

**From:** Baskett, Susan [baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us)  
**Subject:** Re: AAPS Elementary Update - April 2  
**Date:** April 2, 2021 at 4:52 PM  
**To:** Swift, Jeanice [swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)  
**Cc:** BOE [boardofed@a2schools.org](mailto:boardofed@a2schools.org), Superintendent's Cabinet [dst\\_sup\\_cabinet@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:dst_sup_cabinet@aaps.k12.mi.us)



Yes, that is sweet. It's a nice change from all of the baseball fans.

Thank you for alerting us to the good stuff as well.

S

On Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 4:50 PM Swift, Jeanice <[swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)> wrote:

You all should see this heartwarming message, before the others start rolling in!

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Swift, Jeanice <[swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 4:48 PM  
**Subject:** Re: AAPS Elementary Update - April 2  
**To:** [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for this wonderful family report - it made my week!!

We are *so* very excited to see our students on Monday, and look forward to a wonderful final quarter of this school year!

Thank you for taking the time to share this with me today.

Take Care,

Jeanice



**Jeanice Kerr Swift**

*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Ann Arbor Public Schools**

**p:** (734) 994-2232

**a:** 2555 S. State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**w:** [a2schools.org](http://a2schools.org) **e:** [swift@a2schools.org](mailto:swift@a2schools.org)



On Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 4:45 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you, Dr. Swift! My [REDACTED] came home from school last Friday and said it was the best day of his life. I was very impressed by the safety measures that had been in place for him that day. My [REDACTED] is so excited to start school this week. They have new shoes, new lunchboxes, new backyards...its like the first day of a new school year. My husband and I are vaccinated and we stayed home during spring break. We are all really looking forward to school next week.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 4:32 PM Jeanice Swift <[swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)> wrote:

**Ann Arbor Public Schools Elementary Update -  
April 2**

# ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.



***April 2, 2021***

Hello AAPS Elementary Parents and Students, Staff and Community,

I am sharing this message today as an update for families and staff as a result of the escalating COVID situation currently occurring in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and across Michigan. We take this situation very seriously and continue to monitor the COVID case numbers very closely each day in partnership with our Washtenaw County Health Department public health partners.

We will continue to hold the health and safety of our students and staff, families and community as our top priority in all the decisions we make, as we have worked to do throughout this COVID pandemic. This priority of health and safety will not change.

We understand that our families are

concerned about the current rise in COVID cases in Michigan as this situation is rapidly evolving during this spring break week, and whether there will be an adjustment to our return to in-school hybrid learning plan at the elementary level for this coming week following spring break.

We will continue with preschool through second grade in the hybrid learning format following spring break, beginning on Monday, April 5th, as we have planned.

However, as we approach this post-spring break week, it is imperative to ensure we all follow the COVID mitigation strategies that we all know well. We will continue strictly practicing the wearing of masks, social distancing, and personal hand hygiene in our AAPS classrooms and across our schools.

The following COVID health reminders are important for all of us as we all have the responsibility to support the health and safety of everyone in our community:

- The [\*\*Daily Student Screening\*\*](#) must be completed each day for each child prior to arrival at any AAPS school campus.

- If children have any symptoms at all, if families have travelled over spring break, or if other concerns exist, **families should choose to have their students remain virtual** during this upcoming week or for as long as may be needed to ensure health and safety.
- The Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are hosting a **free rapid testing clinic tomorrow**, on Saturday, April 3rd at the WISD, 1819 S. Wagner from 10 AM to 4 PM. Pre-registration is required and available [here](#). Families must continue to monitor for symptoms after testing.

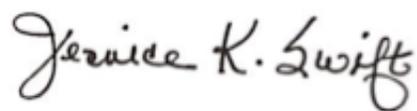
We understand that our AAPS families fall along a wide continuum of comfort, needs and preferences in choosing the best plan for their children during this spring school quarter and that these circumstances may change based on COVID developments. Our AAPS spring return to in-school learning plan is designed so ALL parents have the option to choose for their student(s) to remain virtual at any time.

We strongly encourage parents with concerns about returning to in-person

school, given the rise in COVID cases, to continue to take advantage of the virtual learning opportunity. Students are in attendance in their classrooms and are receiving instruction alongside their classroom teacher whether they choose in-person or are joining their classroom virtually. This is an important option designed into our AAPS return plan for this spring and should be utilized as families choose, for as long as families choose, through the end of this 20-21 school year.

