

Community Input – September 24, 2020 Board Meeting

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Angelique Gunderson	624 N. Highland Ave., 60004	Given that we are seeing an uptick in COVID cases across the country (according to the New York Times today, 41,882 new cases per day, an increase of 14% from the average of two weeks ago), as well as deaths in Cook County on the rise, with now 5,180 cumulative deaths, is the school board planning to reconsider in person return to school dates? Also, is the school board still committed to providing remote learning as an option to students throughout this school year and throughout the crisis?
Betty Levinsky	1210 S. Highland Ave Arlington Heights, IL 60005	<p>Private schools are open. Many schools in other districts have been open full time since the beginning of the school year. In the meantime children in SD25 are suffering.</p> <p>My children need to go back to school in person. We are on 4th week of e-learning and it has already taken a toll on them.</p> <p>My 5th grader is bored and she thinks she is not learning anything.</p> <p>My 8th grader is depressed. He spends 8 hours a day on the computer. Each day he has loads of homework and needs to stay online for at least 2 hours after e-learning ends.</p> <p>In the morning he does not even want to get out of bed.</p> <p>What I don't understand is why some districts are doing in person learning and SD25 is dragging their feet.</p> <p>You are affecting the well being of our children. COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon. You need to learn how to maneuver and live with it. Other districts have been able to figure it out....</p>
Peter Dusenbury	723 N. Arlington Heights Road Arlington Heights, IL 60004	<p>I am writing to you to request for Olive Mary Stitt to return to every day classroom instruction. I am not sure what feedback you are getting from other parents but both of my children (in 2nd and 5th grade) are really struggling with the format and they need to be with their classmates in an actual classroom. 7 year old boys are not meant to sit in zoom calls all day with a tablet. They need to be challenged in person and engaged and compete with others. There is nothing healthy about learning virtually and just isolates children.</p> <p>The COVID cases in Chicagoland are no different than they were back in the summer when you originally announced that kids would return to full day school. The teacher's union should not have the power to force virtual learning for all against the will of the students/parents. Please do the right thing for the students and resume full day in class instruction. I am in Germany at moment and all the kids here are back in school every day. There are other districts who are back full day and no reason why we cannot in district 25 as well in a smart and thoughtful way. Please stand up against the teacher union bosses for the sake of my and others' kids. This feels very political and keeping things closed down until Nov 3rd should not be an acceptable tactic.</p>
Melissa Van Buren	2627 N Bradford Drive	<p>I have three sons that attend Ivy Hill and each have had a completely different experience with very different teachers with remote learning. My oldest has been experiencing anxiety since the start of school that we have never seen before with him. All he cries is that he wants to go to school and see his teachers and friends. Nothing about this is good for his mental or emotional health. Being secluded and isolated from school as he knows it is far more devastating to him than anything else.</p> <p>My husband and I are both nurses, we have lived the pandemic on the "front lines" caring for these patients and feeling completely overwhelmed in the spring when our numbers were so high. But this is no longer the case. We, at the hospital, are no longer overwhelmed. We also, like the teachers, had lots of unknowns, lots of hurdles to overcome, and fear of the unknown. We can relate to what they are going through. Change is hard, but I believe that as a community, we can have our children in school safely and overcome this hurdle and concur this fear and come out on the other side stronger and</p>

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		<p>better than ever. We cannot allow fear to control us, rather it should help us make smart decisions and help us to grow. Please let our children back into the schools, learning and being engaged with their teachers in person. I believe that the more consistency we can provide, the better the outcome will be. Therefore, I am in support of the half day, 5 day a week option. Thank you!</p>
Erin Felten	522 S. Bristol Lane	<p>I am writing to you as District 25 parent who is utterly concerned for my child, and ALL children in the district. This is coming from a place of love and concern for my child, and is not knocking our district, teachers, support staff etc. We are into week 4 of e-learning, and while the teachers have been AMAZING, I am disappointed at the amount of time my child is sitting in front of his iPad and on Zoom calls. I have a 2nd grader with an extensive IEP, who is ADHD and needs 100% IN-PERSON support. All of these are quite apparent if you were to sit next to my son during his e-learning. I am finding that he is learning less, much more disengaged, and physically exhausted. Not to mention the time I am spending having to help oversee his learning-correcting, helping, finding links etc. It is a struggle for all of us. Anxiety is at an all-time high for my son, and even myself with this e-learning. I am worried this is setting him back even further, and how will he ever catch up emotionally, socially, educationally?</p> <p>As an adult, sitting on zoom calls all day with minimal breaks is excruciating! Why are we expecting this out of our youngest learners? I want my child to enjoy school, to enjoy the idea of learning, but this set-up of all-day e-learning is creating the opposite response. I am finding my son bored, not wanting to come back from lunch or break, not wanting to fully participate, or not even paying attention at all. I just do not find this to be age appropriate for an elementary aged student.</p> <p>I understand you are trying to accommodate an ENTIRE district, but my child needs to be back 100% IN PERSON. Give US, the parents, a bit more skin in the game. Allow US to be the decision makers for OUR children. GIVE US OPTIONS. Just like my son's IEP allows for accommodations for his learning, our schools need to accommodate the families who need 100% IN-PERSON and families who need REMOTE LEARNING. Again, we need OPTIONS!</p> <p>My 4-year-old has been back at daycare since June 1st with ZERO issues. The daycare has implemented new procedures, and it has been working! Businesses across Arlington Heights have systems in place to accommodate customers safely. Why can't we open? We need help. This is just not a great long-term solution for our children. Get us back in schools! Please, hear us.</p>
Andrew Martin	607 Valley Lane	<p>As a parent of a child who started Kindergarten this fall, along with being a fellow educator, I would like the board to discuss the prospects of Full Day Kindergarten in District 25. This may be a topic that is not high on the priority list currently, but with what is coming out on the impact of the pandemic on student learning, social-emotional functioning, and future earning potential, there is a very real need to have this discussion. I know there was a review conducted about 3 years ago as part of the Strategic Vision 82020 that determined it was not feasible at that time to move forward with full-day, but I would ask you to reconsider those findings with some updated information from educational research, along with a change in the local school landscape.</p> <p>First, when that study was concluded 3 years ago, it listed 5 districts as having 1/2 day K, including this one. Since that time, D21 has moved to a full day model, and with the use of a bond initiative, they have been able to upgrade and update their buildings to accommodate it. D23 now offers a full day K option as well.</p> <p>In addition, the impact of half-day Kindergarten on working families is immense as the expense of maintaining child care or paying for a private option can be substantial if they do not qualify for full-day Kindergarten based on language</p>

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Laura Culley	511 S Yale Ave, Arlington Heights	I have a 4th grader at Westgate and a 6th grader at South Middle School. In the spring, my children told me that they did not learn anything with the non in person remote learning. I am lucky in that I can afford extra tutoring help in math that they need and I am right now able to work from home as well as my husband so we can help them at least not get any worse with their learning levels. This fall, the in person remote learning was improved from spring in that new topics were being taught and my kids can at least virtually see their friends at times. I think, however, that the remote learning is best served for short periods of time, like snow days, or the short times that children or families may need to quarantine due to

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		<p>heard. That may be why parent groups are now forming that have over 700 members. Not because we want to have our way or the highway. But because we need to have clear communication and see the board take expeditious action on decisions made. At least that was my reason for joining a non-PTA parent group. The group was the only place where I was getting any information.</p> <p>Finally, I know that as a volunteer board that this was probably not the job that you signed up for. The weight of the decisions that you are making, the many stakeholders' positions and views, and the impassioned views of parents may be weighing heavily on you. But that is the job that you have. And I hope that this email is helpful in providing the perspective of many parents (76%) in wanting to find a way to move forward. We may be living with covid for many years to come and we need to learn to live with it, be brave, and make the best decisions that we can for our children. Just as I was brave this summer with camp at the advise of my pediatrician, I hope you will be brave as most of the districts in our area both public and private have already been. I wish that we could have been a leader in this area but sadly we have not. Please move as soon as possible to hybrid and please be transparent with parents and build back the trust that you used to have with my family.</p>
Stacey Tobin	532 S. Donald Ave.	<p>I would like to express my deep gratitude for the incredible job that South's teachers have been doing these first few weeks of school - my daughter is thriving and connecting with her teachers and the material, and though she misses the experience of being in the school building, remote learning has turned out to be so much better than hoped. For that I applaud the daily hard work of her teachers and South's administration.</p> <p>As the school board wrestles with how to shift safely to a hybrid model, I would like to voice my concern that those of us who choose to continue with all remote learning are not left behind as teachers are asked to split their focus between students on Zoom and those in the classroom. My greatest fear is that my health-related decision to keep my daughter in remote learning will ultimately hurt the relationships she is building with her new teachers and classmates and will degrade her learning experience.</p> <p>I completely understand the need for a hybrid model and encourage Dr. Bein and the board in their efforts to transition safely, I just ask that they keep in mind the needs of those students who choose remain in the remote learning lane so that their experience and progress are maintained. Thank you for your time.</p>
Julia Martinez	Address Not Provided	<p>I appreciate the careful planning the district has done. My daughter's kindergarten teacher is making remote learning look easy.</p> <p>I very much want my child to get the full learning experience and understand many things just do not carry over in zoom. It's a challenge all around. That being said, my daughter is high risk. Her doctor strongly discourages interacting with others outside of our household and absolutely not indoors. I would like to know if it is safe to return to school by continuing to look at neighboring districts. I feel we do not yet know how virulent this disease is nor the long term effects on children.</p> <p>Another consideration is that, despite my daughter being high risk, her doctor - a pediatric pulmonologist - expressed more concern about the health and safety of the adults, the teachers, than my high risk child. I have heard many comments regarding the children, but I want to know how the health of all involved is being considered. What is the reasoning behind having students learn remotely but teachers working from the school? What is the threshold for deciding teachers too should stay home?</p>

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		<p>Again, I appreciate that those who had to make difficult decisions have done their best to make the best of this situation. I appreciate those who have continued to be physically present to continue serving the needs of the district. For months, I've been worrying about the health and safety of my family, friends, and professionals that I rely on. This extends to the educators in my child's life. I appreciate your time.</p>
Alina Laurie	807 S. Cleveland Ave., Arlington Heights	<p>Our kids need to be back in school for the full day sooner than later. The gap is widening between families who have the means to hire private tutors and those who do not. Follow the guidelines from the Illinois Dept of Public Health. Hybrid is a stepping stone to full day. Spread the desks out as far as possible and allow all children in the building, every day. All kids should be welcome to learn at school for the full day. Private schools are open and daycares are open. There's 900 kids at Saint Viator and they are open. South and Thomas can open.</p> <p>Even though many mistakes have been made and little preparation was done over the summer it's not too late now to put all the effort into fully opening the schools as soon as possible.</p> <p>Families who only want to do remote for the year could have been put in their own classes. It's not too late to do that. The Board had the results of the summer survey. Do another survey. Don't hold up the thousands of kids from in-person learning while designing something for the "few" , possibly less than 25% of families, who want to keep their kids at home.</p> <p>Go take a tour of the Northbrook schools. They spent all summer prepping their buildings. They have tents outside for lunch and mask breaks. They are committed to 5 days of school for the youngest learners.</p> <p>If the Board members do not want to follow the recommendations of the government to open the schools due to their own personal bias or "germaphobia" then those Board members should immediately resign.</p> <p>All Board members need to remember they are here as stewards of our public school. Public school in America is in-person school for everyone because it doubles as free daycare. The Board members are not virologists or epidemiologists. If public health officials indicate that schools can be open for a full day then the Board should ensure the schools are open for a full day as soon as possible.</p>
Katie Rausch	711 East Suffield Drive	<p>When will you have to plan for full in person? How long will hybrid last? Will you be ready to shift from hybrid to all in person quickly and not need more time again? Can you update parents more often with data that drives the push back into the classroom?</p>
Kristin Irmen	145 S. Patton Ave. 60005	<p>Please reopen the schools to 5 days per week. Masks are to be worn at all times, and the 6 feet rule is to apply only when masks are not able to be worn. Frequent outdoors time for mask breaks will help our children focus, resume their enjoyment in the active learning process, and help them catch up to appropriate grade level skills with renewed energy and focus on academic tasks.</p> <p>There will be risk associated with all choices made. So that our children do not fall behind and our teachers' mental health does not suffer further, please find a way for teachers to teach only in person, OR online, not both simultaneously.</p> <p>This is a tough decision making process. You were elected to lead. We need you to have a CAN DO attitude. More delays in the planning and organization are unacceptable. You will not please everyone. However, Parents want, need, and demand a CHOICE for their children.</p>

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Jamie and Eric Yeh	1640 N. Highland Ave., 60004	<p>As elected Board members you have a responsibility to represent our community. A total of 76% of the families in District 25 responded that they want either full in-person education or a hybrid approach. Families should be given the choice to send their students to school.</p> <p>Our children are suffering with 100% remote learning. As much as we know our teachers and administration is trying hard to build some community with eLearning, it does not replace the value of in-person education.</p> <p>We have watched other public and private schools around our area all successfully open their schools. The American Academy of Pediatrics says children should be in school. The Center for Disease Control has collated the data from domestic and global studies and concludes that children are at higher risk from not being in school than they are from the disease. The World Health Organization wants children in schools and provides guidance on reopening safely, advocating for monitoring protocols specifically with regards to local hospital capacity. As the CDC writes: "Extended school closure is harmful to children. It can lead to severe learning loss, and the need for in-person instruction is particularly important for students with heightened behavioral needs. Following the wave of school closures in March 2020 due to COVID-19, academic learning slowed for most children and stopped for some." Unfortunately, even our best minds won't yield the same result for the children left otherwise without the safety, socialization, and mental stimulus of in-class learning.</p> <p>We are responsible to protect and cherish the mental health of our students. How do we think our students' mental health is faring now? Are they being heard? Cared for? Protected? Prioritized?</p> <p>The science currently supports having our children return to the classroom safely as D25 outlined at the beginning of July. This virus is still new, and parents and the community should be quick to adjust as the science indicates. Our students need to be in school as much as possible. Any parents concerned with the health risks or possible inconsistencies of an in-person or hybrid model can opt for a 100% remote learning platform. However, not all families and teachers share these concerns. Not all families should suffer because of this kind of fear. If our numbers skyrocket and our hospitals get close to being overrun then yes, absolutely, let's shut down again for a couple weeks at a time to flatten the curve – not crush it. Let's do what we can to prevent that from happening: limit our socializing, wear masks, continue to work from home, go to the grocery store only when necessary. We should be our own first line of defense – not our children.</p> <p>The experts, the data, and the parents believe it is time to return to school and do so safely with all the necessary and available precautions we can take. It is time for schools to reopen.</p> <p>We recognize that you have an incredibly difficult task. We also know that you are responsible for doing what is best for our students, the staff and our community. We appreciate your devoted consideration of our children in this unprecedented time.</p>
Jacalyn and James Derengowski	207 S Derbyshire Lane. AH. 60004	<p>Thank you to all the board members for your time and contributions for all the children in SD25. The Hybrid Model is a first step in getting students back in the classroom full-time and we as a community need to make that happen. We are looking to hear from the board tonight about hard deadlines for students to be in the classroom, not "soonest or possible". Teachers are working hard with elearning, but it is a poor substitute for being in the classroom.</p> <p>I would like to know if the board could explain why schools on the Southside and Southern Illinois are getting students</p>

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Erin Kalaway	311 N. Belmont Ave.	<p>back in the classroom, but SD25 is not? Today is September 24th, are you committing to the October date discussed at the last meeting? Let the students learn. Thank you.</p> <p>I would like to give a snapshot of what a day of e-learning looks like in my house: For my family, and many others, it's not going well. It has been depressing, disheartening, and unproductive. Dropped zoom calls, lack of motivation, confusion about assignments, an eighth grader who has not had a chance to meet his teachers in person to establish a relationship. He said his math teacher completed an entire lesson not knowing that her screen wasn't showing her slides and no one wanted to speak up and tell her. The kids were all talking on the side about it on their phones. He sits from 7:45 until 12:30 with little break or movement. Plus homework at night, on the screen. How is this healthy for a teenage boy?? I feel sad for him every day. My 4th grader struggles to do her math assignments because the online program is difficult to use, and dragging her answers to the right place makes her fingers hurt. This week she got dropped from zoom and the teacher didn't let her in for 10 minutes because she was reading to the class and didn't notice. She was in tears because she wanted to hear the story and don't know when the teacher would notice she was waiting. She misses her friends desperately and I wish she was getting the exercise from walking to school and playing at recess. I see the other kids on her screen rolling around, doing acrobatic stunts, they look like caged animals going crazy. Wouldn't anyone go crazy looking at a screen for the entire day? Parents deserve the choice of whether or not to send our kids back to school in person, and I still cannot believe that was taken from us at the beginning of the year. And then postponed again. No one - including teachers - should be forced to go in person if they don't want to, but it saddens me that my kids are suffering in this holding pattern right now when I want them to be in the classroom. As a registered nurse, taxpaying citizen and human being, I am shocked that this district has disregarded both medical advice and majority opinion in favor of indecision. We cannot risk the emotional and physical health of our children for much longer. Nothing in life is 100% safe, and I urge you to move forward ASAP with your best plan, even if it isn't perfect.</p>
John Hoffman	2627 N. Highland Ave.	<p>I want to reiterate my support for doing what is right for the students and the parents and that is giving them a choice and having the schools open for in person learning if the students and parents choose. We should be open now, according to your own metrics you choose to use and the advice of the advisory committee. Opening the schools back up immediately and giving the choice is in the best overall interest of the students. You cannot continue to ignore the many detrimental side effects of children staring at screens all day with no in-person interaction with other students and their teachers. If some students and parents still want to do remote learning, that is fine and that is their choice. I'm not asking that students must come back into school - we want the option to choose. I'm one of thousands of parents and students that feel this way in our district. I'm one of tens of millions across the country. We will continue to make our voices heard and pressure will only grow on you and the board. Recall that you, your staff, the teachers, and the board work the students, parents, and taxpayers. It is not the other way around. I expect at the meeting tonight that you will give a definitive date as to when and how the schools will be open well prior to 10/31/20. If you, the district, and the board continue to ignore the wishes of the parents and the students and continue to put our students behind your special interests or the special interests of the teacher's union, the next step we will take is legal action. I'm happy to talk further with you.</p>

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Rachel Berkhof	503 N. Belmont Ave.	<p>I teach first grade in a nearby suburb. While I know that the size of D25 offers extra challenges I would like to share my experience of being in person since the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>My district has students attend in the morning, home for lunch, and remote learning in the afternoon for all special and non-core classes. The in person time is spent on core subject areas...mostly reading, writing, and math. I was extremely anxious before school began and all of that has subsided after being in school for 20 days now. The students are so happy to be back that they will do most anything to keep it going. I understand for D25 you would need to divide the groups in half. So teachers could deliver the same curriculum in the mornings and in the afternoons like kindergarten teachers have been doing for decades.</p> <p>Taking any eating out the equation has eased the worries of so many parents and staff. The original plan was to extend the day with lunch after 28 days and then to extend to full day after another trial period. The community has been happy and the board voted to stay with our half day remote plan and not extend because the teachers could not maintain the level of education for in class and remote learners if the school day were extended. And adding lunch would add another extremely difficult degree of sanitation to the mix. If D25 can hire the custodial staff to clean each classroom between groups, I feel that the half day hybrid option would be absolutely the best option for students and teachers. The community may have to figure out the rest but the students would be getting back to school and teachers would be able to handle the immense work load without burning out after 2 weeks.</p> <p>I would also like to request that students be brought back to school based on last name so that every family has the children on the same schedule.</p>
Stacey Nunez	920 S. Cleveland Ave., Arlington Heights	<p>As a mom of a 3rd grader and 7th grader in District 25, I am in favor of sending our kids BACK TO SCHOOL, IN PERSON and receiving live instruction, off screens and interactive learning. We as parents deserve the CHOICE. We deserve to be heard.</p> <p>I CHOSE to raise my kids in Arlington Heights because of the nationally acclaimed school district and its leadership role in the state of Illinois. Our school district is failing us right now and instead of paving the way as it has done for so long, it is falling behind and our kids are suffering.</p> <p>But don't take it from me, ask my kids:</p> <p>"I want to go back to school because I want to see my teacher in person to really get to know her and meet my new friends in class." - Josie, Dryden 3rd Grader</p> <p>"I want to go back to school. I miss interacting with my teachers and my classmates." - Sophie, South 7th Grader.</p> <p>We are a community of leaders who rise to the occasion and overcome challenges. Will it be easy? Of course not. But we can do hard things.</p>
Alexis & Doug Hammond	1440 N. Race Ave., Arlington Heights 60004	<p>We would like to thank you for making the decision to have the school year start virtually. Thank you for keeping our children, teachers, staff and community safe. Being cautious was the right thing for everyone, and it is still the best decision now.</p> <p>I realize that the advice from the CDC is constantly changing and that you are asked to make decisions based on this information. As of Friday, guidance was given regarding aerosol transmission and later removed.</p> <p>"In the Friday update, the CDC had added new measures to protect yourself in others, including recommendations to use air purifiers to reduce airborne germs in indoors spaces and clear guidance to "stay at least 6 feet away from others, whenever possible." The updated CDC page had also changed language around asymptomatic transmission, shifting</p>

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		<p>from saying "some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus" to saying "people who are infected but do not show symptoms can spread the virus to others." That language has now been removed." - CNN.com</p> <p>In regards to aerosol transmission, The World Health Organization has the following information on their website. "There have been reported outbreaks of COVID-19 in some closed settings, such as restaurants, nightclubs, places of worship or places of work where people may be shouting, talking, or singing. In these outbreaks, aerosol transmission, particularly in these indoor locations where there are crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces where infected persons spend long periods of time with others, cannot be ruled out. More studies are urgently needed to investigate such instances and assess their significance for transmission of COVID-19."</p> <p>We are relieved that masks will be required in school and that policies and procedures have been put in place to keep everyone safe. Nevertheless, we believe that these policies and procedures may not be enough. We are concerned about the ventilation of the schools themselves and aerosol transmission. In regards to learning, we are committed to keeping our children at home to learn virtually. We want to do everything we can to keep them safe. We will keep them remote for the rest of the school year unless an effective vaccine becomes available.</p> <p>Our children's teachers are doing an excellent job adapting and changing to the virtual environment. It is obvious that teachers are working around the clock to prepare new virtual lesson plans and figure out new ways to engage the students virtually. They are constantly tweaking their lesson plans as they quickly learn what is working virtually....and what isn't. They are working the kinks out of the technology that they are now relying on. Asking the teachers to pivot yet again to a hybrid system in which they will be engaging with face to face students and virtual students, seems daunting. We believe the caliber of teaching that our students are receiving now, will have no direction to go but down as teachers are spread too thin.</p> <p>Let's continue to learn from the virtual environment and make additional changes to make sure that our children are learning and thriving. Let's continue to all work together to make the best of this unprecedented situation. Continued caution will save lives. We offer you our support and genuine appreciation as you navigate the new "normal."</p>
Mairin Gradek	1228 N. Chicago Ave., 60004	<p>It is the responsibility of our school board to ensure the district is doing everything possible to get our children back to in person learning. You are failing our children right now. Their mental health is greatly suffering and they need their connections with classmates and teachers. Our children deserve FULL DAILY in person learning, not a few hours each week. There is no reason our children should be left out while other public and private districts are making it work!</p>
Todd Witherow	731 S. Roosevelt Ave.	<p>Arguably the State of Illinois has been one of the most proactive and restrictive states in the US related to management of the spread of COVID-19. We were one of the first states to mandate quarantine last spring. Illinois has one of the highest testing capacities of any state. Our Restore Illinois plan is clear and being implement state-wide. For context, we are still the only state in the Midwest still not allowing fall sports to take place. All of the advice, metrics and planning from the Governor are provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health.</p> <p>I wanted to quickly provide the board and community an update on the local health dynamics related to our re-opening metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Metric 1: Cook County Test Positivity Rate is 5.8%, well below the target rate the TAC established. · Metric 2: Weekly Case Rate at 73.6, well below the 175 upper bound

