

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

1200 S. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

School Board Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2020

Scott Filipek, Vice President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on October 29, 2020 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was noticed for closed session to discuss: Selection of a person to fill a vacancy in a public office, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).



Regular Meeting

Scott Filipek, Vice President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on October 29, 2020. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Board members present: Chad Conley, Scott Filipek, Rich Olejniczak, and Anisha Ismail Patel.

Board members excused: Brian Cerniglia and Erin Johannesen

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Student Learning; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Secretary Pro Tem

Since Ms. Johannesen was not present, Mr. Filipek asked for a motion to appoint a Secretary Pro Tem for the meeting.

Motion: C. Conley moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion to appoint Ms. Patel to serve as Secretary Pro Tem for the meeting.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

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 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 multiple signatures and comments

Superintendent Report

Cook County Department of Public Health Mandate/Recommendation

Motion: A. Patel moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education 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.

A. Patel amended the motion: 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.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

Transitional Model of Reopening, Update

Dr. Bein provided an update to the Board on a transition model of reopening. The district is currently in the Hybrid model, and noted that as of October 21, 4,060 students are hybrid/in-person and 1,213 are remote. She reviewed the reasons as to why this hybrid plan was chosen, as well as guidance from ISBE and IDPH. She described the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) adaptive pause guidance for K-12 schools. They recommend that administrators consider the recent or ongoing transmission in schools, data that inform Minimal/Moderate/Substantial Community Transmission, and mitigation strategies when making decisions to move between learning models. She reviewed the CCDPH high risk, medium risk, and mixed categories.

She explained that the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocate that students be in school, but they realize that widespread circulation of the virus may not permit in-person learning to be safely accomplished in many jurisdictions.

The Board's liability insurance is through SSCIP. They informed the district that the Board would need to substantiate the rationale for not maintaining six-foot social distancing. Insurance renewals as of December 31, 2020 will likely have exclusions for insuring the district against situations related to a global pandemic. She also explained that a proposed Senate bill, which would protect units of local government from civil damages resulting from transmission of COVID-19, has been stuck in assignments since June.

She reviewed the current data points and TAC recommendations. She showed the percentage of families currently choosing hybrid and remote learning, and noted that the numbers can change slightly as families adjust their child's selection for individual reasons.

Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management, reviewed the classroom layouts with different separations. Classrooms can hold about 12 students with a six-foot person to person (chair to chair) separation, using a 14" chair. Classrooms could hold up to 20 students with a point to point separation, which does not account for the physical space a person occupies. The chair to chair separation would be 4 feet 10 inches, so contract tracing would increase because it would be considered close contact, and additional people would have to quarantine. Social distancing analysis was shown for both elementary and middle schools.

Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO, provided an elementary staffing analysis dependent upon social distancing guidelines. If the district moved to full in-person learning while maintaining six-foot distancing with 12 students, 68 teachers would have to be added, and it would cost the district an additional \$3.6-5.2 million, which would be cost prohibitive to the Board. In addition, an extra 68 teaching spaces cannot be identified. This would also be cost prohibitive with 15 or 18 children in a classroom.

The additional costs would become manageable if we move to 19 or more students in a classroom to maintain six-foot distancing, but the district does not have enough classrooms to accommodate this. Moving to full in-person learning with six-foot distancing allows for more accurate contact tracing; minimizes the need to quarantine students; follows the IDPH guidelines; may require students to change teachers; and possibly having specials on carts.

The district classrooms could accommodate moving to full in person with 3-6-foot distancing for students, and six foot for teachers. This may require changes in the model with possible teacher movement, and an increase in contact tracing and quarantining of students for any child who becomes symptomatic. This partially follows

IDPH guidelines and meets the AAP guidelines. The district will need to meet with the ATA, and we must have a remote option through December 31, 2020.

Dr. Bein shared a visual from the CDC website regarding social distancing in and outside of the home, which shows six-foot distancing person to person. If we move to point to point, we would send more students home to quarantine. She reviewed the number of positive cases and active exclusions, which are while the district is managing six-foot distancing. Nurses are already overwhelmed, but if we eliminate the six-foot distance, or change to point to point, the contact tracing will be well beyond what they are already doing. The district could not accomplish additional tracing with the current staff, and more staff would need to be hired.

There are several items to be accomplished to move to full in-person learning with typical distancing for students and six-foot distancing for parents. Other considerations include guidance from the Governor and/or the Cook County Department of Public Health. The district is currently reviewing how to expand the middle school instructional programs to four full days instead of half days. The district is exploring the implications of expanding the elementary instructional programs to four full days instead of half days. There are many changes for these programs at Westgate and Windsor.

Dr. Bein's recommendation is to utilize the data and guidelines, which include the CDC Risk levels; the Northern Illinois Consortium of Public Health Departments; the Harvard Global Health Institute research; TAC metrics, IDPH mitigations; and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The district will continue to monitor internal COVID-19 cases and exclusions.

Board members asked questions and there was detailed discussion regarding six-foot person to person and point to point distancing; how to increase the number of students in a classroom in a manageable way; and having a remote academy for remote students.

Board members concerns include making sure that whether in-person or remote, students are provided the same high-quality education; making sure that we continue to problem solve so we get to the result where the stakeholders' needs are met; and to have creative ways to get the students back in school.

The Board agreed that everyone involved, including the community, administration, and teachers need to be united. The Board wants to be prepared as much as possible, and tonight's meeting is to lay the ground work and be prepared for the next step.

Motion: A. Patel moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education 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.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and A. Patel seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: November 12, 2020

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: November 13, 2020

Date minutes posted on District website: November 16, 2020

Community Input Received via Email

Name	Question/Comment
Katie Peterson	<p>While it is true that as of late, the numbers in our classrooms are low, they will not remain this way. It is clear that the residents of Arlington Heights do not care for one another, but instead are only interested in the politics that this pandemic has brought forth. What are the parameters put in place to ensure that sick kids aren't coming to school? It is a fact that kids are given Tylenol and sent to hybrid learning classrooms, only to be caught by the school's personnel before arriving to that class. How will the schools handle this when students are all back at the same time? Clearly, the emails, text messages and phone calls aren't enough of a reminder to parents. Parents who choose to send their sick children to school should lose the opportunity to in-person learn. This is what the private schools have in place, and is more than fair.</p> <p>Futhermore, why fix what isn't broken? Hybrid learning is going fine and is keeping everyone safe and with the option to choose how children learn. Teachers in D25 are relearning once again, how to make things work. They are currently learning how to appropriately teach both in person and remotely at the same time. If students go back full time, some students will also continue to stay remote. So, the type of education that all students are currently receiving will take a nosedive. Once again, the Board and the residents of AH are putting their most prized, loved educators in a terrible place. Please consider these points because they are completely valid in how to learn and teach during a pandemic.</p>
Kate Limbers	<p>I truly appreciate the care and concern that you've shown for our students in the district. I grew up attending schools in district 25 and I'm proud to send my children to school in the same district. I love district 25!</p> <p>As much as I would love for things to be back to normal, and for mask wearing not to be necessary and for our kids to go back to learning in person, unfortunately, these are not wise decisions given the current climate. Just because we're "tired" of the restrictions and tired of having to be socially distanced, and tired of not being able to go out and live the social lives we're accustomed to, and tired of having our kids learn in new and different remote ways, doesn't mean that we can just turn a blind eye to reality and wish the world a "normal" place again.</p> <p>Sending our kids back to school, full time, with 100% enrollment is irresponsible. It's irresponsible in a time when Suburban Cook County is issued further restrictions due to increase of Covid cases and increase in our local hospital admissions.</p> <p>6 out of the 11 regions in Illinois are having their economic re-openings rolled back. We've recently had the highest single day counts of positive Covid cases days in a row since the onset of the pandemic. Commercial real estate is suffering because businesses are working remotely. Small businesses and restaurants are closing their doors. Many adults in our community are still working from home, and yet we want to send our kids back indoors, during the cold and flu season no less, to learn alongside each other? Why are we sending our children to the front line of the pandemic? During a time when we're seeing the HIGHEST counts of positive Covid cases that Illinois has EVER seen. Why is this a good idea?</p> <p>"The science, as we know it right now, applies in all situations," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "The more people you are in contact with, the longer you are together, and the closer you are together, the greater your risk of getting COVID-19".</p> <p>Please, please don't remove the option for students to continue with remote learning. We need to be able to protect our children and adapt to the current situation. Don't take away the option to protect our children.</p> <p>Things are different right now. The world is different right now. It is in our children's best interest to learn differently right now.</p>

