

Re: Public Comment - Jason and Tina Rice, Port Orchard

Tina Rice <trice711@hotmail.com>

Mon 8/10/2020 8:10 PM

To: Daily, Jeff <daily@skschools.org>; gattenby@skschools.org <gattenby@skschools.org>; Diehl, Rebecca <diehl@skschools.org>; Berg, John <berg@skschools.org>; Sebren, Liz <sebren@skschools.org>; Winter, Tim <winter@skschools.org>;

Cc: Jason Rice <jmrice2@yahoo.com>;

Dear Directors & Superintendent Winter,

While I appreciate your acknowledgement of 300+ community members who voiced their opinions about having a choice, you have chosen to take away that choice. Additionally, you have chosen to leave the circumstances vague as to when our children may ever return to in person instruction. Director Sebren's continued emphasis on "re-evaluating the plan" as opposed to firmly stating something like 'children **will** return to school in 9 weeks unless it is deemed unsafe' is just not unacceptable for parents. We will be back in this position of uncertainty again in 9 weeks because cases will not decrease.

I fully understand the health concerns. I want our children and our teachers to be safe. I don't disagree with that fact. However, we have made it possible to safely engage in essential activities around our state. Superintendent Winter stated that "every one of our employees are essential". Let's get ready for **safe** return to school. I think we have all accepted the fact that it will be limited to 2 days in person instruction initially. We are ok with that. Let's get there and have a definitive plan for transition to full time, in person instruction for families in our community that need that choice.

Finally, I would suggest that Superintendent Winter help to outline that transition plan in advance of any future Board discussions. This meeting was difficult to watch and keep on track.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason and Tina Rice

From: Jason Rice <jmrice2@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:40 PM

To: info@skschools.org <info@skschools.org>

Cc: daily@skschools.org <daily@skschools.org>; gattenby@skschools.org <gattenby@skschools.org>; berg@skschools.org <berg@skschools.org>; diehl@skschools.org <diehl@skschools.org>; sebren@skschools.org <sebren@skschools.org>; winter@skschools.org <winter@skschools.org>; Tina Rice <trice711@hotmail.com>

Subject: Public Comment - Jason and Tina Rice, Port Orchard

Dear SKSD Board Members,

Thank you for providing South Kitsap families choices for our children to return to school in the Fall. We applaud the flexible and adaptable plan that considers the education and safety of our children. By offering choices you have listened to feedback from the community that you serve. These choices will enable some children to have in person instruction and lead to a reduced number of in person students and staff. This is a good thing for our community. We are certain that it was not an easy decision. We support your decision for options and would like you to hear our voices in support of standing firm in that decision.

The [South Kitsap Families for Offering Choices petition](#) was started less than 48 hours ago and was simply a way in which public comment could easily be collected to show our support of the approved plan. This petition was not intended to be competitive with any other petitions that might be in the community against the plan. We understand that there is a very vocal minority that does not support the plan and who are committed to reversing your decision. **Please consider that if you do reverse your decision, the possibility of any in person instruction may not be a possibility for the entire school year.** This could be devastating for many families in our community. **What would compel the SKSD Board Members to allow any in person instruction if you don't start with that option?** As Director Berg has stated, "the number of new cases throughout Kitsap County has dropped precipitously over the past week". We should be planning for this adaptable and flexible plan that allows choices for the community based upon what's happening in our own South Kitsap community.

Petition SKSD Family Choice for Return to School

South Kitsap School District (SKSD) Families for Offering Choices needs your help in supporting the already appr...

Finally, and most importantly, we care about the students and teachers in our community. We appreciate the planning that is required to ensure their safety. There are many in our community that are willing to step up and help our schools get prepared for our students and teachers. **What can we do to help?**

Thank you in advance for bravely leading our community and enabling South Kitsap families to have a choice for returning to school in the Fall.

Sincerely,

Jason & Tina Rice,
and 300+ SKSD Families for Offering Choices