

PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING CONCLUSION OF COVID-19 LITIGATION

Lake Central School Corporation places the safety and well-being of all of its students above all else and is committed to providing all of its students with the best and most appropriate environment to pursue their education. Without question, achieving those goals became a challenge for all schools, including Lake Central, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the fall of 2021 several of our parents filed a lawsuit against the School Corporation, individual members of the Board of School Trustees, and the Superintendent challenging COVID-19 safety protocols approved by the Board and implemented in August 2021. The protocols were consistent with the Indiana Department of Health's COVID-19 Control Measures and included masking, contact tracing and quarantining students to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among the school community. Lake Central denied the allegations raised in the complaint, apprised the plaintiffs that their assertions were not well founded in law, and advised that if they did not dismiss the action, Lake Central would seek the Court's award of the School Corporation's legal fees and costs. Unfortunately, the plaintiffs remained unpersuaded and the case continued for another year.

We were pleased to receive a favorable decision from the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Indiana in early August 2023 dismissing the plaintiffs' claims in their entirety, confirming that the School Corporation's policies and protocols were consistent with applicable law. The Court further awarded the School Corporation's petition for costs and attorney's fees, stating, "...the complaint lacked both a factual and a legal basis." The School Corporation hopes that everyone can move forward and work together to provide the best education we can for our students.