Name	Question/Comment
Steven Andrews	<p>Item 4B on the agenda is vague so I'm not sure what exactly is being considered under this item at your meeting on October 29th. However, if it's about the Reopening Plan, now is not the time to be considering a transition to Step 4 of the District's reopening plan. Illinois is experiencing a COVID-19 resurgence. There has been a significant uptick in COVID-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations, and every region is seeing increased positivity rates. With an uptick in cases, and more family gatherings inevitably occurring during the holiday season, the District should not consider transitioning to a full in-person model at this time.</p> <p>Regarding Item 4A, If the Cook County Department of Public Health issues a recommendation for all of suburban Cook County, the District should comply with the recommendation. Guidance about public health, from public health professionals, should be followed.</p> <p>Lastly, I appreciate the amazing job teachers and staff are doing to keep my children engaged and learning. Thank you for all you do.</p> <p>Thank you for consideration of my comments.</p>
Ryan and April Berry	<p>We wanted to thank you for tapping a committee to create the hybrid option for District 25 Schools. We currently have a first grader attending Windsor, a future Windsor Wildcat who attends a local preschool once a week for an hour in person, and a medically complex infant who is awaiting Open Heart Surgery.</p> <p>The hybrid option has been such a great fit for our family because it gives our 1st grader an opportunity to be in person in a safe manner with a minimal amount of his classmates while keeping his younger brother safe at home. We would not feel comfortable sending our son full time in person, but this option has been a great compromise.</p> <p>We know you are feeling pressure to offer a full, in-person option-but we thank you for putting the safety of the students, staff and all of the District 25 community first.</p>
Mr. and Mrs. R. Fraser	<p>As parents of children within the District 25 community for the past 5 years, we believe that this is a wonderful district and from our experience at Olive-Mary Stitt, our children have been so loved and cared for by the school teachers and the broader staff.</p> <p>We appreciate all that the school and the district have had to endure and the transition to hybrid in the past month has been welcomed. However, whilst watching the Board meeting on Monday 26th October we became aware that there was to be a planned vote to confirm a date for full in-person learning and this has led us to write to you to convey our concerns. We want to ensure that you, the Board, is considering the most important thing and that is the education, security, and the safety of ALL the students and staff. We understand the current situation is not ideal for all families, however, we believe that the Hybrid learning option currently meets the needs of the students in a manner that mitigates the risk of COVID spread and we would not be supportive of a move to full in-person at this time.</p> <p>Why do we not support a change to Hybrid learning yet? We are not against children being in school, but we would prefer students, families, and teachers to be given time to settle and adjust into hybrid learning. Considering COVID numbers all around us are increasing and we are yet to determine the impact that will have on our schools in their current format, it seems untimely (literally a few weeks in) to be already setting out plans for a change to full in-person. With the recent announcement that restaurants and bars have been closed or limited to 25 or 25% of capacity, it indicates that sadly we are sliding backwards in the COVID response and now would be the time to put the safety and students as a priority rather than pursuing a move to full in-person. Whilst numbers are rising in the manner that they are in this area, increasing the risk of endangering the health of students, staff and their direct families should not be the priority of the Board. These risks can be mitigated through the retention of the 6ft social distance, so it would be unwise to consider a change at present.</p> <p>In addition, we would ask the Board to consider the impact to students who are currently in school within the Hybrid model. In speaking with a number of other District 25 families, many have intimated they may feel unable to have their kids attend school if full in-person is put in place prematurely. Further disruption to kids on top of everything they have had to endure over the last 9 months would not be something we would actively choose. We know that many children thrive with routine so a</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>change in educational platform will add further instability to young lives who aren't equipped to deal with this level of social and emotional fluctuation. Specifically, we are thinking of families that may feel forced to remove their students due to the in-person change.</p> <p>Should we switch to full in-person and have to quickly revert to some form of hybrid or full-remote in December, not altogether unlikely, the impact on students as we flip-flop shows a level of complete disregard for their social and emotional well-being. You need to consider the trauma that will be caused by yet another change and removal of their teacher and peers completely from the in-person format that they have only just started to get used to. In our mind, committing to some level of consistency to allow for more time to build these relationships before this change occurs would be highly beneficial. As parents, all we ask is for the opportunity to provide our honest feedback and ensure any decision is being made in a balanced manner with the necessary input from a wide range of families, not just those who feel more vociferous when it comes to their individual situation. In the modern age, instantaneous feedback or some degree of 'pulse check' can be easily requested. It reflects badly on the Board that you have not chosen to request that from the families to which YOU are elected to serve.</p> <p>More worryingly, a point raised at the 10/26 board meeting by a D25 teacher suggested there had been a lack of communication between the Board, school staff, and the union. This is of deep concern to us as parents, if the very people we entrust our children to do not feel safe and valued. I would be interested to know if the teaching staff have been given the opportunity to express their views on the safety and the well-being of their students. If not, then we have failed to respect them. These staff care deeply about their students and being on the front lines will know better than any of us what is working and what is not. Additionally, if we move to full in-person learning without the 6ft separation, then we are knowingly placing them and their direct family members at a higher level risk of contracting the virus. As an employee, they deserve a say on how we implement the learning options and the environment in which they are delivered. We would implore the Board to ensure increased transparency and communication with the teachers and their unions. In not doing so we are disregarding every teacher that this situation impacts.</p> <p>We look forward to the point when all students can return to school safely and receive a full in-person education. However, we don't believe that should come at the reduction of current safety protocols that are intended to minimize spread. Full in-person would eliminate the 6ft distance gap that has been recommended by the CDC. Per the CDC website, "COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period" (1). A decision to forego these recommendations under pressure to reinstate in-person learning sets a clear precedent from which it may be difficult to recover. If 6ft distancing is set-aside, then does the use of masks simply become a 'recommendation' that can be ignored? These recommendations have been in place since the spring and are intended to (and surely have) saved lives. Each and every decision we make has intended and unintended consequences and we need to be clear on the message this sends to our children. The disregard of guidelines intended to save lives and the school environment not being safe does not sit well with us and should not sit well with you as a Board, even if it doesn't correlate with individual agendas.</p> <p>We would ask the Board to ensure the views of all families should be sought and gathered in order to support our children before transitioning to a revised learning model. We would ask the Board to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the Board have a response from ALL families to determine how they will respond to a change in the learning options? • Based on the families responses, does the Board believe they have a plan on how to implement the differing needs of students and families? • Has the Board observed a Hybrid classroom? • Has the Board spoken with District 25 teachers, staff, and unions directly to understand their ideas and views? • Has the Board spoken to medical professionals who both agree and disagree with 6ft social distancing? • Has the Board considered if there are legal issues of reducing the safety measures?

Name	Question/Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the Board met with other schools who have different options for learning to determine how D25 could safely implement them also? <p>These are just some questions that came to mind and we are sure there are more. When we make decisions without ALL facts we fail ALL the students, families, staff, and the community. In closing, we want to thank each of you for your time and service on this Board of Education at this very difficult time and appreciate the challenges faced in your role. It is apparent that sometimes no good decisions can be made, but sticking to clear principles can be a guide towards the right decision. In this instance, the only thing that each decision should be measured against is its impact on the students. If we cannot look in the mirror and say we did our very best for each and every student having considered ALL facts and ALL families to the best of our ability, then we will have failed. We ask each of you to consider this when you make decisions at the coming meeting. On behalf of the families you represent as elected officials, please ensure you have ALL the facts and know what ALL the community wants.</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.htm</p>
Erin Lakomski	<p>I write this as an Ivy Hill Elementary parent and community member. I understand the pressure to move to a 5 full day in school option is huge. I am extremely concerned this type of in school attendance will not only result in more infections but many families taking their children out to remote only as a result. My daughter is thriving in hybrid and I appreciate the value in person schooling provides, but I would take her out if 5 days was the only in person option available. In fact, I know many families who feel the same. Remaining in a hybrid model allows distancing guidelines to be met, a critical piece for preventing the spread of Covid-19. Too many students in a classroom would be inevitable. Students in hybrid now are having invaluable face time with their teachers and peers. A change to full would result in many of those same students losing out due to parents knowing it is just not safe. It might not even be "safe" this whole school year and that's just the reality of it. I keep listening to and reading the statements put out by the school and district - - everything says "when it is safe to do so." Now is not the time and it is NOT safe to do so.</p>
Christine Organ	<p>I am writing to urge the school board to keep the hybrid option at this time. Cases are continuing to rise in the area, and the metrics are above the range that triggered the move to hybrid in the first place. Hybrid has only been in effect for three weeks, which isn't long enough to assess the impact of the transition from full remote to hybrid on the students/staff. I urge the board to stay in a hybrid setting at this time until we've moved the numbers back down again or we know more about the impact of the move to hybrid. Maintaining 6 feet distance is imperative with the numbers this high, and if the number of students doubles in the school, this will be impossible. I understand the childcare concerns presented, but I hope that the community can come together to address these concerns in a safe and respectful way.</p>
Kelly Balmer	<p>I am writing this email to you to express my concern regarding the decision making process in District 25. As a mother of three, my number one job in life is to keep my children safe, healthy and loved. As a school board, your number one job is to ensure that the students are accessing a premier education in a fair, equal, safe and healthy manner.</p> <p>I was, and continue to be, 100% in support of the decision on how, and when, to reopen our schools being a partnership between teachers, administrators, Dr. Bein, school board members and the community. However, I do not support the board of education giving a small group of boisterous parents' opinions more weight than that of teachers who are currently living the reality that will be voted on; and I do not support the board of education giving more weight to the wants of some community members over the safety and well-being of our children and dedicated staff.</p> <p>At the board meeting on Monday October 26th, I heard board members emphasize that the CDC guidelines were only recommendations, and not requirements. This line of thinking is scary. Following these guidelines is what has made the hybrid learning experience so successful for our children. These "recommendations" are continually followed by the Board of Education in District 25 when having board meetings. Board members are all spaced six feet apart and there continues to be very limited capacity at each meeting. Yet the board is also suggesting that it is not important to maintain the same level of safety for our children and teachers when considering moving to the next</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>phase of re-opening. Will the board members be present daily in classrooms where students and staff cannot maintain the recommended six feet of social distance?</p> <p>I urge the board to consider safety as the first priority. I also urge the board to have open dialogue with the teachers in the district about what they believe is the best learning experience for our students; knowing that covid infection rates are constantly changing and transitioning between phases hugely impacts teachers and the instruction they deliver to our children. It should go without saying that all parents want their children in school. Remote learning is not a complete substitute for children being physically present in school five days per week; however, the hybrid plan is a clear alternative that allows students the opportunity to be physically present in school at times while still maintaining safety precautions.</p> <p>At the board meeting on Monday, a parent stood up and said we should think of our students as patients and teachers as essential workers. This is completely flawed logic. Our children are not currently sick. They are not currently patients in a hospital battling to stay alive. They are not currently relying on doctors and nurses to help them survive. Our children are students, who are currently healthy; and while remote learning is not the gold star method of educating our children, it is a way to ensure that they are safe and remain healthy while also being educated by their teachers. Many health care practices have transitioned to offering remote services during this pandemic, and those remote services are still preferable by most practices compared to in person visits. If doctors' offices and other medical practices have found safe alternatives to in person visits and are choosing to continue with them, why would district 25 choose to transition hundreds of children and teachers back to ill equipped buildings when an alternative is available?</p> <p>The truth is, the only thing that should matter to anyone right now is the safety and well being of students and staff. Before you, as board members, decide to take the safety and well being of our children into your hands, I would like you to address the following questions: Why is it safer now for students and staff to return to school, ignoring the CDC guidelines, than it was in August? How is the board going to ensure that students and staff are protected if transitioning to a full opening? Why is it important that the board of education follows safety guidelines like social distancing but it is not for students and staff in classrooms? What makes the board of education more qualified to make the decision to reopen schools in district 25 than the Cook County Board of Health or the IDPH?</p> <p>I sincerely hope as you think about your vote on a topic as important as the health and safety of our children and dedicated teachers, you are able to answer each of the above questions. If there are still questions that cannot be answered, then keeping our schools at the hybrid phase is the only logical decision; until a better plan, that involves all stakeholders, can be formulated. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Lisa Parciak	<p>I am writing to you to voice my support of the hybrid model that is currently in place. When I attended a board meeting via zoom at the beginning of the school year, Dr. Bein stated that returning to in-person learning on a full time basis would be impossible because students would not be able to be kept 6 feet apart from one another. Now, I hear that the Board is considering returning to in-person learning full-time and I'm wondering how the schools are going to be able to keep students 6 feet apart with twice as many students. I can only assume that it won't be possible.</p> <p>With Covid-19 on the rise in Illinois, I am not sure why the Board is even considering transitioning to full-time in-person learning at this point in time. It should be obvious to everyone that when Covid-19 cases are on the rise, we need more social distancing, not less. Bringing back more students at a time when Covid-19 cases are on the rise and only expected to increase in the coming months is counter-intuitive. I cannot believe that I even have to explain my position because it screams of common-sense, but here we are. I know that the board is getting an enormous amount of pressure from angry parents and that sometimes it is hard to do what is right. But, I urge you to make your decisions based on science and the best interests of our children and teachers. Our teachers are working so hard and are under enormous pressure and I hope the Board realizes that. My daughter's teachers have been amazing during this whole ordeal. They have been so supportive, positive, and creative. I also hope that the Board realizes that going in-person full time not only puts our children's health at risk, it puts our teachers' health at risk. Many of our teachers fall into the high-risk category as well. Transitioning to full-time in person learning and forcing our teachers to</p>

