

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25
1200 S. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

School Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on January 20, 2022 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:02 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: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).



Regular Meeting

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order 7:08 p.m. on January 20, 2022. 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, Anisha Ismail Patel, and Greg Scapillato. Gina Faso attended the meeting via telephone.

Board members excused: Brian Cerniglia

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 Services; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Chris

Fahnoe, Director of Technology; Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

The principal from Patton Elementary School, Mr. Eric Larson, presented information about their school. Mr. Larson showed the enrollment by grade, and talked about the theme at Patton, "Reboot". They are excited about their dedicated staff; students and resuming of clubs, activities, and small group instruction; and Broadway returning to the Patton stage.

Mr. Jason Coyle from Baker Tilly, LLC highlighted information from the fiscal year 2021 Audit Report. The audit was performed remotely this year, and Mr. Coyle thanked Ms. Mallek and the Business office as they provided everything the auditors required.

The district does a higher level of reporting, which is not required, but is good for transparency. Again this year, District 25 achieved the designation of Financial Recognition status, which is the highest category of financial strength from the Illinois State Board of Education. The Management's Discussion and Analysis document summarizes the highlights of the year, and compares this year to the prior year. He noted that the majority of the revenue comes from property taxes, and the majority of the expenses go toward instruction and transportation. He noted that the district implemented a new reporting standard.

The Board thanked Ms. Mallek and her staff for reaching Financial Recognition status. There was a question and brief discussion regarding depreciation and district buildings. Mr. Coyle was thanked for his report.

Community Input

- Sara Mungovan addressed the Board regarding quarantine and classroom work.
- Marlee Griek addressed the Board regarding mandates.
- Erin Zurek addressed the Board regarding masks.
- Natalie White addressed the Board regarding vaccines.
- Kerri Hood addressed the Board regarding optional masks.
- Tom Kopacz addressed the Board regarding not having mandates.

Ms. Faso's telephone call was disconnected at 7:30 p.m., but she reentered the meeting via telephone at 7:32 p.m.

Dr. Bein read several comments that were received electronically. All comments are given to the Board in full and posted on the website.

- Kristin Meek commented on full day kindergarten.
- Kristina Heaton commented on the quarantine policy for students.
- Malgorzata Patryarcha commented on the Board fostering open discussions between the Board and parents on Covid mandates.

- Margaret Waz commented on not discriminating against the unvaccinated.
- Agnes Zapart commented on mandates and masks.
- Wojciech Tarchala commented on mandates, individual choice, and the district's dashboard.

Consent Agenda

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve those items on the Consent Agenda as follows (A) Personnel Report and Addendum to Personnel Report; (B) Treasurer's Reports (C) Invoices; (D) Fixed Asset Disposal Report; (E) Public Hearing on the Tax Levy minutes of December 9, 2021; (F) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of December 9, 2021; (G) Special Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of December 16, 2021; (H) Closed Session meeting minutes of December 16, 2021; (I) Board Bills
Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

A Board member thanked Dr. Kaye for the staffing information.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO – Mr. Filipek reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the gym at Timber Ridge School will be held on March 2, and the entire Board is invited. Two Shining Stars from District 25 were highlighted this month.
- IASB – Ms. Patel reported that the deadline for Board members to submit proposals for panel presentations at the November Joint Annual Conference is March 7. Also, next month there are additional diversity webinars, and a winter book club is upcoming.
- ED-RED – Mr. Olejniczak noted that the January dinner meeting was postponed until April. He discussed various bills and recent legislation. Ms. Mallek reported that she attended an ED-RED-hosted Zoom meeting recently in which Representative Mark Walker discussed proposed legislation regarding property taxes.
- Board Governance – Mr. Filipek read an excerpt from the Board Governance Framework regarding Board member request for action.
- Other Board Communication – Mr. Olejniczak noted that he and Mr. Scapillato recently attended a Music for Youth working session.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Ms. Barbieri reported that 30 Reflections entries went to the Northwest Cook Regional competition, and 12 moved onto the state competition. PTA Scholarships have been sent to the local high schools. There will be nine

\$1,000 scholarships for graduating high school seniors and ten \$100 Arlington Heights Park District gift cards for K-8 students. Contest information will be sent to all schools in February. The PTA is looking forward to Valentine celebrations.

- ABC25 – Ms. Faso reported that all of the grants were awarded before winter break. They are looking forward to seeing all of the great things that the teachers will be doing. They are in the planning phase for the GetBurbed Challenge. She thanked everyone that supports and participates in ABC25.
- ATA – Ms. Berg thanked all of the staff and teachers in the district for their continued flexibility. She showed a video from Dryden Elementary School which showed many of the happenings there.

Student Learning – No Report

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Five Year Financial Forecast

Ms. Mallek presented five-year financial projections, which include the five-year facility master plan, debt, and assumptions related to revenues and expenditures. Ms. Mallek informed the Board of how the projections are calculated as well as demonstrating what costs we can control and what costs we cannot control.

Overall, the district has a balanced budget excluding capital projects. Over the next five years, salaries and benefits will become larger. A chart with projected revenues and expenditures was provided and shows the fund balance dropping to 22%. She discussed funding for capital projects, and noted that by taking capital projects out of the fund balance, the expenditures and revenues are balanced, and the fund balance remains flat.

Taxes are collected in March/April and September/October. Ms. Mallek explained why the current fund balance goal is 60%. As of June 30, the fund balance must provide cash flow for expenditures until the second installment of property taxes is received. Ms. Mallek summarized final thoughts for the Board to consider. Board members asked questions and there was discussion on bonds; funding for maintaining buildings; and salaries and retirements. Ms. Mallek was thanked for the detailed information.

