

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Megan T. Fraser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:10 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Mask Mandate Request

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AUG 16 21 PM 05:00 PCC CLK OF MD

Hi Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I want to voice my opinion in favor of installing a mask requirement in our schools. I know you will be getting many emails and phone calls about this issue. I know that the "unmask our kids" crowd is passionate as well. Especially with the highly infectious Delta variant circulating, not requiring masks indoors could be a recipe for disaster. Just one infected child could spread the virus to an entire class, especially in elementary schools where no children are yet vaccinated.

This is why both the CDC and the Academy of American Pediatrics strongly recommend masks for unvaccinated children in schools at this point in the pandemic. I have 2 children who fall into this category who I love with all of my being. They are not just a statistic, they are my actual children.

Many are saying that the reason why we can drop the mask mandate inside school buildings is because children are at minimal risk for severe COVID. This is true, to some extent. Yet at the same time, the CDC has data showing that among adolescents who were hospitalized with COVID this past spring, a third were admitted to the ICU and 5% required ventilation. We are seeing huge hospitalization spikes in children who have caught the Delta variant, including children admitted to intensive care units. Over 400 children have died so far of COVID-19. I am a parent with [REDACTED] Even a cold spins me into [REDACTED] I NEED to be here to raise my children. I beg of you to require masks again in our schools.

Last school year proved that kids could go to school and remain safe, even during a global pandemic. Why was this possible? MASKS. Masks worked last school year, and most children adapted well. And part of the reason masks worked well is because all children and staff wore them inside diligently. Yes, it is annoying. But this is not about preference or comfort. This is about safety. If we continue with a maskless or mask-optional environment, especially among children under 12, we risk losing that safety measure that so many of us desire and deserve for our children. Again, all it takes is one maskless, infected individual to spread the virus to many.

This is also about education. After the learning delays of last year fumbling through virtual classrooms, hybrid schedules, etc. there is rapid learning loss. Closing classrooms due to COVID puts our students at a disadvantage. Every time a student is out sick for 2+ weeks or a classroom gets shut down, there are massive effects to education. Our future depends on our children having access to safe, in-person classrooms. Masks are proven to be effective at lowering COVID transmission, thereby aiding in our goal of actually educating our kids. Let's team up and help our kids learn by requiring masks, and please not return to the dark days of isolation and poor education via a computer cable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Kerstin Harper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:15 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Mask Mandate for K-12 Schools: Support

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I wish that I had seen the call-in option for the Board meeting this morning, as I would have called in to voice my support of the mask mandate in K-12 schools.

As a parent of two children in schools in Pima County, I am extremely concerned about the Delta variant and how it is impacting children. This variant is stronger and has led to an increase in the number of pediatric admissions, something that wasn't seen with the previous COVID variants. Multiple members of the health community are concerned about this trend, especially since the majority of children are unable to be vaccinated at this point. More than 18% of the new cases in Pima County since July 1 are in people 16 and younger. Banner Health, Arizona's largest health care system, admitted 71 COVID-19 positive pediatric patients in July, which was double the number it admitted in June, Banner's chief clinical officer Dr. Marjorie Bessel said during a briefing last week. Last week, the American Academy of Pediatrics wrote a letter to the FDA urging them to approve the vaccine for 5-12 year olds due to the pressing risk the Delta variant carries. Until this happens though, masking is the easiest thing we can do to protect our children.

We have seen, in multiple school districts across the state, that a "recommended" policy simply does not work. Reviewing the Maricopa County COVID-19 School dashboard, most areas are experiencing substantial transmission. School districts have already had to move some classes to virtual learning. And this is just after a couple weeks of being in school. With the start of school last week, we have the opportunity to not put our students at the same risk with the passage of a mask mandate. We have seen the writing on the wall, not just in Maricopa County, but across the country. Let's not wait to take action until it arrives in our backyard.

Additionally, Tucson Unified School District, The University of Arizona and several other school districts across the State have already passed a mask mandate. They have decided that the health and safety of our children supersedes a law based in politics and not science. I implore that you decide to choose the same.