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	<p>risk their lives just so that they can keep their jobs is truly beyond the pale. Of course, in-person education is better than remote learning and hybrid, but what is best is just not possible if we are to stand any chance of fighting this pandemic. I hope the Board can rise above parental pressure and do what is needed to protect our students, their families, and our teachers.</p>
<p>Jim and Cristina Small</p>	<p>It is our understanding that at the upcoming Board meeting (10/29/20), an optional motion may be proposed to make a decision on a date to resume full in-person learning for district 25 schools. There is currently significant growth in COVID infection, positivity, hospitalization and mortality rates along with record daily infection numbers since the start of the pandemic. Accordingly, such a motion would be highly irresponsible and extremely reckless if the Board were to move forward given this recent resurgence. However, we support the Board in the development of a robust plan to eventually return our children to full in person learning. Such a robust plan does not currently exist (or is not transparent) but should include and not be limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of refreshed key metrics, hurdles, and thresholds with respect to COVID transmission and infection data including parameters for trending for full in person learning; • Clear and substantive precautions that will be taken to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID 19 under a full in person learning model; and • Sufficient time for the opportunity to obtain substantive input from teachers and administrators. <p>Until such time that a new plan is developed, the Board should not be considering an arbitrary date at this time to return to full in person curriculum. While we understand the divisiveness of this situation amongst certain community members, the Board should keep the best interest of all children and families it serves. This includes not just the quality of our children’s education, but also the health and safety of our children, teachers and school staff. In the meantime, we support the current hybrid and remote model which should stay intact until the Board has the wherewithal to make a responsible, informed decision.</p> <p>Lastly, we thank the District 25 teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication, and keeping the best interest of our children as their first priority.</p>
<p>Janine Flauter</p>	<p>My name is Janine Flauter and I am a 5th grade teacher at Windsor Elementary School. Thank you for dedicating your time and commitment to the staff and students of AHSD25. I appreciate your service.</p> <p>I am writing today to share my thoughts with you about reopening AHSD25 schools. My heart and soul is teaching. I know I say this every year, but my group of students this year are the very best! They are caring, compassionate, funny, excited, and enthusiastic. They love school and want to be in-person, 5 days a week. I want them to be in school in-person, 5 days a week. My job would be so much more manageable if we could go back to before COVID times. However, we are in the middle of a global pandemic. If you look at any data health organizations out there it is undeniable. The numbers are increasing. Many school districts around Arlington Heights are going remote. I am going to say it again. I love my students. I love coming to work and spending my day with them. However, I am scared. I am scared a desk will go unsanitized and someone will get COVID19. I am scared that a student will have their mask off while eating a snack and we will get COVID19. I am scared I will get COVID19 and give it to my immunocompromised father in law or elderly parents. I am scared now. I will be terrified if we go full in with no social distancing. I feel like I am being asked to choose between the career I love or the safety of my students, children, husband, and elderly family.</p> <p>Without precautions recommended by the county health organizations, school is not safe. Staff and students will get sick. Staff and students are getting sick with the current precautions. We know that some don’t make it and others have long term effects. It is undeniable that without social distancing we are at more risk. Will there be testing for AHSD25 students and staff?</p> <p>There has been discussion of analyzing Arlington Heights School District numbers instead of following the data created by the county. How do we ensure that this data is reliable? Will there be time between an outbreak and closing a classroom or school? That time is valuable. That time can mean unnecessary exposure, unnecessary hospital admissions and unnecessary deaths.</p>

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	<p>Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts. I want to share a teacher's perspective. I love being a teacher. It is my life's work and my passion. I love caring for students academically and socially emotionally. I want kids to be safe more than anything. It is why I am a teacher. I want life to return to normal. However, we just don't know enough about this virus. Below are two articles about young, healthy Major League Baseball players that have complications from COVID19. The Mayo Clinic is warning against Multisystem inflammatory syndrome, a disease in children that may be linked to COVID19. Opening schools and ignoring the recommendations of the health organizations is negligent. It puts everyone at risk and I am worried for your children and all of the children of AHSD25.</p> <p>Below are articles I refer to about the baseball players and the Mayo Clinic. https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mis-c-in-kids-covid-19/symptoms-causes/syc-20502550 https://hartfordhealthcaremedicalgroup.org/about-us/news-center/news-detail?articleId=25255&publicid=395 https://theathletic.com/2043628/2020/09/04/a-daily-battle-months-later-yoan-moncada-is-still-affected-by-covid-19/</p>									
<p>Deandra Galarde and Sarah Meyer</p>	<p>First, we'd like to start off by saying what a wonderful job District 25 is doing, you, the board, the teachers, the staff and everyone involved with hybrid and the remote only learning option. We know this is a difficult adjustment for everyone involved including more time spent preparing lesson plans, being on zoom and tending to the children in the classrooms. It's a seamless transition and very successful because of each and every one of you. This is one of the many reasons why we're proud to be a part of this district.</p> <p>With COVID numbers rising all around us, particularly the metrics for 60004 and 60005, and the fact that we are above our metrics currently for the hybrid model, we feel it is safest to keep our kids in a hybrid model or remote only option at the very least through December. Pushing our child(ren) into a full in-person model puts our child(ren), staff and families at risk. As we have heard, parents want to make a choice for their child(rens) education but by allowing kids in a full in person model you are removing the choice for any option of hybrid learning and remote only for other families. Now there are many families that feel that their child(ren) are not where they should be academically, socially or emotionally. But there are so many child(ren) that are thriving in hybrid/remote environment.</p> <p>The current hybrid model adheres to the safety protocols put in place by the CDC with recommendations to keep masks on at all times (except lunch/snack) and 6 feet apart. The hybrid model also gives parents the option for some in-person instruction; something we all want for our child(ren), while also keeping everyone safely apart.</p> <p>We ask the School District 25 Board of Education to re-evaluate and consider keeping the current Hybrid model and remote only option as it currently stands through the end of December 2020. Almost 800,000 children in the U.S. have been infected with the novel coronavirus according to a leading group of doctors. According to the data, which the group collected and analyzed in conjunction with the Children's Hospital Association, children represent 11% of all cases in states reporting COVID-19 cases by age. However, there was also a 14% increase in pediatric COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks.</p> <p>As of today October, 28, 2020 here are the case counts for children in the following zip codes (0-17), plus one tragic death of a teen from the virus which is 1 too many.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 1612 1091 1701"> <thead> <tr> <th>Zip</th> <th>Tested</th> <th>Confirmed Cases</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>60004</td> <td>26,668</td> <td>961</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60005</td> <td>15,353</td> <td>637</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics</p> <p>Thank you for all you are doing to ensure the safety for all the children, teachers and staff while making a successful Hybrid and Remote learning environment.</p>	Zip	Tested	Confirmed Cases	60004	26,668	961	60005	15,353	637
Zip	Tested	Confirmed Cases								
60004	26,668	961								
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<p>Chris Jones</p>	<p>At tonight's transition update meeting, I know you will be debating a return to full in-person learning, including the possibility of setting a date for return. I would ask that if you decide to allow a full return</p>									