Facilities Management – No Report

Personnel and Planning

2022-2023 School Calendar

Dr. Kaye presented information on the 2022-2023 proposed school calendar. He also described the process utilized, including a committee structure that involved parents, teachers, and administrators. Dr. Kaye thanked the Calendar Committee for their work, which was very collaborative.

Opening Day will be on August 15, 2022, and August 16 will be a building-based teaming day. The first day of school for students will be August 17 with a full day of student attendance. The first day of school is within two days of District 214's start date of August 15. To further align more closely with District 214, students and staff will observe non-attendance days on September 26 and October 5.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 20 and 21, 2022 and February 16 and 17, 2023. Keeping conferences in October helps better serve staff, students and parents by getting the information to families sooner, and allows parents to have more information prior to grades being finalized.

The week of Thanksgiving will be non-attendance days for students and staff. Winter and Spring Breaks will align with the District 214 calendar. Winter break begins on December 23, 2022 and students will return on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Spring break begins on March 27, 2023 and the students will return on April 3, 2023.

Five emergency days are built into the calendar for possible student attendance. If no emergency days are used, the last day for student attendance will be June 7, 2023, and the last day for staff will be Thursday, June 8. The last day of student attendance for District 214 is June 2.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the days off for Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. The Board thanked Dr. Kaye and the calendar committee.

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, no; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/1.

Superintendent Report

Freedom of Information Act Report

- Tracy Falconer requested information on Board member training; a response was provided on December 7, 2021.
- Ewa Wojcik requested information on the SEL programs considered by the district; a response was provided on December 7, 2021.
- Alina Laurie requested information on a directive from IDPH; a response was provided on December 15, 2021.
- Ewa Wojcik requested information on the ESSER funds allocation; a response was provided on December 20, 2021.
- Angelika Babich requested information on communications between the Arlington Teachers' Association, the Superintendent, Board members, and/or state unions; a response was provided on December 29, 2021.
- Karen Wolff requested information on bonds/insurance information; a response was provided on January 5, 2022.

- Christy Witherow requested information on communications between a school district law firm and Board members; a response was provided on January 10, 2022.
- Glenn C. Ronaldson of Ronaldson & Kuchler Law Offices requested information on reports related to anyone accessing the roof of Windsor Elementary School; a response was provided on January 10, 2022.

Anisha Patel left the meeting at 8:49 p.m. and returned at 8:52 p.m.

Update on Pandemic Procedures and Data

Dr. Bein presented an update to the Board on pandemic procedures as well as recent data. She reviewed the various data charts that are updated on the district website, and noted that there was a spike in cases after winter break. Currently 30% of students are enrolled in Shield Testing, and the last day to enroll is Tuesday, February 1. The district will continue to process families that wish to unenroll.

IDPH sent a health alert on January 7, which included their alignment of going from 10 to 5 days for quarantining. Executive order 2022-03 was received on January 11, which included revised public health guidance for schools. Dr. Bein described the procedure updates.

Dr. Bein noted that there were several days where the district had over thirty unfilled staff absences, but everyone in the district helped in various ways so schools could remain open. She stated that close contacts in school are limited, and that the district mitigation strategies are working as CCDPH is not seeing in-school outbreaks. A Board member thanked the staff and administrators for caring for the students. Dr. Bein was thanked for her presentation.

Strategic Plan – Stewardship of Resources Goal Update

Ms. Mallek updated the Board on the Stewardship of Resources Goal from the Strategic Plan. The team is a combination of parents, community members, administrators, and staff. The group began by brainstorming and decided on four objectives that aligned with the Stewardship of Resources Goal: extend the use of debt service extension base to fund capital projects to maintain facilities; ensure investments are forward looking; consider return on investment when making financial decisions; and allocate resources to allow for diversity in opportunities to address the spectrum of student needs. After finalizing the list of objectives and prioritizing them, the group concluded with a discussion focused on opportunities for determining and measuring success for each objective. On November 30, all Strategic Plan Action Teams met together to share objectives and discuss overlaps and gaps/conflicts. All of the objectives will be shared with staff who will begin working toward the objectives and overall goals of the Strategic Plan.

State School Report Card

Dr. Bein noted that usually the report card data is released to the public in October, but because of the pandemic, there are three release dates this year. All data on public schools in Illinois can be found at the report card website.

The initial release of the 2021 Report Card occurred on October 29, 2021. That release included all metrics that do not rely on Assessment data. On December 2, 2021 preliminary data was released for districts that completed spring assessment testing. These data were only reported for the school and district levels. No state-level data for these metrics was released at this time. On April 27, 2022 finalized data regarding various assessments will be released to the Report Card for those districts that completed spring and/or fall assessment testing. These data will be reported at the school, district, and state levels.

The metrics that will not be reported on the 2021 Report Card include ISA, the IAR Growth Percentile, Summative Designations, and KIDS data. Additional information regarding these metrics will be posted to ISBE's website as it becomes available.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on when we might be back on track with the data and information on the report card. Dr. Bein was thanked for the report.

First Reading of Policies, Press 108

Dr. Bein noted that the Press 108 release is very large, and there are policies for the Board to review that are in six sections of the policy manual. She thanked Ms. O'Brien for the details in the overview document.

