

LONGWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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May 11, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo of New York State
NYS State Capital Building
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Honorable Andrew Cuomo,

As school board members, we are very concerned to hear you will be working with the Gates Foundation to reimagine our schools after the Covid-19 pandemic. As you may recall, the Gates Foundation's failed Common Core standards initiative coupled with the unreliable teacher evaluations improvidently linked to test scores caused an outrage and dissatisfaction across New York State. We do not want to face another unreliable educational initiative brought by non-educational experts.

All children require the social experiences of being in the classroom to learn, grow, and develop socially. Not every child can sit in front of a computer and not all children are academically minded – some are artists, musicians, builders, and athletes. Some children require intensive support and prompting throughout the entire school day. Some of our children live in homeless shelters or in abusive homes, and their only connection to assistance is inside our schools.

As creative and engaging as some teacher use of online platforms has been since our district's closure in March, no teacher thinks this is replacing what they do in the classroom. Technology should only be used to supplement live interactive in-person instruction, not as a replacement. Children form bonds with their classmates and teachers. This will not happen "online".

We urge you to consider our education professionals, parents, and most importantly, the children in our district. Since the closing of our schools in March, the deficiency of computer-based learning has become more discernible.

Rather than focusing on reimagining our schools in a harmful way, we implore you to provide equitable funding to ensure our children receive the critical in-person services our children need more than ever.

Respectfully,

Longwood Central School District Board of Education

Handwritten signature of Frank Muraca in black ink.

Frank Muraca, President

Handwritten signature of Paul Infranco in black ink.

Paul Infranco, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Daniel Tomaszewski in black ink.

Daniel Tomaszewski, Board Member



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Cc: New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, New York State Board of Regents
New York State Education Department Chancellor