



COLEMAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
*Academics, Arts, Athletics, Agriculture – Growing for
the Future!*

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Statement from the Coleman Community Schools' Board of Education

April 14, 2021

We first want to thank those who have reached out to the Board regarding the 2-week pause to in-person learning at the Jr./Sr. High School to share your thoughts, approval, concerns or ideas by e-mail, face-to-face or by phone. We appreciate your respectful candor and position on this situation. Our district's stance has been and always will be to provide a safe learning environment and a quality education for the students of our district. That will never change, even amidst the recent 2-week pause of in-person learning in our Jr./Sr. High and having the additional burden of testing student athletes.

Mandates and recommendations are handed down to school districts all the time. There are many that the Board of Education and district administrators agree with and those that we question "why?". We don't have the luxury to pick and choose which mandates we want to follow. Ultimately, we must follow the mandates, whether those are issued by the State of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). We are also responsible for ensuring we reach out to these agencies as well as our attorneys and other entities when recommendations are made or questions arise, which we also do. When the Board of Education and district administrators question the directives of these agencies, we will **not** use social media to devalue or demean them, but instead continue to contact those agencies directly and express our concerns in a professional manner. The Board of Education and district administrators routinely reach out to those agencies as well as MASA, MASSP, MASB and to state representatives to advocate for our students and our district. We will continue to reach out to agencies regarding the current COVID mandates as it relates to our district. This is nothing new, it's what we do, and we will continue to do so.

The Board of Education supports **all** students equally in their quest for academic excellence; that's why we are here. Some students chose to participate in extracurricular activities such as band, quiz bowl, drama club, choir, student council, NHS and athletics. WE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THEM in those endeavors as well. We sincerely look forward to the reinstatement of face to face learning and all extracurricular activities as soon as it's safely possible.

COVID has presented more challenges lately and the Board of Education and district administrators are working diligently as a district to keep kids safe, provide a solid education, provide support to students and families, and work on planning for a better tomorrow.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Lorie Fox, President

Travis Aultman, Vice President

Chris Blake, Treasurer

Karen Bressette, Secretary

Jen Murray, Trustee

Angela Brooks, Trustee

Kevin Bock, Trustee