

**From:** [Ellis-Marseglia, Diane M.](#)  
**To:** [DiGirolamo, Gene D.](#); [Harvie, Robert J.](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Low hit  
**Date:** Saturday, August 8, 2020 10:57:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-l1uax21p.png](#)  
[Outlook-abm2xi4q.png](#)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Diane M Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW

Bucks County Commissioner

*We are all entitled to our opinions  
and religious beliefs, but we are not entitled  
to make up stuff and then use the stuff  
we make up to oppress other people:  
-Cheryl Strayed*

**"MASK UP, BUCKS!"**



**Stop the Spread  
& Save Lives!**

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**From:** Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD] <[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 8, 2020 5:46 PM  
**To:** Ellis-Marseglia, Diane M. <[dmellismarseglia@buckscounty.org](mailto:dmellismarseglia@buckscounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Low hit

Diane,

First let me say that I find the comment you shared abhorrent, and I am saddened that you had to go through the personal trauma of someone posting this on your social media. Please know that this person, from what I can discern is not a PSEA member. Comments like these do not adhere to our values as an organization, nor are they an example of how we advocate for the positions and policy we seek.

You know clearly where we stand on the issue of social distancing, and, I believe that you, as a Bucks County Commissioner, do have the ability to impact the County Department of Health's guidance to

school entities.

I would be more than happy to speak with you further about the safety issues we seek for public education whenever you wish to. And, again, I am sorry that you had to go through this experience.

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2020, at 7:08 PM, Ellis-Marseglia, Diane M. <[dmellismarseglia@buckscounty.org](mailto:dmellismarseglia@buckscounty.org)> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Bill

Someone posted this on my facebook tonight. I have NOTHING to do with the schools going back and yet this is what I have to deal with because PSEA is blaming commissioners and Damsker

Not fair

Diane M Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW  
Bucks County Commissioner

*We are all entitled to our opinions  
and religious beliefs, but we are not entitled  
to make up stuff and then use the stuff  
we make up to oppress other people:  
-Cheryl Strayed*

<<Outlook-l1uax21p.png>>

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**From:** [Senavaitis, Bill \[PA-BOD\]](#)  
**To:** [Harvie, Robert J.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Dept of Health  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 12:11:00 PM

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Our office is closed to professional staff and members, so I apologize if the message was left there.

I thought you had my cell phone, which is [REDACTED].

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 31, 2020, at 8:28 AM, Harvie, Robert J. <[rjharvie@buckscounty.org](mailto:rjharvie@buckscounty.org)> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I left a message on your voice mail two days ago.

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**From:** Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD] <[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2020 12:58 AM  
**To:** Harvie, Robert J. <[rjharvie@buckscounty.org](mailto:rjharvie@buckscounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Dept of Health

I know you are busy but your lack of reply in this instance is noteworthy, as is the response I received today when I called Dave's office.

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2020, at 9:19 AM, Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD] <[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)> wrote:

Thank you. I appreciate your reply.

As you know, we all continue to struggle with the aftermath of Dave's arbitrary lowering of the threshold of safety for students and staff in school buildings.

In the Central Bucks Community, it was especially painful to see his wife describe Covid as a hoax on Facebook and then point to a new set of (her husband's) guidelines that are not aligned with those anywhere else in the state.

I'm really disappointed that Dave's recommendations seem to be reflective of the politics of his family and not his duty to keep citizens safe during a pandemic.

He's quickly become the Betsy DeVos of our local government. It's a smile, a nod, and a complete lack of support or advocacy.

The glib nature of his personal FB comments ("my gym just turned green and I haven't done cardio in months. If I'm short of breath, is that a Covid-related illness?") also throw gasoline on an inferno that needs no help staying lit.

Our members are looking for empathy and they are constantly met with dead ends of "this isn't my call" or "well, you know things are nuts right now."

Yes, we are keenly aware that things are nuts, as some of us are being forced to the largest gatherings of people in the county since March 13.

We can't pretend that Dave has no role in the decision-making process for schools. I know that he personally called every member of the Central Bucks school board to urge them to reopen full time. He's making it convenient for other elected officials to guise reckless decisions under the umbrella of science.

If he reports to the commissioners, then the commissioners have a responsibility to the environment that he has created for our students and staff.

Thanks for your time. I know your role is unique but I'm hopeful that you will use it to help protect our communities.

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2020, at 8:37 AM, Harvie, Robert J.  
<[rjharvie@buckscounty.org](mailto:rjharvie@buckscounty.org)> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

The Director of the Health Department falls under the COO and the Commissioners.

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**From:** Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD] <[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:22 PM  
**To:** Harvie, Robert J. <[rjharvie@buckscounty.org](mailto:rjharvie@buckscounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Dept of Health

Hi, Bob

No - I'm talking about the position currently held by Dave Damsker.

Thanks

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 28, 2020, at 6:28 PM, Harvie, Robert J.  
<[rjharvie@buckscounty.org](mailto:rjharvie@buckscounty.org)> wrote:

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hi Bill, hope you and your family are well.

I'm not sure what position you are referring to when you say "medical director". Is this in reference to Neshaminy Manor Nursing Home?

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Jul 28, 2020 12:20 AM, "Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD]"  
<[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)> wrote:

Hi, Bob

I hope you and your family are doing well.

