

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on November 11, 2021 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:48 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 7:39 p.m. on November 11, 2021. 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: Brian Cerniglia, Chad Conley, Gina Faso, Scott Filipek, Rich Olejniczak, Anisha Ismail Patel, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: None

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; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Ryan Schulz, Director

of Facilities Management; Coletta Hines-Newell, Director of Food Services; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Mr. Filipek, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein extended congratulations to the South and Thomas Middle School Cross Country teams that participated in the State meet. Their coaches, Todd Slowinski, Becky Fahnoe, and Joe Kim from Thomas, and Dave Frintner, Sophia Vassos, and Kim Radzak from South, were thanked. The South girls team placed 6th, the South boys team placed 12th, the Thomas Girls team placed 9th, and the Thomas boys team placed 3rd at the State meet. The coaches from both schools thanked the School Board and Administration for their support of the Cross Country teams. Videos highlights of the season for each school was shown. Ms. Vassos thanked Mr. Frintner who has been the backbone of the South program.

Mr. Cerniglia entered the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

The principals from Ivy Hill and Westgate Elementary Schools, Mr. Scott Kaese and Ms. Ann Buch presented information about their respective schools. Mr. Kaese showed the enrollment by grade, and talked about the theme at Ivy Hill, "All In...For Everyone, Everyday". They are excited about the Ivy Hill staff, students, and the adventures ahead. Ms. Buch showed the enrollment by grade, and talked about the theme at Westgate, "Outer Space-Shoot for the Stars!" They are excited about connecting with the community, engaging students in new ways of learning, and revisiting old traditions and beginning new ones. A Board member noted that the Board recently visited both Westgate and Ivy Hill Schools.

Dr. Bein recognized the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, noting that November 15 is Illinois School Board Members' Day. Dr. Bein thanked the Board for their service, and read a quote from Mr. Tom Bertrand, IASB Executive Director. This year's School Board Members' Day theme is "Inspiration and Leadership." Board members received a certificate of recognition for their service.

Dr. Bein stated that District 25 is thankful for our many parents, staff, and Board members who serve us in our community and who have also served in the Armed Forces. Dr. Bein thanked Mr. Filipek and Mr. Olejniczak for their service. She noted that District 25 is in school on Veteran's Day to teach students about the contributions of our Veterans, to celebrate them together. A video compilation of the activities done at our schools today was shared. Dr. Bein thanked Mr. Harris and Ms. Inana Zomaya for the video.

Community Input

- Karen Wolff addressed the Board regarding pandemic mandates and guidelines.
- Maryann Zaleski addressed the Board regarding public discussion of vaccination status in classrooms.
- Christy Witherow addressed the Board regarding parental concerns.

- Angelika Babich addressed the Board regarding book recommendations, and questions on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Ewa Wojcik addressed the Board regarding COVID.

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

- Ewa Wojcik commented on COVID case statistics.
- Ewa Wojcik commented on ESSER funding and masks.
- Michele Hilgart commented on a letter of dissent regarding the mask mandate.
- Michele Hilgart commented on being thankful for the children's vaccine clinic.
- Dariusz Gatko commented on a COVID vaccine mandate for children.
- Ewa Wojcik commented on a letter of dissent regarding the mask mandate.
- Anieszka Czarnik commented on the Governor's COVID-related mandates.
- Jennifer Durkin commented on voting on specific Resolutions at the IASB Delegate Assembly.
- Magdalena Martinez commented on the option for students to sit outside for lunch at the middle schools.
- Jen Anderson commented on the district COVID Dashboard, and the requested letter of complaint to the Governor.

Consent Agenda

Motion: A. Patel moved and R. Olejniczak 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) Invoices; (C) Public Hearing Meeting minutes on the Waiver of Administrative Cost Cap of October 7, 2021; (D) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of October 7, 2021; (E) Closed Special Session Meeting minutes of October 12, 2021

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Dr. Kaye introduced Ms. Sandy Voss, who will be the new Director of Food Services when the current director, Ms. Coletta Hines-Newell, retires.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO – Mr. Filipek reported that the work on Timber Ridge School is moving along, and that Dr. Hackett will be attending the December District 25 Board meeting.
- IASB – Ms. Patel reported that several Board members will be attending the Joint Annual Conference, which will be held next weekend.
- ED-RED – Mr. Olejniczak and Ms. Mallek reported on recent legislation in the state.

- Board Governance – Mr. Filipek read an excerpt from the Board Governance Framework regarding Board meetings.
- Other Board Communication – Mr. Scapillato stated that the Park District Trunk or Treat event was a great way to connect with the community, and that the Thomas band concert was very good. Ms. Patel noted that she and Dr. Kaye attended the District 214 Board meeting earlier in the evening because District 214 recognized the sender schools for their support of Career Pathways. She also spoke about a business Trunk or Treat that was held in Arlington Heights, as well as the Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Dinner to be held this Saturday.

The following reports were received:

- ABC25 –Ms. Faso reported that ABC25 has received over 50 grants that are under consideration. The decision date is November 30, and the results will be provided prior to winter break. The GetBurbed Challenge will be held on April 30, 2022. ABC25 is accepting drawings from students in the district to design a t-shirt for the race, and the winning artist will select the color of the shirt. The deadline for submission is December 3, 2021.
- ATA – Ms. Berg showed pictures from Westgate Elementary School, and talked about many of the happenings there. She thanked the Veterans, and recognized the Board for Board Member's Day. She also thanked the Administration and Board for coming to the table for the most current MOU.

There were no reports from the following:

- PTA

Student Learning

Fall Assessment Report

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Amanda Czerniuk, Assessment Coordinator. Ms. Czerniuk noted that the district's fall 2021 assessments included the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS); Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FastBridge); Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System; and NEWA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The spring 2021 assessment was the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). She also reviewed NWEA's educational research during the 2020-2021 school year.

IAR overall performance for 3rd through 8th graders, and a comparison of 2019 to 2021 spring data in math and reading was shown and explained. District 214 feeder district IAR results from 2019 and 2021 were provided and showed scores trended down in all districts in math and reading, with scores declining from pre-pandemic testing.

MAP average percentile by cohort in reading and math were shown and discussed, and it was stated that this data is more stable than last year's. Students were closer to meeting their reading and math growth projections this fall than they were last spring.

On average, reading summer school students gained 3.5 RIT points from spring to fall, and non-summer school students gained 2.5 RIT points from spring to fall. On average, math summer school students gained 3 RIT points from spring to fall, and non-summer school students gained 2 RIT points from spring to fall.

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Ms. Sharon Nelles, Literacy & Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, and Ms. Lynnae Jenkins, first grade teacher at Patton. They reviewed Literacy Footprints and Intervention Partners. Ms. Nelles explained that Literacy Footprints is a research-based comprehensive small group literacy framework. Intervention Partner is a small group, short term, supplementary intervention program for struggling readers or multilingual learners. Ms. Jenkins talked about how the staff at Patton utilized Literacy Footprints and Intervention Partner, and the benefits of the programs.

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Ms. Lisa Szydlowski, Math Coordinator, and Ms. Kim Kusciel, fourth grade teacher at Olive-Mary Stitt. Ms. Szydlowski described the Building Fact Fluency Toolkits, which are comprehensive research-based toolkits designed to help students learn math facts by developing deep, conceptual understanding through engaging and purposeful practice. Ms. Kusciel discussed the benefits of the toolkit and how it has had a huge impact on students' math learning. A video of the program in use in the classrooms was shown. The materials were purchased using ESSER funds, and professional development will be provided for these programs.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion regarding professional development for the new curriculum; growth expectations; any additional curricular needs; summer school; and details on the assessment results. Board members and Dr. Bein thanked the group for the presentation.

Mr. Filipek and Mr. Conley left the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Presentation of the 2021 Tentative Tax Levy

Ms. Mallek presented the Tentative Tax Levy to the Board. She reviewed the 2020 Tax Levy and shared historical information from the past eleven years. Taxes are based on a dollar amount limited to an increase each year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or 5%, whichever is less. The proposed levy is 3.3% higher than the 2020 levy extension in the capped funds. This is to capture the 1.4% CPI plus new growth. We anticipate the actual increase will be 2.0%, which represents the 1.4% increase due to CPI plus 0.6% new growth.

Ms. Mallek shared the levy timeline in accordance with legal requirements.

November 11, 2021
November 30, 2021

Presentation of Tentative Levy
Publication of Hearing Notice

December 9, 2021 Public Hearing & Levy Adoption
Prior to December 28, 2021 Levy Filed

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the reason for submitting a levy on a higher rate; the negative impact if a levy was not maximized; and salaries and benefits. It was explained that it is not detrimental to the taxpayer to submit a levy at a higher rate because the County Clerk can only allow the district access to the appropriate amount of new growth. Ms. Mallek noted that the district anticipates that the second installment may not come until December 2022 or January 2023. Ms. Mallek was thanked for her presentation and explanation of the details.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal for Calendar Year 2022

Ms. Mallek noted that the renewal for 2022 reflects an increase of 4.32%, with a net projected payroll increase of 3.0%. IPRF also offers a grant program, which provided the district \$27,502 for 2021. The grant amount for 2022 is \$16,495.

Motion: A. Patel moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve Illinois Public Risk Funds as the provider of the Workers' Compensation insurance for calendar year 2022 at a cost of \$399,014.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Amendment to the COVID-19 Testing Support Agreement with the Board of Trustee of the University of Illinois

Ms. Mallek noted that this amendment extends the agreement through June 30, 2022. If we find that our participation drops significantly, we can submit notice and cancel the agreement. We still have approximately 1,700 individuals enrolled in the program. There is no cost to the district as it is all funded by the government.

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Amendment to the COVID-19 Testing Support Agreement with the Board of Trustee of the University of Illinois.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Facilities Management

Five Year Facilities Budget Update

Mr. Schulz presented a five-year facility master plan to the Board with a projected cost of \$32,886,500. This plan communicates long-term needs and maintenance details for the district buildings. These capital improvements ensure that the buildings are maintained in a consistent manner so that the buildings perform at a high level for students and staff. The priorities for facilities management planning are safety, to preserve the schools and grounds, to extend the life of schools and grounds, to improve efficiency, and enhancements.

The top building needs were reviewed in detail, including projects at Dryden, Ivy Hill, and Westgate Schools. Since the district is doing research on implementing full day kindergarten, two different annual cost scenarios were presented. A summary of the projects by trade, and the buildings where the work would occur was shown.

Financing options need to be discussed in order to continue to have an adequate fund balance. There is potential for a bond issue, and this is being explored with the Strategic Plan committee. Other exploratory options were reviewed and include potential full day kindergarten expansion; air conditioning of remaining gyms; flexible learning space upgrades; LED lighting upgrades; building automation system upgrades; and additional classroom door hardware. Estimated new construction replacement costs by each building was shown. Construction cost trends were provided, and it shows that there is a sharp rebound from last year after the pandemic, but there is an average 5% increase in construction costs. Mr. Schulz will present the final information at the December Board meeting.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the building costs by building; a longer construction timeline; financing options for capital projects; efficiency projects; timing requirements for a possible bond issue; and the two different scenarios.

Ms. Patel left the meeting at 10:40 and returned at 10:41 p.m.

Personnel and Planning Staffing Update

Dr. Kaye updated the Board on staffing for the school year. He reviewed the FTE employee category comparison and building comparison. He showed breakdowns of each group with filled and unfilled positions. He reviewed the certified open positions as of November 4 and the non-certified positions as of November 5. A Board member asked Dr. Kaye to include information about which unfilled positions were previously approved by the Board.

Strategic Plan – High-Quality Staff Goal Update

Dr. Kaye updated the Board on the High-Quality Staff Goal from the Strategic Plan. The team is a combination of parents, community members, administrators, and staff, and is a very positive and productive group. The group began by brainstorming objectives. He will invite the group to meet one more time in November to finalize objectives before sharing them with the other goal area groups on November 30. After finalizing their list of objectives, they will discuss how to determine and measure success for each objective. Board members on the action team noted that it is a very positive group, and thanked Dr. Kaye for his work with the group.

Memorandum of Understanding November 11, 2021

Dr. Kaye noted that Dr. Ayala, State Superintendent, sent a letter regarding the support for flexibility of teacher evaluations that they provided last year. Representatives of the Board and ATA negotiated the impact of this change.

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding November 11, 2021 as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Superintendent Report

Freedom of Information Act Report

Dr. Bein noted that this will be a standing item on the Board agenda going forward.

- Karen Wolff requested Shield contract information, which was provided on October 11, 2021.
- Ewa Wojcik requested information regarding funding in regard to mask mandates and grant applications, which was provided on October 12, 2021.
- Katherine Smyser, NBC Universal, requested unclaimed fund information, which was provided on October 13, 2021.
- Bernadette Soto, Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, requested construction contracts, which was provided on November 2, 2021.

IASB 2021 Resolutions

Dr. Bein stated that each year at the Joint Annual Conference, the Illinois Association of School Boards holds a Delegate Assembly. The District 25 delegate this year is Ms. Patel, and at the Delegate Assembly she will vote on behalf of the District 25 Board of Education. Voting will happen electronically for the first time in IASB's history. If a Resolution passes, it doesn't mean that it is law, but it means that we are asking IASB to lobby and support, or not support the Resolution. The Board discussed the process as to how they will determine how to proceed on each of the Resolutions. Board members discussed several Resolutions in detail.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and G. Faso seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote in alignment with the 2021 Resolutions Committee's recommendations on the following items on the 2021 report: 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and B. Cerniglia seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote in alignment with the Resolutions Committee recommendation to adopt Resolution #2, Student Safety and Protection Plan.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, no; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, no; G. Scapillato, no. Motion fails 2/3.

Motion: G. Faso moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote in alignment with the Resolutions Committee recommendation to adopt for Resolution #5, Remote-Virtual School Board Open Meetings.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, no. Motion carried 4/1.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to oppose the Resolutions Committee recommendation for Resolution #6, Reorganize Board – From 28 to 40 days.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, no; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/1.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and A. Patel seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to oppose the Resolutions Committee recommendation for Resolution #9, Health & Sex Education Curriculum.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, no; G. Faso, no; R. Olejniczak, no; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion failed 2/3.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Faso seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to oppose Resolution #11, Clean Energy Infrastructure Federal Funding.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, no; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, no; G. Scapillato, no. Motion fails 2/3.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Faso seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to oppose Resolution #13, Landscaping Federal Funding.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, no; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/1.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Faso seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to support Resolution #14, Expand Broadband Internet Access.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and A. Patel seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to support Resolution #15, Child Safe Gun Storage.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, no; G. Faso, no; R. Olejniczak, no; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion failed 2/3.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to support Resolution #16, School Code Review.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education Delegate vote to support Resolution #17, Constitutional Amendment on School Funding.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, no; G. Faso, no; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 3/2.

2021-2022 School Year Pandemic-Related Updates

Dr. Bein provided an update to the Board on the 2021-22 school year. She explained that \$265,780 of the ESSER funds were designated for tutoring services. The Department of Student learning is facilitating the process and is identifying staffing; identifying students based on data review from October 11 Data Day; and grouping students by school. They will notify families about after-school programming and determine if there are additional seats available.

She showed the district COVID Dashboard from the previous week, and the trend over time. Shield testing information from November 1-5 was shown. All schools have rearranged lunch due to the IDPH change in close contact determination, and the changes have resulted in zero close contacts from lunch since the modifications have been made.

Mr. Cerniglia left the meeting at 12:37 a.m. and returned at 12:38 a.m.

A vaccine clinic for 578 students aged 5-11 was held on November 8 with Jewel/Osco. These students will have their second vaccination on November 29 at Ivy Hill School. The district will have no additional vaccine clinics.

Letter from the Board

Dr. Bein noted that in a previous Board of Education meeting, Board members mentioned an interest in crafting a letter to the Governor's office, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and/or the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The intent of the letter would be to describe the challenges District 25 has faced during the pandemic, including in response to the related Executive Orders. During this portion of the Board meeting, the Board can further discuss their interest in this letter and the content, or wait until the full Board is in attendance. The Board decided to wait until the rest of the Board is in full attendance at an upcoming meeting.

Community Input

- Melissa Cayer addressed the Board regarding the district not renting properties.

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined

Dr. Bein read requests from community members.

- Discussion of enforcement of rules related to keeping COVID-positive and suspected cases home from school including appropriate restitution for unnecessary staff time spent contact tracing cases where guidelines are not followed. Dr. Bein noted that it would be impossible for the district to know this information. The Board and Dr. Bein discussed how to efficiently respond to requests from community members going forward. The Board determined that since this item is an operational item, Dr. Bein should follow up on it.
- Motion for a rule requiring that the SD25 Board of Education and Administration actively uphold Executive Orders, specifically that all attendees to public board of education meetings be required to adhere to all public health

guidelines/mandates, either by state or county, including but not limited to proper mask wearing. This includes speaking during public comments as a microphone is provided. The Board determined that since this item is an operational item, Dr. Bein should follow up on it.

- Suggestion to add “17.745 ILCS 70/Health Care Right of Conscience Act” to the existing list on page 1 of Policy 2:260 – School Board Uniform Grievance Procedure. The Board determined that it would be beneficial to seek out legal counsel, and that Dr. Bein should research with the Board attorney, and then report back.
- Disclose Open Meetings Act determinations, actions, and compliance training. This is related to an agenda that Dr. Bein posted in July, and a community member felt that there wasn’t enough information on the agenda to know what would occur. Dr. Bein explained this particular situation. The Board determined that this does not need to be added to a future agenda.

New Topics:

Board members requested to discuss an earlier start time for Board meetings, or having a cutoff time for Board meetings.

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

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting on Friday, November 12, 2021 at 12:55 a.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O’Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: December 9, 2021

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: December 13, 2021

Date minutes posted on District website: December 13, 2021

Community Input Received Electronically

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the November 11, 2021 Board Meeting
Ewa Wojcik	It would be helpful to know the number or percentage of positive covid-19 cases who are fully vaccinated. Please start providing those statistics as part of D25 Covid-19 Dashboard.
Ewa Wojcik	<p>In the grant application for ESSER III Covid-19 Relief fund submitted by D25 to ISBE, the district has committed to addressing "students' and staff social, emotional, mental health needs" to "ensure continuity of services."</p> <p>I'd like the Board to provide an update at the Board meeting in regards to what the Board is doing to address the emotional and social implications of wearing facial coverings by students. There are children in our schools who suffer psychologically (fear, instability, intimidation, reluctance to go to school, anxiety, depression). How are our schools supporting young children's emotional development while making them wear masks?</p>
Michele Hilgart	I was disappointed and, frankly, annoyed to hear Chad again bringing up the topic of a Letter of dissent to the Governor regarding the mask mandate. To be clear, District 25 does not oppose the mask mandate--your constituents do not oppose the mask mandate. In fact, many of your constituents went to the Governor back in July and asked him to step in to protect students well-being when our locally elected board failed to protect our students and voted to make masking optional against the counsel of all recognized health experts. If you wish to retain your local authority on issues as critically important as public health, I suggest you do a better job of identifying and speaking with the appropriate experts on such matters and make a concerted and transparent effort to gauge the needs of all constituents before making such decisions based on the request of a loud and misinformed minority of residents. Thanks.
Michele Hilgart	I just wanted to thank Dr. Bein and the board for your work to coordinate a children's vaccine clinic at D25. I appreciate your commitment to our students health and wellbeing as well as the tremendous convenience this offers families in accessing the vaccine. Thank you!
Dariusz Gatko	<p>I appeal to our Board to not make the covid-19 vaccine mandatory for children at our schools. If you choose to ignore scientific data when making this important decision, that clearly shows you don't have the children's best interests at heart.</p> <p>6 Studies Showing Why Children Don't Need — and Shouldn't Get — a COVID Vaccine. "There exists no justification based on any available evidence for mandatory vaccines for kids." https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/vaccinate-children-covid-natural-exposure-immunity</p>
Ewa Wojcik	<p>Thank you to the board member who at the last board meeting brought up (not for the first time) a point about having a conversation about board's authority and local control, noting that a mandate is "creating an unnecessary divide within our communities." This goes beyond covid. Now is the perfect time to revisit the purpose of the local school boards and act accordingly.</p> <p>Regardless if someone is pro or anti mask/vaccine, I'd like to remind everyone that the board has been elected to serve the community, not to implement mandates to control the community.</p> <p>This is what concerns me the most:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instead of being an advocate for the community, the board has chosen to follow the governor's orders that are violating the law. - The board has been failing to adequately address the concerns of teachers, parents, and students in regards to the covid situation and the challenges it created. - The board has been risking the health of students and school staff in order to secure funding for the school district (\$1,516,832 received from ESSER III Covid-19 Relief fund with "Universal and correct wearing of masks" being a condition to ensure "Continuity of Services.") - There are documented cases of physical and emotional harm caused by mask and vaccine mandates at our schools and legal actions have been taken.

	<p>All of this has created a distorted notion of public school and its purpose, and the damage that the imposed restrictions have caused far outweigh any threat from covid.</p> <p>I ask the Superintendent and the Board to start making educated decisions and be leaders for the good of the community you are supposed to be serving. Coercing and intimidating is not serving, and I hope that our Board Members prove they stand by the principles for which they have been elected. If the board cannot stand up for our children, what is your role then?</p>
Ewa Wojcik	<p>The Pfizer Vaccine Fact Sheet presented to us in the "Schedule your Child's Vaccination (5-11) November 6, 2021" email from the district contains a lot of false, misleading, and disturbing information in regards to the following sections:</p> <p>WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS IN THE VACCINE? Tromethamine was added specifically to this vaccine to stabilize heart attack (!); here are the side-effects: https://presscalifornia.com/2021/10/28/pfizer-vax-kids/ Here is a list of non-disclosed ingredients, including a toxic substance graphene oxide and a parasite: https://rightsfreedom.wordpress.com/2021/09/02/american-scientists-confirm-toxic-graphene-oxide-and-more-in-covid-injections/</p> <p>HAS THE VACCINE BEEN USED BEFORE? "The CDC's authorization was based mostly on a Pfizer-BioNTech study of 4,600 children worldwide, of whom approximately 3,100 got the low-dose vaccine and about 1,500 got a placebo. Of the 3,100 children in the vaccine group, only 264 children were tested for antibodies to determine the efficacy of Pfizer's vaccine." https://nexusnewsfeed.com/article/health-healing/cdc-advisors-unanimously-endorse-pfizer-s-covid-vaccine-for-kids-5-11/</p> <p>"For comparison, the main RCT conducted for the polio vaccine in the 1950s enrolled more than 400,000 children, or 177 times more than Pfizer's study." https://www.justfactsdaily.com/main-study-fda-approve-covid-19-vaccine-risk-death</p> <p>There are data integrity issues in Pfizer's vaccine trial: https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj.n2635</p> <p>10 Red Flags in FDA's Risk-Benefit Analysis of Pfizer's Plan to Inject Young American Children With COVID Vaccine: https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/fda-risk-benefit-analysis-pfizer-children-covid-vaccine</p> <p>Definition of vaccine was changed to fit Covid-19 mRNA vaccine: https://youtu.be/OvM5meOXk9o https://technofog.substack.com/p/cdc-emails-our-definition-of-vaccine?justPublished=true</p> <p>WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE VACCINE? Not only doesn't it prevent covid infection and transmission, but causes serious side-effects, including death. What benefits are we talking about?</p> <p>WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THE VACCINE? The statement: "The possible side effects of the vaccine are still being studied in clinical trials." is indeed very "reassuring". We are talking about an experimental vaccine for which FDA ordered the studies to continue at least until 2027.</p> <p>"According to Pfizer, the number of participants in the current clinical development program was</p>

	<p>'too small to detect any potential risks of myocarditis associated with vaccination.' Long-term safety of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine 'to evaluate long-term sequelae of post-vaccination myocarditis/pericarditis' in participants 5 to <12 years of age will not be studied until after the vaccine is authorized for children,' Pfizer's application noted.”: https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/fda-endorses-pfizer-covid-vaccine-children</p> <p>Full list of possible side effects that FDA already knew back in August 2021: https://truthtellernl.wordpress.com/2021/08/04/fda-accidentally-displays-list-of-covid-vaccine-side-effects-including-death-myocarditis-and-autoimmune-disease/</p> <p>Reported injuries exceed 850,000: https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/vaers-cdc-adverse-events-deaths-covid-vaccines</p> <p>Dr. Peter McCullough (nationally recognized cardiologist) says the vaccine is more dangerous than covid: https://www.globalresearch.ca/video-the-vaccine-is-more-dangerous-than-covid-19-dr-peter-mccullough/5759522</p> <p>Recent study published in August 2021 proves covid vaccines cause more harm than good: https://newsrescue.com/us-covid-19-vaccines-proven-to-cause-more-harm-than-good-based-on-pivotal-clinical-trial-data-analyzed-using-the-proper-scientific-endpoint-all-cause-severe-morbidity/</p> <p>ARE OTHER CHOICES AVAILABLE FOR PREVENTING COVID-19 BESIDES PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE? “For children 5 through 11 years of age, there are no other COVID-19 vaccines available...” There are several things wrong with this question/statement. 1) Currently, no vaccine that could prevent covid exists, 2) Pfizer perceives the vaccine as the only choice while there are many other non-deadly or injurious options available, 3) There are now over 81 studies proving natural immunity to covid is lasting and durable - from Yale Epidemiology Professor Dr. Harvey Risch, one of the most academically cited American epidemiologists alive today: https://uncoverdc.com/2021/10/27/yale-professor-pull-children-from-schools-that-force-vaccines/</p> <p>Here is a summary that contains a bunch of disturbing information, including conflicts of interest and how FDA buries data on seriously injured children: https://alethonews.com/2021/11/04/pfizer-is-calling-the-shots-to-jab-kids/</p> <p>In light of all the known facts, I demand you STOP sharing misinformation, STOP insulting our intelligence, and STOP the experimental covid vaccine campaigns!</p>
Anieszka Czarnik	<p>Just looking at the covid-related mandates imposed by our BOE from the legal perspective...A mandate is not a law and even if the IASB claims, "Once an executive order is issued, it has the effect of law", it is impossible for a law that violates the Constitution to be valid. Regardless of what arguments SD25 Board is using to cover this fact, there is no question about it.</p> <p>The executive order you continuously choose to follow is unlawful on many levels. The fact that parents and teachers are forced to demand their fundamental rights through courts certainly doesn't reflect well on the Superintendent, the Board, and the district's reputation. Justice will be done one way or another. Consider how your actions will be judged in the future and during the next BOE elections. Will you be seen as a critical thinker who made a difference or as a puppet in the government's hands to control people's lives?</p>
Jennifer Durkin	<p>Thank you for your service and concern for the safety of our community and all who work in and attend our schools. I would like to ask that the school board instructs the delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly in November to vote: NO on Resolution #2; against the creation of Student Safety and Protection Plans that would allow employees to carry guns on school property. YES on Resolution #15, in favor of child safe gun storage laws in homes with students under the age</p>

	<p>of 18 years. School districts should be concerned with preventing guns from being brought to schools. Resolution #2 would allow the presence of concealed weapons in a school setting, which is detrimental to student safety. Resolution #15 would change the current gun storage safety law in raising the age of minors living in the home from 14 to 18, which would help reduce the potential for a child/student to gain access to an unsecured firearm and bring it to school.</p>
<p>Magdalena Martinez</p>	<p>I would love to see students continue to have the option to sit outside for lunch at the Middle Schools on the nice days, like we have had this week. My understanding is that has not been an option, and the students have been watching movies during half of lunch, inside this week. Offering outdoor lunch on nice weather days is a simple way to ensure that the school continues to be able to stay open. I also would love to see more windows cracked and medical grade air cleaners used inside classrooms. At curriculum night, I saw one window open the entire evening. Thank you to the Gym Teachers, who have had the students outside as much as possible. Lastly, I am hearing rumors of a few substitute teachers doing improper things to students. I would appreciate more communication at the Middle School level, clarifying things like this. Increased proactive communication to parents from the District would be much appreciated.</p>
<p>Jen Anderson</p>	<p>Dear D25 Board and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>Please revise the Covid Case Dashboard to accurately reflect daily and total weekly case counts by school. The current format of weekly reporting isn't a timely or accurate representation of cases and is essentially useless to parents who would like to monitor this information. As I understand it, this daily data is already collected and reported to CCDPH by school nurses and could easily be shared via a Google form like many other schools are already doing.</p> <p>Also, I'm one of many other parents and community members who strongly oppose our district's name associated with Mr. Conley's requested letter of complaint to the Governor. If he, or any other Board member, thinks the Governor has overstepped, they should send that message as a personal communication from a private citizen. The majority of parents welcomed the Governor's actions and still support them. As school board members, you are not responsible for making public health policy. Please don't waste any more of the Board's, Administration's or tax-payer funded attorneys' time with this distraction from the duties you were actually elected to carry out.</p> <p>Thank you, Jen Anderson</p>
<p>Douglas Hammond</p>	<p>Dear SD25 Board,</p> <p>The Annual IASB Delegate Assembly is coming up on Saturday, November 20, 2021. I have concerns regarding Resolutions #2, #9, and #15.</p> <p>I ask that you vote the following on these Resolutions.</p> <p>#2 – Vote NO to Adopt the Resolution We should not be voting for the IASB to advocate for legislation which provides Illinois school boards, such as our own, the option to develop plans to allow district employees to have the option to carry concealed firearms on district property. Teachers should be focused on providing a supporting environment conducive to learning. Children cannot feel safe if they are worried about teachers carrying guns. There is also a concern of liability should a district employee with a concealed gun accidentally discharge their weapon or shoot an innocent bystander. If a student finds or steals a teacher's firearm, this gun could be used to harm teachers and students or themselves.</p> <p>#15 – Vote YES to Adopt the Resolution The Glen Ellyn SD41 District Rationale points out that "Research indicates that strong child access prevention laws decrease unintentional shootings, suicides, and school shootings. Between 70% and 90% of guns used in school shootings perpetrated by shooters under the age of 18 were acquired from the home or the homes of relatives or friends. Furthermore, more than</p>

	<p>half of gun owners store at least one gun unsafely, without any locks or other safe storage measures. In fact, nearly a quarter of all gun owners report storing all of their guns in an unlocked location in the home. (...) Knowing how school shooters gain access to their guns and the likelihood that they are familiar with the school and have easy access to guns compels us to advocate for raising the safe storage age limit to 18 to capture the school-aged population in our public K-12 schools.”</p> <p>#9 – Vote NO to Adopt the Resolution I do not believe that local school districts should have control of content and curriculum for health and sex education courses offered in their districts. The voluntary standards only apply to school districts choosing to provide their students comprehensive sexual health education. Parents have the choice to opt their children out of the program. The ISBE works in consultation with stakeholders including parents, sexual health and violence prevention experts, health care providers, and education advocates. Given the breadth of experience and careful consideration of these voluntary learning standards by the ISBE and stakeholders, I do not believe that any local Illinois school district will be able to provide such a well researched and age appropriate health and sex education curriculum. If we allow this for health and sex ed, what's next? Will districts in Illinois be able to pick and choose curriculum for science, math and language arts.</p> <p>Finally, I continue to be confused as to why the Board would waste time and energy debating the creation of a letter of dissent regarding the Governor’s executive orders regarding masks and vaccination. The Governor is clearly within his legal right to do so and any thought exercise the Board might engage in distracts from the mission of District 25 and is really no more than so much hot air. Such a letter does not represent the majority of citizens within the district and is frankly divisive and non productive. I ask the board to focus solely on its mission of ensuring a high quality and safe education for our children.</p> <p>Regards, Doug Hammond Parent of 2 District 25 Children</p>
Alexis Hammond	<p>Dear SD25 Board of Education,</p> <p>The Annual IASB Delegate Assembly is coming up on Saturday, November 20, 2021. I have concerns regarding Resolutions #2, #9, and #15. I ask that you vote the following on these Resolutions. #2 – Vote NO to Adopt the Resolution #15 – Vote YES to Adopt the Resolution #9 – Vote NO to Adopt the Resolution</p> <p>I am concerned and disappointed at seeing the agenda item “Letter From the Board” for the November 10th meeting. The Governor has “clear legal authority”, as explained by the Board’s attorney on September 2nd, to make executive orders regarding masks and vaccination as they pertain to the disaster proclamations that have been issued every 30 days since March 2020. The Illinois Emergency Act gives the Governor the authority to protect the citizens of Illinois. That includes the children, teachers and staff of District 25. Vaccination and testing are not violations of privacy. There is already precedent for inoculations in the state of Illinois regarding Tuberculosis. (105 ILCS 5/24-5) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-5) of the school code specifically calls out the health criteria that school personnel must follow to be employed by the school. The Illinois Department of public health and the local health department can also issue requirements based on need. As we are in a global pandemic, there is obviously a great need for masking and vaccination orders. Asking for proof of vaccine status is not a violation of HIPAA and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), in regards to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), confirmed “there’s no indication that there’s any federal law that would be violated by the employer asking this question.” (https://www.hipaajournal.com/is-it-a-hipaa-violation-to-ask-for-proof-of-vaccine-</p>

	<p>status/)</p> <p>During the September 2nd Board meeting, there was much discussion about the board’s power. I ask that the Board remember its place in the community and put all political agenda and pride aside. By being voted to the board, voting citizens did not expect or ask you to be omniscient in all areas, especially in regards to public health. District 25 does not operate in a vacuum. We exist in Cook County, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. Your discretion regarding public health and the health of our children and the community has been taken away. For that I am relieved, given you voted on July 15th to make recommended masks optional before the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The Federal Government, the Governor, the IDPH, the ISBE, and the Cook County Department of Health have the clear legal authority and public health expertise to make these decisions for our community. The decisions about health and safety transcend the students, teachers and staff of District 25. We are talking about the health and safety of families in the community of Arlington Heights, Illinois, and the nation as a whole.</p> <p>For these reasons, I ask that the board cease and desist in further debating bucking the mandates, executive orders, and public health guidelines. I ask you not to draft a dissenting opinion. I believe such a letter does not represent the majority of the District 25 community or even all of the District 25 Board members. I believe that this letter will only further divide the District 25 community instead of unifying the community with a commitment to excellence in education. When making comments at the September 2nd Board meeting such as “we didn’t run for this position to be told what to do” you are not representing the students of District 25. Board positions are not about power, they are about leading and representing the students of District 25 in pursuit of excellent educations.</p> <p>Sincerely, Alexis Hammond Parent of 2 District 25 Children</p>
Deborah Freudenberger	<p>SD25 BOARD:</p> <p>CDC Director Dr. Walensky stated “As we head into these winter months, we know we cannot be complacent,”. She made clear that dropping mask mandates in schools would constitute precisely such an act of complacency, pointing to a recent study that found schools without mask mandates were 3.7 times more likely to experience a coronavirus outbreak than schools where mask wearing was required. We can not be complacent especially since Arlington Heights has recently been updated to “high transmission” per IDPH Covid-19 Community Transmission map, South Middle School just had a confirmed outbreak linked epidemiologically, and Windsor had 10 cases in the past week. I ask that the mask requirement is kept in place throughout the winter months for the safety of our children and community. I am thankful District 25 has complied with the mask mandate put in place by our Governor and ask that no letter of dissent be allowed as it does not represent our whole district.</p>
Allison Vercimak	<p>Due to the high number of Covid cases in the district and the outbreak at South please keep the mask mandate in place. We all want our kids to remain in person for school and this is the best way to keep that happening.</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>The Board should decide the agenda topic 13.d (letter from the Board) should be quickly squashed and never discussed again. Chad's mission to waste the Board's time on taxpayer dollars because of his misinformed and misguided opinions on masks and vaccines should finally be put to rest. The AHSD25 Board members and Superintendent are not public health experts. The state and local health experts should be setting policies regarding protecting the staff and students from a pandemic. This board needs to stop pandering to a local minority of parents who refuse to listen to science and public health officials nor live as a responsible member of the community.</p>
Ann Vogel	<p>I would like to acknowledge the incredibly smooth vaccine clinic run by the district on Monday, November 8 and thank Dr. Bein and all the staff who participated. With COVID-19 rates once again on the rise and the recent widespread outbreaks of COVID-19 at South Middle School and</p>

	<p>Windsor Elementary, I am also requesting that the Board formally adopt a policy to keep the mask mandate in place through the winter. This will give families sufficient time to get through the two-shot regimen and waiting period. Thank you for all you do to keep our children safe in school.</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>Related to the community suggested agenda topics, the Board should consider the suggestions thoughtfully.</p> <p>1) There should be discussion of how staff time wasted on unnecessary contract tracing can be reduced by informing parents that if they send their COVID suspected or positive students to school, they will be required to pay restitution to cover related staff costs for contact tracing. These parents who refuse to follow the districts guidelines should be made accountable for the unnecessary risks they are creating.</p> <p>2) The Board should pass a policy that the SD25 Board and administration will enforce all executive and public health orders, including proper mask wearing at Board meetings. Allowing members of the public to ignore the mask mandate only serves as a method of intimidation to those who are following the health mandates and/or are immunocompromised,</p> <p>3) No doubt, when the community member requested that the “Health Care Right of Conscience Act” be added to the School Board Uniform Grievance Procedure, they were hoping it would allow vaccine or test refusers to retain their job. Thankfully, the Illinois General Assembly and Governor recently amended the law to so it can no longer be wrongly used against institutions who are putting safety and science first.</p>
Michele Hilgart	<p>Members of the Board and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>First, I wanted to thank you again for coordinating this week's vaccine clinic at Ivy Hill. Everything was organized and efficient and the staff were great. For those of us parents who truly want to see a return to normal in the classroom, you have helped create a clear path forward.</p> <p>I would be remiss; however, if I didn't also point out that just a small percentage of D25 students were able to take advantage of that clinic and we are not yet on the other side of this pandemic. Just yesterday, Illinois reported over 5,000 cases and the numbers nationwide have plateaued at a higher rate than the first two waves of the pandemic--all as we head into the traditional peak of respiratory illness season. I understand that Governor Pritzker may lift mask mandates sometime before the end of the year, but even if this happens, I encourage the Board to keep the mask mandate in place for our schools until we've had time for more of the 5-11 year olds who want vaccines to receive them and our youngest students in E.C. become eligible. Again, I am so grateful to the district for helping to pave a safe pathway forward, but for the time being, that pathway still includes tiered mitigations and mandatory masking. Thank you for continuing to keep our students safe.</p> <p>Michele Hilgart</p>
Jennifer Dunn	<p>Schools using masks to mitigate COVID spread have less virus transmission per CDC research (https://www.wsj.com/articles/schools-with-face-mask-requirements-had-fewer-covid-19-outbreaks-cdc-study-finds-11632515562). Masking should be kept in place in D25 schools at a minimum through the winter months as layered protection, even as children ages 5-11 get vaccinated and even if the state lifts its mask mandate. COVID spread disrupts education and the ability of working parents to meet their professional obligations. We should do all we can to minimize it.</p>
Samantha K Riggi	<p>I would like to urge the board to stay focused on matters related to education and facilities, versus spending time discussing mask policies.</p> <p>Currently, the Governor of Illinois has a mask mandate in place that will likely remain in place through the recent outbreaks and winter months. Children ages 5-11 finally have the opportunity</p>

	<p>to get vaccinated, but even if a child received dose one on the very first day shots were available, it would still be five weeks until they're protected.</p> <p>Let's table the mask discussion, and any legal games to get around the Governor's mandate, and focus on helping our students grow in their learning. Thank you!</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>The Board and Dr. Bein recently had their hand slapped by the Illinois Attorney General's office for its violation of the Open Meetings Act when it illegally voted on its mask optional policy this past summer without proper prior notification.</p> <p>When this violation was discussed with Dr. Bein there was a general dismissive attitude. When it was addressed to Board members, there was no response. A community member had to file a complaint with the Attorney General's office. After that complaint was filed, the Board's attorney responded with one of the most unprofessional and flippant responses I have ever seen that bordered on gas lighting. The Illinois Attorney General's office saw through all of this and concluded that "the Board violated section 2.02(c) of OMA during its July 15, 2021, meeting by voting to approve the Superintendent's recommendation on the school year operational plan without having listed the general subject matter of that final action on the meeting agenda."</p> <p>Even after having its highly paid lawyer get beat by parents with no legal training, Dr Bein and the Board refuse to acknowledge the violation by making it publicly available or apologizing for their past misdeeds.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this is not the only probable violation of the OMA by this Board. Recent FOIA requests show that Board members expressed support for the Superintendent's recommended mask optional policy via text message immediately prior to the July 15th meeting. Board members are not to be communicating amongst each other on Board related topics unless the public can hear those conversations and so this text conversation represents another likely OMA violation.</p> <p>The law requires Transparency. Several members of the Board ran on a platform of transparency. And yet, through this illegal vote in July and its subsequently handling of the complaint, it continues to act in a manner inconsistent with this commitment and requirement to be transparent.</p> <p>It is disheartening that this violation is not on the agenda tonight and demonstrates that Dr Bein and the Board continue to be overly influenced by a loud minority of residents in this town who refuse to listen to the science behind COVID mitigations.</p> <p>A community member recommended a future Board topic on OMA that is being considered tonight. That discussion should include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Publishing the OMA finding in the Board agenda 2) Publicly apologizing for the OMA violation and thanking the complainant for his commitment to the transparency required by the OMA 3) Censuring Dr. Bein (who publishes the agenda) and the Board for voting illegally 4) Scheduling remedial OMA training for the Board and Senior Administrative staff who work on Board matters 5) Committing to never repeating an OMA violation again in the future
Nathan Ulery	<p>The Annual IASB Delegate Assembly is coming up on Saturday, November 20, 2021.</p> <p>I have concerns regarding Resolutions #2 (Student Safety and Protection Plan) and ask that the Board delegate vote against this resolution</p> <p>Resolution #2 reads, "BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Illinois Association of School Boards shall support and advocate for legislation which provides local school boards the option of developing</p>

	<p>Student Safety and Protection Plans which allow voluntary district employees, in any capacity, the ability to carry a concealed firearm on district property, provided the employee has a valid Illinois Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card, holds a certified Illinois Concealed Carry License, and has completed all additional trainings and certifications set forth by the respective school board, one of which must include yearly certified active shooter training. Only district employees who fulfill all requirements listed and receive superintendent and board approval would be eligible as an active and armed part of the Student Safety and Protection Plan.”</p> <p>I ask that the SD25 Board Delegate votes NO to adopt this measure.</p> <p>We should not be advocating for the IASB to advocate for legislation which provides Illinois school boards, such as our own, the option to develop plans to allow district employees to have the option to carry concealed firearms on district property.</p> <p>Our District employees (and employees of other districts across the state) are not trained sharp shooters or trained first responders. Teachers should be focused on providing a supporting environment conducive to learning. Districts in Illinois should be a gun free zones. Children cannot feel safe if they are worried about teachers carrying guns. There is also a concern of liability should a district employee with a concealed gun accidentally discharge their weapon or shoot an innocent bystander during an active shooter situation. If a student finds or steals a teacher's firearm, this gun could be used to harm teachers and students or themselves.</p>
Elizabeth Green	<p>It's time to make masks optional and say NO to Covid-19 vaccine mandates for all students! Let parents decide what is best for their children.</p>
Christine Organ	<p>The CDC has made clear that mask mandates are effective in preventing covid outbreaks. I ask that the mask requirement stay in place throughout the winter months for the safety of our children and community. I am thankful District 25 has complied with the mask mandate put in place by our Governor and ask that no letter of dissent against the Illinois mask mandate be sent to the Governor.</p>
Kevin Michael	<p>1. Since the majority of parents and employees in District 25 support the mask mandate, since it has been made clear multiple times at past meetings that the mandate is legal, and since science proves that masking is a safe and effective mitigation strategy, the board should not be entertaining the notion of crafting a letter to the governor about the mandate. This is a waste of time, and also an embarrassing reflection on the District and the Arlington Heights community.</p> <p>2. Upholding the indoor mask mandate at board meetings should not be a "future agenda item". It should have been happening all along, and it needs to be happening right now, at tonight's meeting. Anyone not properly wearing a mask should be given the choice to correct their mistake or to immediately leave the building, without exception.</p>
Alina Laurie	<p>Halt the SHIELD testing. The vaccine will soon be available to any who wish to take it. Keep things in perspective: kids have a greater chance of dying in a car accident than COVID. If parents want to test their kids weekly they can do that outside of school.</p>
Robyn Swanson	<p>Chad's "letter of dissent" regarding the mask mandate is not a good use of the board's time and is not the view of the majority of SD25 parents. The letter is against the advice of the board's attorney. We expect the board's time to be better spent focusing on the education of our children and our facilities. As a follow up to this, while the mandate remains in place and it is detailed on the board's website, masks need to be worn by all attendees at district board meetings, properly. This includes all board members. Routinely wearing them under the nose does not follow proper mask wearing guidelines.</p>
Robyn Swanson	<p>I urge the board to continue to follow the mask mandate and continue masking according to CDC, IDPH and CCDPH even if the mask mandate is removed. This week has shown increased cases in our elementary schools and the 6th grade. The roll out of vaccines for 5-11 year olds is welcome news, but it will be several months before they are fully effective and enough students have been vaccinated to make it meaningful. Now is not the time to change course.</p> <p>As a follow-up, the SD25 Covid dashboard has not been improved. It does not give an accurate</p>

	<p>daily active case count. This information would have been particularly helpful this week. The 6th grade at south has an official "outbreak" per CCDPH. An additional plea for better information can't hurt. As a parent, I request a better dashboard that can provide actionable information. The dashboard is a day late and a dollar short.</p>
<p>Kristina Heaton</p>	<p>Now is the time to give parents the choice on whether or not their children wear masks to school. With vaccinations and boosters readily available to teachers, staff, parents AND students, now is the time to make masks in school optional.</p>
<p>Jim and Cristina Small</p>	<p>Regarding letter of dissent and COVID-19 mitigation strategy:</p> <p>At the very end of the last meeting, Mr. Conley resumed discussion from the previous meeting regarding drafting a letter of dissent to the Governor which appeared to garner some interest from other board members, despite the advice of the board's attorney who previously frowned on this idea. Please waste no further resources on this. Please focus on the quality of our children's education rather than sending a letter of disagreement or whatever you want to call it to the Governor.</p> <p>The fact of the matter is that a large portion of the community supports the mandates because of the recent behavior observed by our board during the pandemic. I and many others don't want our township's or district's name on this. If there are members of the board who support this notion, please do it on your own time and without the district letterhead on your dissent letter. A letter of dissent would accomplish absolutely nothing other than to further tarnish D25's reputation and widen community division. I agree with Mr. Conley's "republic" comments in that a true democratic republic should never mean that majority rules all the time. However, the Board is not the government. You are a public body that is to govern the actions of the administration, not insert yourself where it is not warranted and retain "control." And also governance means that you should be in a position to prevent the administration from making a foolish decision, not make your own at the community's expense.</p> <p>With respect to the current masking mandate issued by the Governor, it is reasonably possible that the mandate will be loosened or will expire soon. If this happens, we ask that the administration and board do not make another knee-jerk reaction like you have done in the past and take sufficient time to evaluate the circumstances of our district and region, including cases and vaccination rates, prior to making a decision to change the current mitigation strategy. Unfortunately, transmissions have spiked substantially in just the past week or two. Without masks in the classroom, these transmissions would be exponentially greater. Vaccines have just been approved for the elementary school age and while it is encouraging to see many families that attended the D25 vaccine clinic, the vaccines will take time to be available to all and to take full effect for the students. Coupled with the cold weather and inevitable indoor gatherings for the holidays, it is a crucial time for the students to wear masks in the classroom through these upcoming winter months.</p>
<p>Kristine Gruzewski</p>	<p>CDC Director Dr. Walensky stated "As we head into these winter months, we know we cannot be complacent,". She made clear that dropping mask mandates in schools would constitute precisely such an act of complacency, pointing to a recent study that found schools without mask mandates were 3.7 times more likely to experience a coronavirus outbreak than schools where mask wearing was required. We can not be complacent especially since Arlington Heights has recently been updated to "high transmission" per IDPH Covid-19 Community Transmission map, South Middle School just had a confirmed outbreak linked epidemiologically, and Windsor had 10 cases in the past week. I ask that the mask requirement is kept in place throughout the winter months for the safety of our children and community. I am thankful District 25 has complied with the mask mandate put in place by our Governor and ask that no letter of dissent be allowed as it does not represent our whole district.</p> <p>The younger students are not fully vaccinated! PLEASE DO NOT take this mask mandate away. Thank you!</p>

Kristin Allen	Until everyone is eligible for the opportunity to receive a vaccine, masks are vitally important to keeping community spread low in District 25 schools, where many students remain unvaccinated. The CDC clearly states recommended operational strategies that are still in place for schools, including the proper use and consistent wearing of masks and physical distancing. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html). With these strategies, and the others mentioned on the page, students have been less likely to contract COVID-19 at school, including those who are unable to be vaccinated because of the age limit, and those students with other health risks which puts them in a vulnerable position. It is not recommended by the CDC and other medical professionals at this time to stop using masks at schools. As a community, we need to support all our students, including those who cannot be vaccinated at this time and those who are most vulnerable to suffering the most if they contract this disease.
Jennifer Goheen	I am a graduate of this district along with my four siblings. I also have four children that are in this district. Two of my children have asthma one of my children, she's a premature baby born at 28 weeks and ineligible for the vaccine as she is not five years old yet. Even if the mask mandate is dropped by the governor, if the IDPH and the CDC recommends masks I expect the school board to follow the CDC and the IDPH recommendations. Keep our children safe. Covid is not over and the pandemic is not done. I expect the school board to follow the recommendations of the doctors and if they cannot do that I ask you to kindly resign and let somebody who will follow the recommendations of the medical health professionals.
Monica Hinchey	Illinois had over 5,000 cases yesterday (the highest number in two months). I implore the board to continue with the mask mandate until at least the end of the year. Although students can get vaccinated now, COVID is rampant. Speaking from a family who just is getting over COVID, I would not wish this on anyone, we must stay vigilant. Please.
Maria Zeller Brauer	I urge the Board to continue to uphold the District's mask mandate, as recommended by the CDC. As a parent of a D25 student, I have been so pleased with the efforts that have been made to keep our kids in school and safe. Masks have been proven to work (schools without mandates are nearly 4x more likely to have an outbreak) and I ask that the mask mandate stay in place at least through the winter months and until more of our elementary school students can get vaccinated. Keeping our children safe, healthy and in school should be our #1 priority. Now is not the time to get complacent as we enter the winter months. Thank you again for all of the efforts of the Board and the staff who have worked so hard to keep schools open with less risk.
Alexis Rabe	Due to increased COVID cases in the area and in our schools, I ask the Board to continue to follow CDC and IDPH mask guidelines to keep our children safe. We should all be listening to the professionals and following data, not opinions.
Jeremy Glass	<p>Dear School Board Members:</p> <p>The agenda for this evening seems to list another discussion of the letter of dissent that the Board is considering sending to the Governor. Please do not take this on. This is exhausting, as is the D25 community.</p> <p>There is a mask mandate. Get over it. Move on and talk about other things. Defying the mandate now - when I just received an email informing me that there is an outbreak at my child's middle school - would be an extremely poor decision. You can't please everyone, but you can at least follow the mandate set by the Governor of the State of Illinois.</p> <p>Covid is here to stay and we will need to learn to live with it. But the very week that the IDPH declares that one of your schools has an outbreak is NOT the time to talk about removing masks.</p>
Angela Houghton	I would like to voice my support for the mask mandate in District 25, and ask that the policy be continued and enforced, especially in light of rising cases in Illinois.
The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the November 11, 2021 Board Meeting.	
Kelly Ellsworth	I am writing to express my concern over the time the board is spending on the masking debate in these meetings when there are far greater uses for the boards time and energy to be focused on,

	<p>such as...education! The masking debate has become a highly political battle over the past several months and it does not belong in our schools, and it most certainly does not have a place in the school board.</p> <p>there are many children struggling right now due to the lack of proper school over the last two years, and I have not once heard a peep out of any board members mouth about what we can do to help these kids get caught up and feel comfortable in their grade level. I believe this to be a far more important topic that I would love to hear discussed at the board meetings.</p> <p>Our children deserve better than a bunch of adults sitting around arguing over this issue over and over, and I am disappointed in every single board meeting I find the time to watch. it is getting old, it is teaching our children that it is okay to defy mandates and rules and It is a huge waste of time.</p> <p>Please get back to focusing on our children's education and stop with the time wasting arguments over a piece of cloth over children's faces while attending school. I expect a lot more from this district and the board as a whole. Very disappointing.</p>
Amanda Bhansali	<p>I am disappointed to see an agenda item regarding Chad's "letter of dissent" for the state mask mandate is on the schedule to be discussed. This is not a good use of the board's time and is not the view of the majority of SD25 parents.</p> <p>In addition, the school board should be keen to remember that sending such a letter is against the advice of the board's attorney. I expect the boards time to be better spent focusing on the education of our children and our facilities.</p> <p>Please also continue to follow the mask mandate and continue masking according to CDC, IDPH, and CCDPH even if the mask mandate is removed. This week has shown increased cases in our elementary schools and the 6th grade. The roll out of vaccines for 5-11 year olds is welcome news, but it will be several months before they are fully effective and enough students have been vaccinated to make it meaningful. Now is not the time to change course.</p> <p>Finally, the dashboard has not been improved. It does not give an accurate daily active case count. This information would have been particularly helpful this week. The 6th grade at south has an official "outbreak" per CCDPH.</p>
Amanda Bhansali	<p>Thank you, Dr. Bein, for arranging the vaccination clinic for our students aged 5-11!</p>