzrl@yahoo.com
Cc: Giuliana, Mary; DG School Committee
Subject: RE: Letter in the School Committee packet

Hi Rebecca,

Thanks for reaching out with your feedback and concerns. Our team has explored many possibilities relating to “if” and/or “when” we believe that the context is appropriate to move towards a mask optional environment. During tonight’s School Committee meeting, we will share our rationale around the 2/28 date and why that was recommended by our group. We are planning on sending out an update to the entire RPS community tomorrow to share the decision of the School Committee and what that means in practice moving forward for our students and staff. If the School Committee elects to move forward with a mask optional environment effective 2/28, we will share our rationale in more detail with the community in this same written communication.

We appreciate your reaching out to share your thoughts.

Best,
Tom

From: Rebecca Bailey <merzrl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Giuliana, Mary <MARY.GIULIANA@reading.k12.ma.us>; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Letter in the School Committee packet

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Dear Dr. Milaschewski,

I was astonished and greatly disappointed to see the letter in the School Committee packet from yourself, the Director of Nursing for RPS, the RTA president, the RPS Physician, and the Reading Director of Public Health advocating for the School Committee to lift the school mask mandate effective February 28. We have consistently seen a rise in cases of COVID-19 after school breaks throughout the pandemic. People travel, they see a wider circle of family and friends, and cases go up. Last January (2021), RPS took the sensible precaution of implementing an entire remote week of school, district-wide, following the December holiday break, to ensure the safety of all in the schools by breaking possible chains of transmission. I know vaccines were just beginning to be available at that time, so the circumstances are somewhat different, but we can still assume there will be a rise in cases after this February vacation week. And especially in the elementary schools, we have not yet reached the 80%-vaccinated threshold that the state originally put in place as a metric for when mask-wearing could become optional in a school. Why would you not advocate for the mask mandate to be lifted 1 to 2 weeks after February break, if it must be lifted at all? Extending mask use in schools through the first full week of March would give an opportunity for any effects of break-week travel and activities to dissipate, which would seem to be a common sense precaution, and easy to take since nothing would have to change -- masks are already currently required in the schools.

I hope the School Committee will not bow to the pressure from all sides and will at least maintain the current mask policy for one additional week beyond the February 28 date you propose, as a sensible safety precaution. And I am dismayed that RPS leadership does not agree that this would be a sensible course of action to take.

Sincerely,
-Rebecca Bailey
Forest Glen Rd

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:21 PM
To: amy.swallow@gmail.com
Cc: Crotty, Kevin P.; Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please lift the RPS mask mandate

Amy –

Thank you for the feedback here as well. It has been a challenging few years, but I can confidently say that we have all focused on the health (physical and social-emotional) and well-being of our students and staff while striving to keep as much of an in-person learning environment as possible.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Amy Crotty <amy.swallow@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:12 PM
To: Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Crotty, Kevin P. <KCrotty@mfs.com>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>; Lapierre, Samantha <Samantha.Lapierre@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Please lift the RPS mask mandate

Thank you for the quick response and consideration.

We would also like to thank everyone for how the pandemic has been handled up to this point. The amount of effort and thoughtfulness that has been put into the well being of our children has not gone unnoticed. The district has made the environment as safe and "normal" as possible through circumstances no one could have predicted. We are grateful to be in a school district that cares deeply for its students...so thank you for all the extra work over the past two years!

On Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 11:58 AM Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Kevin and Amy –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair



Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us

SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us

Mobile: (617) 869-6825

Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Crotty, Kevin P. <KCrotty@MFS.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:31 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: amy.swallow@gmail.com
Subject: Please lift the RPS mask mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

School Committee members –

We are writing in to ask that you drop the in-school mask mandate.

Our two boys were 2 and 4 when the lockdown started in March 2020. For our youngest son, nearly half of his life has been behind a mask, distanced away from people, and constantly sanitizing. We want to see both of our sons go to school without masks in order to have the ability to see the faces of their teachers/classmates and breathe fresh air. We believe a mask-free school environment is very important to the social and emotional development at this age.

The reported cases as of 2/12/22 across the eight schools is only 13 (0.35% of enrolled students) with ZERO at RISE. All other indicators of infection rates and hospitalization are decreasing across the country. Thankfully modern science has come through and we have many internal medicine options to prevent and treat COVID-19 for our most vulnerable individuals. Combine these medical options with the decline in infection rates, the decline in infection severity from the Omicron variant, the increase in herd immunity from vaccination and the most recent wave - the time is NOW to remove the mask burden away from the least vulnerable individuals (our children).

We have demanded a great deal from our children in order to protect the most vulnerable individuals for two full years. Please allow these children who have adapted so well and gave up so much for so long to see each other smile in school again.

Thank you

- Kevin and Amy Crotty

MFS Email system made the following annotation

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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:17 PM
To: Kristin Charest
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: RPS Masking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kristen & Dan –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, on Thursday, the 17th of February.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Kristin Charest <kcharest583@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:13 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: RPS Masking

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Milaschewski and School Committee Members:

We come to you as parents first but also as seasoned pediatric health care professionals. I am a Registered Nurse at a major academic hospital in Boston where the majority of my 15-year nursing career has been spent in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. My husband has been a Respiratory Therapist for 18-years most recently in leadership at a major academic hospital in Boston. We'd like to request the removal of mask mandates in all Reading Public Schools for the following reasons.

When we look at the scientific data two plus years into the pandemic, continuing to require masks can no longer be about the health of children. The argument could be made that masking children now is about the health of the adults around them. Children are also necessarily compliant. Taking these points into consideration, if we are masking

children because of their compliance or to protect those that can protect themselves (via masks, vaccines, social distancing) please just take a moment to pause and think about how cruel that is. We'd like to touch on the argument that "kids aren't bothered by masks". This is a weak if not pointless argument to make. Children aren't necessarily "bothered" by having to wear jackets or hats when it's cold or pants in the winter instead of shorts. But given the choice - my daughter would never wear a jacket "because she has on long sleeves", and my son would never wear pants because he prefers shorts. We are telling these kids they must wear masks, so they wear them. Given the choice of mask or no mask? It is probable that most kids would choose no mask.

The youngest of our children have suffered unnecessarily because of masking with the sequelae of delays in speech and social/emotional development. Many of our sons and daughters have yet to experience attending school without masks. The argument to continue to mask the youngest of our children that can't yet be vaccinated will undoubtedly arise, but we'd implore you to reconsider this. These children are suffering immensely from masks from a developmental perspective. It's time to let them see how mouths move when someone is speaking, how expressions of emotion look on a face, and the ability to hear their teachers and friends speak clearly. The risk to them of this virus is negligible. The benefit to them of no masks at this point is invaluable.

"The impact of facemasks on emotion recognition, trust attribution and re-identification"

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33692417/>

There have been many recent instances in our country but the Super Bowl this past Sunday proves to all of us that there are "rules for thee but not for me". 70,0000 people in a stadium without masks but our children had to cover their faces for 6+ hours the following day in a classroom with 20 or so peers. What does this say to the 7-year-old that's watching? The governor, the athlete, the celebrity, now even the adults around me don't have to wear a mask but I do. To an elementary aged child this does not make sense. I don't know how it makes sense to any of us. From a scientific perspective, there has never been sufficient data to justify universal masking, much less masking children.

"The Case Against Masks at School"

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/01/kids-masks-schools-weak-science/621133/>

As healthcare professionals we are empathetic that this may cause fear in those who don't have an understanding of the disease process or have been misinformed that masks are necessary. The fact of the matter is and always has been that children are least affected by this virus and that the hospitalization of children during the pandemic has never been a burden to medical facilities. Those who are at risk or still are in fear of the virus causing them harm will always be entitled to wear a mask and should be able to do so without judgment or ridicule. Vulnerable populations have the choice to be vaccinated. We realize that vaccination is not yet an option for the youngest of our children, however in an area of such dense vaccination rates there is no reason to fear for their health and safety.

Massachusetts Vaccination Report

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-vaccination-report-february-10-2022/download>

"Open Schools, Covid-19, and Child and Teacher Morbidity in Sweden"

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2026670>

Despite Sweden's having kept schools and preschools open, we found a low incidence of severe Covid-19 among schoolchildren and children of preschool age during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Among the 1.95 million children who were 1 to 16 years of age, 15 children had Covid-19, MIS-C, or both conditions and were admitted to an ICU, which is equal to 1 child in 130,000.

Our request to make masks optional is not for lack of compassion but because we are bursting with compassion for all our children who have been subject to this prolonged mandated nonsense by adults. Our kids have done their due diligence to "stop the spread ". It is time to put children's health back into the hands of their parents. We can decide whether masking is appropriate for our family. The data is there, and we are all intelligent enough to make this decision, we no longer need mandates to decide for us. Those at high risk can continue the precautions that they should be taking or that they desire to take without impacting our kids who have negligible risk.

A study comparing COVID-19 illness in children to influenza in children:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34107134/>

Their conclusion: "COVID-19 and Influenza may share similar clinical features. According to our findings, however, we believe that COVID-19 disease has a milder clinical and laboratory course than Influenza in children."

The past two years have been understandably chaotic for the schools. This was to be expected in 2020 when we were first hit with a virus that we knew nothing about. Two years later we've learned a lot about the virus. This virus has little effect on our children nor is it dangerous to most of the population. We could always argue reasons to wear masks to protect us from the flu, common colds, and many other viruses or bacterial infections; however unless we are going to keep this mask mandate forever, we see no reason why getting rid of it now is any worse than getting rid of it later. There is no time like the present to begin moving on with our lives and reframe our thinking into having to live with a virus that will likely be with us indefinitely. The future of these kids depends on us now. How much has been lost for them? How much more are we willing to let them lose?

We sincerely thank you for your service to our town and to the children and families of Reading Public Schools.

Respectfully,

Kristin & Dan Charest
Lowell Street

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:07 PM
To: debbiehattery@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Support for a mask optional policy for RPS

Debbie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Debbie Hattery <debbiehattery@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>; DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Support for a mask optional policy for RPS

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Dear Reading School Committee,

Thank you for all of the hard work that you continue to put forth in an effort to help lead and guide our school district. Your time and commitment to our school system is much appreciated.

I am writing this letter to voice my strong support for moving the entire Reading Public School District to a mask optional position where students, parents, and families can make the decision about whether or not to continue to wear a mask while in school. I am a parent of two students in the district and like many other parents have followed the weekly covid reporting in our school system and in town for many months. The recent news from the Board of Health and the Superintendent in terms of continued significant decreases in all of the covid health metrics within RPS, locally, and statewide is extremely encouraging and warrants an immediate and serious assessment of the current mask policy within our schools.

As a parent I appreciate the way you have tried to balance children's needs with overall public safety in the face of a persistent pandemic, as you approached it from the perspective that the health benefits of masking, especially during covid surges, outweighed the risk to learning that wearing a mask in school presents. Now, thanks to the high level of teacher, student, and staff vaccination rates, decreasing covid rates locally and statewide, and the incredible covid testing infrastructure that our Superintendent and nursing team have put in place we are at the point where the consequences of continuing to wear a mask in school outweigh the health benefits.

Lifting the mask mandate will make it easier for students across the board to learn, but most especially for our youngest readers and students for whom English is not a first language. Numerous recent scientific papers have established that it is harder to hear and understand speech and identify facial expressions and emotions when children are wearing masks. Our kids are spending over 30 hours per week in school and they need to see the full expressions and reactions on the faces of their peers and teachers as this essential nonverbal feedback is how they often weigh their actions and behavior against those around them, developing social and emotional intelligence and interrelatedness that is crucial to their educational development. Our school population has been through so much the last two years and we need to bring back smiles and smiling to every inch of every classroom in every school and start the transition to regaining a sense of normalcy in the classroom.

Reading is fortunate to have an incredibly supportive learning environment at Rise, at the elementary and middle schools and at the high school and I'm certain our administrators and teachers will effectively manage the transition to a mask optional policy where some students and families chose not to wear a mask and where some continue to wear a mask in school. I know they will manage the transition in a way that affirms and supports each student's individual decision. We are so lucky that our teachers care not only for the safety of our students but also for their social and emotional well-being and for their progress academically. I don't doubt for a minute that this level of care and concern will continue in a mask optional environment with teachers supporting students and families that continue to choose to mask at school.

