

Formal Written Correspondence to the Board [#818]

1 message

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Subject *

Response to Jan 11 board meeting

Comments *

Hello and good day.

I am here today as a small Business owner in Livermore, a very concerned parent, of three school aged children, and a contributing member of the community. We have been deeply impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, just like everyone in this WORLD has. I am also here today to address my deep concerns regarding the things I heard from the Jan 11th school board meeting in which I felt extremely compelled to respond to. I care about this community. I care about this world. I care about each and every one of you, so please keep that in mind as I continue in my response.

I will start by reminding everyone that we are a community. As a community we have a responsibility to look out for each-other, be mindful of others, and to take care of each-other. After all, isn't that the entire purpose of a community?

This pandemic has affected every single one of us in ways I never imagined. Many have had to bury loved ones. Many have suffered complications to this disease. Many have lost income, jobs, and their businesses. We have had to find new ways to teach our children and navigate new waters as parents. Mental health has declined even further in a world that was already in turmoil. The list goes on. We are all doing our best to get through this difficult and straining time.

Nothing about living through a global pandemic is easy. In fact, it's incredibly inconvenient and frustrating on so many levels. Regardless of what side of the fence you are on, I feel for every single person throughout the world who has had to turn their lives upside down to get through this absolutely insane time. Or, at-least I did.

My eyes opened so wide on Jan 11th as I painfully listened and sat speechless, appalled, disgusted and angry by what I heard from the majority of speakers who spoke to the school board meeting without a single thought of how their actions have not only affected other people, but have played a major part in the spread of this virus. This was made very clear by what I heard.

I will start by responding to the comment that was directed to us families who have made the sound and rational

decision to vaccinate our children. The parents who specifically stated that we are “experimenting on our children,” and poisoning them. I would like to say that I understand your hesitation to vaccinate your child. There was a point where I felt the same hesitation. I knew I needed to learn more about the vaccine, the ingredients, how long mRNA has been researched, evaluated, used, and how it would affect us. The more I learned about this incredible medical tool that we have, the closer I became to vaccinating my children and myself once the opportunity presented. Us families that have vaccinated our children are NOT experimenting on them or poisoning them. We have made clear, concise, rational and thoughtful decisions to do so. We have based those decisions off of facts, data, the support of our doctors whom we trust, and the science that has supported the safety and effectiveness of these vaccines. To assume that we have blindly made these choices for our families is ignorant and offensive to say the least. How anyone can stand up and make such a disgusting accusation is truly the reason that brought me here today to speak up against those words.

My next response is in regards to those who have still not figured out what a vaccine is. Vaccines are not cures. Think of them more so as a preventative. A tool in which we are so lucky to have access to. A tool that triggers our immune system to respond to a disease that can do detrimental damage to our bodies, which actual covid has proven to do over and over again for millions of people around the world. The amount of unreliable and incorrect information that I heard on the 11th surrounding vaccines and masks was too much to handle. I'd like to know when everyone suddenly became a scientist, doctor or virologist. You're not. Passing along disinformation is dangerous. And I am sick to death of it!

Myocarditis was mentioned regarding vaccines. Look, I completely understand the concern there. It is healthy to have those concerns. When my son received his first vaccine, it was two days later that the info regarding Pfizer and myocarditis was first mentioned. My son has a severe heart condition. One that puts him in the hospital every time he gets the flu. One that puts him at high risk of complications if he were to get covid. My best defense for him in order to get him back into the world is the vaccinate. Was I concerned when I heard about the possible link to myocarditis and Pfizer? Yes!!! So I monitored him for about six weeks.

There is always going to be a risk. No matter what you do in life. However, the risk of getting myocarditis (which is not exactly affecting our Elementary and middle school kids) is so incredibly rare. It is also treatable and those who experienced it have been treated.

Would you like to know what else puts you at risk for myocarditis? Getting actual COVID!!!! You are 16 times more likely to get myocarditis from covid-19 than if you don't have covid-19. Why are these parents not talking about that!? Why are these parents ignoring the things we DO know, which is that covid highly and heavily increases your chances of several health complications including myocarditis, blood clots, stroke, migraines long term, organ failure, lung damage, DEATH! The list goes on and on and on. Yet, many people stood up on the 11th and had the nerve to accuse many of us of experimenting on and poisoning our children. We have been making the rational decision to protect them against severe illness, hospitalization or even death. How dare they! How dare they put themselves on a pedestal and assume they are better than the rest of us! That they are “pure bloods,” which I guess is a thing to say about unvaccinated people now. They have no idea what each family has to go through every day to get through this pandemic safely. They have no idea the at risk family members that we have at home who are the ones more likely going to be laying in the hospital dying while they sit at home nursing their “common cold,” as many put it last week.

