

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED
PRIOR TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SESSION
ON
THURSDAY, August 26, 2021
AT
10:00 A.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us

Carolina Rook

From: Carl Bragiel <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 3:40 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Public Comment: Lindsay Berschauer Must Resign

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Public Comment Yamhill County,

It's time for Commissioner Berschauer to resign. Taxpayers have been left footing the bill for Yamhelas Westsider Trail grants. We repaid over \$1.1 million in grant money to the State of Oregon with nothing to show for it.

Commissioner Berschauer has berated county employees in public meetings, putting the county at legal risk for workplace violations. She has issued numerous unenforceable and toothless resolutions and letters to the Governor, but she has done nothing to benefit us, Yamhill County citizens.

Most recently, Lindsay Berschauer opposed \$323,000 in public health investment for Yamhill County because she is unwilling to submit a plan to ensure equitable vaccine access for marginalized communities. Our community needs this money.

Yamhill County citizens deserve a commissioner who represents them efficiently and in good faith. Lindsay Berschauer is too incompetent, too unprofessional, and too wasteful for Yamhill County. She should resign now.

Carl Bragiel
saintslobber@gmail.com
11300 SW Bellevue Hwy
Amity, Oregon 97101

Carolina Rook

From: Paige Barton <pbarton@oregonafscme.org>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Mary Starrett; Lindsay Berschauer; Casey Kulla; BOC Info
Cc: Ken Huffer; Lindsey Manfrin; Mikalie Moreno; Bijoux Harrison-Doherty; Micah Ralston
Subject: Public Comment: YCEA COVID-19 Survey Results

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Good morning Yamhill County Commissioners,

I'm writing today to provide results of a recent survey conducted by AFSCME of Yamhill County Employee Association members. The purpose of this survey was to gather information about personal behaviors and attitudes towards COVID-19 to best represent our membership. This survey was distributed only to Yamhill County employees in the AFSCME bargaining unit between August 17 and August 22. Because members were disclosing personal information, all responses were collected anonymously and none of the questions were required; however, most employees completed all questions. Half of our AFSCME bargaining unit replied to this survey in a one-week period.

We are providing this information to Yamhill County Commissioners to better inform their positions about employee safety. We've heard discussion about employees from Commissioners at the Board of Commissioners meeting, but we're unaware of any efforts to actually ask Yamhill County employees about their personal opinions and behaviors. This is why we are providing these results to you today.

Additionally, our union also asked members what we should be doing to respond to the pandemic. Overwhelmingly, our members want their union to push for improved telework flexibility and broad access to telework when it is mutually beneficial. Many members do not understand that they were able to successfully utilize telework at some point since March 2020, yet have been disqualified from teleworking under the permanent telework policy. We look forward to soon meeting with Ken to fully discuss the telework policy.

It's clear from the results of this survey that the pandemic has been very divisive for our members. Even still, our members overwhelmingly report being vaccinated. It's possible that the top membership fear reported of vaccine side effects have been driven by Commissioner Starrett's advocacy to include VAERS data with the vaccine. One of our members reported that they haven't been vaccinated because they've had COVID-19, an inaccuracy promoted recently on social media by Commissioner Berschauer's opinion of natural immunity. We believe the division has been augmented by alarm at the Board of Commissioners level over mandates and vaccine injury. It isn't my intent to point this out for the sole purpose of being contrary; these half-truths could kill someone if they contract COVID-19, which at this point is *fully preventable*.

In addition to informing you, it is also my intent to appeal to you to be more careful in the ways you discuss the vaccine and the pandemic at Board of Commissioner meetings. The politicization of the pandemic has very real consequences for Yamhill County employees. The community's recovery is fully dependent on our ability to work together and encourage each other to follow public health guidance. From synthesizing these survey results for you, it's clear to me that personal beliefs about COVID-19 and the vaccine that Commissioners have chosen to promote publicly seem to play a significant role in workplace safety at Yamhill County. Safety is our priority, and it's unclear whether the Commissioners are aware of their influence here. Thank you for your time spent reading and considering this information.
Thank you,

Do you interact with the public as a normal part of your job?

