

Physical therapist agrees to corrective action after school board comments

By Travis Gulbrandson
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — A physical therapist has agreed to a corrective action as the result of his comments about masking children at a December meeting of the Alexandria School Board.

The agreement was entered into between Thomas Joseph Tardif and the Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy Complaint Review Committee, and was signed earlier this month.

At the Dec. 20, 2021 school board meeting, Tardif said he was going to throw school board member Dean Anderson "under the bus" for not speaking up about masks and their impact on children because he is a dentist.

Tardif was told by Board Chairperson Angie Krebs that personal attacks were not allowed.

"It's not a personal attack," Tardif said. "It's the truth."

While talking to the board, Tardif said there are many side effects of kids wearing masks, including physical and mental health conditions, airway irritation, airway infection, poor quality of life, sleep disorders, breathing issues, exercise induced asthma, bad breath,

poor dental health and a plethora of other issues.

He told the school board that masking children is "child abuse" and that they will all be judged and held accountable for their actions. He said masking "needs to be optional."

Tardif also said that Maureen Eigen was the only board member with courage and that the rest of the board members were "cowards."

A group of people in the audience erupted with applause when he was done speaking.

According to the agreement for corrective action from the Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy Complaint Review Committee, Tardif "recognized that his remarks were unprofessional and acknowledged that he should have chosen his words more carefully."

Under the terms of the agreement, Tardif must successfully complete at least two and a half hours of continuing education on the topic of professionalism within six months. Any proposed continuing education courses must be approved in advance by the committee.

Successful completion shall be determined by the committee or its designee, the agreement reads.

Additionally, within one month of the completion of the course, Tardif must submit to the committee a type-written report, one to two pages in length, addressing what he learned in the course.

Tardif must reflect on the situation and describe how he will apply his knowledge to his current and future practice, the agreement reads.

Final determination regarding successful completion of the agreement will be at the discretion of the committee, the agreement reads.

If Tardif fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily or if the committee receives additional complaints alleging similar conduct, the committee may reopen its investigation, the agreement reads.

Failure to complete the corrective action satisfactorily may subject Tardif to disciplinary action by the physical therapy board, the agreement reads.

The agreement itself does not constitute disciplinary action.

The Echo Press left a message on Tardif's phone asking for comment but the call wasn't returned as of press time Wednesday.

Email reporter Travis Gulbrandson at tgulbrandson@echopress.com.



Travis Gulbrandson / Alexandria Echo Press

This tree on Ash Street was uprooted in Monday night's storm. It had to be sawed into pieces in order to be taken away.

Monday night's storm leaves damage in Douglas County

By Travis Gulbrandson
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — The storm that swept through Douglas County the night of Monday, June 20, left more damage in its wake.

Some trees were split, and some were uprooted, such as one on Ash Street, which was more than 50 years old.

Fortunately, the tree missed hitting any of the buildings next to

which it was standing. Pictures were also sent to the Echo Press that showed damage on the northeast side of Lake Latoka.

Email reporter Travis Gulbrandson at tgulbrandson@echopress.com.



Contributed

The northeast side of Lake Latoka was another area damaged in Monday night's storm.

COVID-19 case count

Total number of COVID-19 cases confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Health in Douglas County and the surrounding area as of June 22 (cumulative):

- Douglas County – 11,512 (118 deaths).
- Grant – 1,545 (12 deaths).
- Otter Tail – 14,106 (171 deaths).
- Pope – 3,320 (18 deaths).

Stearns – 53,400 (372 deaths).

Stevens – 2,810 (14 deaths)

Todd – 7,102 (61 deaths).

Statewide (cumulative) – 1,462,605 (12,756 deaths).

Active cases in Douglas County – 76 (according to Horizon Public Health as of June 16).

People (16 and older) with at least one vaccine dose in Douglas County – 20,953 or 69.2% of the population (as of June 20).

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