In Bucks County, if the medical director were to be relieved of his or her duties, what would be the authorizing group Of that decision? What entity is responsible for naming an individual to that job title?

Thanks

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

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**To:** [Senavaitis, Bill \[PA-BOD\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow Up  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 8:42:01 AM

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Thank you for sharing this Bill. As someone who was in two different teachers unions for 26 years (NJEA and PSEA) and has participated in contract negotiations I completely understand your position as an advocate for teachers. I hope you understand the position I am in as an elected official who has worked closely with Dr. Damsker through this pandemic, and as someone who has an intimate knowledge of the workings of a school and classroom.

Dr. Damsker has had regular communications (sometimes as much as twice a week) with the superintendents and IU. This regular interaction was taking place as early as February and has continued. The absence of guidance from PDE left the superintendents in an extremely difficult position as they had to start planning for whatever the beginning of the new school year was going to look like. Would it be in person? Would it be virtual? Would it be a mixture of the two?

The guidance provided by Dr. Damsker was based on the incredible amount of data we have gathered through the most extensive contact tracing program in the state, which he is responsible for implementing and overseeing. Its also based on guidance from the WHO and CDC. It was also clear to the superintendents that his guidance is meant as a minimum standard which they are free to exceed. All of this has been clearly stated.

I have to tell you that I am disturbed by your choice to bring Dr. Damsker's personal life and family into this issue. Quite frankly it is embarrassing and ill-informed. Dr. Damsker and his family, including his children, have been taking a lot of criticism on social media by random people and even neighborsIt is disgusting and pathetic, and you should know better than to take part in it.

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**From:** Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD] <[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:18 PM  
**To:** Harvie, Robert J. <[rjharvie@buckscounty.org](mailto:rjharvie@buckscounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Follow Up

Hi, Bob

Thanks for being part of Brian's town hall tonight. I wanted to make you aware of this follow up I sent him.

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Senavaitis, Bill [PA-BOD]" <[BSenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:BSenavaitis@psea.org)>  
**Date:** July 7, 2020 at 9:04:55 PM EDT  
**To:** "[brian@brianfitzpatrick.com](mailto:brian@brianfitzpatrick.com)" <[brian@brianfitzpatrick.com](mailto:brian@brianfitzpatrick.com)>  
**Subject: Follow Up**

Hi, Brian

I was on tonight's Town Hall call - thanks for continuing to offer that opportunity for constituents to connect with your office.

In reviewing information from Dr. Damsker's office and listening to him speak tonight, I continue to have concerns about his decisions potentially having a negative impact on the health of our educators.

For the past four months, local businesses, the governor's office, and the CDC have been asking the public to social distance by a measurement of six feet or more.

Dr. Damsker's recommendations for reopening schools states that three feet is the appropriate social distance between individuals. Additionally, Dr. Damsker's wife has been exceptionally vocal in our local "Reopen Our Schools" Facebook groups. So, it irked many of our members when she recently posted her husband's social distancing guidance, which is less than half of what we've been practicing for months, as a Bible for reopening our schools. It doesn't pass the smell test, nor do his personal Facebook posts joking about being short of breath at his newly re-opened gym as a Covid-related illness.

Dr. Damsker continues to hold meetings remotely while advocating that schools reopen for in-person learning. He also recommends two students per seat on a school bus, which amounts to more persons per bus than what SEPTA is currently enforcing in the city of Philadelphia.

There's a disconnect with the recommendations, and, unfortunately, a portion of our administrators and school board members are pointing at them as justification for less precautions in our buildings in the fall.

All of this adds up to an incredible amount of anxiety for our members about their own safety for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidelines are inconsistent, dangerous, and seem to be aligned with politics instead of science.

I also take issue with Dr. Damsker stating on the call tonight that children have committed suicide due to being socially isolated during the pandemic. I am not aware of that being a fact.

Our schools are at the intersection of the health crisis and the economic crisis -

and our educators and support staff are at the intersection of the intersection. I understand that our young students may not be impacted by the virus in the same way as adults. However, some of our very best educators and/or members of their households are in the high-risk categories for Covid. I will do everything I can on my end to advocate for their safety - I wanted it to be on your radar, too, so that you can ask questions where you think it's appropriate.

Thanks for listening and all you do for our communities.

Bill

**Bill Senavaitis, President**

Mideastern Region PSEA  
601 Bethlehem Pike, Building C  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936  
[bsenavaitis@psea.org](mailto:bsenavaitis@psea.org)  
office: 215.853.2100

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**From:** [Harvie, Robert J.](#)  
**To:** [Senavaitis, Bill \[PA-BOD\]](#)  
**Subject:** School Guidance  
**Date:** Monday, August 3, 2020 10:23:00 AM

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Good morning Bill,

Thanks for the conversation over the weekend. We are committed to working with the schools and helping them open in the safest way possible for the students and staff. I did ask Dr. Damsker to forward me any information he felt best supported his position. Below are links to two articles which he sent to me. If further supporting articles arise I will forward them as well.

Bob

<https://www.theintell.com/news/20200728/3-feet-vs-6-feet-back-to-school-guidelines-allow-for-flexibility>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext)