

Debra Thompson

From: Stephen Giesbrecht
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Erica Kludt-Painter
Cc: Debra Thompson
Subject: Fwd: School board covid comments

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From: Craig Anderson <chukar99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:31:37 PM
To: Stephen Giesbrecht <sgiesbrecht@petersburgak.gov>
Subject: Fw: School board covid comments

Mr Giesbrecht,

Please see my comments below.

Thank you

Craig Anderson

Cell (907) 518-0370

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Craig Anderson <chukar99@yahoo.com>
To: mayorjensen@petersburgak.gov <mayorjensen@petersburgak.gov>; bmarohl@petersburgak.gov <bmarohl@petersburgak.gov>; tnorheim@petersburgak.gov <tnorheim@petersburgak.gov>; blynn@petersburgak.gov <blynn@petersburgak.gov>; jmeucci@petersburgak.gov <jmeucci@petersburgak.gov>; jgregor@petersburgak.gov <jgregor@petersburgak.gov>; ctremblay@petersburgak.gov <ctremblay@petersburgak.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 04:26:01 PM AKDT
Subject: Fw: School board covid comments

Mayor Jensen/ Assembly members.

Please see my comments in the email below. I am not the best typist and I did not have the time to really organize the email so please do not get hung up on grammar or spelling issues.

Thank you for your time

Craig Anderson

Cell (907) 518-0370

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Craig Anderson <chukar99@yahoo.com>
To: sholmgrain@pcsd.us <sholmgrain@pcsd.us>; khholmund@pcsd.us <khholmund@pcsd.us>; cfile@pcsd.us <cfile@pcsd.us>; mlitster@pcds.us <mlitster@pcds.us>; jlister@pcds.us <jlister@pcds.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 02:21:33 PM AKDT
Subject: School board covid comments

All,
I have been trying to get my comments on the record for months. Thus far I have been unable to for some reason. Emails go through but nothing shows up on the record.

I just want to say before I start that I appreciate all of you for representing our kids in this troubling time.

I am unclear how to start this and keep it coherent so I'll just wing it and give you my best effort at this time, since I'm on my lunch break from work. I apologize that this email was not more refined or organized better. I hope you can still get the gist of what I am trying to say.

As a parent and as a coach I am deeply troubled by the lack of voice our kids have in the covid response process locally. Within this group, the school district or with borough.

Regardless of how we may each personally feel as adults about covid, I think we as a community have done a giant disservice to our kids. I say that as a parent of two boys going into 9th and 8th grades respectively. Our kids are smart and they deserve to be heard. Especially since they will be the ones who suffer with any decision that is going to be made supposedly on their behalf.

I find myself wondering why the the two community polls have not been published and why the kids have not been asked what they prefer? Doing so may quiet some of the rumors....Just a thought.

Each child in middle school to high school has a school email account. Why not send them each an email poll to see what they think? Maybe not many will answer but I think it still should be done. They will at least feel like they are part of the process and I think all of you should hear what they have to say. Their answers may surprise you. Please have the district send them an email poll or do it yourselves. What do you have to lose?

I have asked every kid/child of all ages I have met this summer what they would prefer for the school year. The resounding answer for all of them is full time school and normal activities even from the ones who have often struggled and disliked school.

I have asked every adult I have met the same question. Thus far not one has said part time or internet school.

Just so you know most of the folks I speak with are over 50, some have kids in school some do not. Many are retired. Several have underlying health issues that put them in the high risk category. With the current information we have not one of them has supported part time or internet school. That should be telling to you all, the school district and the borough.

I realize this is not a popular idea with some folks in the community, in the school and perhaps some on this board. However, I happen to agree with our kids 100% with a few caveats of course.

Before you dismiss my comments outright, understand I have read the states plan/guidance and I think there is enough wiggle room engineered in it to do almost anything as long as its backed up with the proper justification and real mitigation plan.

