

VIA Email –

January 31, 2021

Dear School Trustee Lynne Block,

We are a family who had two daughters at Cypress Park Primary last school year when you were our Trustee, with our Grade 3 daughter “graduating” from Cypress Park in June 2020. We met a few times at various school events.

This school year, the girls are registered at Eagle Harbour Montessori School for Grades 2 and 4.

While the beginning of the school year was wonderful, we had to pull the girls out of school, with their last day on October 30, 2020. (With my spinal cord injury and compromised lung function, my specialists advised strongly that I reduce my exposure risks by keeping the girls at home as the case counts started climbing in October.)

One thing that would allow me to send them back to school with less risk is a school-wide mask mandate. The current mask policy of hallways and common areas is not strong enough. My girls wore masks all-day to school in June, September and October 2020, but with the increased community transmission throughout BC, it is not enough for us to be among the families who chose to mask up. Everyone inside a building needs to contain their droplets to protect everyone adequately.

Today, I became aware that Mr. Scott Bedall, Director of the COVID Response Team for the Ministry of Education, has confirmed that schools and school districts DO have the autonomy to develop local policies around mask mandates that may vary from provincial guidance.

Would the West Vancouver Schools Trustees consider implementing a school-wide mask mandate to protect students and staff to the highest standards? We are a School District that has always gone above and beyond, so let’s continue this standard in our covid-19 response.

Thank you kindly,

Sharon Lee-Flynn

VIA Email –

February 3, 2021

Dear Ms. Lee-Flynn,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts with me and the Board. Trustees have asked that I respond to your enquiry.

I know there is a lot of discussion around mask use in the parent community, among our staff and on social media. The Board relies on the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer and responsible government agencies. The Board has no specialized expertise which would justify it in departing from the guidance of the officials within government entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring public safety and best practices during this pandemic.

That said, we are sharing concerns from our community, like those you have shared, with Vancouver Coastal Health and the Provincial Health Officer.

We understand there will be updates to the Provincial guidelines for schools soon, and at that time we will communicate these broadly, and update our practices.

Thanks for taking the time to reach out.

Chris Kennedy  
Superintendent of Schools