Sincerely,
Kerstin Harper

PLG 1621W0500FC CLK OF ID

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Carissa Sipp [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:18 AM
To: COB_mail
Cc: Dan Hunt
Subject: ReK-12 Mask Mandate needed now: Pima County Schools

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Hello,

I am writing again as I feel like we, the majority, are being overrun by conspiracy and lies about masks.

Stop allowing child abuse and parents to emphasize ideology over common sense protection for kids/children as we are in HIGH spread.

Do you want ICUs booked and no more room like TX, AK, LA? Really? Mandate masks and enforcement NOW

Carissa

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Sunday, August 8, 2021, 11:44 PM, Carissa Sipp [REDACTED] wrote:

To whom it may concern,

Pima County has had an explosion of cases with the new, extremely contagious and highly efficient Delta variant. The positivity rate is rising greater than 10% indicating not enough testing and possibly more cases out there we are not reporting.

With these numbers, more young people are ending up hospitalized and since some schools have started (including public charters) without masks, the variant is spreading fast and creating an environment for the next variant to wipe out what is left of our vaccine shield. We have already had outbreaks in the county that are shutting classes down. When is enough enough?

Our kids are undergoing a public health crisis. We are asking them to attend school in AZ with a gun pointed to their heads daily by forcing them to school without enforcing a mask mandate to try to protect them. Under 12 cannot be vaccinated until potentially later this year or early next depending on approval and trials of the vaccine dosage.

We know that the kids who show up to school without masks are the same ones whose families don't believe the science and don't believe in vaccines or masking this makes them the biggest risk factor in this pandemic. Why are we deciding that they have the right to endanger our

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lives? Our children's lives? Where and why did their 'freedoms' and 'choices' become ok to infringe on my child's safety? We don't enable folks to drink and drive without penalty and enforcement. We know the dangers. Why is there not the same enforcement to protect society for risky behavior with COVID?

I implore you, enforce a mask mandate and make all public schools including public charter schools to enforce a mask mandate. And do it now before more children and put in risk from the careless actions of our Governor and state legislature in order to score political points but risk lives, children's lives.

Carissa Sipp

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Preston Bobo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:26 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: School is starting and masks can be especially important for children

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Dear Board,

School is starting and masks can be especially important for children. Many are not yet eligible for the COVID vaccines, and vaccination rates are still not nearly high enough for those who are old enough to go without masks.

Research shows that schools where children and adults are consistently masked are effective in preventing the transmission of COVID-19. COVID remains a serious threat to children's health. Universal masking can help make in-person learning safe this fall. (1)

**Masks work to reduce
the spread of COVID-19
among children.**



Real Talk

AUG 16 21 PM 05:00 PC CLK OF PD

We want our children back to school in-person, but many students will not yet be eligible to get COVID-19 vaccines. Masks are an important layer of protection to keep students and staff safe. (2)

Masks are a vital part of **keeping kids safe at school this fall.**



Real Talk

Face masks do not reduce oxygen intake. Carbon dioxide molecules are very tiny, even smaller than respiratory droplets. They cannot be trapped by breathable materials like cloth or disposable masks. (3)

Masks do not **compromise children's breathing.**



Real Talk

Babies and young children study faces, so you may worry that having masked caregivers would harm children's language development. There are no studies to support this concern. Young children will use other clues like gestures and tone of voice. (4)

Being around adults wearing
masks doesn't delay
babies' speech or language
development.



Real Talk

Getting good protection from a mask may take extra attention for children with special health care needs, but it's possible and effective. Find tips here to help your child get used to wearing a mask and how to get it to fit correctly (5)

Children with special
health care needs **can**
safely wear masks with
extra precautions.



Real Talk

Masking now will help us end the pandemic sooner. Wearing a mask is a simple step we can all take to protect children and save lives.

Masking is not for forever.



