

Kitsap Sun

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South Kitsap decision puts student and teachers at risk

Greg Wall, Port Orchard

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The South Kitsap School Board's decision to reopen in-person school is disgraceful. The primary duty of the school district is to provide for the safety of students and staff.

This decision disregards our governor's recommendation and the recommendation of our Health District. Mrs. Diehl is correct that there is a substantial liability exposure presented by this decision. Employees are usually not permitted to sue their employers, but there is an exception for intentional injury. This has been interpreted to include intentionally placing employees in a position where they are likely to be hurt. We know teachers are going to become ill and some may die. We know children will become ill and their families will be infected, and some may die. These are virtual certainties. I think the five unions at the district should consider going to court to get an injunction to protect their members. Contrary to Mr. Daily's comment, teachers and other staff do not have the option to not appear at work.

I expect this sort of behavior from Mr. Daily, but I am extremely disappointed in board members John Berg and Eric Gattenby.

The board should reconsider this and follow the lead of every other school district in the region. Follow the Superintendent's recommendation and use some common sense. Over a thousand Americans a day are dying of this disease. This has to be taken seriously.

Greg Wall, Port Orchard