We will continue to closely monitor the COVID situation each day during the coming weeks and will update our families, staff, and community as soon as possible if there is any further adjustment needed to the return plan.

Sincerely,



Jeanice K. Swift

[www.A2Schools.org](http://www.A2Schools.org)

Keep up with the AAPS News!  
Online: [news.a2schools.org](http://news.a2schools.org) | Twitter:  
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Facebook: search for "Ann Arbor  
Public Schools"

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination in any educational

...and the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, disability or veteran status.

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SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

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All the best,  
Susan Baskett  
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: **Jeanice Swift** swift@aaps.k12.mi.us  
Subject: AAPS Elementary Update - April 2  
Date: April 2, 2021 at 4:31 PM  
To: baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

JS

## Ann Arbor Public Schools Elementary Update - April 2

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.



***April 2, 2021***

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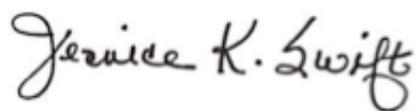
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Sincerely,



Jeanice K. Swift

[www.A2Schools.org](http://www.A2Schools.org)

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school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, disability or veteran status.

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SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

**From:** Gaynor, Jeff [gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us)  
**Subject:** Re: AAPS Welcome to Hybrid In-School Learning  
**Date:** April 2, 2021 at 12:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Bill Harris [harrisw@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:harrisw@aaps.k12.mi.us), Jeanice Swift [swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)



Dear [REDACTED],

Speaking personally, I fully expect AAPS to be operating fully in person in the Fall, with a virtual option (not hybrid) for those families that choose). As Dr. Swift was quoted in the update you shared, "We are preparing for a full return to school in the AAPS this fall, with five days per week of instruction for students."

As we've learned over the past 13 months, and as the current surge in cases shows, we can't predict the future. However, the continuing roll out of vaccines is on pace to have all adults (and perhaps younger teens as well) having the opportunity to be fully vaccinated leads me to this conclusion. I know some people want a 100% guarantee, but those people haven't been paying attention.

I do appreciate how difficult this has been for families such as yours.

Best,  
Jeff

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Jeff Gaynor  
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education  
[gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us)  
cell: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 1:30 PM [REDACTED] wrote:  
Hi Dr. Swift, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Gaynor,

I am writing to clarify what elementary fall learning will look like. My wife and I have [REDACTED] We are looking ahead to the fall and would like reassurance that our children will be in person, 5 days a week full days. There are several reasons why we feel this is the optimal situation for them, but also for both of our work in healthcare outside of the home. We are exploring other district and private school options and decisions need to be made soon regarding enrollment. Obviously, we moved to Ann Arbor for its schools and commitment to diversity, but are willing to go elsewhere if in person full time school is not going to be an option in the fall.

We are looking for a transparent and honest answer from you, the board, and our principle as soon as possible in order to plan for our family's needs.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Ann Arbor residents

On Wed, Mar 24, 2021 at 5:58 PM Jeanice Swift <[swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)> wrote:

## Ann Arbor Public Schools Welcome to Hybrid In-School Learning Spring 2021

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.





## ***March 24, 2021***

We have come a long way together through this COVID global pandemic. While we are not out of COVID yet, with the coming of vaccines, there are many reasons for hope and optimism during this spring of 2021.

This March is a significant time as we excitedly welcome our students, whose families choose, to in-school hybrid learning. Tomorrow, March 25th is a special moment in the AAPS as we begin the return to school buildings with students in Stage 1 to participate in in-school hybrid learning. Subsequent stages of the return to in-school learning occur over the [coming days of April 2021](#).

We will continue, as we have committed from the beginning, to also offer a fully virtual learning experience through the remainder of this 20-21 school year.

The Ann Arbor Public Schools team has invested thousands of hours over the previous 11 months in a vigorous effort to prepare our schools for students and staff to safely return to the classroom. Planning and work have continued to ensure the safest possible COVID-informed return to school.

You may access additional back-to-in-school learning information on many topics, including:

- [Building preparations](#) for in-school learning, including [air ventilation reports](#) for each school,
- See a school tour of building preparations [here](#),
- Information on [what hybrid in-school learning will look like](#) for both 'roomies' and zoomies,'
- [Health and safety protocols](#), *The Super Six*, that will be implemented in every classroom and school,
- [What to Expect](#) from a student perspective for the return to in-school learning,
- A [SISS Guide to in-person learning for students with an IEP](#), and
- Health support information and [videos from our AAPS Nurse team](#).