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	<p>to school, to please allow families a couple of options for opt-in dates, especially if that return date is before the end of 2020.</p> <p>With hybrid learning, families were asked to make a decision for the next several weeks of school, and I'd request a similar timetable be offered for full in-person learning. My concern is that some families, including my own, may wish to remain at home through the end of the year, especially with the holidays coming and the possibility of seeing older family members. However, after the holidays, and with additional time to evaluate our current rise in COVID-19 cases and the effectiveness of returning full time, it may be that we would feel more comfortable returning to school.</p> <p>If you decide to return full time on Nov 30th, I would appreciate an opportunity for another opt-in decision point sometime in January (e.g. Jan 4, Jan 19, 2021). I think it would be very beneficial if you could provide such flexibility in the decision-making process for district families.</p> <p>Good luck with your discussion tonight.</p>
Kevin Michael	<p>My wife and I have chosen to keep our children fully remote, and the recent positive COVID cases at both Thomas Middle School and Ivy Hill elementary school indicate that we made the right choice. The number of cases in Arlington Heights is steadily rising, so any plan to bring students back to school 5 days a week before 2021 would be dangerous and irresponsible. I hope Dr. Bein and the Board of Education will rely on data, science, and medical expertise when making decisions that can impact the health and safety of students, teachers, and the community at large. Doing what is right is more important than doing what is popular.</p>
Melissa Van Buren	<p>I have 3 boys that attend Ivy Hill, one is kindergarten. All my children were super excited. My 5 year old was beyond excited to go in person with hybrid, but what he was most excited about was raising his hand and being noticed and called on. He said to me, "mom, I raise my hand on zoom all the time, she looks at me but doesn't call on me!" He can't see that everyone has their hand raised, he just sees his teacher look at her screen and believes she is looking at him and ignoring him.</p> <p>We have amazing teachers that are doing their best. We need to take some of the burden off of them and have dedicated remote teachers for those who choose remote. And we need to have our children who choose in person, in 5 days a week with their amazing teachers. Let's help them do what they do best and stop asking the impossible.</p>
Michael Kuehl	<p>I'm writing in support of science. All the current data show Illinois and suburban Cook County on an upward trend. Now is definitely NOT the time to even consider returning to full-time, in-person instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry picking metrics to fit your view is dangerous. • Succumbing to a select group of loud bullies is cowardly. • Keeping our children safe is paramount. • Endangering the lives of faculty, staff, and their families is reckless. <p>I'm a 15 year resident of 60005 and I have two kids who went through Westgate and are now at RMHS and SMS.</p> <p>Please choose the smart, safe, and sensible route.</p>
Erica Palmieri	<p>As a teacher in District 25 for many years, I can confidently say that we have an incredibly caring community of families and educators. This year has stretched every single of us to our limits as we all bend over backward to care for our families and community at large while trying to make the right decision at every turn. To my administrators, I thank you for all of your effort in trying to mediate decisions that impact families with very different needs. To my board members, I thank you for the additional time and dedication this year has demanded of you. You have been asked to look at constantly changing metrics, consider community opinions from opposite sides of the spectrum, and make decisions in a constantly changing world.</p> <p>You are armed with so much data in your decision-making process, but you are missing the most crucial piece. The classroom. At your level, you have read surveys, letters, and heard from community members. Our union leader has done a wonderful job expressing the overall sentiments of our members throughout all of the shifts this year. But no amount of data can replace a few hours in a real classroom. To the best of my knowledge, you are making decisions about what happens in D25 classrooms without ever having lived a day in one during this school year. My intention with this email is not to change anyone's opinion on reopening schools but to arm our decision-makers with</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>the most accurate and unfiltered data they can collect. How can you vote on remote, hybrid, concurrent, or full-time teaching if you have never seen the model in action on a full scale? You may have seen one child's experience in your own home or heard from parents or teachers about others. However, nothing can replace seeing what is happening in a whole classroom (or a whole school) with your own eyes.</p> <p>It is possible I am the only teacher willing to open my classroom to the board and show them the good, bad, and ugly of what is happening in this model and all future models. But I think you may be surprised at how many teachers are willing to show you what is happening on the ground-level to properly inform your decision-making process. I am not here to sway anyone's decisions, I am here to invite you to gather your own data. Come see what is happening with your own two eyes. Come into my classroom with open minds and open hearts to experience what these decisions look like on a classroom level. Come do a socially-distanced observation in my room, or if you are feeling brave, come teach a lesson of your choosing.</p> <p>Brian Cerniglia, Scott Filipek, Erin Johannesen, Chad Conley, Rich Olejniczak, and Anisha Ismail Patel, you are cordially invited to join my fifth-grade classroom of Greenbrier Gators for as much time as you need to gather data for your decision-making process. Dr. Lori Bein, I hope you join them. I eagerly await your reply at epalmieri@sd25.org.</p>
Yan Mei Zhou	<p>Staying healthy is what we want in this difficult time. With the current situation, I don't think we are ready to consider full-time in-person learning. Keeping the Hybrid model is the way to go as 6 FT social distance to keep everyone safe, including teachers, kids, and the family. Keeping the Hybrid model also provides the flexibility for resuming full remote learning if any unexpected situation happened.</p> <p>While a lot of companies are still in the full-time remote model and only exit the full-time remote till summer 2021 as the earliest, I cannot imagine how we could send our kids to full time in person. Please take our teachers, kids, and family's health into priority.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Robyn Swanson	<p>I am requesting a comprehensive plan for exactly what remote learning will look like for those who choose to remain remote due to health and safety concerns if the district hastily returns to full in person learning. Anything less, does not give parents adequate information to make this important decision.</p> <p>It is important that the mental health of remote students, as well as maintaining an as close to normal routine for these students be taken into account. Relegating them to remote only classrooms, removing them from their current teachers and classmates does not accomplish this. It equates to a punishment in their eyes. There should be no sense of punishment for a student remaining at home due to health concerns, a family's health concerns or simply because their parents are not in agreement with a board that is willfully choosing to go against its own established metrics and the guidance of the department of health.</p>
Melisa Andrews	<p>I am writing you as a concerned parent. Not only for our children but also for the staff. I have seen day in and day out my 1st graders teacher struggle with tech and teaching both the children in class and in person at the same time. She makes it so her students don't see it but I as a parent do. With the numbers rising I feel it is unsafe for the kids to go full day in person. In fact I just read an article from the Academy of American Pediatrics that says as of September 513,000 kids have gotten COVID. Regardless if parents think kids are less likely to get COVID they are absolutely carriers. They bring it home to their parents, grandparents, and/or people in their bubble. Not to mention it is unsafe working conditions for the teachers. Teachers have become nurses, babysitters, tech facilitators and teachers. They are currently playing the role of many careers of which when they wanted to become a teacher didn't sign up to do. Teachers became teachers to care for the academic well being of their students. I hope that you consider keeping hybrid at the very least or go back to remote as the local and state Covid numbers increase. Thank you for your time in reading this.</p>
Michael Andrews	<p>With the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths rising higher than they have in months, it is irresponsible and dangerous to shift to full in-person learning at this time. Stuffing our classrooms and hallways with students will only exacerbate the spread of the virus in our community. I</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>understand the argument that, statistically speaking, most children would recover if infected; however, their parents and grandparents may not. Over 200,000 Americans are dead, and that number grows by the day. It is NOT just like the flu. Period. Why would we risk recklessly shifting to in-person learning, a scenario that would eliminate all social distancing, if it will likely contribute to hospitalization or death in our community? While remote and hybrid learning are not ideal, we have some of the best teachers in the world in our schools, and they are working hard to provide meaningful learning experiences for the students. The experience so far has been infinitely better than last Spring. The students are working hard, and they are engaged academically and socially. For the sake of the health and safety of our overall community, I ask the board to delay a shift to full in-person learning until this virus is truly under control. Thank you.</p>
Lori Martin	<p>First, thank you for your time serving as a Board member. I recognize that it has been a difficult year for Board members and district administrators and appreciate the time and effort put forth by you. I am a parent of 2 students in the district - one at Thomas and one at Olive-Mary Stitt. I am writing regarding the possibility of the Board voting on a specific date for students to have the choice to return to school 5 days/week or to remain remote.</p> <p>It is my understanding that over the past few months, Dr. Bein, her central office staff, and the transition advisory committee (which included a medical professional) have worked tirelessly in the best interests of students and staff to set forth a plan to safely reach a point where a possible 5 day/week return can happen; however, the transition advisory committee was unable to reach a consensus as to what metrics should be used to return full time. I would like to thank Dr. Bein, her staff, and the transition advisory committee for all of their hard work and leadership to safely transition our students into school on a hybrid model. It is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>While I would love to have my children safely back in school 5 days/week, the virus is surging in our area (and across the country) and Thanksgiving break and winter break are fast approaching. Some staff and students may be traveling in state and out of state during this time for vacation and/or family gatherings. Currently, Cook County recommends that individuals who travel to 31 listed states and Puerto Rico self quarantine for 14 days upon return from travel. And, public health officials have repeatedly said family gatherings are one of the main sources of the spread of the virus at this time. With all of this in mind, I respectfully ask that the Board please clarify the following when making its determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether the transition advisory committee and Dr. Bein will continue to meet and provide guidance to the Board; and, - the specific criteria, including any input from Dr. Bein and the transition advisory committee, that the Board considered in determining the full time return to school date. <p>I believe this information is one of many crucial components that parents need to know so they can make a well-informed decision regarding remote or in-person learning for their children. Thank you for your time.</p>
Amanda Bhansali	<p>I write to you as a parent of three D25 students. One of my children has a 504 plan for special needs. I'm also President-elect of the Patton PTA and help to run the 4th grade Girl Scout Troop at Patton. I have been a D214 High School Teacher for 16 years.</p> <p>I'm sending you a message that is <u>IN FAVOR OF continued hybrid learning</u> OR a <u>switch to remote learning</u>. I am <u>AGAINST full, in person learning</u> for D25 at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers have JUST changed all their plans to hybrid from full remote. Another change now is too soon. Teachers have been giving 200% of their time and energy to school. Constant change gives no time to establish routines and consistent learning. Our teachers are running on empty and it isn't even Thanksgiving yet. I get emails from my children's teachers past midnight. They're working hard. We should support their efforts as much as possible. • Students are JUST learning routines. Two of my three children have only been at school 4 times since hybrid began. Give it time before changing the plan again. I would be in support of hybrid learning through the end of 2020 at the very least. Frequent change of schedule is not good for students and their learning, especially those students who have special needs like my son.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going full in person would ignore the guideline of 6' or more safe distance recommended by the CDC, IDPH, and CCDH. My children have said they won't feel comfortable going to school without 6' or more of distance. My husband and I won't feel comfortable sending them to school without 6' or more of distance. • Going full in person and ignoring the guideline of 6' or more safe distance would be especially dangerous during snack time and lunch periods when students will be taking off their masks to eat. The weather is getting colder and students won't be able to eat outside. There is physically not enough space in our schools to spread everyone out to eat if all students are invited back daily. Indoor dining is currently closed in Cook County due to the State's mitigation efforts. If it is not safe to eat indoors at a restaurant, it follows that it is also not safe for our children to eat inside a school building less than 6' from their peers. • Based on the D25 Superintendent's latest Friday update, the district is watching the 7-day case rate per 100,000 people in the 60004 and 60005 zip codes, per the Harvard Global Health Initiative guidelines. The Harvard Global Health Initiative recommends K-5 and 6-8 hybrid learning when the weekly case rate is between 70 and <175 per 100,000. Remote learning is recommended for 7-day case rates above 175 per 100,000. For the last 5 days, the 7-day case rate per 100,000 in 60004 and 60005 have been 207, 184.5, 199.5, 202, and 219.4 cases per week per 100,000 – consistently above the Harvard threshold for hybrid learning. • The fact that the Transition Advisory Committee couldn't come to a majority decision on this issue should be eye opening to the School Board. At the very least, more time to look at data, more specific plans for schools, and a testing plan need to be in place before there is a return to full in person learning. There is NOT overwhelming community support for a full return to in person learning. • As an active member of the community, it would be disheartening to see the School Board pander to a small minority group of vocal parents who are disregarding science and the health of the community just so their children can go back to school full time. The selfishness of these parents and the disregard for the safety of others is infuriating. Most parents are ok with hybrid learning. It is NOT perfect by any means, but some in person learning is better than no in person learning. • I am a teacher who has lost a student to COVID-19. Deaths among the young may be at low rates - but ONE DEATH IS TOO MANY. How would it impact a student's mental health to lose a friend to COVID? Their teacher? To bring COVID home to a parent or grandparent who dies? Yes, we are all impacted by the isolation that has resulted from the pandemic. We will all have to support each other through these difficult times. I would argue that the trauma of death is more traumatic than having school on your chromebook for a year. • It seems we are at the cusp of the Cook County Department of Health recommending that schools in Suburban Cook County resume remote learning due to increasing levels of community spread. This is similar to what has been recommended in many of our neighboring counties. I encourage the School Board to allow Dr. Bein to make a decision that would follow the recommendations of HEALTH professionals and EDUCATION professionals. • Another thing to consider is the availability of testing in our community. Until there is a testing strategy of reliable PCR tests available to the D25 families, it is irresponsible to consider a full return to in person learning. • One must also consider the operational barriers to increasing student attendance in D25. More students in the buildings at less than 6' distance would mean that when someone does test positive, there would be huge numbers of students, their families, and school staff forced to quarantine for 14 days. This could potentially impact local businesses if parents are now forced to quarantine alongside their children. There are simply not enough substitute teachers if teachers would be required to quarantine as well. <p>As a parent and a teacher, I fully understand the benefit for in-person learning for our students. However, the risks of full, in-person learning far outweigh the benefits at this time.</p>