Press 108:

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification
- 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban
- 2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
- 2:220-E1 Exhibit – Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes
- 2:220-E3 Exhibit – Closed Meeting Minutes
- 2:220-E5 Exhibit – Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes
- 2:220-E6 Exhibit – Log of Closed Meeting Minutes
- 3:40 Superintendent
- 3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent
- 3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal
- 4:170 Safety
- 4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Recruitment of Underrepresented Individuals
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

- 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition
- 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5:100 Staff Development Program
- 5:120 Employee Ethics; Conduct and Conflict of Interest
- 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
- 5:150 Personnel Records
- 5:185 Family and Medical Leave
- 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- 5:220 Substitute Teachers
- 5:250 Leaves of Absence
- 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
- 6:15 School Accountability
- 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day
- 6:50 Wellness
- 6:120 Education of Children with Disabilities
- 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program
- 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 7:30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
- 7:60 Residence
- 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
- 7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
- 7:150 Agency and Policy Interviews
- 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7:190 Student Behavior
- 7:200 Out-of-School Suspension Procedures
- 7:210 Expulsion Procedures
- 7:250 Student Support Services
- 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education
- 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
- 7:340 Student Records
- 7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

A Board member noted that for more information on these policies, IASB has an online webinar that can be viewed.

First Reading of Policies – Five Year Review, Press 108

Dr. Bein stated that the following policies are presented by the Illinois Association of School Boards for a first reading of a five-year review.

Press 108:

- 4:120 Food Services

8:100

Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

Board Meeting Dates

Dr. Bein noted that when the Board approved meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year, there was a conversation at the meeting about switching a suggested date to accommodate a Board member's schedule. The Board made that change prior to approving the meeting calendar at the same meeting. Recently, a Board member requested that remaining dates be looked at by the Board so that Board members could attend District 214 Board meetings, some of which are scheduled the same night as District 25 Board meetings. There are seven remaining Board meetings for each district during the 2021-2022 school year. Three of these do not overlap. Four meetings overlap. A Board member noted that the Board would also like to help parents be able to attend both meetings.

Motion: A. Patel moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education change the following 2021-2022 Board meeting dates so that District 25 Board members may attend District 214 Board meetings which are currently scheduled on the same dates:

Change Thursday, April 7, 2022 to Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Change Thursday, May 26, 2022 to Monday, May 23, 2022.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Community Input

- Dominic Franchi addressed the Board regarding not agreeing with the District 25 Board or the Governor's Executive Orders.

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined

- Academy Program Update will be added to a future agenda
- Strategic Plan SMART Goals will be added to a future agenda

New Topics - None

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Scapillato seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 9:28 p.m.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded that the Board of Education adjourn closed session at 11:35 p.m.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 11:35 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: February 24, 2022

