
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MEMO

TO: PCCS COMMUNITY
SUBJECT: UPDATE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2022

Dear PCCS Community,

Just before midnight on February 17, 2022, the Fourth District Appellate Court issued an order holding that the appeal of the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by Judge Grischow on February 4 is moot. The Court declined to rule on the merits of Judge Grischow's order, which declared that ISBE and IDPH emergency rules were "null and void" and restrained the State from enforcing several executive orders. The Court reasoned that there is no live legal issue because the emergency rules addressed by the TRO had expired and, based on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) objection to renewing IDPH emergency rules and "the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, ... it is not clear that these same rules would likely be reinstated." As a result, the TRO – as impacted by the JCAR decision – remains in effect. Although executive orders also remain in place at the moment, the State continues to be restrained from taking enforcement action against school districts about requirements for face coverings, close contact exclusions, and COVID-19 vaccination or testing.

While we still await guidance and the position of ISBE and IDPH, this topic will again be discussed at the Tuesday Night Board Meeting in the Gym at 7PM. The school will provide an overview of a Mask Choice Implementation Plan at PCCS. If the Board action leads to providing a mask choice, then the plan will take effect the following day.

PCCS strongly encourages families to choose the comfort level that best fits for your families. We know that parents are the experts on their family, and families have many reasons for the choices they make. The key to this transition is the emotional support and wellbeing for all students, staff, and families.

This is where we need your help. Please discuss with your child(ren) what a school day will look like with both masked and unmasked students. Help relay the importance of respecting someone else's choice and assure the students that the school has resources with our Social Worker and our Psychologist to help any student that is feeling uncomfortable.

Prior to the action taken by the Board on Tuesday night, we have asked that students and teaching teams engage in a thoughtful discussion about creating a classroom environment in which staff and students, masked, and unmasked, all feel welcome, safe, seen, and supported. We recognize that there are staff members and students who are very mindful of their own serious health conditions or those of family members. We ask that we be respectful of people in those situations as we rarely know the complete story.

Across our country, and in our own school community, we have become fractionalized, angry, and divided. It's time to put that aside and work together to provide the best possible learning environment for our students and staff to be at their natural best. When we model that for our children, we know we are making a positive difference in our school and our community. Why?

Because we believe that children are our best hope to improve the world.


Executive Director