



President Fusco's E-Mail to Supt Runcie & the School Board

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Subject: Distance Learning

Date: Sunday, July 5, 2020 at 12:02:16 PM

From: Fusco, Anna

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CC: _BrowardTU, Richard, Mark - Law Office, ScoW Travis, Valerie S. Wanza, Daniel F. Gohl, Antoine L. Hickman, lobbyist1@aol.com, Daniel Reynolds, debbihixon@gmail.com, Sarah Leonardi

Happy 4th Mr. Runcie and School Board,

I'm sitting here reading through thousands of messages that have come my way in so many forms. I get texts, FB posts and messages, emails, phone calls, social media posts and walk ins to our union hall. The message is loud and clear. Our teachers and support staff are extremely concerned and scared.

The schools closed down March 13th when the county saw COVID 19 spreading and no relief was in sight. The cases were minimal but obviously spreading, yet we closed as all of the country closed. Today we sit here July 4th weekend celebrating our great independence mostly indoors due to serious spikes of COVID 19. Beaches and parks are closed to keep groups from congregating, to help stop the spread of COVID 19. We are seeing more and more camps and daycares closing daily. The mandate of wearing masks, along with local businesses and restaurants watching and waiting to see when they will be ordered to close due to the high spikes of COVID 19, are real.

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BTU loves our students and wants them educated. I know we have been working to open schools for students that want to come back in for face to face instruction. At this time we must be real and not ignore that cases of COVID 19 have drastically increased daily. We need to reconsider opening school sites in August and stay with online learning for all. Our students, teachers' and support staff's lives will be in serious danger if we open schools.

We can't ignore the increase of COVID 19 cases. It will be extremely hard to enforce kids wearing masks and to keep them from wanting to hang and socialize with their friends. The data shows since the State opened up with more contact and more groups have formed the cases have increased. Schools will be a breeding ground for COVID 19. Even if we reopen following CDC guidelines we can't ignore that by nature schools include large groups. The students will be all over the place sharing spaces, bathrooms and common areas. It is unrealistic that sanitizing after each student touches a door handle or uses the restroom will happen. That's two of many concerns that can cause the spread of COVID 19.

Our teachers and support staff can't and shouldn't be forced to go into schools with large numbers of people. The SBBC will be putting them in serious harm's way, throwing the doors open to unimaginable consequences. Our teachers and support staff deserve to be healthy and safe. Having them return to school sites will not be safe and they will not be able to stay healthy.

Mr. Runcie and school board, I'm asking you to redirect the district leaders working on the reopening plans to shift gears and plan to open with distance learning for all students and not reopen school sites.

We need to be part of the solution to help stop the spread of COVID 19. Do the right thing and have our district leaders plan for school to stay online. The COVID 19 cases are increasing and we must think of saving lives, not putting lives in serious danger.

Anna Fusco BTU President