Please support moving to a mask optional position for the entire RPS system in conjunction with the Governor and DESE's recommendation to do so beginning February 28, 2022. Our students, teachers, and staff have willingly done their part during the pandemic to ensure safety for our entire community and now deserve the very best energy and focus from the School Committee to transition to a mask optional policy. Please allow our student population to recover a sense of normalcy during their school day the last four months of this school year and provide a place that supports working to build back well-adjusted children who are able to learn and grow in every way in an environment that supports them academically, socially, and emotionally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debbie Hattery

113 Eastway

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Eryn MacDonald; Davis, James R
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: masks in schools

Eryn and James –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Eryn MacDonald <erynmac@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:48 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Davis, James R <jdavis@bu.edu>
Subject: masks in schools

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To the School Committee:

We are writing to express our hope that you will continue to require masks in Reading's elementary schools and preschool once the state requirement ends later this month.

We have seen a lot of claims recently that at this point all those who want to be vaccinated are, and parents should be allowed to make decisions for their own kids. But this approach blatantly disregards those parents who have children under 5, who do not yet have the choice to protect their children through vaccination. It does not seem right to us that those parents should be forced to accept increased risk for their children just because some other parents want a quicker end to an inconvenience to their own.

We have two children at Joshua Eaton. Both became eligible for the vaccine late last year and have been fully vaccinated since December. We do not have any younger children at home, so we don't have a personal stake in this issue. But, many of our daughters' classmates have younger brothers and sisters who cannot yet be vaccinated, and their teacher

also has a young child. We have no idea how many of those parents would choose to vaccinate their younger kids if the opportunity were available today. But we feel it is only fair to give them that opportunity before removing protections that disproportionately affect their families.

While most young kids who get covid seem to do fine, we all know that there are some who do not, and so far there is no easy way to predict who will get seriously ill. Moreover, no one knows much yet about the prevalence of long covid or what the longer-term effects of having had even a mild case of covid might be--there is new research finding that it could cause lasting heart problems even in asymptomatic cases.

We know that many parents--including those with kids too young to be vaccinated-- have decided that these risks are acceptable if it means life can feel more normal again. But just as they want the right to choose that level of risk for their families, those who prefer to be more cautious should equally have the right to do so. Unfortunately, it is not possible to accommodate both just yet, and since the potential consequences for those with younger children are much higher, we believe we must err on the side of giving them their choice.

Like other parents, we would love to be able to tell our kids they no longer have to wear a mask to school. They'd undoubtedly be happy to hear it, although it is such a non-issue to them at this point that they routinely forget to take them off when they leave school. But if continuing to mask at school decreases the risk to their classmates' and teachers' families--or even if it just decreases their stress and anxiety at a time when they feel that they have been forgotten by the world--we believe it is our responsibility to do so. This is especially true at the elementary level, where vaccination rates are significantly lower than for the middle schools and high school and students are probably most likely to have siblings under 5 at home. As vaccination rates increase and/or a vaccine for under 5s becomes available, this decision should be revisited.

Finally, if you do decide to end the mask requirement for any or all of the schools, we hope that you will at least consider carefully the timing of such a change. With many families traveling for February vacation next week, it would make sense to delay any change in masking policy for a couple of weeks after school resumes to avoid another spike in cases such as we saw after the holiday break last month.

Thank you,
Eryn MacDonald and James Davis

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Chesley, Johanna <Johanna.Chesley@bmc.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Wise, Thomas
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask mandate considerations and planning

Hello Thomas,

Thank you for your recognition of my thoughts and suggestions. I would be happy to help draft policy if useful, presuming there is a policy sub-committee of the School Committee.

Best,
Johanna



Johanna C. Chesley, MPH (she/her/hers)
Senior Director, Clinical Trial Office
O. 617-414-2861
C. 617-549-3367
Johanna.chesley@bmc.org
[CDA/NDA Intake Form](#)
[CTO Services Intake Form](#)

From: Wise, Thomas <Thomas.Wise@reading.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:57 PM
To: Chesley, Johanna <Johanna.Chesley@bmc.org>
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>; Lapierre, Samantha <Samantha.Lapierre@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Mask mandate considerations and planning

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Johanna –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Chesley, Johanna <Johanna.Chesley@bmc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 3:43 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Cc: katefgrant@gmail.com; Nathan Chesley <nathan.chesley@gmail.com>
Subject: Mask mandate considerations and planning

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Dear Reading School Committee and Community at large,

As of Feb, 2022 the [MA Vaccine dashboard](#) 31% of children ages 5-11 have received 1 or more COVID vaccines. COVID transmission rates are down to almost zero, according to [MA's Waste Water biodata](#). Transmission is low because of vaccination, masking, social distancing, testing, and quarantine practices. It would be useful to know the evidence-based COVID policy behind Reading's mitigation practices e.g. masking or vaccination practices in our elementary schools. To quote the conclusions of a recently published [JAMA article](#):

"In this modeling study of a simulated elementary school and the risks of in-school SARS-CoV-2 transmission, we found that the **risks of transmission** and resulting infections among students, educators, staff, and their household members **are high when a highly infectious variant predominates** and **students are unvaccinated**. **Mitigation measures** or **vaccinations** for students substantially **reduced** these modeled **risks**. Appropriate **on-ramps** and **off-ramps** for in-school mitigation depend on the objectives that policy makers seek to achieve. These findings provide a framework for responsive plans in which mitigation is deployed based on local COVID-19 incidence and vaccine uptake. For evidence-based COVID-19 policy, school policy makers must define clear goals and select thresholds to add or remove mitigation measures based on these goals."

