

Concerned Parents  
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March 2, 2022

Board of Trustees, SA-NYC  
c/o Success Academy Charter Schools  
95 Pine Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10005

Dear Board of Trustees, SA-NYC:

We, over 650 parents and guardians of Success Academy (“SA”) scholars<sup>1</sup> who have signed the enclosed petition, submit this letter calling on individuals who are SA officials to:

1. let families make their own decisions about covid 19 vaccine without pressure, interference, punishment, incentive, discrimination or influence of any kind by individuals who are SA officials or SA subordinates; and
2. withdraw any covid 19 vaccine mandates as they are withdrawn by the state and not to implement any new medical mandates that are not necessitated by state requirements.

SA officials lack the competence to make a medical judgment for any individual student and thus should not create any of their own medical mandates and should cease all communications that directly promote any medical procedure, such as covid 19 vaccination.

Medical procedures required by law need no promotion, and those not required by law must remain the purview of the child’s parents or guardians in consultation with a medical professional. Troublingly, SA officials decided to promote Pfizer’s covid 19 vaccine, when the truth is that they do not know if the Pfizer product is in the best interest of any particular child.

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<sup>1</sup> From SA BedSty2, SA Ft. Greene, SA Harlem 1 through 4, SA Hell’s Kitchen, SA Hudson Yards, SA Union Square, SA Upper West, SA Washington Heights, SA Williamsburg and counting.

In their promotion of covid 19 vaccine, SA officials have made various claims that are unproven and that may well prove false with the test of time. Three examples:

- SA officials have claimed that covid 19 vaccine has “enormous” benefits to the individual child. However, as reported this week in the New York Times, the most recent studies are showing shockingly low efficacy for children aged 5-11 years-old.
- SA officials have also claimed “enormous” benefit to the community from covid 19 vaccine. However, whether Pfizer’s product reduces infection and transmission is at least hotly debated and, based on the recent experience with omicron and on public statements by the heads of the CDC, NIAID and Pfizer itself, it is more likely that the question already has been answered in the negative.
- Finally, SA officials stated that Pfizer’s product will prevent the emergence of new variants. Yet, it is possible too that new variants emerge because they evolve to overcome a leaky, non-sterilizing vaccine like Pfizer’s.

SA officials have also disregarded natural immunity or alternative treatments, including many utilized by families from non-Western traditions.

The point here is not that the medical statements by SA officials and their subordinates are true or false. **The point is that it is not within their competency to make them.** Accordingly, individuals who are SA officials should not institute any medical mandates that are not required by the state, and regardless of whether the state requires a medical procedure, individuals who are SA officials or SA subordinates should not promote it.

SA officials also must acknowledge the probability that their covid 19 vaccine mandates and promotions are substantially outweighed by the emotional harm they cause to scholars, which SA officials, as educators, have some competency to assess. In particular, SA asks parents to take an active role in scholars’ education and to work together with the school. This benefits the children and the educational environment. SA also promotes social-emotional learning, where the whole child is considered, and specialists and school psychologists are utilized. Most parents, if not all of them, agree this is a benefit to the children, not only academically, but also physically, mentally and emotionally. However, *there is a profound disconnect between, on the one hand, SA encouraging parents’ active participation and the emotional well-being of scholars and on the other, positioning itself at the*

*vanguard of policies that emotionally harm scholars and discriminate among them on the basis of covid 19 vaccine status.*

With the most engaged parents in New York City, SA officials cannot be surprised when those parents insist on the first and final say on what benefits their children's physical and emotional well-being. Instead of honoring a parent's natural role, SA officials and subordinates use coercion and interference with a parent's natural right to make decisions about their children's health. For example:

- Stickers placed on children's bodies with a red triangle and exclamation mark as a "reminder" to vaccinate.
- "Better Together" post cards distributed after requesting unvaccinated scholars to identify themselves in front of their peers.
- Rewarding vaccinated scholars with T-shirts, dress down days and other prizes.
- Green zip-tie affixed to children's backpacks to indicate vaccine status.
- Advising scholars that they will not be allowed in the school if they do not receive covid 19 vaccine.

These and all similar practices should stop now.

The psychological and emotional harm done to scholars at the hands of individuals who are SA officials and subordinates is already severe and of indefinite duration. Dividing, separating, and segregating our children on the basis of their vaccine status confuses them and provides new opportunities for bullying, shaming, discrimination or being cast aside by both peers and educators. None of this is justified under any circumstance, whether or not the medical procedure is covid 19 vaccine or something else, or whether or not the medical procedure is required by the state.

This letter is not a formal complaint pursuant to Section 2855(4) of the NYS Charter Schools Act. However, because this Board is the body to which such a complaint would be brought, it should be more fully aware of the substantial opposition to individuals who are SA officials mandating or promoting medical procedures.