

Superintendent Perry and Board Directors,

My name is Jenny Maguire and I have been a part of the Salem/Keizer School District since I was just 5-years-old. As an adult I've spent the past 19 years teaching at Weddle, Kennedy, Keizer and Scott. The majority of my career has been as a behavior specialist, working to support student behavior in our lowest income schools. In that role, much of my time has been spent going out to the community on home visits, reaching out to families that won't, or can't, come to us. I can drive down virtually any street in Keizer or NE Salem and point out a house, apartment, shelter or trailer I've visited and the name of the children that live there. I know this community from the inside out and have done everything in my power to meet families where they are at and work toward solutions for their child's best interest and success in school.

Superintendent Perry, in 2015 you sent me a "thank you" for my work on the Keizer Truancy Committee. I've had your email on my bulletin board ever since and I'll read it to you know.

"Hi Jenny, Thanks for being so incredibly articulate and passionate about student attendance and this important work in Keizer. Your passion is just what we need to solve this important issue. It's easy to plug away in our own worlds working hard to do the right work for the students. It's hard to find the bandwidth to tackle change on a larger scale. Thank you for finding it in you to tackle this change. I believe we will find solutions because someone like you who is smart, passionate and in the heart of the work is willing to advocate with us."

Superintendent Perry, I am saddened to say that people like me, that in your own words are "smart, passionate and willing to advocate," are leaving. We are walking away from our career in education, from a profession we are passionate about, and from students we love dearly because we are no longer valued here.

As Booker T. Washington said, "A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good just because it's accepted by the majority." I have come to learn that a growing majority of parents and teachers do NOT accept what is going on in our schools, though this board and district leadership would lead us to believe otherwise. The culture of fear in our schools is suppressing the ability for open and honest discussion among staff and the community. A district that prides itself on care, connection and INCLUSION has effectively silenced and shamed those of us who dare to question the policies, practices and mandates implemented by this district. Those of us who still believe in critical thinking are made to feel like outsiders, while being forced to participate in the destruction of this district and our personal freedoms. The outcome, quite simply, is that people are leaving. Parents are unenrolling their students and teachers are quietly resigning as they find jobs in other districts or professions.

If this district is intent on retaining its teachers - veteran teachers like myself who are passionate about improving the lives of their students, then it's time to start fighting to keep them! Push back on these mandates - push back on masking in schools and vaccination requirements for students and staff. Stop discriminating against unvaccinated staff. Stop making race and sexuality the #1 priority and topic of discussion at the expense of school safety and academics. Reinstate SROs and show respect for the profession instead of contempt. Stop devaluing and dehumanizing one race in the name of elevating the rest. Get rid of the QR reporting codes that pit teacher against teacher.



Morale is at an all time low. The way we have been treated with the vaccine mandate has made it very clear to us that we are expendable even if there is no one to replace us. This is a deficit model which ultimately hurts our students the most.

Frederick Douglass said, "It is better to build strong children than repair broken men." Superintendent Perry and Board Directors, I fear the path this district is on will lead to broken men and with that I can no longer participate.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Maguire

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Addendum:

While it has been hard coming to the realization that making change from within the district was not possible, I have not given up hope about doing so from the outside. I'm more passionate about fighting for our students now than ever before as so much more is at stake for the future of this generation. If you would like to have continued conversations about how to best serve our students, improve school safety, involve our community, or how to prevent an inevitable mass exodus of students and staff at the years' end, I would be very happy and willing to work with you. And, while based on my appearance you might feel I have little to offer that would help our diverse community, what I do have is two decades of experience working primarily with our Latino, Pacific Islander, Black, Russian, Native American, and mix-raced families. I understand the obstacles of poverty that challenge many of our students and families and how the educational gap has widened over the course of the pandemic. My heartfelt desire is for all students to overcome the setbacks of this Covid-era - mentally, emotionally, physically and academically - in order to reach their full potential and thrive as productive members of society. If I can be a resource for you in sharing the perspective of an educator and parent in this community, please don't hesitate to contact me.

8:08

4G LTE



# The conclusion to my public comment at tonight's board meeting



Inbox



**jenny maguire** 7:31 PM

to Avila\_Osvaldo, Marty, Carso...



Director Avila,

I gave this school district 19 years working with the most challenging students. You could have had the grace to give me 5 seconds to finish my closing sentence. Yet another sign of how those not aligned with your agenda are silenced.

Please read my statement in full.

Thank you,  
Jenny Maguire



**Pate, Natalie** 7:33 PM

Thanks, Jenny. Natalie Pate Reporter, Education PART OF THE USA TODAY