Real Talk

Preston L. Bobo, Ph.D. - Chemistry

- (1) <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- (2) <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Return-to-School-During-COVID-19.aspx>
- (3) <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Mask-Mythbusters.aspx>
- (4) <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Do-face-masks-interfere-with-language-development.aspx>
- (5) <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-19-Youth-with-Special-Health-Care-Needs.aspx>

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Sana Ali <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:35 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Please read at meeting on 8/16

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

I am writing as a concerned parent and physician in the Tucson community. My wife and I attended (virtually) the last board meeting where you expressed your concerns about mandating masks in school and ultimately voted 'NO'. Since the last meeting 6 days ago the number of COVID cases has exponentially increased. My kids' school has reported positive cases in almost every grade so far (in just 14 days of school) which resulted in quarantine for some children for at least 7 days with no option for virtual learning. Not only are we robbing these children of a healthy environment, but we are also denying a fit education as a result. Please do the right thing and mandate masks in Pima County.

We have mitigated COVID spread in my clinic simply by mandating masks, particularly because we can not maintain physical distancing. Why should it be any different where unvaccinated children gather for 8+ hours a day without physical distancing? Can you explain a person's "right to not wear a mask" to a parent whose child is intubated in the ICU after contracting COVID from school exposure? Could you live with yourself knowing that you had a chance to try everything in your power to prevent even one case but you didn't do so?

Why have so many schools in AZ stepped up and mandated masks anyway? Because they put lives before politics. Please do the right thing and vote YES for mask mandate in schools K-12 in Pima County.

Shamudheen Mohammed Rafiyath, MD
Sana Ali, DPT

↓
AUG 16 21 PM 05:00 UTC CLIKOF.DID

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Melanie Powis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:35 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Please read my letter to support mask mandate within the schools
Attachments: ltrPimaCounty.docx

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AUG 16 21 PM 05:00 FC CLK OF 113

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I am the mom of a kindergartener at Ventana Vista Elementary School within Catalina Foothills school district, and I am deeply concerned about the "mask optional" policy within the schools. I understand that this is our current law, but I've also read that it is "unconstitutional," and might be challengeable. This is not the time to play political games with our vulnerable children, who haven't had the opportunity yet to get the covid vaccine. Both the CDC and AAP are recommending that all people, vaccinated or unvaccinated, wear masks while indoors to prevent transmission of the delta variant at this time; it's more contagious and spreading like wildfire. I want my child to be in a stable school this year, not in a school which has to open and close constantly due to outbreaks from the virus.

I also do not want to see children suffer from "long covid," need to be hospitalized in the ICU, or worse die from this nasty virus. According to the CDC and AAP, all people need to be wearing a mask indoors to prevent transmission, unless eating or drinking. If some students or teachers in my daughter's classroom do not mask up, this infringes upon our rights by putting my family at more risk for contracting the virus and getting us sick. Doctors have learned that people with "long covid" suffer from MCAS & POTS (mast cell activation syndrome and postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome), in addition to long term lung and kidney issues, which are all very serious and traumatic long term conditions. I've been [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for the last four years after [REDACTED], and my daughter's pediatrician agrees with me that this puts my daughter at risk for these "long covid" symptoms as well.

With all of this being said, I'm requesting the board of supervisors to please mandate masks within the school systems to protect our families. It's a simple solution to keep students in school rather than in the hospital, and hopefully keep our Tucson families healthy and safe. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melanie Powis

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Mariah Maskey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:40 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: eComment to be read today

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It's clear where this is going.
Rules for thee, but not me.
There's a word for that.

The business didn't require masks; which was well within their rights.

Rex Scott didn't wear a mask, which was well within his rights.