If you have additional questions or need real-time assistance during this spring return to in-school learning time, please reach out via your [school's front door email address](#) or call your school directly.

Food and nutrition information and support can be obtained here: 994-2265

Transportation support may be reached here: 994-2330

## **Gratitude**

We recognize that this COVID global pandemic time has presented significant challenges for all in our community. We have much gratitude for the impressive partnership among our students and parents,

staff and community during this trying time.

While virtual learning was not the first choice, it is admirable how our students, teachers, parents and staff have worked together valiantly, making countless sacrifices to persist. Thanks to your diligent efforts, we have reimagined ways to connect and learn together, even while we have been physically apart.

The stories of compassion, connections, and care - from kitchen tables, garages, basements and bedrooms across Ann Arbor - have been inspiring. Despite all obstacles, teaching and learning has continued during this past year, and our relationships forged virtually will provide a strong foundation as we return to in-school hybrid learning.

### **Spring 2021**

Our work together this spring will focus on two key and critical domains in order to continue to serve our students and families in learning -

- **Supporting the transition to in-school hybrid learning** for those students and families who choose, and
- **Ongoing, continued support of full virtual learning** for those students and families who are more comfortable with this approach.

From the outset, we knew that the time of return to school buildings for students and staff would represent a 'full-court press' for all on our team.

We understand that our students and families

we understand that our students and families fall along a wide continuum of preferences, needs and family situations when it comes to COVID and returning to school.

Whether families choose for students to return to AAPS school buildings this spring, during summer learning session, or in the fall, our commitment includes mobilizing our full AAPS resources in support of our students with learning differences and specialized learning needs, our youngest students who may not have attended in-school before and all our students whom we recognize may need additional support during this COVID recovery and return time.

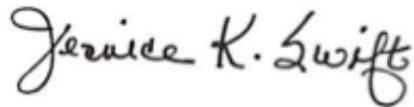
We will remain in close partnership and communication. We will work together to pursue our shared goal of all students learning, growing and thriving as we progress through this time of restoration, renewal and recovery. This effort will continue over the months of 2021 and beyond.

We are also preparing for a robust [Summer Learning 2021](#) and a strong back-to-school launch in Fall 2021. We are preparing for a full return to school in the AAPS this fall, with five days per week of instruction for students.

Thank you for your support of our children, staff, families and community of the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Let us move forward together.

For a more detailed Superintendent communication, you may read more [here](#) or watch [this video message](#).

Sincerely,



Jeanice K. Swift  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ann Arbor Public Schools

[www.A2Schools.org](http://www.A2Schools.org)

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[@A2schools](https://twitter.com/A2schools)  
Facebook: search for "Ann Arbor  
Public Schools"

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No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, disability or veteran status.

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**From:** Gaynor, Jeff [gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us)

**Subject:** Re: April Finance Committee

**Date:** April 7, 2021 at 5:53 PM

**To:** Swift, Jeanice [swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)

**Cc:** Rebecca Lazarus [lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us), Ernesto Querijero [querijeroe@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:querijeroe@aaps.k12.mi.us), Jill Minnick [minnickj@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:minnickj@aaps.k12.mi.us), Emile Lauzzana [lauzzanae@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:lauzzanae@aaps.k12.mi.us), Amy Osinski [osinski@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:osinski@aaps.k12.mi.us)

JG

10 am works best for me.

-Jeff

----

Jeff Gaynor

Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

[gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us)

cell: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 5:52 PM Swift, Jeanice <[swift@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:swift@aaps.k12.mi.us)> wrote:

Hello Finance Trustees,

My apologies for the busy return from spring break and the resulting disrupted schedule. I am hoping, however, that we can schedule an April Finance Committee.

Does Monday, April 12th work, at 10am or 11am or 1pm?

We have just a few straightforward items that we are looking forward to having you review.

