



Des Moines City Council Candidate Brandi Webber Statement on COVID-19 in DSM Schools

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“Last week, I sent my daughter to her first day of Kindergarten here in Des Moines. It was a moment in which I should have been swelling with pride, but instead I was (and remain) filled with uncertainty and fear. In that time, there have already been eighty-five known positive cases of COVID-19 and parents aren’t being told in which schools and classes these cases are occurring. As a parent, I am enraged that our school system could fail our children like this -- as a candidate for City Council, I am un-surprised at this lack of leadership and action.

Our school board looks to city government for guidance and while our current city council is fine with opening up special sessions to approve liquor licenses, restaurant permits and taco trucks, they have refused to open a special session to address COVID-19 response and how we can best protect our children at the local level.

In order to beat this pandemic, we need real leadership in local government. At this moment, we have a city council who’s idea of pandemic response is to shrug their shoulders and pass the buck to state government. Across the country, we have seen local municipalities bravely defying disastrous Republican-led COVID-19 responses and it’s time Des Moines followed in that path.

When I’m elected to city council, COVID-19 response won’t just be part of a special session, it will be a part of every session and every council meeting, until we put an effective municipal strategy in place to protect our friends, neighbors and kids.”

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