



# TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EQUITY CHARACTER EXCELLENCE TEAM JOY

July 14, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of the Tulsa City Council:

Everyone from children to families to business leaders to teachers and other team members have the same question: ***Will students and teachers return to their school buildings at the end of the summer?***

As the leadership of Tulsa Public Schools, we wish to answer that question simply and directly: the *actions that we take now* will decide whether Tulsa children and teachers can return to their schools. Every day that critical public health measure remains optional is another day that we jeopardize a safe in-person return to teaching and learning on August 31.

As you consider an ordinance requiring Tulsans to wear face masks in public places, we want to share some of the concerns we are hearing from the Tulsa Public Schools team members as we plan for the 2020-2021 school year

“We need to do what is best for the health and safety of staff and students.”

“Immediately begin pushing for mandatory mask wearing for approved entry into all sites.”

“Please listen to the doctors. Safety is the top priority, and it doesn’t always match people's opinions.”

“There is no way to please everyone...so we need to do what is best for the health of our students and employees first and foremost.”

“I lost my dad to COVID-19...I had not seen him in person for two months because his facility was locked down. From his positive test to his death took only seven days....**This disease is dangerous and deadly. I urge you to err on the side of caution.**”

**DESTINATION EXCELLENCE**

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The inextricable relationship between our team, our students, our schools, and our city has never been more clear than it is today. As you consider your vote, we urge you to keep in mind these powerful words from a Tulsa teacher: “We only have one chance to get this right. We won't have a second chance to say: ‘Let's try again!’ We won't be able to erase the damage that will have been done.” For the sake of our children and families, please vote in support of this mask ordinance.

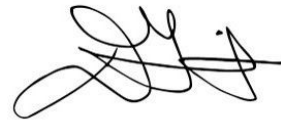
Sincerely,



Stacey Woolley  
Board President



Jania Wester  
Board Vice President



Deborah Gist  
Superintendent