Well, I have a news for them. This virus affects us all differently. What may be a common cold for one person, is a life-threatening illness to another. How lucky they are that they have not had to experience Covid as a life-threatening illness.

I say this with heartbreak and sadness; I know people who have lost family, who have had to have organ transplants, who have had their lungs and other organs full of blood clots, who have not been able to breathe, who are suffering complications now as a result of Covid, and some of these people were perfectly healthy before. Many of them have

high risk factors, too. That seems to be a fact that many of those who spoke on the 11th have forgotten to understand. We live in a world that is full of high risk people. And from what I heard on the 11th, that's not something that reaches outside of their little bubble. How very lucky for them. I'm glad that they all have been able to breeze through having Covid. Congratulations.

Sadly, my 12-year-old son may not be one of those people who can breeze through covid. My 12-year-old son that shares a school with their children. My 12-year-old son that shares a community with their families. My 12-year-old son who should not have to live in a bubble, deprive himself of an education, sacrifice his mental health, or feel unsafe in a community that should be looking out for each other. I hope that is something that can give them a little bit of empathy and perspective. Their experience and their situation does not mean that everyone is in the same boat.

For those that screamed about this being a common cold, how dare you! Please go tell that to all the families who have had to bury their loved ones. Who are now suffering long-term complications. Please. Go tell them that this is just a cold.

I heard a lot of parents being upset regarding having to pull their kids from school who are unvaccinated. Well guess what?! I had to pull my VACCINATED kids from school because of the spike in cases. While I have the choice to leave my kids in school, I can't do that. I can't do that because I understand how vaccines work and that they do not prevent infection. They were never meant to prevent infection. They are a tool to help prevent hospitalization and death. At the point of the spike at school my son was not boosted yet, so his immunity was surely waned. My son finally was able to get his booster on the 12th. However, he was still at risk of becoming sick, and my vaccinated children were still capable of bringing it home to our family. So, these parents who spoke are not the only ones affected by this. My vaccinated children are home as well when they should be in school. Our actions affect everyone during this time. This is not an isolated thing. And when our actions affect everyone around us, we should be prepared to make some sacrifices.

Moving on regarding the comments about Vaccinated kids getting a better education than unvaccinated kids. That is probably the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. The pattern that I see is that people who decide they don't need to wear a mask and they don't need to socially distance, are the ones who are putting themselves at higher risk of getting Covid and spreading Covid. Not being responsible leads us to the current point of what's happening now which are the consequences of the actions that THEY take when participating in things that potentially result in exposure. As a Community, we should be doing everything we can to slow the spread of this virus. That way we can keep our schools open, our hospitals will not be overwhelmed, and we won't be exposing people who are at risk. Like I said earlier, this is not just a common cold for everyone. What is happening in the schools right now are consequences of the actions that people took over break.

Also, to the woman who literally spoke into the universe that all of us would have the same fate as her brother, who according to her, sadly suffered a blood clot due to the vaccine and passed away. I cannot say enough how very sorry I am to hear that, and I encourage you to not wish ill intentions onto others. What a horrible and disgusting thing to say and bestow upon people.

In response to masks. It is my experience that kids will respond how we respond. If we make a big deal about masks and not being able to breathe, what do you think our kids are going to do? Masks wearing is the simplest task that we can do to help slow the spread of Covid. Kids are resilient. If we don't make a big deal out of it, then they won't make a big deal out of it. I realize that there are certain situations that make it a little more difficult to wear a mask, but it's minimal. My 11-year-old daughter has been dancing 17+ hours a week with her entire dance studio for over a year and a half in a mask. It took about a week to adjust and get used to doing strenuous physical activity with a mask on, but she is quite used to it and has zero complaints. She is just happy to be dancing and she is happy to be back in school with her friends and teachers. A 20 minute recess is not going to hurt your child. However, it is my understanding that they do not need to even wear their masks at recess. So if that is the case, then there is absolutely nothing to

complain about. Your child needs to keep their mask on inside the classroom to help keep other people safe. That is a simple concept that even my 9, 11, and 12 year old understand. And they have understood from the beginning. They have no complaints about it. In fact, many of the children at school could care less if they have to wear a mask. They are just happy to be there. This "let our kids breathe" chant is infuriating. You know what makes it hard for people to breathe? Getting actual covid!!! I get it. I understand. Masks suck. But as long as you are using a proper mask and wearing it the way in it intended, it does slow the spread. Nothing is 100% effective, but we need to do all that we can to keep people safe. I don't wear a mask to prevent myself from getting Covid. I wear a mask to protect others. That is how that works.

