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| Angie Frye | District 25 should be using the established metrics to determine taking an adaptive pause. Those metrics clearly indicate that a pause is needed. We should be following the same guidelines as district 214, where many of us have children as well. I don't understand how the outcome of all of these meeting is that we need more information, we have the information we need. It appears as if there is a very vocal minority that is being catered to at the expense of following the science. The metrics are clear, we need an adaptive pause. Thank you. |
| Michele Bozikis | Please take an adaptive pause. |
| Diem lai | Dear Board Member, Please do not give Dr. Bein the power to move individual school(s) to remote learning. It has been > 14 days since the last known case at Thomas and she choses to use > 14 days data to close down the school. She blatantly disregard the wishes of students to attend in-person school and the data. She doesn't care about the well-being of the students (mentally, physically). Plain and simple, Dr. Bein just wants all remote-learning. She has advocated for remote-learning since the beginning of the school year. The parents had to push for hybrid. She reluctantly agreed to it. Instead of figuring out how to offer choices to the students, she spent all her time on what metrics are needed to close schools again. Now, she wants to go back to all remote. She wants everyone to show kindness because our children are watching. Yet, she doesn't show kindness to the children who need to be in school. She takes away their choices. My daughter asks me why Dr. Bein does this? Why Dr. Bein doesn't care about the kids who want to go to school? Why Dr. Bein is shutting down her school again when the cases are > 14 days. Why is Dr. Bein using the metrics against them? Board Members, please do not allow Dr. Bein to close schools and please keep schools open for the students who want in-person learning. |
| Kerri Hood | <p>There is absolutely NO NEED for a pause! The experts have been saying since summer that SCHOOLS SHOULD BE OPEN! Even now, they are saying to close non-essential businesses so that SCHOOLS CAN STAY OPEN! If you aren't going to listen to medical experts from every field, then who will you listen to?!?! Stop pandering to the supposed fear that people seem to have only when it pertains to showing up in school.</p> <p>Anyone pushing for a pause can keep their kids home! There is nothing stopping them from doing that! Those of us who want our kids in school should not be forced to go remote as well just because some people want that for their own kids. Also, childcare for teachers is NOT an acceptable excuse for teachers to be remote or for us to go back to fully remote learning. The rest of the world who have been working without a summer break this entire time have had to figure out and pay for our own childcare. There is no reason why teachers should be immune to this same issue.</p> <p>We should only be looking at in-school metrics as those take into account how people are living their lives. County metrics and even AH zip code metrics factor in so much more that does NOT apply to our schools! These metrics take into account nursing homes, assisted living facilities, jails, college kids who partied for the past few months, etc. Our grade school children should not be forced to suffer because of this! Even NY has decided that elementary schools should open immediately! How are we in any more danger than that large city?? WE AREN'T! It seems everyone has their sole focus and worry on the teachers and zero focus or worry about our children. Our children have suffered and beared the brunt of schools being closed since late March! Enough is enough! Keep these kids in school and make a FIRM plan for a full 5 day reopening immediately! We cannot keep waiting until a date arrives, and we still have NO PLAN!</p> |
| Kristen Dugan | <p>I am extremely disappointed that you are considering an adaptive pause. Please consider all the facts before making a decision. Children are NOT getting covid at school. School is SAFE. Our country's most respected medical professional, Dr. Fauci, is supportive of students going to school. Both public and private schools in Illinois (such as district 10 in Itasca and St. Peter right here in Arlington Heights) and across the country are successfully remaining open. Thomas was abruptly shut down for a just over 1% positivity rate. Please do not act in fear and close our schools. Children are medically safe at school. If they are home, the academic and emotional damage is difficult to repair.</p> <p>As a school social worker and mental health professional, I see first hand the direct results of remote learning. Children are isolated. Childhood and adolescent depression and anxiety are growing exponentially. In addition, without physically moving around school, students are not</p> |

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| | <p>getting the physical activity they need. Students are losing a sense of connectedness and belonging. Yet, you close Thomas and are considering closing dist 25 in its entirety.</p> <p>How are you going to explain to the special education children who are excited to return to school for four days next week that they are not wanted or welcome at school? I have a 4th grader who receives special education services. It would be heartbreaking to have to tell him that he now cannot go to school. For a 10 year old, emotionally, that is devastating! He knows that school is a safe place and is very much looking forward to attending four days next week!</p> <p>Our students deserve a quality education. I was beyond thankful and excited to go hybrid for all of my four children and their classmates, and thrilled that my son receiving special education services could get his badly needed academic, attentional, language, occupational therapy and speech articulation services in person. Please consider keeping our schools open. An adaptive pause is extremely detrimental to learning. It is well documented that children ARE safe in schools. I also have been closely monitoring the data as provided by Northwestern University. The Illinois Covid dashboard reports a DECLINE in positivity rates. Please consider the facts before making a decision that directly affects the emotional and academic well being of the district 25 student population. Children need to have the opportunity to attend school in person.</p> |
| Katy Murray | <p>1) Are the cases at TMS students or staff and how many? Have any of the cases been linked to each other? ie. 2 kids from the same family?</p> <p>2) Are these 11 new cases or previously reported cases?</p> <p>3) On what dates were these individuals last in the building and when were the cases reported?</p> <p>4) Why is there a need to close the school if it's been empty for the past 10 days? What reasoning did the CCPDH provide as a reason to close the school at all and why was a particular grade, class or cohort excluded instead?</p> <p>Bottom line is there is ZERO need for an adaptive pause. Vote no for this</p> |
| Jennifer Zakaras | <p>I urge you to consider our special needs kiddos when voting to close down the schools. An adaptive pause will be harmful to my son who has been thriving at school, in-person 4 days a week at Westgate. In his first day of in-person school he came running to us with the biggest smile saying how much he loves school. For our family, this is huge! Our family has been working in the community throughout the pandemic as essential workers and have maintained our health (and have maintained childcare). There is no reason teachers cannot do the same. Teachers are very essential to the mental health of our children! This is a game at this point where people are just trying to exert their power based on misguided theories and fear, but not scientific evidence. Please vote no on the adaptive pause and save our children's mental health (which is just as important as physical health!). Thank you for listening and I hope you make the right decision.</p> |
| Katy murray | <p>In what other profession is lack of childcare an excuse for people not being expected to do their jobs? D 25 teachers need to either find childcare and perform the job they were hired for or apply for a leave. Childcare is NOT a reason for an adaptive pause. Vote no for an adaptive pause.</p> |
| Eileen Ryan | <p>There is ZERO data supporting an adaptive pause for D25 schools. The cases at Thomas happened outside of school and have nothing to do with the kids who have chosen hybrid and are still attending.</p> <p>Schools are NOT spreading Covid. It's that simple.</p> <p>Vote NO to adaptive pause!</p> |
| Dan Ryan | <p>Adaptive pause is NOT needed in D25! Use data not fear and emotion to make decisions</p> |
| Lisa Fischer | <p>Board Members,</p> <p>Board members, please vote "NO" to an adaptive pause. My kids and all of their teachers were at school this week. Covid has not been spreading in schools, this fact has not changed.</p> <p>Please vote "NO" to an adaptive pause, because there is no justification to shut down the whole</p> |

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| | <p>district based on these cases that were not brought about in school and have no implications to staff or students during their in-person learning.</p> <p>After being notified of the Thomas middle school closures, I have several questions that I would like clarified.</p> <p>1) Are the cases at TMS students or staff and how many of each? Have the cases been linked to one another i.e. same family?</p> <p>2) Are these new cases or previously reported cases and if new, when have these cases occurred? Seeing as the kids have only been back to school for less than 48hrs, these are presumably cases from outside of school.</p> <p>3) On what dates were these individuals last in the buildings and when were the cases reported?</p> <p>4) Why is there a need to close the school if it's been empty for the past 10 days? What reasoning did the CCPDH provide to close the school and why was a particular grade/class/cohort excluded instead?</p> |
| Erin Felten | <p>I am AGAINST an adaptive pause! Please do not put our children through this when the metrics do not add up. My son is suppose to return to in-person, 4 days a week starting December 8th- DO NOT take this from him. He is struggling and falling behind, and it is absurd that our children are not in school FULL TIME. Moving to an adaptive pause is UNNECESSARY, irresponsible and uncalled for.</p> <p>I am NOT in favor of an adaptive pause.</p> |
| William Felten | <p>I am AGAINST an adaptive pause. Please allow for these elementary aged students to get the IN PERSON learning they so desperately need. This is unfair to our children and is setting them back.</p> <p>My son deserves the 4 days a week that he was promised, and to start next Tuesday.</p> <p>Thank You.</p> |
| John Zera | Vote NO for an adaptive pause. |
| Nikki Wiedner | I highly disagree with an adaptive pause for district d25 especially for my children at Windsor School. All 3 of them are struggling terribly at home. The CDC recommends the children to be in school. Please allow them to keep the little that they have. There is an option for the ones that are concerned to stay home. Please let my choice be available too. |
| Jaclyn Aprati | I am writing in full support of an adaptive pause for the health and safety of our staff and students, and the community as a whole of Arlington Heights and the surrounding areas. |
| Kim metler | Please don't change the plan for olive! My 7yr old daughter is so excited beyond belief to be going 4 days next week. There is no danger in having kids in school, the danger is on screens all day without their peers. Please let the parents make their own choices with their children! Let those stay home that want to and others go to school. |
| Peggy Jones | <p>There is no data or science to support an adaptive pause in School District 25. The thought process "that others around us are doing so" is not a reason. As parents, do we tell our children to do what others are doing or do we teach them to take the road less traveled? Do we advocate under age drinking because our child is at a party and everybody else is drinking or do we tell them to make a better choice? Perhaps the less popular one but the better one. I am beyond disappointed and quite frankly sick to my stomach at the lack of leadership recently shown by Superintendent Bein, and lack of logical thinking by many of the staff in our schools. Perhaps, this is because I have been teaching in a Catholic school, full time, since August with teachers who, especially at the beginning, had varying levels of comfort with the then very new situation. Teachers who are at high risk. Teachers with comorbidities. Our entire staff comes to work and does what needs to be done because they view themselves as ESSENTIAL. They do not call in sick when they are not sick because at the end of the day that hurts the students. They conduct themselves with integrity and selflessness. They have come to realize that Covid is NOT spread at school and their fears have calmed. They follow the lead of an amazing principal and assistant principal who have paved the way with a Herculean work ethic during the months of July and August. They led and continue to lead by example. Always ready to listen, with an understanding ear, they remain steadfast in their commitment to do what is best for students which is full in person learning. School District 25 needs to do better. They need to be willing to travel the road less traveled. Our kids need you to fight for them. Their physical,</p> |

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| | emotional and especially mental health depends on it. Please give our children the educational opportunities they deserve do not vote for an unwarranted adaptive pause. |
| Lindsay Nugent | <p>Greetings Board,</p> <p>I see again Dr. Bein is pushing for an adaptive pause through 1/15/21. And I fear this is the very least, because it sure seems like Dr. Bein does not want our kids to have the choice to learn in person. What has changed since The Board voted 7-0 for no adaptive pause on 11/19? What has changed in the past week? The email received today regarding the closure of Thomas due to 11 covid cases is lacking significant information. When were these cases? One can only assume they were prior to the very long Thanksgiving break, when no students and mostly no staff were in the district buildings. 13 days for students and 9 for staff. So this is the reason to shut our whole district down? I am running out of words to express my frustration and disappointment. There are going to be covid cases. There have been covid cases and they have been handled smartly and safely. There is no reason this should change either! Why are we doing this to our kids? Perhaps Dr. Bein can invite them all to a Zoom and explain it to them. I really do mean this, because I can't explain it to them.</p> <p>I am running out of faith that our kids will even go back to hybrid this year. I did not think it would come to this for our family, but we are strongly considering private school next year. I grew up in this district, I LOVE my girls' school and it breaks my heart, but their education is a priority as their mother, especially when I know it can be done safely. I don't think my family is alone in weighing this option. This is not important now, but have you thought about how enrollment might look next year when families choose to leave?</p> <p>Please consider again, looking at the metrics from within our D25 walls before making your decision on an adaptive pause.</p> <p>Kind regards, Lindsay Nugent</p> |
| Amy Powers | Please do not do an adaptive pause. South hasn't emailed out any positive cases this week, so why should all of those kids have to stay home? Please only pause schools that have large amounts of cases. My daughter is doing much better with hybrid than full time at home. She has something to look forward to each week. This winter is going to be long and dark as it is, don't make it any harder. Please stay in hybrid unless there is a school issue. |
| Kevin McLaughlin | <p>AHSD 25 Board Members,</p> <p>I implore you to vote against the motion for District 25 schools to take an "adaptive pause" from hybrid learning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our nation's leading health experts agree that schools need to be open because they are essential and because schools are not a significant transmission vector for COVID-19 due to the rigorous controls and precautions in place. This has been clearly stated by the CDC, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and other public health experts in recent weeks. 2. Teachers not having childcare does not justify an "adaptive pause", pulling thousands of District 25 students out of the classrooms. While I recognize the challenge of this situation, it is not unique to teachers. Essential workers across America have been dealing with this challenge since March and teachers must be held to the same expectations. Moving to an adaptive pause would create that exact same childcare issue for thousands of families across District 25. The only way to solve the childcare problem and break the vicious cycle is to get kids back into school across our district and other neighboring districts. Please make D25 a leader in this respect for our community. 3. "Operational barriers" do not justify an "adaptive pause" if they are the result of a failure in leadership. Rather than clearly communicating the district's policy and expectations for travel ahead of the Thanksgiving break and allowing staff and families to make responsible informed decisions, Dr. Bein waited until Sunday (11/29) after Thanksgiving to send the email requesting students and staff quarantine if they traveled outside Illinois over the holiday. 35+ staff members had planned absences on Tuesday (12/1). 4. The decision to close Thomas Middle School today (12/2) because of 11 positive COVID-19 cases seems like an overreach given the present circumstances, and very little information was provided in Wednesday's email announcement to support the move. |

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| | <p>4(a) When were these 11 cases identified? Are they new cases? Previously reported cases? When were these individuals last in the building? The schools were closed from 11/19 until 12/1 so it seems highly unlikely they contracted the virus while at school.</p> <p>4(b) When did they test positive? And when was the district notified? Clearly these individuals did not contract the virus in the building on 12/1 and receive positive test results on 12/2 leading to a shutdown on 12/3.</p> <p>4(c) How many of these 11 cases were students and how many were staff members?</p> <p>4(d) Is there any evidence that these 11 cases are linked to one another and that in-person learning with masks and 6 foot distancing contributed to the spread? It seems most likely that these 11 individuals contracted the virus in the community during the Thanksgiving break (see #3 above). If schools are not contributing to community spread of the virus, then there is no reason to shut them down.</p> <p>Board members, please vote NO to an adaptive pause. Our kids need to be in school. Our kids are safe in school. Our administration needs to maintain the hybrid model and continue executing a plan to resume full in-person learning as soon as possible.</p> <p>Thank you, Kevin McLaughlin</p> |
| Julie Tatum | <p>I have stayed silent on this matter up to this point --- figuring common sense would play out. However, I feel like I must now speak up. I am a mother of 4. Three of my daughters attend Olive and I have a two year old son who has been attending preschool outside the district (in person, wearing a mask, with no issues.) I am imploring you, the board elected by the community, to keep these children in school where they belong. At what point will someone take control of this situation? An adaptive pause at this juncture makes zero sense. This is NOT being spread like wildfire in our schools. At a minimum, the kids should remain in a hybrid situation and work toward the 5 day in person return in January. I'm baffled at how all the private schools have figured out ways to maintain the level of education our children deserve and yet, in December, district 25 can't seem to put one foot on front of the other and even produce metrics or a plan for return. My 2nd grader had 5 people in her in person learning today. Five. The families choosing to stay home are doing so. Please, please, allow my children some normalcy. They will wear their masks. They will sit in a square on the playground. They will change teachers so classes can be consolidated or rearranged. They will do whatever you ask of them. Just let them remain at school where they belong. It seems at a time when every company/business on the planet is thinking out of the box to stay afloat or to reach their customers in new ways, we are letting our most important customers (our kids) down.</p> |
| Erin Zurek | <p>I am not in favor of an adaptive pause. You are making things way worse by doing so. Nothing has changed since the board voted 7-0 against it. Kids need to be in school. You are ruining their future.</p> |
| Andrea Newman | <p>There are only 2 weeks left of school prior to the break. Our number of cases are low, the kids LOVE being in school and experts, many many experts, have stated that kids need to be in school. There is no reason to keep them home now. Let them finish the year in school the 2 days a week they have. What the district is doing is working. These kids need to stay in school. Please think about the kids in this decision. This is about the kids!</p> |
| Kristy Harvey | <p>Please for the kids keep them in school. No to adaptive pause.</p> |
| Jodi Zera | <p>I am writing to urge the board of education to once again vote no against an adaptive pause. Nothing has changed. It's still safe for schools to be open. Transmission of the virus in schools is not a problem. School is essential. Wear your mask, wash your hands, watch your distance, stay in the hybrid model. Follow the science.</p> |
| Karen Johl | <p>How many times does the board need to vote against an adaptive pause before Dr. Bein actually does the job assigned to her, and prepares for more students? More students were voted to be welcomed Nov. 30, but she was too busy pushing for an adaptive pause to get schools ready for this before Dec. 7.</p> <p>In any other progression, this is insubordination and cause for termination.</p> <p>As it stands, schools are still not spreaders. Even Dr. Fauci has come out in favor of schools opening.</p> |

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| | <p>Exposures are not cases. Families being sent for tests because one child had a sniffle (yes, it happened at Windsor) is not an assumed case. Even the cases you have this week were not contracted at school!</p> <p>Kids need in-person education.</p> <p>Stop the back-and-forth so you can actually focus on bettering the education of our children.</p> |
| Hope Tokarczyk | <p>Please do not vote yes for an adaptive pause. Hybrid is all these children have to look forward to and it is not spreading in schools. Follow the data and science and put kids first. They need to be in school. There are only two weeks before Winter break which means 4 days of in person for my boys. Please vote NO for adaptive pause so my boys can learn in person for those four days. There are zero reasons to go remote right now. Covid is not spreading in school and is the safest place for them.</p> |
| Melissa Van Buren | <p>The thought of Full Remote or adaptive pause as it's being called makes me sick to my stomach. Article after article is showing how horrible remote learning is for our children. This is horrible for their mental health. My son has never had anxiety like this in his life until remote learning started. He needs to be around other kids his age, he needs to be heard when he raises his hand in class. Please, let's not allow our children to add to the statistics or increased suicide that is hitting our young children.</p> <p>At the time this meeting happens we will have been back in person 1 week. There is no reason to "pause" in person learning after 1 week back since break. The only reason would be catering to the union. That is wrong!</p> <p>Please stop the fear tactics. Let's look at the spread in schools. We haven't seen it! District 25 has the safest guidelines they are following. We can keep our kids safely in class in person!</p> <p>Please vote NO adaptive pause! My kids need you to be making a smart decision in their best interest.</p> |
| Joe Kim | <p>I support an adaptive pause because I do not feel safe teaching inside a building where COVID cases are rising.</p> |
| Kate Murray | <p>Please consider an adaptive pause immediately through January 19. We need to consider preventative measures to keep our teachers, staff, and students healthy. Many families have disregarded CDC guidelines in terms of travel and gathering leaving the community at risk for an outbreak. Please do our part and vote for a pause. The greater community is counting on it.</p> |
| Chris Duello | <p>Attn: Dr. Bein</p> <p>Rumor has it that you are once again trying to move forward with an "adaptive pause". I hope it is just that, rumor.</p> <p>Should it unfortunately not be rumor, then what has changed? Why would you go against the metrics already established? And for the metrics, quit introducing new metrics (hurdles) to pass in order for our children to return to receiving a proper education. Let's be honest, even at hybrid they aren't being educated properly. It's totally unfair and absurd you get to and continue to move the goal posts when you (or the unions) don't get your way.</p> <p>Why would you go against current CDC recommendations that our children should be back in schools? Why won't you listen to the experts and their realization that closing our schools was the worst mistake made during this whole pandemic?</p> <p>CDC states, "Everyone's goal is to prioritize the reopening of schools as safely and as quickly as possible given the many known and established benefits of in-person learning."</p> <p>Yet, you are constantly trying to usurp what should be our common goal.</p> <p>"You know, I was very disappointed in New York when they closed schools, when they hit their 3% point, because, as you pointed out, we now have substantial data that shows that schools' face-to-face learning can be conducted in K-12, and particularly in the elementary and middle schools in a safe and responsible way," CDC Director Redfield said.</p> <p>"I just think it's healthy for these kids to be in school," he continued. "That said, they got to do it safely and they've got to do it responsibly. And when this was started over the summer, no one</p> |

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| | <p>really knew for certain. They thought that these public health measures would work. But now the data clearly shows us that you can operate these schools in face-to-face learning in a safe and responsible way."</p> <p>"Close the bars and keep the schools open," Dr. Fauci said. "Obviously, you don't have one size fits all. But as I said in the past, the default position should be to try as best as possible within reason to keep the children in school, or to get them back to school."</p> <p>"If you mitigate the things that you know are causing spread in a very, very profound way, in a robust way, if you bring that down, you will then indirectly and ultimately protect the children in the school because the community level is determined how things go across the board," he said. "If you look at the data, the spread among children and from children is not really very big at all, not like one would have suspected."</p> <p>He added: "Let's try to get the kids back, but let's try to mitigate the things that maintain and just push the kind of community spread that we're trying to avoid."</p> <p>Why aren't we there? Moreover, why are you trying to slam the bus in reverse?</p> <p>W.H.O suggests that "school closures have clear negative impacts on child health, education and development, family income and the overall economy."</p> <p>They say, "the decision to reopen schools should include consideration of the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowing students to complete their studies and continue to the next level - Essential services, access to nutrition, child welfare, such as preventing violence against children - Social and psychological well-being - Access to reliable information on how to keep themselves and others safe - Reducing the risk of non-return to school - Benefit to society, such as allowing parents to work" <p>Where are these considerations?</p> <p>Again, I truly hope that moving to an "adaptive pause" is just rumor...</p> <p>Concerned and frustrated, Chris Duello</p> |
| Danielle Schuh | I feel the need for an adaptive pause. I do not feel safe. |
| Arin Damico | I am in favor of an adaptive pause because I do not feel safe teaching in the classroom. |
| Patty Geisel | I don't feel safe working with rising cases of Covid both in our school and our community. |
| Rebecca Fahnoe | I am in support of an adaptive pause because I do not feel safe teaching. Please consider the safety of our staff and students. Furthermore, a teacher who knows his/her students is a much better option than a guest teacher. We are terribly short on subs/guest teachers. I have had to close our school library several times now as I am being pulled to cover classes. |
| Lindsey Pearl | I am in support of an adaptive pause because I don't feel safe teaching in person. |
| Lisa Nason | Please do not take an adapted pause at this time. The data does not support this decision and my kids mental health is struggling. If the issue is staffing how does an adaptive pause help as these teachers still need to work and I don't understand how their childcare is now my problem. |
| Jeffrey Nason | Please do not take an adapted pause. My kids need to be in school for their mental health. I don't know why a teacher's childcare difficulties is having an impact on my child's learning and mental stability. |
| Elizabeth Scanlan | We do not want remote learning. The kids need to be back in school for academics as well as mental health. It should be the parents right to choose whether to send their children. |
| Allison Duffer | I am in support of an adaptive pause because it is in the best interest of the entire Arlington Heights community. |

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| Meaghan Bertog | I am in support of an adaptive pause because it is in the best interest of the entire Arlington Heights community. |
| Jennifer and Peter Kalsch | <p>We would prefer to continue with the hybrid model. It allows for families who prefer remote to stay in their current learning model. For those like our family whose student does much better with in person learning, we can continue with our preferred model, even if it is only for two days of the week. It also allows the teachers to have smaller class size and removes some of the obstacles that the schools seem to face with distancing and other requirements.</p> <p>In general, we would like to say how disappointed we are in the tone of our community. We all have the right to opinions and for those opinions to be heard. However, we need to respect the opinions of others. What works for our son, will definitely not work for everyone and that's ok. I hope our superintendent, school board, teachers and parents can come together and remember this isn't about us or them. It's about the students.</p> |
| Regina Fortman | I am in favor of an adaptive pause due to the rises of Covid cases in our community and the predictions for unprecedented numbers over the next few weeks. |
| Jenni Von Tobel | Please don't do an adaptive pause. There has been zero in school transmission. |
| Mike Hinline | My preference is to NOT enact any type of adaptive pause of the current hybrid learning model. Furthermore, my preference is for the school district board and administration to continue to focus planning efforts on safely re-opening the schools for full, in-person learning. |
| Stephen hood | Keep hybrid open and make a plan for full return by Jan 15! Stop messing around with our kids' education and mental health!! |
| Kristine Adams | I feel it is in the best interest of the Arlington Heights community for School District 25 to take an Adaptive Pause with Covid positive numbers rising in our schools and community. This is the responsible action to take at this time. |
| Kristen Christianse n | Please go on an adaptive pause. I do not feel safe going to work even with all the safety measures put in place. Please think about teacher lives and their families. |
| Marella O'Neil | Keep the 4 day open or at least keep hybrid open! |
| Kellee Janus | Please do not go into an Adaptive Pause. D25 students have already had less time in school than all of the neighboring districts and our kids still only get two in-person days as it is. My son dreads the three e-learning days as it is, and he is only in kindergarten. Please continue moving forward to in-person all day, everyday and don't revert back to full remote. Our kids deserve it! |
| Stacey Esposito | <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> <p>Please keep our children's mental health in regards to remote learning.</p> |
| Natalie White | <p>1) Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>2) Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> <p>3) Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> <p>To date, my child has had an excellent experience during his first year at Patton as a</p> |

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| | <p>Kindergartener. We saw a tremendous amount of growth the week he started hybrid in-person. On the days that he is home and not preparing to go into school, he is attached to the screen, sluggish and honestly not well behaved.</p> <p>As a parent who is working from home as well, it is honestly easier to not have to stop my work day to take him after lunch to school and pick him up a short 2.5 hours later, however, the value that my son is experiencing from those short 2.5 hours, even if only 2 days a week, far outweighs the inconvenience, the potential for passing germs and the fact that it's cold outside!</p> <p>Please please consider planning for how to get the kids into school with their teachers and friends full-time, rather than not at all.</p> <p>I'm also very interested in seeing the results from the last survey that we had that seemed to consider a way to move to full in person. This has not yet been shared to my knowledge.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Courtney Kiefer | <p>Please do NOT vote for an adaptive pause. It's already almost 7 days after Thanksgiving and coincides with new cdc quarantine time of 7-10days so what would be the pt? Kids who are unable to learn at home NEED to have the option to learn IN PERSON! My K daughter cannot sit for elearning and is being adversely affected. Parents who want their kids to learn at home already have that CHOICE. Please allow parents who want in person learning the choice as well! Other essential workers are able to coordinate childcare and have been doing so for several months now; if the issue is teachers finding childcare maybe their kids should be allowed into CAP or some other alternative, but finding care for teachers' kids should not factor into the adaptive pause.</p> |
| Wendy Danley | <p>For the safety of staff, students, and the surrounding community, it is imperative that District 25 schools move to full remote and revisit the safety metrics after January 19th.</p> |
| Jennifer Huntzicker | <p>An adaptive pause is not only unnecessary, but detrimental to all the students who currently attend hybrid. How could you state that more students would be let into classrooms next week, send out emails and have conversations with parents about this, dangle it like a carrot in front of students' noses and then yank it away? Our district 25 Covid dashboard clearly shows that our schools are doing great. Teachers that are getting the virus have contracted it outside of school. Procedures have been put in place to mitigate any possible exposures. WHY do you continue to look for ways to put us back a step instead of working on ways to get us back in? WHY are you not hiring more certified teaching staff to cover teacher absences and help our teachers teach more successfully? If this adaptive pause is due to a staffing issue, WHY have you done nothing to remediate it in all these months? And for those of you who keep grasping at the adaptive pause, I'm at a complete loss. Remote learners can stay remote! WHY do you keep advocating against choice? I'm absolutely blown away that this is being considered right now. We have to keep trying. If there is a problem, we will deal with it. Dr. Fauci, the man that is leading us through the pandemic, said this weekend: "If you look at the data, the spread AMONG children and FROM children is not really very big at all, not like one would have suspected." WHY are we not listening the the experts but continuing to spread fear??</p> |
| Peter Woolsey | <p>I am not in support of a pause of any kind and want to see our kids in person, in school. Our kids are falling behind and their social and emotional health is suffering.</p> |
| Carly Lisinski | <p>Board members please vote NO to an adaptive pause. Please continue listening to the scientists and experts (recently CDC and Dr. Fauci) who are saying in-person schooling is safe. If our schools followed their guidelines in the beginning of the pandemic when schools were shut down, why are we not listening to these same experts now? Nothing has changed since the last time the board chose not to vote on an adaptive pause 2 weeks ago. Our children deserve better. Let's continue offering parents a CHOICE to keep their kids in school.</p> |
| Jamie Impastato | <p>I am requesting an adaptive pause until January 19th.</p> |
| Betty Levinsky | <p>Hello, please keep in person learning as an option for families who want to send their children to school. Not all families and children have the same situation. Many children don't do well learning at home and they need and deserve in person learnings and education.</p> |

