

October 5, 2021

Dear Superintendent Sitwell and Ms. McKay, Board Chair of SD68,

I am writing you today to request that you follow-suit with the recent federal and BC provincial decisions to mandate government employees be fully vaccinated in order to continue to do their jobs. I am a federal government employee and I fully support this decision because it is what is required to keep employees safe and to get my workplace back to “normal.” I think it is completely appropriate for school boards to across the country to also impose this mandate to keep their workers safe. However, I feel that there is much greater urgency for school boards to mandate workers to be vaccinated. I am a parent of two children under 12 who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, one of whom is a student in one of your schools. In your October 1, 2021 letter to the NLPS families and staff on the mask mandate, you acknowledged that “vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.” Vaccinations have proven to be effective in not only protecting the vaccinated, but also in reducing the risk of disease transmission. We NEED to make sure that the adults who are in daily contact with our unvaccinated and vulnerable children are fully vaccinated. This is our best line of defense to protect our kids from COVID-19. I implore you to ensure that this is done through a mandated vaccination policy for all of your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Haggarty'.

Dana Haggarty, PhD  
Nanaimo BC

cc: Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, BC Minister of Education; Sheila Malcolmson, Nanaimo Ladysmith MLA; Lisa Marie Barron, Nanaimo-Ladysmith MP