Dear (Board Member, Superintendent, Principal),

First, I want to thank you for volunteering your time to be a part of this board. I know you do this out of love of education and because you care about the future of all of our children.

This is a parents’ plea to change the mandatory masks for kids in our schools to optional. We, the people, were told that we should wear masks to “slow the spread” back in April of 2020. At that time, it was reasonable to heed that instruction since no one knew much about the COVID-19 virus, its severity, or how it spread. It has now been over a year and there is evidence, science, and data we can look to and re-evaluate these measures, especially for our children.

We elect you, our school board members, to represent us and what is best for our kids. You say part of the board’s responsibilities is to set policy. The time has come for you, our representative school board members, to do the right thing. Change the mask policy to optional. This will allow parents to make the right choice for their child. For more than a year, kids have suffered from irrational, unscientific and downright superstitious policies inflicted upon them by adults — and there is no end in sight. Stop putting kids last. Stop putting the burden of protecting adults on the kids.

We now know that kids are not significantly affected by the virus and are not shown to be spreaders. We also know that there are huge ramifications by forcing children to wear masks for long periods of time indefinitely. I have two children in elementary school. They hate school. They say it is not fun anymore and school is not a happy place. How can it be? They do not see smiles, people laughing, and they are constantly told to stay apart, don’t get close, pull your mask up. What are we doing? For what? Zero risk is not attainable, with or without masks, vaccines, distancing or anything else imposed on us, and our kids. And now the vaccines are available to anyone who wants one. Teachers, staff, grandparents, parents all have had opportunity to get the vaccine and yet we are still under this misguided notion that the kids need to stay masked up to protect the teachers? The staff? Their grandma?

When will you stand up for our kid’s happiness and mental well-being? It’s great that they are in school. Congratulations on your efforts there. But your work is not done. Do we really need to see more student athlete’s passing out due to lack of oxygen? Luckily, the students were all revived and no deaths have occurred yet in Oregon. Do we really need to see more kids isolated and depressed because they can’t just be kids? Do we really need to say to our kids, hey wear this dirty face cloth 6-8 hours a day every day so I’m protected? I would gladly, take any risk presented to me to protect my child from having to suffer. And my children are suffering. Do we really need to put the pressure on teachers and school staff to constantly be the “bad guy” and ask kids who just want to breathe freely to pull up their mask?

Is masking of children really more about seeming to be doing something? Masks in children with such near zero risk of transmission and illness from Covid is not necessary and illogical and irrational. A blanket policy of masking children is not only ineffective but can cause tremendous psychological harm and potentially long-term negative health consequences. All we ask is that masks become optional, an individual choice, parent’s choice. Children and parents should be free to choose what is best for them, not a one size fits all blanket policy.

Psychology today states “masking children is as absurd, illogical, nonsensical, and potentially dangerous as trying to stop ‘every case of Covid’ or ‘stopping Covid at all costs.’

Karol Markowicz of the NY Post says it best in his article “Will COVID Hysterics Ever Let Our Children Live Normal Lives”, With the grown-ups vaccinated, it’s time to back off the kids. More than a year of their lives has been needlessly on pause. Enough. No more masks, no more distancing, no more pretending that this virus is harmful to children when it clearly isn’t. Open all the schools, full-time. Let the kids play sports, and let’s never again make the mistakes we made in the last year. Children will be feeling the repercussions of those mistakes for years. We disregarded science and let hysteria grip us. Take that mask off, son.”

Respectfully,

(your name)