
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEMO

TO: PCCS COMMUNITY
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE ORDER COURT RULING
DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Dear PCCS Community

On Friday, a court ruling in Sangamon County resulted in a temporary restraining order enjoining the Governor from enforcing his executive orders that require masks for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors, as well as requiring mandatory vaccinations or COVID-19 testing for school employees.

Please know that the Board and the Administration have been working over the weekend to determine the best response to Friday's ruling. PCCS was not a party to that suit and is not subject to the court's order. Thus, per the advice of counsel, this order has no impact on the District's COVID-19 mitigation measures currently. Therefore, to limit disruption to our school, the current mitigation protocols regarding masking and close contact exclusion requirements will remain in place at PCCS.

The School knows this is an important and emotional issue for the community. The Board and Administration have received many e-mails both praising and decrying the ruling. Some families celebrate the ability to be free from masks, while others fear a school environment where COVID and its continuing variants can spread more easily. This is, without question, an issue of great concern to our community, and thus, the Board has called a meeting for 7pm Monday evening in the Gaylord Nelson Gym. The Open Session portion of the meeting is expected to begin at approximately 7:30. The Board will be discussing the ruling, its effect on the executive order, and how PCCS should move forward in light of the ruling. The Board expects to consider a formal action directing how the Administration should move forward. We invite the community to attend and comment. More than ever, we need to understand your thoughts and concerns as we navigate this challenging and unclear question as a community.

As noted above, PCCS will continue to enforce the mask mandate on Monday. Because of the timing of the ruling and the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, we could not hold a meeting in advance of school on Monday. We know there are members of our community who would prefer to send their children to school without masks on Monday in light of the Sangamon County ruling. We ask the courtesy of those members of the community that Monday be a day for the status quo in advance of the meeting Monday night. The Board Meeting will afford us all an opportunity to come together and attempt to fashion a consensus that considers our status as public school, appeals to the community at large and does not serve to divide us further. The Board asks the community at large to be considerate of all views related to this ruling and to not take

steps before or at the meeting that might harden that divide and make even more challenging Monday's night work.

We are aware that steps have been taken to appeal this ruling and an Appellate Court decision will likely come quickly and provide a ruling that will have a broader and more definitive impact for public school districts. We ask for your patience and your help by working together to address this issue.

Thank you

PCCS Board of Directors