Name	Question/Comment
<p>Timothy Schank</p>	<p>Thank you for reading my remarks and for protecting our community.</p> <p>I am a District 25 parent (South and Westgate) and am writing to voice my opinion regarding the possibility that the District would transition to full in-person learning in the near future. I oppose such a move and strongly encourage the Board to reject that proposal and maintain the status quo of Hybrid/Remote.</p> <p>Dating back to this summer, District 25 parents were informed that the Board would take a data-driven approach to this issue. That is the only reasonable approach to take in a pandemic. The data opened the door for a transition to Hybrid learning, and that made sense at the time. However, current community data makes a further transition to full in-person learning incredibly irresponsible. Case and hospitalization numbers are spiking in our region, our state, and across the country. The situation in Wisconsin (only an hour north and where many District 25 families have vacation homes) is staggering. Guidance around in-person gatherings, indoor dining, and bars is tightening. A substantial number of businesses (including mine) is continuing to require their employees to work remotely for the foreseeable future. In light of all that information, it is frankly impossible to understand why the Board would consider a transition to in-person school. If anything, safety would caution a return to a fully remote model at this time. Nevertheless, at a bare minimum, a transition to a fully in-person model under the current circumstances would be unreasonable, unsafe, and would contradict the District's commitment to take a data-driven approach to these decisions.</p> <p>Further, the students (and their parents) are just now completing the transition to Hybrid learning. Children are adapting to new situations, and families are changing their routines, work schedules, childcare situations, and so forth. An additional transition at this time would prolong this period of transition and further disrupt families. It would distract from the academic mission, and place additional emotional distress upon children and families. As we approach Thanksgiving and the December holidays, further distractions will only diminish the students' academic experience. I urge the Board to "keep their eye on the ball" and consider how all of this will impact the District's educational mission</p> <p>Even to the extent that the Board decides to move to a fully in-person model, it is critical that Remote learning must remain available for families who choose that avenue to protect their students and at-risk family members. Remote learning so far has been successful, and that standard must be maintained, even in the even there are more children in-person in the classroom. Teachers need to be given the resources to do that.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for your service on the Board.</p>
<p>Alexis and Doug Hammond</p>	<p>As numbers skyrocket across the country, please continue to keep our community safe. The second wave is coming, and it will not leave Arlington Heights unscathed. This is no time to abandon the hybrid model and move to face to face learning. Following all of the CDC guidelines is our only defense against Covid that we have at this time. 6 feet of distance, masks, and hand hygiene are absolutely necessary. As numbers go up in the community, please consider a return to virtual learning. Keep the teachers, administration, and students safe from Covid. Our community depends on it.</p> <p>The negative energy, the attacks from the community, the loud and angry cries for "normalcy"...have no business in this discussion. I implore the board to follow the science. This is a global pandemic. Let's all come through this with our health.</p> <p>It is time, however, to do a wellness check on the district administration, teachers, and staff. They are working at unsustainable levels for the school year. They keep rising to the challenges they face. They keep working all hours of the day and night for our children. They are exhausted physically, mentally, and emotionally. They are fighters...but how long do we expect them to be able to get up and fight if we keep changing the rules on them? Their physical health and well being matter. The health and well being of their families matter. I don't believe they went into education to be first responders. Let's stop putting them on the front lines of this epidemic.</p> <p>We will be choosing to keep our children remote for the remainder of the school year.</p>

