

Letter to Mr. Jason Golden, Williamson County School Superintendent,  
Dr. Kevin Dyson, Grassland Middle School Principal,  
And Heather Hayes, Executive Director of Secondary Schools for Williamson County Schools

September 17, 2020

Hello Mr. Golden, Dr. Dyson and Mrs. Hayes,

It has now been over a week since our son, [REDACTED], had his civil rights violated Tuesday 9/8/2020, and again on Wednesday 9/9/2020 at Grassland Middle School by principal Kevin Dyson and Vice Principal James Dobbs, respectively.

On Wednesday, 9/9/2020, I emailed Dr. Dyson and Mr. Hobbs the completed WCS Student Face Covering Exemption Request with a detailed exemption attached. The next morning, 9/10/2020, we came to the school with the original signed form and met with Mr. Hobbs. Mr. Hobbs said that Dr. Dyson had stayed home from work that day, and that Mr. Hobbs was not authorized to approve the form. He said that we had to take up the matter with Dr. Dyson.

We returned to the school Friday morning, 9/11/2020 for a meeting with Dr. Dyson. Dr. Dyson told us that he was also not able to approve or deny the exemption request, even though the approval area on the form says, "For school administration use only." This indicates the school is responsible for approval, not the school board. (For your reference, a completed copy of the form and detailed exemption is also attached to this letter.) Dr. Dyson said he had forwarded the email with the completed form on to Heather Hayes, WCS Executive Director of Secondary Education, who was responsible for giving approval. He tried to reach her by phone for consultation during our meeting, but she was unavailable. We have been waiting patiently for a week for an answer. **By mandating that my son continue to wear a mask every day, his civil rights are still being violated.**

I received a phone call from Kevin Dyson this morning, and I understood him to say that he did not know who denied the approval, but he thought it was not approved. I am asking for information from the school, and school board, in writing to make sure that I fully understand the school and the school board's position in approving the exemption, and which individual is ultimately making the decision.

Dr. Dyson said that he would be following up to make sure this is communicated to me in writing. Until such time as we receive it in writing, we are advising [REDACTED] [our son] to remove his mask at his own discretion in support of his civil rights.

Also, please be aware that we are discussing this with others outside of GMS and WCS for further guidance.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]