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To: [Clerk; Chet Janik; Gwenne Allgaier](#)
Subject: BOC September 9 comments
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Attachments: [98 BOC.docx](#)

Comments for the Special BOC meeting.

Thank you for your service to our county and attention to this note.

September 8, 2021

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

Thank you for your responsible support of our Board of Health. Reasonably, we must rely on knowledgeable professionals for guidance during a local health crisis. I am not a physician and will not presume to have more knowledge of contagious disease than those charged with protecting the public from health threats. I am an educator, and we know the social and educational value to in-person instruction and should take every practical precaution to preserve a safe educational environment. Simply adorning a mask has proven to mitigate the spread of disease; masking will preserve our freedom to have in person instruction. Thousands of students have been sent home this school year due to the spread of COVID in their schools. We can do better for our children than other locales and states. Michigan's leading research universities have all mandated vaccines and masking for in person instruction. These institutions have faculty who have dedicated their professional careers to studying disease; if wise, we will follow their example. The overwhelming number of residents in our county have listened to the physicians and health experts and gotten vaccinated. Our children under 12 do not have that option.

Every school has a dress code. Setting a "dress code" for the health and safety of the entire school population (and the extended families they share time with) is not an infringement on an individual's rights. Virtually everybody can tolerate wearing a mask for a school day. My daughter-in-law pediatrician treats children hospitalized with COVID; these poor kids are masked 24 hours if not on a ventilator. Let us think of others beyond a spurious libertarian position. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves" Philippians 2:3.

I am grateful our Board of Health has the courage and wisdom to protect the healthy well-being of the most vulnerable (especially those unvaccinated under age 12) members of our community.