How could one interpret that summary? A way to keep our children and their community safe is to develop an evidence based plan based on number of vaccinated children in Reading elementary schools and presence of infectious variants. Maybe before we talk about unmasking our elementary schools, it would be helpful to:

1. Encourage community conversation about our low vaccination rates of children ages 5-11.
2. Offer vaccination locations combined with community events for ease of access and way to obtain accurate information.
3. Define clear goals, matched with threshold data, to add or remove mitigation measures (masking, unmasking).
4. Write policy that incorporates fact-based thresholds of 5-11 year olds vaccination status, variant spikes, or other important factors, but before thresholds are met and process change implemented, evaluate the whole environment. Then, either go forward with new process implementation (masking, unmasking; in-person or remote schooling) or initiate conversation to update policy as new fact patterns may emerge overtime.
5. Empower families to remain masked, if thresholds for unmasking are met, who remain uncomfortable with unmasking for various health/personal reasons.

These are just some ways of developing policy to maintain, lift, or reinstate mask mandates safely. I would welcome thoughts from the School Committee and Reading Community at large (inclusive of teachers, health professionals, parents, and administrators) on how we can move forward thoughtfully.

Thank you,
Johanna Chesley



Johanna C. Chesley, MPH (she/her/hers)
Senior Director, Clinical Trial Office

O. 617-414-2861

C. 617-549-3367

Johanna.chesley@bmc.org

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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:58 PM
To: Joshua Olivier-Mason
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: When to drop the mask mandate in our schools

Joshua –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Joshua Olivier-Mason <joshom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 3:48 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: When to drop the mask mandate in our schools

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Dear School Committee,

As a Reading resident with two children in the schools and as a public school educator in Lexington, I've gotten a pretty unique window into the impact that masking has had on students and teachers. Universal masking in school has meant that, even over the course of this recent Omicron-based surge, my children and the majority of my students have been able to come to school in person every day. That is no small feat, particularly after the challenges of remote and hybrid learning last school year. Vaccines and masks have made this possible.

While I'm looking forward to a point in the not-so-distant future when we'll be able to remove our masks in school, I strongly believe that it is premature for the schools to lift the mask mandate on Monday February 28th, the day following February break. There is a high likelihood that cases will go up (briefly, one hopes) in the two weeks following the vacation. I'd like to refer you [to the letter](#) that my boss, Dr. Julie Hackett, the Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools, recently sent to the Lexington Board of Health. My hope is that the Reading School Committee will take a similar, science-based approach, and that we can look forward to our students and teachers voluntarily taking off their masks soon. Just not in February.

Thank you for your time,
Josh Olivier-Mason

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:58 PM
To: Janet Marengi
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Please make masks optional

Frank and Janet -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tomorrow night.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

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-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Marengi <janet.marengi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 4:13 PM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Please make masks optional

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Dear School Committee Members,

We are writing as parents of two daughters in Reading Public School and ask that you rescind the mask mandate. We are at a point in the pandemic where we can calculate our own risks and make our own health decisions. In addition to the knowledge we now have, there are effective vaccines and treatments available for COVID-19.

Our daughters have several issues with mask wearing all throughout the school day. One of our daughters has allergies and sensitive skin. Her skin around her nose and mouth has become increasingly inflamed and irritated since the mask requirements. She also complains her nose is constantly itchy and I worry about the fabric particles traveling into her airways. Our other daughter complains the mask obstructs her vision. Both of our daughters report they have a harder time listening to teachers and friends at school with masks on and often find themselves "tuning out". Voices are

muffled and smiles are blocked under masks. Without seeing facial expressions and hearing small inflections in voices, our students are likely to have a harder time paying attention and even understanding what is being spoken to them. Masks are negatively affecting our children socially, physically and academically.

We completely understand and respect that some people might have circumstances where they would want to continue mask wearing. However, we do strongly believe that going forward, masks must be a choice. It is time to lift the mask mandate. let parents make health decisions for our children, and let our students have a normal school experience.

Thank you for your consideration,
Frank and Janet Marengi
44 Emerald Drive

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Karen Janowski
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Choose to put children first - end the mask mandate

Karen –

Thank you for your e-mail.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Karen Janowski <karen.janowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:18 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Choose to put children first - end the mask mandate

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Hello,

Another thought.

Please read The Mask Debacle and choose to put children first instead of continuing to allow yourselves to be manipulated by the media. It is time to end the punishment of children. School should be a safe space.

There is no data to support a decision for required masking children in schools. There is a great deal of data that details the detrimental effects.

Please do the right thing. This is an incredibly easy decision IF you choose to put children first and allow them to see the faces of their classmates and teachers.

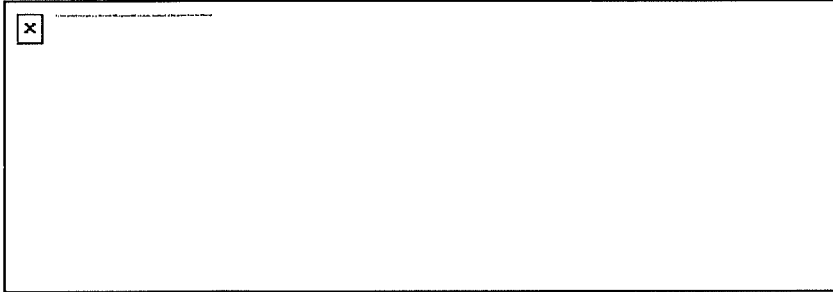
<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/science/articles/the-mask-debacle>

I trust you will make the right decision. End the mask mandate and masks optional moving forward.
Thank you,

Karen

--

Karen Janowski, MS Ed, President
EdTech Solutions Inc
131 Main Street Reading, MA 01867
781-983-1737



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Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:30 AM
To: jaclyn.moulton@comcast.net
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Drop The Mask Mandate

Jackie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tonight.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Jackie Collins <jaclyn.moulton@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:36 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Drop The Mask Mandate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Members of the SC and Mr. Superintendent,

I just want to say I am not an extremist, I believe in science, COVID is real, and I respect our school system and that guidelines are important when supported by truthful community based information. I am also a mother of two elementary ages children at Barrows, and my job in life is to protect them. I have many family members including my mother and mother-in-law who work in the Healthcare industry and were on the front lines of hospitals and the pandemic over the past two years. I also work for a small family-owned business that worked throughout the pandemic and was forced to adapt and change quickly, so I don't take any of this lightly and have a lot of real life experience in these years.