The parents who spoke on the 11th cannot have everything they want. Our schools are open. They wanted schools open. We all do! Now it's their turn to do their part to help keep them open and help keep the rest of the community safe. It is our moral responsibility, and it does not infringe upon our freedoms. That is another one of the most ridiculous things I have ever heard. Our freedoms do not come before the health and safety of our community. Not only that, but freedom is limited. Many people need to go back and relearn exactly what freedom means in this country, because it has clearly gone over the heads of many people. But thank you! Thank you, for making it very clear who matters in this community to you. It certainly is not my family or anyone who may have any risk factors.

These are public schools. They are not private schools. They are not home schools. They are public schools. And it is the public schools responsibility to ensure the safety and health of our children. Thank you Livermore school district for taking action and for understanding the importance of keeping our families safe and healthy. I truly hope that you will not succumb to the things I heard to other night, because I can assure you that the majority of us do not feel the same way these parents who spoke do.

In regards to vaccine mandates, I don't even know why this is a discussion this week because the school has not said they are going to mandate the Covid vaccine. We should cross that bridge when we get there.

The comments regarding Racism and comparing this to Black communities verses White communities! Wow! To actually have the nerve to compare unvaccinated kids to People of Color who have suffered oppression for years and years and everyday of their lives!?!? Shame on YOU! I think it goes without saying how incredibly inappropriate and disgusting those comments were. To be so privileged that you actually believe it's ok to compare this to what People of Color have had to endure is appalling! And incredibly gross.

My final comment goes to the parents who made it very clear that they were going to refuse to test their children. First of all, the claims about these swabs causing cancer is just ludicrous. It has already been debunked. You know what causes cancer? EVERYTHING!! Including the food you feed your families. Second, thank you for showing yourselves. Thank you for showing me who you are and that you are willing to send your children to school to expose others. The fact that those parents will flat out refuse to test their kids out of spite makes me lose all trust and is incredibly concerning to know that I am sharing a community with people who have that mind set. The tests that were sent home prior to the two week break were not only OPTIONAL, but they were given to us so that we could make sure we had an opportunity to not bring covid to the classroom during this spike. This was a safety precaution implemented so that we could keep our school running! Isn't that what they want!? Well guess what!? Now we have tripled our in classroom exposure in just a week and a half, and still counting. There is no harm in the school district sending home test kits for families, especially at a time when it's difficult to get a test. Just stop!

One parent was furious because "how dare the school send a test home with their child..." calling it inappropriate to force them to bring a test home. NOBODY was forcing anyone to test. It was optional, and if you didn't want to use it you could've given it to somebody else who may have needed it. There is a shortage of tests right now. Meanwhile, it was OK to put a 12 year old on the stand in front of the board and put a child in that position? Who is the inappropriate one here?

In closing, I want to say that it has been very difficult for everyone no matter what your opinions are, what your beliefs are, or however you see this public health crisis. I want to thank all the teachers and the district for following the guidelines that are given to them by the EXPERTS in order to keep our kids and our community safe. We all need to meet in the middle. We all need to understand that each situation is different. We need to lift each other up and support each other. We need to come together as a community, even if it's an inconvenience, and we have to make sacrifices in order to do so. This is a virus. A virus does not care how you feel. This is a highly spreadable virus that affects all of us. This is not a situation in which people can do whatever they want and not affect others. It's a domino effect. When you expose others, you put them in the same position you are in that you are so angry about. We miss work, we miss income, we have to be home with our kids, we have to contact Trace and let everybody know who we've been around that they have been exposed. Everyone is put in a position where they lose something and have to rearrange their entire lives.

I say all these things from the bottom of my heart. I'm trying very hard to understand where each individual is coming from. But after what I heard at that meeting on the 11th, I'm pretty disgusted and heartbroken. In no way do I ever want to disregard the concerns of any parent when it comes to their well-being, their children's well-being, and what's best for their families. However, what I have seen and heard from this particular party who spoke on the 11th, anyone outside of their bubble is not getting the same consideration that they expect or a single thought. I wish I could say we were in this together, but clearly we are not