Name	Question/Comment
<p>Nilima Nanisetty</p>	<p>My son is not able to learn and succeed via the hybrid model. He is in 4th grade and has historically always done well in school. He scores 99th percentile in MAP testing, above average CogAt scores, has been evaluated by a psychiatrist to have IQ over 130, and has no learning disorders. He recently had a math test and got 50% of the problems incorrect. When my husband reviewed the test with him, my son said he forgot how to do the math computations. He is not able to retain or learn the information correctly in the hybrid model. We are doing a disservice to our general ed students by not allowing them to go to school 5 days a week.</p> <p>The board and superintendent should consider the negative impact of our current hybrid model for the general ed population in our elementary age students. The half day model has shown to have positive results for both students and teachers in the current school districts that are using them. Students would get daily in person exposure to their teachers and receive the education they deserve. All specials could be completed at home during the half day they are not in school. By going to half day, 5 days a week, students would keep masks on the entire day and therefore, reduce the potential exposure to COVID-19. We would also reduce or eliminate the risk of food allergy exposure for our kids in the classrooms since there would not be a need for food in school for half a day.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I know you are all working hard to provide the best for our students.</p>
<p>Rebecca Pollard</p>	<p>I am a community member living in Arlington Heights. It has come to my attention that the board will be meeting to discuss sending District 25 students back to school full time, five days a week. As a member of this community I am invested in the health and safety of myself, my family, and my friends, all of whom live in Arlington Heights. Unless the board has a way to keep students distanced six feet while bringing all students back to school full time, I ask you to please vote no on this plan. As I am sure you are aware, COVID-19 positivity rate and Covid like admissions to the hospital are on the rise in this area. The most recent data from the IDPH website shows an eight percent positivity rate in our region- the highest ever. This is simply not the time to be bringing students back if they will be within six feet of one another. Instead, the board should be considering rolling back the reopening plan to only include in person instruction for your most at risk learners, like many districts in the surrounding area.</p> <p>If you approve this plan you are putting the community at large at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and suffering from the life long effects. Please consider the broader picture when making your decision on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Jen Anderson</p>	<p>Please provide your comprehensive plan for instruction of full remote students for if/when the district pushes to 5-day in-person as a replacement for the hybrid option, inclusive of the likelihood/plans for class/teacher changes, district vs. non-district staff, combining of schools, etc.</p>
<p>Rachel Pollard</p>	<p>I wanted to express again, my extreme concern that D25 is continuing their path to move forward with full in school instruction, while COVID continues to get worse and worse. We're shutting down restaurants and limiting groups to smaller and smaller and yet we somehow think our children and teachers are immune to COVID and the still unknown long lasting complications and symptoms. I grew up in Arlington Heights attending Windsor and South and chose this community to raise my daughter. I have never been so ashamed to be a part of this community and district, which is clearly not prioritizing my daughter's health and safety, nor that of the community.</p> <p>So again, I'd like to say that I fully acknowledge that this is an impossible situation. I completely understand there is not a way to address the concerns of every teacher, administrator, community member, and student. There is, however, a way to prioritize the health and safety of the aforementioned individuals. At this moment, I do not believe sending students and teachers back to in-person learning would be keeping their health and safety as a first priority.</p> <p>I am extremely pleased with the way remote learning has been handled this year. My daughter, who is a 6th grader at South, seems very engaged and loves her classes. She enjoys being placed in breakout rooms so she can work in a small group setting and build relationships with her classmates. She is still able to get the "middle school experience" because she is changing classes and meeting new friends.</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>Finally I am concerned about the time of year that we are choosing to bring students back to school. As the weather gets colder, and our patience with this pandemic thins, it is very likely that teachers and students' families will begin to spend time indoors with people outside of their household. The holidays are coming up, which will only encourage this behavior more.</p> <p>When school closures first occurred in March, I, like many others, believed that we would be out of school for two weeks or maybe a month at most. It was beyond the realm of possibility that I would be writing a letter to our Board of Education six months later, urging you not to send students back to school. As a parent, I understand the impact of not holding in-person classes. I understand that my child cannot learn at the same rate, or at the same level, as when they are in the classroom. But I also understand that a classroom of students, spaced out "to the best of our ability", is not going to provide for a productive learning environment.</p> <p>I would obviously love to have my child go back to school, I would love to be able to go back to my office as well, but unfortunately no matter how much we wish those things could be safe, they are not. We're moving forward with a survival of the fittest attitude and we should all question why we're willing to put our children on the front lines of a deadly pandemic.</p> <p>If the worst should happen, and we are asked if we did everything "to the best of our ability" to mitigate a tragic situation, I do not feel we can answer that question with an honest "yes." We can prioritize health and safety, while continuing a robust, remote model for this school year. That is "to the best of our ability."</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and time.</p>
<p>Petition-The submitter reported that there are 283 signatures.</p> <p>See spreadsheet with individual comments attached.</p>	<p>Tuesday we put a call out on social media to find parents who were like us and questioning the steps of the Board of Education. We had no idea how well it would be received, but we put our voice out there and was overwhelmed with agreement, thank yous and crying. There is a LARGE group of parents who are ready to speak up in this community and we want to make sure that they are HEARD. So we started a petition, to SAVE Hybrid Learning. The community responded in waves. As you see attached, we have 283 names of parents who want to keep the Hybrid Learning model with social distancing of at least 6 feet apart until the end of December, 2020. We want to keep structure, consistency and safety for our kids, our families and the staff the number one priority. In addition to the petition, we asked parents if they would like to add additional comments on the topic. We ask that you review the document below and HEAR and SEE the voices of concern from this community to keep Hybrid Learning available thru December 2020 so that we can ALL be safe and healthy through the holidays and beyond. (To clarify - the Hybrid model includes 2 days a week in-person. We are not talking about partial enrollment at this time.)</p> <p>Names on Petition Christina Perez Sue Kowols Kate Murray Kevin & Cindy Vander Klay Aric Spiczka Holly Furman Cristina Small Jenica Polifka Anthony Furman Kim Eckert Jim Small Jennifer Haefliger Rebecca Burns Virginia McDonnell Ann Poyer Kelli McDonald Monica Hinchey Samantha Brex</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>Stacy Marini Kathy Grady Melissa Galvez Jeanne McCullough Jeffrey Kusiciel Rachel Berkhof Angela Houghton Timothy Schank Amy Doman Robyn Swanson Sue Villanova Heather Malloy Joe Villanova Stacey Tobin Jennifer Sebo Brooke and Rick Stuckey Rebecca Hejna Maria Caruso Beth Kovacic Amy Ksiazk Bridget Schank Jessica Barnes Jacque Covault Jeremy Glass Kelly Ellsworrh Ann Syversen Bullis Lisa Ragone Peters Elise LeNoach Meg Sioui Elizabeth Wolff Tracy Marchetti Elizabeth Wolff Michele Hilgart Lisa Lightcap Robert Nesvacil Rachel Shouf Dodge Lisa Zimny Gina Tyson Melisa Andrews Amanda Bhansali Ryan Stevens Natalia Roguska Aakash Bhansali Ben Dodge Jennifer Grimaudo Laura Sommer O'Brien Erin Matray Amy Johnson derek tokarzewski Regina Rector Aaron Coon Ken Johnson Barb Watts</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>Michelle Brinson William O'Brien Lindsay Fraser Adam Webb Ashley Jurek Jennifer Webb Sarah Meyer Jennifer Eichorn Kimberly De Jonckheere Michelle Basantes Natalie Murphy Laura Pawlak Benjamin Johnskn Benjamin Uvodich Tiffany Uvodich Katy Wendt Ryan Stevens Sherryl Nadonga Rebecca Balyeat Alexis Hammond Amy Darby Peter Balyeat Tracy Roth Wendel Torres Katie Zabor Angelika Babich Katie Peterson Kimberly Thoma Angelika Kind Kate Erickson Meg Lesniak Anita Fries Kristina Finch Lisa Peterman Whitney Simon Lisa Mazur Bliss Hansen-Finnegan Maryann Zaleski Jennifer Anderson Cary Lisota Dana Riedel Samantha Riggi Susan Ryerson Espino Eric Riggi Sharon Anderson Caroline Ciaglia Colleen Hill Ross Fraser Shane Yarbrough Erin Lakomski Prajka Maindarkar Kevin Gross Barb Donahue</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	Ty Walentosky Susan Ripka Megan Kalweit John Ripka Gina Heuer Kathleen Riesing Brittany Walentosky Eleanor Park Jeanette Hanik Bruce Pattie Kelly OSullivan Jodi Copersmet Yarelis Hicks Effie Kalkounos-Karafotias Shannon Hull Jennifer Glickley Jessica Barnes Rachael Hooker Jackie Duski Kirsten Boyce Teacher In District 25 Amanda Sharpe Lisa Do Kelsey Anstandig Kristen Clark April Berry Katherine Zbierski Tara Houx Jeff Clark Karri Ophus Malgorzata Politewicz Katy Domsten Courtney Dirksen Laura Palm Tim Bourn Robyn Russo Erin Cochrane Kate Limbers Marcy Meyer Evan Meyer Jamee McBride Megan Kalweit Sarah Nelson Marcy Chambers Stacy Riggs Julie Coon Kate Jigalov Kelly Drucker Amie Autenrieth Cheryl Miller Laura Palm Melanie Romero Mary Beth Canty

Name	Question/Comment
	Jennifer Rich Jamee McBride Andrea Patrick Tiffany Groner Andrea Miller Jose Tovar Kelley Balmer Miriam Tovar Calen Antrim Becki Bloxsom Deni Tzakov Jill Larsen Rebecca Rice Yeulanda Degala Nicole Arguelles Alejandro Arguelles Angelica Andrews Michael Andrews Steven Andrews Deandra Galarde Anthony Petrillo Tara Houx Steven Limbers Kaitlin Koralik Carolyn Ullegue Heather Lockhart Tricia Montesano Sarah Weale Evan Meyer Alejandro Arguelles Norah Muenkel Sara Kuhn Lauren Miceli Lori Martin Kelly DeRosa Alexandra Fung Joe Eckert Michael Nelson Joseph Marini Shaun Balmer Steven Limbers Robb Zbierski Derek Hamilton Wayne Houghton Jim Doman Mike Haefliger Michael Fung Troy Brinson Alexandar Tzakov Tom Tyson Daniel Muenkel Katie Storelli Rick Stuckey

Name	Question/Comment
	<p> Kelly Fox YAN MEI ZHOU Mike Duski Alex Cochrane Michael Hejna Hallie Jacob Maureen Stukenberg Sharon Korb Greg Domsten Scott Swanson Adam Covault Susana Davis Tom Lakowski Thomas Riesing Deborah Freudenberger Katelyn Lorenz Tim Morkert Lauren Glaser Randi Lamb Matthew Stukenberg Jacque Covault Christine Organ Megan Harris Brad Houx Chris Fries Greg Domsten Asha Pokkamthanam Viju Pokkamthanam Mary Fendley Lisa Parciak Gary Parciak Tony Montesano Diana Sayavongsa Leanna Rocks Renee Burns Matt Burns Megan Nuccio Kevin Michael Jennifer Hasche Jonathan Michael Krysta Schoenbeck Andrew Hilgart Britt Boehm Jennifer Porto Maurice Finnegan Lori Jefford Catherine Meyer Ken Kowols Jonathan Meyer Sherilyn Martinez Kari Ugent Krysta Schoenbeck Sherilyn Martinez </p>

