



Oyster Bay - East Norwich Central School District

1 McCouns Lane

Oyster Bay, New York 11771-3105

516-624-6500 • Fax 516-624-6520

www.obenschools.org

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December 13, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Senator James Gaughran
485 Underhill Blvd
Syosset, NY 11791

Dear Governor Hochul and Senator Gaughran,

The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District would like to thank you for your continued support of our district and the community-at-large. We know that our ongoing partnership will continue to yield positive results for our students.

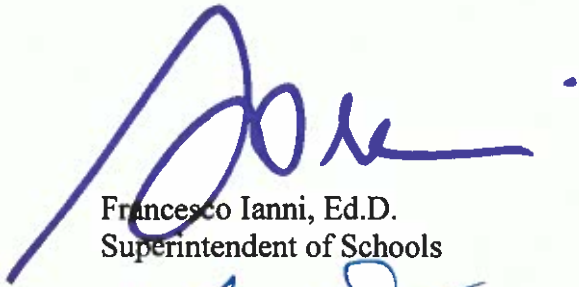
The Board of Education feels compelled to express its concern about the CDC's recent recommendation to add the COVID-19 vaccine to children's vaccination schedule, along with recent statements made that allude to a mandate being considered for the children of NYS. The addition of a COVID-19 vaccine to the vaccination schedule should be a personal decision that is made by individual families with their family physicians.

As the voice of our school community, we, the members of the Board of Education wish to express our concerns about mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for students. To date, we have been successful in taking all recommended measures and have abided by all guidelines to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe while maintaining low levels of COVID-19 transmittal in schools and in our community. We have significant concerns about the impact of mandating a vaccine for all students as such a requirement would impact in school instruction and more importantly our mission to educate all children. The CDC itself states that vaccines are not 100% effective at preventing infection, "*COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death. However, since vaccines are not 100% effective at preventing infection, some people who are up to date with the recommended vaccines will still get COVID-19.*"

We continue to place the health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and community members at the core of our work. We strongly believe that mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for students will only create an additional barrier to educational opportunities, particularly since the recommended guidelines and procedures we follow have been successful in maintaining low levels of transmission.

We urge you to reconsider your position and allow the decision to vaccinate our children against COVID-19 to be an individual and personal one. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



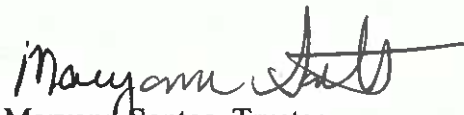
Francesco Ianni, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Laurie Kowalsky
President, Board of Education



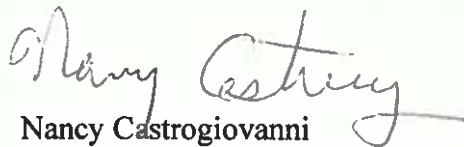
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Daren Gerbosi, Trustee



Michael Schindler, Trustee