At this point in the pandemic, my husband and I strongly believe that mask mandates should be eliminated and replaced with the choice of the families for what is best for their family and children. We believe the mandates of the last two years have had negative consequences for our children in both mind and body, and

that now is the time to eliminate the mandates. Our daughter, who is currently in second grade, has suffered from asthma since she was a young age and has had issues with breathing while wearing a mask. She was in Kindergarten when Covid shut down the state, and has spent the last two years in masks. She has never had a normal school year in her elementary school years, and now is the time to give these kids back a normal experience where they can see their teachers and friends facial expressions.

For the last year and a half of school, our children have barely seen one another's faces. They did not see their teachers' or administrators' faces. They were masked and separated from meaningful interaction and education. Initially, as you are all aware, masks were not only mandatory in schools, but in most public places. We were told repeatedly by our public health authorities that masks were the key to fighting the pandemic. This notion was repeated every day, so our children complied with it. They had no choice, as very few of their parents questioned it in hopes that this would put an end to this nightmare. At some point in 2021, there were changes to masks being optional in many public places but they continued to be mandatory in schools. Unfortunately, most of the things that we have done and been told to do and comply with continue to come with little assurance of decisions made without pressure from fear based recommendations vs. balanced reality of what's happening in each community.

For the better part of the last two years, we have asked children to make sacrifices to make adults **feel** safer and to comply as you respectfully do when you are dealing with "unknown" situations. But we know more now about how covid impacts our kids and what's going on in our community, and now is the time to make masks optional for all schools in Reading.

The vast majority of our children do not want to be in masks in school, and my family as well as countless other families in Reading do not want their children in masks. Additionally, we support and respect the option of choice and support other families choices of having their children continue to wear a mask.

We need to stop taking broad headlines and applying them to situations and communities that are not needed. Rather using those statements as information to be looking at the cases and data as they shift and change in individual communities.

The reality that I believe we all know is that these variants are not going anywhere anytime soon. But the time is now to adapt as we do with the flu and set broader guidelines to protect our children and a families right to choose what is best for their children - whether that is to remove the mask because of the other negative consequences of wearing a mask, or whether to continue to wear a mask.

In conclusion, I know covid and all that goes into it is by no means simple. But I do believe that the decision to make masking our children as optional is the right decision at this time. If a parent wishes to cover their child's face for whatever reason they should have every right to do so. If a parent wishes for their child to breathe fresh air, connect with their teachers and have normalcy in school, we also have that right.

Sincerely,
Jaclyn Collins
21 County Road

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:31 AM
To: stephanie_balaouras@yahoo.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Feedback on mask policy

Stephanie –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



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From: Stephanie Balaouras <stephanie_balaouras@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 9:19 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Feedback on mask policy

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Dear School Committee and Superintendent Milaschewski,

I'm writing to offer my opinion and feedback on your upcoming decision on public-school mask policy. I understand given pandemic fatigue and the advice from other state and local school officials, you will likely reverse the mandate. While I think it's premature to do so and it will perpetuate our constant cycle of easing restrictions too soon followed by a massive spike in cases followed by the reintroduction of restrictions, I urge you to at least delay the reversal for a week following the February winter break. During this time, families will be traveling on planes, attending public events, and spending time with many people indoors – all of which will undoubtedly increase transmission and spike infections when they return home and kids return to school. A one-week buffer can blunt this impact and I believe it's a very reasonable compromise between those individuals who are exhausted by two years of mask wearing and those who have legitimate concerns that we are once again, easing restrictions too soon and only serving to keep the pandemic going.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephanie Balaouras
21 Orchard Park Drive

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Angela Binda
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Keep masks, they work!

Angela -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter. Please let your friend know we would welcome their feedback as well. The Committee will be conducting its next review of Policy EBCFA, the Face Coverings Policy, tonight.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

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-----Original Message-----

From: Angela Binda <tunacat@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 9:44 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Keep masks, they work!

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Dear Chair Wise and School Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to consider the most vulnerable members of the school population when you discuss the mask mandate this evening. Masks work! Please keep the mandate in the public schools for now.

I was asked by a friend with an elementary school child to write to you, and as I no longer have children in the school system, I did not think it was my place to do so. However, Reading is a community, and we are all responsible in some way for our neighbors, I believe. This pandemic has taught me just how much that is true. Mask wearing protects the wearer and others who come in contact with them. By this point we all know someone who has spread covid before they were aware they were infected. Masks help prevent that.

Our youth are not required to go to stores, into restaurants, to Town Hall, but they MUST attend school, and THEY ALL have the right to feel safe and protected when they are at school, and it is your responsibility to keep them safe. Having students wear masks a little longer is not an undue burden for the safety and well being of the most vulnerable students, staff, and faculty.

Masks work! Another outbreak because mask mandates were lifted too early would negate the progress we have made. Please keep masks mandatory in school.

Sincerely,

Angela Binda
Town Meeting Member

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:34 AM
To: Emmy Dove
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: mask policy

Emmy –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Emmy Dove <elbdove@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:58 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: mask policy

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Dear members of the School Committee:

When considering the mask policy, it is worth noting that mask effectiveness increases with 2-way masking over 1-way masking, regardless of mask type. There is a misconception that it is equivalent. It is not. This is because the droplets produced by an individual begin to shrivel when exposed to air. The smaller they are, the more likely they are to pass through the pores/matrix in a mask. The mask on the source individual will catch all of the larger droplets before they shrivel. The mask on the susceptible individual will be less likely to catch the shriveled droplets. (Note: we are not concerned with individual viral particles. The particles are contained in droplets of varying sizes. Larger droplets likely contain more particles than smaller droplets, which is why cloth masks can still be useful, despite having larger pores.) Fit is also crucial as gaps allow completely unfiltered air to escape.

All of this is to say that mask type is less important when universal masking is employed, but becomes very important with 1-way masking. I mention this for 2 reasons. There are certainly conditions in which universal masking is necessary and therefore a data-driven policy should be considered. Also, finding and affording quality high filtration masks for children can be a barrier, so it would be preferable if the school district would provide these masks to interested families.

