



**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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May 27, 2021

Philip D. Murphy, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
State of New Jersey  
225 W State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the undersigned elected members of the Middletown Township Board of Education. We respectfully request that you immediately rescind the mask requirement for our children contained in Executive Order 175. At this time, there is absolutely no data to support this continued requirement, and we believe it to be an egregious violation of our student's rights to a free and appropriate public education.

Indeed, on May 26, 2021, the Washington Post published an op-ed entitled, "It's time for children to finally get back to normal life." Therein, the co-authors, who are physicians, researchers and epidemiologists, write:

As covid-19 cases continue to fall and vaccines demonstrate vigor against even the most concerning variants, it's time to evaluate which pandemic restrictions are worth keeping in place. Here's one simple recommendation: Children should return to their normal lives this summer and in the upcoming school year, without masks and regardless of their vaccination status.

Overall, the risk to children is too low to justify the remaining restrictions they face.

Furthermore, please consider joint guidance issued by the WHO and UNICEF regarding mask-wearing in children, which begins by stating that these measures should be taken in areas where there is "intense community transmission of COVID-19," which New Jersey, no longer has thanks to widespread vaccination, combined with natural immunity gained through exposure.

Lastly, and in addition to our own in-district data and experience, several studies have been conducted during the past 14 months, showing emotional, social, and even physical harm caused

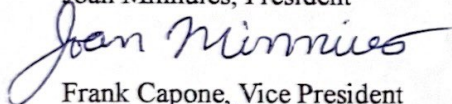
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to children by mask wearing.<sup>1</sup> We have received numerous parental testimonials via email and in person at our meetings, that confirm the deleterious effects in many of our student populations. We can not continue to comply with measures that have no statistically significant data regarding in school transmission or risk, without asking you to reconsider your mandates.

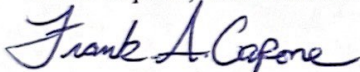
Enough is enough. New Jersey is one of the leaders in the nation in terms of percent of population vaccinated. Middletown Public School District has been open safely since September, and we have gone above and beyond to facilitate vaccinations for our teachers, and all the teachers who wished to be vaccinated have received both doses. This fact, coupled with the very low risk to children and controlled school environment, simply does not support the continued mask requirement. We want to have our children learn unencumbered, we believe masks should be a parental choice at this point. This Board of Education wants to see our children's smiles again.

Very truly yours,

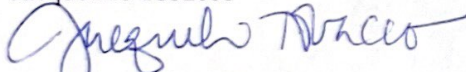
Joan Minnuies, President



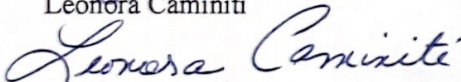
Frank Capone, Vice President



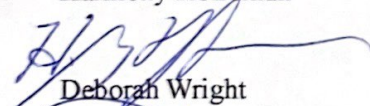
Jacqueline Tobacco



Leonora Caminiti



Harmony Heffeman



Deborah Wright



John Little



1. <https://www.aier.org/article/masking-children-tragic-unscientific-and-damaging/>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.aier.org/article/masking-children-tragic-unscientific-and-damaging/> and <https://www.city-journal.org/masking-children-unnecessary-and-harmful>