

## Amy McLaughlin

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**From:** Jessica R. Whalley <JRW@wca.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:34 PM  
**To:** STGRSD Superintendent  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Regarding Fall Sports

My name is: Jessica Whalley  
My Address is: 48 Sheep Pasture Road Southwick, MA 0077

Hi Superintendent Willard and School Committee Members,

As I know you are aware of the upset students and families about sports not being approved, I had a couple questions. I wanted to see if you would be able to give me some feedback about the High School sports and if the Health Department was contacted for advice in the decision to not play sports. As a concerned parent I wanted to understand why this decision would be made in this direction to not play when all other schools in our region have decided to play. I obviously want all children and staff to be protected, however I also believe there is quite a lot of harm being made not allowing students their outlet of sports. Was the Board of Health contacted to be involved to make the decision that golf was ok to play? I am trying to understand the logic and how that is different than any other sport as they still need transportation to their courses and the courses being out of our district and they are also public courses that do not close to the public while their matches are being played.

I also wanted to ask if we could have in writing the response of the Health Department on this issue. I hope that this is not coming across as me being argumentative, I just really want to understand the facts and thought process about this. To continue with that thought my children play club soccer and we play all over the state every weekend and these are kids from all over other towns that play on their teams that they are in contact with (with masks) for practices multiple times a week and I am not fully understanding how that is safe and they can go to school but the high school playing surrounding towns is not safe. I also am not understanding the concern for safety when we have teachers and administration that come from different districts that teach our children whom have children of their own that go to the school in different districts. How is that any different in the safety you are trying to achieve?

I would also like to know if the acting physician for our school district Dr. Beata Puri from Pediatric Association of Hampden County was contacted to make this decision as well and if the answer is yes I would love to hear the direct feedback from the Doctor. I was told by other surrounding towns that the feedback from the Health Department and Acting District Physician was vital in making the decision for these districts to allow fall sports. I figured this was the correct direction to go as if anyone knows the in's and out's of COVID-19 and what should and should not happen it would be the Health Department and the acting Physician.

I appreciate your time in reading this and look forward to your response.

Thank you,  
Jess Whalley