

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Mural organizers should apologize**

To the editor:  
Set aside momentarily the improbability that 10- and 11-year-olds designed a mural plugging LGBTQ+ flags. What child knows gay community standards unless taught by adults? They were coached.

It is likely children designed the "Love is Universal" theme. But some adult(s) needed to inject sexual politics. If "Love is Universal" then I assume "universal" means everyone including LGBTQ+. Sexual politics have no place in school.

"Love" includes respect. Wouldn't you agree? You cannot deny that large segments of society believe the gay attribute is a moral issue. Adults corruptly inculcating children with subjects they know are antithetical to other members of society are disrespectful and they need to apologize for their insensitivity.

The school district represents everyone, even those with different world views. They have no business apologizing to anyone. Shaming those who were acting in good faith is despicable.

Using "children" as means to bully apologies is contemptuous.

Let's now address this call for an "equity director." Beliefs which presume systemwide failures where little exist are tactics intended to impose pernicious solutions. They are designed to advance a cause.

Who objects to being equitable? Well, "In contrast to equality, equity as defined ... is little more than reformulated Marxism," wrote Christopher F. Rufo. It is, in fact, critical race theory.

"There are a series of euphemisms deployed by ... supporters to describe critical race theory, including 'equity ...'" Rufo continues. "(Individuals in) public school systems have (said) that ... 'equity and inclusion' departments serve as political offices, searching for and stamping out any dissent."

Hiring someone whose sole job is to find inequities will not surprisingly find inequities, lots of them. It's the camel's nose under the tent and will result in the establishment of immoral critical race theory.

Scott Sidney  
Cedarburg

**Cedarburg schools need better COVID plan**

To the editor:  
COVID has been here for nearly 18 months. We are all tired of it. We are all ready for this to be over. However the delta variant is on the rise and cases are going up. Now is not the time to let down our guard.

Several weeks ago, Los Angeles returned to having all people wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status ... because COVID is on the rise with a more contagious variant.

Then, the Centers for Disease Control recommended many areas in the entire country return to masks indoors for all, regardless of vaccination status ... because COVID is on the rise with a more contagious variant.

Companies are requiring their employees to get vaccinated to help decrease spread of the virus ... because COVID is on the rise with a more contagious variant.

Meanwhile, the Cedarburg School District has abolished social distancing, contract tracing, and other mitigation measures while leaving masks optional for all students ... despite COVID being on the rise with a more contagious variant.

The CDC and the Washington-Ozaukee Public Health Department recommend quarantining for individuals exposed to COVID. The Cedarburg School District, however, is allowing quarantine to be done by choice ... despite COVID being on the rise with a more contagious variant.

Contact with the school district has been a disorganized frenzy of finger pointing. If we're going to beat COVID, we all need to ignore our differences and work together. That means wearing masks, social distancing, and quarantining as guided.

While COVID cases are low in pediatric age groups, I'm not willing to

put my children at risk or risk them spreading it to others who are more vulnerable.

Cedarburg School Board, please put aside your political agendas and do what is right for our children and our community.

Kate Burrows  
Cedarburg

**Cedarburg schools' plan for fighting COVID falls short**

To the editor:  
I am writing regarding the Cedarburg School District's complete disregard of any COVID mitigation measures for the upcoming school year as recommended by the CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department. Our School Board is not following any of the recommended mitigation measures of these groups including: mask wearing, physical distancing, quarantining and appropriate contact tracing.

The School Board's decision is not only creating a dangerous situation for our students and school staff but our entire Cedarburg community. With the highly contagious delta variant on the rise, the complete lack of appropriate mitigation measures will cause the inevitable positive COVID cases that occur this school year to pose a health risk to the entire Cedarburg community.

A school board has a legal duty under Wisconsin statutes to create safe and healthful facilities for its students. The board's intentional disregard of any appropriate COVID mitigation measures is inconsistent with its legal duty and is opening the board and school district up to legal liability. Any potential litigation caused by the board's actions will be covered by you and me in the form of taxpayer dollars. For a school district and board that prides itself on "being good stewards of tax dollars," this exposure to potential lawsuits makes absolutely no sense.

If you are a parent who is concerned about the safety of your children this school year, if you are a member of the community who is concerned about the spread of COVID from students to the community at large, or if you are a taxpayer who is concerned about the potential tax dollars that could be wasted on preventable litigation, please contact the Cedarburg School Board members and superintendent. The decisions our school district is making are detrimental to our entire Cedarburg community.

