



**Almont Community Schools  
Board of Education  
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Board of Education  
Jennifer Mitchell, President

April 21, 2021

The Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Honorable Governor Whitmer,

The Almont Community Schools Board of Education would like to address our disagreement with the State mandated athletic testing as well as our consternation at your recent encouragement to close public high schools and athletics for a two-week period.

Our elderly has been rightly viewed as the most at risk for a potential deadly outcome if infected with Covid-19. However, our youth are now dealing with the threat of severe consequences from a multitude of side effects directly related to the mitigation efforts that we have all followed the past 13+ months related to Covid-19. We are now collectively seeing the aftereffects of those measures along with the considerable damages related to them. The change of routines, break in continuity of learning, missed significant life events and loss of security and safety are all detrimental challenges to our students' long term mental and emotional well-being as recognized by the CDC themselves.

Mandating athletic testing without clear and concise science and data to back it up is a difficult order to follow and even harder to defend. Once again, we are faced with an unfunded directive from the State; additional work hours are required of a staff that has already been required to perform above and beyond since March of last year and we are given a rapid test that is invasive in nature, has an error margin of 20-40% for false negatives and also a large user error as it's self-administered by the students themselves.

We do not believe Covid-19 is to be taken lightly or that the loss of a single life is not of irreplaceable value. However, we do recognize the inconsistencies in the many Executive Orders and Epidemic Orders, a good deal of which have no science or data provided for them. Our Administrators have been placed in an untenable position by being required to follow the State's many changing mandates, as have those who are at the heart of this letter, our students - students who have suffered the most because of COVID restrictions that have harmfully impacted their education, social development and emotional well-being this year. These

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**Vision**

**Every student will own their future through academic and personal success**

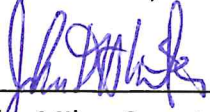
influences will not be completely recognized for years to come and therefore cannot be fully offset at this time. We implore you to recognize the negative outcomes now and halt any further actions that will adversely impact our students.



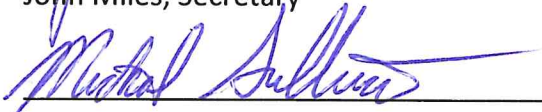
Jennifer Mitchell, Board President



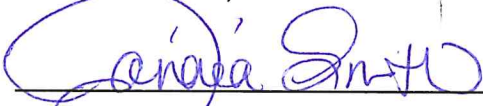
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