The second point I'd like to make is that our current quarantine guidance is not consistent with CDC or DPH guidance. DESE altered the quarantine guidance by making exceptions for students. They also offered a path for eliminating, or at least drastically reducing, contact tracing requirements. These changes were due to both the high caseload (feasibility) and the relative success we've experienced with minimized school transmission due to a range of mitigation efforts, including masks. Will the schools continue to employ this altered guidance or will they return to CDC guidance? What will be the response to multiple classroom cases? The details here are important and while it's reasonable to alter the plan based on new information, it's unreasonable to lift mask requirements prior to the development of a plan.

One parting addition...a paper was published in JAMA this week on the very topic of reducing mitigations in elementary schools. It may provide you with some data-driven goals. You can find it here:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2789005>

As always, thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Emmy Dove
Charles St

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:34 AM
To: helenamjohnson18@gmail.com
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask mandate

Helena -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

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-----Original Message-----

From: Helena Johnson <helenamjohnson18@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:07 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>; Milaschewski, Thomas <Thomas.Milaschewski@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask mandate

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Dear School Committee,

I find a rescinding of the mask mandate for school children to be a sudden and premature choice. This is a huge step to take so quickly after a surge, and during the winter months.

Our goal as a community should be to end this pandemic as soon as possible. To me, unmasking kids on February 28th is counterproductive to this goal. I believe it will create a rise in cases, and result in a re-masking of children. I think the rollercoaster ride of unmasking and re-masking, will be harder than keeping them on for just a little while longer. There will also be a resulting spike in absences, and kids having to isolate. I know and acknowledge, that masking is more challenging for some, but I think missing school and having to isolate is far worse for children.

In addition, I would like to address something in the joint letter on page 22 of the packet. The decision by the Reading Board of Health regarding businesses, is compared to the decision that is facing the School Committee for schools. I feel the BOH's decision is reasonable, but you cannot compare the two decisions. People have a choice to go shopping or dine out. Kids do not have a choice of whether to go to school, they have to go. They also go for 6.5+ hours, which is much longer than the time people spend in a store, restaurant or at any appointment. This is an entirely different situation, and for this reason, children need a little more time. Looking at the charts on page 24 in the packet, during the week of Feb 9, there was roughly 30 student cases, and looks like 2 staff cases. So, let's say 32 known cases in our schools in a week is enough for this highly contagious variant to spread in an unmasked school. I wonder what it will be after break. Countless times over the course of this pandemic, we have read in the Superintendent's updates, the words, "none of these were in-school transmissions". The reason for this was mask wearing.

In my opinion, waiting a couple months and taking masks off for good is the best approach. I know there is a lot of pressure surrounding this decision, and it is unlikely for the School committee to put it off that long, but I would like it to be their decision. Could we at least compromise on a few more weeks to get closer to Spring? In the very least, delay it by a week, or two, following the upcoming break? There is no question there will be a spike after people return from vacation.

We all want the pandemic to be over, but unmasking too soon doesn't just make it go away. It won't equate to things going back to normal, it actually prolongs restrictions and perpetuates the pandemic.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Helena Johnson
Orchard Park Drive

Sent from my iPad

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Octavia Brauner
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Delay unmasking

Octavia -

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise
Chair
Reading School Committee

Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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-----Original Message-----

From: Octavia Brauner <octoberflower@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:23 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Delay unmasking

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Hello,

I look forward to when our children can unmask at school and see their classmates faces, but I worry about the proposed timing for lifting the current mandate (after a vacation week and while hospitals are still trying to recover). I would advocate for lifting the mask mandate in schools no earlier than 3/7, so any spike in cases from the vacation week has time to settle without causing a continued rise in cases from any classroom exposure.

Thank you for all your hard work!
Octavia Brauner
Pearl St

Sent from my iPhone

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Kevin Sexton
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: It's time

Kevin –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
SC Distribution List: schoolcommittee@reading.k12.ma.us
Mobile: (617) 869-6825
Reading Public Schools Website: <https://reading.k12.ma.us>

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From: Kevin M. Sexton <kevinmsexton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:25 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: It's time

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Members of the School Committee,

Please read the attached letter and correspondence. And I hope tonight's meeting goes smoothly for you all.

All the best,

Kevin M. Sexton
(781) 640-1484 cell
KevinMSexton@gmail.com

Lapierre, Samantha

From: Wise, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Amanda Holmen
Cc: Milaschewski, Thomas; Lapierre, Samantha
Subject: RE: Mask Policy

Amanda –

We appreciate your willingness to write in to express your thoughts on this matter.

Thank you.

Thomas Wise

Chair
Reading School Committee



Email: thomas.wise@reading.k12.ma.us
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From: Amanda Holmen <amandaesutton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:46 AM
To: DG School Committee <SchoolCommittee@reading.k12.ma.us>
Subject: Mask Policy

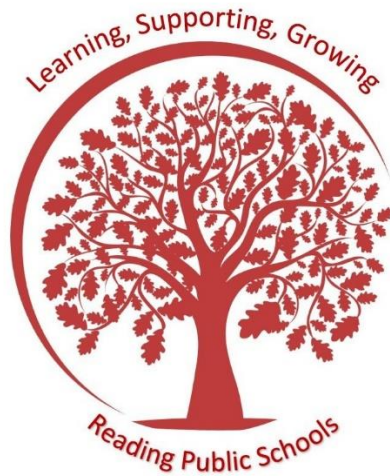
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Reading Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I am reaching out regarding the new DESE guidelines making masks optional in schools. While I fully realize we are in a new phase of the pandemic and that the number of cases has dropped dramatically, I think the timing of this change is not the best coming off a school vacation week where people will have been traveling and gathering with others. I hope Reading will take this into consideration when discussing the mask policy and consider extending our current policy for at least a couple of weeks to protect both teachers and students from a potential spike in cases.