-
-
- 83.5% yes
-
-
-
- 16.5% no
-

I believe masks are effective against the spread of COVID-19.

-
-
- 32.5% strongly agree
-
-
-
- 16.9% agree
-
-
-
- 16.9% neutral
-
-
-
- 9.6% disagree
-
-
-
- 24.1% strongly disagree
-

Outside of home and work, I wear a mask:

-
-
- 35.7% always
-
-
-
- 34.5% often
-
-
-
- 14.3% sometimes

-
-
-
- 7.1% rarely
-
-
-
- 8.3% never
-

I feel safe in the worksite.

-
-
- 8.2% strongly agree
-
-
-
- 23.5% agree
-
-
-
- 29.4% neutral
-
-
-
- 25.9% disagree
-
-
-
- 12.9% strongly disagree
-

Have you been exposed to COVID-19 at work?

-
-
- 27.1% say yes
-
-
-
- 27.1% say no
-
-
-
- 45.9% say they're unsure
-

Did you or a family member contract COVID?

-
-

- 25.9% say yes
-
-
-
- 63.5% say no
-
-
- 10.6% are unsure
-

Do you have concerns about contracting a COVID variant?

-
-
- 72.9% say yes
-
-
-
- 23.5% say no
-
-
- 3.5% are unsure
-

Have you been fully vaccinated?

-
-
- 81.7% say yes
-
-
-
- 18.3% say no
-

If you're not vaccinated, why not?

-
-
- "I'm worried about side effects" was the top response. (11 employees)
-
-
- "I don't trust the vaccine" was the second response. (8 employees)
-
-
- "I think COVID is overblown" was the third response. (3 employees)
-

Are you planning on getting vaccinated at a later date?

-
-
- 62.5% say no
-
-
-
- 20.8% say yes
-
-
- 16.7% say they're undecided
-

I would be more likely to get vaccinated if:

-
-
- I got a day off after getting vaccinated for possible side effects. (4 employees)
-
-
- There was a clinic at work. (3 employees)
-
-
- I received a small amount of money, like \$100. (2 employees)
-

I feel confident in the COVID-19 safety and leave policies and my understanding of them.

-
-
- 1.2% strongly agree
-
-
- 16.7% agree
-
-
- 34.5% are neutral
-
-
- 26.2% disagree
-
-
- 21.4% strongly disagree
-

Paige Barton
Council Representative
Oregon AFSCME Council 75

p: 971-330-8844

a: 6025 E Burnside Street, Portland, OR 97215

My Pronouns are She, Her and Hers

w: www.oregonafscme.org e: pbarton@oregonafscme.org



Need assistance? Contact the [AFSCME SMART Center!](#)

Carolina Rook

From: Fiona Gwozdz <fgwozdz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Lindsay Berschauer; BOC Info
Subject: I stand for Mask Mandates - You should too

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Dear Commissioner Berschauer,

Granting "local control" for mask mandating defeats the purpose. We cannot successfully combat Covid 19 without a COLLECTIVE response, and that includes the collective and correct decision of masking in schools. If we don't mask our students we are putting them and other Yamhill County families, especially those with vulnerable persons, at even greater risk of contracting and spreading Covid-19 and all of its variants.

Between your vaccine hesitancy stance and now this undermining of the state mandate on school masking it seriously feels as though you'd like us to stay in pandemic purgatory forever.

Please understand that while difficult for some, this shot-term measure is preventative and helpful and should be SUPPORTED by our leadership. Failure to do so is supportive only of the virus- and it doesn't seem to need any more cheerleaders to continue mutating and making this impossible to recover from as a community, county, country and world.

Please get behind the measures that are working to end the pandemic, not prolong it. The consequences are greater with every opposing stance you take against practical science-backed safety measures. Please stand for the health of our community. Please support the schools in masking up.

Best,

Fiona Gwozdz Mancill
Villard Street
McMinnville

From: Tom Canales <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 6:35 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Public Comment: Lindsay Berschauer Must Resign

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Tom Canales
canalest@gmail.com
2050 SW Sailing Ct
McMinville, Oregon 97128