Open Letter to the {INSERT SCHOOL BOARD NAME} School Board

RE: Music Education

Dear {INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL BOARD}School Board Members,

My child has been an active and avid participant in {INSERT SCHOOL NAME}’s band program for the past {NUMBER} years. During the Covid-19 pandemic, access to music and participation in the online learning programs provided by {HIS/HER/THEIR} music teacher provided my child with a lifeline to normalcy and a much needed escape from the realities of the pandemic. While the online format is far from ideal and presents extra challenges for band and music classes, I applaud our music teacher for {HIS/HER/THEIR} valiant efforts to keep my child engaged in artistic expression and exploration.

I understand that many school boards are worried about the feasibility of maintaining a music program in the new academic year. I know that school boards are trying to keep our students and teachers healthy and safe and are dealing with budgetary restraints but I would urge you to remember that part of my child’s health and well-being comes from participation in music classes.

{INSERT ANECDOTE REGARDING THE IMAPCT OF MUSIC EDUCATION ON YOUR CHILD HERE – HOW HAS YOUR CHILD GROWN/CHANGED/BEEN SUPPORTED BY MUSIC EDUCATION?}

Students who participate in music are dedicated. They understand the value of hard work. They work well with others. They are respectful. They are bright. They are well balanced. Many of my school’s most successful students are a part of the band program. Keeping music alive for students during this most difficult time is of paramount concern to ensure that at the end of this pandemic, they continue to find success in every challenge they undertake.

I have read and reviewed a number of articles regarding Covid-19 and participation in music activities. I, too, have worried that participation in some of these activities may increase my child’s risk of exposure, however, I also understand that there are extensive studies currently being done and I have decided to reserve judgement regarding my child’s participation in music education until these studies are complete, the most noteworthy of which is the University of Colorado study that promises preliminary results by July 10. I want to make my decision based on sound, scientific evidence and not anecdotal stories propagated by the media. I urge you to do the same.

I love my band kid. And you should, too.

Please give scientists a chance to provide peer reviewed information before making your decision to suspend music education during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sincerely

{INSERT NAME HERE}

Band Parent