



Pine-Richland School Board

Focused on Learning for Every Student Every Day

District Update from the PR School Board

December 16, 2021

Dear Pine-Richland Community,

Recently, the PA Supreme Court upheld a ruling that the PA Department of Health did not follow procedural and regulatory processes necessary to issue a masking mandate in Pennsylvania. This put the authority to make decisions about health and safety measures, that includes masking, at the control of local school boards.

At the public meeting on December 13, 2021, the Pine-Richland School Board approved a motion to make masking optional effective January 17, 2022. Masking indoors by students, staff and visitors would remain recommended but not required. All other mitigation strategies would stay in place. This board decision occurred after much discussion and deliberation. Members of the community can view the health and safety update provided by the administration and the following board discussion [at this link](#) beginning at 1:40.10 mark through 4:05.07. A key component in the decision to remove masking and the implementation date of January 17, is the availability of the vaccine for children ages 5 - 11. By mid-January, students in that age group whose parents choose to have their children vaccinated, should have sufficient time to receive two doses of the vaccine and for it to be fully effective.

A Joint Governance meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. to allow additional discussion of this topic. This meeting is open to the public. An opportunity for public comment is provided at the end of this meeting. Members of the Healthcare Leadership Council and other healthcare professionals will be invited to this meeting to provide input.

For clarity, this was a board decision and was not recommended by the administration. This decision removes the mitigation strategy of universal masking giving the choice to families on whether they choose to mask or not.

The current health and safety plan which requires masking remains in effect until January 17th.

To submit correspondence to the board, please email boardsecretary@pinerichland.org.

Sincerely,
PRSD School Board

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