



**LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Levittown Memorial Education Center**  
**150 Abbey Lane**  
**Levittown, NY 11756**



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**Board of Education**

Peggy Marengi, President  
Christina Lang, Vice President  
Jenifer Messina, Secretary  
Marianne Adrian  
Dillon Cain  
James Moran  
Michael Pappas

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker, NYS Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Senate-Majority Leader, NYS Senate  
188 State Street  
Legislative Office Building, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Speaker Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

Greetings. We are writing to you on behalf of the Levittown School District, located in Nassau County Long Island with approximately 7,400 students in 10 schools, proudly serving the residents of Levittown, Wantagh and Seaford.

The Levittown Board of Education would like to follow up on our previous letter to Governor Cuomo on May 27, 2021 regarding the use of masks in our schools.

As you know, the positivity rate in Nassau County on June 10 was .4% (<https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-region-dashboard>). With the positivity rate being so low, we are calling for the power to be restored to the school districts, providing them with the leeway to monitor the positivity rates and implement masks at their own discretion. In the Levittown School district we have not had a positive case of COVID-19 in our schools since the end of May 2021. As the number of COVID-19 infections continues to decline, and, as the vaccination rates continue to increase, we must ask; At what point will it be enough for you to allow people to make the decisions based on the most current and local data?

Furthermore, the letter that Commissioner Zucker sent to the CDC late Friday afternoon, June 4, stating NY State was planning to allow the removal of masks both indoors and outdoors in schools, effective on June 7, and the subsequent backtrack, caused mass confusion.

For the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully request that Governor Cuomo's remaining temporary pandemic powers be removed immediately, and that the New York State Legislature - a co-equal branch of government - take back its authority and immediately restore consistent common-sense logic back to school districts by restoring local control to duly elected Boards of Education.

We have heard from many of our families, and even the students themselves, that masks are causing anxiety and mental anguish, along with physical issues, such as nosebleeds and trouble breathing. Again, it is time to restore local control and trust the local school Board of Education, who know their communities best. We are requesting clear and direct guidance on the protocols and removal of masks for our students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Speaker Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, we implore you to let logic, consistency and reason, along with the restoration of local control to duly elected bodies of government, be the path that finally brings our state back to normalcy for our students and their families, as they truly deserve it. Please consider trusting us to do the right thing for our students, staff and the communities in which we have the privilege to serve.

Sincerely,

Peggy Marengi - President, Board of Education  
Christina Lang - Vice President, Board of Education  
Jennifer Messina - Secretary, Board of Education  
Marianne Adrian - Trustee, Board of Education  
Dillon Cain - Trustee, Board of Education  
James Moran - Trustee, Board of Education  
Michael Pappas - Trustee, Board of Education

Dr. Tonie McDonald -Superintendent of Schools

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CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo  
State Senator Kevin Thomas  
State Assemblyman John K. Mikulin  
Nassau County Executive Laura Curran  
Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa