



**Arlington
Heights**
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

Board Highlights

Board of Education Special Meeting
October 29, 2020

Special School Board meeting – 7:30 p.m.

Community Input

- Kelly Drevline, ATA President, read a statement and stated that the ATA membership is not opposed to in person learning, but want to do it safely with mitigation including six-foot social distancing, handwashing, and masks. The ATA feels that full in person learning now with the increase in cases would not be in the best interest for everyone's health. Teachers are committed to the students and wants what's best for them, and to keep everyone safe. She said they all want the same thing – students in school.
- Christina Carey Schaumburg, Westgate teacher, worries for all children. As a teacher she has put many more hours into planning/working this year. She is glad that students are back in school, safely with social distancing, and noted that the district needs to have proper safety measures. The Board needs to provide for the safety of everyone, and not for political or other reasons. She asked the Board to consider the health, safety, and well-being of the entire community as they make decisions moving forward.
- Stephanie Levinsky thanked all of the teachers in Gamma at Thomas for doing a great job. She reviewed a timeline of what has happened since March 13 in the state, and stated that the governor and Dr. Ezike never mentioned that schools should be closed. She feels that schools should be full in-person starting on Monday November 9.
- Sue Kowols thanked the teachers and staff, who have put the children first. She started a petition and wants to keep everyone safe, and wants what's best for all children. She disagrees that we should not pick a date for full in-person at this time. She would like to have six-foot social distancing. She noted that the public schools that are currently full in-person are much smaller than District 25, so they can't be compared. She is concerned for all staff, and wants to keep the community safe. She requests that the Board not make any changes until the end of December.
- Janine Flauter, Windsor School teacher, thanked the Board for dedicated their time to staff and students. She loves teaching and is proud to be a teacher in this district. She noted that everyone wants to be full in-person, and it would make her job would be much easier, but we are in a pandemic and need to keep everyone safe. We need reliable metrics, and Covid is what we should be working against.
- Laura Culley thanked the board for having a level of transparency. She feels that the district should have started on August 20 in hybrid learning with a remote option. She doesn't feel that TAC should be making decisions, and wants the

Board to set a date for full in-person learning with a remote option on November 20 or January 19.

- Kerri Hood spoke on behalf of Karen Johl, who stated that going back to school has been great for her daughter. She noted that since going to hybrid learning, her child is not taking remote learning seriously, and gets great grades without trying, or paying attention. She feels that school is not where you get Covid, and wants full in-person learning with masks, sanitation, and a high level of education.
- Renee Schlenhardt appreciates everything the educators are doing for our children. She stated that the reopen group advocates for choice, and has never been about teacher-bashing or politics. She wants children's rightful legal access to education, and asked the Board to choose November 9 as a return date for full in-person learning. She fully supports families that want a remote option.
- Dr. Marianne Corcoran noted that the Board and Superintendent has made progress, and she wants a peaceful agreement that is best for everyone. She asks the community, Board, and administration to remember that we are trying to protect the children., and that we can all be better for the children.
- Jen Huntzicker spoke on behalf of Jacalyn Derengowski who feels that schools should be fully open and people should be able to choose remote or full in-person. Ms. Huntzicker also spoke for herself and said that Covid does not endanger young people, and they are less likely to pass it along to others. She feels that six-foot social distancing is just a recommendation, and shouldn't be a barrier. She wants full in-person learning.
- Brittany Polihronis wants the Board to have the option to bring the children back full in-person. Her children love being in school, don't like when they are remote, and it is a roller coaster of emotions for them. She said that parents need the choice for full in-person, with a remote option. She thanked the teachers that have been supporting her son.
- Stacey Esposito has a child in middle school on the autism spectrum, and has been happy with the district until now. Her child did not get supports or his IEP in the spring, and he wasn't getting the 1 on 1 support which is stated in his IEP. Being in school half days has helped him, but school is his primary social source, and a much-needed outlet. She does not like the asynchronous learning, feels that the hybrid plan should be a stepping stone to full in-person learning, and that parents deserve a choice.
- Stephanie Fossler stated that the teachers' duty is to serve the students, and remote and hybrid learning is not serving children. She wants students back in school five days per week with an option for full remote. She feels there is a lack of engaging academics, and is not faulting teachers for this.
- Kate May does not want full time in-person learning, and feels the Board should be talking to the teachers, and needs to look at the long-term consequences for Covid. She wants the Board to maintain at least our current structure of hybrid learning.
- Daniel Puccini feels it's irresponsible to send students back to school for full in-person learning in the middle of a resurgence of Covid.

Dr. Bein read categories of electronic public comments received. All comments will be given to the board in full and posted on the website tomorrow. They will also be attached to the Board minutes.

- 31 – Encourage the Board to continue the current Hybrid model with the current Remote option. Do not move to Full in-person learning until a future date when it can be based on metrics and a clear plan.
- 1 – If the Board votes to move to Full in-person learning, please provide a variety of dates when parents can opt-in so that they can continue in Hybrid or Remote until they feel it is safe to change
- 1 – Change remote learning so there is a dedicated Remote teacher, and then let those who want to choose Full in-person do so.
- 1 – Invitation from a teacher to Board members inviting them to visit her 5th grade classroom
- 2 – Share a comprehensive plan for Remote if you move to Full in-person, and do not force these children to change teachers
- 1 – Change hybrid to an AM/PM model
- 1 – Petition encouraging the Board to continue with the current Hybrid model with the current Remote option – with 283 signatures and comments

Information Items - None

Action Items

- Approve the Superintendent's recommendation to comply if the Cook County Department of Public Health directs a move to Remote Learning for a specific District 25 classroom or school, but to continue in the current learning environment if the Cook County Department of Public Health issues a recommendation for all of suburban Cook County and the Superintendent determines that the District 25 internal metrics are stable and the district can continue to operate safely and successfully. Additionally, if the Superintendent determines that there is a need to move the entire district to Remote Learning, the Superintendent will schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Education where the recommendation will be voted upon by the Board.
 - Direct the Superintendent to complete the following items and report on each item at the November 12, 2020 Board of Education meeting:
 - Notify families about the probable increase in school exclusions if 6-foot distancing is changed or waived
 - Re-survey parent community about Remote, Hybrid, and Full In-person learning with the option to continue in Remote Learning
 - Gather information from the staff community about Remote, Hybrid, and Full In-person learning
 - Meet with the Arlington Teachers Association about working conditions related to Full In-person Learning
 - Determine the needed increase in staffing for the purpose of contact tracing
 - Determine instructional programming changes based on the above
 - Finalize metrics for return to Full In-Person learning
- And, that the Superintendent continue the process of increasing in-person learning time for students with IEPs, 504s, and EL support services where possible within current mitigation strategies.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 12, 2020

7:30 p.m.

South Middle School
400 S. Highland Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Arlington Heights School District 25
cultivates innovative learners within a nurturing and
collaborative community to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The Board Highlights are also posted on the
District web page at:

www.sd25.org