There has been debate, there has been reaction and there has been much drama and hand wringing about this issue. What I have not seen is a legitimate recognition or identification of the problem and more importantly I have not seen a realistic effort to mitigate what the actual vector of exposure is. I

see plans, I see figures, I see colorful flow charts and 30 to 50 pages of nice looking print. NONE of that matters to me as it does not identify the problem nor mitigate the actual possible vectors of exposure.

This is what I have observed.

1. Nearly all kids in town did not travel this summer. Most of the ones who did traveled on a fishing boat and were quarantined there according to state mandates. As such most kids have been effectively quarantined for months or at least weeks. There seems to be 0 recognition of this fact.
2. Most of this community has been effectively quarantined for the same amount of time. With few exceptions mostly work/fishing related.
3. There has not been a resident case in town for a long time which should not matter unless the person works at the school or with kids.
4. The rate of hospitalization vs positive test is remarkable low according the CDC. Even lower in the 0-17 age range. Something like 7 per 100K. Cancer deaths in 0-17 yrs old is 16 per 100k just for comparison. Let that sink in. The covid death rate 0-17 yrs old per 100k is so low its statistically insignificant as in 9 places beyond the decimal point. Do the math yourself if you wish but the numbers are correct.
5. There has not been a case in a local school employee nor ever in a local school age child in PSG to date. (there was one resident that tested positive while out of state but I don't know who that was or where they worked)
- 6.. Alaska airlines or the ferry is the most likely vector for any new cases in town and have been the vector for nearly all positive cases in rural SE.

With these 6 facts stated this is what I would like to see.

1. (green option) At registration or before, the parents disclose if the child or anyone in the household has traveled off island in the last 8 weeks for work or vacation on AK airlines or state ferry. If the answer is no. Then the student gets to go to full time 5 days a week school if the parents wish or any of the the options below. Parents choice.
2. (yellow option) Ask if the child or anyone in the household has traveled off island via AK airlines or ferry in the last 4 weeks. If yes then they go 50/50 at school/internet school for 2 weeks. Or parents can do internet school if they wish. If no symptoms or positive test after 2 weeks then they return to 5 days a week in school if the parents are ok with it.
3. (Red option) Ask if child or anyone in the household has been off island via AK airlines or state ferry in the last 2 weeks. If yes the they do 100% internet school for two weeks. Then if no symptoms they move to 50/50 group and ultimately into the 5 day a week schedule as long as they remain symptom free.

I think the kids need to have something to shoot for. A way to better their existence. If they get sick they fall into red group and work their way back to group 1 over time. I have floated this plan several of the kids and many parents. While this a coarse outline and will need some further refinement everyone has supported this idea.

The key to managing any risk is mitigation. Mitigation is what I have not heard from the borough nor the school system. All I have seen is absolutism and blatant plagiarizing of super restrictive plans from other communities who have many many more risk factors than we do and much larger populations all on connected roads systems. Plans that simply don't fit here in my opinion and I stress that this community needs a community specific plan not something that was generated were the risks are much higher. We are already our own "bubble".

Give the kids a chance to succeed. Teach them to mitigate the risks and follow better hygiene and let them know they have a voice in the process. As a parent I know not to send my kids to school if they are sick and I will now take their temperature every day before sending them to school. Most of us will do anything we can to not jeopardize our kids, other kids or the school. Trust us and trust the kids.

Masking 100% of time is silly when you have no symptoms. Masking while moving is acceptable for the "green group" and any child can choose to wear a mask anytime they wish. But masking in the classroom full time is silly and a severe over reaction if were already not sending sick kids to school, following distancing guidelines and following good hygiene. But if you must mask. masking while moving is acceptable. But that is just my opinion I suppose.

Sick kids will be at home. Masking with breaks for the higher risk "yellow" group makes sense since they will not have to do it forever if no symptoms appear and it wont be forever.

I support any mitigation plan or process that is rooted in the goal of getting the kids in school, keeping them there and letting them have a sense of normal life.

In closing I am absolutely open to discussing anything I have stated above and I ask that you all please contact me if you have any questions at all.

Thank you for our time,
Craig Anderson

Craig Anderson

Cell (907) 518-0370