

From: Susan Cocciarelli
To: Rick Robbins; Debra Rushton; Ty Wessell; Patricia Soutas-Little; Gwenne Allgaier; Melinda Lautner; Will Bunek, Chet Janik
CC: Michelle Crocker
Subject: Special Meeting 9/9/21—Public Comments
Date: September 8, 2021

Please deliver this letter as intended public comments for the 9/9/21 special meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

A close friend who spends the summer at her cottage in Northport saw the notice of a special meeting of the Leelanau BOC to discuss and/or take action on the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department Mask Order. My friend, a retired school teacher, called me and asked, “would they (the BOC) consider not being in support of their own county’s health department’s recommendation for masking school children? What would be their reasoning?”

To be honest, I could not come up with a legitimate rationale for challenging our health department’s recommendation to protect children AND to keep our schools open. The residents of Leelanau County, Democrats and Republicans alike, have chosen prevention by getting vaccinated. Leelanau County has the highest vaccination rates, both for 1st dose and for fully vaccinated, in the state. Why wouldn’t we applaud those efforts by helping to prevent those most vulnerable, children under the age of 12, from becoming victims? Wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID helps children stay in school.

It would be unconscionable to challenge our health department’s recommended mask order, especially if the action is to align with a personal, political agenda. Texas and Florida are no examples of sound health practice or leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cocciarelli
Maple City