Suzi McManus  
Cedarburg

**Keep experienced leadership on our M-T School Board**

To the editor:  
During the 2020-2021 school year, we were fortunate to have experienced School Board members who kept our schools open and our children safe. The MTSD was part of only 54% of K-12 school districts in Wisconsin who offered five days per week in-person school, which they did beginning in September 2020. Many schools remained virtual throughout the school year or began offering an in-person option in March of 2021. Families were also given the option to have their children participate in high-quality distance learning if they so desired. Approximately 75% of MTSD students participated in in-person education.

Per board policy, the MTSD followed Health Department regulations to keep our children safe while in school. Due to the outstanding mitigation efforts employed by our district, there was no significant spread of COVID-19 without our schools.

Navigating the pandemic has been hard on everyone, but our district deserves an award for the Responsible Return Plan and its implementation. As we hopefully progress out of the pandemic, it is important to retain these experienced board members who have been working so hard for the sake of our students. Research shows that experience matters, as does governing in partnership with the superintendent.

The most prominent guidelines for effective school board governance aimed at increasing student achievement are the National School Boards Association's Key Work of School Boards. The MTSD School Board members use these guidelines. Research by Ford and Ilrke found that when school board members who have served for at least five years indicate greater adherence to the Key Work, student achievement increases. Experienced leadership matters.

Jennifer Mackinnon, M.D.  
Mequon

**MTSD Board, administrators deserve support**

To the editor:  
My name is Kristen Bradley. I am a longtime resident of Thiensville and a MTSD alumna. My daughter is currently a district student. I am writ-

ing because there appears to be confusion about the excellence of the MTSD School Board and the MTSD administration. I am saddened by the ongoing community displays of hostility and disrespect directed toward board and administration members.

I would like to be very clear in my expression of gratitude for the opportunities that both this board and administration have provided for my family. I have had the opportunity to volunteer at my daughter's school in a multitude of ways and been afforded the supreme privilege of experiencing the true joy of children. I have had the opportunity to participate in School Board meetings and been afforded the privilege of witnessing respect, tact, composure, and concern for the educational and social well-being of every student in this district.

Perhaps the most important, however, is the unexpected opportunity I am taking now to convey my support of the MTSD Board and district administration, which affords me the privilege of expressing support for those who are facilitating the educational development of this community's youth.

I am proud to be a product of this educational system and proud that my daughter has this excellent educational opportunity. I am proud of the tireless efforts within the board and administration to navigate a global pandemic and a simultaneous unjustified attack on their competence and intentions. I stand firmly, and with many others, in support of the Mequon-Thiensville School District Board of Education and the district administration.

Kristen Bradley  
Thiensville

**Does a recall really make sense?**

To the editor:  
Emotions are running high. The effort to recall members of the MTSD School Board is underway. Accusations are being made and politics are being interjected. This is wrong and needs to stop. School boards are required to be nonpartisan. The MTSD Board of Education is organized to govern, not manage.

The recall group claims Wendy Francour, Chris Schultz, Akram Khan and Erik Hollander have all abdicated their powers to the superintendent. That is not true. The MTSD board creates a balanced budget and works with the superintendent to make our district a place for every student to succeed. On July 26, this group presented their budget to the community and the budget passed.

The charges being cast upon them do not warrant a special election. According to the city of Mequon and village of Thiensville, this special election will cost the school district between \$12,250-\$17,750. Comparatively the last three spring elections have cost the school district between \$1,500-\$2,600 annually. Knowing that the spring election will be held in April of 2022, does a recall within six months really make sense?

Between now and the next election, let's choose to live more consciously. We are smart citizens and can devise a way to communicate, debate and enhance our schools. Let's use dignity and respect to find common ground. Our schools have remained a safe place for our children to learn. We have retained our Aaa bond rating. The district's teacher retention is 93%. Let's not risk earning a reputation for being a less desirable community to live and work in.

We can agree to disagree, but let's remove the emotion right now and move forward and put unity back into our community.

Libby Baranko  
Mequon

**The new morality driving crime**

To the editor:  
So now we blame the rampant lawlessness on our streets on police misbehavior, prosecutors, judges, prisons, ease of parole, low or nonexistent bail, etc.?

Logically, then, we, as a nation have accepted the new norm, that the sole reason for choosing right over wrong is fear of getting caught and retribution.

When a government pays people for not working, making workers support the nonworkers, it's just a short step to cutting out the middle man, enabling lawbreakers to just loot, shop lift or take what they want with no consequences for their actions.

Ted Warwick  
Grafton



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