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| Laura Culley | <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. I am so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. My kids benefit most from in person instruction.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> <p>Please give details on the Thomas closure for 2 weeks. The last time the kids and teachers were in class was Nov 16 but the pause was put into place Dec 3-Dec 14. If there was exposure at school, the quarantine period would have ended Dec 30. Parents need details in order to be confident in the decisions being made. Were the exposures due to community spread or in school spread? How many were support staff, teachers, or students? Was the exposure due to the food service pickup at Thomas? If so, will the food service be discontinued during the pause?</p> <p>Going forward, please detail the procedures and metrics that will be used to determine an emergency school closure for a school. Per the email from the superintendent the reason listed for the Thomas closure was that the health department thought it was "ideal" to close due to 11 cases. None of our schools are currently listed in the IDPH website https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/school-aged-metrics?countyName=Cook. Does Thomas with the 11 cases fit with the IDPH outbreak designation as "Specific outbreaks included are those that have been identified by the local health department to have five or more COVID-19 cases who may have a shared exposure on school grounds and are from different households. Case counts for school-related outbreaks also include those associated with before and after school programs (e.g., school-sponsored sports). These outbreaks do not include secondary cases that may occur in a household member who has not been on school grounds". If so how?</p> <p>Will schools be closed anytime that the IDPH indicates that it will be "ideal" to close and are there any metrics being used to determine when a school will be closed? Non specific terms such as these erode confidence in public leaders and I would ask you to be more specific as to the reasons for the closures in the future in your communications to the parents.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention and consideration, Laura Culley</p> |
| Catherine Gripper | <p>Board members- Thank you for all your hard work, extra time and continued dedication during these times. I am asking that you please vote NO to an adaptive pause. The CDC has said that school is the safest place to be. We are not seeing outbreaks in school. Our children deserve to be taught in person. Remote learning is not effective for a lot of kids as we are seeing. Those families that want to keep their children home have been able to opt for remote learning since the start of the school year. They have also been able to elect to take their own adaptive pause. Those of us that want our children in person should be given the same choice. Please continue to listen to the science and give us the CHOICE. Vote NO to the adaptive pause.</p> |
| Gina Tyson | <p>Please vote yes for an adaptive pause. Cases are skyrocketing in our community. We need to do our part to limit spread and keep our kids and staff safe and healthy. Also, I would urge you to be more efficient and accurate in the dashboard data. Parents need updated and accurate data to make well informed decisions. Too much can change in one week. Thank you.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Janelle Dufer | Hello, Board members. I want to start by thanking you, Gina, for bringing the idea of the Board thinking "outside the box." Due to personal health risks associated with contracting COVID-19, I am a remote teacher with a wonderful partner teacher who is live in class with hybrid students. I would love more than anything to be able to continue doing this until it is safe for me to return to my classroom, I have taught at Thomas for over 25 years and love my job. I have been Nationally Board certified since 1998 and hold a master's degree as a reading specialist. The experience and expertise that I bring to class has enabled my students to excel and be prepared for high school year after year. My hope is to be able to continue teaching with these accommodations. Thank you for your consideration. |
| Jeff Clark | Please follow IDPH guidelines and take an adaptive pause until January 15. |
| Tom Tyson | Please implement an adaptive pause at least through January 18th for the safety and well being of our community. |
| Katie Peterson | Today the US's death toll for this disease hit 3100 people. To think this isn't going to affect us is incomprehensible. People are losing loved ones every day. It is extremely dangerous for students, teachers and staff to continue to hybrid learn. Students are removing their masks to eat, one middle school is still traveling. We need to go into an adaptive pause. |
| Kathy Dobbs | I Am not in favor of an adaptive pause. Our children's future is at stake. They've gone too long without a proper education and it is terrible what this state and county is doing to them. Please do the right thing. |
| Nadia Viken | <p>1) Are the cases at TMS students or staff and how many? Have any of the cases been linked to each other? ie. 2 kids from the same family?</p> <p>2) Are these 11 new cases or previously reported cases?</p> <p>3) On what dates were these individuals last in the building and when were the cases reported?</p> <p>4) Why is there a need to close the school if it's been empty for the past 10 days? What reasoning did the CCPDH provide as a reason to close the school at all and why was a particular grade, class or cohort excluded instead?</p> <p>Bottom line is there is ZERO need for an adaptive pause. Vote no for this</p> |
| Holly Schafer | Please follow the CDC, IDPH, ISBE guidelines, metrics, recommendations and protocol when you make your determination for an adaptive pause. Please keep our staff and students health and safety as your top priority. I stand behind Dr. Bein's efforts that she has made for our School District and Community. |
| Nicole Keith | Please vote "YES" for the adaptive pause as we should not be waiting for numbers to grow, any further, before action is taken. You all need to be in preventative mode, at this point, with regards to the other schools in the district. Thomas should be your example and you should not want this to occur in your other schools. These are our children, our families, our teachers, etc....where is the concern for them?! I was shocked and appalled to see the map of all the surrounding districts that are in a pause and D25 is right in the middle with no pause. Please do the right thing! |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Julia Popp | <p>Firstly, I would like to say thank you to Dr Bein for all her hard work and dedication during these challenging times. I can't begin to imagine how difficult her job is right now, and being under pressure to please so many hundreds of families, especially due to such varying opinions of safety and concern within our district.</p> <p>I have 2 children who currently attend Westgate. We love the school, we love our teachers and I want nothing more than for my children to attend school in person. So far this year, I have chosen to keep my children home for full time remote learning. The reason behind my decision is that I do not consider it safe to send them, and I also fear for the safety of the teachers. Yes the transmission rate in children may be considerably lower, but are we taking into consideration the risk of exposure to the teachers, administration staff and other school workers? I believe it is irresponsible of us to ignore the risk of exposure to anyone other than students.</p> <p>The post-Thanksgiving spike has already begun, and I can't foresee it getting any better over the holidays and New Year. With so many people ignoring the governor's advice to remain at home and not attend family gatherings, I don't know the families in my childrens classrooms and therefore do not trust that they will also ignore that advice. I refuse to put my children in a situation where they can contract this virus. My son especially suffers with breathing issues, and a basic cold requires trips to the doctor and emergency room and also constant use of a nebulizer. I can't begin to even imagine what covid may do to him.</p> <p>I urge the board this Friday, December 4th, to please, please, please, vote YES for an adaptive pause.</p> |
| Kelly O'Kelly | <p>Please take an adaptive pause at this time. The lack of subs for staff who are in quarantine is causing us to cover classes during our lunch/plan/team time. We are stretched very thin and the students are not experiencing consistency in instruction when they have a different teacher for a class each day of the week.</p> |
| Kristina Krueger | <p>Please take an adaptive pause until Jan 18th. We have so many sub positions unfilled and students can't get intervention and EL services or even something like Library book checkout due to all non-classroom teachers being shifted to cover the unfilled positions</p> |
| Tom Wuich | <p>I was appalled as I watched the last board meeting last Sunday at the cold heartedness of several members as to their love of numbers as opposed to the care and consideration of the teachers ,staff and students. I heard the board throw around metrics but hardly mentioned children. Experts are telling us the next month will be worse than when the pandemic first hit. Does the board want to be proactive in protecting the health and safety of those it governs or sit and wait for huge cases of Covid to hit in its schools. If this were a snowstorm district 25 would do what all other districts have done and close in person learning and have teachers zoom from home. If we can ride out the next month or two safely we will have vaccines to mitigate risk. As a tax paying citizen I demand that the board call a pause immediately for in class learning at least until mid January when we can assess the safety of our teachers, staff and students. Thank you. Tom Wuich.</p> |

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| Ryan Cooke | <p>I do NOT support an "adaptive pause". I think we should continue to progress towards full in person learning. The CDC is in support of in-person learning as are seemingly all health officials. It seems to me that COVID-19 cases are down from when the first vote for an "adaptive pause" so what has changed since then? Has contact tracing suggested that any of the cases were transmitted in our schools? The data that I've seen suggests that is not the case and that our schools are very safe and doing a great job keeping our students/staff healthy. IF transmission is traced back to schools, please be transparent about it so that we may talk to our children about what is appropriate and how cases are spreading locally. IF transmission is not traced back to schools, please also be transparent as well, and tell us what measures we need to take outside of the classroom to support our kids continuing to go to school in-person. In general, implore you to be more transparent about everything. If you are more transparent about when/why you would pause in-person learning, you wouldn't need to keep having these meetings and having these votes, and we wouldn't have to continue to take time out of our days to try to fight for our children to have opportunities to learn. While we are in a hybrid model with 2 days in person and 3 days of remote learning, I support the flexibility of classes to transition to 4-5 days of in-person learning early. My first grade son is joined by just other kids on Tuesdays/Thursdays in-person. He tells me that there are just 3-4 kids in the Wednesday/Friday track. Having 7-8 kids 4-days a week sounds completely reasonable. I support this whether it works for my son's class or not. If there are other classes in which this is the case, and if the numbers don't work in my son's favor, I don't care. We don't all have to be the same, and I believe parents who want in-person learning will be supportive of getting as many kids as possible in-person with their teachers as much as possible. I saw a comment from another community member also in support of continuing in-person learning, but with a plan B of choosing to close schools for Winter break and adding those extra days to the end of the school year in the Summer as opposed to going fully remote. I agree that this solution is preferable to going fully remote.</p> |
| Christy Goduto | <p>I am confused as to why Thomas is shut down. The majority of the 11 cases happened at the end of October. Also, the school was just empty for a week. Why doesn't that count towards the 2 week closure? I am a teacher and I have been working full time in person since august 17. Has there been cases at my school? Yes there has. Have I or any other teachers in my school contacted covid from a student? No we have not. I have not even needed to be tested in this time period. We need to stop thinking that this is something teachers need to fear from being in school. As a teacher, I 100% believe we are essential!!! We teach the future and the kids need us now more than ever! On another note, please do not vote for the adaptive pause. Those that want full remote have that option. For those of us that want in person, by taking the pause you are taking away our options. We need to continue to work towards full in person learning on January 19. Thank you for your time and all your hard work for the children of this community!</p> |
| Catherine Olson | <p>WE ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE. We appreciate all that you have done and all that you continue to do, and appreciate you to continue listening to the data that SUPPORTS in school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>We realize that some parents prefer remote learning at this time, and that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in person instruction and supports vs. remote learning.</p> <p>Please continue to listen to the scientists and many experts who are saying in person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> <p>We beg you to please put our children and their education first! The science is there, and the kids should be in school!</p> |
| Jeremy Pearl | <p>I am in support of an adaptive pause because I don't feel safe teaching in person.</p> |

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| Toni Stuller | <p>To the SD25 School Board: We should NOT wait for double digit COVID infection numbers (as we have at Thomas Middle School right now) at every school before implementing the Adaptive Pause in ALL SD25 schools. It is a needless risk of lives. Our school district is not in a "5 mile by 4 mile" bubble; our teachers and staff members live in other communities, including in Chicago. The student teachers from colleges far and wide who are teaching in our schools right now can cause asymptomatic spread, especially during times of eating and drinking when masks are off. In fact, ANYONE in the building who wears their mask improperly, such as not covering their nose--which I have seen happening on more than one occasion in my son's Zoom classes--is putting anyone who takes off their mask in the building at any point at risk of COVID, which is EVERYONE at some point in a given day.</p> <p>In addition, my street alone had 4 Thanksgiving parties with so many vehicles (in and out of state) that they had to park in the street--and one house had so many outside children at their home that they rented a bouncy house. I know families who traveled for Thanksgiving who, despite the quarantine request, sent their children back to our schools anyway. You can recommend quarantine for travelers until you are blue in the face - if parents lie and send their children to school anyway (which IS HAPPENING), then NO ONE is protected. Again I say - we ARE NOT IN A MAGICAL COVID-PROTECTED BUBBLE. Follow the school guidelines set by ISBE, IDPH, and the CDC, and vote to save the lives of our children, our families, our teachers and staff, and our community by voting to put District 25 into Adaptive Pause until our numbers meet those guidelines to safely return.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Toni Stuller SD25 Parent</p> |
| Jaime Yeh | <p>Thank you for ensuring that district 25 will remain open and on the hybrid schedule. It is essential that we do not go on an adaptive pause. While I understand that some families may opt for remote learning, that choice should not dictate the choice for other families to select in-person learning.</p> <p>Our children need to be in school, at the very least in a continued hybrid program. The school metrics and the mitigations we have in place support continued in-person learning.</p> <p>I have 4 kids in district 25 (grades 8, 5, 3 and 2), and their in-school experience is by far better than remote learning. They're more engaged, connected and immersed in their learning. My kids all look forward to their in-person days and relish their time with their teachers and friends.</p> <p>During parent / teacher conferences, we had the opportunity to thank each of our children's teachers for all that they're doing this year. We know this has all been beyond challenging. What makes our district so strong are the incredibly talented and dedicated teachers and our community that supports and kindly respects each other.</p> <p>We are looking forward to more students going to school 4 days per week, either based on space availability in every school (not just Ivy Hill) or for IEP and 504 needs. We're also very hopeful that soon all students who choose to go to school in-person will have that choice for more than 2 days per week.</p> <p>Thank you again for all you're doing to ensure our students stay in school.</p> <p>Jaime Yeh</p> |

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| Kate Renno | <p>Today's emergency board meeting has one agenda item, to take action and approve an adaptive pause effective Monday December 7th through Friday January 19th. A similar action item was presented to the board a couple of weeks ago and not voted on. Please for the safety of all in Arlington Heights and neighboring communities, take action and approve this adaptive pause recommendation. Our building, Thomas Middle School, had to go to remote learning due to the Cook County Department of Public Health deeming the number of COVID positive individuals who have entered our building as too great a risk. As teachers, our greatest skill since the pandemic has started has been our flexibility and adaptability. In just over 12 hours time, our staff pivoted to remote learning and having to work from home, as the building is inaccessible for the near future and needs further deep cleaning. I worry for not only people at Thomas, but district wide. These action items are meant to be a proactive solution to the health risks we are facing at this time. Thomas Middle School had to take a reactive approach this week, which can be avoided at our other schools if an adaptive pause is taken. We can learn from this experience, and take the adaptive pause that is necessary at this time for the health and safety of all.</p> |
| Victoria Giurato | <p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> <p>My two District 25 children are both struggling with remote learning. My middle school student is falling behind and the seven hours of screen time during the day and then two additional hours of homework are taking a toll on her health. She is unable to stay focused sitting alone at a table for that long each day. She needs to be in the classroom surrounded by her fantastic teachers and peers. She thrives on the two days a week that they are allowed to be in the classroom. My 4th grader loves his teacher so much and misses being in the classroom. On remote days he is anxious and frustrated and spends periods each day crying on the floor because he is lost and worried that he is going to get in trouble because he doesn't know what he is supposed to do.</p> <p>While the school district has done their best to make remote learning as robust as possible, it is simply not a replacement for in person learning. Their education is suffering and their mental health is suffering to an even greater extent. The data clearly show that schools are not a major source of transmission for Covid-19 and that children have only a minuscule risk of adverse impact from the disease. The risk to their wellbeing of not being in class, on the other hand, is demonstrable right now. The children are suffering immense loss in every aspect of their lives and you have the power to remedy much of that by allowing them access to their classrooms.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff. Please vote NO on Adaptive Pause for the benefit of our children's education and, more importantly, their mental health.</p> |
| Denise Stienstra | <p>NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE!!! My children are terrified of being full remote!! They love being in school even though it's for a couple of days! Please don't take that away. Enough has been taken from them please DONT do this to all the kids.</p> |
| Julie Paxson | <p>Please take an adaptive pause until mid January. Don't be a school district that waits until too many kids get COVID or we run out of staff before you close. That's not who Arlington Heights 25 is. Be the type of district who takes the steps needed to protect kids and staff from getting COVID during these weeks of traveling.</p> |
| Jennifer Schmidt | <p>I am requesting taking an adaptive pause starting Monday, December 7 through at least Friday, January 15.</p> |

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| Kyle Schmidt | I am requesting the board take an adaptive pause starting Monday, December 7 until at least Friday, January 15, 2021. |
| Alexis Hammond | <p>To Dr. Bein, Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety of the D25 teachers, staff, families and community. You absolutely did the right thing by implementing an adaptive pause for Thomas Middle School. I ask you to extend the adaptive pause until the metrics meet the standards for the hybrid model. I ask you to continue to follow the recommendations of the ISBE, IDPH, CCDPH, and CDC.</p> <p>To the SD25 Board, Your inability and unwillingness to issue a district wide adaptive pause is astounding. Follow the ISBE, IDPH, CCDPH and CDC guidelines. Do not wait for each school in the district to show double digit infection rates. Prevention is key. The board SHOULD NOT continue to make decisions that go against the county and state public health departments. You are holding your staff and the teachers hostage in an unsafe work environment while putting the demands of parents wanting to be able to “choose” for themselves whether their children have an in person option in higher regard. While you grapple with basic concepts of “6 feet of distance”, look to hide behind the cutting of mitigation efforts with the phrase “to the greatest extent possible”, look to cut corners on the processes of hiring substitutes, discuss “holiday travel” of SD25 families as if it is the only way additional cases will find their way into our community over the holidays, Covid continues to spread in Arlington Heights. When the community positivity rate is as high as it is in 60004 and 60005, the chance of transmission at school increases as well. While you pat yourself on the back for having low transmission within the schools of SD25, you quickly look to reduce the mitigation efforts in demand for full in person learning. This is not the time to reduce mitigation efforts. It is the time for an adaptive pause. And this time, when remote, treat your staff and teachers as the true professionals they are. Give them a choice for a change and allow them to work in school or remotely. Teachers are not first responders. Give them the dignity and respect they deserve to make the best decision as possible for themselves and their families. Working from home is not a vacation for teachers. It is not a luxury. For many teachers, due to health concerns or family concerns, working from home is an absolute necessity. Your teachers are the best of the best. They do not need to be told how to do their jobs. They do not need to be micromanaged. You should be looking to keep them safe. You should be looking at retaining these teachers. Substitutes are glorified babysitters. I can't imagine one substitute with the expertise needed to teach in today's complex learning environment. As a parent who has been on her son's first grade zoom calls every day, there is not one substitute that could walk in on day one and take the ball and run with it. There is no manual for teaching these days, but the teachers you have are truly the experts. They have worked days, nights, and weekends figuring out how to make this all work. It is laughable to think just anyone could fill the shoes of a SD25 teacher.</p> <p>Last of all, I'd like to leave you with a number. That number is ONE. That should be the number you think about. Preventing just one teacher from contracting Covid. Preventing just one teacher from needing a ventilator. Preventing just one teacher from death by Covid. If you are unable to commit to preventing Covid transmission, then the message you are sending the SD25 families, staff, & teachers is that you are o.k. with sacrificing people in the name of face to face learning. You are being reckless with the health and safety of your district 25 employees, families, and the community at large. If you find yourself unable to vote for an adaptive pause, I ask for your resignation. Alexis Hammond</p> |
| Sue Meehan | I believe an adaptive pause is crucial right now to help lessen the spread of a potentially deadly virus. One school has already been closed due to positive cases. Those same families attend our other schools too. I feel it is irresponsible and unsafe to put students, families, and staff of this District in a situation that many other school districts are avoiding. I urge you to make the right decision and do your part to keep the Arlington Heights community safe! |
| Stacy Marini | I'm all for an adaptive pause while cases in our community skyrocket |
| Katie Rausch | Please vote NO on the adaptive pause. The data doesn't support it. Our kids need in person learning! |