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Heather & Sean Molina	905 E. Hawthorne Street	<p>Our sons are in 2nd and 4th grade at Olive Mary Stitt. We are writing to yet again express our desire for our children to be in IN PERSON learning. Our son's teachers do a great job given these circumstances but nothing replaces in person learning. New research published this week suggests that opening schools is not as risky as was feared. We encourage the district to implement a 1/2 day everyday hybrid approach with the intention to transition to full day in person as soon as possible. Half day is the best option - especially for the elementary school aged children - as advised by the Illinois Board of Education. We expect the board to act in the best interest of our children and 1/2 day accomplishes that by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - giving them face to face interaction with their teachers daily - focusing on their core curriculum while in school 2 - gives them peer to peer interaction daily, helping their social and emotional well being 3 - allows them to eat lunch at home - instead of in a small classroom with masks removed 4 - eliminates the need to hire additional people from outside the school to supervise lunch and recess (assuming the need to hire lunch monitors to cover lunchtime giving the teachers a well deserved break) 5 - allows the teachers to focus on the in person students instead of trying to manage half the class on line at the same time - nearly impossible for teachers at the younger grades to accomplish. Have you ever listened to a Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade zoom call? If not, it might be worth your time to see all the teachers must juggle! <p>If the Superintendent submits a plan for 2 full day in class, we ask that the board seek to understand specific reasons why that is what is best for our children instead of the 1/2 day. We want to understand specifically what our children will do while in person those 2 days - will they still be on screens in class? Our goal should be to get them off the screens for both their physical and emotional health. We should all be concerned with what staring at a screen does to the developing brain and eyes of a young child. If you dig into the research in this area or talk to a pediatrician or eye doctor what you find will be very concerning.</p> <p>We implore the board to implement a 1/2 day hybrid approach effective immediately and transition to full in person shortly following. Please prepare now for the next phase so that we aren't spinning wheels once we meet our next set of metrics!</p>
Valerie Prorok	1542 N. Patton Ave. 60004	<p>What is the main reason the school board changed their plan for hybrid learning from half days to full days? Did the price hike in transportation determine that switch? Has the district been polled to see who will take bus transportation at this point? Wouldn't half day benefit the kids and teachers and be an overall better option? With half day hybrid, the kids would receive a break from masks and eat lunch at home. Wouldn't the school have less risk of the virus spreading in that</p>

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Megan Kerpec	913 N. Beverly Lane, 60004	<p>model? The teaching method presented for half day seemed to put less stress on the teachers. How will they teach and manage remote learning at the same time? Please explain the benefits of full day hybrid. Thank you</p> <p>Please consider 1/2 day hybrid for the elementary schools. We as parents are hearing that this is the preferred model for our elementary teachers for many reasons. Please support our teachers with the best possible model for return to school. Kids could focus on math reading and writing while they're in school with her teacher and the other half of the day can be dedicated to specials and other subjects that can be done more easily from home. 1/2 day eliminates all the issues caused by eating lunch at school (allergies, mask removal, etc) Instead of teachers having to help kids both in person and online at the same time (which will be incredibly difficult) they will be able to focus on just the kids in their room and give them high quality and dedicated attention. The half-day is a better transition for the elementary students who won't be used to wearing masks all day and all of the new rules that will come with being in person during Covid. If kids have to keep distance and be kept somewhat separate this will be very difficult to do for an entire day versus a few hours . Kids will have a chance to be in school part of each day. No option will be perfect but this is the best option for teachers and students. Families are used to making this work for kindergarten and they can do it again. We will pull together as a community to help each other. Please do what is best for both students and teachers.</p>
