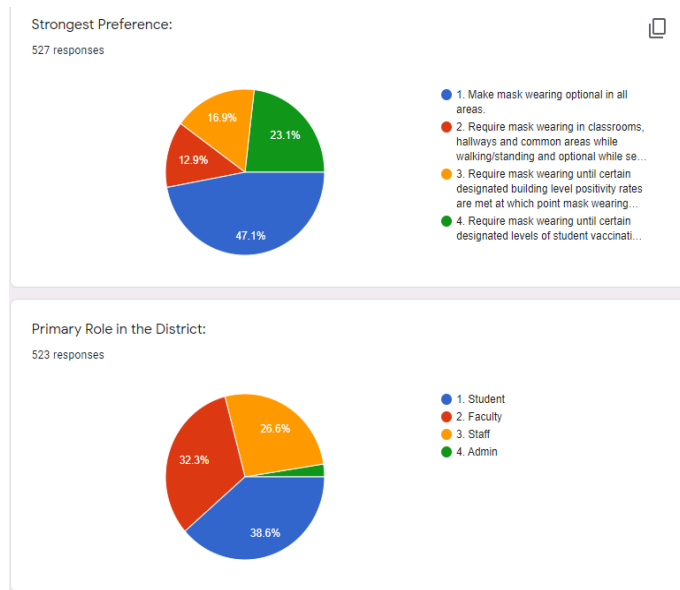


**Updates from the District Office**  
**February 2, 2022**

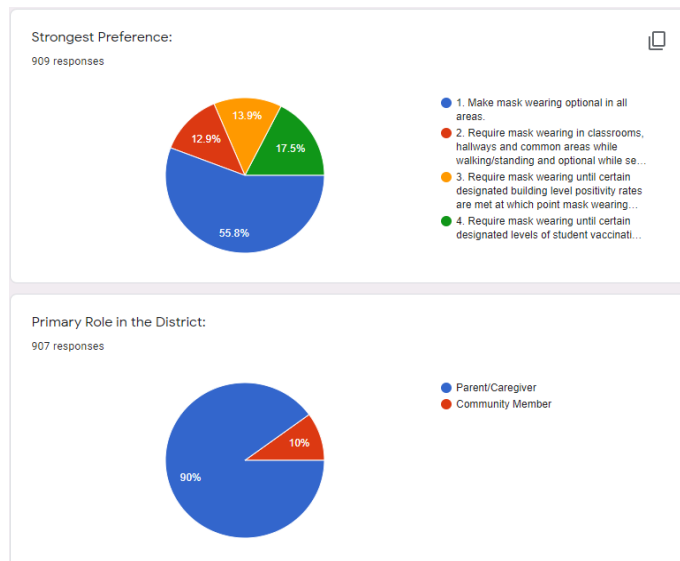
Good afternoon to you all. A few points of information for your attention this week:

1. **Mask Requirement:** As some of you may be aware, on Monday afternoon the appellate court ruled that the current mask requirement for schools will remain in place until on or about March 2, 2022. While there are a number of related moving parts around this including the expiration of the emergency regulations, the mandate itself, and the argument that has been put forward by the Department of Health that the mask requirement is their guidance on K-12 schools and is separate and apart from the mask mandate for the general public, our only take away at this time is that masking will be required in schools at least through the February break. As the mask requirement is a NYS action (not one set by the Board of Education), Superintendents from the region have written to the Governor, the Department of Health, and our state representatives asking for clarity as to when and under what conditions the current restrictions including the mask mandate might be lifted.
2. **Mask Policy Survey:** We have received over 1,400 responses to [our survey](#) that was sent to students, staff, faculty, administration, parents/caregivers, and community members who are signed up to receive notices from the District via our School Messenger notification system. The survey is intended to provide us a sense of the policy direction that the District should consider if the mask requirement were to be lifted and local districts were given the authority to determine next steps. With the requirement still in place based on the appeals court ruling on Monday, we will continue to gather this information, but there is nothing to act on at this time. So you are aware, here is the breakdown for both surveys thus far based on the following four choices:
  1. *Make mask wearing optional in all areas.*
  2. *Require mask wearing in classrooms, hallways and common areas while walking/standing and optional while seated in common areas and classrooms.*
  3. *Require mask wearing until certain designated building level positivity rates are met at which point mask wearing becomes optional.*
  4. *Require mask wearing until certain designated levels of student vaccination rates are met at which point mask wearing becomes optional.*

**a. Student, Faculty, Staff, and Administration Results to date:**



**b. Parent and Community Member Results to date:**



5. **Positive Case Numbers:** I am happy (thrilled, actually!) to report that our positive case numbers continue to drop rather significantly with 22 cases in total from Monday (compared to 63 last Monday) 6 in total yesterday, and 9 so far today. As a reminder, if your child tests positive, please review the information on our [Coping with COVID](#) page on our website as to how you are to report this information to us and to Saratoga County. Please also see our [Scotties Scoop](#) page for answers to common questions on COVID and more.
6. **Snow Day Reminder:** The current forecast is increasingly consistent for a stormy Thursday night into Friday. Should the forecast remain as it currently is (or if it worsens), we will make the snow day announcement as soon as possible so as to allow parents to

make child care arrangements as we know how challenging this can be. As a reminder, should we call a snow day *it will be a traditional snow day* – no remote learning.

7. **February Break:** As our students and many of our faculty and staff head off for break during the week of February 21, we encourage parents to request COVID testing kits from your child's school so that you have the ability to test them should they develop any [symptoms](#) prior to their return on February 28.

Our continued thanks to you all for working together to keep our focus on in-person learning (both formal and informal and in the classroom as well as on the stage, court, pool, track, etc.) and all of the benefits that come with this for our students.

Please let us know if you have questions on any of this information by using our [schoolopening@bscsd.org](mailto:schoolopening@bscsd.org) mailbox.

Ken Slentz  
Superintendent of Schools

[www.bscsd.org](http://www.bscsd.org)