



# NORTH BABYLON

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 Jardine Place, North Babylon, NY 11703

Board of Education

May 18, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo, Commissioner Rosa and Commissioner Zucker,

The health, safety, and welfare of our students, their families, staff, and the NY State population at large is of the utmost importance to our school district and community. We, as elected officials of the North Babylon School District, have worked hand in hand with the Governor's Office, New State Education Department, New York State Department of Health as well as the Suffolk County Department of Health throughout this school year to ensure we are following every regulation issued from your collective offices since the pandemic has begun, at times creating unpopular situations within our community.

At some point, there comes a time when we need to ensure our voices are heard. That time is now. We recently received the Interim Guidance for End of Academic Year Celebrations, have reviewed them in detail, and have begun to make plans so that our students can enjoy their "rite of passage" as they conclude their high school experience. The current regulations are extremely restrictive, and in fact, more restrictive than those currently being implemented at bars, restaurants, and sporting venues across the state. Why, one would ask, are we objecting to these new regulations. Like many others in the state, our students have been in classes, in the same physical building, on buses, and even personal vehicles throughout the pandemic. Some may play sports deemed "high risk", which now, no longer require ANY testing. The staff working our outdoor events with our students are the same staff who have been teaching them, and advising them every single day since September.

Many districts, including ours, conduct outdoor graduations and proms. Why would regulations for outdoor school events be more stringent than those who are indoors within close proximity within bars, restaurants, catering venues, or professional sporting events? We have implemented the regulations with integrity, authenticity, and rigor throughout the pandemic successfully. We have provided a safe educational environment for our students and staff, and we believe we can provide a safe environment for our students during our outdoor graduation and prom events as well.


We strongly believe the latest measures go too far, and arguably for little to no additional value. We understand the measures taken in the past and the importance to societal health and welfare. It is time to reconsider the most recent school regulations and do what

is right for our students and their families. We urge you to lift these mandates and lift them immediately, as prom and graduation season are just around the corner, and our school district, like the other 730 in New York State, must begin to plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

North Babylon Board of Education

  
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