Thank You for your consideration,

Jeanice



**Jeanice Kerr Swift**

*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Ann Arbor Public Schools**

**p:** (734) 994-2232

**a:** 2555 S. State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**w:** [a2schools.org](http://a2schools.org) **e:** [swift@a2schools.org](mailto:swift@a2schools.org)



**From:** Swift, Jeanice swift@aaps.k12.mi.us  
**Subject:** Re: Back to virtual learning please  
**Date:** April 1, 2021 at 5:47 PM  
**To:** Marengi, Jennifer marenghj@aaps.k12.mi.us  
**Cc:** Fred Klein mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us, Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hello Jennie,

Thank you for sharing your concern regarding returning to Face to Face learning on Monday and the concerning increase in COVID cases.

We are monitoring this situation daily - really hourly - and it is one of significant concern for all of us.

We will continue to watch things closely, and do our very best to maintain the priority of health and safety, as we have worked to do throughout this COVID year.

Take good care, and thanks for your email today,

Jeanice



### Jeanice Kerr Swift

*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Ann Arbor Public Schools**

**p:** (734) 994-2232

**a:** 2555 S. State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**w:** [a2schools.org](http://a2schools.org) **e:** [swift@a2schools.org](mailto:swift@a2schools.org)



On Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 4:11 PM Marengi, Jennifer <[marenghj@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:marenghj@aaps.k12.mi.us)> wrote:

Dear Dr. Swift, Mr. Gaynor and Mr. Klein,

I would like to express my concern about returning to Face to Face learning on Monday in light of the dramatic increase in Covid cases here in Michigan. I know that you have consistently expressed that the health and safety of AAPS staff, students and families has been your number one priority. I implore you to strongly consider a return to virtual learning until the case numbers at a safe level.

Sincerely,

Jennie Marengi

**From:** Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Spring Sports Update  
**Date:** April 3, 2021 at 7:44 PM  
**To:** Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us

BJ

FYI

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Date:** April 3, 2021 at 7:25:49 PM EDT  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients:;  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Spring Sports Update

Hello, all ~

Please consider sending an email. I have copied my email as an example and the list of emails to send it to.....Keep it short so they read it!

Thanks!!!

-----  
Hello all ~

I am writing to encourage you to NOT cancel all spring sports if a team tests positive for Covid.

Life is not an 'all or nothing.' Our children desperately need to play in spring sports for their mental and physical health.

If one team tests positive:

1. Please do not cancel ALL AAPS high school sports.
2. Please do not cancel ALL sports at that particular school.
3. Please consider the effect this has on our children. (mentally and physically)

I have lived in Ann Arbor for more than 40 years. I work at the University of Michigan. An 'all or nothing' approach is very counterproductive. Even U-M will quarantine that team and then they can play again after 10-14 days.

Please consider the children in our district and the parents as you evaluate your path of action.

Please do not take an 'all or nothing' approach!

Thank you.

-----  
[osinski@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:osinski@aaps.k12.mi.us),  
[boardofed@a2schools.org](mailto:boardofed@a2schools.org),  
[baskett@a2schools.org](mailto:baskett@a2schools.org),  
[dupreek@a2schools.org](mailto:dupreek@a2schools.org),  
[gaynor@a2schools.org](mailto:gaynor@a2schools.org),  
[johnsonbr@a2schools.org](mailto:johnsonbr@a2schools.org),  
[kellyj@a2schools.org](mailto:kellyj@a2schools.org),  
[lazarusr@a2schools.org](mailto:lazarusr@a2schools.org),  
[querijeroe@a2schools.org](mailto:querijeroe@a2schools.org),  
[swift@a2schools.org](mailto:swift@a2schools.org),  
[deangelisp@a2schools.org](mailto:deangelisp@a2schools.org),  
[claar@a2schools.org](mailto:claar@a2schools.org),  
[lowder@a2schools.org](mailto:lowder@a2schools.org),

On Sat, Apr 3, 2021 at 5:31 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi all,

Here is a letter that was sent out by the water polo team at [REDACTED]. It looks like there is a very good possibility that all spring sports may be cancelled in Ann Arbor. There are names and email addresses for all BOE members and Dr. Swift. Please consider sending letters to each indicating why you think spring sports should not be cancelled.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 3, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Spring Sports Update

Sharing this from the [REDACTED] program. [REDACTED]

## Subject: Spring Sports Update

Hi [REDACTED] families,

I hope you're enjoying your weekend!