Monish John	2134 N. Williamsburg St.	<p>I want to take a moment to sincerely appreciate D25 School Board and Superintendent Dr. Bein for the logical, and wise decisions for D25 Children and Community taken so far.</p> <p>As we approach winter months and flu season, it's my trust and requests that the School Board make decisions for remote, hybrid, or in-person with the view that the COVID pandemic with all its fierce threat is still having its destructive run, which is evident in the seven-day rolling average.</p> <p>Another aspect many schools which have reopened is struggling with is, the ability to provide the same leaning when the student population becomes a mix of remote and in-person with remote children lagging with the hybrid approach. Request SD25 to ensure the same expected learning for both remote and in-person students. The slow, cautious, and careful approach that D25 board currently following is definitely a reason why positivity rates are not spiking in our neighborhood.</p>
Jessica Humann	811 S. Roosevelt Ave.	<p>I have a child in 3rd grade and one in 6th grade. I believe strongly that my children should be given the choice to be in school minimum half days.</p> <p>My 6th grader has already lost so many opportunities and experiences and to continue to watch him just sit on a daily zoom is devastating. He is in need of face to face interaction with both classmates and teachers. I want him to feel confident as a 6th grade boy especially as he navigates this new phase of his life. Him being on a computer ALL day is not the answer.</p> <p>My 3rd grader has more academic struggles and while the teachers have been amazing the support she receives is just not the same on a daily zoom. These years of early intervention and support are absolutely crucial. She has already lost so much time. She needs the interaction, she needs the one on one. She needs the support desperately.</p> <p>I have always prided myself on being a Arlington Heights resident and primarily for the amazing school district. I hope that this school district can pull it together for what is really important our children. They have already lost so much time. They are the future of this community and deserve to be given the chance.</p>
Carrie Holt	1118 N. Dryden Ave.	<p>Thank you for all the additional hours you have put in making plans for our students to return to school safely. I would like to show my support for half day hybrid model that other parents spoke to at the previous board meeting. I would like</p>

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Lindsay Nugent	505 S. Banbury Rd., 60005	<p>I am a parent of a 3rd grader and 1st grader at Dryden. I am also a proud product of District 25 schools! This is why my husband and I chose to move to my hometown of Arlington Heights, because it's schools are exceptional. Many friends and family have moved "back home" for this reason, and friends who have moved away often like to reminisce about the quality, progressive education we had at Olive, and how they wish their kids were so lucky.</p> <p>I'd like to start by saying my children's teachers at Dryden are phenomenal. I don't know how they are doing this day to day. I would like to thank them and all teachers for again doing the "impossible." I really don't think our remote learning could be much better than it is now. Having said that, remote learning CANNOT replace the hands-on instruction, life lessons, skills and bonds that in person school provides.</p> <p>Six months ago, my then kindergartner's in-person schooling stopped at such a crucial time. She was on the verge of reading. This year she should be reading and writing. Both of these critical skills cannot be taught and retained over Zoom, even as we are trying our very best as teachers and parents. She sits on Zoom a lot of the time, frustrated and confused. She thinks less of herself as a student and it breaks my heart. She lacks confidence she needs to progress to the next level because she is at home in a breakout room, rather than in a classroom with her teacher nearby.</p> <p>My 3rd grader is in a better position, but her frustration and sadness is obvious. The best part of their day is when they can have lunch outside with their neighbors. They are longing for interaction with peers, even though they are well aware it will not be what they are used to. It is that important to them.</p> <p>Although we are hopeful that our kids can stay in person for the remainder of the year, we understand there is a possibility this may not happen. So, why can't we try to go back now?! Now is the time! Why are we finding holes in every plan instead of finding solutions? Don't we teach our kids a "can" attitude? It's been more than six months since our kids have been in school. Let's try to get them back so they can learn some important skills that can stick with them if they can't stay in person. I am so proud of all the kids in this district for adapting to a totally new way of learning. We owe it to them to get them back in person as soon as possible.</p>
Hillary Lockwood	1007 N. Patton Ave.	<p>I want to express my deep appreciation for the teachers, staff and admin for District 25 during this unprecedented time. From the beginning of all of this, I have trusted the school district and the decisions that were being made on behalf of my children and the children of the community, as they have made logical decisions in the past.</p> <p>However, I have great concerns over how the process of returning to in-person learning is happening. I sent an email before the August school board meeting expressing my concerns. My main problem with the whole situation is the lack of transparency that is coming from the district, my individual school and the school board. The community has been left in the dark about the very important decisions that are being made. We are only alerted to the changes/decisions after they</p>

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