Sincerely,
Amanda Holmen

Reading Public Schools
School Committee Meeting Packet
February 17, 2022



Calendar

SY21-22 School Committee Calendar

Month	Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
June	6/30/2021	Union Contract Approvals (A)	Superintendent & School Committee
July Social Media Coordinators - Shawn Brandt & Sarah McLaughlin			
July	7/13/2021	Executive Session: To discuss the complaints brought against a Public Individual Reading Teachers Association Contract Approval (A)	School Committee Superintendent & School Committee
	7/22/2021	Declare Surplus Equipment (A) Response to Complaint brought against a Public Individual Director of Finance Search Process Review & Approval (A) Appointment of Superintendent to Collaborative Boards (A) - SEEM Collaborative - Northshore Education Consortium Superintendent Entry Plan Superintendent Review Timeline Discussion (A) School Committee Brochure Approval (A) 13th Annual Reading Fall Street Faire - School Committee Participation Discussion & Approval (A)	Director of Finance & Operations School Committee Superintendent & School Committee School Committee School Committee & Superintendent School Committee Superintendent Superintendent & School Committee School Committee School Committee & Superintendent
August Social Media Coordinators - Chuck Robinson & Tom Wise			
August	8/5/2021	Offsite: Team Building, Strategy & Goals - Day 1	School Committee & Administration
	8/6/2021	Offsite: Team Building, Strategy & Goals - Day 2	School Committee & Administration
	8/16/2021	School Committee Training on Laws involving Public and Student Records	Counsel & School Committee
		Vote to Appoint Director of Finance (A)	Superintendent & School Committee
		Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings: First Reading (A)	Superintendent & School Committee
	8/19/2021	Assignment of School Committee Member to Reading Coalition Liaison	School Committee Chair
		Executive Session: Strategy with respect to ongoing Litigation	Superintendent & School Committee
		Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings: Second Reading (A)	Superintendent & School Committee
		New Central Office Leadership Entry Plans	New Central Office Leadership
		Beginning of School / Summer Update	Administration
8/25/2021	Review Agreement between Town & Schools for the Allocation of Costs - CH70 Net School Spend	Superintendent & School Committee	
	Discussion and Vote on Creation of Policy Subcommittee (A)	School Committee	
	Appointment of School Committee Members to Policy Subcommittee	School Committee Chair	
8/31/2021	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting		
8/31/2021	Financial Forum - Select Board, Finance Committee & School Committee		
September Social Media Coordinators - Erin Gaffen & Carla Nazzaro			
September	9/6/2021	Labor Day	
	9/8/2021	School Committee Policy Subcommittee Meeting	
	9/9/2021	Elementary Open House	
	9/13/2021	New Staff Introductions	Administration
		New Principal Leadership Entry Plans	RMHS, Joshua Eaton & Birch Meadow Principals
		Superintendent Entry Plan Update	Superintendent
	9/14/2021	District Improvement Plan Review & Update Discussion	Superintendent & School Committee
		ARPA Fund Discussion: Suggestions on Potential Fund Use and Actionable Next Steps	Superintendent & School Committee
	9/14/2021	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	9/21/2021	School Committee Policy Subcommittee Meeting	
	9/23/2021	Middle School Open House	
	9/28/2021	High School Open House	
	9/29/2021	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support 15th Annual Meeting	
9/30/2021	FY21 End of Year Summary	Director of Finance	
	Strategy & Vision Action Steps	Superintendent	
	Superintendent Goals Introduction	Superintendent	
	Discuss & Vote on Establishment of Reading in Reading Advisory Committee (A)	School Committee & Administration	
	Appoint School Committee & Administration Membership of Reading in Reading Advisory Committee	School Committee Chair & Superintendent	
9/30/2021	Policy JRA - Student Records - Amendment (A)	Policy Sub Committee, Superintendent, & School Committee	
	Policy KDB - Public's Right to Know - Amendment (A)	Policy Sub Committee, Superintendent, & School Committee	
	Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings - Review	Superintendent, Director of Nursing, & School Committee	
October Social Media Coordinators - Shawn Brandt & Sarah McLaughlin			
October	10/11/2021	Columbus Day	
	10/12/2021	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	10/14/2021	Youth Risk Behavior Survey Presentation	Coalition for Prevention & Support
		Educator of the Year Award Celebration	School Committee & Administration
		RMHS Principal Entry Plan Findings	Kevin Tracey
		Enrollment Update	Superintendent
		MCAS Presentation	Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching
	10/18/2021	Superintendent Goals Finalization & Approval (A)	Superintendent & School Committee
		ARPA Fund Discussion: Update on Priority Items and Prioritization	School Committee & Administration
		Staff COVID Vaccination Data	Superintendent & Director of Nursing
	10/18/2021	Special Town Meeting	
	10/19/2021	SEPAC Basic Rights Workshop: Understanding the IEP	
	10/20/2021	Financial Forum II - Select Board, Finance Committee & School Committee	
10/21/2021	Special Town Meeting		
10/25/2021	Special Town Meeting		
10/27/2021	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting		
November Social Media Coordinators - Chuck Robinson & Tom Wise			
11/4/2021	Reading in Reading Advisory Committee - Continued	School Committee & Administration	
	Appoint School Committee Membership of Reading in Reading Advisory Committee (if necessary)	School Committee	
11/4/2021	Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings - Review & Potential Amendment (A)	Superintendent, Director of Nursing, & School Committee	
	Full Day Kindergarten Budget Strategy	School Committee & Administration	
	Policy IKF - Graduation Requirements - Amendment (A)	School Committee, Superintendent, RMHS Principal/Guidance	
	Policy Subcommittee - Full Committee Discussion on Roles & Responsibilities with respect to Substantive Policy changes or New Policies	School Committee	
	Strategy with respect to negotiations with represented bodies	School Committee & Administration	