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| Camille Ziemann | Requesting an adaptive pause until January 15. |
| Rich Menely | No Pause! Keep hybrid open, or, better yet full time in-person. Kids NEED to be IN school. |
| Nikki Mather | What is the end goal in each of these mtgs? I have attended, spoken, & watched online and feel like we are not gaining any ground. We accepted the situation in the Spring, but now it's December and we are still not providing Our Children with a Proper Education. ENOUGH! 2 Choices: In Person 5 days a Week or Remote 5 days a Week, Parents & Teachers pick a lane! Providing our Children with an Education should be our #1 Goal. Going in person 2 days a week is not enough! Teachers are now essential workers, if they are not comfortable with that, then they need to find a district who is remote. I used to Judge My Friends & Neighbors who chose to live in the sd25 area & pay the taxes, yet send their kids to Private School. Now who has the last laugh? I have provided a solution, when I spoke...Give Me a Teacher with a 3rd Grade Curriculum, who will teach in person 5 days a week & provide us with a class room and I will provide you with 15-20 3rd students whose parents will sign off on any liabilities. I have even applied to be a Sub, although I have not heard anything since the initial virtual interview. Please stop wasting Our Time & Money and just let us try it Our Way! |
| Kirsten Boyce | Please, for the safety of our students, staff, teachers, and community, follow the ISBE and IDPH metrics and move SD25 to an Adaptive Pause until such time as it is safe to return to the Hybrid Model. We can no longer wait. SD25 parents, taxpayers, voters are paying attention - make the right choice. We are the only district in the surrounding area moving toward in-person learning. As shown by the metrics of your own survey, the majority of your constituents want the ISBE and IDPH metrics to drive these decisions, and those metrics indicate an Adaptive Pause. Please vote accordingly. |
| Anthony Kuch | I am in full support of an adaptive pause because I DO NOT FEEL SAFE IN THE BUILDING with the rising cases, and all of the holiday travel. |
| Megan Kalweit | There needs to be an adaptive pause. Hospitals are at their breaking point and our community needs to stay home, even from school. The board needs to be unbiased and look at the scientific metrics of our area. |
| Julia Piontek | I urge all school board members to vote in favor of taking an adaptive pause from Monday, December 7, 2021 through Friday, January 15, 2021 for the safety and well being of all community members. |
| Elisa Suchy | Please stay with the hybrid model. It has been safe for my kindergartener to attend school and the teachers are doing an amazing job |
| Alessa Gurrola | No Pause |
| Sabrina Singh | Please vote No to an adaptive pause as the data does not support and the Ivy Hill is providing a safe socially distant environment. Thank you |
| Kathryn Stutzman | <p>I support Dr. Bein's recommendation for an adaptive pause for ALL SD25 schools through January 15, 2021. This is a necessary measure to ensure the health safety of our students, their families, and staff/staff families.</p> <p>This adaptive pause should have been instituted after the Thanksgiving break just like District 214 and would have prevented many from becoming sick with the virus. This board acted irresponsibly by not supporting Dr. Bein's recommendation.</p> <p>Dr. Bein has done an outstanding job supporting our students and staff during this pandemic and deserves this school board's full respect.</p> |
| Brian Cosgrove | Given the current metrics, D25 remaining open fuels the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This makes the school district a threat to public health in Arlington Heights. I urge the board to reconsider their dangerous and ill-considered path. |
| Christina Klamer | No adaptive pause!!!! |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Sarah Boeche | I DO NOT want adaptive pause. Our kids are already in school after this break and are fine. You CANNOT count these 6 positive cases of covid because they all happened during break and all have been quarantined. Our kids need to be in school. It is NOT OKAY to tell our kids they are going back and get to go back 4 days and take this away from them when CDC says it's absolutely okay to have kids in school and the Metrics prove they should be in school. For once listen to the parents, they know what kids need. |
| Colleen DeGeorge | Please continue to allow these children to attend school In person as data is suggesting we are able to do so in a safe manner. Thank You. |
| Denise Gordon | Please don't not elect an adaptive pause for our children. These kids are missing out on the education these deserve! |
| Sridevi Ganesan | Please dont reopen schools until it is safe |
| Ruth Schoenbeck | Please go on an adaptive pause until the end of January. You need to keep all in the community safe, including your teachers. By doing so, we can stop the spread and keep everyone safe. |
| Rachael Hooker | An adaptive pause is the responsible choice - even the kids know this & they are waiting for you to make the decision. It's been so disheartening to watch a vocal minority in our community intimidate the board & sew division in our community. The science suggests a pause until a week or 2 after Jan 1. |
| Tom Galazka | Please consider moving to Adaptive Pause! |
| Diana Lane | <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> <p>Please continue to be open and provide transparency as to your decisions and where the information is coming from.</p> <p>Please also make it know that if any family chooses to adaptive pause on their own they are able to. Most families do not understand they can make that choice.</p> |
| Amy Ksiazk | <p>Staff and student safety should be the most important concern of this board during this pandemic. Do you remember how it felt when loves were lost during 9/11? Well, that's how many people died in this country in one day due to CoVid. That number could be a daily occurrence if we don't bring numbers down. One way to help do that is to put all of our schools in an adaptive pause until January 19. People are traveling and there are currently children in our schools who travelled over Thanksgiving and are not quarantined. Our teachers deserve so much better than what they are having to deal with. They are already going above and beyond to create a remote learning platform and teach both in person and remote. They should not have to be scared to lose their lives when they go to school every day. Hear their voices, show them you care!!!</p> <p>We've already had to close Thomas due to double digit numbers - what are you waiting for???? Do you want a teachers death or a students death on your hands??? Do the right thing, make the right call. Lives are at stake. We are an island among many many school districts that have made the right call to an adaptive pause. It's time we do the same.</p> |
| Jenny Kuehm | As a Westgate parent, I would like to voice my opinion in favor of adaptive pause. I feel that it is the right thing to do to protect the staff, students and community. I feel the current metrics and risks from holiday gatherings support this choice. My son's teacher is currently pregnant and I also have special concern for her. Thank you for your consideration. |
| ken sommers | please keep kids home learning until at least the end of January for the safety of all, especially our teachers. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Karen Galazka | Please consider an adaptive pause for the sake of consistent education for our kids and being proactive in our community in helping to keep the numbers down for hospitals around us |
| Paula Slome | My name is Paula Slome and this is my 28th year teaching in the district. I'm in support of an adaptive pause because I don't feel safe teaching when the number of Covid cases are so high. Staying hybrid is not in the best interest of students, staff or the Arlington Heights community at this time. Please follow the surrounding school districts in taking a pause and showing that you care about the health and safety of your students, staff and entire community. |
| Theresa Warren | The most responsible and safe option, although not what we all really desire for students, is to move to an Adaptive Pause when considering current and projected COVID positivity rates, hospitalizations, and number of deaths. |
| Bryan Branson | I would like to encourage the board to vote yes on an adaptive pause. Other districts in the area have taken this step. We've witnessed what can happen when you disregard the potential threat with Thomas having to be told to close by the health department, which is frankly embarrassing that it had to get to that due to the board's lack of leadership, caring, concern for the community as a whole, and general critical thinking skills. It's time to stop playing politics and do the right thing for our students, teachers, staff, and the taxpayers. |
| Maria Bauer | it is extremely irresponsible during this surge of Covid cases that schools would even reconsidering opening full on. Please listen to our experts and keep everyone safe |
| Jennifer Hahne | Thank you to everyone who is working hard behind the scenes to make decisions in this complicated landscape. It is very much appreciated. I know that a discussion for a possible adaptive pause is on the table. I would like to point out that an adaptive pause might work for some families, however, an adaptive pause would pose as an equity issue for my family specially and I imagine others who are not providing comments. I feel it's important to advocate for all families and those that don't feel they have a voice. As a large number of Arlington Heights families have resources and their children have been in excellent academic environments their whole life there are families as this is not the case. Families whose children have specialized needs, gaps in schooling, limited resources and/or working parents would be unfairly impacted. Currently, all families have a choice to participate remotely or engage in an adaptive pause without forcing the choice on all families who have different circumstances. My daughter is enrolled in Kindergarten at D25 and it is her very first school experience. She is also currently an English Learner with additional needs that are supported in person. I am asking you to consider that forcing the choice of an adaptive pause on all families as an issue of equity. I understand the complications of the rise in cases, however, COVID is not the only consideration in making decisions.... we must consider equity, fairness and that although we are all in the same storm ridden waters, we are not all in the same boat. |
| Stephen Hood | Keep our schools open for in-person learning! Those that want to go remote can do so on their own. Nobody should be FORCED to be remote! |
| Amanda Bhansali | <p>As of Today 12/3 there were 10,959 Covid-19 cases in the state of Illinois according the IDPH. Yesterday, Illinois saw the highest number of deaths reported due to COVID at 238 people. The current positivity rate for Region 10 is 13.3% per IDPH. The most recent data for AH zip codes puts local cases at 384.0 per 100,000 people per the Northwestern dashboard. Region 10 now has less than 20% ICU beds available. The United States reported 3,100 deaths today (USA today). Thomas Middle School has been forced to go remote.</p> <p>Please step in before our students, staff, and their families contract COVID.</p> <p>VOTE FOR AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE. Allow teachers to work remotely during the adaptive pause if they choose.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping our community safe.</p> |
| Kathy Brady | As a teacher in District 25, I would like to ask the board to consider taking an adaptive pause for the safety of the students and staff of the district and their families. The infection rate is too high, and this virus is very dangerous to many of our loved ones. Thank you for your consideration. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Jeffrey Van Buren RN | We need to cut the crap and get these kids back to school. There is no need for an adaptive pause. Elearning has been a waste and my child 10 yo has developed a case of anxiety and depression because of elearning. I pay for steak what I am currently get is dog food. Dr Bien is a lost cause and obviously has her own agenda that is in line with the teachers union and the democrats in Illinois. The cdc has come out with hard and fast research that states that the safest place for children is in school learning. Let's get this done and get children back into school Jeff Van Buren RN BSN TNS CCRN |
| Tomasz Denisiuk | Keep all kids in school thats what schools are build for .Kids besides education are also need contact with each other who they don't know as good as their close friends |
| Kelly Darby | For the safety of our community, students and staff, please follow the metrics and the warnings so that at some point we may actually see cases and death totals go down and restrictions possibly lifted. We need to do our job and think about more than just ourselves. What we do individually today, will impact our community as a whole in the future! Please take an adaptive pause until Jan. 19! |
| April Berry | It is ridiculous that the Health Department had to step in to shut down a school building due to the number of cases when our entire school district should have been on an adaptive pause two weeks ago when the Superintendent recommended it. Please protect our students, teachers, families of both and community by voting to take an adaptive pause until January 19th or until your own metrics indicate that it is safe to be back to the hybrid option. |
| Richard Lenski | <p>I am writing to you to please do NOT vote for adaptive pause. I have a first and fourth grader at Westgate elementary school. Both are struggling with remote learning.</p> <p>I am imploring you to please vote NO on an adaptive pause and yes to full in person as soon as possible. It has been one of the saddest years to see my children floundering in school and life because they are missing so much that they receive from being at school and in person.</p> |
| Evan Bunting | As a parent and community member I urge the board to support an adaptive pause and return to full remote learning until the safety of our children, teachers, school staff and community members can be guaranteed. The ongoing increase in positive coronavirus tests is extremely concerning and the board should act now in an effort to mitigate further spread in our community. |
| Stacey Cooke | Please continue to follow CDC guidelines and keep our kids in school. DO NOT move to an adaptive pause. There is no data showing spread within schools. You are doing a great job with social distancing and cleanliness. Don't stop now. Keep us moving toward full in person school. Our kids are depending on you and they DESERVE a quality education. Keep the kids the priority. Thank you. |
| Alexis Rabe | I believe the school board should vote yes for an adaptive pause. The metrics shown at the November 19th board meeting don't even meet those to enter hybrid learning, therefore I don't understand why they are still attending in person. I made the decision to keep my child home until we see the effects of the Thanksgiving holiday on COVID cases in our area. We need to keep our students and community members safe. |
| Allison Vercimak | <p>We are in favor of an adaptive pause for 3 reasons.</p> <p>1) One the metrics being used say that our numbers are too high to be open.</p> <p>2) An adaptive pause now may help keep our numbers lower so reopening in January is possible.</p> <p>3) The quality of subs we are left with is not great. After witnessing a few subs on zoom it is obvious very little quality education is happening with unqualified subs.</p> |
| Alicen Manus | Our family prioritizes school! Please do NOT go on an adaptive pause. Our kids need to be in school. It is the best and safest place for them! |
| Pattie Manning | In school should not be happening, every week at my child's school someone tests positive for COVID. I cannot believe educated people think this is a good idea. Maybe if the people making the decisions for our kids to be in school, had to spend the day in the same environment they would not be in a hurry to vote for this. Instead of sitting in an office by themselves going over statistics. I'm sure the district's motivation has to do with money in some shape or form. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Aakash Bhansali | Please vote for an adaptive pause. The School Board's inaction up until now is simply reckless. Today's statistics: *10,959 Covid-19 cases in the state of Illinois according the IDPH*Yesterday, Illinois saw the highest number of deaths reported due to COVID at 238*positivity rate for Region 10 is 13.3% per IDPH. * local cases are 384.0 per 100,000 people per the Northwestern dashboard. *Region 10 now has less than 20% ICU beds available. *The United States reported 3,100 deaths today (USA today). VOTE FOR AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE. Allow teachers to work remotely during the adaptive pause if they choose. Thank you for keeping our community safe. |
| Danielle McLaughlin | Kids need to remain in person for school. Don't keep them home. The CDC recommends kids remain in school. |
| Brian O'Neil | Yes keep in person |
| Jen Winfield | Please consider the adaptive pause for the health and wellbeing of your faculty and staff. |
| Jennifer Schmit | Please consider having D25 schools remain open for in-person learning at the greatest capacity allowable. The safety measures in place have proven effective and the cases of COVID due to school exposure are not happening. The families of D25 should be allowed this option for their children. The quality of learning via on-line is absolutely NOT comparable to the in-person learning our children deserve. |
| Erin Lowery | Please consider a pause given the increase in cases. |
| Jen Porto | Please consider an adaptive pause to prevent spread and protect the wellbeing of our entire community. |
| Lindsey Rokosz | Please also consider the social and emotional ramifications for the students when thinking about instituting an adaptive pause. If parents/families/caretakers are concerned, they still have the option of keeping their children home and participating in class via ZOOM. This is personal for all of us! I know that it is best for MY child to be learning in person with proper sanitation and restrictions in place. My Kindergartner told me that he prayed to God to go back to school in person. If you think learning via ZOOM is not affecting every single child and teacher you are sadly mistaken. |
| Theresa Funk | Please vote in favor of the Adaptive Pause. If you would have voted for it prior to the Thanksgiving Break, you wouldn't be dealing with an outbreak at Thomas Middle School. It seems like a very vocal minority is pushing for full in-person school despite the record-breaking number of COVID cases across the county, when the majority of parents (according to your own survey) would prefer we do this safely. |
| Mark Tack | <p>I would expect and assume that the comments submitted just 5 days ago for the 11/29/2020 meeting would carry over to this meeting, correct? In case not, I am copy/pasting my comments from the last meeting here for this next upcoming meeting. Also, why did this Board have so many meetings?</p> <p>----Comments submitted for 11/29/2020 meeting (5 days earlier) ----</p> <p>Please keep schools open. Schools are more essential than grocery stores, barber shops, and gas stations. CDC, Canada, Europe and many others view schools as essential functions for society. We should too. You have done good work to get us to this point. Don't go backwards. Push us forward. All efforts at this point should be on making the current hybrid model better and planning full force for the January full time open. Don't get distracted. Don't delay.</p> |
| Caroleen Abraham Guiwargis | Our kids need to be in school! |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Colleen Kucera | Please continue with the hybrid approach through January 19th as planned. My two children are so excited for the days they get to go to school and learn, it's almost unbelievable and it's heartbreaking at the same time because we know they've been missing this for so long. It's 100% clear that these kids need to be in person as much as possible and the interaction is so important. This hybrid approach seems very safe and there does not seem to be any evidence of the hybrid in person learning causing spread of the virus. While the teachers are doing a great job with the online learning, and it's so admirable, it is still not the same. A little bit of in person is better than nothing. |
| Janelle Brown | <p>Please consider NO adaptive pause. I see my children losing interest in school and learning as we keep them at home more. That connection between the students and teachers is relaxing. It is strengthened when the children attend class and thus feel a stronger sense of community. Even the Academy of Pediatrics recommends on their website keeping kids in schools. "overall the AAP advises that students learn best in person and encourage schools to reopen if they can do so safely in their communities." We can do this in AH.</p> <p>Please think of the children and allow those students who would like to attend school the option to remain in the classroom. As a single mother and essential worker, I understand the challenges, but we must continue to persevere for our children's right to the best education possible.</p> |
| Laura Smith | Since we are in a pandemic with an increasing amount of cases which have caused other schools and businesses to close to keep the community safe, an adaptive pause would be the responsible action for the board to take at this time. |
| Kim Dyer | I have been very disappointed in the way some members of the board have represented me lately. This isn't about who I agree or disagree with, this is about leaving us in a constant state of flux. We had a committee that made recommendations, you as a board threw them out, then started researching your own, no you've asked the committee to reconvene and come up with guidelines. Yes this is a fluid situation, but if we could just pick something and stick with it, we would all know where we stand. We also need to pick something within the IDPH recommendations as we are a state funded organization who follows IDPH direction in what we do regularly. You have staff and parents who don't know how to prepare because we are never sure where the district is headed. This isn't an issue you are going to get everyone to agree on, you have to make the right decision and know you will face angry people no matter what that is. It is sensible in my mind that if TMS was asked to be closed by the the health department, we should consider we are one community and all schools should be on adaptive pause. Certainly we should all take one for at least a week after the holiday break if not two. (It is my understanding there is now a 7 day quarantine recommendation and a 10 day, I haven't had time to research the data supporting each) Finally, I watched the board recommend that we not travel and that we isolate over Thanksgiving. You are our leaders, you should lead by example. It is quite disappointing that word in the community is some board members didn't follow the recommendations they made to staff. If it is true, then those who didn't should be ashamed that they aren't leading by example. I realize this is difficult for everyone but please step up to the challenge, make a decision, and lead by living it. Thank you |
| Julia Herrmann | Please remove the Adaptive Pause for Thomas Middle School. Aside from 1st and 2nd graders who are trying to learn to read and learn math; Remote Learning is hardest on Middle Schoolers. My Middle Schoolers grades have fallen DRASTICALLY. He went from being a Straight A student to failing classes and he is AGAIN failing classes this period. He does 100% better when in person. He needs to be in person. Not only is he failing, he is also severely depressed. He can't work hard because he is feeling down all the time. We have him in therapy twice a month already which is costing us an astronomical amount. This is NOT okay. We are failing our kids by forcing them to do Remote. Get our kids back in school!!!!!! Immediately!!!! |
| Kellin Girard | Please listen to the guidance from the CDC and give parents the choice to continue in-person learning. Vote no on adaptive pause. Thank you. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Katie Starzyk | I appreciate all the time and energy the Board has taken to bring our children back to school in person. Please continue to prepare for our five day in person education in January, I haven't heard any updates from our Superintendent! It appears that Dr. Bein's current focus is on an adaptive pause that is NOT WARRANTED by our current status. This science has been documented by many. My children have been failed by this current education. Both went into remote learning in March has honor students. Their current teachers are worried about them socially and academically. Their MAP scores have dropped considerably and my son will not be accurately placed for High School next year based on his current grades. I am asking that you please continue the path to bring our children back to school in person after the new year and DO NOT apply an adaptive pause at this time. I rephrase that, my Children are begging you to not to start an adaptive pause! |
| Carleen Swanberg | please vote FOR an adaptive pause until we get through the worst of this pandemic. I know for certain that kids who travelled to FL over thanksgiving break are IN class right now and didn't quarantine. Please don't just listen to the loud voices calling for in person learning, and do what is best for the kids. |
| Jen Sylvia | <p>I am not in favor of an adaptive pause.</p> <p>1) Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>2) Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning, including my own.</p> <p>3) Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> |
| Maureen Pajerski | D25 should follow CDC and Illinois Health Department guidelines. These are the organizations that are best suited to provide guidance. For us to assume "parents know best" in this situation is ridiculous. I recognize that corona virus is not as dangerous to our youth as it is to other populations. I also recognize that over 95% of the people that catch CoVid will survive - many with no more lasting effects than the flu or a cold. But please remember that a large part of our population is dying or have lasting lung damage even if they recover. These same students can and will spread covid to others. Their grandparents, parents, aunts/uncles, friend's parents and others. Learning to deal with hardship and less than ideal situations is actually good for our children and helps them to grow into responsible, contributing, and compassionate adults. Which after all is the goal of parenthood. |
| carolyn neary | On Sunday, the NIAID Director, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said, "Keep the schools open". The risk of getting covid in a school setting is extremely low. The private schools within D25 have already proven that it possible to keep teachers, staff and children safe in school, 5 days of the week. Schools across the world have proven that schools are safe by following the The World Health Organization's recommendation of 3.3 feet between everyone. Remote learning will only put children further behind academically, and especially compared to all those who go into a school everyday. Please return your focus to doing what is best for the D25 children. Let's give our children what they desperately need, to spend every school day with their classmates and teachers- inside the school building. They deserve this and so much more. |
| Pam O'Connor | I am a teacher in District 25, and I very much respect the thought, care, and time Dr. Bein puts into all her recommendations. She has shown herself to be a pragmatic leader who understands the multifaceted layers of schools and who makes hard decisions, even the unpopular ones, that she believes are right and good on behalf of teachers and students. As such, I urge the board to listen to her and agree to an adaptive pause recommended at a previous board meeting. It was the right recommendation then and it is the right recommendation now - education is important but it needs to be education done SAFELY. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Talia Dohman | Please help keep our families and teachers safe by going on an adaptive pause. I know of many families who have traveled out of state for Thanksgiving and still chose to send their children to school upon return from break. I know families whose children have cold-like symptoms and still have chosen to send their children to school. Self screening at home is not sufficient in the current state. Please our voices. |
| Katie Campbell | <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. I am so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. My kids benefit most from in person instruction.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff.</p> |
| Timothy Schank | <p>I am writing to urge the Board to approve an adaptive pause at least through mid-January -- resulting in full remote learning during this period of extremely elevated COVID numbers. Such a pause is consistent with what other similar districts in the area are doing. It is the best thing for the physical safety of students, faculty, and staff. More importantly, even if there are not cases actually arising in school, there can be little doubt that COVID is readily spreading through schools. An adaptive pause is the best thing for the overall health of our community.</p> <p>Additionally, an adaptive pause now would be conducive to a transition to more significant in-person learning down the road. If those of us in D25, under the leadership of our Board, do our part in "flattening the curve" once again, we can suppress COVID back to levels where in-person learning is safer.</p> <p>We have reached a point where the only safe and sane choice is to minimize in-person interactions and gathering to the bare minimum. We have an alternative in the form of remote learning. It's not ideal, but it can bridge the gap for these few weeks and hopefully D25 can be part of the solution.</p> |
| Kevin Allender | <p>Please do not support an adaptive pause for our students. The rates of positivity for our zip codes has been declining and I have not seen any evidence of in school transmissions. Please do not let our students suffer while fear wins. Teachers are essential workers. The proper education of our students is essential too. Please do what the community has entrusted you to do. Please allow our students to continue the hybrid learning. Please hold the superintendent accountable to facts and action plans.</p> <p>Thank you Kevin Allender</p> |
| Frances Siebert | Please take a pause and GO TO REMOTE learning for now. |
| Jackie Hallmark | I would like to thank the school board along with Dr. Bein for the time they have spent meeting and discussing issues related to our ongoing public health crisis; we appreciate it. As a Thomas Middle School teacher, I would like to urge the board to implement an adaptive pause for all schools in D25, until it is time to safely return. I urge the members of the board to be proactive rather than reactive when considering the health and safety of all students, staff, and administration. Thank you. |
| Wendy Luthardt | I believe we should do an adaptive pause. |
| David Katcher | As recommended by the CDC and Dr. Fauci, please keep in person school in place. This is not the time to move to fully remote, there is no evidence to support that. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Lauren Gonke | An adaptive pause is the most prudent decision at this time. When our son's classroom teacher was out sick with covid-19 in November we had a long string of different substitutes, many of whom were not able to adequately teach in the hybrid model. If our teachers will need to take time off because their own children are home, I would much rather have our sons teacher on Zoom than another string of subs. Once school resumes on 1/19 it should be in the hybrid model unless region 10 numbers are under control because 6 foot distancing is the reason we haven't had rampant outbreaks in our schools. |
| Renee Schlenhardt | <p>Thank you for continuing to move forward with giving students access to schools and their education. I question why Thomas was preemptively closed with very little data on why the decision was made to close it based on 11 cases? When where these cases? Were they connected? It's really confusing because the school was closed for a solid week, and kids haven't been in the schools for over two weeks. Clearly something is missing here.</p> <p>All schools, public and private work with Cook County Department of Health where there are positive cases. The Principal at Saint Peter has contacted and worked with them and followed their recommendations to stay open based on the case information they reviewed.</p> <p>Dr Bein's statement was "ideally the school should be closed" leaves lots of room for judgement and it seems that "ideally" has been twisted to interpret as "the school needs to be closed," and this not how a decision should be made.</p> <p>I have two proposals, first, keep the schools open. Second, school closures need the vote of the board before a final decision is made.</p> <p>Overwhelming evidence continues to mount that schools are not the place of spread, indeed they are proving to be one of the safest places to be with mitigations in place and working. It would be a failure of this district if we go full remote at this time, since our school data shows our schools are safely operating.</p> <p>Again, please look to internal data of the district – it's very clear that school is not the place of spread. Itasca is still in session, Western Springs, Glen Ellyn just went back to hybrid</p> <p>I ask for one final thing, please hold teachers and staff accountable to the Tier 3 mitigation guidelines and responsible for their behaviors outside of school. If there is an uptick in teacher and staff cases, clearly they are coming from outside of schools (as primarily traced so far) and going to continue to contribute to community spread.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Renee Schlenhardt</p> |
| Joanna Sopel | No for Adaptive pause. The Thomas school situation is not a valid reason fir considering adaptive pause. |
| Janelle Brown | What is the school district policy on liability related to covid? How is the school district limiting liability? Is this the basis for adaptive pause? |
| Krysta Schoenbeck | Please consider an adaptive pause before and after winter break. This will allow all students and staff to have a safe and healthy Holiday. Currently there are a lack of subs and ELL and special Ed students are not receiving their state mandated minutes because those teachers are being pulled to sub. This is unacceptable. After we return from break the hybrid model is the safest in person option. |
| Dawn Katcher | Please vote no on an adaptive pause. The CDC director and Dr Fauci continually say school should remain in person. The cook county department of health has provided mandates for when schools or classrooms need to be shut down. The schools are taking proper mitigation strategies for in person. Remote education is not as equal as in person learning. Voting in an adaptive pause is voting on less quality education for our children. |
| Ellie Branson | Please vote for an adaptive pause to protect our children, staff, and community from this rapidly spreading virus. Please follow the science, data illustrating an increase in numbers, and the surrounding districts' decisions. |
| Sharon Korb | Please consider putting SD25 on Adaptive Pause. I feel like it is the right choice for the safety of everyone involved. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Lisa Parciak | <p>This comment is in support of District 25 adopting an adaptive pause. I recently learned that a friend of mine's sister-in-law died from Covid-19. She left behind two children, ages 8 and 10. She was on a ventilator and then died at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. This tragedy could have been avoided.</p> <p>Adopting an adaptive pause is District 25 just doing its part. Other places and people in our community will have to do their parts too if we are going to keep the people in our community alive. If the Board doesn't adopt an adaptive pause and do its part, I am afraid that stories like the one above will become commonplace.</p> <p>If District 25 doesn't adopt an adaptive pause, what are we ultimately teaching our children? We are teaching our children that compassion is not an important factor when making decisions, if it impedes on our individual needs and desires. We are teaching our children that teachers and staff are dispensible and that having a warm body in the classroom is more important than having a qualified teacher provide their instruction. We are teaching our children not to show grace when teachers and staff need to work remotely in order to protect the high risk individuals that they live with; that, in fact, we tell them to take leave and to resign. We are teaching our children, that when we preach kindness, we don't really mean it. I would much rather have our children learn that compassion matters than have them learn how to solve triple digit math problems.</p> <p>Furthermore, despite your best efforts, you could not contain the virus. At least 11 people have Covid-19 at Thomas Middle School. Viruses are designed to spread and find hosts, so it is ridiculous to think that none of these students caught the virus at school.</p> <p>I know that I should be grateful because the Board is made up of volunteers who no doubt had the best intentions when they ran for their seat. But, at this point, the Board is doing more harm than good and they need to stop and think about the long term consequences of their decisions. And if the Board is not motivated by things like the greater good and compassion, then perhaps it will be motivated by the fact that it is just a matter of time before the school gets sued because students and staff have either died or gotten seriously ill. Ultimately, the costs of this litigation will be passed onto the taxpayers.</p> <p>Because of the vaccine, there is an end in sight. Let's all be alive to see it.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Lisa Parciak</p> |
| Marianne Baltowski | Pleas vote in favor of the adaptive pause for everyone's safety. Thank you |
| Monica Hinchey | Please, please, please - for the safety of our entire community, it is time to keep everyone home and take an adaptive remote pause. Thank you. |
| Lisa Cooper | Please vote to immediately move to an adaptive pause for all students and staff, including special education. Please maintain an adaptive pause until the IL Dept of Health, CCPHD, and CDC all agree that it is safe to return. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Beth Deiter | <p>Please USE YOUR VOTE, for the safety of our students, staff, teachers, and community, to follow the ISBE and IDPH metrics and move SD25 to an Adaptive Pause until such time as it is safe to return to the Hybrid Model. We can no longer wait. SD25 parents, taxpayers, voters are paying attention - make the right choice. We are the only district in the surrounding area moving toward in-person learning. As shown by the metrics of your own survey, the majority of your constituents want the ISBE and IDPH metrics to drive these decisions, and those metrics indicate an Adaptive Pause. Please vote accordingly.</p> <p>No one wants to still be coping with this pandemic; no one wants to put anyone in danger; no one wants to have these endless board meetings, and I have to believe that no one wants to disrespect the people who are working tirelessly to find solutions for our schools and our children--all with no state, federal, or historical guidance of any kind.</p> <p>As parents, our primary job is to protect our children. Administrators and teachers are responsible for protecting our children from harm when they are at school. They do so by being prepared with fire drills, extreme weather drills, and now with active shooter drills. There is no drill for this pandemic. We did not know the extent or severity of this illness when it surfaced earlier this year, and we did not expect to still be fighting it 9-10 months later. But, with the exception for a potential vaccine in the coming year, the virus we are fighting has not changed. It is impacting the same number of adults, children, and families as it was in the spring, and it is impacting our community. We are receiving almost-daily notices about someone testing positive within our schools.</p> <p>My own daughter's teacher contracted COVID and has been out of school for the past 5 weeks, several of which were spent in the hospital fighting off pneumonia. The students were extremely worried about her absence, the potential extent of her illness, and the possibility that she could be another statistic. Thank goodness, she has returned to school only several days ago and seems to be adjusting back into the routine, but the kids have not had a normal school experience this year (regardless of whether they were at home or in the hybrid model). In addition to worrying about academics and adjusting to different learning protocols, they were anxious about the basic health of their teacher, her family, and her colleagues.</p> <p>Our administrators and teachers are doing everything they can to protect our children. They are being resourceful, creative, transparent, and patient in responding to all of our very different concerns and requests. They have a right to protection at school too, but most of all, they deserve our respect in listening to their concerns and responding in a sensitive, understanding, and compassionate way. I am overwhelmed by their selflessness in working to make our children's lives and our lives as "normal" as possible, but when I hear that they are scared to be in school, see first-hand the obvious toll this disease can take on our teachers, and witness the unrelenting social media attacks, it seems that we aren't doing everything we can to protect them.</p> <p>The discussion of in-person school should absolutely take the teachers' comfort and basic protection into account. We all want to be in-person, but until we can safely protect everyone, I don't even understand the debate.</p> |
| Ryan Fetzer | <p>It is difficult to accept we are basing such important decisions such as shutting down schools to a district superintendent when the worlds most respected medical experts are all advocating for in school learning. Just a recent example from this week, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC stated "...we now have substantial data that shows that schools' face-to-face learning can be conducted in K-12, and particularly in the elementary and middle schools in a safe and reasonable way, Redfield said. Infections among teachers and students occur because of community transmission or virus spread at home, Redfield said....But now the data clearly shows us that you can operate these schools in face-to-face learning in a safe and responsible way." Today my daughter in 7th grade @ TMS wasn't able to attend science because her teacher teaching from home did not have sufficient bandwidth to run the class via zoom. How is that acceptable? The worlds health experts are clear...kids can, should, and can safely be in school. We cannot let a single persons unknown agenda impact so many children for so many years to come. Respectfully request that the vote is "no" to an adaptive pause.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Kelli McDonald | Please keep our children, families, teachers and staff members safe throughout the next several weeks. |
| Molly Dimick | Please do not FORCE everyone into full remote learning. Give us the CHOICE to send our kids in person if we wish. My kids thrive on the structure, socialization and focused attention that only in-person learning can provide. If the Park District and private schools can ensure onsite learning happens safely, so can District 25 schools. Thank you. |
| Amy Davis | Hello, we do not support an adaptive pause. Please continue with the hybrid model. When the metrics are met we support full- in person learning. |
| Jen Kim | <p>Dear School Board Members,</p> <p>Please allow our kids to continue in Hybrid learning. Please handle closing of in person learning, first on a class by class or school by school basis. At this time there is no reason that has been shared with the community to close the entire district.</p> <p>The students have done the work, they have learned how to be safe while in school and because of this they are in the class a few days a week and they are thriving.</p> <p>As a mom of a 504 child with epilepsy I fear for 5 days a week of e-learning. I will have to watch my son have increased seizures which will lead to an increase in missed learning opportunities. My child's class and school should be allowed to continue Hybrid if there is no "outbreak " of COVID.</p> <p>Please don't do a full adaptive pause. Please handle this situation class by class and then school by school to allow the most amount of students to remain at least in Hybrid.</p> <p>Thank you, Jen Kim</p> |
| Diyana Mollov | No on adaptive pause! |
| Melissa Buchberger | Please, for the safety of our students, staff, teachers, and community, follow the ISBE and IDPH metrics and move SD25 to an Adaptive Pause until such time as it is safe to return to the Hybrid Model. We can no longer wait. SD25 parents, taxpayers, voters are paying attention - make the right choice. We are the only district in the surrounding area moving toward in-person learning. As shown by the metrics of your own survey, the majority of your constituents want the ISBE and IDPH metrics to drive these decisions, and those metrics indicate an Adaptive Pause. Please vote accordingly. |
| Daniela Martin | Our children need in person school. Follow the science! We do not support an adaptive pause! |
| Erin Lakomski | <p>We've recently had to decide to leave hybrid learning after being informed that my daughter's class would be going four full days a week - we simply cannot justify the 12 students in the room with the positivity numbers our area is experiencing. It's just too much exposure. We were comfortable with two days a week, half the class. Doing our own research lead us to conclude that our family is safer with her at home during this time and with current numbers not even taking into account Thanksgiving or the upcoming break and holidays yet. We sincerely hope the school board begins to take their chosen metrics seriously, right now it seems like a joke.</p> <p>Another tough choice is coming in January for so many families who feel like we do, so many of us who have chosen to make our own adaptive pause. Why are there metrics to get back into school but not back into remote learning when necessary? Absurd. Everyone wants their kids in school, we all know it's best, and that's not up for debate - but now isn't the time. We are surrounded by districts who have decided to be proactive until after the holidays and have the children remote. It astounds us that our school board seems to have dug in their heels with this dangerous approach of wait and see. Dr. Bein does a fantastic job presenting all the data, and still we have had to make the choice to take my daughter out of school because of the board's inability to take action. Some of the comments by members I've heard while watching the meetings are a joke - like the idea that our district can plow ahead with in person learning because of the other districts that are pausing, allowing us to scoop up all the subs for when our own staff are out. Seriously?!</p> |
| Nina Koufalias | Please keep the staff and students of our community safe by moving to an adaptive pause. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Joe Martin | NO to the adaptive pause. Even Fauci is now saying schools are safe. If you believe otherwise keep your kids home. |
| Jennifer Black-Foltin | My children currently attend school in the hybrid model at Windsor and I have felt very comfortable with this model so far. This is largely due to Dr. Bein, Lindsay Anastacio, and her staff to organize the many procedures to make this happen. However, I would like the board to please consider an adaptive pause until after the next holiday break. It is irresponsible to consider fully reopening after the winter break for a number of reasons. Many families vacationed in high risk areas over the Thanksgiving break and this will only increase in number over winter break. As a teacher that has the ability to work remotely, I am grateful to my school district to respect the health and safety of their faculty, staff, and students. I am asking the District 25 Board of Education to also consider the health and safety of their faculty, staff, and students. |
| Melissa Lenski | Please vote NO to adaptive pause. My 2 children are struggling and miserable on the remote learning days and need in-person instruction. Also, one of my boys has an IEP and FINALLY gets to attend 4 in-person days. Do not take that away from him. We have waited since March 13th, thats 9 MONTHS, for him to have more in-person days and it is finally happening. Please, keep these kids in school! |
| Beth Kovacic | I support Dr. Bein in making responsible decisions for all stake holders. If she is recommending an adaptive pause after consulting with public health officials, I support that step. |
| Bethany Larson | Please allow Teachers to teach remotely from home. The discontinuity for students having multiple subs within a week is far more detrimental to their learning experience than remote learning. Let's pull back to full remote, let our Teachers do what they do best while focusing on one type of teaching, and support our Teachers who consistently go ABOVE AND BEYOND to support our children in the most difficult year of their careers. |
| Stephanie Stratton | I am in favor of an adaptive pause because I do not feel safe teaching. |
| Amy Klehr | There is no need for an adaptive pause, the kids need to be in school. Those that choose to keep their kids home, that is what they feel is best for them. So let us choose what is best for our family, to be in school full time. |
| Tricia Spitz | Please vote NO for an adaptive pause. Kids need to be in school if that is their choice. Kids in the classroom. Teachers in the classroom. |
| Aden West | To the D25 School Board and those with the power to make the right choice for our community, I urge you to move forward with the adaptive pause in order to prioritize the safety of our teachers, students, and their extended family. There is so much evidence to show that the impact of continuing to offer in-person learning for students will be a deadly or life-altering choice with those that the COVID-19 virus will inevitably spread to. There is uncontrolled spread in our local area, meaning that individually and collectively not enough is being done to minimize the impact. Hospitals are approaching maximum capacity and soon there will not be enough health care workers or resources to help treat those affected. Despite what some may argue as a low death rate (while not sure why we should still be ok with 2% of our IL population dying unnecessarily) COVID also causes long-haul side effects for many, disabling some, and impacting others to the extent that they cannot work for long periods of time. In-person learning at this time poses too great a risk to teachers who need to be in classrooms, and the parents of our students. What would happen if we continue to let teachers and parents fall ill? Who will be able to go to work and provide for our children if they become disabled by the illness or dead? Information about the effects of COVID should not be politicized. The facts are facts, and the truth is that at this rate our healthcare system could collapse if institutions and communities don't do their part to stop the spread. I urge you to do the right thing. This is the time to push through and ride it out at home a bit longer until we can be safely vaccinated, and lower the rates of infection. Listen to what your teachers want and what they are telling you they need to feel safe. Listen to the healthcare professionals. Listen to science. Our children and our community depend on it. |
| Jill and Michael Stark | We ask our AHSD25 to vote for an adaptive pause. Thank you |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Jenny Haefliger | Please vote YES to an adaptive pause through the holidays, especially considering Thomas Middle School's shut down due to the recent spike in positives. At the very least, please put the elementary schools that feed into Thomas into an adaptive pause because of all of the siblings. Please follow state and local guidelines, all of the schools around us are, including the private schools. |
| Chris Arce | To the Board Members. Please realize that the majority of people living in District 25, with or without children currently enrolled in school, favor taking a protective pause. It is not right to put the kids, the staff and all families in harms way because a minority of people have loud voices. It is ridiculous that because of the unwillingness of the board to vote, there are classes being lead by unqualified people. If you can't hire enough staff to properly staff the classrooms, how to do propose that this is the way to successfully run a school district? I always prided myself in knowing that we selected the right school district to raise our children in. And we did. But that was some time ago. It looks to me that my property values will be suffering because you all seem to be thinking without using your heads. Please, please take a vote and vote to take a pause for the health of not only the staff and students, but for the community. |
| Lauren Noble | Hello Board and Dr. Bein, I would like to urge you to look at the data within our own schools to determine whether we should go on adaptive pause. From past presentations, I do believe that our children are safer within your walls. The number of cases at our schools are not unreasonable, and the virus is not being spread given your amazing mitigations. Please do not allow a petition of parents who already have the option to stay remote sway your decisions for those of us who want and need our children in school. Thank you for all your hard work in these unprecedented times. |
| Mike Haefliger | Vote YES to an adaptive pause through the holidays! Thank you! |
| Tracy Roth | Over the last couple of weeks as all of the surrounding school districts have announced plans to take an adaptive pause, it has been baffling to me why, in light of all of the same statistics and scientific evidence that these other districts have, District 25 has yet to follow suit and better yet seem to be laser focused on one thing - returning to full in person learning. On November 20th The Patch reported that "There has been a 160 percent increase in cases in Arlington Heights in the last 14 days." The week prior to that AH saw the highest daily death toll from COVID since May. I have to ask - what is the district missing? Why are we pushing headstrong toward a return to in-person learning NOW and not discussing and voting on an adaptive pause? Are we putting the proverbial cart before the horse? Every family in our community has their own stories about how this pandemic has affected them and this seems to be driving the fervor around this topic and and turning it in to a divisive and emotionally charged topic. I have a child with complex medical and developmental needs. My husband and I have handed our daughter off to surgeons countless times - twice for open heart surgery - once when she was 13 days old. This has taught us to live in the moment and to know that life can change in the blink of an eye - and that nothing is forever. All it takes is one moment - or in the case of COVID - one exposure - to change the course of someone's life forever. Now more than ever, we need to look out for one another. We need to allow ourselves to be guided by science and by the medical professionals who are experts. We need to understand that this pandemic is NOT forever and while we are all yearning to get back to what was our pre-pandemic "normal" we have to stay the course and we need the school board - individuals who were elected by this community and put in these positions to act in the best interest of the community using facts and setting aside your own opinions and biases to do what is best and allow every side of this equation to be carefully considered. |
| Shelby Menely | I urge the Board to be LEADERS, not FOLLOWERS, as you consider the current situation. Please do not implement an adaptive pause. The students have proven that they can follow the rules and go to school safely. They are not catching or spreading the virus at school. Going to school twice a week has been the only part of school my daughter has enjoyed in the last nine months. She has always loved school, and when it is remote she hates it - this is heartbreaking to witness. Please consider the mental toll this is taking on our kids and continue to give them some sense of normalcy by letting them go to school. |
| Jennifer Sia | I support in person learning for my children. I am NOT in favor of an adaptive pause. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Katie Rausch | Keep our kids in schools! Figure out your staffing issue and make it work. Teachers want to pause? Then extend their contracts til a few weeks after the last day of school. It's unacceptable to reduce rigorous instruction we were promised without extending the school year |
| Allison Johansson | Please do not take an adaptive pause and continue to let the kids attend in person through Christmas break. |
| Terese Orlando | I am in support of my child continuing with his in-person learning. He has struggled with full remote in many ways and is doing so much better academically, mentally and emotionally with even only hybrid. He looks forward to his 2 days in class being in-person. Dr Fauci just announced last Sunday that the default position should be to try as best as possible within reason to keep the children in school. I ask that you please follow his recommendations and try to keep the students in person whose families feel that is the best option for their child, while still offering full remote for those families who choose remote. |
| Jim and Cristina Small | Dear District 25 Board, We clearly support the teachers and staff of district 25 who are doing a remarkable job managing between remote and in-classroom students while also playing the part of a first responder keeping our children safe while in the classroom. We urge the Board to realign its current strategy of being reactive amidst a pandemic resurgence to being proactive. By this, we mean that the board has neglected to make any substantive decisions or motions, has disallowed Dr. Bein to do so, and has called the administration to continue to provide more data while the community sits and waits for a plan to be adopted and/or executed. For example, Thomas Middle School needed to go to full remote as result of its recent outbreak. Had the Board followed through with the metrics it already established for hybrid learning, this decision could have been made in a less hastily manner and provided more time for teachers, parents and children to plan for this change. We believe the administration has done all it can to provide continuous updates on pandemic metrics, data, and its recommendations to the Board. Now is the time for the Board to adopt the metrics it will follow going forward to enter or exit all learning models and follow through with execution. We believe now is also the time to make a substantive motion for an adaptive pause. In the case that the Board does not, it should explicitly make a motion to disregard the Superintendent's recommendation, keep the hybrid model in place, and cite the detailed facts and circumstances considered for the public record. We recognize whatever decision is made by the Board that not everyone will be happy. However, making no decision at all will have a much more unfavorable outcome for everyone. Respectfully yours, Jim and Cristina Small |
| Mike Drury | Kids need to have the option to stay in school. |
| Chris Dimick | Board of Education members -- please do not vote to institute an adaptive pause. Our children's education is essential and needs to be effectively delivered in-person. Remote learning is not education. In-person instruction needs to remain an option -- leave the choice with parents. Again, please keep schools open and doing their job! Thank you! |
| Meghan Olson | Please vote in favor of an adaptive pause. |
| Jacqueline Raitano | <p>I am in favor of an adaptive pause that would allow the staff to work from home. I do not feel it is fair to withhold that option for all staff in the district.</p> <p>Additionally, when parents are asked to make a decision as to remote or in-person learning for their children in January and beyond, I would ask that parents be informed as to whether students will stay with their teacher depending on the option chosen. I do not want to make a choice and then find out later that my child's teacher will be doing the opposite and my child will be placed in a new class. For example, I may not want in-person, but if that's the only way my child can stay with her teacher, I may choose that. Or if I want in-person, but I find out her teacher will only be doing remote, I may change my mind in order to stay with her teacher. Parents need to be given as much transparency as possible as to teacher placements to make an informed decision.</p> |
| Connie Gonzalez | Continue with In- Person school. Do not go to an adaptive pause, please! |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Stefanie Saam | Please do not vote for an adaptive pause for school district 25. For the well-being and education of our children, I urge you to allow them to continue their hybrid learning plan and move towards full in-person learning as quickly as possible. Please do what's best for our kids and do not force them to move to full remote. Thank you. |
| Danielle Valentin | Please get these kids back in school as soon as possible. They are struggling to learn new concepts and it's even more difficult without the social interactions. Let the parents make the choice for their kids. |
| Kristie Burmeister | Place us on an adaptive pause! I have worked in the district for over 25 years and am disheartened by both the discussions that have been had, and the consequential decisions the board has made regarding in school learning. I am a social worker and have worked countless hours working to get and keep students in school. I have literally gone to students' homes and brought them to school. I personally and more importantly professionally know as well as anyone the importance of in school learning. There is also no doubt in my mind that at this point in the pandemic the safest place for the children and staff is at home. The concern for the children's mental health while learning at home is a serious but finite problem. Certainly it requires parents to exhibit great patience, hard work and creativity. However, the mental health ramifications of losing a loved one, unnecessarily, will have a lifelong impact. Please, for the safety of our students, staff, teachers, and community, follow the ISBE and IDPH metrics and move SD25 to an Adaptive Pause until such time as it is safe to return to the Hybrid Model. We can no longer wait. |
| Megan Panico | <p>Do not adaptive pause. Across multiple news outlets Dr. Fauci has pointed out the following, this excerpt specifically on ABC's Show "This Week,"</p> <p>"Close the bars and keep the schools open," Fauci said to host Martha Raddatz. "Obviously, you don't have one size fits all. But as I said in the past, the default position should be to try as best as possible within reason to keep the children in school, or to get them back to school."</p> <p>Fauci said that schools largely haven't been the drivers of community spread of the virus, noting that maskless groups congregating indoors are a major culprit."</p> <p>The DEFAULT should be educating the kids. Not slinking backwards. Do not employ an adaptive pause. Dr. Fauci, the singular expert we can ALL agree we ALL look to for answers and hope is point-blank telling schools to keep kids in school.</p> |
| Katie Taranda | Please continue in-person schooling. My children love the days they attend school in person and are extremely excited about the addition in-person options that will be starting next week. They have been doing so much better emotionally since they've been able to attend school a few days in person, and they are getting so much more out of school. Please don't take this away from them. |
| Jeanne McCullough | An adaptive pause is crucial for the safety of both students and staff. |
| Regina Fortman | I am hoping that the board will consider voting for an adaptive pause and move to full remote learning in light of the growing number of infections in our community and the present threat to all stake holders in the system. |
| Richard Taranda | Please continue in person schooling |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Ann Poyer | <p>I am writing today to support an adaptive pause. I was disappointed when I heard a board member say that he trusted that our community would quarantine and not send their kids to school if they traveled out of our region. Unfortunately I have heard students in my children's classes talk about their vacations over Thanksgiving break and then found out that they were IN CLASS the next day. If parents goal is for full in person, where metrics have to be met, you would think they would follow these recommendations and not send kids to school after traveling. Unfortunately the boards trust was misplaced since this is happening. Instead of misplaced anger at the teachers for worrying about their safety our community needs to be angry at the people that think the rules don't apply to them. Their disregard for others safety is EXACTLY why teachers are worried about their safety. I fully support an adaptive pause until our numbers are back within a safe zone for in person learning. If the board chooses to go against Dr. Bein's proposal, there need to be protocols and protections put in place for when people send children to school when they have been traveling. Our teachers hear daily about these trips, sleepovers, parties and more and that is why they are worried. We need to protect their health, both physical and mental. Our teachers are amazing but they cannot keep covering for each other due to sub shortages. Teachers who do not get to plan because they are filling in for someone else are teachers who are not fully prepared to teach in the way they feel is best for children. Teachers who absorb another class do not have the relationships with those students. When they are already keeping the required distance it makes it very difficult to meet all student needs when they don't know what that student needs. Teachers have the right to take personal and sick days as needed per the contract. We do not want teachers coming into the building that have a headache, a sore throat, a slight cough, etc. because they have been threatened to not use their leave when necessary. Teachers are not our enemy. They are our greatest allies and greatest assets and we need to protect and support them!</p> |
| Lisa Keavy | <p>Kids need to be in school. Doctors recommend it and it is not where the virus is spreading. Keeping kids out of school this long is only going to have negative affects.</p> |
| Christen Lipani | <p>In our experience, D25 teachers and staff have been doing an amazing job with hybrid learning. That said, I am very much in support of an adaptive pause up through at least mid January. As much as I would love for my children to be in school in person full time, it needs to be done safely. Numbers are rising and with families traveling and socializing over the holidays, they are not predicted to decrease in the next few weeks. For the safety of our community, I support D25 taking a proactive measure to switch to remote learning until we see a decline in cases after the winter break.</p> |
| Jill Haggerty | <p>It's time for an adaptive pause. The numbers are climbing. Families who traveled for the holidays are not keeping their children home as they should be. We need to take a break and allow teachers to remain safe at home too. Thank you.</p> |
| Jennifer Amling | <p>I am in favor of an adaptive pause until at least two weeks after Christmas Cases are the highest they have been, and folks celebrating the holidays with family and friends is only going to make that worse. Please keep our children safe by supporting a remote learning environment until January 18 Thank you</p> |
| Carrie Skony | <p>Please expedite a plan for return to full in person learning. Our children need and deserve the opportunity to return to school full time.</p> |
| Mary Arnold | <p>I am not in favor of adaptive pause.</p> |
| Leah Ross | <p>The school ecosystem is a proven safe, healthy, protected and ESSENTIALLY important five day a week full time institution of society that must remain open and functioning to all families who truly need it and choose it. We know now that healthy adults and the children they teach can take on the minimal risk that open-in person school during the realities of covid presents. Those who feel the risk is too great should be set up at home to learn remotely everyday. There is no need to pause or pull back, there IS IN FACT A DESPERATE need to push forward and progress. That need is real. The need to pause is false. Community metrics are fickle and hard to track and can never, ever be controlled. The school house is an ecosystem with controls in place and the cases outside in the community have nothing to do with the essential school experience our children have been missing for nearly a year now. Let's get off of this slippery slope and back on track with the right priorities.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Joy Kirr | I support an adaptive pause because I want to keep my family safe. |
| Kelly Lowery | Please consider an adaptive pause |
| Shani Jarrett | I would like the schools to remain open and move to full time in person. I understand the Covid is on the rise but as the majority of the country has been able to keep the schools open so must we. The risk of Covid is outweighed by the needs of our kids education. We have to do what is in the best interest of the kids and learning in school is absolutely what is best. During every conference with my kids teachers this year, they have stated fatigue with online learning and vast improvement with in person learning. These are statistical facts and they support staying in person and going full time back in school. If the catholic/private schools can do it so can we! |
| KAROLINA BURSZCZYK | Please keep the schools open. It is hard for kids not to have the social interaction and be in front of the screen for so many hours. It affects them in so many ways just like it affects adults. Our middle schooler became so distant from everyone and everything over the last 9 months. They need some kind of norm in their school life. Also, is there a way for some virtual activities for kids? Something to connect the kids with each other. Maybe that is possible at the school, grade level....thank you |
| Mia Wery | Please do not force children back into school before it is safe, simply to appease a vocal minority. Please continue to use objective metrics and data regarding community infection rates to guide the decision making process. The inconvenience to parents cannot outweigh the safety of our students and of the staff. |
| Kristen Clark | Please follow IDPH guidelines and take an adaptive pause. |
| E Jones | I am asking the board to vote NO on an adaptive pause. Our children deserve to be in the classroom. In-person learning is safe for students and teachers with the mitigations currently in place. |
| Pam Wuich | Considering the COVID numbers and the anticipated super surge I would urge the board to vote for a pause for the safety of students and teachers |
| Virginia Coglianese | LISTEN TO THE PROFESSIONALS! We should NOT even be considering putting more bodies in small spaces right now. Cases and deaths from this virus continue to increase and the board seems to think or value their own personal opinions over that of medical professionals in regards to group gatherings. It also seems to be that those members of the board have failed to value the lives of those in our community (including myself) who have preexisting conditions that make them more at risk. Additionally, emails are sent regularly desperately looking for help in the districts under staffed schools. Do you think it will be easier to fill those positions when you increase the risks? What about the risk put on our teachers and staff members and their families? As the board, you MUST mitigate risk. You MUST take precautions. You MUST make the choice that keeps us all as safe as possible. Follow the old saying "better safe than sorry" and STOP pushing for kids to return to full classrooms too soon! |
| Eileen Herbster | Dear Board and Dr. Bein- As a parent, I have a choice to keep my student remote while she once was hybrid. I have this choice while we continue to have the highest rates of covid cases and deaths since the pandemic started and while having 11 cases of covid at one of the D25 buildings. Teachers and staff do not have the same privilege to make a similar choice to keep themselves safe as astronomical increases occur within our region and within the small radius of our district. The CDC believes the rate of deaths occurring from this disease will reach 3,000 deaths per day this month and next. Our teachers and staff deserve to not be a part of this statistic. Please do the right thing and vote for an adaptive pause for the teachers and staff and for their safety. Thank you. |
| Christine Organ | I strongly urge the school board to vote for an Adaptive Pause to protect teachers, students, and the wider community. |
| Ella Esposito | My names is Ella Esposito. I am a 5th grader at Olive. I want to stay in person because when I do remote I feel like I don't get as much help as I do in person. I love seeing all my friends in person. It makes me happy. I have a hard time when I'm not in school because I get distracted. It is hard for me to focus on my work. Please do not make us go full remote. Thanks! |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Lisa Lightcap | Please move to adaptive pause. The Board's idea to utilize subs and make a last minute decision to close if staffing becomes difficult is poor planning and will not lead to the best education for our kids. Last minute staffing is no substitute for an experienced, college educated teacher. Allowing our teachers to plan ahead and feel safe in their work environment will let them provide better experiences for our children. If teachers don't consider District 25 the best work environment and other surrounding districts are providing teachers with a more positive work environment, what will keep them working for us and how will we continue to attract the best for our children? |
| Blair Christensen | SD25 should be following IDPH & ISBE guidelines on whether schools should be full remote/Adaptive Pause, hybrid, and/or full in-person. Doing so will provide safer conditions for students, staff & community. |
| Sarah Van Huis | Adaptive Pause isn't the "right" answer - but it is the answer for "right now." Thank you to the school board for voting in favor of an adaptive pause to protect the district community. |
| Meghan Faust | I want to urge the school board to consider the needs of special education students when considering an adaptive pause. I have three children, two that are students in District 25, and one of whom has special needs and attends the early childhood program at Greenbrier. I have tried to keep up with the school board meetings as much as possible and have noticed that there have not been many voices for children that receive special education. My foggy brain has realized lately that parents of special needs children are so deep in the weeds of the pandemic that emailing the school board to voice an opinion is probably at the bottom of a never ending list of items to do, and certainly hasn't made it to the priority list when trying to care for the needs of a child with special needs during a pandemic. Imagine trying to parent three young children during a pandemic, while working from home, and trying to get your special needs child to take an hour and a half out of her day and work on asynchronous preschool work- it is impossible! Better yet, imagine trying to have a 4 year old with special needs sit in front of a zoom for 30 minutes waiting for her turn to speak- even more impossible. It simply doesn't work. It causes mental and emotional stress for my daughter, my husband and myself and quite frankly stopped happening in the spring because the negatives outweighed the positives of continuing. My daughter is supposed to go into kindergarten next year. This year of preparation is such a very important one for her and our family as a whole. She went without any special education from March until September. Since September she has been in the classroom for 2 days a week. It was just a couple of weeks ago that she was finally able to settle into a routine with the school process and develop appropriate classroom behaviors. We were so excited to hear that beginning next week, the week of December 7, she was going to be invited to attend school 4 days. If the early childhood program takes an adaptive pause until January 19, we will literally be starting all over again. Please consider the very important duty that this district has for special needs children. I can support an adaptive pause for my typically developing second grader. She won't like it, she will be distracted, she will miss her friends, but she will be OK, she will adapt, and she will move on when the school reopens. I wish I could say the same for my early childhood daughter, but I cannot. I fear that if the early childhood program takes an adaptive pause she will once again be starting from ground zero and it will have a detrimental impact on her daily life, an impact of such severity in the year that is to prepare her for kindergarten that our family will be able to do very little to repair. Early childhood is a pivotal time for children with special needs outside of a pandemic, but frankly even more pivotal during this time of uncertainty. Thank you for considering the needs of our special education children in this district. |
| Marta Topolska | I oppose adaptive pause as it will not benefit my kids. Only in person learning works for them . |

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| Carrie Kuczak | I'd like the board to consider how their decisions are impacting those families who are already hybrid. The board is considering what metrics allow them to move to full time in person learning, but didn't even think about them when they voted to move more students to 4 day in person learning at Ivy Hill. We are seeing spiking metrics and now is not the time to put more students in the school in any single day. This decision has made multiple families back out of the hybrid option and move to remote. Based on survey results, it's been very clear that most families care that you pay attention to the metrics. Schools are LOSING in person students as a result of your lack of consideration of these metrics. Not only are families dropping out of the in person hybrid option, you are risking more exclusions. If you add more students to the classroom while we're seeing a spike in cases, the more likely we'll see students and teachers will be excluded when there is a COVID case in a classroom. Please, consider the metrics for any move to put more students into the classroom. |
| Tricia Montesano | Please vote YES for an adaptive pause for the safety of our AMAZING District 25 staff members and community at large. You can not put students first when you put teachers last. |
| Nicole Bielawa | As a SD25 teacher I support Dr Bein in recommending an adaptive pause through the end of January to ensure the safety of all students and staff as Covid numbers rise and holiday travels and gathering occur. |
| Rosanna Gelsomini | My son is in the early childhood program at Greenbrier. I am grateful for the safe in-person learning environment that the school has provided for my son. Please continue to offer a hybrid option through the remainder of the year. |
| Nancy Velasco | Please keep in mind that holidays are going to be super spreader events. As a nurse practitioner in the ER, NO ONE wants to suffer with covid. Please keep our children safe and continue the adaptive pause until mid January where we can see how much damage from the holidays has been made. Thank you very much. |
| Andy Davis | I'm in favor of continuing with the hybrid home/in school learning that the kids have been doing. I think that is the best path forward at least for the next few months. Thanks |
| Liz Chlopowicz | I am IN FAVOR of an adaptive pause |
| John Chlopowicz | I am IN FAVOR of an adaptive pause. Thank you. |
| Chris Chlopowicz | I am IN FAVOR of an adaptive pause. |

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| Kelley Costello | <p>We should NOT go into an adaptive pause with only remote learning. The idea of going full remote without any set metrics for return to in-person should not be allowed. The Board should keep hybrid learning in place until, the already agreed upon January 19th, full in-person return. The continued loss for these children is frustrating and heartbreaking. They WANT to be in school and we CAN accommodate those that wish to be there! My daughter said that there was only one student in the other 3rd grade classroom this week. Please tell me why that child couldn't merge into another classroom, allowing that teacher to be free to substitute or teach all remote.</p> <p>Where are all the creative ideas in regards to letting our kids continue in hybrid? What are the metrics and PLAN for full return on January 19th?</p> <p>Get a Google form sent out to parents (not a lengthy, confusing survey)</p> <p>~I wish to have my child remain in Hybrid, and when the metrics decided by the board are met we wish to return to full in-person learning.</p> <p>~I wish to have my child remain in full remote learning</p> <p>No adaptive pause and no other options.</p> <p>Get those numbers and have administrative staff at EACH school do some MATH!</p> <p>If you can combine classes, do it! Nothing is normal or "is what I signed up for". Parents will be willing to make sacrifices. Teachers should be willing to make sacrifices.</p> <p>If no one wants to sit down and do the work to make this happen then we will continue to fatigue our students and teachers.</p> <p>After this meeting we should have finite metrics in place for changing between hybrid and full in-person learning (remote families will always have their option).</p> <p>After this meeting hybrid learning should be an option for those that need this mode of learning for their children.</p> <p>After this meeting planning should be in place for ensuring staffing for full in-person learning to begin on January 19th and this includes discussions with union representatives to get the dialog started and finalized AHEAD of time.</p> <p>After getting Google Forms returned, from previously mentioned parent survey, plans for staffing full in-person and remote should be prepared by each school, in regards to remote versus in-person for teachers and students alike.</p> <p>As always I thank you for trying to navigate this crazy situation and I hope that we can continue in-person learning for those students who so desperately need it for their emotional and educational well being.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelley Costello</p> |
| Linda Pelczynski | Safety of staff and students should be a number one priority. |
| Robyn Warter | I do not believe an adaptive pause is warranted either before or after winter break. The case numbers are declining in Arlington Heights and there has been very little transmission in the schools. Our children are SAFE and the teachers are SAFE with the strict precautions that are already in place. The academic development and mental health of our children is at stake if they lose more in person days. |
| Mary Blatter | Covid 19 infection numbers are soaring out of control. Deaths have increased at an alarming rate. Please, for the safety and health of students, staff and faculty members of the district, do the humane thing and move to adaptive learning. |

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| Traci Sara | First, I want to thank Dr. Bein for doing what is surely a thankless job right now. I desperately miss our sense of community and sending my children off to the wonderful teachers, staff, and friends waiting for them at Greenbrier. But I also implore the Board to put safety above all else, and look past the loudest and most aggressive comments to make decisions based only on the best medical information and official guidance we have available right now and nothing else. This would mean voting yes on an adaptive pause for the safety of everyone in our schools and our surrounding community. I am so eager to get my children back into the classroom as it is clearly the best place for all kids to learn and grow, and I respect the choices different families have made to date based on their personal situations. But our kids, their teachers, and all our surrounding neighbors who are also indirectly impacted by our district's actions deserve that we all do the most responsible thing even when it's hard. |
| Meghan Grell | I, as an Arlington Heights SD 25 educator, am in support of an adaptive pause. I do NOT, as a high-risk pregnancy, feel safe in the building. I also request that the Board continue to support the notion of teachers working remotely who have a medical need to do so. |
| Ryan Chlopowicz | I am IN FAVOR of an adaptive pause. |
| Amy Haber | I am requesting an adaptive pause for the safety of students, teachers, families and the Arlington heights community. We know families went out of state for thanksgiving and you need to put in place a forced quarantine. Our teachers safety is at risk for the carelessness of the community. I don't want my child remembering this year as the year a teacher or friend gets sick or dies because the board won't make a responsible choice to keep their district safe. |
| Luc Katarzyna | I see how much my son is benefitting from in person learning . He supposed to start on Tuesday 4 days learning that would benefit him profoundly . He is able to focus so much better at school . Please keep the schools open for in person learning . Please give the children a chance to do better at school . Thank you . K. Luc |
| Jennifer Skilbeck | Favor an adaptive pause! |
| Beth Cummo | In light of recent metrics and current outbreaks in our schools, I support an adaptive pause for all our schools until mid January. I think of Dr Bein as an expert in her field and support what she recommends. She is looking out for all of the stakeholders in our community- students, staff and community members. It's time for the board to trust her and her recommendations. Thanks for considering. |
| Steve Skilbeck | Favor an adaptive pause |
| Rebecca Burns | We support Dr. Bein's recommendation for an adaptive pause due to the rising Covid-19 rates, ongoing pandemic related teacher shortages and the safety of our community. |
| Kevin Michael | The entire district should have been in adaptive pause at the start of November. Please immediately go into an adaptive pause for all D25 schools and do not reopen for hybrid until at least 2 weeks after winter break ends. |
| Michael Dover | Please vote NO to the adaptive pause. |
| Pam Bartusek | We do not support going back to remote learning or taking an "adaptive pause." Our kids are benefiting from school so much more when they are in person. School is essential! We fully support going back to school full time and until that can happen, we would like the hybrid situation to continue as is. |
| janet reich | We want NO adaptive pause. Our children need to be in at least 2 days a week if not 5!! We only have a couple weeks left until christmas break. That will take care of the adaptive pause. The numbers do not show a sufficient enough increase to justify a pause. The percentage of ACTIVE Covid cases (3now?)vs. the amount of kids in school(600) is nothing. .005%. ?? Use your heads to work out those numbers and listen to the recommendations to KEEP kids in school. |
| Kelly Tiltz | Keep in person please |
| Jen Anderson | I support an adaptive pause until mid-January, but at minimum ask that the Board please show Dr. Bein and her staff the courtesy of moving her recommendation for an adaptive pause to a |

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| | vote to provide transparency of each Board member's position to the greater community. Thank you. |
| Michelle Burke | I am an Arlington Heights resident and an educator in another suburban elementary school district. I know the realities of what a school day entails and the risks to the health of both students and staff from the current state of the pandemic. I strongly urge the board and other decision makers to put an adaptive pause in place and conduct remote education only until the metrics deem in person education safe to resume. The lives and health of the residents of Arlington Heights and anyone with whom they come into contact depends on your decision. |
| Josette LaMonica | Please listen to FAMILIES this time. Parents who want remote learning have that option. Parents who NEED their children in school should have that option. My children's education and mental health are suffering, not to mention an unhealthy amount of time on screens. I vote NO to an adaptive pause. |
| Shannon Scalzo | I beg you to please consider keeping hybrid learning in place. My children are struggling. They are falling behind despite my best efforts to keep them on track. My 1st grader has an IEP for following directions and intervention for reading and NEEDS in person learning in order to have an opportunity to learn and grow academically. I am fortunate enough to stay home with them, however with a Kindergartner and 1st grader it is impossible to keep an eye on both simultaneously to ensure they are doing what they should be throughout the morning (when both are in school). If hybrid is not an option, I urge you to please consider a longer winter break, even if that means we go longer into the summer. I was very open minded at the beginning of the year about remote learning, but it just does not work for my children. It has turned learning and school into a terrible experience for us all. They LOVE going to school. They NEED school. My mom is 67 years old and still teaching (district 80) and she knows that remote does not work for all children. She wants to be in person herself, even as a high risk individual. I understand certain things need to be done, however I don't understand with the metrics as they are, why we'd need to go to an adaptive pause. Please remember that as board members you are tasked with representing the community. The teachers have a union to represent them. We need someone to stand up for our children, especially those struggling so much. Thank you, Shannon Scalzo |
| Megan Nuccio | PLEASE listen to the polls you've taken where the majority of parents want a safe return to school for the benefit of all. An adaptive pause is the responsible decision. Changing the metrics to suit our needs is not beneficial to the community as a whole. Unless we are testing, we are currently part of the problem. Kids aren't robots that sit (unmasked for lunch in an enclosed classroom) not moving. I have to remind kids until I'm blue in the face to pull their masks up, or stay seated. I watch them spit food on each other in an excited conversation. I watch them toss each other's lunch bags around at recess. I hear how their parent is quarantined in the basement and so they get a tv in their room. In a perfect world and on paper the current plan may sound good. It's Not Realistic. PLEASE listen to your teachers, and other FT staff, who are stressed and going above and beyond regardless of their safety being put at risk. I would rather have my son struggle with school and socialization, than contribute to someone having lifelong (or life ending) consequences. Thank you. |
| Vicky Stella | Please vote yes for an adaptive pause for our school district, beginning on Monday, December 7 and lasting through January 15. It is the responsible thing to do. Families are traveling for the holidays. The numbers of cases in our state, and in the 60004 and 60005 zip codes are rising. We are in a global pandemic, and that is something bigger than anything else right now. The school community is not in a bubble, and things are going to get worse before they get better. Be a district who is proactive, and not reactive. The community deserves nothing less. |
| John Tourtelot | I am NOT in favor of an adaptive pause. We need to think of how all students are benefiting from in school learning especially those who require special resources for learning disabilities. Taking away days for those with disabilities will not be beneficial to THEM. Keeping them remote will just delay the education they require while they're young and developing. |

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| David Peterson | Hi I am making my feelings know that I believe that the schools should remain closed until this serious virus is no longer a threat. We are close to a vaccine and why take a chance on having our students , their family, and teacher coming down with this virus. I believe students should be remotely taught until it is safe for everyone to return. You need to reconsider your position. |
| Marianne Schaner | Why was it decided to go fully remote for 2 weeks when the 11 positive cases you attributed to the decision were already 2 or more weeks ago and 3-4 stated no exposure was made after contact tracing! |
| Terri McDonnell | I am a Teaching Assistant in an Instructional classroom at Windsor School. I absolutely love what I do. I truly understand the importance of in-person learning for our at-risk students, and I have great empathy for their families during this difficult time. I believe that it can't be "all about the kids," however. It's also got to be about ME this time around. I am almost 63 years old. I am healthy but wow - I really don't want to get sick. My own adult kids REALLY don't want me to get sick. My grandkids...really, really, really, really don't want me to get sick. My husband is right there with them...and God knows that I don't want HIM to get sick! I am dedicated to my students and my collaborators/team. I would never want to do anything to compromise their opportunity to teach and learn. But...the science is REAL and my love for my family is REAL...and we need an adaptive pause. Period. Please! |
| Megan Panico | <p>Summer School Request:</p> <p>Since the actions of the Board, Superintendent, and District as a whole have been far behind other districts since July 26 in terms of decision-making and taking action, I'm imploring the Board and Superintendent to begin planning for Summer U immediately. Children have been left behind in this district for months, and one way to catch them back up is with robust and meaningful Summer U programming. I fear that D25 hasn't even addressed this programming, since for six months the district has taken a "wait and see" approach for all other decisions.</p> <p>Rather than waiting to see what the summer brings, plan FULLY for summer school immediately. Plan for IN-PERSON summer school. A full and robust curriculum, especially for Kindergarten and 1st graders. The curriculum should focus on remediating math and literacy skills in these crucial grade levels. Additionally, Summer U should be expanded hours or expanded weeks, in order to address the extreme skill and social deficiency in our youngest students. Whether the program stays at 3 weeks, but for 6 hours (with lunch), or expand the program to 6 weeks, at the standard 3 hours, an expansion of the time in the summer classroom must be considered.</p> <p>If, on the slightest chance that Summer U would have to be canceled, then at least D25 would have tried to give it a go. This should be the FOWARD thinking of the district, rather than not planning for it at all and then realizing it could have happened. It is CLEAR that a vaccine is on the way, with likely teachers being vaccinated by summer school time. Make that assumption. Don't sit and wait for that to happen. Make the assumption to actually plan for something that is forward-thinking.</p> <p>Additionally, I ask the Board and the District to consider offering the most amount of options for students with special needs and students in Kindergarten and 1st grade. But I also ask that the district give priority sign up those groups as well.</p> <p>Summer school must be in the works planning for it right now. It is December 3rd, and if it hasn't already been in the works, then it must start today. Do not cancel summer school. Do not forget about it. Do not wait for a vaccine. Assume the vaccine is here and kids and teachers are ready to learn and teach by June 15. Don't drop this opportunity to make this horrific academic year right.</p> |
| Kevin Kearns | I urge the SD25 School Board to support Dr. Bein's recommendation for the district to take an adaptive pause. As a 29 year Arlington Heights resident, former SD25 parent, current SD25 grandparent, I urge you to protect the entire community, listen to the health experts, follow the metrics, trust Dr. Bein and her expertise and vote in favor of an adaptive pause. |
| Kelly Pricemoore | As a tax paying member of the community, I fully support adaptive pause as the responsible and right path forward. |

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| John Piontek | Please vote in favor of the adaptive pause from 12/7/2020 through 1/16/2021 for the health and safety of the whole community. |
| Heidi Graham | I want to ask our Board and leadership of D25 to lead by example. Our schools are teaching our children how to relate to scientific guidelines and by ignoring them, they are a poor role model. Further, should the Board seriously consider any sort of tax levy an opportunity for actual public comment needs to be made available. Per the Open Meetings Act, I am not sure requiring public comments be submitted in writing via a Google Form at NOON the day of the meeting follows the letter of the law. Again, schools must lead our children by example and our children first learn about their civic responsibility through our schools--I am quite disappointed in this level of accountability and transparency. |
| Adam and Katie Johnson | I support efforts to minimize the spread of COVID to include suggested mitigation tactics to include social distancing, masks and sanitary efforts to include frequent hand washing/hand sanitizer. These are efforts that are strongly suggested by the CDC. Dr. Robert Redfield (Director of the CDC) was interviewed as recently as last week indicating that children should be in school (even in consideration of recent trends). He indicated that data is showing that minimal spread of COVID is occurring at school (to include students and faculty). Since the onset, many have indicated that we must "follow the science". The science is indicating that schools are safe environments if the tactics are followed. This has gone on long enough and the adverse effects on our children are immeasurable. Please do not vote in favor of the adaptive pause. Our kids need to be in school. Thanks for your consideration. |
| Terry Peterson | As a District 25 taxpayer for the last 46+ years and a grandmother of children in D25 schools, I sincerely hope and pray that you'll implement an "adaptive pause" for the safety and well-being of all teachers, staff and students. I believe the vast majority of students are bright enough to understand the current situation and can adjust to fully remote learning much better than most adults think they can. I firmly believe it's more the adults who can't cope with this "pause" in their lives but kids are so resilient and smarter than we realize. Please, keep all those in D25, teachers, aides, staff and students safe with at-home learning for the time being until reliable treatments and cures, along with vaccines are readily available to all. |
| Elizabeth Malone | I'd like to ask you not to implement an adaptive pause in children's education. I fear a long pause in their in-person learning is essentially just choosing to put a pause in their education. Please show that you value education for all. Many students are suffering in this remote learning climate. Please do not remove the few in-person days that students are relying on for education. |
| Mary Fendley | I think kids should be at home while the pandemic is raging. (It is!) If district 25, keeps the kids in school, you should not use the term 'data-driven' ever again. Your teachers are discouraged, disheartened, and exhausted. They need and deserve support. I do not believe that district 25 has shown an interest in the well-being of the staff. The staff can not be great for our kids, if they are being treated badly/ignored by the board. |
| zachary novick | My son attends Dryden and I teach in another district. In August, the superintendent of the district I work for stated, "if one student or teacher is hospitalized or dies as a result of my decision, I will never be able to live with myself." In November, my district slowly reopened, because like everyone everywhere; if it can be done safely, that's what we want. But with the recent surge, we have returned to remote learning. We know in person instruction is not safe. Are you willing to gamble that it's safe to continue in person? What are YOU willing to live with if you're wrong? I urge you to prioritize safety for students, teachers, and the surrounding community. Support Dr. Bein. Vote to begin an adaptive pause. |

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| Susan Ryerson Espino | Our teachers and staff are a precious resource. Remote schooling and importantly an immediate (overdue) adaptive pause is in order to protect their well-being, endurance, and the future of our district. Such a pause should continue until we have completely halted community transmission. We cannot continue to stretch teachers and staff so thin and put them in harm's way. I am also interested in hearing about efforts and helping the district explore options for a possible reallocation of resources (and community collaborative efforts) to help families cover costs of supportive care contexts when unable to foster such contexts at home due to work and unique learning and social needs). |
| Kathryn Coughlin | Thank you Dr. Bein, board members, faculty, and staff for working so hard for our students. Please continue to keep all parties safe, including teachers, who shouldn't be put at risk if the families of their students aren't following the Phase 3 quarantine recommendations and travel restrictions. Teachers are essential workers, but like most professionals, their essential work can take place remotely. Please support an adaptive pause while the virus is surging so that all parties can return safely when it is appropriate to do so, and please give Dr. Bein the authority to make decisions for her schools, even if it doesn't make everyone happy. |
| Amy Harder | Please enter an adaptive pause. |
| Tina Sasak | In favor of in-person learning |
| Sarah Canace | I urge the SD25 school board to vote in favor of Dr. Bein's recommendation for an adaptive pause. As an Arlington Heights resident, former SD25 student, and current teacher in Schaumburg District 54, I urge the school board to protect the entire community, listen to the health experts, follow the metrics, and rely on Dr. Bein's expertise to vote in favor of an adaptive pause. |
| Kara McCarthy | Children need to be in school. There is no reason to pause right now when the metrics for our community are not alarming. As a parent and teacher, I am witnessing the negative effects of remote learning. School is not only an institution that provides education, but also the social and emotional well being of our CHILDREN. We are only hurting them. Not every child lives in an environment where they can feel safe and supported, unfortunately most do not. It is time to return to school. They are safe. The experts agree. |
| Michelle Walsh | I support Dr. Bein's recommendation for an Adaptive Pause. |
| Melissa Harder | Please consider an adaptive pause for the safety of our community and teachers. |
| Amy Simonetti | Please be responsible with the health of your staff students and community and follow the recommendations for an adaptive pause |
| Stacy Haber | Please vote for favor of an adaptive pause for the safety of the Arlington Heights community and district staff. |
| Amy Harder | Please enter an adaptive pause. |
| Sarah Harder | Please consider an adaptive pause for the safety of teachers and over all community members |
| Melissa Harder | My mother works in the District and I am currently an elementary education major at Illinois State University. As a student and a future educator I beg you to reconsider and adaptive pause for the safety of the teachers, community, and students. These educators are putting their lives at risk to help students but Coivd cases are at an all time high in America. I understand parents are stressed out but as a community we need to realize that students and teachers will be better off in the safety of their home by not exposing others of this deadly virus. |

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| John Hamada | <p>The current rolling positivity rate and number of new cases per 100,000 people within the District 25 zip codes are significantly higher than the District's Return to School metrics. Given the rising COVID-19 infection rates throughout November coupled with significant holiday travel throughout the community, I fully support and encourage the School Board to enter an adaptive pause at least through January 11. Furthermore, with a widely available vaccine likely within months, the focus should be on keeping the District 25 community (students, staff, their family and friends) safe and minimizing virus spread until that time.</p> <p>In short, we should follow the lead of the surrounding Districts and accept that such a pause will benefit our community and increase the likelihood that the population is sufficiently healthy when a vaccine is available.</p> |
| Bailey Ownby | The safety and consideration of our kids and teachers is at stake, and that also effects the impact of the safety of further community members. Please consider an adaptive pause for the safety of our community. |
| Dee Baum | I am PRO schools staying open. The CDC has stated that schools are safe with younger children not carrying or feeling effects of COVID. Also, the schools are being using many precautions to keep everyone safe so I feel confident sending my children to receive their in-person education. They have missed so much school already and have seen great improvements with both my kids since going into school. Thank you. |
| Chris Fries | Please go back to preferring full remote for all kids, and have an in person option based on need. |
| Ryan Stevens | <p>Please take an adaptive pause!!! Many families have traveled to see family and friends for Thanksgiving and are sending their children and germs to school. The utter disregard for the health and safety of students, family, friends, teachers, and community members is a terrible example to set. Doctors and specialists which understand the risks of COVID and how germs spread are speaking up; yet falling on deaf ears. With a vaccine on the horizon, why put people at extra risk. Let's get through this safely together.</p> <p>Regards, Ryan</p> |
| Savanah Patterson | Please consider an adaptive pause for the safety of our community and teachers!! 🍌 |
| Michelle Casillas | No to adaptive pause! We cannot go back while other districts are going back next week, why are we going backwards. My daughter needs in person leaning, we cannot go back. We should all have a choice, those that want remote have their choice, please let us have ours. This will be devastating for all kids but the kids with special needs will suffer the most. All over the news it says that schools should remain open. |
| Bridget Riley | I think we have to find a way for our kids to be outside when eating lunch. The biggest risk in transmission at school is when the mask is off, and that is at lunch. Pull the tables outside when possible, or distancing picnic on grass. |
| Dain Hampton | Please continue to give parents the choice of attending of in person or remote with no adaptive pause. Parents that want to keep their children home should not dictate whether my children should be able to attend school in person. |
| Margaret Kearns | I urge SD25 School Board to vote in favor of Dr. Bein's recommendation for SD25 to take an adaptive pause at the present time. As a 29 year Arlington Heights resident, former SD25 parent and PTA board member and officer, retired SD25 educator, and current SD25 grandparent, I ask that the SD25 School Board protect the entire community, respect the recommendation of county and state health departments, follow the metrics, and listen to the expertise of Dr. Bein and vote in favor of the district taking an adaptive pause now. |
| Meghan Yarbrough | I support an adaptive pause to keep our students, staff, and community safe. |
| Carrie Hagan | Strongly support the pause. Please vote yes and protect our community—teachers, staff, and students. |
| Susan Weres | The reckless decision to keep students in-person learning during a dangerous time in our pandemic climate is unsafe for students, staff of AHSD25, families, the Arlington Heights Community and Small Businesses. My small business services AHSD25 students and I have had to make the right decision, albeit difficult, to shut down in-person learning at my art studio and switch all of my students to remote art lessons. This decision has had a huge financial impact on my small business and it is a direct result of AHSD25 negligence allowing students to |

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| | continue in-person learning when it isn't safe. I implore the AHSD25 School Board to follow suit of the surrounding school districts and take an adaptive pause until it is safe to return to in-person learning. |
| Donna Hynek | In order to ensure the safety of students, families, teachers, and the community, I support Dr. Bein's recommendation of enforcing an adaptive pause that allows our district to move to remote learning from the current hybrid learning model. |
| Liz Madison | Please define the metrics. We need to know what to expect going forward with in person, hybrid or remote and what metrics are being followed for movement between the options. |
| Steve Zurek | Please vote no on the adaptive pause. We have been told all along to follow the science. Right now the science is telling us that this is not being spread in schools. |
| Sue Lambert | For the health and safety of the students, staff, and community, it is imperative that an adaptive pause be put into place immediately to help combat the spread of this deadly virus. |
| Terri Porto | Please take an adaptive pause. We want our family safe. Thank you. |
| Jacob Kerman | Don't reopen schools until it is completely safe to do so. The virus was steady at a 2.5% death vs case ratio before the heavy increase. Unless you want 8 million or so to die, I'd suggest not opening. Thanks. |
| Robyn Swanson | I am in support of district 25 moving into an adaptive pause during this period of elevated Covid19 cases for the health and safety of the students, teachers and community at large. |
| Sarah Anderson | I support an adaptive pause. I support our superintendent and her recommendations. The board needs to listen to Dr. Bein, as she is the expert in this position. |
| Lauren Salsinger | For the safety of our students, staff, and community, I am in support of an adaptive pause. |
| Daniel Salsinger | For the safety of our students, staff, and community, I am in support of an adaptive pause. |
| Brian Lisinski | The Director of the CDC and Anthony Fauci are BOTH advocating for keeping schools open, and that schools are simply not a source of the spread of Covid-19. In addition, Lori Bein has shared that D25 has (and I paraphrase) 'Best in Class Mitigation Strategies' and that according to the Cook County of Public Health there has not been a single 'Outbreak' in D25 Schools. Bottom line, the transmission of the virus is not happening within D25. In summary, the two medical leaders in the Country's response to Covid-19 are advocating for keeping schools open, and D25 has best in class mitigation strategies, and thus transmission of the virus is NOT happening within the schools. All of the science, and all of the data support keeping our schools open! CDC Director Redfield emphasized his advocacy for in person learning: We now have substantial data that shows that schools' face-to-face learning can be conducted in K-12, and particularly in the elementary and middle schools in a safe and responsible way," Redfield said. Infections among teachers and students occur because of community transmission or virus spread at home, Redfield said. https://www.foxnews.com/health/schools-coronavirus-transmission-redfield Fauci: If you look at the data, the spread among children and from children is not really very big at all, not like one would have suspected," Fauci added. "Close the bars and keep the schools open," Fauci said to host Martha Raddatz. But as I said in the past, the default position should be to try as best as possible to keep the children in school, or to get them back to school." Fauci said that schools largely haven't been the drivers of community spread of the virus, noting that maskless groups congregating indoors are a major culprit. https://www.businessinsider.com/anthony-fauci-close-bars-school-instruction-coronavirus-infections-health-2020-11 |
| Lorrie Palm | I support an adaptive pause. |
| Kathy Malaczek | Please keep our schools open . My kids need to be in person . |
| Gabriela Porras | For the safety of our students, staff, and community, I am in support of an adaptive pause. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Jennifer Durkin | Please vote NO on the motion for an adaptive pause. Remote learning is causing harm to the emotional well-being of our students. My 7th grade daughter is so happy on the days that she gets to go into school. And on the days that she's home, it's like a switch is flipped, and she becomes depressed because she has to sit in front of a screen all day. It is imperative that parents and students are afforded a choice for the sake of our kids' well-being. Thank you for all of your work. |
| Kelley Balmer | I went back and forth on writing an email or public comment for the December 4th meeting. To be honest, I'm not sure that any comments from the public should be taken any more. I feel like the only thing that can rectify Arlington Heights, specifically, the district 25 community's current climate/culture is for leadership to take charge, make educated and thoughtful decisions that are based on science and what is best for our children and their teachers. Every board meeting has felt more contentious, between board members and the teachers, board members and the community, community members and teachers, and district administration. Parents and community members have a right to voice their concerns and wishes, but that's all they are, concerns and wishes. Our children and teachers deserve to have decisions made by individuals who are educated by local and state health professionals, who listen to facts and not opinions or wishes, and make informed decisions with evidence to back them up. Recently, it has felt like whoever yells louder is who's "wishes and concerns" are weighted more heavily. As a parent of three, and also an educator in a neighboring district, I have been appalled at how the board meetings have been conducted. We as a community have to come together and support the decision makers, who have to come together and make informed decisions based on science and health professionals' recommendations. These decisions aren't based on popular vote, and I'm glad they aren't, because many of the most important and influential decisions in history would not have been the most popular at the time, but good leaders don't worry about popularity, they worry about people. So I hope that the outcome of today's board meeting results in a pause in the rhetoric spewed by some board members, a pause in the hostility of community members towards teachers, administrators and board members, and eventually, a decision and plan that is rooted in science and supported by all, including teachers, students and community members. When I see district 25 parents posting comments on social media, and worse, making comments at board meetings, stating they "support teachers BUT" and following it with some sort of ridiculous statement about teachers not working hard enough because they are working from home, or not caring that they are scared, or stating if they are scared they should take a leave like the rest of the world, I hope they realize that is doing everything BUT supporting teachers. So besides a return to civility and science, I also hope that each and every district 25 teacher knows that there is a great majority of parents who have nothing but gratitude, undying appreciation and 100% support for each teacher helping to give our children a sense of normalcy and education during an unprecedented year. |
| Kaitlin Fajks | I am in favor of an adaptive pause to protect our students, staff and their families. |
| Susan Petersen | As a teacher, educator, parent: protect the front line which in D25 includes the teachers, paraprofessionals, and THEIR families. And, remember, this too will pass. Practice the patience we instill in our children. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Amy Reed | <p>My name is Amy Reed. I am both a community member of Arlington Heights and a staff member at D25. I work at Windsor School as the Library Media Center Assistant. I am also a certified substitute. There have been 4 instructional days (as of December 3rd) since Thanksgiving break. During this time I was pulled to substitute for a teacher on 3 of those 4 instructional days due teachers being out and a shortage of substitutes. The only day I did not substitute was Monday- the day all students are virtual. The need for me to be a substitute teacher left the job I was hired to do unfilled. As we move further into December and January, the number of teachers who will be out due to leave, quarantine or illness will be even more significant due to the increasing number of COVID cases in the schools and community. The district needs to execute a plan that minimizes the disruption and discontinuity of the educational experience caused by the ongoing impact of COVID during this time. Such a plan must work to prevent a constantly changing situation of who is doing the teaching and where the teaching is being done. While I might be a familiar face from the library and can execute sub plans, I do not know them the way their regular teacher does. Only their teacher is aware if they struggle in math or reading, or knows how to get the quiet students to contribute to the discussion. The only option to minimize this chaos is to take an adaptive pause so that teachers, students and families will have consistency and be able to set their expectations. This is what the students need to experience everyday even if it is in a remote setting. Substitutes can't replace the bond, consistency, knowledge and care that students experience with their teacher. I ask the board to vote for an adaptive pause until at least January 19th so that students can have the continuity and care of their regular teacher in a predictable environment. Thank you.</p> |
| David Petersen | <p>As a pastor, which makes me an educator, and parent: protect the front line which in D25 includes the teachers, paraprofessionals, and THEIR families. And, remember, this too will pass. Practice the patience and hope we try to instill in our children. We are the examples they see, respect and look up to.</p> |
| Jim Licato | <p>We are disappointed in the way our school board is the only one in the area who has disregarded the advice of experts (our own superintendent, CDC, WHO) in making decisions that impact the health and safety of our children, teachers and staff. Our children are currently hybrid but based on the alarming increase in COVID cases, we support an adaptive pause at least through January 19. In addition, we do not support a full in-person return until safe metrics are met. We understand that we will have the choice to be fully remote (and we will exercise that choice if forced to) but our teachers will not. We would prefer that our children receive a remote education from their highly qualified, talented, dedicated D25 teachers than either a remote or in-person education from a substitute teacher—particularly a substitute who has been hired at the last minute, potentially without a background check. We fear that the decisions being made by this board will deter D25 from attracting quality teachers going forward, potentially impacting our school district, our property values, and most importantly, the well-being and success of our children.</p> |
| Jenn Licato | <p>We are disappointed in the way our school board is the only one in the area who has disregarded the advice of experts (our own superintendent, CDC, WHO) in making decisions that impact the health and safety of our children, teachers and staff. Our children are currently hybrid but based on the alarming increase in COVID cases, we support an adaptive pause at least through January 19. In addition, we do not support a full in-person return until safe metrics are met. We understand that we will have the choice to be fully remote (and we will exercise that choice if forced to) but our teachers will not. We would prefer that our children receive a remote education from their highly qualified, talented, dedicated D25 teachers than either a remote or in-person education from a substitute teacher—particularly a substitute who has been hired at the last minute, potentially without a background check. We fear that the decisions being made by this board will deter D25 from attracting quality teachers going forward, potentially impacting our school district, our property values, and most importantly, the well-being and success of our children.</p> |
| Anita Bakou | <p>We wish to keep our kids hybrid at least until full time is possible.</p> |
| Katie Zabor | <p>Please continue hybrid for elementary level</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Danielle Rubel | <p>I am writing to urge you to take action and put district 25 on an adaptive pause, effective immediately. While I understand an adaptive pause is not favorable for SOME members of this community, I believe that most are in favor of this decision - even though our voices are not as loud - as it's one grounded in safety and current data. Since the board is not comprised of public health experts or educators, it only makes sense that they trust those in those fields for accurate, unbiased information and best practices.</p> <p>My husband and I made the choice this week to keep our kids, who typically go to school 2 days/week, home to learn remotely. We felt this was the only option we had. We know of families that traveled and/or who had large gatherings over Thanksgiving who did not plan to keep their children home. We painfully wrote the following email to our children's teachers: "Nick and I are emailing to let you know that Colin, Logan, and Jack will not be in-person for class for the rest of this week and likely next week. Since the school board voted against Dr. Bein's suggested adaptive pause, we do not feel comfortable with in-person learning at this time. Please know that this has nothing to do with your efforts to keep students safe at school. Rather it's the alarming positivity rate in the community, the lack of regard the school board has for student and staff safety, and our distrust in our fellow community members who we know are not following guidelines yet are pushing for increases in in-person instruction.</p> <p>In addition to fearing for our own kids' safety and yours, Nick owns a small business and our family doesn't want to have to close again due to potential exposure. We fear our school board has failed not only our children, but the D25 staff and community as well.</p> <p>As always, we are continually grateful for all of your hard work, your flexibility, and your grit to work through challenging situations. We are so thankful for each of you."</p> <p>I'm a teacher and instructional coach in another school district. We are on adaptive pause until January 19th. According to current ISBE guidance, if I am teaching from school, I am not allowed to be in a room with anyone else unless I am co-teaching. All communication needs to be done virtually and not in-person. If no more than one masked adult can be in a room when no students are present, why does the school board think that an adult and 15 kids can safely be in a classroom together with the current rate of community transition? Putting D25 on an adaptive pause is the safest option for not only our students and staff but the whole community as well. My family seriously hopes you consider this option.</p> |
| Victoria Shane | The vote should be in favor of adaptive pause. |
| Matt Larson | I think we should allow teachers to work from home as long as reasonable standards are maintained and we should just go to full remote just like we did at the beginning of the year. This would maximize consistency. |
| Amanda Lace | When is the board going to present the approved matrices that will fluidly move students and staff through fully remote, hybrid, and full in-person learning models? |
| Jamie and Maureen Schmidt | Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Cindy McIntyre | <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a 36-year taxpayer in Dist. 25 and have recently been made aware of the fact that the Dist. 25 school board is not adhering to the vetted medical and educational recommendations, regarding school attendance vs. remote learning. I am appalled and astounded!</p> <p>WHY are these guidelines being put aside? Are any school board members experts in the medical field of pandemics or have their PhDs in education? How can you begin to know more than the experts in these fields?</p> <p>You are there to represent the taxpayers of Dist. 25 - you are not on the board to vote for your agenda and personal wants - you are there to vote on taxpayers' wants. How dare you think you know what is best for our children in the Dist. 25 community, without listening to the very people we have confidence in to run our schools - the teachers and superintendent! This district has had the very finest teachers and the current superintendent, Dr. Lori Bein, is one of the most respected, informed and available administrators in the district's history.</p> <p>Shame on you and the rest of the board members!</p> <p>You need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -respect the teacher's health and well being, -let Dr. Bein lead the transitions back to safe learning and -follow the medical recommendations handed down by the medical experts. <p>You are there to represent me and ALL of the taxpayers of Dist. 25 and not a select few vocal parents.</p> <p>Cynthia McIntyre</p> |
| Tara Houx | <p>As much as I would love for the kids to be in school, I believe we need to follow the IDPH guidelines and urge the district to take an adaptive pause until mid-January. I would much rather my kids be learning remotely with their regular teacher online than in person with a substitute teacher, which I would anticipate would be the case more frequently if we stay in person due to increased exposures.</p> |
| Nicole Barbieri | <p>I have been a part of District 25 for six years, and am a former substitute teacher and classroom teacher in the district as well as a current parent to three daughters. District 25 is a model school district that has dedicated leaders, caring and qualified teachers, and amazing students. During this time, I have watched my daughters' teachers in amazement-I honestly don't know how they are doing it all! I have complete admiration for their talents and ability to remain dedicated to their students at such an unprecedented time. Dr. Bein has worked tirelessly to try and make the best choices for our district, and I commend her work. The staff continues to work, but I can see they are physically and mentally worn down. They are balancing two groups of students, planning engaging lessons for all curriculum components, continuing to create a safe environment, and on top of that worrying about their own health and safety. The difference between the rigor now and in March is immeasurable. In the spring, the state placed limitations on the amount of work that could be provided, it was not the district's decision. District 25 staff members have each child's best interest at heart all of the time. Lately, I'm questioning the decisions that the Board of Education has presented in recent meetings. More students in buildings now? Find more subs now? Look around-many surrounding districts are taking an adaptive pause. There is community spread and one school within our own district has been shut down. Students need their own teacher during this pandemic, not substitute teachers who have to learn the plans, utilize the tech, and keep the pandemic in the back of their mind throughout the day. As a former substitute, that is a lot to manage all in one day's work. I'd invite you to shadow a staff member for a full day to see all they are managing. The Board of Education needs to see that their own plan is not working. You need a new plan for now, a safer plan that controls the spread of the virus. No one wants to be remote, but it's the best choice for now. We ALL want to be in school again, but if we cannot stay healthy, more of us won't be able to enjoy school to the fullest when things take a positive turn.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Patricia Litberg | <p>Please, for the safety of our students, staff, teachers, and community, follow the ISBE and IDPH metrics and move SD25 to an Adaptive Pause until such time as it is safe to return to the Hybrid Model. Look at what's happened at Thomas Middle School! We can no longer wait; the Covid numbers are rising in our state, our county, and our community. SD25 parents, taxpayers, and voters are paying attention - please put safety first and make the right choice. We are the only district in the surrounding area moving toward in-person learning. District teachers are overwhelmed, exhausted, and demoralized. As shown by the results of your own survey, the majority of your constituents want the ISBE and IDPH metrics to drive decisions. Those metrics indicate it's crucial that our district take an Adaptive Pause. Please vote accordingly.</p> <p>Sincerely, Pat Litberg</p> |
| Kevin Reed | <p>Since these comments just get rolled up to a summary tally as they are reported to the board, here are the key steps the board should take:- Vote to move immediately to an adaptive pause through at least January 19th- Recognize that Thomas Middle School being ordered to be closed by the health department reflects a failure of the school board and the district administration to provide a safe environment for staff and students- In prior board meetings, you have thoroughly demonstrated that you don't understand the data or the public health issues in front of you, as a result please: - Adopt a metrics driven decision making framework developed by a professional organization such as CCDHP, IDPH, CDC and not one made up by the board or the district - Use community based case metrics and not ones the collected by the district- Hire a professional public health expert to advise you on adopting the decision making framework. Also use this person to review existing controls within the schools and recommend modifications to make them useful. Have this expert audit the execution of these plans as well to ensure that they are being properly performed</p> |
| Celina McIntyre | <p>I'm not sure what this board is planning on discussing today, but I did have a question about the continued effort to keep the schools open and not go to a full remote plan. IL covid numbers are not going down anytime soon, especially entering the holidays. Has there been a discussion about testing staff/faculty, on a weekly basis? There are companies that provide the testing kits and will pick up the samples and bring it to a lab. Staff can swab themselves and turn around time is 48 hours. This would give us the information to isolate those who need to be and also give staff the peace of mind while at school, and at home with their family members. As of November 17th, the FDA passed the first COVID 19 self test for at- home use. For now, that test needs doctor's prescription. So, until that is more readily available, this weekly test of staff could be a highly beneficial option. We could look into the PTA for their assistance for any carrying costs, otherwise cost is free to each person swabbed . The vaccine isn't the solution and we can't wait that long to fully open schools. If we can recognize who is positive, and/or who is an asymptomatic carrier, then we significantly cut down the spread of the virus in the schools. American Academy of pediatrics has noted that children are not significant drivers of the virus, which is why testing staff (adults) is key. Please look into this option and allow the kids back in school!! TRY and make it work. It's easier than you think.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Whitney Simon | <p>I am the parent of two students at Windsor. I am writing again to the school board to voice my support for remote learning, specifically an adaptive pause until at least 14 days after winter break is complete. This provides enough time for a mandatory quarantine from the classroom for those who travel during the break. The current conditions are simply not safe for students, teachers and staff to be in the buildings at this time, and they are likely going to get worse before they get better. Last month, the board asked us to trust our community. We tried to, and our community failed us. Since that board meeting, we have watched so many in our community do everything but follow the guidance under the new mitigations put in place by Governor Pritzker. I have heard students in my children's classes discuss their Thanksgiving celebrations, including trips to Florida, gatherings at Grandma's house, and sleepovers with cousins. This is in addition to the weekly stories students share about weekend birthday parties, play dates and other gatherings. The fact is that people are not following the rules, which means we can't be confident that schools are the safe space we so desperately want them to be. I am personally saddened that our teachers have to smile as they listen to their students recount unsafe behaviors at home that bring danger into the school building. Our teachers deserve better. They deserve to know that we care enough about their health and safety (and the health and safety of other students) to follow the stay-at-home advisory we are currently under in Cook County. Currently Cook County is at a 14.8 percent positivity rate. Arlington Heights is at 10.36 percent. Our rolling 7-day positivity count per 100,000 people is 374 (the 14-day number is actually 797, but it does appear as though the current sentiment with the board is to pick and choose numbers to fit a desired outcome). These numbers far exceed the maximum metrics the school district used to justify the start of hybrid learning. It is expected that we will see a surge on top of the current surge due to holiday travel, which we know happened in our community because we've seen it firsthand. Additionally, I know that the board is hesitant to send students to remote learning due to staffing issues. However, having teachers cover for each other due to sickness or personal reasons is not sustainable. Both of my children's teachers were out for at least two days this week (due to health issues), and neither one had an actual substitute for any of those days (so far...I can't speak to who is substituting on Friday yet). Staff members from other areas of the school have taken over, and while they have done a great job of teaching the students, it is not fair to take them away from their actual roles to complete the work for others. With so many schools going to an adaptive pause in the areas around us, staffing will only continue to worsen. We've heard so much talk about the quality of education children are receiving during the pandemic, but surely having a patchwork of spare staff coverage throughout the day isn't providing the consistency our children deserve. An adaptive pause that gives teachers the option to teach from home can help solve many of the issues we are experiencing right now. Quite frankly, I am so confused as to why our teachers weren't being given the option to teach from home when we were remote. Other districts have done this successfully, and I am sure that our amazing teachers can do just as good of a job at home if and when we are remote. The only responsible step for the board to take at this point is to call an adaptive pause until it is no longer dangerous for children and faculty to be in the building. We can't wait until there is another cluster in another school like there was at Thomas this week. Implore the board to vote for an adaptive pause. I would also like to ask the board to suspend any discussion of a return to full in-person learning, as there is no logic in even addressing that subject when the pandemic is raging all around us. Thank you for your time.</p> |
| Celina McIntyre | I do not support the an adaptive pause. |
| Laura Ackley | <p>I am in support of continuing the current model through the end of the year, working towards fully reopening in January, as planned. I am NOT in support of an adaptive pause. The kids need to be in school with their teachers, as much as they possibly can.</p> |
| Sonia Kerr | <p>I ask that you do not vote for an adaptive pause. I want my children in school, parents that want an adaptive pause have every right to keep their children home for eLearning but my children need to be in school in front of their teachers and with other children their age. Teachers are essential employees, if they don't feel safe teaching then they should resign their position so a replacement who wants to work can fill their spot.</p> |
| Julie Berry | Let parents decide on keeping their kids home and Allow teachers to do the same |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Megan Kelly | <p>I want my son to go back to school. He is missing his friends, his routine, his teachers, and most of all his 6th grade year at Thomas. I get so angry that we are in the predicament we are in. But when I hear the board members of district 25 blatantly disregarding science, ignoring the warnings of the scientific community about the challenging months ahead with the holidays looming, it infuriates me. Yes, making schools safe and keeping them open should have been our priority, but as a community we are not in a good place. Now is NOT the time to try to move forward with full reopening, when the science and the experts say we are in a very dire situation. To go into an adaptive pause until after the holidays are over only makes sense, please see that. Do not put the lives of our students and staff at risk. Close now, with a goal of working to keep kids in school a priority once the holidays are over. Please see the common sense in that, like the majority of other school boards around the area have already done. We will get there. But I feel like we can't stress enough, now is not the time.</p> |
| Scott Caro | <p>Dear Dr. Bein, Brian, Erin, Scott, Chad, Rich, Anisha, Gina,</p> <p>Please accept this email as community input for the school board meeting.</p> <p>I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing again and will continue to share my thoughts with you until SD25 offers full week in person learning. As many parents in Arlington Heights SD25, I will continue to advocate for my first-grade son's education.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the Board of Education continues to allow Dr. Bein to drag our community through this negative approach to educating our children. The process that we have been going through for the past seven months has been nothing but negative and fear. This must stop and I'm asking you to step up and take the lead to move SD25 in a positive direction. Your community is asking you to let them make the choice for their children's education. Let's work together to quickly find a way to make this happen...we need a plan, along with decisiveness. Obviously, Dr. Bein does not operate that way so it's incumbent on you (as she reports to you) to make this happen.</p> <p>I am asking you to not let Dr. Bein draw this school district down by closing schools to in person learning. PLEASE REJECT A MOTION FOR AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE.</p> <p>Another parent wrote a letter to you sharing options that I totally support. I strongly agree with the comments made so much that I'm including them below as I believe you should hear them again, and again, and again.</p> <p>"I think there are only two options for the board to take at this point:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reject a motion for adaptive pause as it is not supported by "the experts" (CDC, IDPH or CCPHD) or "data" (only 6% exclusions are from in-school contact). 2. Reject a motion for adaptive pause and introduce a winter break with NO school (remote or in-person) and resume full in-person on January 14th, adding the missed days onto the end of the school year shortening summer break. <p>While #2 is not something all will appreciate my view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Teachers are tired and overwhelmed: This will allow them to take a break and re-charge. · We are being good stewards for the community: A break will also shut down CAP programs, learning pods and other alternative education where outbreak is no less or more likely than in-school. · The union president said to the board: "Want nothing more than to be with our students in person" and "We would love to be in person when it is safe to do so." The summer will be safer. History shows a summer decline in spread, vaccines will be available." <p>My child's education is in your hands and I'm hoping you feel it's as important as I do. If you do, you will reject a motion for adaptive pause and work on getting him to in person learning five days a week.</p> <p>Regards, Scott Caro</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Amanda Eichstaedt | <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe. Please do not vote on an adaptive pause.</p> |
| Jen Erickson | <p>If an adaptive pause is put to a vote on Friday, December 4th, I'm writing to encourage the board to vote NO! I am a parent of 4 elementary school children who are thriving during in-school learning. I do not believe there has been enough statistical data shared to the community to warrant the reasoning for this pause. Without normalizing the data and understanding the percentage (positive vs tested), the data is just a count or self reported positives. Availability of testing and ease has become more available, does the district have data on whether more students are being tested? Currently, the districts Covid-19 count dashboard does not demonstrate a spike in the data presented at the elementary level or if there has, this information has not been disclosed or updated. Families can decide to choose the path for their children, students who choose to continue to go to school in person, should have the right to make that choice as well. I would also like the district to provide more information in regards to what our amazing teachers want. Not what the teachers union is sharing/saying but actual surveys from teachers on what THEY want. I know the community wants to support our teachers in anyway we can. Lets hear their voice.</p> |
| Carrie Dwyer | <p>Arlington Heights SD 25 should be on an adaptive pause at this point in time. The numbers within the community create an environment that is not safe. The number of cases at the middle school really emphasizes this point. In addition, in January, the 6 foot rule should not be adjusted to allow five day a week in person instruction. It is foolish and does not prioritize the health and safety of the students and staff.</p> |
| Matt Ackley | <p>We believe that our sons are best positioned for long-term educational achievement by physically attending classes. We are comfortable with and confident in the safety protocols. Continuing to offer in-person schooling is very important to our family and we believe that any families that do not want to accept the risk have a viable alternative via remote learning. And, while we respect the personal choice of each family, it is clear that any option/consideration that eliminates or further reduces the in-person schooling option unjustly and unequally punishes the students that are attending classes in-person. We are confident that the teachers are and will continue to find ways to effectively deliver content to both audiences in spite of the notable challenges...and we also believe that our educators should fully understand the value of in-person schooling for elementary aged students and have a duty/responsibility to continue to find a way to safely offer that option.</p> |
| Marcy Meyer | <p>I just wanted to comment here to all D25 staff reading these comments. Thank you for all you are doing this school year. I know it is beyond an impossible situation right now, and really this entire school year. Thank you for continuing to rise to the occasion no matter what comes your way, and for being there for our kids no matter the platform. We are so lucky to have each and every one of you in our community. Thank you.</p> |
| Tony Montesano | <p>Please vote YES to an adaptive pause.</p> |
| Kristina Heaton | <p>Dear Board of Education, I am writing to implore you to VOTE NO adaptive pause. Dr. Fauci and the CDC continue to recommend that children need to be IN school. As I'm sure you're aware, the CDC has even reduced quarantine time guidance.</p> <p>I understand that there is a large contingent of D25 parents lobbying you to shut down in person learning, whether out of fear, due to misinformation or other personal reasons. If those families are fearful or cautious, they still have the option to have their children remote learn. Please do not take away the option for our children to receive a (partial) in person education, they NEED this little bit of normalcy. Remote learning alone is not able to fully meet all children's needs. Thank you for your continued diligence and hard work.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Kyle Heaton | <p>Dear Board of Education, I am writing to implore you to VOTE NO adaptive pause. Dr. Fauci and the CDC continue to recommend that children need to be IN school. As I'm sure you're aware, the CDC has even reduced quarantine time guidance. School is ESSENTIAL, learning is ESSENTIAL and kids need to be in school (or at least have the option to be in school). I understand that there is a large contingent of D25 parents lobbying you to shut down in person learning, whether out of fear, due to misinformation or other personal reasons. If those families are fearful or cautious, they still have the option to have their children remote learn. Please do not take away the option for our children to receive a (partial) in person education, they NEED this little bit of normalcy. Remote learning alone is not able to fully meet all children's needs. Thank you for your continued diligence and hard work.</p> |
| Meena George, MD, PhD | <p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>As a physician working at multiple hospitals, I strongly urge you to institute the adaptive pause effective immediately – starting Monday, December 7th. Coronavirus cases continue to be at all time high numbers. Many hospitals are at 75% capacity or more and ICUs are at over 60% capacity. Most elective surgeries have been postponed. Hospital personnel are getting infected and there is now a shortage of staff. The spread is very real, and we need to protect our school staff, teachers, students, parents, and grandparents. We must do our part to decrease the spread and the mortality. Young people do die, albeit at a lower frequency, in addition to the elderly. Are we waiting to be the first school district to see a student or staff member intubated in the ICU, or God forbid, die? All surrounding school districts have shut down. There are only 2 weeks until winter break. The risk of continuing is simply not worth it. We need to make empirical-based decisions and not emotionally charged decisions. With a positivity rate of about 12% that is likely to increase due to the recent Thanksgiving break, the time has come to make the responsible decision - even if it is not the popular decision. Please, do the right thing. Act now. Take an adaptive pause until January and then you can reassess based on the numbers at that time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Meena George, MD, PhD</p> |
| Sarah Dempsey | I encourage the board to vote for an adaptive pause. |
| Heather and Jack Lockhart | <p>With record covid cases and deaths right now, we are writing in support of an adaptive pause for our district. Every other district in the surrounding area has studied the data and listened to the recommendations to take this step to keep their community safe and we need to do the same. Please do not listen to the ideas being presented to use only Arlington Heights data for our metrics as health department officials have specifically warned against this as we do not live in bubbles in our towns. Yes, I have the decision to keep my own children home but the staff does not have this same opportunity. Your decision to keep the schools open when it is not safe to do so puts educators at risk. It puts educators' families at risk. It puts anyone they come into contact with at risk as well. There is a domino effect that will occur should you choose to keep the schools open in a reckless manner and ultimately the board of education will be responsible and liable for the unnecessary illnesses that occur. I consistently hear the argument that teachers are essential workers. I agree with this which is why we continue to teach in these times through remote and hybrid learning plans. Of course, we all want the schools open fully but when the scientific evidence shows the devastating outcomes that will occur if we choose our desires over safety, we need to make the right decision for students and staff. This is not easy for anyone, but we are living in a pandemic and must adjust our way of life to ensure life continues for as many as possible. Please approve an adaptive pause to keep our entire community safe.</p> |
| Karen Jones | Please seriously consider an adaptive pause for the safety and well-being of students, staff and community members of D25. |
| Laura Zimmerman | We need to prioritize our children's academic progress and overall well-being by having them in school full-time. |

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| Emily Gromer | Vote no to the adaptive pause. We cannot substantiate current decisions with past positive cases! Thomas should not have been closed Thursday and Friday. Unless Dr Bein can fully produce evidence of 11 current cases, Thomas should be open. We also cannot close other district 25 schools out of fear. Follow the advice of the experts and keep schools open! |
| Michael McIntyre | I do NOT support an adaptive pause. I feel the district has a system in place that lets parents choose what they feel is best for their kids. If a parent does not support their child attending school, they can keep them home. If a parent does support their child attending, then they can go. Dr. Fauci has come out recently and said that schools are safe to open. I don't see how pausing and going against him benefits anyone. |
| Amy Darby | I am expressing my support of keeping D25 on an adaptive pause until after the holidays. Please protect our teachers and staff! |
| Nicole Hildebrandt | I cannot understand why D25 is not taking an adaptive pause to in person learning given the current positivity counts and continued spread of Covid19. We need to continue to keep our children and educators safe and the conditions within Middle School (9 different classes/day, changing classrooms / peers / teachers every 45 minutes) make it almost impossible to truly control exposure and contact to a high number of individuals on a daily basis. Please consider keeping remote education until it is safe to return. |
| Jenny Bornhorst | Dear AHSD 25 School Board- I feel that an adaptive pause is necessary at this time and through the holiday season in an effort to keep students and staff healthy. Thank you. Jenny Bornhorst |
| Barbara Watts | I am frustrated and angered that this board has allowed themselves to be pushed by people who don't even have children at the school. Both parents who actually have kids in district 25 and teachers should be considered the primary stakeholders. The positivity rate for Cook County is a staggering 14.8% as of today. The number of new cases by zip was 374 per 100,000. We are over double what the guidelines suggest as safe. The fact that this is even a debate is disgusting to be perfectly honest. It is unclear why the Board does not take the common sense approach to an adaptive pause is using the metrics they've already outlined. This is not political, it's public health. |
| Stephanie Levinsky | The relationship between management (school board) and union (ATA) is inherently designed to have adverse goals and objectives. If management is aligned to the union's requests you have a conflict of interest. By design, management and union have competing interests. The school board and Lori Bein need to stand up to the union. This has dragged on for months with no end in sight. The ATA (backed by a larger entity) is protecting its members. Your job is to protect the education and welfare of the students. Do the job you were elected to do. You are not an extension of the union. |
| Julie Gartrell | Please vote for an Adaptive Pause |
| Brian and Katie Gore | We believe the board should vote for an adaptive pause. |
| Agnes Kowal | Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. I am so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option. Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. My kids benefit most from in person instruction. Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff. Please give parents the choice and let our kids go to school. |

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| Janet Reich | We want NO adaptive pause. Our children need to be in at least 2 days a week if not 5!! We only have a couple weeks left until christmas break. That will take care of the adaptive pause. The numbers do not show a sufficient enough increase to justify a pause. The percentage of ACTIVE Covid cases (3now?)vs. the amount of kids in school(600) is nothing. .5%. ?? Use your heads to work out those numbers and listen to the recommendations to KEEP kids in school. |
| Molly siegel | I believe an adaptive pause would help ensure the safety of D25 students and staff. Post holidays I think would be safer. |
| Nick Rubel | <p>I am asking the school board to move to an adaptive pause until January 19th. In previous school board meetings there have been members who have said that school is the safest place for students to be throughout the week. I generally do agree with that statement, but following Thanksgiving break and upcoming holidays I do not believe that statement to be true. I have had my children tell me of classmates who traveled out of state over break and have not quarantined and resume in person schooling. I have had conversations with other parents who have overheard students talking in breakout rooms about traveling over Thanksgiving and again are currently in person. My wife and I have had to make the hard decision to keep our children remote during this time because of the lack of enforcement and follow through by the school district to continue to keep school safe for our children. The next several weeks are predicted to have increases in number of cases linked to Thanksgiving and then Christmas and New Years are likely to have the same affect. I do not understand why the school board would insist on being one of the only districts to remain hybrid. An adaptive pause at this moment is what will keep our children safe.</p> <p>You have a chance to make a decision that will keep our children safe over the next 7 weeks. Please vote to move to an adaptive pause.</p> |
| Chris Fontanetta | Please put D25 on a temporary adaptive pause to protect the safety of students, faculty, staff, and the entire Arlington Heights community. |
| Chuck Miller | I am not in favor of an adaptive pause. Schools are essential and we should have the choice to send our children to school. |
| Amy Cataldo | I am not in favor of an adaptive pause. Our children need to stay in person as much as possible. |
| Megan Geltner | <p>For the safety of our teachers, staff, students, and community, please reconsider Dr. Bein's suggestion for an adaptive pause through January 19th.</p> <p>Numerous neighboring districts, including our own High School District 214, have followed the science and recommendation of medical professionals, and prioritized the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff. While parents have the choice to keep their children remote, teachers do not have this choice. Please keep our hardworking and passionate teachers as safe as possible. Make their health and emotional well-being a higher priority. They should not have to fear putting themselves and their family at risk as positive case numbers surge. They deserve the support and compassion from the school board and the community, and deserve to feel valued.</p> <p>I agree kids need to be back in school, there is no substitute for in-person learning; but when it is safer to do so. If the goal of the district is to return to full in-person learning as soon as possible, take precautions now and put our district on an adaptive pause through January 19th, and give our community a better chance of fully reopening later.</p> |
| Alta Draut | It is rime for an adaptive pause. With no testing program in place, and cases rising, it is going to be extremely difficult to keep the school community safe. And as cases rise in the schools, this can also impact the greater AH community. |
| Todd Witherow | I would like the district to assess and define and present at the next board meeting why private school that have been full in-person all year, taking remote breaks when potential risk of spread are identified have had no staffing shortages impacting operations yet D25 continues to have this barrier. |
| Erin Kalaway | Children are struggling. Schools are safe. Time to give parents the choice to send their kids to school. Please vote no to an adaptive pause. |

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| Ann Gemmel | I am supportive of an adaptive pause for D25. I have to admit I'm kind of a loss for words for why we want to continue to press on (much less push for full time school) at what we know is going to be the height of the pandemic. As a high risk parent I have elected to keep my son remote. Yes this is my choice and I have a choice so I shouldn't complain and take away other peoples choices- I've been told a hundred times I get it!!! But right now I'm extremely concerned about the impact all of our actions have on the community and it's positivity rate. I'm also extremely concerned about our teachers. They are stretched so thin trying to teach remote and in person, and many fear for their own health. I don't blame them. Everyone keeps pointing to the fact that kids don't tend to get that sick. For once in our kids' entitled lives it's not about them. It's about us. The parents. The adults. The teachers. This is an ugly disease with long lasting consequences- often even for mild cases. I also have to say I don't think the positivity rate posted on the district pages reflects reality. We have had dozens of friends get covid and most believe they got it from their kids. However the way covid works you don't realize a child has it until the adult is very ill. One friend's entire block got covid from Halloween. The kids all had headaches or what appeared to be allergy symptoms. They were never tested. About 10 days after Halloween the adults started to get sick and many people ended up in the hospital. What I'm saying is that kids aren't getting tested as often and are often only seen to be "patient zero" retrospectively. Anyway, Christmas break is December 18th. We haven't even seen the thanksgiving spike yet. What on earth do we have to lose from a pause? Because we have a lot to lose if we handle this poorly. |
| Geoff Geltner | As a district tax payer, parent of two elementary students at Ivy Hill Elementary, and high school educator, I am shocked and dismayed that a vocal minority of people in our community are urging the school board to disregard a health pandemic in favor of getting their children back in the classroom. I miss my own students terribly and am eagerly awaiting the day when they are able to return to my classroom, but right now it is not safe to do. Life is hard right now for millions of Americans, whether it's related to job loss, financial situations, or health issues, and we need to deal with reality in a way that helps our city recover, keep people safe and hopefully return ALL of our children to schools as fast as possible. The fact that individuals are choosing to comment that their own child's personal education and situation is more important than the health and lives of all the other students and staff of District 25 is frankly appalling, especially when Covid cases are on the rise both locally and nationally. An adaptive pause through January 19th, as recommended by the Superintendent, doesn't just make sense, but is necessary to keep everyone safe. Sincerely, Geoff Geltner Ivy Hill Parent |
| Stephanie Fossler | NO adaptive pause. Please keep hybrid kids in school until winter break. |
| Erin Blackburn | Greetings, Thanks to the board for all your hard work during this time. Please vote no to an adaptive pause unless internal covid metrics warrant closing in person. Teachers' child care issues is not a valid reason to close the schools. A solution is to utilize specials teachers (art, gym, & music) to cover classes where teachers are working from home. This district needs a superintendent who finds solutions, rather than barriers. Thank you. |
| Dana Hackett | Day after day, I receive emails from parents suddenly choosing the remote learning option for the purpose of shrinking their "contact bubbles" -- in order to see their own families for the holidays. I would love to shrink my "contact bubble" so I can see my father, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment, for what may be his last Christmas. I am asking for an adaptive pause so that staff can be afforded the opportunity to shrink their "contact bubbles" without financial hardship - I know the BOE does not care about my family, but I do. |
| Lynn Bengtsen | Please vote yes for an adaptive pause to protect our students, staff, and community. Thank you. |
| Phil Bengtsen | Vote Yes to adaptive pause for AHSD25 . Thank you. |
| Karen Wolff | We urge you to keep school open. If some families are uncomfortable, such as upon return from a holiday break, they can choose the remote learning option for their students, rather than forcing all children to do so through closing school. Lastly, decisions should be made on a school-by-school basis: If a school has very low cases, it should remain open. In these situations, students should absolutely be afforded the opportunity to attend school. |

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| Jeffrey Gradek | <p>Health policy is set by the health experts. Local government uses the recommended health guidance to write policy- they don't change the guidance. The decision to bring students back for in-person instruction is chief among all of our concerns. But even as case numbers climb, infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci is in favor of keeping schools open. In an interview Sunday, December 2, on ABC's "This Week," Fauci said to "close the bars and keep the schools open...Obviously, you don't have one size fits all, but as I said in the past, the default position should be to try as best as possible within reason to keep the children in school, or to get them back to school." The CDC and the Department of Health both agree. (CDC states, "Everyone's goal is to prioritize the reopening of schools as safely and as quickly as possible given the many known and established benefits of in-person learning.")</p> <p>The direction is clear. The experts have set their guidance. It is best for our country to have kids in school (in person). It is the school boards job to make it happen - not to rewrite the guidance. "Making it happen" is not an easy task, but many headwinds, but that is the necessary job of the board and the community.</p> |
| Steven Andrews | <p>Our family is supportive of the District implementing an Adaptive Pause effective Monday, December 7, 2020 through Friday, January 15, 2021. The increase in cases following the holidays was completely predictable. A pause should have already been approved weeks ago. Thank you.</p> |
| Melisa Andrews | <p>Where do I begin? We shouldn't have to be doing this meeting because you the board are totally disregarding what science is saying! Not only that why are we the only district still open and bringing more students in during a global pandemic and a Thanksgiving Surge. YOU wouldn't do an adaptive pause so therefore CCDPH had to shut down Thomas because of the number of cases that were COMMUNITY SPREAD! This is why YOU need to follow community metrics. This is utter disregard for the safety and well being of ALL STAKEHOLDERS! PLEASE START ADAPTIVE PAUSE IMMEDIATELY!</p> |
| Michael Kuehl | <p>I'm writing in support of an adaptive pause. I'll keep this brief.</p> <p>Hospitals are overwhelmed.</p> <p>The spike from Thanksgiving is looming.</p> <p>Teachers and staff are stretched thin due to staffing shortages.</p> <p>There isn't enough space in buildings for students to go back safely.</p> <p>I can't understand how this isn't an easy decision to make; to keep our children safe, to keep our staff safe, to serve society, to better the community, to keep grandma alive, move to an adaptive pause.</p> <p>And for Pete's sake, stop trying to get all kids back in person. That's just asinine.</p> |
| Nataliya Turyanska | <p>We are together through this. Thank you for support and encouragement</p> |

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| Stephanie Rapone | <p>Do not move to "adaptive pause" or make any other moves to remove children from in-person learning. This includes putting a check-and-balance in place for Dr. Bein, since she is making decisions and closures that are NOT backed by facts. She has not shown the responsibility necessary to make these decisions independently.</p> <p>Please preserve the choice families currently have to keep their children home for remote learning if they feel that is the best option.</p> <p>Set the expectation with families and with staff that if they do not follow guidelines and recommendations from IDPH and CCDPH and CDC for the holidays that they are to self-quarantine (staff using their own earned time off or other legally-available time). Don't "ask". Tell. For staff, this should be a basic part of their job. It's ONE Christmas. Do your part.</p> <p>Hold Dr. Bein accountable for acting on the direction of the Board. Specifically: *Dr. Bein must take demonstrable action to overcome any staffing issues. *Dr. Bein must report on that action in a transparent manner, such as weekly reports including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What jobs have been posted, where and when 2) How many applicants there have been for each job 3) How many applicants have moved to the next phase in the process 4) The average time it takes to move an applicant through the process 5) How many offers have been extended 6) Specific actions being taken to improve all of the above and close the staffing gap <p>And, lastly, do NOT reinstate TAC. That group was formally disbanded and thanked for their service because they could not accomplish the task at hand. While it was successful for Dr. Bein as a stall tactic, it was not a success for our community.</p> <p>If the Board would like to chair a committee of COMMUNITY members (not district staff; the Board represents the COMMUNITY), then please consider starting your own group and accepting applications directly from the community. Do NOT give Dr. Bein another thing to do when she manipulated it the first time and can't perform the other tasks already given that only she can complete (like effectively leading and hiring staff).</p> |
| Heidi Steinike | <p>The board made a very proactive and productive decision to get kids back in school IN PERSON where they belong and where they are SAFE. It is now your job to put this decision into ACTION. Lets move FORWARD, not backward. Problem solve, be creative, utilize the community who WANTS to help and FOLLOW THROUGH on completing this very necessary step our kids and families are all depending on. Search for answers, because they are most certainly there. Ask for assistance because you will find it. FIND A WAY to meet this goal NOT create excuses and additional potential obstacles. Be ahead of the game and plan for the future which is right in front of us. We are counting on you and here to support you in getting our kids BACK IN SCHOOL! Lets make this happen now before it is too late! Thank you!</p> |
| Stacey Tobin | <p>I am writing today to support an adaptive pause through at least January 19, 2021. We know that school buildings are not islands - what happens in the community will affect the schools. Travel and indoor gatherings have and will continue to happen as we move into the holiday season and winter months, and the community-based metrics continue, for weeks now, to be higher than ISBE and CCDPH have deemed safe for in-person learning. The outbreak at Thomas is terrible, but unfortunately, it is also completely expected. And it will get worse. I am incredibly disappointed that the board continues to push off a decision and completely disregard the facts and science, state guidance, and the superintendent's advice. They are sending teachers and staff into the schools every day, essentially asking them to put their lives at risk while still expecting them to teach to the high standards of the district. This waffling and foot-dragging has to stop - look around at what's happening (in our zip code, village, county, state, and nation) and do what's necessary to protect our students and staff while this surge continues to burn through our community. Every case in our school is a case you could have prevented. Vote for an adaptive pause - it's not too late to do the right thing.</p> |

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| Ann Syversen Bullis | <p>I strongly oppose a return to full in-person instruction and even question a hybrid model at this point. I think that people look to our schools for leadership and direction. I believe that when we open our doors to students and families, we are sending the message that it is safe. I do not believe that is something that we as a collective educational community can assert during this pandemic.</p> <p>I also think that what's best for students is to have teachers that aren't stretched so thin and living in fear for their health that they are unable to be emotionally and mentally available to their students. They need time, resources, and grace while they work toward meeting the many needs of our students.</p> <p>Without a doubt, everyone wishes that we could return to our pre-pandemic normalcy; however, the reality is that it isn't safe especially as 1 in 1000 people in Illinois have died from Covid-19. I worry that the small, very vocal constituency is forcing people to make decisions that are not truly in the best interest of health and safety. Now is the time for courage and leadership from our BOE.</p> |
| Nathan Ulery | <p>I have previously written at length that an Adaptive Pause between Thanksgiving and the MLK holiday is a wise and prudent decision considering the current community spread of COVID-19 and the impact on staffing to our teachers. I continue to strongly believe that our children are best served educationally by having well qualified, familiar teachers with our children virtually than it is to have unqualified substitutes babysitting in-person. The recent shut down of Thomas due to 11 cases plus how many parents have pulled their children from hybrid illustrate the need to be in an adaptive pause. Dr. Bein reported that 200 students pulled out of hybrid prior to the Thanksgiving holiday and I imagine similar numbers after the holiday. In my son's class, less than 10 kids went in person at any time this week. Once we are past this risky period of the holidays, AHSD25 should return to hybrid learning until such time as the metrics support in-person learning. We should not let politically motivated changes in our metrics and limited at school spread of COVID lure us into a false sense of security by eliminating the 6 foot desk-to-desk distancing requirement. Until we are well into the low risk metrics as established by the CDC, IDPH, and the CCDPH, we should retain the full social distancing which requires us to stay in hybrid. Hybrid serves the community best as it gives everyone choices. Some families can choose to stay at home. Some families can choose to be in-person with hybrid. All families get to stay with their well qualified classroom teachers who know our children. Any move to full in-person prior to being in a low risk category removes choices from parents.</p> |
| Michael Kuehl | <p>I'm writing in support of an adaptive pause. In my previous note I mentioned all the negatives surrounding in-person/hybrid learning, but here is a positive reason to shift to remote: doing so now will allow households to self-isolate before the holidays. Congress is trying to do the same thing.</p> <p>Be smart, be safe- Take an adaptive pause!</p> |

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| Lindsay Jurjovec | <p>I am writing to encourage the board to vote NO to an adaptive pause. If this is going to be a consideration, I feel there needs to be a very clear explanation of the data which is determining this decision and what has changed since your last decision to continue the hybrid model. Why does there have to be a one size fits all model during this time? There are classrooms with very few students in them, there are teachers that want to be in the class with their students. My sons kindergarten class has on average 4-6 students in the room. Why would we close classrooms that are staffed and have few students in there? Please consider an individualized approach and audit of classrooms within each different school building to allow for students to remain in school when possible. Once again, I would like there to be some extra consideration given to our youngest learners. My son is in kindergarten. This is his first year in the district. We all know the research shows that early education and intervention is essential to student's long term success. Please have a different mindset and approach when developing plans for our youngest learners and consider allowing these classrooms to remain open if possible. The reality that kindergarten students have had an abrupt and prolonged disruption to their earliest school years is so disturbing and we may be dealing with the long term effects of this for years to come.</p> <p>Also, as a school counselor at a high school district just north of us, I would like to share that several school districts are starting to consider Surveillance Testing for their students & staff. Second semester, the high school I am working at will be implementing a school wide surveillance testing program so we can better understand potential cases and spread within our school community. It is efforts like this that could offer an extra layer of reassurance for continuing in person instruction and helps us keep our focus on our own school wide data. Studies have also shown that surveillance testing can help drive down transmission rates in the areas they cover. Has something like this been considered? Here is a link to New Trier High School's page explaining their program: https://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/Administration/About/Back-to-School/COVID-19_Screening_Program_Frequently_Asked_Questions/</p> <p>Thank you for your time and dedication during these challenging times.</p> |
| Tricia Fuglestad | <p>Please vote for an adaptive pause. We are not testing children in our buildings. They could be asymptomatic carriers of COVID. 6ft of distance and a cloth mask will not protect students and teachers from breathing in the virus after a full day of sitting, speaking, and maskless snacking. Our schools are not safe because the disease has not been controlled in the community. Please set metrics that match the expert advice of doctors and epidemiologists.</p> |

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| Maryann Zaleski | <p>What we are facing in our district is not a coronavirus crisis; it is a management crisis.</p> <p>First we heard schools were not safe, so we closed them and went remote in March and Septemeber. That was the right thing to do at the time to slow the spread.</p> <p>As the months have progressed, scientists and medical experts have concluded that children are not the problem- adults are the problem. When bars, restaurants, and other events where people congregate without masks or precautions are limited, schools can be safe if the right mitigations are put into place.</p> <p>The logical next move is to bring children back to school (especially those with needs), and TRY to see how this would work for the community. Instead, we are about to go into an adaptive pause because school is not safe? No, from my understanding, it is because teachers do not have childcare and we have a substitute shortage. That is not a coronavirus issue; that is called a management issue.</p> <p>How have private schools in our community in addition to a few other public school district been so successful? I think it's time our district explore other working models of hybrid and consider that full time school will never work for the teachers in this district. Please take the time to check out what Hinsdale's school districts have been doing with their AM/PM hybrid models. They have not had to close once and the children are in school each day.</p> <p>Education is essential. Without it, we lose our ability to understand the world around us and how to ruction in it. Whether teachers think so or not, they are essential. They are the deliverers of education, and remote teaching for young children (k-8) is not what education should look like as it does not meet the needs of all students and makes it nearly impossible to differentiate one's instruction. If we go into an adaptive pause for the remaining 6 weeks, it will only lead to continued negative outcomes for children. Please try to keep the hybrid model.</p> |
| Scott Dunning | <p>I would like to prefix my comment here by saying that I am in favor of an adaptive pause at this time and would very much like to see the board respect the data and metrics that are presented instead of trying to fit a square peg into a round hole.Moving on - I would just like to express how utterly disappointed in and, quite frankly, horrified I am by some of the rhetoric that is being used towards our teaching community. It is our teachers that make SD25 such a great school district - it has not occurred by chance!! These are highly qualified individuals that have chosen teaching as a vocation, that give it their all, that are currently working all the hours they can to make this current situation work (successfully I would say!) and they absolutely do not warrant, nor deserve, some of the vitriol that is being directed at them right now. I would like the board to condemn it, call for more civil engagement and encourage the various differing factions to tone down their rhetoric. We can agree to disagree, and we can all have very different views on how things should look moving forward, but directing attacks at teachers is below the belt and completely unwarranted!! I would like the people making these comments to think about whether they would speak to a teacher's face the way they do from the safety of their keyboard. I appreciate that everyone is frustrated, concerned and struggling right now but taking these feelings out on teachers - calling them "lazy" or "obstructionist" or suggesting they should lose pay if they want to spend Thanksgiving with their families is just outrageous! Teachers are human beings, they are members of our community, the contribute ENORMOUSLY to the wellbeing of our children in myriad different ways, they have families and worries of their own and it is wrong to diminish their fears and concerns in such a cavalier and obnoxious fashion simply because we are inconvenienced. We are SO CLOSE to this being over, the vaccine is on the horizon, we need to pull together right now, not apart, and do what's right even though it might not be convenient. I would also like to stress that what is said/posted in the heat of the moment remains online forever and I would remind some of these people that we can ALL see what they are saying.....and I'm not sure many of us will forget.</p> |
| Sara Mungovan | Please DO NOT approve adaptive pause! |

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| Michael Tumilty | We are requesting that the Board vote to support an adaptive pause that allows students who are identified as most at-risk (namely, those with IEPs/504 Plans) to continue to attend in-person. |
| Taylor Lindsey | Please vote for an adaptive pause now! The number of positive Covid-19 cases in our community is on the rise! This is evidenced by the recent decision to move Thomas Middle School to a remote learning model due to 11 positive Covid-19 cases reported in our school. The board's failure to vote for an adaptive pause at the last meeting resulted in unnecessary exposure of Covid-19 to our students and staff. The time to vote for an adaptive pause is now to limit the spread of Covid-19. |
| Lisa Peterson | Please continue the hybrid model until winter break. I have not seen any data or articles that show the virus is spreading in schools. Parents who want to keep their children home have the option to do so. Those of us that have children that need to be in school should have the option to attend at least two days until winter break and they should be in person full time in January. Thank you! |
| Angelica Andrews | Our family has already made several public comments to the board, so I will keep this brief. CNN reported on 12/4, "The United States recorded 217,664 new cases of Covid-19 and 2,879 related deaths on Thursday -- the most infections and fatalities in the country in a single day since the pandemic began." It looks like we have an effective vaccine ready for distribution, and I am hopeful that once enough Americans are inoculated, we will see a gradual return to normalcy. This will not happen immediately though. The next few months, experts warn, could be pretty devastating, and holiday travel and gatherings certainly will not help the situation. I understand that I have the choice to keep my son home (and I will until cases go down), but my concern is with the overall community. It is absurd to think this virus cannot spread within school. As a TMS parent, the Covid notifications have become a daily norm. Right now, the moral and ethical thing to do is to take an adaptive pause, like nearly every other school district, including 214. Nobody is asking for a permanent move to remote learning--rather we must frequently evaluate the situation and adapt. At this moment, an adaptive pause should be a no-brainer. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Erin McLaughlin, RN, BSN, MT (ASCP) | <p>1) I urge you to vote NO to an adaptive pause for District 25 hybrid education and begin full time, in person learning on January 19, 2021.</p> <p>Evidence shows that COVID-19 is not spreading in schools where the necessary mitigation strategies are in place. SD25's own contact tracing metrics support this conclusion. Although the number of cases and exclusions may be growing, that is directly attributable to increased cases acquired in the community and in the household. The fact that it is not spreading within our schools means the controls and protocols are working. Although there has been heated debate recently about returning to full in-person learning, there is no debate that our children benefit academically, socially, and emotionally from their time in the classroom with their teachers and peers. Follow the most recent advice of CDC Director, Dr. Robert Redfield and NIH Director, Dr. Anthony Fauci and keep our schools open.</p> <p>2) I suggest District 25 consider adding a full-time, mastered prepared public health administrator with statistics and/or research experience to the superintendent's staff. COVID-19 will be a hurdle in our community for years to come and hiring a full time health-care administrator is necessary for a successful full time 2021-2022 school year and beyond.</p> <p>The current COVID-19 situation is a crisis. A crisis that no one superintendent or board of education is qualified to manage. This is evident by the failed efforts over the last 9 months to get our children into the full in person learning that they require. COVID-19 will be a hurdle in our community for years to come and hiring a full time health-care administrator is necessary for a successful full time 2021-2022 school year and beyond. This individual can provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create, collect and analyze unbiased, scientific surveys/data from our community - create, navigate and interpret the complicated metrics for infectious disease spread and transmission - manage district wide School Nurse staff and contact tracers - oversee district wide mitigation strategies - and many more. |
| Peggy Kelly | Your child is better off if she attends school in person. The community as a whole is better off if all children stay home. Your student's well-being is no more important than that of the school secretary. This issue is about what is best for the greatest number of people. |
| Sarah Boeche | I vote no for adaptive pause |
| Elizabeth Green | I feel like a broken record in this endless battle for my children to have their right to a proper five-day IN SCHOOL education. Please vote AGAINST an adaptive pause. There are no metrics showing it a threat to keep the other schools in District 25 open. My son who goes to TMS was very upset when he was told that they would be full remote again. It is my hope they will re-open TMS on the 15th. It continues to be my hope to have a five-day, full-day option beginning immediately after winter break. My children want and need five day IN PERSON schooling. Families already have the choice to do full remote if they so choose. Don't take away the hybrid option from families who want and need in-person schooling. I don't know what exactly Dr. Bein's agenda is, but it does not seem, in any way, to support the best interests of the students. |
| Jennifer Jakopin | <p>Voting "no" on adaptive pause in schools.</p> <p>Encourage or require families that were traveling to stay home for 2 weeks, but do not mandate that all families/schools must go remote.</p> <p>Please use school transmission data to guide your decisions on how to proceed. It appears that school transmission is much lower than the spread in the community. It is so beneficial to the psychological and educational health of our children for them to be in school at least 2 days a week. We should do everything in our power to continue having children attend school in person safely.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Kyle Wilhelm | <p>As a board, you represent and serve the entire community. To be honest, I have been shocked and disappointed by your actions or rather inaction. I am continually confused by your determination to disregard recommendations from health officials, compromising the safety of all stakeholders. You go against recommendations from the Superintendent, a person understanding all the inner workings of our educational system and how it impacts our district. You do not actually use recommendations from the committees with teachers on them, the people in charge of delivering. The community fills out a survey and you disregard their wishes. Why are you continuing to make decisions against the wishes and opinions of the majority of all involved stakeholders?</p> |
| Tanis Kurzynski | <p>Hello. I want to thank you for all that you do. I am a parent of two grade school boys. My boys need to be in school. They are a kindof happy when they come home from school that I haven't seen much of in 2020. I appreciate how diligent D25 has been with following guidelines, and I am very happy to understand from the metrics and data that the spread of this virus is not happening in schools. If something needs to shut down, try TJ Maxx or Target in December. Not our public library and especially not our schools. *School closing has a deleterious effect on the mental health and well being of children. My pediatrician is on a task force with you to help you understand how children need to be in school...how MY children need to be in school. It is more harmful emotionally for children to not be in school than for persons to be sick. Please listen to this science***: The weighted impact of these children being at home for remote learning far outweighs the weighted impact of them going to school. Weighted impact has two components: probability of the bad thing happening and the actual measure of the harm itself. So, while an asteroid could potentially hit Arlington Heights and be catastrophic, we would not implement an asteroid defense system as the burden would mean certain economic ruin. So too, we need to balance the probability and harm of the virus with the burden and impact of keeping kids at home. From my perspective the at home learning is a 100% probability of harm to our children, while the in-school learning has yet to prove harm. This is science. Science is fact. In summary we are dealing with two harm issues surrounding school closure - emotional harm and intellectual harm. First, we are seeing a massive scale of childhood depression and anxiety, and it's happening here in my home. Second, is education, or lack thereof. Hindsight is 20/20 of course, but if anything, the MAP test scores have provided a small window into what we know to be true. It's going to take work to get these kids back, let's not push them back further. Please make the right choice. Choose science. Choose wisdom. Don't listen to the heretics. Thank you very much.</p> |
| Kristin Keil | <p>I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the Board Members. Between the hours of emails, research, and taking the time to listen to community members, the Board has sacrificed time with their families to make hard decisions for our students. I thank you and continue to support you in this process. This isn't an easy task as our community is passionate and everyone has so much invested in each decision because it affects our most valuable thing, our children. I wanted to reiterate my belief that we need to keep the schools open, operating under the current hybrid model. Continuing to allow them to attend in person learning would show the students we value their education and are trying our best during the pandemic to give them consistency. It will allow the teachers to continue to teach in the same setting which they have established a routine. I know that this year has been challenging for them with all the changes in routine; I truly believe having the students in the classroom is not just beneficial to the student's education and mental well being it is a sign that we can work together as a community with our teachers and school district to maintain a safe school environment despite all the chaos in the world right now. Thank you for your time.</p> |
| Bliss | <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding keeping our children, teachers and community safe during this pandemic. I understand why the board is hesitant to vote for an adaptive pause, but the board should consider the following: 60004 & 60005 currently has a rate of 10.36% of new cases (7-day average), the CCDPH has recommended Thomas Middle School to close and our ICU's* are at 77% capacity (only 109 out of beds available out of 719 in Region 10 as of 11/21). It is time we take a step back. I understand it's not what anyone wants to do but it is the right thing to do. Please vote for an adaptive pause.</p> <p>* http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/hospitalization-utilization</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Beth O'Meara | Please keep the option for hybrid/in-person learning. The district is doing a great job with COVID mitigations to keep teachers, students, and staff safe. Please do not move to full remote. |
| Kelly Frederiksen | <p>I am writing in support of taking an adaptive pause until at least January 19th. Not doing so is being negligent to our district 25 community as a whole. I know many families that went away for Thanksgiving, or joined other households for the holiday, and went to in person school the following week. You are putting too much trust in the community to mitigate the virus. There are also many families that still have their kids in sports, dance, swim, etc. and sending their children to in person school. This breaks the trust you have given to the community. Clearly, the honor system does not work. The community needs to understand, these are unprecedented times. We are in the middle of a pandemic. We all have to make sacrifices for the greater good, and children are not exempt from this. Is it ideal to have the kids do remote learning every day? Of course not. But are the teachers knocking it out of the park and teaching our kids well during a pandemic? Yes they are. Quite frankly, I'd like to see these teachers back in our district next year as well, but won't be surprised if they choose to leave because of the way they have been treated this school year. Sadly, because of the lack of support that has been shown for the teachers through this is going to be the downfall of our great district. While I keep hearing parents scream and demand a choice for in person for their children, I can't help but think about what a selfish way to think. The comments I've heard from our own community members regarding teachers is truly sickening to me, as they should be to you as well. A lot of these teachers are NOT replaceable. Just as there was a sub shortage even before the pandemic, there is also a teacher shortage. So yes, let's mistreat our incredible teachers, force them to leave, and then not be able to fill those spots. That seems like the smart and logical thing to do. This goes beyond safety. Staying open will not improve the quality of education our kids are receiving, it will hinder it. We will have subs, or teachers spread so thin they can't concentrate on their own classrooms. Staying open does not make our district great, it actually has damaged our reputation. Staying open does not make us a helpful part of the community, it makes us part of the problem. People can throw "facts" around all day long, but the only actual fact we have is that it is all too fresh to have any solid facts. Even the scientist will say that there is not enough data to create facts. I would also like to suggest a pause in the plan to re-open fully. This is not the time to be doing so. Our teachers are already spread so thin, putting this pressure on them, right now, is just another slap in the face to them. Let them concentrate on teaching our children. Worrying about the logistics of going to full time in person, or worrying about their own safety, or decisions they have to make that will change their livelihood, it's just a terribly mean thing to do. I write every board meeting, so clearly you know my position. I hope you choose to do the right thing this time and this board meeting doesn't prove to be a huge waste of time, once again.</p> |
| Carrie Regilio | Please vote no for an adaptive pause and keep schools open. Let parents decide what is best for their children. I believe in person learning is essential for my kindergartener. |
| Bliss Hansen | <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding keeping our children, teachers and community safe during this pandemic. I understand why the board is hesitant to vote for an adaptive pause, but the board should consider the following: 60004 & 60005 currently has a rate of 10.36% of new cases (7-day average), the CCDPH has recommended Thomas Middle School to close and our ICU's* are at 77% capacity (only 109 out of beds available out of 719 in Region 10 as of 11/21). It is time we take a step back. I understand it's not what anyone wants to do but it is the right thing to do. Please vote for an adaptive pause.</p> <p>* http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/hospitalization-utilization</p> |
| Christine Naunheimer | <p>I am not in favor of an adaptive pause.</p> <p>Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Jeffrey Van Buren | <p>Good morning There are rumors floating around this am that the adaptive pause that is being pushed for during the board meeting tonight is do to staffing concerns. I wanted to speak to this as I work in an industry that requires staffing 24/7/365. Not just any staff but certified licensed staff. The end consumer of my industry is the human being. I'm a nurse I work in a large hospital that cares for the spectrum of humans. We deliver babies and we care for the elderly up to their last breath. This is an industry that has been working at more than 100% the last few months (that's the public's perspective). We work at almost 100% all the time most of my 15 years in nursing I've seen the hospital almost at capacity. So let me tell you about our unique staffing issues and some solutions that we some times do. There may be beds with no patients in them but according to staffing grids and patient to nurse ratios there is no nurse to cover that bed. In these kind of cases we pull nurse from other units we pull nurses from non patient care areas to help with the short fall. This may mean some times cancellations in no urgent procedures or non urgent patient admissions also. This may also mean that we pull in nurses who are dedicated educators. My supervisor has come into staff to take patients. When I hear that we don't have enough teachers this is where we need to start thinking creatively and starting trying things that we have no done before. This is what we as a hospital had to do when we turned our 650 bed hospital into an 1100 bed hospital by putting two patients in one room. (Back in the old days when I started nursing this was the norm). We needed to think creatively. So how can the school district think creatively? Let's take all the gym teachers and put them in a classroom and cancel gym did two weeks. We now have teachers certified teachers in the classroom. How about our art abs music staff? What about our band staff? What about all the administrative people? I'm sure that at one point our principals and superintendents and other staff were teachers. I know it does not look pretty or it may not flow great abs people may not like it but is a bandaid on a wound. We have a lot of people in our school district with lots of letters on the end of their names. I have lots of letters at the end of my name but I'm dumbfounded that we are not thinking out of the box? I am perplexed that this has been an issue since before thanksgiving but there are currently only problems and no creative solutions. One of the big quotes that has stuck with me during my professional career is Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. Part of your job is working and coming up with creative ideas to keep the schools running smoothly and the doors open and children learning. Why now are we failing? Jeff Van Buren RN BSN CCRN TNS Father of three boys at Ivy Hill Elementary School</p> |
| Mairin Gradek | <p>Our children need to continue to be offered in person instruction. There is no reason for an adaptive pause with the mitigation in place at school. The district has known that staffing would be a concern and yet dismissed personnel in the fall and only recently showed increase signage for open positions. The administration must get creative and should have done this prior to the start of the school year. We are in the 9th month of remote learning and it has significantly impacted children's mental health in ways not appreciated. Keep the schools open and continue to increase in person learning efforts</p> |
| Tom Schorsch | <p>I am a teacher in D25. I respectfully request the D25 board of education approve an adaptive pause, as recommended by the Superintendent and her team. The superintendent knows what is best for the safety and health of students and staff at this time. While we all want students in school where they can learn best, an adaptive pause now can ensure that we will be ready to welcome students back with more confidence when it is safe to do so. Thank you.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Jacalyn Derengowski | <p>Thank you to the School Board for taking time away from their family as part of a voluntary position in service to the students of SD25. The community is grateful for your service in representing our community of children as they are our future. Just to review, what do we know? No public health or professional organization is saying to close the schools. The recommendation is that all schools should be open. The board and Dr Bein have provided remote learning for those families who choose to keep their children at home. They have a choice. The board has voted to set January 19th as target date to return to Full, inschool learning AND keep remote learning for those families who choose it. Families have choices. What do we do now? I request that the school board stand united to vote no on an adaptive pause. You have the power as elected representatives of our community. We, the people, gave you that power. Substandard education should not be accepted as the new normal in our community. Using fear and funny math for power and dominance versus meeting the needs of children in this community is what this vote is about. The board handing over their power to Dr Bein is an abdication of the position/seat in which you sit as sd25 board members of our community. Giving power to those who cannot be held accountable is the definition of insanity. The children in this community have a job, that is to learn. It is your job to protect their access to education in the most optimal setting that they choose. Remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice that allows you to sit in your chair tonight as a member of SD25 school board. Enough is enough. Stop the rules for thee but not for me mentality. Bad things happen when good people stand by and do nothing. Let them learn!</p> |
| Ina Myers | <p>I am not in favor of an adaptive pause for my grandchildren.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> |
| Barb Naunheimer | <p>As a resident of D25 and grandparent to kids in D25, I am not in favor of an adaptive pause.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> |
| Anton Naunheimer | <p>As a resident of D25 and grandparent to kids in D25, I am not in favor of an adaptive pause.</p> <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| John Lazzari | <p>I am writing to request that you vote to take an Adaptive Pause as many other districts in the area. I understand that as parents we have a personal choice not to send our children to school and choose full remote, which we are currently exercising (we chose this the first day returning from break prior to Thomas going full remote). However there is a greater impact to our children if not in adaptive pause that is outside of our control. This is in addition to the concern I have for the overall community health. We have 2 children with IEPs at Thomas Middle school. At least one of the teachers (likely both) that we depend on most for their IEPs had to take COVID leave since they are unable to be in school in person. I respect their need to do this as everybody has their own situations and needs. When they do this however, they are also unable to teach remotely. This means that my children will not receive the services they need from qualified teachers if the school remains in person. If the school is remote (as it currently is) the teachers my children depend on most are available. I understand that this is specific to our situation, however if my family experiences this there must be others as well. I have heard the Board mention in every meeting that they have significant concerns for IEP students and this is one reason they are pushing for in person instruction. In our situation the in person actually leads to less instruction and has the exact opposite impact that the board claims they are striving for. I want nothing more than for my children to be in school when it is indeed safe and they will get the instruction they need. Prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday we were Hybrid and we saw the positive impacts of in person learning. Our children, as I assume most do, definitely learn better with appropriate qualified teachers during in person school. This is especially true as they have IEPs. The decision to not take an adaptive pause however will negatively impact their education since the appropriately qualified teachers will not be available when in person instruction continues. This is regardless of if we send them to school or choose to keep them home. The actions of this board are actually having a significant negative impact on the education my children are receiving. Regardless if we make the personal choice to keep our children remote, or send them to school, they will not get the services they are legally entitled to in their IEPs due to those qualified teachers being unavailable. If the district takes an adaptive pause they will regain access to those services by qualified teachers through remote learning. It is not perfect but nothing is these days. If the school returns to in person or hybrid, they are met with less than qualified over tasked substitutes and do not get the appropriate attention they are legally entitled to. Thank you for your consideration John</p> |
| Suzanne Fasolo | Please do not remove in person learning. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Nicole Towle | <p>Dear Dr. Bein and D25 School Board, Thank you very much for your ongoing support of our community and our children. We appreciate your approach and pursuit of providing in school opportunities for our children during the pandemic. This is a plea to continue your path of supplying in school learning opportunities. Do not thwart that path by implementing adaptive pause for all. For those families who are concerned of exposure or safety, the option of full remote should continue. But adaptive pause removes our rights to provide the in school option for kids who we feel are better suited for an in class experience. Continuing hybrid provides options for all; adaptive pause eliminates choice and forces kids fully online, which we've found personally detrimental in our home to our children's social emotional health and school success. Dr. Robert Redfield, director for the CDC, shared on December 2nd that schools are not a major coronavirus transmission source. So why are we bending in fear? What is driving the adaptive pause when the CDC just encouraged schools to continue offering a safe in person option, which D25 has implemented successfully? Though districts around us have implemented adaptive pause, why must D25 follow suit? It's time to be innovators, not imitators. It's time to lead, not follow. The Catholic and private schools have shown us what's possible. Keep the schools open, don't succumb to fear, and continue to provide the in school option so families can CHOOSE what's best for them. Finally, my hat is off to all the wonderful teachers and administrators who have gotten us to this successful place with the hybrid option. Their dedication to our students is amazing. It is truly appreciated. Sincerely, Nicole Towle</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Jennifer Ponivas | <p>Head of the CDC says kids should be in school. Fauci says kids should be in school. Study upon study, data upon data showing schools are safe and kids are not at risk. (https://www.foxnews.com/health/schools-coronavirus-transmission-redfield.amp?fbclid=IwAR3WUCNaK58SqPHhJmexgrT5BnuEjz8ZxZt-AIXYhiV4iHAjydO5GSwdI) And yet here we are again with an agenda item to vote for an Adaptive Pause. Schools are not the reason the virus is spreading. https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2020/12/3/22151522/illinois-schools-public-covid-19-superspreaders-cps-coronavirus-reopen?fbclid=IwAR1VS1C9uw9ybFoh5HlpoufG8ilRuWL6ZsAGAvB_MGOKmNPTBoK8ejuwU_0 That being said I'd like to take a look at the numbers. I am sure not everyone is aware but the schools numbers also include children who are 100% remote who don't ever step foot into the building. Can you provide rationale on why you need to know the symptoms of students who are 100% remote? Is it to pad your numbers? Please give details on the Thomas closure for 2 weeks. I understand that the last time the students and teachers were in class was Nov 16. Would not a 2 week quarantine have ended already? Why shut them down now? Can you delineate how many were Staff vs Students and even further break it down to support staff, hybrid students, remote students? Were these numbers from the additional individuals in the building because of the food pick up program? Will the program be stopped or moved due to this pause since the email seemed to indicate it was unsafe to enter the school. Are staff that help with the food pick up at Thomas counted twice if they get it meaning once for their home school location and once for being at Thomas? Is the push for the adaptive pause now because neighboring districts have done so and now teachers are having to scramble for childcare like the rest of the parents have been doing since March? If the parents of D25 can figure it out the teachers of D25 should be able to figure it out. None of our SD25 schools are on the IDPH's list of school outbreaks. From IDPH: definition of an outbreak "Specific outbreaks included are those that have been identified by the local health department to have five or more COVID-19 cases who may have a shared exposure on school grounds and are from different households. Case counts for school-related outbreaks also include those associated with before and after school programs (e.g., school-sponsored sports). These outbreaks do not include secondary cases that may occur in a household member who has not been on school grounds." https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/school-aged-metrics?countyName=Illinois Lastly, I ask you to tell me which is best for our society: closing schools because of a flu-like virus where survival rates are more than 99.5% for those under 60, or having children suffer psychological damage they may never recover from because they can't go to school (https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/lodi/woodbridge-elementary-student-suicide/103-c322c7b2-b150-415b-8213-fa6baf4dec9f?fbclid=IwAR0upOyzMSrxU_FEJPCwOGV4QrrJ93lZD7qsi7Vg82qFK7lZaLH9Yv3o17g) I'm asking that you have the courage to do what is best for our children and vote NO to the adaptive pause.</p> |
| Lisa Duello | <p>Allow parents to chose what is best for their child's education. Give parents the option to not only continue with hybrid, but also move forward with 5 days of in person learning. Parents MUST be given the CHOICE to do what is best for our individual families. It is our RIGHT to choose for our families. DO NOT TAKE THAT RIGHT AWAY FROM US. I oppose the adaptive pause.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Liz Osterhues | <p>Thank you for your work at the 11/19 board meeting in which you stood firm and kept our kids in school. Thank you for not going along with the Adaptive Pause recommendation. Thank you for listening to the community, and more importantly, for listening to the advice of the health and medical experts and following that advice instead of caving to fear or false claims. Anisha, thank you for listening to my concerns about students in SpEd and asking Dr. Bein how the District, if in Adaptive Pause, can ensure a quality education for these students and how the district will meet their needs. Please continue to keep these vulnerable students top of mind in your discussions and decisions ahead, especially tonight. I ask this of all of you. This evening you will be voting on Dr. Bein's repeated recommendation for Adaptive Pause. Science says this is wrong. Data shows this is wrong. Doctors and the medical community say this is wrong. There are 2 separate petitions circulating at this very moment clearly communicating that this is not what the majority of District 25 families want. Previous surveys and community comments have repeatedly expressed that the D25 community does not want an AP. Medical experts and psychologists warn of the dangers of this to the mental health of children. Research continues to state that schools are safe and not places of super spreading. Yet, here we are again, discussing Adaptive Pause, and now you are tasked with voting on it. Dr. Bein, and any members considering approving her AP recommendation: I don't know what else can be shared with you to demonstrate how wrong and harmful AP will be for our students. And not just for some students, but for all students. We have shared with you the science, the data, research articles, advice from a variety of medical experts and organizations, and we have flooded your emails advocating for our kids to stay in school. Approving a move to AP will only indicate to our community that not only do our voices not matter, but the advice and research of the experts who know best mean nothing. I am in a very unique situation and one that may make it seem strange to you that I am so opposed to an AP. My situation? I have a child who is 100% fully remote. But here I am, firmly against moving to an AP for the exact reason you should be - it takes away choice for all families. And choice matters because every family is different and every child's needs are different. I know this too well. I have one child who WANTS to be in school full-time. Like all kids, it's what is best for her and it's where she wants to be. She is learning in the hybrid model, but not to the degree that she would if she were fully in-person. I have a second child who NEEDS to be in person. She has special needs and NEEDS in-person instruction to learn. In-person learning is critical to her success. Learning remotely, by herself, without the necessary accommodations, modifications and supports defined in her IEP is the equivalent of telling a parapalegic to finish a race without his/her wheelchair. My third child wants to be in school but CAN'T be right now. While I believe schools to be safe for most, and I believe the data that shows they are not places of super spreading, I choose to listen to the advice of our medical team and keep Louise home to reduce any potential risk to her health. This is a CHOICE we made for her that differs from the choice made for our other daughters. To move to an AP, and take away the choice that we all currently have, may be okay for my 1 child, but it fails my other two. Should you choose to move to an AP, I beg of you that you do not repeat last spring. Should you go against science and the wants of the community, please, at least continue to provide in-person specialized instruction for your most vulnerable students - those with IEPs, 504s, and ELL. Teachers should still be in their classrooms, not working from home. There is no reason for them not to report to their buildings. None. They are essential. They are the MOST essential workers; without teachers, we wouldn't have doctors, nurses, grocery clerks, etc. And just like the doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters and countless others who continue to do their jobs, while also caring for their families, so too should teachers. I know it's hard, and they have families, but others are doing it - and have been since COVID arrived. If moving to an AP means our most vulnerable learners will lose all in-person instruction and support, then, I apologize for sounding harsh, but you should be ashamed and our Superintendent should no longer be in education making decisions that impact children's lives so greatly. To take away their in-person instruction and supports is like taking away that racer's wheelchair. Please don't allow this to happen. Please keep our kids in school. Continue to provide families choice. And please don't leave students with special learning needs behind. Respectfully advocating for my children, Liz</p> |
| Helen Barajas | <p>An adaptive pause should not be taken unless there has been a significant increase in COVID cases. The hybrid model is providing a good balance for the students until a full return is safe.</p> |
| Boguslaw Szeszko | <p>I do not understand why Thomas went full remote based on cases identified in individuals who were in contact with school beyond the quarantine period. I continue to fully support a return to full in person schooling.</p> |

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| Stacey Esposito | <p>My son is a 7th grader at Thomas. He receives 1 on 1 support and other related services. Remote learning does not work for him. He is not receiving the support he is entitled too. He tells me he is dumb because he can not remote learn like everyone else. His confidence is gone. This is after only 1 day of remote learning. I can not imagine what his self esteem will be once this is over. We need to put kids first. The hybrid model was working. As I said before, my son's only social interaction is at school. He has a hard time with social cues and relationships. Please do not take my kid's love of learning and social interaction away from him.</p> |
| chad.bartus ek@yahoo. com | <p>School is an essential service for our children. The original plan to have all of the children back to in person learning was well thought out and doable. Unfortunately, the board took a meaningless survey, which wasn't listened to, and caved to public pressure of the vocal MINORITY. As a result, here we are today. Even thinking about going back to fully remote learning is a travesty. We cannot continue to play with our children's education like it is a yoyo. Open up the schools and press forward. Our children's education, mental and physical health, and overall development rely on it.</p> |
| Mike and Beckie Hejna | <p>Listen to Dr. Bein's recommendation for an adaptive pause through mid January. Dr. Bein has the best interest of her staff and students and our community at heart. She has spent countless hours of her time listening, researching and doing the work to know what we need to do to keep everyone safe and healthy so we can get back to in person learning sooner rather than later. This is a temporary solution that will work to get ALL of our kids back in the classroom, where they belong. Our staff also has the right to work in a SAFE environment. Listen to them. Do not put a warm body in our classrooms thinking that it will replace our amazing teachers!!! This school board is now responsible for the health of not only our schools but the whole community. For every article that says our schools are not super spreaders, there are articles that say they are. Enough. We must do the right thing to keep our community safe over the holidays. We cannot trust that people who travel will stay home. Because now, after we know from Thanksgiving break, that did not happen. Some families listened and some did in fact send their children back to school. This is why we can't get everyone back full time!!! We want our kids back full time as soon as possible. An adaptive pause is a temporary solution, this is not forever! You also must follow the mitigation strategies set forth by the health departments when we welcome the students back to the classroom. Hybrid is working. Continue with this on January 19th and until our numbers allow for a full SAFE return. I want my children in the classroom while following the guidance from the health department. They need to be 6 feet apart and masked. This should not be a discussion. Also, please do not continue to use videos of Robert Redfield when making recommendations that pertain to our schools. He is a POLITICAL mouthpiece of the current sitting president. His statements have continued to be rooted in controversy and the medical professionals at the CDC have continuously come out to disagree with his politically influenced statements. Do not make our children and our teachers political pawns in this. Please do your research on this! The creator of the Covid-19 School Response Dashboard has spoken out that her study was misinterpreted by CDC Director Redfield and she didn't support his statement.</p> |
| Star Smith | <p>Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should NOT dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> |

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| Marzena Mikulski | <p>Dr. Bein, Every time I tune in to the board meetings, I simply get so frustrated and angry! Your and Anisha's strong push for adaptive pause with the data that continually proves there is low risk of transmission in school is absolutely mind blowing! Furthermore, many government agencies recommend schools stay open. AND your lack of consideration for children with special needs is not ACCEPTABLE! District 25 (you) established guidelines on remote, hybrid, and school mitigation. Where is the guidance for special needs children? Why a guidance for those with developmental disabilities wasn't a priority speaks volumes about the way District 25 (you) treat those with disabilities - not the teachers/support staff - but from a leadership perspective. As a parent of child with developmental disability, I feel that we are treated as second-class citizens. By law, my son is entitled to FAPE. If you close the school, that leaves us with e-learning which he cannot do. The law requires education be provided in least restrictive environment. Also, in his IEP, he entitled to receive PT, OT, and Speech therapy. IEP's are NOT simple privileges bestowed to students - they are a right protected by state and federal laws. IDEA gives states federal funds to help special-education services available for students with disabilities and it also provides very specific requirements to ensure appropriate public education is provided to families and children who qualify for the assistance. If there is a vote for adaptive pause and e-learning is not an option for my son, I would like to see a plan of action that you will implement starting December 7th so that he can get continuous education he is entitled to. He cannot stop school for couple of weeks or months! He is thriving and to take that away, would be very inappropriate. The school district has an obligation to provide education to my son. At this time district spent too much time devising a hodge-podge of various models and NOT enough time focused on decreasing INEQUITIES should school close. My son and children with developmental disabilities do MATTER. In-person instruction is vital and we as parents/students are being ignored. We are playing the waiting game...why, this is a new norm and we have to ADAPT to the new norm! It is so much harder for these children (and they work super HARD to achieve small milestones) and yet they continue to be treated like second-class citizens. I would think that in school we would have equality, but I was wrong and it makes me sad. Outside of schools, these kids are treated poorly, I would think that school would be the last place to treat them this way. Finally, I want to give special thanks to the teachers, support staff and all the services providers at Westgate, THEY have been amazing!!! Because of their hard work, my son is THRIVING in school. Looking forward to hearing how you plan to accommodate students with special needs that simply cannot do e-learning. Thank you, Marzena Mikulski</p> |
| Sarah Riddle-Krodel | <p>Please do not move to adaptive pause without any decline in metrics or outbreaks in the schools. We need better transparency and information on metrics that were used for the Thomas for adaptive pause. There was no clarification provided on the 11 cases cited for Thomas adaptive pause. Were these new cases reported this week? Or are these the old cases prior to Thanksgiving where most would already have finished quarantine? I have emailed Dr. Bein and the board with no response on what should be a very easy answer. Why are we considering adaptive pause at such a very late stage with no worsening in metrics? D.25 students have only had 11-12 in-person days since shut down in March, whereas other districts and private schools that pre-planned an adaptive pause did so with more notice, and also started in-person earlier and/or full time. Students and community are safer and healthier with kids being in school, following guidelines, masking etc. Being out of school with no outlets for the children may also encourage more inside gatherings and activities that are less safe as there are no other outlets available for them.</p> |
| Leigh Strauss | <p>The determination of how to pause schools is needed now. Board members are still passing ideas on what metrics to use, but the time for creating your own way, and surveying for metrics, has passed. Please use either the recommendation of Dr. Bein or follow the guidelines set by the Cook County Department of Health regarding school safety. Using data that is hyper-localized to two or only a few zip codes without the input of a public health expert can be dangerous. Only an expert in public health will be able to give you a clear analysis of the risk associated with keeping a school open safely in our school ecosystem and the larger community. In the time that adaptive pause has been discussed, the board has not had an expert weigh in on how to properly use this fine-tuned data. Since the community is currently in a widespread transmission stage, please consider the resources that you have available to you to quickly make a decision on maintaining a safe environment for the adults in the schools.</p> |

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| <p>SD25 Parents Demanding Safe Education Petition. The verbiage has been updated, as have the signatures, with an updated count of 519 SD25 parents, taxpayers, and voters.</p> | <p>Below is the updated SD25 Parents Demanding Safe Education Petition. The verbiage has been updated, as have the signatures, with an updated count of 519 SD25 parents, taxpayers, and voters.</p> <p>PETITION: SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 PARENTS DEMANDING SAFE EDUCATION</p> <p>December 4, 2020 School District 25 School Board 1200 South Dunton Avenue Arlington Heights, IL 60005</p> <p>CC: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent Illinois School Board of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education Kevin Jauch, Regional Superintendent of Education for North Cook County Governor J.B. Pritzker Senator Ann Gillespie Senator Mark Walker Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky Thomas W. Hayes, Mayor of Arlington Heights The Arlington Heights Patch The Daily Herald The Mount Prospect Journal Chicago Tribune WGN Chicago MSNBC CNN USA Today CBS News</p> <p>To the Members of the School Board: The COVID-19 pandemic is real, it is out of control, and it is devastating our community, our state, and our nation. The latest vetted, scientific evidence upholds that allowing in-person school with the current COVID-19 infection and community spread metrics is not only unsafe for those in attendance, but is also accelerating the spread of this deadly disease. Despite this evidence, despite guidance from the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Cook County Public Health, and the Executive Order from Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, you, the School Board members of School District 25 (SD25) are not only refusing to take the recommended Adaptive Pause/return to full remote, but are forging ahead to a return to full in-person attendance by January 19. This is in blatant defiance of not only the guidelines given by the aforementioned governmental departments to which you answer, but also in defiance of the guidelines set and published BY YOU. In light of these truths, we, the undersigned parents and taxpayers of School District 25 (SD25), hereby petition and demand the following:</p> <p>1) We demand that metrics and guidelines for full remote/Adaptive Pause, hybrid, and return to full in-person school for the district MUST mirror ISBE and IDPH metrics, and not be formed and continuously manipulated by SD25 school board members, none of whom are infectious disease experts. If the ISBE and IDPH metrics and guidelines for attendance are updated based on new science, then SD25's metrics and adherence to those guidelines must mirror those updates. SD25 schools must adhere to these metric-based guidelines at all times, as all other surrounding school districts are doing. Current districts surrounding SD25 who are following ISBE/IDPH Guidelines and returning to a full remote Adaptive Pause as of 11/30/2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 23 • District 21 • District 214 • District 211 • District 57 • District 59 • District 15 • District 54 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 46 • District 2 • District 205 • District 62 • District 64 • District 63 • District 34 • District 30 • District 31 • District 27 • District 28 • District 112 • District 109 • District 103 • District 96 • District 95 • District 220 • District 300 • District 155 • District 73 • District 225 <p>2) We demand recognition by the Board that, according to SD25's own survey results, the majority of parents, teachers, and staff members want the School Board to use these metrics to make the decisions for remote, hybrid, or in-person school attendance for SD25.</p> <p>3) We demand that the Board continue to recognize the expertise in educational matters that Superintendent Lori Bein's PhD in Education affords her, and commit to upholding her right to vote on the adaptation of any educational model, to take her expert recommendations into serious consideration on any matter for which it is given, and to continue to allow her to carry out the duties of her appointed office.</p> <p>4) We demand recognition of the scientifically proven fact that coronavirus can be transmitted by small aerosol particles , and that increasing the number of students in a building for long periods of time means that unmasking to eat, drink, or for any other reason while inside a school building puts that person in immediate danger of COVID infection .</p> <p>5) We demand that School Board members adhere to the IASB guidelines and Oath of Office to which they agreed upon confirmation in their elected posts.</p> <p>6) We demand that, as per the aforementioned Oath of Office and IASB guidelines, any School Board member who has publicly expressed a bias in a matter before the Board recuse themselves from voting on that matter. It has come to the attention of many SD25 parents that one or more current Board Members had posted a "Reopen Schools" sign in their yard for public view (photo of signage can be provided upon request). While at least one member removed their sign, it does not change the fact that a bias has been established, and to present themselves as an unbiased representative of SD25 parents and the SD25 community as a whole to vote on decisions regarding remote vs. in-person schooling would be a violation of the conflict of interest directive in the School Board Code of Ethics whether the sign remains in a board member's yard or not.</p> <p>7) We demand that SD25 provide full and timely transparency to the members of the SD25 community into reported COVID-19 numbers from SD25 schools, with a break-down by number of students, teachers, and staff members infected or exposed. Current notifications have proven to include inaccurate statements—members of the SD25 community have come forward to contradict letters to parents stating there were no close contacts, advising that they had, in fact, been notified by IDPH that they were a close contact with a COVID infected individual at an SD25 school on the date mentioned in the notification letter. Also, the numbers on the COVID dashboard is often behind more than a week. Incorrect and inaccurate information impedes the ability of SD25 families and community members to make informed decisions. This must be remedied immediately.</p> <p>It is an undebatable truth that we all want our children back in schools as soon as it is safe to do so, as is the fact that education is better when administered by qualified teachers who have dedicated their lives to educating our kids. Socialization is also undeniably important to the mental health of our children. However, education can be made up with adaptive curriculums</p> |

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| | <p>over the course of one or more years, as can socialization. The trauma from losing a parent, grandparent, or beloved teacher to death from COVID-19—or the child suffering long-term damage or dying from COVID themselves—is irreversible. The coronavirus does not discriminate based on financial situation, neighborhood, or political affiliation, nor does School District 25 live in a bubble unaffected by other communities within our county and state; the current circumstances require all community members to make lesser sacrifices in order to mitigate the horrific death and permanent physical and mental damage of this pandemic. In addition to the fact that a return to full remote learning based on current metrics is simply the moral, “right” thing to do, a refusal by this board to take action to protect our children, families, and community from the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic is a litigious offense—one that is likely not covered by the District’s liability insurance . For the sake of everyone in this community, we, the parents and taxpayers whom you were elected to represent, demand that you immediately implement and adhere to the above requirements.</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Megan Geltner Tricia Montesano Kristina Finch Amanda Bhansali Jen Anderson Alexis Hammond Ana De La Rosa Kecman Stephanie Keadle Lauren Salsinger Kim Dunning Melisa Andrews Julia Piontek Ann Poyer Jennifer Black-Foltin Geoffrey Foltin Liz Chlopowicz Emily Eisenhuth Janine Flauter Kristen Christiansen Susan Allison Kathryn Stutzman Pat Litberg Melissa Buchberger Pamela O'Connor Tricia Fuglestad Patricia Gunger Amy Haber Laura Friedlein Judie King Bliss Hansen Joseph Kim Jill Larsen Steve Chiappe Megan Hill Gina Heuer Beckie Hejna Jamie Impastato Meg Thomson Whitney Simon Nicole Keith Meghan Yarbrough Kate May Michelle Walsh Camille Ziemann Kristie Burmeister</p> |

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| | <p> Jennifer Schmidt Amy Johnson Kate Murray Amy Ksiazk Amy Heisler Kelly Pricemoore Joshua Price-Moore Becki Bloxsom Melanie Romero Jeff Lisy Roberta Novak Jaclyn Aprati Stacey Tobin Jerry Shirts Beth Deiter Jennifer Porto Heather Lockhart Kristen Clark Jeff Clark Maria Palmer Mary Hannon Michael Hannon Kate Zbierski Robb Zbierski Shaun Marusek Megan Nuccio Frank Nuccio Jennifer Bates Marcy Meyer Evan Meyer Elizabeth Lundgren Christine Arce Jennifer Mindykowski Christy Walsh Jamee McBride Laura Ness Meghan Grell Kathy Sutton Terri McDonnell Marcie Selvaggio Patrick Stevens Theresa Fowler Sharon Barber Ellie Branson Gina Tyson Robyn Swanson Rebecca Reiter Nina Koufalias Ana Fergus Kelly Drucker Lisa Lightcap Tracy Roth Louis Arce Kirsten Boyce Jeanette Hanik Kevin Michael Prajakta Maindarkar Jennifer Amling Katie Peterson Rachael Hooker </p> |

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| | <p> Kelley Balmer April Berry Kelsey Anstandig Lynn Bengtsen Phil Bengtsen Rebecca Burns Peter Burns Monica Hinchey Sarah Canace Rob Nesvacil Kaitlin Koralik Lindsay Arndt Jenica Polifka Garrett Polifka Karri Ophus Jennifer Licato Renee Burns Megan Kelly Katy Domsten Eric Riggi James Licato Margaret Kearns Kevin Kearns Jani Graziano Julie Coon Ryan Christie Kevin M. Gross Michelle S. Friedman-Gross Bryan Branson Jeremy Glass Jeanne McCullough Tim Lintner Virginia McDonnell Melissa Gilland Carol Nesvacil Katelyn Gustafson Jenny Haefliger Sheila Crowley Mary Blatter Theresa Warren Sara Michael Nicole Bielawa Tony Montesano Kendra Lintner Sharon Larry Bauerle Lesley Daniel Debbie Solus Eileen Herbster Kimberly Musolf Adam Musolf Aaron Coon Julie Gartrell Karen Jones Tom Galazka Christine Organ Tom Tyson Kelli McDonald Amy Darby Kim Eckert </p> |

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| | <p>Anita Langdon Joe Eckert Jodi Copersmet Casey Whitaker Amy Simonetti Kathie Avvisati Joanna Esposito Marilyn Briggs Patricia DeCorah Erin Lowery Mallory Sullivan Diane Polifka Elizabeth Wilson Carrie Kuczak Barb Donahue Jeremy Pearl Allison Anderle Paul Wakefield Oxana Corbett Jenifer Hope Tim Morkert Amy Derken Pam Wuich Shane Yarbrough Kelly Darby Kerri Connelly Maurice Finnegan Megan Kalweit Marianne Baltowski Janelle Dufer Melissa Fasuna Jennifer Mckown Peggy Delwo Gary Delwo Toni Stuller Craig Stuller Maureen Pajerski Charles Richardt Jerry Oakes Nicole Oakes Lisa Oakes Max MacCready Lauren MacCready Shannon Hull Tom Wuich Erin Matray Maria Caruso Katie Cosgrove Fred DeMarco Stacy Marini Kelly Ellsworth Allison Vercimak Angelica Andrews Kelly OSullivan Steven Andrews ALODIA C. KENDAL Terri D'Acquisto Lisa Parciak Holly Schafer Kelly DeRosa</p> |

