

I am here tonight to talk about choices.

The vaccine and mask mandates that are being issued are of great concern to me, the faculty, staff, and parents.

I put many hours into gathering information around these concerns. The fact of the matter is that there is a lot of conflicting information from various reputable sources.

On any day, you can read an article that states masks help with stopping the spread of covid.

On that same day, you can read from other reputable people that masks don't work and are ineffective.

There are studies have been conducted in schools with masks and schools without masks that conclude that there is no discernable difference in the results.

Is it any wonder that people are confused?

Did anyone watch the college games this weekend? Have you been to a concert?

Very few masks are at either.

Go to a restaurant- take your mask off when you are seated.

Go on a plane? Cruising height – have a drink and a snack.

Is there confusion? Yes

Is there room for questioning? Absolutely

I believe the solution is choice- let the parents decide if they want their kids to wear the mask or not.

I believe this is a decision that parents should have the ability to make based on what their beliefs are and what they think is best for their kids.

Same goes for the vaccine- the articles from reputable folks abound on either side.

It's not safe- it is safe.

It works, it doesn't work

Because this is such a polarizing issue- it needs to go back to personal choices- want the vaccine? Go get it.

Don't want it-don't get it.

Want to wear a mask- that's your choice.

If you don't – your choice again.

I am concerned with the vaccine regarding forcing people to receive it.

Since the pharmaceutical companies are not liable, and since the governor is mandating them, what happens if someone who doesn't want the vaccine gets it and has an adverse reaction?

Is the BOE now liable? Can we be sued?

Is the governor liable? Can the state be sued?

I also have concerns regarding the vaccination issue of who gets the information regarding who is vaccinated and who isn't?

Would that become public information?

How will this information be protected?

Is that information going to HR?

There are concerns regarding the swab test and potential harm of the chemicals used in the swabs.

If unvaccinated folks are required to be tested and they get ill from the tests, is the school system liable?

This mandate has opened more questions that it has answered.

I believe that we need to send a clear message to Governor Lamont that he needs to remember that his constituents should have autonomy over their bodies and make choices based on their own research and beliefs.

That his vague mandate is causing more angst among staff and parents-possible/even students.

And that as we are returning to school, working to give our students the best education and care possible, that this added pressure is not conducive to a positive, healthy environment.

The choices need to be made by each individual and not by the government.

I thank you for your time.