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: February 25, 2022

Date minutes posted on District website: February 25, 2022

Community Input Received Electronically

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
Kristin Meek	<p>Working parents, do you realize that full day kindergarten only provides child care from 8:55 am - 3:35 pm? If you want full day child care, you also need CAP coverage. As a working parent myself, this is the biggest issue. If the full day kindergarten discussion doesn't include before and after school child care as part of the discussion, it does nothing for working parents.</p> <p>I continue to be appalled that our "Blue Ribbon" schools are so readily throwing special Ed resources, art and music into the garbage with this discussion. Moving all those classes and services into the hallways is not acceptable. The board is ready to degrade our district permanently for a short term solution. Once art and music and resources are taken away, it is unlikely they will ever return. Look at the demographics and make a long term plan for when school population will decrease and there will be room for full day kindergarten. Today is not that day.</p>
Kristina Heaton	<p>Please revise your quarantine policy for students who are close contacts and have no symptoms. The CDC now states quarantine is only required for 5 days. "Follow the science" and be consistent. Also, concerning allowing kids back into school after quarantine, the current requirements are not sustainable. Please allow negative home tests and/ or rapid tests to 'count' vs. needing a PCR. If the school staff takes a positive home test seriously then they should equally take a negative home test seriously. From personal experience this week I was just scolded and literally yelled at on the phone by my pediatrician who said "how dare I request to take an appointment spot away from a truly sick child" just to my HEALTHY child tested."</p>
Malgorzata Patryarcha	<p>I feel like our board needs to foster more open discussions and conversations between the board and the parents on the covid mandates. This situation is becoming more problematic as every day goes by and the frustration of the parents is reaching its zenith. The board is not transparent enough and this cannot continue.</p>
Margaret Waz	<p>The district talks about INCLUSION, but there's an EXCLUSION, discriminatory process for unvaccinated. The district says everyone is welcome, we won't judge you based on your skin color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, BUT we will treat you differently based on your VACCINATION STATUS and don't forget - the definition of fully vaccinated keeps changing! "It's only a matter of time before the definition of fully vaccinated is changed to include a third dose", as Dr. Fauci says (https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/omicron-pfizer-fauci-cdc-eye-new-definition-fullyvaccinated/utm_source=salsa&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=1a230901-0343-4ff3-9870-3a7e62dde1f9).</p>
Agnes Zapart	<p>I honestly don't understand why some parents are so strongly opposing sending the letter of dissent. First of all, it doesn't have to be a letter, it can be any action that shows the community that our school board is at least trying to do something to advocate for our children to prevent their further degradation. After two years, we have the right to know when this madness is going to end. Secondly, some of those parents strongly believe masks will keep their children healthy and safe, but where is the scientific data to support this opinion? Even IDPH doesn't provide an explanation for their guidelines, which are based on CDC's recommendations, which don't have any solid studies behind them either. Go to the CDC or IDPH website to see for yourself. FOIA's have confirmed there is nothing CDC or IDPH can justify their guidelines with. See one example below: https://www.icandecide.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Reply-to-CDC-Re-Natural-Immunity-v-Vaccine-Immunity.pdf</p> <p>I have also submitted my own FOIA request to both CDC and IDPH and the information I received back was not even relevant to my request. Not to mention that when looking for the actual links to the studies referenced on CDC's website (which were provided to me in my FOIA response), some of the sources were listed as "unpublished data shared through personal communication". Is that how CDC and IDPH are making their rules? And what about changing 10 days to 5 days for the quarantine? Based on what? Looks like arbitrary numbers to me.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
Wojciech Tarchala	<p>1. Here's a great visual representation of mask mandates. Do they work? You judge and tell me: https://palexander.substack.com/p/mask-mandates-do-they-work-you-judge?token=eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjo1ODQ4NDM0NywicG9zdF9pZCI6NDYwMzUxOTksIl8iOiJEZHpkMilslmlhdCI6MTY0MDcxMjU4OSwiZXhwIjoxNjQwNzE2MTg5LCJpc3MiOiJwdWltNTc5MzU2liwic3ViljoicG9zdC1yZWJfdGlvbiJ9.Yf6qD0NUsPN4TPuysRShyAltdiFF-OPQcJYIWdUx8aE</p> <p>2. Dear Superintendent and Board Members, I support those who choose to get COVID-19 vaccines or not and I support those who choose to wear a mask or not, based on their individual rights to make personal health care decisions. No individual should be subjected to politicized, unscientific mandates that violate basic freedoms. Nothing beats individual freedoms, rights, and choices. Not a "pandemic", not "communal responsibility". In December, PA Supreme Court agreed with Commonwealth Court's decision - The school mask mandate is not valid. You have been violating known laws for something that isn't a law and you should be worried about that. It would be to the board's advantage to hire new lawyers who can advise wisely, help the board regain local control and empower the board members to perform their duties.</p> <p>3. Please start providing comprehensive reporting on positive covid cases in our district's dashboard. In one of the previous board meetings, Dr. Being mentioned the number of vaccinated students, so this data is known to the district. Even though it might not be 100% complete and accurate due to the fact that parents are providing it on a voluntary basis, I would think the parents who vaccinated their children have already reported this since different quarantine rules apply to vaccinated and unvaccinated. What is it that prevents the district from including vaccination status when reporting positive cases? If the vaccination status of a positive case is unknown, you would simply put vaccination status "unknown".</p> <p>4. Please please take a look at what's happening in other states. For example, Governor Youngkin Gives Virginia Parents The Right To Opt Out Of School Mask Mandates. https://www.forbes.com/sites/evangerstmann/2022/01/17/governor-youngkin-gives-virginia-parents-the-right-to-opt-out-of-school-mask-mandates/?sh=6f6d3458658e or In Florida, Governor DeSantis Issues an Executive Order Ensuring Parents' Freedom to Choose https://www.flgov.com/2021/07/30/governor-desantis-issues-an-executive-order-ensuring-parents-freedom-to-choose/</p>
Marzena Mikulski	<p>Covid School Shutdowns and Masks Caused Massive Damage to Over 48 Million US Kids in K-12: https://www.illinoisreview.com/illinoisreview/2021/12/rossi-covid-school-shutdowns-and-masks-caused-massive-damage-to-over-48-million-us-kids-in-k-12.html</p> <p>2021's biggest underreported story was the devastating impact of COVID policies on children who "will be paying for our generation's decisions the rest of their lives": https://twitter.com/facethenation/status/1475209878415323140?s=21</p> <p>Dr. Bein and Board Members, your decisions are contributing to this. The covid fear factory must be stopped.</p>
Agnes Piersa	<p>In the "Updated COVID-19 Procedural Changes in District 25" email dated 1/9/22 it says, "Some classrooms have a snack time. Until further notice, our staff will need to ask students to put their mask on in-between snack bites." This really sounds like a joke. Is this rule coming from IDPH or our district? Please clarify. Also, are there any recommendations being given in regards to the covid tests considering the fact that CDC has withdrawn the PCR process as a valid test for detecting and identifying SARS-CoV-2 since this test cannot differentiate between SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses?</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	<p>Regarding the letter of dissent, a school board SHOULD be questioning and challenging the rules that are abusive and discriminatory. Are we just supposed to blindly obey our governor whose family was in Florida during lockdown? Look at other states that don't have mask or vaccine mandates and they are doing much better than our state. The opposition to the unlawful mandates has to start somewhere, with someone. Other school districts are doing it. Why is our district falling behind and it takes several weeks for our board to even decide if the board wants to say something to ISBE or not?</p>
Ewa Predota	<p>My daughter is in kindergarten, so she's only at school for 3 hours a day, but I cannot imagine her sitting in a mask for the entire day. My daughter complains that it's hard for her to breathe with masks on especially during and after PE when she says she is tired and sweaty and has trouble breathing through the mask.</p> <p>Why are you putting kids thru this? It is discouraging for her to go to school where she knows she will be wearing useless mask. The most vulnerable kids are being used for political driven decisions.</p> <p>I am very dissatisfied with the way our district handles the situation with the mask mandates. Board Members, if you are really concerned about providing a better learning environment for the children, then you should not be afraid to make a move in the right direction.</p> <p>Are you closely watching how the ESSER covid relief funds are being spent by our district? Let me quote an expert: "Fresh air dampers to maximum opening on HVAC systems, overriding HVAC energy controls, increasing the number of times indoor air is recycled, installing needlepoint ionization technology to HVAC intake fans, and installing inexpensive ultraviolet germicide devices into HVAC systems. All of the above-referenced techniques are more effective and meet standard industrial hygiene hierarchy of controls for controlling exposures in place for nearly 100 years." Masks do nothing but harm the children!</p> <p>Please watch this "CDC Lies Exposed On School Masking" 6-minute video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-xvRiQEKic</p>
Tracy Falconer	<p>Dear Board of Education for School District 25,</p> <p>Below are several excerpts from the Executive Order the Virginia state governor issued this week pertaining to required mask wearing in schools: "Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care of their children.</p> <p>Recent government orders requiring virtually every child to wear masks virtually every moment they are in school have proven ineffective and impractical. They have also failed to keep up with rapidly changing scientific information. As parents and educators have observed, many children wear masks incorrectly, providing little or no health benefit. The masks worn by children are often ineffective because they are often not clean, resulting in the collection of impurities, including bacteria and parasites. Additionally, wearing masks for prolonged periods of time, such as for an entire school day, decreases their effectiveness. Masking may be more or less effective dependent on the age of the child. At the same time that a universal masking requirement in schools has provided inconsistent health benefits, the universal requirement has also inflicted notable harm and proven to be impracticable. Masks inhibit the ability of children to communicate, delay language development, and impede the growth of emotional and social skills. Some children report difficulty breathing and discomfort as a result of masks. Masks have also increased feelings of isolation, exacerbating mental health issues, which in many cases pose a greater health risk to children than COVID-19. Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, mask mandates in schools have proved demoralizing to children facing these and other difficulties.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	<p>While the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends masks, its research has found no statistically significant link between mandatory masking for students and reduced transmission of COVID-19. A review of CDC, WHO, and other local and international health authorities' recommendations reveals a lack of consensus on the costs and benefits of mask-wearing for children in school for many of the reasons noted above. In light of the variety of circumstances confronted by students, parents should have the ability to decide whether their child should wear masks for the duration of the school day. This approach is consistent with the broad rights of parents. Permitting parents to make decisions on where and when to wear masks permits parents to make the best decision for the circumstances confronting each child. Parents can assess the risks and benefits facing their child, consult their medical providers, and make the best decision for their children based on the most up to date health information available. While parents of some students with conditions that increase the risks of COVID-19 infection might require their children to remain masked during the duration of the school day, other parents may require masks for a more limited duration, if at all. Masks are not the only method to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Local schools must ensure they are improving inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement and upgrades of equipment to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification, fans, control systems and window and door repair. Other mitigation efforts can be made in consultation with health authorities. The benefit of mitigation efforts must always be weighed against the cost to children's overall wellbeing."</p> <p>I can personally attest that my daughter's teacher did not notice a speech delay until I brought it up this year due to mask wearing. The teacher could not hear my daughter mispronounce the /th/ blend until I asked the teacher when that blend should come in correctly. This is just one example of many across our district. It's time we take a stand and do what is best for the children and not what is dictated to us in order to receive federal and/ or state ESSR funds or any other grant. Our district will do just fine without those funds.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Anna Bratko	<p>Our board should never neglect any feedback from the community, whether it's somebody expressing their support for the board's decisions or somebody opposing those decisions. We all know there will always be some disagreements. However, facts are facts and they have nothing to do with politics, religion, culture, moral values, or personal opinions. We are talking about scientifically proven findings that are alarming and should be taken seriously - numerous studies confirming the masks are not only useless in preventing COVID infections or transmissions but they have devastating effects on children, which is greatly affecting their education. Our board keeps ignoring those facts and keeps depriving parents of their right to make medical choices for their own children. Is this what a local board is for? Maybe that's what the government or the teachers union wants the board to be, but not the parents. Shame on the board that allows this overreach. I'd like to know how far is our board willing to let it go and in the name of what? Clearly, it's not about children.</p>
Colin Craig	<p>In the months since a handful of excellent teachers in District 25 (and other districts) who happened to also be unvaccinated were forced out of their jobs, and the rest of the unvaccinated staff were forced to submit weekly testing while their unvaccinated peers were not, can you look back and say that this has kept the schools safer and healthier? If we follow the media narrative, you would think by keeping the unvaccinated staff in check, we should have less cases. However, it appears more staff and students are getting COVID, and from what I understand, nearly 200 staff and students at Thomas were absent from school in a given day, most of whom presumably are vaccinated at this point. Has it become possible to you see that these mandates were never about safety but have and continue to be about discrimination and coercing everyone into the compliance of something that should be a personal choice? By choosing to follow and comply with these harmful mandates, you bear the same responsibility as the ones making these decisions. Now</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	<p>we've not only forced people out of their jobs, but throughout Cook County are banning people 5 and up from entering various types of business establishments. It's crazy for me to think my 5 year old daughter is seen as such a threat to people's health that she can no longer enter a restaurant, kids play zone, or museum. And you have students in your district facing the same problem. I warned in October that by choosing to comply with the vaccination mandate that we would be heading down a dangerous path of no return. Not only are school districts, including D25, condoning mandates that are inherently wrong, we are teaching students that what is going on is acceptable. It is not too late to change course before it gets worse, to be brave enough to take a stand (as the motto at Thomas Middle School goes) before history repeats itself. Please choose wisely, District 25. Be the good!</p>
<p>Malgorzata Olszanski</p>	<p>January 2022 My children (10, 8) are now learning firsthand concepts that my grandmother learned firsthand in 1940 during the war and Holocaust. Concepts like sanitary segregation and discrimination. They are learning firsthand what my dad learned in the 50ies and 60ies during socialism. Concepts like coercion, brainwashing, conformity, and propaganda. They are learning firsthand what I learned in the 80ies –censorship, power overreach, manipulating people using fear. The government is not working for you but it's rubbing you. They are also learning what is courage, coward, cancel culture, mass formation psychosis, and woke. They experience Gestapo style attacks, kids against each other. They will one day appreciate the fact that some teachers from SD25 had the courage to stand up and said ENOUGH; jeopardizing their careers for honor, integrity and moral values. They will learn about the LOUD VOICE -a group of brave parents, who did what was not politically correct and decided that they will NOT COMPLY. Just like our parents, grandparents and their ancestors fought in many uprisings and wars against tyranny and oppression, it's now our turn. In the words of Thomas Payne "I prefer peace, but if trouble must come, let it be in my time so that my children may know peace."</p>
<p>Marta Denisiuk</p>	<p>Written by a nurse: "Among all the vaccines I have known in my life (diphtheria, tetanus, measles, rubella, chickenpox, hepatitis, meningitis and tuberculosis), I want to also add flu and pneumonia. I have never seen a vaccine that forced me to wear a mask and maintain my social distance, even when you are fully vaccinated. I had never heard of a vaccine that spreads the virus even after vaccination. I had never heard of rewards, discounts, incentives to get vaccinated. I never saw discrimination for those who didn't. If you haven't been vaccinated no one has tried to make you feel like a bad person. I have never seen a vaccine that threatens the relationship between family, colleagues and friends. I have never seen a vaccine used to threaten livelihoods, work or school. I have never seen a vaccine that would allow a 12-year-old to override parental consent. After all the vaccines I listed above, I have never seen a vaccine like this one, which discriminates, divides and judges society as it is. And as the social fabric tightens... It's a powerful vaccine! It does all these things except IMMUNIZATION. If we still need a booster dose after we are fully vaccinated, and we still need to get a negative test after we are fully vaccinated, and we still need to wear a mask after we are fully vaccinated, and still be hospitalized after we have been fully vaccinated, it will likely come to "It's time for us to admit that we've been completely deceived."</p>
<p>Dariusz Gatko</p>	<p>I understand that when considering community feedback, the Board needs to pay attention to ALL parents - those who support the mask mandate and those who don't. I also understand that the Board has been trained to speak with one voice. Therefore, the Board needs to look really closely at what different groups of parents are saying. The parents who oppose masks are saying masks are hurting children based on numerous studies and their own experiences. However, I haven't seen any scientific evidence being mentioned by any parent who wants the masks to be mandatory. - Here is what effects of kids wearing masks dentists are seeing: Masks encourage mouth-breathing. Dentists can often tell if someone is a mouth-breather because that habit produces tartar buildup on teeth and dentists are seeing it more frequently now in kids.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	<p>- One dentist lists "Mouth Problems Associated with Mask-Wearing" on their website: https://www.gwinnettfamilydentalcare.com/blog/mouth-problems-associated-with-mask-wearing/</p> <p>- Here's another article with a warning of harmful "mask mouth" disease - https://www.technocracy.news/dentists-warn-of-harmful-mask-mouth-disease/</p> <p>- Pediatricians are seeing an increased number of strep throat cases.</p> <p>- Masks are causing speech delays - https://sarahwestall.com/facemasks-caused-a-massive-364-spike-in-children-with-speech-delays/</p> <p>- Here's another big problem - Oxygen Deprivation Mask Syndrome now sweeping across the globe: https://www.afinalwarning.com/577172.html</p> <p>It's absolutely ridiculous to wear masks, especially indoors.</p> <p>Dr. Bein and Board Members, you have zero legal authority to mandate medical devices (including masks) for students. The masking requirement must end. Each of you can be held liable for the harm you have caused. Are your legal advisors not telling you this?</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>If any ruling in Austin v. Pritzker stops the statewide school mask mandate, SD25 should keep its current practices in place because they are working. There is limited spread in our schools because staff and students are wearing masks. Our goal should be to keep as many kids in school as possible -- masks, testing, contact tracing, and social distancing achieves that goal.</p>
Ewa Wojcik	<p>Somebody (CDC? A public health department?) estimated antibodies last 90 days post covid infection while there are studies showing natural immunity lasts much longer than 90 days. Either way, it can be proven with a simple blood antibody test. Yet, I was told by the school nurse that the school won't accept this antibody test because IDPH doesn't allow it. It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. This has nothing to do with safety (not to mention it is illegal to quarantine a healthy child). Why is our Board not opposing it? If the school is shortening lunch to reduce the exposure without a mask, why not reduce the learning loss students experience when being excluded for no reason? Isn't providing the best education the mission of our Board?</p> <p>Parents are being offered sessions on how to control stress and anxiety in their children, yet the school IS creating stress and anxiety by masking and intimidating those children...and what is our district doing to help parents whose kids really struggle? Our Board keeps avoiding this question. Part of SD25 strategic vision is "strengthen community relations". How is our district doing that? How will this goal be measured at the end? Some districts are taking action to end the mandates while our Board decides to cling to their attorneys' advice that might not work to their advantage as they anticipated. Our Board's ignorance is destroying our schools and children in the name of politics. If something is preventing you from making the right decisions (= educated, logical, no child abuse permitted), you either fight it or you resign. Why would you continue exposing yourself to all the stress and the risk of being ridiculed as the covid pandemic narrative is falling?</p> <p>Dr. Bein welcomed District 25 parents in this new year by saying, "Parenting can be difficult during the best of times, but it is the most important and most rewarding experience we can have. Enjoy your children as they continue to learn and grow. We look forward to having them back in school on January 4, 2022, where we can learn, grow, and laugh with them." The reality is the decisions made by Dr. Bein and the Board made my parenting very difficult and my children do not feel excited about school anymore. One of the questions on my 1st grader's "PebbleGo - Parents" assignment was, "Why are parents important?" Does our Board think parents are important? Given how the district approached Tom DeVore's lawsuit and after learning that parents might have been lied to, it is rather a rhetorical question.</p>
Kevin Michael	<p>If a decision in the Austin vs. Pritzker court case results in the end of the statewide mask mandate for schools, District 25 should keep masks mandatory at a district level for all students and staff for the foreseeable future. Masks are helping to keep students in school, and they protect the health and safety of the school and larger communities. Placing students and teachers at unnecessary</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	risk in the midst of a surge of COVID cases would be irresponsible and negligent, and a violation of the public's trust in the school board and the administration of District 25.
Katarzyna Laczak	<p>An Indiana lawsuit against school covid rules shows 99.7 percent of quarantined kids were healthy. I wonder how it is in our district...</p> <p>https://thefederalist.com/2022/01/20/indiana-lawsuit-against-school-covid-rules-shows-99-7-percent-of-quarantined-kids-were-healthy/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=indiana-lawsuit-against-school-covid-rules-shows-99-7-percent-of-quarantined-kids-were-healthy&utm_term=2022-01-20</p>
Marlee Griek	It is time for the mandates to end. Parents deserve and are legally allowed choice. The torture and burden put upon our children needs to end. Enough is enough.
Natalie White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As parents, we are not comfortable giving our child an experimental vaccine at such a young age and with such little evidence of it's necessity for a very low risk population. • In addition, the vaccine was never intended to prevent transmission. • With that in mind, providing different treatment to children based on their vaccine status is discriminatory in nature. • All children remain visually the same to one another. Yet, children will quickly figure out there are differences when they see others sitting segregated at lunch time- the vaccinated vs the unvaccinated. And this would not be by the student or family's CHOICE. • The downstream effects of treating children differently for their personal medical status is not only a violation of personal privacy, but also a driver for bullying, exclusion, and inequity. • Part of D25's own mission statement is "Embracing individuality and modeling empathy in an inclusive environment." <p>• I want to warn you that you have already failed this mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My friend who has 3 children in this district, has already had to teach her oldest children how to stand up against bullies who have attempted to belittle them for not being vaccinated, and this was even before the Cook County mandate! • In our own town, already, parents and children are being denied access to various places of business due to vaccination status. Some places - like our beloved park district - are offering to put stickers (likely a distinct color) on ID cards, to differentiate the vaccinated from the unvaccinated upon entry. ... • I have a few questions for you – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is to come for our children with measures like this?? 2. Will we allow this to carry over into our schools- a place that is supposed to be "Embracing individuality and modeling empathy in an inclusive environment"? 3. Will you bring segregation to our schools based on vaccination status? (For a vaccine that does not prevent transmission?) 4. Do you have plans in place to address and mitigate the way children are modeling adult behaviors which differentiate and diminish children for their medical status? <p>We all desire for our children to be safe. But putting the vaccinated against the unvaccinated not only does not scientifically or medically prevent spread, but it erodes the very fabric of our community and our sense of safety and acceptance in a deeper, more permanent way. Already there is division my immediate family.</p> <p>As a life-long resident of AH and the daughter of two immigrant parents – who sacrificed so much for us to grow up in a community that had an excellent reputation for education, I am aware of what equity, inclusion, and opportunity truly mean. As a parent, isn't it my job (and all of yours) to ensure this for my own children as well?"</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	<p>I hope to hear answers to my question in the coming months. However, Unfortunately, it is becoming apparent that our community is no longer what it was when I grew up here. As a result, I fear you will be losing a family that has contributed to giving you your current excellent reputation, and we won't be the only ones.</p>
Karen Wolff	<p>The Celebrations slide on the Procedures and Data update presentation for tonight's meeting says, "D25 mitigation strategies are working as CCDPH is not seeing in-school outbreaks." But do we really know it's the mitigation strategies? Couldn't it be that kids get sick from and spread coronavirus at extremely low rates? That there wouldn't be outbreaks even without the mitigation strategies? There's plenty of evidence to support this hypothesis – For example, Iowa does not have the mandates yet has lower cases per 100,00 population than Illinois. And, our own district data shows that the overwhelming majority of quarantined students remain healthy. You need to look at the bigger picture and ask yourself honestly if the no to negligible benefit is worth the damage to student's overall physical, mental, and emotional health.</p>
Amanda Bhansali	<p>If a decision in the Austin vs. Pritzker court case results in the end of the statewide mask mandate for schools, District 25 should keep masks mandatory at a district level for all students and staff for the foreseeable future. Positivity rates are at some of the highest levels of the pandemic, but our schools and classrooms are still open because Masking Works. Masks are helping to keep students in school, and they protect the health and safety of the school and larger communities. In our community, NWC Hospital is already delaying some surgical procedures because the hospital system is becoming overwhelmed with COVID-19 related illness. Placing students and teachers at unnecessary risk in the midst of a surge of COVID cases would be irresponsible and negligent, and a violation of the public's trust in the school board and the administration of District 25.</p>
Karen Wolff	<p>I am asking the school board and district to make a preemptive statement that they will not force covid shots onto students as a condition of school attendance. Despite claims made by the superintendent and some board members, covid shots are not – I repeat NOT – just like any other childhood immunization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The shots do not confer immunity. 2. The shots do not prevent transmission. 3. The shots wear off after 4-6 months, similar to flu shots. 4. The clinical trials related to safety are required to continue through 2023, 2025, and 2027. 5. One of the most serious adverse events, heart inflammation, is seen mostly in adolescent boys. 6. More children have died or been permanently disabled from the shots than from covid itself (this data is available in the CDC VAERS database). <p>Please educate yourselves regarding the nature, efficacy, and safety of covid shots before an unconstitutional mandate comes for students as it did for teachers.</p>
Jen Anderson	<p>Given the success D25 has had in keeping our schools open and providing a quality education to our children, I'm asking that the current mitigation strategy of masking for all students and staff remain in place even if a decision in the Austin vs. Pritzker court case results in the end of the statewide mask mandate for schools. Masks are helping to keep students in school and teachers in classrooms, and they protect the health and safety of our communities and children under 5 who can't yet be vaccinated. Removing something that's working so well in the middle of winter and a surge of COVID cases would be a terrible mistake and go against what the majority of D25 parents want for their children.</p>
Melisa Andrews	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing you to ask that you keep masks in place. The cdc recommends it. Especially with the new isolation guidelines how are supposed to know if a child still has Covid? I will tell you my own experience on how masks work. In the last 2 weeks there has been 5 cases in my sons class. I sent him with a Kn95 mask and he didn't get coronavirus. I truly believe his mask worked. My</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
	daughter is 4 and in EC at Greenbrier. I don't have the choice to have her vaccinated yet. Everyone speaks of choice. This district doesn't just have k-8 students we also have 3 and 4 year olds who can't get vaccinated yet. The only thing protecting her right now is masks. Thankfully, she hasn't gotten it yet. I have 2 kids in various therapies. They wear masks. They haven't gotten sick yet and once again I contribute that to mask wearing. Why is this even a thing when we are in the middle of a surge. I and many other parents didn't ask people to sue the district or the state. They don't have the voice of my children. It's their right to not have their kids vaccinated. But I think we need to have masks until all age groups at the very least have the ability to be offered the vaccine.
Melisa Andrews	If you don't keep the masks, there should be an option for those families to go to remote academy. Everyone wants choice.
Robyn Swanson	If a decision in the Austin vs. Pritzker court case results in the end of the statewide mask mandate for schools, District 25 should keep masks mandatory at a district level for all students and staff for the foreseeable future. Masks are helping to keep students in school, and they protect the health and safety of the school and larger communities. Placing students and teachers at unnecessary risk in the midst of a surge of COVID cases would be irresponsible and negligent, and a violation of the public's trust in the school board and the administration of District 25.
maureen schmidt	Please remember that you voted for choice in July. Please remember the children you serve and the irreversible damage that has been done to them. Please give them the choice to mask and vaccinate. Please decide if you are trying to protect the children or the teachers as it is well known that the risk to children is extremely low and transmission between children and teachers has not been proven to be a common occurrence. Teachers are capable of making informed decisions on how to protect themselves without doing harm to the children.
Elizabeth Green	It's time to get rid of the forced masking (at least make it optional) and never force a COVID vaccine mandate in the district for students. It should be a private decision among families.
Karen Wolff	At the beginning of this school year, forever-maskers stood at the microphone and said you must implement the mitigation measures, for everyone's health and safety, until the shots are available to 5-11 year-olds. So where are those people now? Why aren't they standing at the microphone now in favor of removing the mitigations? They're triple vaccinated; their kids are double vaccinated. It's safe now, right? But they're not here united with other parents: Perhaps it's because their compassion begins and ends with coronavirus. And since the risk will never be zero, they will never be satisfied. Never mind the suffering of children's mental health and spike in adolescent suicides; never mind the deaths of children from bacterial pneumonia; and let's just ignore the single greatest risk factor in children – obesity. If they (and you) truly want to reduce covid risk, teach kids to be healthy. In all childhood deaths either with or from coronavirus in the past two years, 42% were obese; if they and you really want to keep kids safe and healthy, you should address the obesity epidemic; teach kids to be healthy and provide school lunch options that aren't full of processed food and fillers. But, the only thing that matters to them is coronavirus, and they blindly believe masks and shots are the way to conquer it, completely ignoring that a healthy child has almost no risk; so if you're waiting for their approval, or ISBE's approval, or the teachers union's approval, you'll be waiting for a long while. As long as there's a single case of coronavirus, that's all you'll be allowed to focus on. That's all you'll be told to mitigate against. Instead, you can choose to see the decline in student health and academic performance. You can realize there's more to health than avoiding one cold virus. You can change course and positively affect students' lives so they can start to put behind them the unfair and unnecessary burdens placed on them by the anxiety and irrational fear of adults.
Christina Klamer	I plead with you to stop segregation in this community. From someone who loved living here, and the opportunities you once provided, to hating every moment of being in this town. I am discriminated against my own child, as I am not allowed to volunteer in her Daisy troop, as I couldn't walk into Rec park district building without being stopped first and be asked my vaccination status. It is embarrassing and disgraceful that you are not only segregating the community, but parents and their children from their right to make their own choices and decide what is best for them and their families.

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the January 20, 2022 Board Meeting
The following comments were received after the submission deadline, and not included in the January 20, 2022 Board meeting.	
Katie Johnson	Our children need to be children. They have done what is asked, they have risen to the occasion and have done so with grace. We are going on 2 years and over 700 days with these strict mandates and nothing has changed or helped. They are listening to us even when we think they aren't, we can't continue to put this undue stress on them. The masks aren't working. It is just now coming to light... and many of us have guessed this all along. But still we continue to put this heavy burden on them. When is it time to let them breathe and be as children should be? Please support the removal of masks in our schools. Please do not segregate our children due to vaccination status. Please lift the weight off of their hearts and minds. We cannot afford to do this to our kids any longer, they are suffering. We don't yet know the full repercussions of these arbitrary and down right unproductive mandates. For those who want to vaccinate or continue to wear masks, that is fine. Let's leave the choice to the families.
Dee Baum	We are asking only for choice. Choice to wear masks or not. For families who feel safer doing so, those children should be allowed to wear them. For families who feel masks are not necessary, those children should be allowed not to wear them. In America, we have always had choice. This is the very foundation of our country. Choice. Choice without discriminatory repercussions. Let the people decide for their own families. Thank you.