Name	Question/Comment
<p>Kate and Joe Murray</p>	<p>Joseph Malcom</p> <p>I along with my husband have 5 daughters, 4 of whom are in school at both Olive-Mary Stitt and Thomas Middle School. We have been remote and shifted into hybrid 2 weeks ago. Our experiences in these two formats have been terrific. I write to you today to ask that you consider tabling your discussion and ultimate vote until we have had the opportunity for the kids to get into a routine in the hybrid model and for the Covid numbers to have a substantial decrease in 60004 and 60005. Our family was likely one of the very last to make our decision to send the kids to school for hybrid learning, I think I filled out the forms at 4:57pm with a 5pm deadline. We reached out to the principals and teachers for further information about how the kids would be safe in these spaces. I put my trust in the teachers and administrators and signed that my kids would be there. We were hesitant for many reasons but our primary concerns were for our 4th grader's asthma and our 2 month old baby. I know the schools are doing everything that the Illinois State Health Dept and ISBE require. I know my kids understand the importance of masks and social distancing. Lunch made me nervous because of not wearing masks so we decided the kids would come home for lunch. We are doing what we feel is necessary for our family to remain safe and healthy.</p> <p>As days pass, our zip codes' numbers continue to increase and the hospital beds are filling up again. Recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics have stated that kids do get Covid and can get sick. We still don't know what the long term effects will be for individuals who have symptoms or those who do not. All around us we're seeing schools moving back to more remote settings. So, why are we pushing ahead to get back 100% in person learning? How can you put 600 kids in a building and feel safe that all of these children along with teachers and staff members will remain as healthy as they are now? Masks and social distancing are key. They go hand in hand.</p> <p>District 25 has incredible educators and this board needs to continue to recognize that. The teachers have worked hard to provide high-quality education for our kids. Please consider the families who have followed the health guidelines in your decision-making process. My children heard the word No to almost every single request they have had since mid-March. We didn't play sports. No pool time. We haven't hosted parties. We have done many drive by birthdays. No indoor dining or large gatherings of people. Why, now, do I have to explain to my kids that, even though the health organizations are not recommending 100% in person learning, our school board wants them in school? Why are you changing course and putting the safety and well- being of our children at risk? Are you comfortable supporting a decision that could harm someone's son or daughter? My children will find success in their education this year. Their teachers will have our full support. Please continue to follow science in this process and put health and safety ahead of all else.</p>
<p>Carol Ives May</p>	<p>The pandemic continues, as does the difficult decisions you must make for our school district. It is my understanding that consideration is being given to expanding our districts current hybrid schedule. I am a senior who has no children in school, but feel that all of Arlington Heights children are "our" children. The ramifications of children contracting Covid 19 are, at present, unclear, but serious long range health complications for some children have been implicated. As of October 28th, the Northwestern Covid Dashboard for zip codes 60004 and 60005 states:</p> <p>The Covid positivity rate has increased from 4.45% on October 21st to 7.02 % on October 28th 2020. The number of positive Covid cases per day in our area has increased from 15.6 on October 21st to 23.1 on October 27th.</p> <p>On October 27th there were 202 positive cases per 100,000 people. This 7 day rolling average exceeds the number of new cases acceptable under District 25 guidelines and the Return to School Metrics target of 70-175 new cases per 100,000 people.</p> <p>The Illinois Department of Public Health Region 10, suburban Cook County, is currently experiencing re-newed restrictions and shutdowns due to a current 7.8 % Covid positivity rate.</p> <p>While most reasonable people would agree, for a myriad of reasons, that it is best for children to be physically in school, reason also dictates that reality and current conditions must be considered. Desires and wishful thinking sometimes need to be sacrificed upon the altar of reality. The loudest voices are not necessarily the right voices.</p> <p>Additionally, while the main mission of the District 25 Board is to guide the schools in creating the best possible environment for our children, an implicit part of the Board's mission is also its role as a</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>part of our community as a whole. Decisions affecting the health and welfare of our students also affect all the other residents of our community. This is an important consideration in decisions that could result in shortages of medical resources at our hospitals, health crises for many, or even death for a few.</p> <p>Looking at the above statistics, I find it difficult to believe that any family would be willing to take the chance of sacrificing either their child's health, or their families or community's health, for a semblance of normalcy. Things are not normal.</p> <p>The present circumstances are far different from the 2.27% positivity rate our community had in the middle of September and we are not headed in the right direction with this disease. I encourage the Board to hold firm on the current Hybrid schedule and seriously consider a return to full remote learning if the trajectory of this disease continues.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. You have an extremely difficult job. I think one thing the entire community can agree on is that we greatly appreciate your efforts!</p>
Alex Cochrane	<p>My son is a first grader at Windsor and I want to thank the district - from the board and administrators to the teachers and support staff - for their professionalism and the unprecedented challenges this school year has presented. I've been incredibly impressed with the quality of the remote learning and the engagement from our teachers and staff. Most importantly, I'm proud of the way my son has adapted and the noticeable progress he has already made this year.</p> <p>I haven't deeply engaged with the board process and decisions - largely because I've felt they have been reasonable and appropriate, given the incomplete data and ambiguous recommendations. After the public comments from the last board meeting however, I want to ensure the board and the rest of the community understand that there is not a clear consensus. I'd like to clearly voice my support for remaining in the current hybrid learning approach until case counts have been significantly reduced and are stable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cases, testing positivity rate, hospitalizations and deaths are all going up - unambiguously. There are few signs or reasons to believe that they are coming down without new efforts to reduce high risk activities. Increasing the exposure of our kids while reducing the ability to provide social distancing will not help bring this back under control. 2. Much has been said of studies that show something of a 1-2% risk of transmission in the school setting. In the beginning of the school year, much of the country had a much lower rate of community spread than we are experiencing right now. If community spread goes up, so will the risk of being in school. 3. I'm comfortable with the current hybrid approach. My child's in-person cohort is of manageable size, and the district has made appropriate effort to make the experience safe. From watching the last board meeting, I greatly appreciated hearing the stories of the joy kids are expressing for being back in the classroom. I've seen that same joy on my son's face. But I can't send him back to a full classroom right now, when we are seeing the potentially riskiest phase of this pandemic. Moving to a fully in-person schedule now would mean keeping my son home five days a week and take away the joy and excitement he has each Tuesday and Thursday morning. 4. I recognize there are children who need more. Children who aren't doing as well with remote learning as my son. I'd propose studying options for teachers to recommend further in-person support for select students that consistently have difficulty. I'm sure this has been looked at to some extent, and there are limits to resources and space available, but if we are to stay in this hybrid model for an extended period of time, we need to have a concentrated effort to identify, triage and support kids who are either falling behind academically or showing signs of social/emotional distress.
Stacey Tobin	<p>I am writing in opposition to the proposal that the district set a date to return to full in-person learning at this time.</p> <p>This decision must be made based on clear, evidence-based metrics of risk that are applied consistently. In bringing the full in-person learning option to the table, the district and school board are indicating that they have chosen to not only ignore the rapid rise in cases and hospitalizations in our state and region in the last week, but also disregard the TAC's selected evidence-based metrics</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>of community infection to assess risk associated with in-person learning, instead prioritizing school case numbers.</p> <p>This is incredibly dangerous and irresponsible and puts the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff at risk.</p> <p>Schools are not separate from the community. The people moving in and out of school buildings are coming from the community. ALL of the TAC's metrics—the IDPH percent positivity for Cook county, the HGHI and NIPHC 7-day case rate/100,000, and the CDC 14-day case rate/100,000—indicate that we are at highest risk and should be moving in the opposite direction, toward full remote learning.</p> <p>I recognize the importance of considering school case numbers now that students are back in the building, but these school-based metrics must not be prioritized over community-based metrics. That the case numbers in the schools have not yet risen should not be held up as proof that full in-person learning is safe – in this week alone, there have been at least 5 positive cases in district schools (that we know of) and I fear what the district's dashboard will show on Friday afternoon given the rising numbers of infections in our community.</p> <p>Before making any decision about returning to full in person learning, I ask that the school board do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Consider BOTH the TAC's risk metrics based on rates of community spread AND school-based case numbers when making decisions; · Work with the TAC to determine the thresholds in school case numbers that will be used to make decisions about remote versus hybrid versus in-person learning; · Develop a comprehensive dashboard to communicate the community-based and school-based metrics and thresholds, and how they will be used to make decisions about moving between remote, hybrid, and in-person learning. <p>Setting an arbitrary date for returning to in-person learning is premature and not based in the reality of the current increase in case numbers and hospitalizations in our community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Paul and Kelly Frederiksen	<p>First and foremost, I want to again commend the teachers and staff of District 25 for being the ones doing the hard work through all of this. They are truly putting our children, their well being and their education first. Their hard work does not go unnoticed.</p> <p>During tonight's board meeting, you are supposed to be proposing a date for a full in person option to be offered. I would like to say that now is not the time for this date to be decided upon. As you are well aware, we are in a growth period with positive tests, and hospitals are in fact starting to fill up again. Making this motion now would not only be irresponsible, it would be unethical, and immoral. This does not serve in the best interest for the entirety of Dist. 25.</p> <p>Prior to any dates being decided upon, a plan to get to that point needs to be developed and there needs to be 100% full transparency to the entire dist.25 community (families & staff). These are things that are not being done currently. This should be done by surveying / polling the families and teachers throughout the schools through your entire planning process to get the input of the full community, not the input of a select few.</p> <p>Dr. Bein plays a huge role in this process and I urge you to amend your decision to remove her from the decision making process tonight. None of this can be done without her expertise and diplomacy.</p> <p>Once a full, robust plan is put into place that includes the safety of the children and staff, a date can then be discussed.</p> <p>This plan should include things such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metrics. These should follow science, CDC guideline, and yes, they should include the 6' rule, NOT to the fullest extent possible. The 6' rule allows less people to have to quarantine in the instance that there is a positive case reported in a school. This is the difference between quarantining an entire grade, or just a class. 2. FULL TRANSPARANCY to parents and staff and FULL INPUT from families and staff. 3. Outline the precautions taking place at each individual school for families to make fully informed decisions for themselves.

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>4. Guarantee the remote option is going to be as robust and have as much synchronous work as the in person students, and show a plan for that as well.</p> <p>We understand this is a divisive topic among certain community members, but the board must continue to do their jobs and keep the best interest of ALL students, teachers and staff of the district in mind during your very important decisions we are putting in your hands.</p> <p>Additionally, I want to bring up the bigger issue that is right in front of us. You are currently going to propose a date to offer a full in person option, however, your top priority right now should be to view the metrics and decide what needs to be done currently with the schools. 60005 is currently above 8% positivity rate, 60004 is much lower. I will add that 60008 (which does feed into our district) is at a 12.29% positivity rate. Since TAC seems to be dismantled, I think your moral obligation of looking at the problem that is right in front of us should be your first order of business.</p> <p>We all have the same end goal, getting the kids back into school full time. We are, however, in the middle of a pandemic, and some things are just not possible for the safety of our community.</p> <p>Until an actual plan is implemented to offer the option of full in person school, we fully support the current hybrid / remote option that is working well in the short 3 weeks we've been doing it.</p>
<p>Ty and Brittany Walentosky</p>	<p>I want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for your time, energy, and effort to meet and make decisions on behalf of our children. I also want to thank you for rallying around and supporting Dr. Bein in her decisions thus far. Her decisions have been well rounded in that she has considered the needs of our children, our teachers and staff members, and the safety of our community as we embrace the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic.</p> <p>As you gather to make decisions for the next round of learning, I would like to request that you seriously consider the COVID-19 Cook County science and metrics, the safety and security of not just our children but our teachers and staff members- all ages, ethnicities, and health backgrounds as well as the role and expectation of "education." The primary responsibility of a school is child safety and child education. You are currently doing this! The responsibility of a school is not to provide childcare; it is not babysitting, and it is not a place for my children to go in order for me to work. As a working parent, who chose to have children, that is MY responsibility. Thank you for providing a safe educational setting right now. You are keeping students safe by adhering to the CDC guidelines. Your teachers and staff members are going above and beyond in their efforts to educate our children. Your teachers and staff have transitioned from full remote, to a blend of remote and hybrid learning, lending to significant organization, planning, pivoting and creativity. They are providing consistent and strong, direct instruction and feedback. Most importantly, your teachers and staff are providing incredible love, attention and support for our youngsters. Please continue to do this, as is!</p> <p>By initiating a change in the learning model to a full person model, you are creating a sense of inconsistency, stress, and unnecessary fear and anxiety for children, teachers and parents.</p> <p>Additionally, you are challenging the CDC guidelines for safety- the very essence of education.</p> <p>Lastly, you are putting your most important asset at risk- your staff. I urge you to maintain the current learning model, the perfect blend between safe, remote learning with excitement for "learning in person," safely.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and your service.</p>
<p>Amy Doman</p>	<p>I am in full support of the current hybrid model to be kept in place and to continue the need of current safety standards for the children and teachers at our public schools, as we are still in the midst of a World Wide Pandemic.</p> <p>**To the District 25 School Board and to others who may be concerned,</p> <p>I am a mother of two boys Andrew and Jake Doman who currently attend Windsor School.</p> <p>Since the Summer my husband and I had made the decision that both boys would elearn as long as the option was available. Second option being Homeschooled if the elearning/hybrid model option was removed.</p> <p>We believe in public safety and as a family we exercise our right to make choices based on safety for ourselves and our family.</p> <p>We knew going into the school year, while my boys would suffer some feeling of segregation or emotional stress being divided from the in person school community, we continued to preach that we were a family who were going to offer the need for in person learning, an environment with more</p>

