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# Board Report

Chief Operating Officer

## Elizabeth Martinez

Chief Operating Officer

As outlined in the CEO Report, ***we are seeing some semblance of normalcy this school year: more on-campus activities, field trips, higher attendance rates, in-person meetings, Friday professional development sessions in person. Our campus feels vibrant and alive.*** As we head into the second half of the first semester, my focus is on continuity and momentum. ***You will see in the sections below that we are making some positive strides and changes so it is more important than ever to not lose focus and continue to push forward.*** This is particularly important for me as I get ready to transition into my maternity leave at the end of the first semester.

***I am utilizing the next 10 weeks to disseminate my maternity plan, train multiple team members to create redundancies, and document key processes/procedures.*** Overall, my plan includes 4 sections: Compliance & Governance, Operations, Student Services & Legal Consultations, and Team Management & Supervision. At this time, the plan is to designate specific functions to members of my team and the Executive Team. ***I have high confidence in our teams' ability to maintain critical functions in my absence.*** In the meantime, there is still a lot of work to be done and I hope that the information provided in this report provides you a bit more color on the current status of the campus.

## COVID Safety Updates

***We can see full faces again! I am happy to report that as of September 24th, we removed our outdoor mask requirement.*** As you all know, we continued to require masking at all times despite the changes across state and federal mandates. ***After looking at the case data for the first 4 weeks of school, we sent out a survey to staff and faculty to get a sense of how they were feeling as it relates to COVID and our guidelines.***

Overall, 56% of our employees responded to the survey but the respondents were a good representation of our staff with a 50/50 split of faculty vs. non-faculty. ***Approximately 80% of respondents were in favor of removing the outdoor masking requirements. As a result of the survey data and our continued emphasis on safety, we will continue requiring masking indoors and masking outdoors is encouraged but optional.*** Single-use masks (surgical and KN-95) will continue to be available at the front offices for those who need or want them. Additionally, we updated our MWA Visitor Requirements. ***We no longer require visitors to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination card or proof of a negative test 24 hours prior to visiting campus.***

We believe these changes are welcomed and so far, we have not seen a spike in case data. ***Most weeks we are at zero or 1 case on campus for both students and staff.*** While we are relying on self-reporting, ***we have not seen an outbreak that has disrupted the learning environment as we saw last year.***

We continue to make our case data available on our website:

<https://www.makingwavesacademy.org/about-us/covid-19-making-waves-academy-student-family-updates>.

## Attendance & Enrollment

Overall, we have seen a dramatic improvement in our attendance and a reduction in our chronic absenteeism rates which is great. **For the month of September we did not fall under 90% Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for the whole school or in any grade level.** Last year, we were seeing ADA hover around 85% and our chronic absenteeism was at 36.6% at the end of September.

My **hypothesis is that these results are in large part due to our shifts regarding COVID management** specifically, we are only quarantining students who test positive for COVID. **However, we are paying attention to attendance differently and intentionally this year.** For example, this year **we tightened up on tracking and addressing no-show students** (students who do not attend the first day of school or 5 days after, students who enroll in other schools without notifying MWA). Those families received notices and they were disenrolled as per the letter they received. **There is also an increase in collaboration between school leaders, social workers and the registrar to support students who are not able to attend school for physical or mental health reasons as well as properly documenting those supports through 504 plans.**

We still have a lot of work to do on this front and still searching for an Attendance Officer who can focus solely on attendance education, prevention and intervention. In the meantime, the Registrar is pulling together key staff to put an interim plan in place to conduct some basic intervention for chronically truant/absent students.

### Attendance Data as of October 5, 2022



