

First and Last Name	Public Comments for the April 21, 2022 AHSD25 Board Meeting
Karen Medina Zinn	<p>I want to express my support to Full Time Kindergarten for SD25 starting as soon as 2023. I currently have a Kindergartener attending Patton in the afternoon. When I compare my child - to his friends from neighboring districts - who attend Full Time kindergarten, my child is at a disadvantage. The number of actual minutes that he spends learning (academics) and socializing with peers is minimal compared the number of minutes other districts offer/provide their kindergarten students. Academically children attending FT kindergarten get the opportunity to not only learn new skills but also practice them under the supervision/support of a qualified teacher. I am fortunate to be a SAHM and be able to sit down with my child and teach him/practice with him math/writing/reading frequently. However, not all parents can do this. Not all parents can teach. Socially, FT kindergarteners learn how to better interact with their peers - recess and lunch time.</p> <p>I have a younger child attending EC at Greenbrier. He will attend EC again in 2022-2023. While currently he is transitioning to a blended classroom, it is likely that he attends a general ed Kindergarten class Patton in 2023-24. I truly hope that my younger child gets to attend Full Time Kindergarten at SD25.</p>
Zenek Piersa	<p>To District Leaders,</p> <p>Do you think misleading the community is acceptable? Why somebody's unprofessional services are being paid by taxpayers' money? Are you going to continue to listen to Kriha Boucek's legal advice? How does it make you feel when you hear Mrs. Boucek talking about beer and heroin? Why did KB Lawyers disappear from the board meetings and why did KB remove their online weekly recaps from public viewings?</p> <p>At the 8/12/21 board meeting Mrs. Boucek said, "Really, until the mandate is lifted, the local control is limited at this point." Really, we heard the opposite in court!</p> <p>Mrs. Boucek also said, "With the mandate in place, it adds up an entirely different legal analysis as well as legal considerations that I have an obligation to tell you as the board to consider when you're looking at your return to school plan." Do you as a board think her advise benefited our community? At the same board meeting, one of the board members said, "We have a long tradition of flexibility and communication".</p> <p>What happened to that? There was no public apology, no explanation given to the community. Is our board satisfied with that? Is that what you call a public service?</p> <p>Concerned Taxpayer/Parent, SD25.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Zenek Piersa</p>
Margaret Waz	<p>As a mom of 6 children (the youngest one in 1st grade, the oldest one in college), I've had a chance to observe how the curriculum in our schools is changing and how the focus is shifting from the core subjects such as math, reading and writing, grammar, history and science to this vague concept called social emotional learning, which is currently like a mantra, but most parents don't even understand what it's about. A few years ago, there was not much talk about SEL, but now it's exploding. I personally don't know any child who truly benefited from SEL. There is really no partnership between parents and educators anymore. A specific curriculum is being pushed on parents whether they like it or not. The SEL in its current form is nothing more than social emotional destabilization of children and it is causing great frustration for many families. You underestimate parenting abilities of ours and assume too many roles for school. Too many usually means not good at anything.</p> <p>Regarding comprehensive sex ed, parents should educate their children on sex at the right time for them and per THEIR values. It's not for teachers nor any third parties to do that. The LGBTQ+ and gender agenda that "welcoming" schools are embracing just rips away the innocence of the kids and confuses them, their mind is not there to comprehend this subject, plus this has no educational value. Just let the kids be kids!</p>
Agnes Zapart	<p>When I read the district's 5-year Strategic Plan, I wonder what you mean by social justice? Does it imply hiring teachers just for the color of their skin or sexual orientation to make the environment more "diverse"? Have you considered the negative consequences of forced diversity? Does it mean</p>

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	<p>lowering the educational standards for ALL students in order for everybody to "pass"? But, everybody is different and social success cannot be evenly distributed. In regards to inclusion, does it mean gender-neutral restrooms at schools? Will our school board have a same-sex bathroom in the administration building as well? What about tampon machines in boys' bathrooms, which makes MOST kids uncomfortable? Will you be putting cat litter there too for an individual who identifies as a cat? Those are serious questions that you might need to address sooner than you think. Also, I want my child to be an independent thinker, not a "global citizen".</p>
Ewa Wojcik	<p>Parents shouldn't be spending their time and energy fighting their school district. The district shouldn't be telling parents: If you don't like it here, you can take your kids somewhere else. As a matter of fact, I will, but this is not advice I would expect to hear (multiple times) from Dr. Lasiewicki and Dr. Bein. Doesn't it contradict the sign in front of Ivy Hill that says "All are welcome here"?</p> <p>At this point, there is nothing to convince me I should keep my kids here. The district broke the law and showed the parents the only way to ascertain their rights is through a lawsuit. It took me some time, but I realized it's not about what's best for the children, it's about pushing an agenda that comes from the above. Nobody is accountable, nobody admits to their mistakes.</p> <p>I really hope that our district starts working with the parents, not against the parents. It's really the ignorance of the concerns of parents that is causing those parents to push back. Please step back and take a deeper look at whether the district is fulfilling its goals when it comes to community relations.</p>
Sam Pappas	<p>Has the Superintendent and School Board extensively explored all other avenues for raising the proposed \$75 million of capital funds beyond raising local taxes? This is quite a heavy burden on the residents of Arlington Heights. Were all federal and state funding sources completely exhausted for this purpose? We hear reports of many earmarks at both the federal and state level funding projects that are much less worthy than funding our children's education. What lobbying efforts were undertaken to draw such funds to our School District? Were private funding sources also explored in addition to the ABC25 Foundation? We hear of private donors and others funding projects in the City of Chicago directly or through not-for-profits to help with funding gaps locally, but I don't see that happening in our School District. Raising local taxes should be a last resort.</p>