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February 28, 2022

Via email only baeg@barringtonschools.org
Gina Bae, Chair
Barrington School Committee
283 County Road
Barrington RI 02806

RE: School Masking Policy

Dear Ms. Bae:

I represent a number of parents of students enrolled in the Barrington School District. The purpose of this letter to inform you that these parents are opposed to any attempt by the District to impose a mask mandate on their children enrolled in the District schools upon the termination of the current State requirement.

As you are aware, the Governor terminated the mask mandate for public school students effective March 4. This mandate was imposed pursuant to an Executive Order, and subsequent Emergency Regulation by the RI Department of Health. That mandate has been challenged by a number of parents throughout the State, including some from your District.

Although the Superior Court has declined to issue a preliminary injunction to prohibit the enforcement of that Executive Order and Emergency Regulation, the Court did find that students and their parents are suffering continued irreparable harm by the imposition of mandatory masking of students in schools. The Court also found that the Emergency Regulation was enacted upon improper procedure. The case remains pending in Court, as we await discovery from the State justifying their actions in imposing this mask mandate.

Since that Court decision, it has become apparent to public health officials that the cost in mandating masking of students in schools outweighs any benefit that such masking may provide. As a result, RIDOH has refused to enact any further regulation on the subject. Indeed, public health officials throughout the country are dropping these mandates immediately.

Fortunately, nearly all public school districts in the State have elected to drop their requirement for mandatory masking upon the expiration of the Governor's order on March 4. Unfortunately, it appears your District is not one of them. There is no public health basis for your District to impose such a mandate unilaterally.

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Please consider this letter as notice that unless your District agrees to drop its mandate, these parents are prepared to commence litigation against you for continuing with actions which are causing irreparable harm to their children. There exists now no scientific or medical basis for you to refuse to eliminate this unhealthy and dangerous mask mandate policy.

We will be closely monitoring your actions in the coming days. Although the litigation against the Governor and the RIDOH have been challenging their actions in an official capacity, we believe that any actions by member of the Committee or the Administration to continue with a mask mandate may impose personal liability on those who take action to continue to harm children.

Very truly yours,



Gregory P. Piccirilli

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