Mixed message

Last week, the Pottstown School Board voted unanimously to keep our schools closed for the first semester. We will offer virtual education until then. We will also likely be canceling fall athletics.

Nobody in the school community is happy about this decision. No one thinks that virtual learning is an adequate substitute for in-person classes, especially for the low-income students who make up the majority of our enrollment.

The state has issued strict guidelines for in-person instruction: Everyone has to wear masks and stay 6 feet apart. But can teachers enforce these provisions? It's a huge concern.

Forty percent of Pottstown parents surveyed want virtual education. The rest were split between favoring part-time in-class schooling and full-time in-class schooling.

The Federation of Pottstown Teachers sent the school board a letter saying they adamantly request virtual learning because they believe in-school options are not safe for teachers and students.

You can't run schools if teachers are afraid to come in and parents keep their kids home.

Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control, recently said America could get the coronavirus “under control” within four to six weeks if everyone wore a face mask.

But millions are unemployed, and schools can’t open, because many people just won’t wear face masks.

Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone and not the board’s.