

Allen ISD Parents for Safe Schooling

Allen ISD

Attn: Superintendent, Dr. Robin Bullock
612 E Bethany Drive
Allen, TX 75002

August 17, 2021

Dear Superintendent Dr. Robin Bullock and Allen ISD Board of Trustees,

We are a unified and growing group of concerned Allen ISD parents who have sent countless emails, made countless calls, and tried to reason and be heard by the school board. To date, we have received not a single dignified response from any of you. Despite Superintendent Bullock's suggestion to take our children elsewhere, but continue to fund her salary and the Allen ISD budget through our property taxes, we will not leave Allen ISD. We are your constituents and as parents we also have a moral obligation to advocate for the health, safety, and education of our children in this district.

We pay taxes so that our children can thrive in a safe learning environment as you promise in your mission statement. Allen ISD has failed to provide an environment that ensures the health and safety of its students. We should all be collaborating and working together for the collective well-being of all children in this district – we can do this.

Given your blatant disregard of community input and involvement on this issue, the following are what we believe to be reasonable expectations that must be addressed immediately:

- 1) Allen ISD will meet with us, whether in a public forum or a closed door meeting by August 20, 2021;
- 2) Allen ISD will explain why a virtual option is not possible on a temporary basis for all elementary school children. In reference, many school districts locally and statewide are providing this option by using Federal Covid Relief funds received during the pandemic;
- 3) Allen ISD will explain why a temporary requirement to wear masks in elementary schools is not possible. You have previously cited Executive Order GA-38 to shield you from mandating masks. However, the Fifth Court of Appeals, which covers Collin County, explicitly states that the Texas Disaster Act does not allow the Governor to suspend local authorities from managing local disasters. Therefore, the executive order is invalid and cannot be followed. Further, AISD institutes a multitude of requirements under its dress code and student code of conduct. The District is well within its rights under the Texas Education Code to require masks for the health and safety for elementary school children. Lastly, even if Executive Order GA-38 is valid, we as concerned parents, are willing to fund the fine of up to \$1000 if Allen ISD is unwilling to do so;
- 4) Allen ISD will explain why contact tracing protocols that were in place during the 2020-2021 school year are not in place this year; and
- 5) Allen ISD will explain why social distancing protocols that were in place during the 2020-2021 school year are not in place this year.

- 6) Allen ISD will listen to concerns relating to children eligible for IEPs / 504 accommodations and work to provide reasonable remedy.

These are fair and reasonable requests to help ensure the safety of K-6 children in our district who are not yet eligible for a vaccine. In fact, these requests are based on the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the same organizations that Allen ISD refers to under Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 school year. Elementary school children do not get the choice of whether or not to receive a vaccine. Until they are afforded such a choice, it is incumbent on Allen ISD to protect these children. We are not asking for anything on a permanent basis or for anything in grades 7-12. The delta variant has necessitated the way the entire state of Texas responded to COVID this past month. Allen ISD must change its course due to the new variant and the fact that your youngest students do not carry suitable protection from it.

Understand that our group cares about our children deeply and that we are active voters in local elections. The upcoming November ballot includes bond proposals that constituents twice rejected. Many of us worked diligently to ensure the last bond packages passed. We are prepared to work just as diligently for the "**vote no**" campaign on these upcoming bonds if we feel our children were discarded and not protected this school year. We would be sure the public understood that a vote no on the bonds would be a vote of incompetence directed at Allen ISD. This would be a sign of things to come for each and every board member who was complicit in allowing the reckless endangerment of our elementary school children.

You are the leaders of our school district, some of you are grandparents, and some of you have young children. You understand what it means to shoulder the stress, and the worry over the safety and well-being of kids. Let's change course and be allies against Covid-19! Let's work together to find solutions so that everyone wins and everybody feels heard and welcomed in this district.

It is our moral and ethical obligation! Let's do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Allen ISD Parents for Safe Schooling

CC: Allen ISD Board of Trustees, Kelley Rowley, Amy Gnadt, Sarah Mitchell, Kevin Cameron, Dr. Polly Montgomery, David Noll, Vatsa Ramanathan, Kim McLaughlin, News Media.