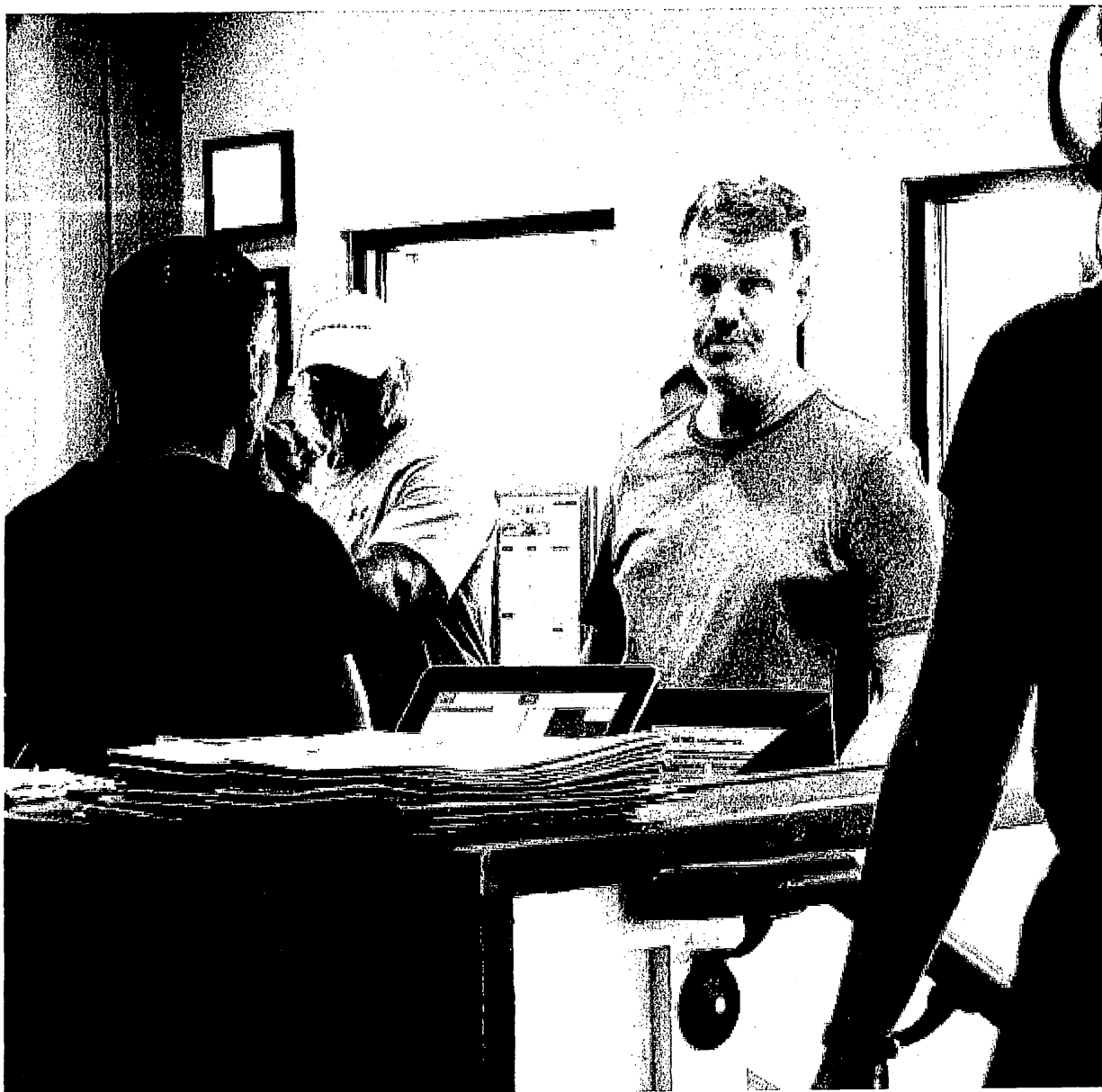
Let's all just stick with what's well within our rights and stop meddling with education that's already been decimated!!

