

Community Input – October 15, 2020 Board Meeting

Name	Address	Question/Comment
David Richards	1120 N. Arlington Heights Rd., 60004	I just wanted to ask if district 25 will continue to move towards step 4 (5 days a week, fully in-person instruction) as long as the metrics remain favorable. This is what our children need.
Carissa Lee Holmes	2529 N. Raleigh St. 60004	<p>I am a local pediatrician and I have a sophomore at Buffalo Grove HS as well as a 5th grader at Greenbrier and a 7th grader at Thomas in District 25. Ever since this pandemic began, I have been reading and learning about this virus. Not only from the Today show and the Daily Herald but also from medical journals, medical experts and medical websites. I figured out how to operate our pediatric practice safely but also how my kids can go to school safely.</p> <p>We all know how important in person learning is as well as bringing some sense of normalcy to our kids to counteract the tremendous increase in anxiety that has surfaced. In person school will not be normal but it will be a step in the right direction. Can our students attend school safely? Yes. Students in other countries, other states and right here in Arlington Heights are attending class in person and there is not a huge increase in cases from these schools. The cases that are showing up in schools are by far not contracted in the school. There are no reports of a student transmitting the virus to a teacher or a teacher transmitting it to a student. A recent large study showed that 80% of cases without symptoms go on to develop symptoms. So the idea that there are thousands of people walking around feeling fine and yet spreading the virus is simply not true. Yes you can be contagious up to 2 days before you have symptoms but this is also true for the flu, stomach viruses, the common cold etc. this is not a new phenomenon. Someone who does test positive has not been sitting in the classroom for weeks spreading the virus. It is also very possible to be in the same room as someone with the virus, both of you wearing masks and staying 3-6 ft apart and NOT get the virus. I do it every day. I see covid patients in a small exam room. How do I not get sick? I wear my mask, wash my hands and do not get close enough to examine them until I absolutely have to. A study in Malaysia showed that healthcare workers could be in an exam room with an infected patient without protective gear (bc the masks, gloves and gowns were even more scarce then than they are now) for up to 15min before they risked contracting the virus themselves. That's where the 15 minutes comes from. Why 6ft? Because that's how far a covid particle can fly if you cough or sneeze it out <i>without</i> wearing a mask. If someone has a cough due to Covid, they ideally wont be at school. Even if they cough with a mask on, the virus particle will not travel that far. Yes some kids will somehow get into school with symptoms, presymptomatic kids will come, we cant prevent everything. Is there a protocol in place when a student or staff member tests positive for Covid? Yes. This helps control the spread for any infections that do come into our school buildings.</p> <p>In person school will not be 100% safe, it never will be and it never was. But it just may be one of the safest places we can send our children.</p>
Jen Huntzicker	316 N Douglas Ave. 60004	I wanted to note that when the district sent out the poll for who would be staying remote and who would be going hybrid, I selected neither. I did this because both choices are unsatisfactory for my family and I think for many others as well. When you look at the numbers of how many students are in person and how many students stayed remote, and you see that many chose remote, do not mistake this for mass fear of a virus that is now under control in our area. Many simply chose it for the toll that only 2 days a week would take on their children. They'd rather keep their kids at home than send them to a classroom where the teacher is trying to teach to half in person and half remote. I myself am now in a position I never thought I'd ever be in: I unenrolled my two 3rd graders from their beloved school and am now homeschooling them. Please understand that this has nothing to do with the school itself or with their outstanding teachers. This is a direct consequence of the overwhelming amount of screen time our children are being taught through. From the

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		<p>time of our first pediatricians appointment, doctors and other health professionals tell us time and time again the ill effects of screen time on children’s developing brains. This move to a two day hybrid in which kids are still remote for three whole school days has done nothing to help this terrible scenario. I chose to pull my kids out instead so that I can teach the way kids learn best. From a face to face teacher, and with screen time only being utilized occasionally. This district’s assurance that the screen time will go down now that they are back in school two days is impossible. You’re asking your teachers to do the impossible. You’re continuing to put our kids in a learning situation that is impossible. I urge the TAC to employ metrics that get our community back to in person learning, 5 days a week, soon. These kids need their teachers. They are essential. These kids need to physically be back in their school. Schools are essential.</p>
Amy Streff	701 N. Kaspar	<p>Can you please elaborate on your decision to not include special education students in the step 3 transition back into school? If you are refusing to integrate the integrated services program, it ceases to exist. The IEP states “To the maximum extent appropriate, all students shall be educated and participate with students who are non-disabled”.</p> <p>The Department of Education requires that schools must provide each student with a disability the special education and related services identified in the student’s IEP “to the greatest extent possible. If a school continues to provide educational opportunities to the general student population, they must ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the <i>same</i> opportunities, including the provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).</p> <p>Per ISBE, regarding provided services during the coronavirus outbreak; Districts and other serving entities should review class composition, including percentage of students with IEPs in the class, to ensure that each class has a proportionate percentage of general and special education students. By denying students with IEPs’s the opportunity to attend class with their typical peers, you are allowing them to continue to regress and fall further behind then they already are. Social interaction is critical in developing the life skills that children with autism are severely lacking and is more crucial now than ever. I can’t possibly understand how further segregating these children from their peers solely based on their disabilities will do anything but cause much more harm. I urge you to reconsider your decision not just for my son, but for the mental well being of all children in similar situations that need the opportunity in order to grow.</p>