

MASK: 'No COVID ... will ever take my life'

FROM PAGE A1

Although some speakers applauded the Board for the new mask policy, including Board Certified Pediatrician Gibson Gray, the overwhelming majority of the 61 speakers that voiced their opinions were adamantly against the new policy.

One Fayette County woman stated that masking her child impedes her religious responsibilities.

"God did not tell me to vaccinate my child," Rebecca Norton stated. "He did not tell me to put a mask over him. There is no COVID that will ever take my life."

Another resident claimed that if COVID-19 was truly airborne, you should be able to smell it.

"I made a good point the other day." Eric Williams said. "If somebody was to light a fire in a corner, you would probably smell smoke. It is airborne. COVID is [also] airborne, so you'd probably smell it, so why wear a mask? It makes no sense at all."

Despite the overwhelming outpour against the mask mandate, some were in support of the policy. Health care worker and Reverend Jason Boutwell touched on the importance of wearing face coverings, although he says there are more options than just cloth masks.

"There is an alternative [to masks]," Boutwell said. "Plastic shields. I wear them at work. They don't fog up your glasses. You can see, people can



A long line of concerned citizens was seen outside the Fayette County Board of Education offices waiting to be let into the building prior to the Board's meeting on August 23rd.

hear you. They are an acceptable alternative." Boutwell continued. "No alternative, going just willy-nilly and doing whatever you want, is not acceptable."

The mask mandate comes as an adjustment to last month's July School Board meeting where School Superintendent Dr. Joseph Patterson stated that masks would be optional for the Fayette school system and that decisions would be made as the Board would "look at the data on a daily basis and make decisions based on the data."

The first day of school began for Fayette County on Monday, Aug. 2. Patterson's office sent an email to parents before the Jul. 26 Board meeting welcoming parents and students into the school system while encouraging vac-

nation of those eligible.

"While we are taking steps to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our schools, I want to encourage you to help us in this effort by getting all eligible members in your family vaccinated. Children ages 12 and up are now eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine," Patterson's Jul. 26 email stated in part.

Long lines were present outside the meeting room as an announced reduced capacity allowed just 50 persons in the room at one time. Although efforts were made to accommodate as many persons as possible, the sign-ups for public comment were closed when Board Chairman Scott Hollowell officially began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

After the public comment portion of the

meeting concluded around 10:00 p.m., Patterson acknowledged parents' concerns while stressing the impact and importance of examining Fayette County schools with scrutiny.

"We are attempting to minimize the risk of infection. We are trying to do whatever we can [. . .] to stay open," Patterson stated. "We definitely would prefer not to be in masks, I don't think anyone wants to be in masks, but clearly there are some things going in on our community right now with COVID that we are seeing larger numbers of students that are being impacted. So that's the reason why when we see the overall one percent of the system, we went and made that decision. Clearly, we have a responsibility to minimize the spread when we can."

Lambda State, Kappa Kappa Iota welcome Lunsford as president

SPECIAL TO FAYETTE COUNTY NEWS

Carol A. Lunsford of Fayetteville attended the 2021 Centennial Convention of National Kappa Kappa Iota, Inc., a professional organization for educators held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the Hard Rock Casino and Resort.

On the last night of the convention, National President Brenda Morrison of Lawndale, North Carolina installed Lunsford as the president for the state of Georgia's chapter of Kappa Kappa Iota (Lambda State).

As president of Lambda State, Lunsford represents the state at National Executive Committee/State Presidents meetings. Lunsford also serves as president of Mu Chapter, located in Fayette County, Georgia. Lambda State and Mu Chapter are 501c3 non-profit charitable organizations.

Kappa Kappa Iota, Inc., is one of the oldest professional organizations for educators in the nation. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the advancement of education by providing an effective

network for the exchange of education and teaching practices by educators.

Members throughout the nation contributed over \$1,300,000 to local and national charities, which support battered adults and children. Mu Chapter contributed over \$4,000.

Lambda State donated funds to Atkinson Elementary School in Coweta County Georgia after it was damaged during the March 26, 2021, tornado. Lambda State and Mu Chapter donated Squeeze the Hope R Teddy Bears to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for cancer patients at Hughes Spalding Hospital. Squeeze the Hope R Teddy Bears are hand made interactive therapeutic bears created by Mu Chapter member C. Joyce Farrar-Rosemon.

Mu Chapter provides the annual Teacher of the Year Plaque to the Fayette County Board of Education Teacher of the Year Recipient. Locally Mu Chapter supports Fayette Samartans, Bloom and Promise Place.



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SPECIAL ORDERS ACCEPTED



AJGA Junior Classic
Fayetteville, Ga. • September 10-12

Since its inception in 2009, the AJGA Junior Classic presented by UHY has brought together some of the top junior golfers in the world to compete annually in the

Greater Atlanta Metro Area. Hosted by Whitewater Creek Country Club, this 54-hole stroke play event has garnered a number of accolades and continues to be a premier tournament on the AJGA's national schedule.



September 10-12
Whitewater Creek Country Club



ACE GRANT

Local junior golf organizations are supported from this event including the AJGA ACE Grant program, whose goal is to provide national golf opportunities to junior golfers regardless of financial resources.



The Fayette Fire Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance and emergency medical services within the Fayette County Department of Fire and Emergency services by seeking donations, grants and other funding opportunities and distributing those funds in a manner that will benefit the department and its employees who provide these critical services to the citizens of Fayette County.

Sponsor Opportunities
legacy.ajga.org/specialevents/register.asp?eventid=1237

PLATINUM SPONSORS: \$5,000

- On-site banners, sponsor sheet, sponsor board and tournament website page.
- 9 Junior-Am entries (Three teams includes reception tickets, Junior-Am tee gifts)

GOLD SPONSORS: \$3,500

- On-site banners, sponsor sheet, sponsor board and tournament website page.
- 6 Junior-Am entries (Two teams includes reception tickets, Junior-Am tee gifts)

SILVER SPONSORS: \$2,500

- On-site banners, sponsor sheet and sponsor board
- 3 Junior-Am entries (One team includes reception tickets, Junior-Am tee gifts)

TOURNAMENT HOLE PARTNER: \$1,000

- Official Hole Partner of a designated hole during the Junior-Am
- Recognition on Tournament Patron sponsor board
- Ability to distribute product or setup a promotional display during the Junior-Am

JUNIOR-AM TEAM: \$1,200

- Individual Junior-Am \$400 (\$325 ClubCorp member)
- 3 Junior-Am entries (One team includes reception tickets, Junior-Am tee gifts)

HOLE SPONSORS: \$250
Sponsor sign on a tournament hole

For more information contact: Katie Nord: (414) 350-2219 / knord@ajga.org

FAYETTE WEATHER



Wednesday
AM showers; winds W at 12 mph
High: 81
Low: 65

Thursday
Sunny; winds NNW at 8 mph
High: 84
Low: 64

Friday
Sunny; winds ENE at 7 mph
High: 85
Low: 61

Saturday
Sunny; winds E at 6 mph
High: 87
Low: 61

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