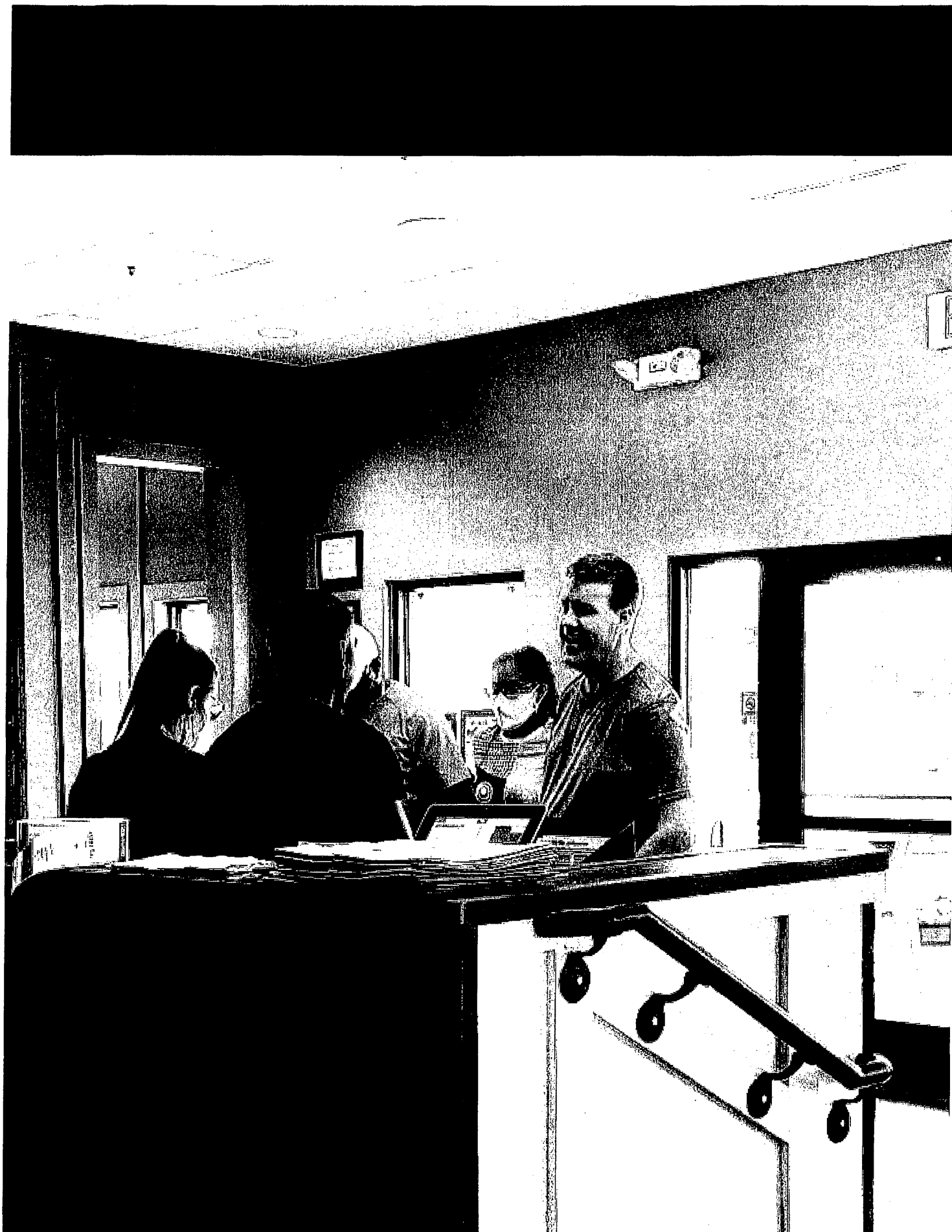
These kids MUST have a year that is back to normal and can begin repairing the damage caused by the county last year. Kids and parents who want the masks are already exercising their right to do just that! The others are exercising their rights under state law to not. Leave them alone! All of them, masking or not, just leave them alone. Stop picking on children. It's a bad look for you.

Just leave them be and focus on topics that ARE your responsibility like the crumbling roads in county limits....well except Huckleberry's roads. We all know his get redone the right way every year, but the rest of us would really appreciate some funds being focused on our roads too.

To the three Supervisors who voted against this last week, stand strong and firm in your NO vote today!!
Thank you.

AUG 16 21 PM 05:01 PC CLK OF MD





Jessica Kopfmann

From: dancesNscraps <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:00 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Masks in schools are a public health imperative Op Ed

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Dr. Matt Heinz-

Hello. My name is Reness Kano and I am a parent in Pima County. I have a beautiful, bright 5 year old boy. He is embarking on Kindergarten this fall. My precious son [REDACTED] his entire first year of life. By the grace of God and the dedication of the many physicians, my son is currently [REDACTED] He continues to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he endured his entire infancy.

My son has never had the heath to join his peers in a traditional developmental or educational setting, until now. I am horrified that the Governor of this state has chosen politics over my sons ability to attend school safely this fall. There is no life-saving vaccine available to my son and his peer group. Masks work and they are one of very few tools we have to protect our kids in school.