I don't know if you're aware, but spring sports are at-risk for being canceled by Dr. Swift and the Board of Education regardless of the decisions that the MHSAA makes. As in previous seasons, no data is being shared with us about the benchmarks we need to reach or why our district is making much more drastic decisions than any other in Michigan. **I am writing to encourage you to send emails to the Superintendent and members of the BOE.**

Here is the Mlive Article: <https://www.mlive.com/sports/ann-arbor/2021/03/ann-arbor-public-schools-pauses-spring-sports-after-surge-in-covid-19-cases.html>

[REDACTED] can be played safely with the current plan of scrimmages and games on antigen testing days and non-contact training on days without the testing. Non-contact training days will be similar to swim season where athletes are in a safe, chlorinated environment. I want to point out that there were no cases of Covid during the swim and dive season at any of the three Ann Arbor high schools. For more evidence of the safety of swimming, see the attached letter that the captains parents at Pioneer, Skyline, and Huron sent to their respective athletic directors. This letter was then adjusted and sent jointly to Dr. Swift and the BOE in early January. (No need to resend it but feel free to use parts of it in your own email.)

Right now, Dr. Swift and the BOE are planning on shutting down all spring sports if there are any Covid positive tests at any of the three high schools in any sport. [REDACTED] needs to be considered separately from other sports. And, each sports team needs to be considered separately from the others.

My [REDACTED] r plays [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]. This following is what we received from the weekly email.

"As Covid cases continue to rise in our state, AAPS has decided to have all spring athletes get tested on Monday 4/5/2021. All sports will NOT resume as anticipated directly after the testing on Monday.

Instead the district will review the results of all spring athletes on Tuesday or Wednesday and make a determination as to when spring sports will resume.

### INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS:

- DO NOT COME TO SPRING SPORT TESTING ON 4/5/2021
- Students or staff traveling internationally should self-quarantine for 10 days after returning to the U.S. and may not attend in-person school.

### DOMESTIC TRAVELERS:

- Testing and quarantine is recommended but not required.
- CAN COME TO PROGRAM TESTING 4/5/2021

### ALL PLAYERS:

It is important that any student who would NOT pass our daily COVID screener, should not attend testing on Monday. If a student has symptoms OR has been around someone with COVID, that student should NOT attend our testing on Monday. She should get a PCR test and report results to the Coach and athletic Director. The student cannot return to practice until we receive results of the negative PCR test."

I've heard from fellow [REDACTED] parent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] have both written to Dr. Swift and the BOE. The key points they made and the email addresses of who to send your emails to are:

1. Allow coaches to use their rapid antigen tests and make decisions for their teams.
2. Assess data on a team-by-team and student-by-student basis: NOT District wide.

3. Recognize the positive mental health and well being sports provide for older students outweigh the physical risk when health protocols are followed and testing utilized.

Here is a list of individuals to whom we sent our concerns:

Board Assistant – Amy Osinski - [osinski@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:osinski@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Board of Directors - [boardofed@a2schools.org](mailto:boardofed@a2schools.org)

Board – Susan Baskett - [baskett@a2schools.org](mailto:baskett@a2schools.org)

Board – Krystle DuPree - [dupreek@a2schools.org](mailto:dupreek@a2schools.org)

Board – Jeffrey Gaynor - [gaynor@a2schools.org](mailto:gaynor@a2schools.org)

Board – Bryan Johnson - [johnsonbr@a2schools.org](mailto:johnsonbr@a2schools.org)

Board – Jessica Kelly - [kellyj@a2schools.org](mailto:kellyj@a2schools.org)

Board – Rebecca Lazarus - [lazarusr@a2schools.org](mailto:lazarusr@a2schools.org)

Board - Ernesto Querijero- [querijeroe@a2schools.org](mailto:querijeroe@a2schools.org)

Superintendent – Jeanice Swift - [swift@a2schools.org](mailto:swift@a2schools.org)

Letter writer / Instructional Services Director – Paul DeAngelis - [deangelisp@a2schools.org](mailto:deangelisp@a2schools.org)

Assistant Principal / Athletic Director – Eve Claar - [claar@a2schools.org](mailto:claar@a2schools.org)

Principal – Tracey Lowder - [lowder@a2schools.org](mailto:lowder@a2schools.org)

I know we're all so tired of living the way we are and the last thing we feel like doing is putting energy into another battle with our elected leaders. However, if we don't advocate for our kids, they might be prevented from playing water polo. Feel free to share my email with other families at Pioneer, Skyline, and Huron.

Thanks everyone!