SY21-22 School Committee Calendar

Month	Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
November		Strategy with respect to negotiations with non-represented personnel (Central Office & Principals)	School Committee, Superintendent, & Director of Finance
	11/8/2021	Town Meeting	
	11/9/2021	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	11/11/2021	Veteran's Day	
	11/15/2021	Town Meeting	
	11/18/2021	Town Meeting	
	11/22/2021	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
	11/25/2021	Thanksgiving	
December Social Media Coordinators - Erin Gaffen & Carla Nazzaro			
December	12/2/2021	Reading Police Comfort Dog Program (A) Discussion on Hybrid Meeting Technology Options, Costs, and Method of Funding School Improvement Plans Review & Approval Discussion on Strategy for Subcommittee Creation Budget Guidance Policy EBC: Discussion on Approach to Consider Changes	Superintendent & Chief of Police School Committee & Administration Principals, Superintendent, & School Committee School Committee School Committee & Director of Finance School Committee & Administration
	12/7/2021	Reading in Reading Committee - Overview Meeting	
	12/8/2021	Select Board Town Department FY23 Budgets - First Meeting	
	12/14/2021	Select Board Town Department FY23 Budgets - Second Meeting Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	12/15/2021	Select Board Town Department FY23 Budgets - Third Meeting	
	12/16/2021	RMHS Counseling Update METCO Program Update Approve Energy Reduction Program School Committee's ARPA Representation FY22 Quarterly Personnel Update FY22-FY23 Preliminary School Calendar Vote (A) FY22 Quarterly Budget Update FY23 Pre Budget Presentation & Discussion Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings - Review	RMHS Counseling Superintendent & Administration School Committee & Town Administration School Committee Director of Human Resources Superintendent & School Committee Director of Finance Superintendent & Director of Finance Superintendent, Director of Nursing, & School Committee
	12/21/2021	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
	12/21/2021	Reading in Reading Committee - Learning Together Meeting	
	12/27/2021	Winter Break	
	12/30/2021	Winter Break	
	January Social Media Coordinators - Chuck Robinson & Tom Wise		
January	1/6/2022	FY23 Budget Discussion - Administration, Districtwide, & School Facilities FY23 Capital Plan	Administration Administration
	1/11/2022	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	1/12/2022	Reading in Reading Committee Meeting	
	1/13/2022	FY23 Budget Discussion - Regular Day & Special Education Special Education & Student Services Mid Year Update Learning & Teaching Mid Year Update	Administration Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching
	1/17/2022	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
	1/20/2022	Public Hearing: FY23 Budget Full Day Kindergarten Option Review FY23 Budget Discussion	School Committee School Committee, Finance Committee, & Administration School Committee
	1/26/2022	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
	1/27/2022	FY23 Budget Discussion & Final Vote (A) Cafeteria Workers FY22-FY23 Joint Labor Management Committee FY23 School Calendar Turf 1 Project Update	School Committee Administration & School Committee Administration & School Committee Administration & School Committee
February Social Media Coordinators - Shawn Brandt & Sarah McLaughlin			
February	2/8/2022	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	2/17/2022	Veteran's Memorial Presentation (A) Coolidge Math Challenge EBCFA Update & Discussion FY22 Quarterly Budget Update Disposing of Surplus Materials Select Board ARPA Committee Member Appointment Superintendent Mid-Year Formative Introduction & Goals Review Superintendent Entry Plan Update Assistant Superintendent for Learning & Teaching Entry Plan Update	Kevin Bohmiller & Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Hammond Coolidge Students & School Committee School Committee Director of Finance & Operations Director of Finance & Operations School Committee Chair Superintendent & School Committee Superintendent Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching
	2/21/2022	February Vacation	
	2/23/2022	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
	2/24/2022	February Vacation	
	March Social Media Coordinators - Erin Gaffen & Carla Nazzaro		
March	3/2/2022	(Placeholder) School Committee Budget Presentation to Finance Committee	Superintendent, Director of Finance, & School Committee
	3/8/2022	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	3/10/2022	FY22-FY23 Kindergarten Enrollment Update Student Resource Officer Annual Update Special Education & Student Services Mid Year Update Superintendent Mid-Year Formative Review Discussion (Placeholder) MSBA Killam Update (Placeholder) First Killam Public Hearing (Placeholder) Policy Review / Updates	Superintendent SROs & Superintendent Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Superintendent & School Committee Superintendent & School Committee School Committee & Permanent Building Committee Superintendent & School Committee
	3/24/2022	FY22 Quarterly Personnel Update Policy FF Execution: Naming of Facilities or Places within or on School Property (Placeholder) Policy Review / Updates	Director of Human Resources Superintendent & School Committee Superintendent & School Committee

SY21-22 School Committee Calendar

Month	Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
	3/30/2022	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
		April Social Media Coordinators - Shawn Brandt & Sarah McLaughlin	
April	4/5/2022	Town Election Day	
	4/12/2022	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	4/14/2022	Vote on Last Day of School (A) (Placeholder) Policy Review / Updates	School Committee Superintendent & School Committee
	4/18/2022	April Vacation	
	4/21/2022	April Vacation	
	4/25/2022	Town Meeting	
	4/27/2022	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
	4/28/2022	Town Meeting	
		May Social Media Coordinators - TBD	
May	5/2/2022	Town Meeting	
	5/5/2022	Town Meeting	
	5/9/2022	(Placeholder) Superintendent Evaluation - Process, Progress, & Data Review District Improvement Plan Update	Superintendent Superintendent
	5/10/2022	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	5/12/2022	Elementary Open House	
	5/19/2022	Middle School Open House	
	5/25/2022	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting	
	5/26/2022	Public Hearing & Vote on School Choice (A) Final Vote on FY23 Budget & Capital Plan (A)	Superintendent & School Committee Director of Finance & School Committee
5/30/2022	Memorial Day		
		June Social Media Coordinators - TBD	
June	6/5/2022	RMHS Graduation	
		(Placeholder) Superintendent Evaluation	School Committee
	6/9/2022	RMHS Handbook Updates (A) SE PAC Year End Update Learning & Teaching Year End Update	RMHS Administration SE PAC Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching
	6/14/2022	Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting	
	6/16/2022	Last Day of School (No Snow Days)	
	6/20/2022	Juneteenth Observed	
	6/23/2022	FY22 Budget Transfers (if needed) (A) Declare Surplus Equipment (A) FY22 Quarterly Personnel Update Special Education & Student Services Year End Update Reorganization Liaison Discussion	Director of Finance Director of Finance Director of Human Resources Assistant Superintendent of Student Services School Committee School Committee
	6/24/2022	Last Day of School (Five Snow Days)	
6/29/2022	Reading Coalition for Prevention & Support Advisory Board Meeting		
		July Social Media Coordinators - TBD	