Serious illness in children is crippling to families physically, mentally, emotionally, financially and more. Sending children to school without masks risks the very wellbeing of every child and their families. This isn't a parents rights issue. No parent has the right to send their child to school with a virulent and deadly virus. This is a public health issue and we need to use every tool at our disposal to protect our children. Our Governor is negligent.

I am beyond grateful to the TUSD school board for requiring mask on campus. They are doing everything in their power to insure my son is receiving his education in a safe environment. I implore the County Board of Supervisors to join TUSD and do the right thing to protect children like mine.

Thank you,
Reness Kano

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AUG 16 21 PM 05:01 PC CLK OF ID

Jessica Kopfmann

From: paul andrew <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:29 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Supervisors Must Protect Our Pima County Children from COVID

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You have an opportunity to save our children's lives. I cannot believe that our leadership is not supporting mandates for masks and vaccinations for all children.
You have an ethical obligation to do the safe and right things. Please stand up against the Governors overreach to deny our children a safe and healthy education.

Paul Andrew.

AUG 16 21 PM 05:01 PC CLK OF ID

Jessica Kopfmann

From: nancyk weant [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 11:36 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: require masks at schools!

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Greetings to the Board,

I am a resident of Pima County and current employee of a downtown nonprofit in Tucson and am horrified that we are not protecting our children, staff at schools and our community in general.

Please vote to protect our community by voting **"YES"** on a mask mandate. I taught in another state for 20 years and feel so sorry to students and teachers that lack protection during a global pandemic.

Please, please, please vote **"YES"** and save lives in Pima County. We know what the right thing is to do. We owe it to those in danger that can't protect themselves or their families from harm to vote to protect them.

Sincerely,

Nancy Weant

Nancy Weant

AUG 16 21 PM 05:01 PC CLK OF ID

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Cynthia Reynolds <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 1:06 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Today's Meeting

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I am disgusted. The lack of governance and inability to lead that was on display this morning is unforgivable. My child is at risk while you ignore your responsibility and get nothing done. I am [REDACTED] and my child has no option but to risk our health or leave the only school district/friends/teachers she has ever known. She has attended a CFSD16 school since kindergarten and is in her senior year. Do you honestly think either of those are good options?

She has been through hell since the beginning of the pandemic, and the adults in charge should have taken care to protect her by now. These students are all too young, including the high schoolers, to have the burden of decision making and judgement placed on them. Yet you, the adults in charge, keep failing them miserably.

I am appalled, and you should all be ashamed.

Cindee Reynolds

20210816150601 PC CLK OF LD

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Kathy Wootton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 3:18 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Today's Meeting

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August 14, 2021

Dear Pima County Supervisors,

I am writing to you as a very concerned older community member, constituent, former teacher & grandparent to ask you to add, as an effective mitigation strategy to keep our vulnerable children safe from Covid-19 & the Delta variant, to the Pima County Agenda for Monday August 16, 2021 the Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Mandating the use of face coverings in all K-12 schools within the county, effective immediately, and to vote IN FAVOR of the County Resolution requiring a universal mask requirement in K-12 schools. Hospitals have seen a 95% increase in Covid-19 patients since July 1 and a 300% increase in the use of ventilators. The American Academy of Pediatrics agrees with the science that masks DO work to prevent disease transmission. Governor Ducey has joined the ranks of Governors like Ron De Santis who are playing politics with our children's health.

Please choose to stand with our children and Arizona communities in adopting the Resolution requiring masks in K-12 schools. Masking won't last forever, but it will save lives!

"It took a lot of stupid to get Florida & Texas to this dark place." This also includes the Governors of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada & Arizona! Their approach has become more influenced by political calculations than health care concerns! This situation is not about a wave of undocumented & unvaccinated aliens coming across our border. It is about unvaccinated Americans believing false information & not only harming themselves but their children, parents, grandparents & other loved ones who are vulnerable to this virus & its mutations.

Sincerely,

Katherine S. Wootton

AUG 16 21 PM 05:01 PC CLK OF ED