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	<p>physical space. My boys knew, they were home to create the physical distance needed for children who HAVE to in person learn.</p> <p>This week I've seen a survey passed amongst the current hybrid learning families.</p> <p>Although my children are currently enrolled as full time elearners at Windsor, safety for our teachers and all students is a number one priority in the midst of Our World Wide Pandemic.</p> <p>My children are still a part of Windsor school, and as a family we are members of the District 25 community.</p> <p>Besides the semantics of any learning models, my Father is currently fighting for his life in The ICU at Northwest Community Hospital due to the Covid 19 virus and the damage that it has caused to his lungs.</p> <p>In hindsight, had my boys attended even the current hybrid model, they would have been another case added to the possible exposure population and the need to quarantine as well as possible surrounding students and staff.</p> <p>We appreciate your attention.</p>
Beckie and Mike Hejna	<p>First, thank you for everything you have done during this pandemic to ensure the safety and well being of our staff and students. I do not think anyone who is not in your shoes can come close to imagining the immense amount of pressure and stress you have all been under. It is appreciated and it is seen.</p> <p>I have been a member of this community for years, having grown up in the area and forging life long friendships that have shaped me into the person I am today. There was never a question in my mind that I would always raise my family in the same amazing place I was so lucky to grow up in. I have been shocked, saddened, disappointed and disgusted with the anger and the division that I have seen in our district. This goes from how community members have spoken to the board and Dr. Bein at the meetings, to seeing what has been stated across social media about our district, our teachers and our administration. I hope you all know that the loudest, angriest voices do not speak for all and there are families who support the district and their decisions thus far. Many people in our community are still very worried about covid and do not share the same ideas of those loud voices you have seen and heard. One thing everyone does share is wanting our children back in school. Our children, our teachers and our families all want to see this happen. The only difference is when and how.</p> <p>The hybrid model is my families preference at this time and my hope is that we can keep this going as long as numbers and data do not show us otherwise, of course working our way into full time when it is deemed safe by numbers and actual factual science. Unfortunately right now all the metrics that the district has used/is using have data showing our numbers rising far above where they need to be to even support hybrid, which is heartbreaking. I would like some transparency as to what metrics we are looking at as well as if we are not using past metrics, why did we decide to switch? My fear is that the loud voices demanding full day are influencing the board to make decisions and make the numbers a moving target in order to get the kids in school full day at any cost.</p> <p>Based on the D25 Superintendent's latest Friday update, the district is watching the 7-day case rate per 100,000 people in the 60004 and 60005 zip codes, per the Harvard Global Health Initiative guidelines. Harvard Global Health Initiative recommends K-5 and 6-8 hybrid learning when the weekly case rate is between 70 and <175 per 100,000. Remote learning is recommended for 7-day case rates above 175 per 100,000.</p> <p>I believe the district uses the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine COVID dashboard: http://covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu to determine this number, which is reported each day.</p> <p>For the last 5 days, the 7-day case rate per 100,000 in 60004 and 60005 have been 207, 184.5, 199.5, 202, and 219.4 cases per week per 100,000 – consistently above the Harvard threshold for hybrid learning.</p> <p>The second metric is from NIPHC, which states that the 7-day case rate per 100,000 should be between 49 and 98 to remain in hybrid and anything above 98 would require remote learning. This</p>

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	<p>metric is far more stringent than the others, and is no longer being tracked. I would like to know why that is?</p> <p>These metrics are listed on the district website as metrics the TAC used to determine whether to move to hybrid learning. It has not been made clear if the district is using these metrics to move the other way and return to full remove learning.</p> <p>Arlington Heights is up 119% in the past 2 weeks with covid cases. I hope that the board looks at local data as well as county data. None of it is showing any promise at this point in time. We do not live in a bubble. We have family, friends and others that work, shop, eat, visit and go back and forth within our community from other places. Cases are rising in our own community and all around us. My hope is that we can continue with hybrid learning, so as long as the safety of our students and our staff is of the utmost of importance and at the highest priority. I would also like to see transparency on how we are looking to slowly and carefully get students back into school full time. I do not feel that children are safe attending school without following the CDC and health department recommendations of maintaining a distance of 6 ft. Moving to full day takes away the choice for a very large group in the community. If you reopen the schools fully without following the health and safety recommendations, then my choice and many other people's choices are taken away and children will have to stay home. My children would prefer to be in school 5 days a week, I would prefer them in 5 days a week. But they are happy they get 2 as they know the severity of the situation right now. Slow and steady wins the race. Many, many children will be devastated to have their 2 days taken away. Angry or opposed parents telling us we can 'just choose remote', is not the answer.</p> <p>We are in the midst of a pandemic, one we have never seen before. There is absolutely no reason why we need to risk anyone's health and safety at any cost. If the board decides to reopen schools and there is ONE causality because of it, it is one too many and I hope each and every one of you can have a clear concise at the end of the day. Yes, this is a virus. This is not the flu or anything else we are used to. It is a new virus and a pandemic that we are all trying to navigate. We have the tools needed (data and numbers) to tell us what is safe and what is not. Please use those tools to make the best informed decisions.</p> <p>My family is opposed to fully reopening schools until there is a vaccine, a way to maintain a 6 ft social distance or it deemed safe by the health departments and CDC.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Idelle Melamed</p>	<p>I wanted to make clear my support for ATA and the sentiments and requests made tonight by them as my representatives. I believe that before a date is chosen for full in school learning, all parties impacted directly, such as teachers and school staff, should be made aware, clearly, of the specific working conditions of full in person 5 day a week school during this ongoing pandemic, (such as spacing of desks, number of students per area, how lunch will work, if we will still have students on Zoom in addition to the full class in front of us, just to name a few) and what metrics and methods the Board will be following from this point forward, and that we then be provided time to respond with our questions and the issues and problems that we anticipate. Our input and understanding of a school day should be integral to this important decision, as it impacts us directly and thereby each student as well. In other words, there should be appropriate and respectful communication and transparency between the Board and the representative body of the teachers. Not after the fact, but during the decision process.</p>
<p>Brian Engle</p>	<p>Thank you for your time and support of our community. Thank you also and most importantly to those within our district - teachers, TA's, custodial, B&G, guest teachers, and building / district leadership, who have risen to these unique times to help empower our students, while helping to comfort them as they each individually navigate the pandemic from different perspectives. My wife and I, along with others throughout the community recognize the dedication of those in the district who are doing the work each and every day, and love the support they are providing students in a safe and appropriate environment. We live in unprecedented times with education playing an even more important role in our communities.</p> <p>I encourage you as a board to trust those who are professionals, those leading our buildings, classrooms, and district. There are no perfect answers and each district / community has to continue</p>

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	<p>moving forward. Moving forward focused on the health and safety of students, staff, and those they ultimately will interact with at home. Do not be shortsighted to think that bringing students back more often without the proper supports (6', distancing during activities, coverings) is actually making things better. Support our district, our staff, and our students as we value them all! Thank you to all who are working tirelessly to serve our children and our community.</p>
<p>Benjamin Kalkwarf</p>	<p>I am perplexed that the board and people within the community are considering a full return to school. The Illinois infection numbers for Covid are through the roof, exceeding six thousand new infections for 3 of the last 7 days. Infection rates now are roughly double what they were at the previous high in May. People should avoid congregating for any reason and leave home only for essentials such as groceries. Social distancing and masks are great preventative measures, but when infection rates are this high, any contact should be avoided.</p> <p>I implore the board to immediately shutdown all schools, return to remote learning for the students except those at the greatest risk at home, and let the teachers work from home. My children have been learning remotely, and that will continue until numbers fall dramatically, so I am not advocating for my family. The school district should act responsibly, considering risk to their staff and everyone in the Arlington Heights community. I understand there are loud voices pushing for a return to school, but there are also many parents frustrated with this initiative who are not gathering at the board meeting, due to the risks of Covid spreading at gatherings. We are in the middle of a deadly pandemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans, and close to ten thousand Illinoisans so far. I ask that the board keep this in mind as they make their decision this evening.</p>
<p>Alina Laurie</p>	<p>Thank you for continuing to address any obstacles that are preventing our schools from opening 5 days a week for all families who wish to attend.</p> <p>Public schools are a backbone institution in our society. Remote-only attendance or in-person attendance less than 5 days a week is always an option to families and always has been an option. I'm a former homeschool parent. There were times when I had none of my kids enrolled in public schools or had some combination of my kids enrolled / not enrolled / partially enrolled. Just last year, I had one of my kids enrolled half the time.</p> <p>The state of IL has always allowed families to coordinate partial enrollment, or doing work at home if kids are not in the building. None of that has changed with the onset of COVID-19.</p> <p>Thank you for continuing to solve for any issues that are preventing our schools from being open five days a week: just like private schools are servicing kids in our community, just like many schools in our state, and just like many schools across the country.</p>
<p>Jacalyn and James Derengowski</p>	<p>Many parents have been able to do the deep dive into the statistics and the ever changing metrics regarding COVID and stood before this board to discuss why they show schools should be open. I am thankful for their time and commitment.</p> <p>Let us put aside the finger pointing that has gone on since March, as students pay the price of the failure of adults in leadership positions. I think there is enough blame to go around.</p> <p>You don't need a PhD or a law degree to use common sense and values to understand we need to open the SD25 schools now. Families can continue to choose to have their student(s) learn 100% remotely or follow a hybrid, you have provided options. We can open tomorrow.</p> <p>Please have the courage that IHSA has demonstrated and act in the best interests of the students of SD25. We as a community can make this work, we already are doing it.</p>