

(Covering.)

Don, is she coming?

DON

I haven't heard back from her
she didn't say she wasn't

SUZANNE

well then

why don't you just go ahead and and and

and we'll just catch her up when she gets here

DON
okay

DON

great
uh

here

why don't I just read it to you?

He reads from a piece of paper.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that a child has been confirmed to have
Mumps who attended the Eureka Day School on September 26th.

Therefore, if your child has no documentation of immunity to
Mumps he or she will be excluded from school until it is
determined by the County Health Officer that there is no
longer a risk of exposure.

A recommended vaccination schedule is attached. Although
complications from Mumps are rare, they can lead to sterility in
males, deafness, brain damage and death. If you have delayed or
refused vaccinations for your child, we strongly urge you to
consider this event as a reminder of their importance and urgency.

Yours,

Charles A Kilburn, MD

City of Berkeley Public Health Division

A beat.

ELI

well

that's a little intense

SUZANNE

can I see it?

Don hands her the letter. She starts reading it.

DON

I spoke to him on the phone
he's actually very nice
very helpful

I'm heading out to meet with him in just a [few minutes]
that's why I asked you all to
and *thank you* for coming so quickly

ELI

do we know who it is?

DON

I don't know
and even if I did I couldn't
legally I couldn't tell you

ELI

sure yeah no
but how many kids are we talking about here
who are uh
unvaccinated?

DON

I haven't had a chance to pull exact figures
but I think we can say
we can safely say
it's quite a few

CARINA

really?

SUZANNE

(Looking up from the letter.)

can I

I'm sorry

can I just

Voice a Concern with this letter?

Eli reaches out for the letter, and Suzanne passes it to him.

DON

um

of course

SUZANNE

it's just

the way it's being framed?

if we're going to send this out

I'd feel much more comfortable if we're able to convey

that we're Passing On this message

but that this message is not the school's message

DON

it's not a *choice* Suzanne

it's going out

tonight

SUZANNE

right

and

of course we will do whatever we are obligated to do legally
but

I just think we need to be very thoughtful about how we

because this is a very

for many people I think

a very private

a very personal issue

ELI

totally totally

like we did the Delayed Schedule

you know we spaced them out

and we have some friends who were like

that's still WAY too many vaccines

and other people who were like *you should NOT have waited so long*

which basically meant we got the side-eye from everyone

SUZANNE

exactly

and we don't want anyone to feel pressured

or shamed

ELI

buuuuut

I think it's probably fine

like I think people will get it

I mean it's clearly signed by Doctor Health Department Guy

it's not like *Don* is writing this letter

Eli hands the letter to Carina.

SUZANNE

look

if we decide

if our stance is

you know

the school is going to be a resource to direct people to

to different kinds of information

so they can Make Informed Decisions

that would be one thing

but to just have this go out to everyone and say nothing?

it feels Very Irresponsible

I mean they receive this official-sounding letter and

CARINA

but isn't it actually just like

An Official Letter?

SUZANNE
that's what I'm saying

DON
I certainly was not assuming we would say *nothing*
that's why I asked you all to [come in]
and I think you're right Suzanne
that we want to be
sensitive
about how we approach this
and wouldn't want to be perceived as *adjudicating* or
any more than we would for
religion or
political affiliation or
dietary preferences
but this is just a document we're passing on
there's no *judgment*

SUZANNE
well to me Don
what you've just said is a little like
it's like you're saying
We welcome all religions
Now here's your copy of the New Testament

DON
that's
a little uh [extreme]
is it?

ELI
huh
no no yeah
I can see that
'cause it's like

is this what you're saying Suzanne?
that even if it's a message that we conceptualize as Value Neutral
we have to try to be cognizant of the way it's going to be received
'cause it's really more about
Individual Parent's Responsibilities / than it is about what we are

CARINA
I'm sorry to [interrupt]
but doesn't it seem like
I mean of course that makes sense
but shouldn't we be
right in this moment
just like focused on
you know
Getting The Message Out?

SUZANNE
I think that's right
I think
I'm sorry Eli
but I think she's right
because our responsibility in this room is not actually first
as Individual Parents
it's first
as Custodians of the School

CARINA
no exactly

SUZANNE
and it strikes me that right now
what matters most is
like you said
Getting The Message Out
that we are *one* community

a community of respect
and just to reiterate the principle of:
I may not agree with your Point of View
but I deeply respect your right to *hold* that Point of View

ELI
no yeah
that's what I was saying

DON
so maybe it's
in addition [to the letter]
maybe we say something along the lines of
I'm just spitballing here

that we are a school of *choice* and a community of *intention*
and we come from diverse backgrounds and perspectives
but that we are all in this together
and that
that it's our diversity which is the source of our strength

ELI
beautiful

SUZANNE
and then at the bottom we could include links to resources
and say
as you are navigating your way through this moment
here is some of the broad array of viewpoints in our community
I could point people to some very good websites

DON
great great
does that
would that work for you Carina?

CARINA
um I'm not
I'm not

to be honest I'm not sure I'm a hundred percent comfortable with that

SUZANNE
oh?

well that's

that's fine

can you
are you able to articulate what it is that's
making you uncomfortable?

*The tiniest of beats. Carina chooses to not read "articulate"
as a microaggression.*

CARINA
it's just
if we're saying
here's what the health department says
and then
here's something that refutes that

isn't that
isn't that taking a position too
isn't our position then
don't listen to the health department?

SUZANNE
oh I don't think so

DON
okay so
what I'm hearing is that / there's a need to balance

ELI
oh oh oh!