--

***Bryan L. Johnson***

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: [johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Phone: [REDACTED]



**From:** Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us  
**Subject:** Fwd: Michigan Daily Inquiry  
**Date:** March 29, 2021 at 7:30 PM  
**To:** Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us



Good morning Dr. Swift,  
I rec'd a request for an interview re: the PHS investigation (see below).  
I normally ignore these, but I'm wondering if giving the interview may help get more voices to our investigators.  
Will you pls review this w/DC and our investigators to get their thoughts? I'm sure our DC will tell me 'no' as he has done lovingly over the years, but...times have changed (at least a little).

Thank you,  
S  
----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Mar 29, 2021 at 3:31 PM  
Subject: Michigan Daily Inquiry  
To: <[baskett@a2schools.org](mailto:baskett@a2schools.org)>

Hi Susan,

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a reporter with [REDACTED]. I'm working on a more in-depth follow-up story to our [coverage](#) of the letter than some city councilmembers and Mayor Christopher Taylor sent to AAPS in late February, demanding an accelerated return to in-person learning. Some of my sources for that story pointed out how council has comparatively been resistant to weighing in on allegations of racial hostility in the district in the past, in contrast to their advocacy for in-person learning in the letter, and I'm hoping to report more thoroughly on this.

I read in an [article](#) from Ann Arbor Family Press that you've made statements about having heard about this racially hostile climate for years. I was wondering if I could hear more of your perspective on the systemic nature of the allegations, as well as how you hope AAPS and the Board will respond to the findings of the Dykema Investigation into these allegations. I'm hoping to have this story ready by the end of the week, if you might be able to speak someday this week — I can definitely be flexible if not.

Let me know what you think, and whether you have any questions I can answer. I appreciate your time.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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All the best,  
Susan Baskett  
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: **Gaynor, Jeff** gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us  
Subject: NON-URGENT issues  
Date: April 2, 2021 at 1:02 PM  
To: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hi Jeanice,

Not wanting to compromise any free time you've been able to have this week, I've been compiling issues and concerns I've received. I'm sending them now, but do NOT expect a response for several days. As noted, none of these are urgent.

Take care,  
Jeff

- \* 7<sup>th</sup> hour high school teachers extra work time at school: 2.5 hours additional on Tues and Fri. Any compensation or consideration for this?
- \* Pittsfield Twmsp has a special election May 4. Carpenter is a polling site. How will this be handled?
- \* New SHEAC lessons are coming to the board for approval. Any idea when? When can we see them?
- \* Concerns expressed about Mr. Lowder's Pioneer H.S. Parent Updates being sent out as pdf files and not being easily accessible
- \* Progress on authorization of Ann Arbor Student Board since presentation from Skyline students to BOE?  
(Is this yours or the board's responsibility to implement? I know there is already an authorized 'Student Committee.')
- \* The AAATA route #64 bus to Pioneer was discontinued. Any push to get it back this Spring? (Of course, this may not be an issue if secondary doesn't go back in person.)
- \* The teacher I wrote to you about who was concerned about kids eating breakfast and snack in her classroom is at Dicken. She followed up with this email:

Thank you for asking, yes you can share my school. I want to emphasize by no means do I put any blame on our school directly, as our principal, Heather Halabu has done an outstanding job. This is her first year as a principal, she was the VP at King prior to this. She has gone to great lengths to do what she can to provide the safest environment possible with what she has been given.

We had a plan for breakfast eaters that did not include eating in the classroom. However when the district announced it was able to provide breakfast to all of our students, we had to forgo our plan. This now becomes another "lunch" situation needing staggered eating times and staff to accommodate this. It would greatly delay the start of the day which is fine as long as that is the new plan. Thus the decision was made to have students eat breakfast in their classrooms. I think it is wonderful that we will offer breakfast to everyone however with every action there is a reaction...

Snack too is an issue. My particular students will be in my room from 9:10-10:56, 1 hour and 46 min. I do not believe they need a snack in that short of a time especially since we know they had breakfast or at least were offered it at 9:10. My afternoon is from 11:44-2:10, 2 hours and 26 min. again students should be able to make it that long without eating however the push is that we should let them eat if they are hungry. Our principal has said that it is up to us if we want to offer snack time however as a veteran teacher we know that is not true. If a sibling of one of my students

is allowed to have a snack, then the parent will insist I allow it as well therefore it is not truly an option. My solution if required to allow for snack is to take them outside to eat where they can be socially distanced with masks off. I am not sure what will happen on rainy days, I am still thinking through that one. It is spring in Michigan therefore it may happen often.

With numbers on the rise especially in the 10-19 year old range (which includes 4th & 5th grades and some 3rd grades) and now beginning spring break, we know the next month is going to be challenging. In addition many of our families and community members have chosen to travel even though the CDC and AAPS has recommended against it. The spread will continue to rise as well as the death toll. Eating in a classroom where we can't socially distance according to guidelines will only increase these numbers at a faster rate.

Stopping after stage 2 and allowing the 10-19 year old range, stage 3 and up remain virtual is the best thing we can do for our community at this point. In our building you would be keeping an additional 108 students virtual thus giving the Y5-2nd and sp-ed more options for breakfast and snack outside of their rooms due to the additional space not being taken up by 3rd-5th graders thus keeping them safer.

Thank you for your continued support for our entire community and your diligence to keep us all safe.

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Jeff Gaynor  
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education  
[gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us)  
cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** Swift, Jeanice swift@aaps.k12.mi.us  
**Subject:** Re: Pause on AA Sports  
**Date:** March 31, 2021 at 1:14 PM  
**To:** Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Thank you, Trustee!



## Jeanice Kerr Swift

*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Ann Arbor Public Schools**

**p:** (734) 994-2232

**a:** 2555 S. State Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**w:** [a2schools.org](http://a2schools.org) **e:** [swift@a2schools.org](mailto:swift@a2schools.org)



On Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 9:13 AM Baskett, Susan <[baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us)> wrote:

Good morning [REDACTED]

You were expecting a response to your previous email? I apologize for not understanding that.

I interpreted your previous and this current one as seeking no response or answer. Instead, I saw your communication as a given right to vent and to express your displeasure with the Board of Education, the AAPS Administration and anyone else who can read your emails.

"Lack of courage and leadership"-really? Well, given that you did not give us the courtesy of your real name, that speaks of your cyber courage and level of maturity. Consider yourself 'validated'.

Please stay safe,  
Susan Baskett  
Secretary, Ann Arbor Board of Education

On Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 7:42 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Your lack of mere acknowledgement to this email speaks volumes of your lack of courage and leadership.

Thanks for validating.....

On Saturday, March 27, 2021, 11:56:19 AM EDT, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear all,

While I acknowledge that little can be done to change your minds to think more logically or sanely about this particular issue I must explicitly protest the latest is a series of unbelievable moves by the AA school district that are not based in science, practicality, logic or common sense only based on fear and likely political pressure from your teacher's unions which ultimately control your decisions.

This latest decision to pause HS sports especially non-contact sports (like baseball, golf) is ridiculous. There is no evidence that baseball or non contact

sports lead to any significant community spread whatsoever. The sports are easily socially distanced and OUTSIDE. You are continuing winter sports activities (namely tournaments) while pausing outdoor activities - which is illogical and counterintuitive.

Secondly, this is only AA if you truly wanted to control community spread of COVID wouldn't it stand to reason ALL SPORTS in Washtenaw County be halted moreover the state? I will just leave that there and move on....

Your decisions and lack of logic are destroying our children's ability to move through this difficult time doing the things they love to do. While I pray this pause is truly a one week pause and we move through our season, I have no faith in your leadership ability to do the right thing and just let the kids play (especially outdoors). To summarize:

- Your decision is an AAPS decision - not an MHSAA decision. Other schools throughout the state and even in our own county are still going forward with spring sports.
- Baseball (and other spring sports like softball, track, golf, etc) are extremely low contact sports. Yet other, much higher contact sports have figured out ways to get their seasons in this year. In fact, winter sports that are still in the state tournament are allowed to keep playing right now.
- AAPS just started their "return to classroom" campaign. If you can figure out how to safely return to INDOOR classrooms, you should be able to figure out how to do outdoor, low contact sports.
- Spring sports in Michigan are the ONLY sports to not have played in a single competition since the start of the pandemic. We were completely cancelled last year and now this, on the one year anniversary of last year's cancelled season.

The student athletes are confused depressed and dismayed to be short. Your decisions are haphazard and most likely will have lasting impressions and effects on these children not from a mental point of view but future college prospects as well.

Regards

Concerned Parent



