Dear Governor Whitmer,

Please see the attached letter to the Howell Public Schools Board of Education. It is alarming to me and so many people in the District that this Board is opting to start school next week, instead of giving the staff and students more time to prepare for this school year. They clearly heard from their teachers that it is too soon to go back to school as the board only shared the plan on August 3, and almost every building in the District has major construction which has prevented some staff from being able to set up classrooms.

More importantly, the Board has decided to NOT require masks at the K-5 level, leaving it to the discretion of the classroom teacher. This is beyond negligent and puts teachers at a horrible disadvantage as they try to teach these youngest of students.

I appreciate that you are letting democracy work and are giving the Districts some leeway in planning their school year. However, when a School Board demonstrates poor planning and puts children and staff at risk - there needs to be intervention. We cannot assume that most people would err on the side of caution - Howell School Board is apparently incapable of managing their District in the best  interests of their students.

Thank you for reading this and my letter.

Sheila Linhart