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| | <p> Jennifer Leigh Diva Pagnotto Ellie Hicks Susan Weres Alice Dahl Sue Villanova Sean Conroy Sarah Galla Katherine Scortino Lauren Gonke Michelle Brinson Cynthia Mc Intyre Nick Larse Michael McIntyre Talia Dohman Dr. Matthew Kinney Carol Vittore J Gerdes Kristen Cordell Sharon Korb Melissa Conroy Jeremy Fischer Sarah Dempsey Kelly McMillen Douglas Hammond Sarah Ivy Tracy Bauman Carol Hrejsa Cary Dohman Kara Bolf Christina Dastice Mariam Ghaith Christine Bishop Patrick Braun Molly siegel Karen Galazka Michele Hilgart Bridget Schank Alexis Christensen Amanda Sharpe Mercedes Ritchey Michelle Kasprzak Lisa Groh Bruce Adlon Marjorie Kinney Holly Furman Nancy Sudlow Summer Sander Matt Sander Samantha Brex Nicole hildebrandt Josh Sharpe Herb Musolf Ann Musolf Jason Ivy Linda Norris Deanna Amelio Sue Thomson Scott Corbett Amy Graziano </p> |

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| | <p> Jim Graziano Bob Andrews Susan Petersen Amy Doman James Doman Karen Joseph David Petersen Lisa Ragone Peters James D Jones Janet Reed Colleen Kave AJ Draut Randi Lamb Jamee falknor Jennifer Nebel Sridevi Ganesan Todd Cordell Taylor Lindsey Anthony Pagnotto Kate Limbers Laura Zoumboulis Lauren Stump Timothy Schank Kristin Allen Anne Porto Greg Domsten Phil Copersmet Kimberly Bolaños Mary Kate Schoenbeck Ann Gemmel Amy Kalkwarf Ben Kalkwarf Shobha Gupta Sophia Vassos Mary Vassos Dian Davis Charles P. Davis Elaine Vassos Dominick Vassos Dawn Frenzel Bryan Frenzel Alexis Rabe Elizabeth Wolff Sharon Anderson Chris Fries Heather Doman Jessica Mitilineos Michelle Felde Rachel Hendrickson Caryn Solvsberg Pattie Manning Laurie Ford Brian Cosgrove Kristine Miller Thomas Serritella Michael Kuehl Kelly Loch Steve Rish Martie Salemi Chris Stahlmann </p> |

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| | <p> Lawrence E. Rhyner Danielle Rubel Zachary Novick Kathryn Coughlin Sharon Lee Gabriela Porras Clara Nesvacil Nick Rubel Judy Newman Laura Ondrovic Kaitlin Fajks Tina Fries Ethan Williams Lisa A. Jones Cristina Small Tara Houx Brad Houx Richard Watson Sandra Scharff Heidi Sliwinski Amanda Lace Graham Lace Prajka Maindarkar Marissa Mannella Steven Mannella Diane Thompson Maria Bauer Krista Weil Maureen Stukenberg Ashley Almdale Nancy Wielondek Judy Schoenfeld Michelle Petersen Diana Sayavongsa Chant Sayavongsa Brian Bates Chris Hooker Paul Schoenbeck Erik Poyer Kim Thoma Ryan Hrejsa Mike Bauer Stephanie Luzio Ellyn Ward Ryan Berry Michelle Eidle Joseph Luzio Asako Hoichi Phyllis Koclanis Andrew Rabe Jason Ksiazk Mark Nebel Jim Small Mark Allison Matt Hrtanek Cassie Hrtanek Valerie Pajerski Sarah Armsey Shannon Diederich Roopa Prasad </p> |

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| | <p> Lisa Rottenberg Lisa Doty Christina Perez Judy L Pozdol Jon Jacobson Spiro Anagnostakos Daniel Lillie Lucy Lillie Amy Kuehl Gayle Hassan Lauren Mucha Joan Redmon Mike Haefliger Jacqueline Raitano Virginia Coglianese Calvin Bell Traci Sara Erin Lakowski Blair Christensen Jurgita Andriuniunaite Heather Kral John Chlopowicz Chris Chlopowicz Ryan Chlopowicz Heather Garrard Nancy Webber Charles Thompson Kari Ugent Michelle Burke Carleen Swanberg Troy Swanberg Jill Helmann Tony Gibbs Clayton Kalweit Melissa Gibbs Katie Bagg Beth Miller Matt Burns Nicole LaBeau Joann Langley Pete Burns Jack Lockhart Patrice Treleaven Michael Treleaven Ben Dodge Carrie Hagan Bethany Larson Natalie Malley Lisa Welch Ryan Malley Donna Hynek Katherine Redmon Cindy Wilson Randall Warren Tara Zapatka Patrice Costello Dave Zapatka Katie Wilson Rebecca Fahnoe Noleen Nelson </p> |

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| | <p> Autumn Valencia Myles Wilson Anthony Kuch Todd Slowinski Lindsey Pearl Danielle Schuh Egan Malley Michael Gogliotti Jim Valentine Heather Martin Susan Gogliotti Patti Schulstad Wendy Danley Vicki Proffitt Nancy Richardson Julianna Cucci Marc Sporcich Linda Bearden Betty Nichols Stephanie Lazzari John Lazzari Aimee Hall Julia Piontek John Piontek Bruce Braun Allison Kulla Ian Wilson Nancy Velasco Jennifer Lundeen Gary Parciak Stacey Bratek Michael Andrews James Tobin Chris Deiter Deborah Freudenberger Mary Fey Larry Andrews Sal D'Acquisto Sal D'Acquisto Jr Sal L D'Acquisto Sr Kelly Fox Tom Lakomski Ayah Jaber Roger Sharpe Maribeth O'Dell Kevin Vander Klay Cindy Vander Klay Ken Kowols Sue Kowols Mr R Fraser Mrs R Fraser Todd Lorenz Katelyn Lorenz </p> |
| Leigh Strauss | <p>There is widespread transmission of this disease. It is risky to operate schools when transmission is overwhelmingly out of control in the community. Please close the schools for the safety of the adults working in the schools.</p> |
| Erin Matray | <p>I ask that the board follow the guidelines of the ISBE/IDPH and approve the adaptive pause that is being recommended by Dr. Bein and is already being implemented in surrounding school districts.</p> |

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| Katie Carney | <p>Please continue in the hybrid model, while taking steps to move to full-time in person learning. Our children do NOT need an adaptive pause. Based on information received from D25, COVID cases have been contained and there is no spread within the schools. Our children benefit from in person learning, why are we considering taking steps backward? Parents that are uncomfortable with in person learning have the option to keep their kids remote. Why are you considering taking the in person option away from parents/kids that choose it?! Please vote NO on the adaptive pause agenda item.</p> |
| Becki Bloxsom | <p>This district needs an adaptive pause now! Lets stop risking the lives of our children, teachers and staff! We already have one school closed by Dr. Bein and CCDPH. Do we need to wait for the health department to shut down our other schools or take action ourselves to protect the people in our community?</p> <p>The metrics our board put in place to open schools are being completely disregarded... The metrics state less than 8% positivity rate in suburban cook county, we are currently at 13.3%. The metrics also state Arlington Heights should be between 70-175 new cases per 100,000 in zip codes 60004 and 60005. We are currently at 374!!!</p> <p>Why is this even in question if we should be in school or remote, let alone talking about returning full time. It's time to take action 25!</p> |
| Christy Witherow | <p>If I had a vote today I would vote No to Adaptive Pause.</p> <p>Please, remind ALL of the families of this community that they can make the choice to keep their kids remote at this time if they wish.</p> <p>Please, instruct the Superintendent and her staff to create solutions for all of the families that need and want in-person instruction to continue on.</p> <p>Please, listen to the parents in the community that continue to offer viable solutions to keeping families in school that need and want to be there.</p> <p>Please, continue to remember that we are asking for the choice to send our children to school as it is their right.</p> <p>Please, know that the longer my child's education is held hostage the more I will fight for her rights.</p> <p>Please, lets all work together & support each other no matter what choice we make for our own families.</p> |
| Kristen Ulery | <p>I would like to express my support for an adaptive pause until the MLK holiday. Community spread has reached peak levels in the past few days, and experts are predicting this to continue as people gather for the holidays. Only 6 kids out of 20 attended my son's class in-person this week (2 on T/Th and 4 on W/F). We are using our resources inefficiently to support in-person learning for such a small number of students. The teachers' time is better spent focusing on strong remote instruction for all of the students, and we are stretching school resources to cover in-person absences for classes with only two students. As community spread increases, more teachers or their family members will be exposed, requiring staff members to quarantine. While the board seems to believe that more qualified subs can be found, there is a widespread shortage of substitute teachers, and we can't simply "get more" in the numbers needed to fill absences for teachers in quarantine. That will leave classrooms filled by underqualified subs or other staff members babysitting in-person students when their qualified teacher could be teaching remotely from quarantine. I would also like to advocate for continuing hybrid learning in January and not rush toward full in-person learning based on political pressure from some vocal community members. Returning to full in-person learning without 6 ft spacing doesn't make sense during a health crisis. The protocols we have in place now are keeping spread at school under control, but if we abandon them, school will be less safe for students and staff. Returning to full in-person learning would also require widespread teacher changes for both in-person and remote students mid-year, which is very disruptive to students' learning and leaves parents without a choice that would allow them to keep their child's classroom teacher since the reorganization to assign separate remote and in-person teachers would require teacher changes for both in-person and remote students.</p> |
| Daniel Strauss | <p>Dear Dr. Bein and the School Board,</p> <p>The time for squabbling over metrics has passed! COVID-19 is running rampant through our community and now you have proof that it is penetrating our schools as well. You must return to full remote before more people get hurt!</p> |
| Kathy Dieringer | <p>No need for adaptive pause. Vote no to adaptive pause.</p> |

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| Scott Dalton | <p>Our district, like so many others, finds itself in a difficult position and there are no easy answers.</p> <p>I believe students are better off in the classroom and applaud the district and staff for managing in-person learning safely thus far.</p> <p>However, we find ourselves in a place where COVID numbers are surging and it is becoming nearly impossible to maintain in-person learning (quarantines, staffing issues, etc). I worry that the wheels are starting to fall off. Our daughter has had three different teachers this week alone - an experience I suspect may not be unique across the district.</p> <p>The holidays will likely accelerate the trends already threatening in-person learning but also offer an opportunity: An ADAPTIVE PAUSE layered on top of the winter break will protect the health of staff, students and the community with minimal loss of in-person instruction days.</p> |
| Kevin and Cindy VanderKlay | <p>We are writing in support of taking an adaptive pause through January 19th. We feel it is the most prudent approach for the safety of our teachers, staff, and community as a whole. The argument for staying open is that COVID-19 spread is not happening in the classroom, but we are witnessing daily large gatherings of kids and parents on the playgrounds and fields after school with little regard to masks and 6ft distancing. The precautions taken within the school are completely disregarded directly outside of it. Adaptive pause eliminates these types of gatherings further reducing opportunity for spread. Tier 3 guidelines clearly want families to limit contact outside of their households. Additionally, and more importantly, we want to publicly support the teachers and administrators and the job they are doing during unprecedented times. It disturbs us that members of the school board and community are treating them as a commodity that can be traded or easily replaced. A large part of what makes District 25 great are the very teachers and administrators that are being bashed publicly for standing up for their own needs and concerns. They are professionals who take their jobs very seriously and are doing the best they can with the constantly changing circumstances. We need to find a way forward as a community that supports all interests. This is not about wanting to have kids back in school which we all agree is best, it's about getting them back when the spike is over and we can do it as safely as possible. Furthermore, please continue to use Region 10 metrics, not just 04/05 metrics, as many parents travel outside of 04/05 for work than are being recognized by certain board members.</p> |
| Amanda Taylor | <p>For the safety of all the students, faculty, and support staff it is imperative that the District 25 school board vote to take an adaptive pause. As a teacher myself, I know the stress, anxiety, and exhaustion in-person teaching has caused during a time such as this. As teachers, we want to keep our own families safe along with our students' families. Therefore, I ask you all not to force the teachers of this district to make such a choice between their health and their job, especially as case numbers skyrocket in this community. Please don't make this holiday season a season of "lasts" with loved ones.</p> |

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| Cindy Smiskol | <p>Please do not move to an “adaptive pause.” There is just no reason to do so at this time. While it does make sense to pause other (larger) programs and events, where there may be crowds or groups of 25+ in close quarters, schools should not fall under that category. In short: other things should close, specifically so that schools can remain open. There is no logical reason that a classroom of fewer than 10 should cease to meet in-person twice per week when a school does have ample space, masks, frequent hand-washing, sufficient air circulation, and building cleaning protocols in place. When the COVID-19 Notice e-mails are sent out stating “No close contacts identified,” that means the safety precautions are working as intended. When my son goes to school (on those precious, albeit insufficient, 2 days per week) he is 1 of 4 in his classroom... they are literally swimming in distance. At 8 years old he has never defied mask-wearing or hand-washing. My son receives services for speech, although not on an in-person day at school... I have not fought this, because I do see how it is safer and more beneficial for his speech pathologist to hear him more clearly and actually see his mouth without a mask while on zoom. However, my son is an only child, and we live in an apartment (not on a neighborhood street), so he has zero peer interaction when school is not in-person. He is not learning to cooperate or share, and he cannot learn creative problem-solving or conflict resolution amongst peers when he is alone at his laptop in our dining room. At 8 years old, school is also where you learn to respect and observe adults who are not your parents. School is where you learn to follow directions, to focus, to stay on-task... and where you receive valuable feedback, encouragement, and validation from adults who are not your parents (which I remember being extremely important to me growing up). This is a huge factor in developing self-confidence and self-esteem, which only becomes more difficult to build and develop as you age. I would like to see Dr. Bein and the District set an example of the “Growth Mindset” being taught to our children: a large part of that involves Continuous Improvement. I would like to see more effort spent on improving the equity and experience of in-person days, rather than this constant focus on eliminating in-person days by way of a “pause.” For example, classes’ scheduled days for PE have not been adjusted - so one half of the in-person class is able to have PE live on both of their days, while the other half of the class never does (how hard would it really be to just switch one of the days?). Please shift your focus to how you can improve the educational experience for students. I do feel it is important to maintain an option for families to opt-in for 100% remote learning if their personal situation indicates that is best for them. However, we must also maintain *and improve upon* the availability of in-person learning: the in-person experience is irreplaceable, and can absolutely be done correctly in a safe manner.</p> |
| Michelle Conway | <p>We have a responsibility here to help slow the spread of this terrible virus. I recommend an adaptive pause to achieve this. The sooner we stay home, the sooner we can return to normalcy. It's the only thing we can do until a vaccine is widely distributed to our community. The school districts around us are watching and waiting for us to make the right decision, because they already have.</p> |
| Briana Hafer | <p>Please vote no to an adaptive pause at this time. Please keep the kids in the hybrid model with the plan to return to full in-person in January, in accordance with the recommendations of health officials. Thank you.</p> |
| Zornitsa Titova | <p>Please NO adaptive pause! Our children and families need to have the option to attend in person! Their mental health is as important as their physical. Please continue to follow new guidelines (CDC has now reduced the quarantine time required) and consider studies that demonstrate it is safe for our students to be in person. Please give the families in SD25 the option to choose what is best for their children! Having the option to be full remote or in person (whether full time or via hybrid) is extremely important!!!</p> <p>If there is a pause and/or no option for in person the result will be higher number of children transferring to private schools, which will affect our community very negatively. Most of the residents in AH choose this community because of its EXCELLENT schools and teachers and if that's taken away then I fear the effect on the community will be irreversible!</p> |

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| Laura Culley | <p>I am emailing on behalf of the SD25 community with two petitions to say NO to an adaptive pause and to continue to say YES to IN PERSON learning. Between both surveys, there are over 400 responses and over 300 unique respondents. As you can see, the support for in person learning continues to be strong and growing in our community. The say NO to adaptive pause petition text reads as follows: "We believe that in person school is what is best for our children and that the mitigation measures that the district has put into place are working. We do not believe that an adaptive pause is needed at this time as the district metrics do not support an adaptive pause." The Continue to say YES TO IN PERSON petition text reads as follows: "To the board and superintendent: Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option. Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff." Names for both petitions are listed below and I will be following up with Lana O'Brien with the full list and respondent comments for the Board and Superintendent to be able to review.</p> <p>Christy Goduto Marianne Corcoran Renee Schlenhardt Kathy Dieringer Laura Culley Amanda Eichstaedt Tomaszewicz Lauren Rogers Jennifer Olson Shivi Stanley Shannon Reinking Betty Levinsky Megan Kerpec Leah Ross Lindsay Nugent Jodi Zera Hope Tokarczyk Carly Lisinski Brett Anderson Krystyna Tybor Marzena Mikulski Kristin Rauen Maureen Schmidt Christine Naunheimer Lisa Keavy Lisa Pils Alicen Manus Emily Gromer Katarzyna Malaczek Katie Taranda Star Smith Sarah Lerch-Halliday Patrick T Keavy Katy Murray Michelle Casillas Kristina Heaton Katarzyna Zurek Tom & Erin Kalaway Justyna Stelmaszak Nicole Towle Melissa Newkirk Carrie Skony Janelle Thoma Michelle Kuhn Stacey Cooke Jaime Yeh Dominic Franchi Danny Chiao Joanna Sopel Carol Nugent Erin Zurek Lisa Duello Steve Zurek Peter Woolsey Gitana Lapys Chris Duello Todd Witherow Greg Geissenberger Peggy Jones Amy Ashcraft Sheryl Terril Maryann Zaleski Elizabeth Green Kristin Irmen Jennifer Ponivas Melissa Lenski Brian Ashcraft Eileen Ryan Lisa Jordan Dan Ryan Kristin Keil Nikki Wiedner Stephanie Levinsky Robyn Warter Darinka Ferguson Alina Laurie Catherine Gripper Brittany Polihronis Jennifer Huntzicker Kelley Costello Mark Tack Adam C Thoma Katie Rausch Erin Felten Robert Culley Michele Voris Jenny Vuckov Egidijus Lapys Kristy Harvey Stephanie Rapone Desiree Barnett Patrick Schiltz Jen Starr Christine Boros Brian Lisinski Sean Molina Daniela Martin Stacey Esposito Mairin Gradek Heather Molina Cindy Smiskol John Michael Zaleski Vasilka Aleksieva Stephanie Fossler Suzanne Volpe Jeffrey Gradek Kelly Dudle Jane Zaleski Beth O'Meara Briana Hafer Danielle Valentin Diem Lai Jenni Von Tobel Andre Newman Erin Wiggs Richard Duong Michael Boros Greg Mikulski Tim Wiggs Ewa Dabrowski Samantha Ryan Fetzer Kelly Causero Marina Lara Anna Angela Zielinski Colleen Corliss Jacalyn Derengowski Kerri Hood Mike Murray Victoria Chiara Crudele Tatiana Rick Carney Sarah Riddle-Krodel Julie Talbot Kellin Girard Julia Herrmann Heidi Steinike Gina Smith Horeya Czaplewski Agnes Kowal Melissa Van Buren Ewa Rasztar Susie Fetzer Janet Reich Alessa Gurrola Rob Kanabay Megan Vaeth Denise Stienstra Carissa Lee Holmes Katie Guretz Lauren Pierce Julie Mueller Katie Starzyk Erin McLaughlin Michelle Pet Ryan Cooke Lisa Nason Heather Lepold Erin Miller Cathy Olson Colleen Van Ham Allison Ritt Devlin Heather Kelley Christine La Valle Tara Tinsley Chris Stack Melissa LeFevour Sarah Klancnik Diana Lane Nicole Mather Lisa Fischer Katy Brown Mollie Gottfred Catherine Doug Gottfred Liz Osterhues Jennifer Cummings Daniella Kara McCarthy Nikki DiFiglio David Katcher Chad Fischer Jessica Weglarz Bethany Schiltz Beth Dover Katie Guretz Courtney Kiefer Jennifer Sara Yantis Karen Pinnello Steve Miller Jeff Siena Bill Jurjovec Jennifer Durkin Steven Melich Elizabeth Malone Becky Grotjan Laura Weigle Jeff Van Buren Michael Boros Frank J Biga III Alex Yantis Kevin Allender Meghan Wood George Guiwargis Carol Kelm Megan Brunet Kathleen Zilewicz Laura Culley Colleen DeGeorge Sarah Klancnik Carly Lisinski Paul Simkus Erin McLaughlin Eileen Ryan Melissa Van Buren Kerri Hood Victoria Giurato Yes to in person Stacey Esposito Ilyana Zecheva Christy Goduto Jenny Olson April Zaimi Kellin Girard Michelle Casillas Maryann Zaleski Melissa Sherman Jocelyn Fredell Jodi Zera School in person till Christmas Tara Tinsley Amy Hoffman Sara Dan Mungovan Steve Zurek Alicen Manus Betsy Geiger Marella Oneil Erin Felten Erin Zurek Angela Nevel Jennifer Huntzicker Susan Chen Janelle Thoma Britt Polihronis Jennifer Sia Jennifer Zakaras Katie Rausch Lisa Duello Stephanie Fossler Jenni VTKatie Starzyk Melisa Denham Mairin Gradek Katy Murray Kelley Costello Rose Lesniak Jennifer Sylvia Kristin Irmen Katie Campbell Shannon Scalzo Adam Thoma Kathy Dieringer Kim Mettler Liz Osterhues Elizabeth Green Stacey Cooke.</p> |

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| | <p>Catherine Olson Lindsay Nugent Nikki DifiglioAlina LaurieColleen CorlissMircea MarchisChris DuelloBethany Schiltz Renee SchlenhardtKristin Rauen Angela SisiAdrienne Murphy Dave DobbsMarina PavlikKristin KeilShanaStefanie BrownMagdaStacy HinelineDaniel PearlJulie Forsberg Jaime YehChris TokarczykTracy FalconerLisa KeavyJana GunnAllison JohanssonJulie Talbot ScottMonika CiepielaMindy Turner Lauren NobleConnie Gonzalez Catherine GripperDan RyanJason BrownBrett AndersonPeter GripperKatie TarandaKatey KochCrystal GausdenTodd WitherowRichard TarandaTerese OrlandoLeah RossStephanie RaponeCarrie SkonyGitana LapysJen SchmitSusan MarchLara SolonickneKatie KarstenTricia SpitzBeth DoverRobert CulleyJoanna Sopel Christy WitherowKatie Johnson Amanda EichstaedtMarianne CorcoranJared WoodsMark TackMelissa LenskiLindsay Jurjovec Cari KlinkenborgBetty Levinsky Nikki WiednerNadia CreamerStephanie HarrisonSarah Riddle-KrodelDesiree Barnett Carol Nugenttatiana cretuAmy AshcraftMagdalena McMeekinLaurenErin KalawayPatStephanie LevinskyJuan Gonzalez Greg Geissenberger Christine QuirozJennifer HahneTruman TinsleyStephen HoodMichelle KuhnErin WiggsBrian LisinskiKaryn AugelliTej ShahMargaret JonesJacalyn DerengowskiCarmelo S.Mairin CarlsonS.rorerLisa JordanJoanna E KostichAndrea Newman Caroline TsourmasDoug ReedMollie GottfredEwa RasztaKatie Cox Kyle W heatonAmy KlehrMegan Jennifer YoungmanKathy MalaczekMarta TopolskaLisa Nason PaulMaureen Schmidt Christine BorosMichael BorosEwa Dabrowski Nicole TowleSamantha TragosKate FontanaHeather Lepold Geralyn WalshRyan FetzerRoberta S MatherJustyna NowakDiem LaiRichard DuongMichelle PetTracy FerraroKatie PetersonYvette Brancato MARGARET COSSENTINOKathleen GuretzKelly DudleAmy CataldoCindy SmiskolJenn KalschKate Schneider Alexandria KraniotisHeather MolinaMegan BolewskiTanja AleksicSean MolinaJennifer PonivasZornitsa TitovaTherese PerkinsJanetAW GreenAmanda AntellDawn KatcherTricia WalshColleen DeHartVeronica Kim Christine Naunheimer Debbie JohnsonAgnieszka MiesiacMelissa FinneganAshley McGannLisa KusumpaNadia VikenWilliam A. JohnsonMegan BrunetJohn DreyerChris Naunheimer</p> |
| Tracy Falconer | <p>I implore the board and Dr. Bein to please look at the local district 25 numbers and keep the schools open. This is a very survivable virus in those under 60, and the current numbers even in all of Cook County do not warrant moving all students back to full remote. As of December 1st there were approximately 50,000 active cases out of the 5,132,840 people who live in Cook County. That is just under 1%. With proper cleaning, masks, and distancing the children where the schools can, the schools can and should stay open.</p> <p>I want to know what the end game is with the district. At what point will schools be open fully? This virus is here to stay and we as a society need to start learning to live with it. If you are waiting for there to be zero new cases that will be years, if ever. I want to know what the plan is for the 2021-2022 school year? It cannot be like this year and I will not accept an answer of "Let us just get through this year first." Plans need to be started now for the next school year to get the kids back in school full time.</p> |
| Holly Connors | <p>Choice.I have two children. Both excellent students pre covid. Both shining stars.One is KILLING IT with remote learning. Learning to be self-sufficient, highly organized, and is on top of everything. This student is learning much and thriving. Grades are outstanding. Glowing reports fromTeachers. Remote learning is perfect for this student.The other is really struggling. Tears are constant. Stress is unbearable. This student changed tunes and now resents school and teachers. This student is now scraping by. Anxiety-driven decisions, poor time management, and failing executive function. This student used to love all things school now will cry every time the Chromebook is opened.Two kids, same house. Same environment. Same parents. Same opportunities, same financial situation, and same support.Two very different outcomes.We would send one to full-time school and keep one home. And then both would thrive. This seems like the fairest, simplest option. Create two sides, like at SMS, remote learners, and school learners. Let's families chose. Keep the same curriculum. Create choice. That seems like what all sides need. Choice. Standards. We are all unsure of what's next. Having a plan in place that benefits students, teachers, and our community at one time.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Marianne Corcoran | <p>An 11 year old shot himself during zoom.</p> <p>This is our reality. I have spent my years as a licensed clinical psychologist trying to get children out of this situation, out of these diagnoses, away from the pain. You have the power to do that. You are the only ones who hold the lives of 5500 children, their parents, their siblings in your hands. Staying isolated is literally, figuratively, disgustingly KILLING THEM. The CDC, WHO, and Dr. Fauci are all leading experts saying kids need to be in school, LISTEN.</p> <p>Instead I fear that pressures outside of this room are causing disruptions in the trajectory that we have started. I am willing to bet that in all of your years on board combined you have never gotten so many emails. You are overworked, tired, and some of you have children that are IN this right now, further wearing you out. But here I ask you, implore you, beg you, do not give up. Do not give up on my daughter. She needs her teacher. Loves him. And she has the right to be in the classroom. I will not let my child be a casualty of this political disaster.</p> <p>So please do as I do in my profession, LISTEN. LISTEN to the statistics of more deaths of children, increased suicide attempts and drug overdoses in children's hospitals, astronomical rates of children seeking therapy, and normally happy kids who CRY everyday because all they want is to go to school. Isolation is inhumane and literally killing our children. Not COVID. Children need their support and accommodations now more than ever and unfortunately, when they are home, they aren't getting those services. The kids in need in this district are falling further behind than ever. They need school. LISTEN.</p> <p>No one was prepared for this so all we can do is move forward with the facts that we have now. COVID doesn't spread in the schools where mitigation is effective like ours. LISTEN. Kids in private schools are safe and have been in school full time with a fraction of our funding and resources. LISTEN. Parents and community members are willing to help if you let us. LISTEN. Please board, LISTEN and ACT. Keep them in school.</p> |
| Robert Culley | <p>Facts that the Superintendent won't mention at tonight's Board Meeting:As previously reported by Pulitzer-Prize winning Mark Konkol back in October, the COVID positivity rates being used by the Governor and our SD25 administration are unreliable.The report specifically states that experts are indicating "these numbers should not be used to determine policy." - yet that is exactly what SD25 is doing.As anyone who has taken a Statistics 101 class can tell you: we are testing people that are most likely already unwell; therefore, the results are skewed.</p> <p>https://patch.com/.../emails-secret-reports-show-politics...The psychological effects of children "learning" on Zoom calls instead of being in class with their friends was noted in horrible fashion this week when a 11 year old committed suicide. Of course, we aren't getting any numbers from IDPH on the failure of remote learning and the negative psychological effects on kids, so who cares, right ?? If we can't quantify it, it must not be happening.https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/california-boy-11-fatally-shoots-self-during-online-class/2020/12/02/577f48a6-3522-11eb-9699-00d311f13d2d_story.html?fbclid=IwAR21t_Wm8YQelSKfKf58F1Xa9Cf8D4qc4JC-HuRHSvisalBEHifrDtMLxugIn conclusion, you already know that this virus is not fatal to 99.649% of those under 60. You already know that the case numbers are flawed and should not be used as a basis for any policy decisions. You already know the psychological damage being done to kids in remote "learning" scenarios. You already know that schools are not a major COVID transmission source. I'm asking that you have the courage to do what is best for our children and not the ATA or Dr. Bein.</p> |
| Jeremy Rogers | <p>I believe the best interests of our students are for them to remain in school. Surrounding states have had their students in school and had sports that the students could play. Private schools in the state have remained open. The largest public school system in New York is reopening. Studies have shown that each month a child is not having in person school subtracts \$10,000-\$15,000 of lifetime income. Our students have already missed months of in person education and cannot afford to miss more. Given these facts, the School Board has a responsibility to the students and the tax payers to keep the schools open and children receiving in person education.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Stephanie Notaro | The CDC says our children belong in school! We are watching other countries like Ireland, England and Germany put the future of their countries First! How can we not do the same? I am watching my children and their friends lose interest, lose confidence, lose faith and lose academic success on a daily basis! It's beyond disheartening! I implore you all to do the RIGHT thing! Keep our children in school. Our Children are our future! |
| Gina Smith | Please vote no to adaptive pause at this time |
| Julie Mueller | Please consider the mental health of students who need interaction with peers and teachers. This is very meaningful for so many students and the importance of feeling driven and accountable to stay healthy for school. The hybrid model allows for spacing and control of mask wearing, and no transmission is seen to have occurred at the school. Students are safer in school than at home and in the community. If fully remote, many children will form pods or travel more, where the situation is not as controlled. Again, please look at the success of the school control and not just at community levels. Thank you for your consideration. |
| Scott Levin | Hybrid seems to be working well, at least at Patton. 2 days/week in-person is significantly better than 0 days/week. Unless a spike occurs this weekend, the numbers have been trending down. The next in-person day will be 12/8, which is ~10-12 days after Thanksgiving travel, and beyond the CDC's updated recommended 7-10 day quarantine (and nearly the 14 days max recommendation). I would vote to maintain the Hybrid model. |
| Melissa Newkirk | I feel that there is no reason to do an adaptive pause at this time. The metrics do not warrant it, the CDC says that the children need to be in School, the board also voted two weeks ago to keep the children in school. The board agreed that an adaptive pause was not what was a good choice for our community and students. I am not sure what happened between then and now. The meeting last Sunday it seemed like some thing had switched, and everybody had changed their minds. If the board decides that the children need to be at home, the teachers need to be in the school teaching. They should not be teaching from home, as that will not be conducive to a good working environment. Please continue to keep these kids mental health and education in the forefront of your decisions. They need you to keep Dr. Bein In check, since She does not care about the children and their education. |
| Nilima Nanisetty | <p>Thank you board members, again, for all your hard work during these uncertain times. I have a 4th grader at Olive and a 6th grader at Thomas. I also have a 4 year old in daycare.</p> <p>I would like the board to consider NO to an Adaptive Pause for these reasons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WHEN metrics are determined, each school needs to be making those decisions IF they need to go to full remote, it should not be a blanket decision for the entire school district 2) Is there strong evidence to show that transmissions are occurring within the schools? Dr. Fauci has stated "If you look at the data, the spread among children and from children is not really very big at all, not like one would have suspected". It seems that most of the spread is happening in the community, and families are taking appropriate measures by keeping kids and home and being testing when needed. <p>I have a 4 year old who has been in a daycare building since July, they have not been shut down once. Kids wear masks all day, but they do not distance 6 feet.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) What was the purpose of the '6 foot' distance rule and going hybrid? It was my understanding these 'safeguards' are in place to avoid our students going full remote. I feel misled that I accepted the hybrid model under these terms that we would not need to go full remote or take an Adaptive Pause. Please clarify the justification for hybrid and the 6 foot rule. <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider these points.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Claire Dwyer | District 25 should not move to full in person instruction, and the district should immediately adopt an adaptive pause. The fact that this is even a matter of discussion when the Cook County Covid-19 positivity rate is 13.2% is absolutely ridiculous. Set a good example for your students and listen to the scientists. If even one child or staff member contracts the virus and gets sick enough to end up in the hospital, or even worse, dead, it will be due in part to this district ignoring reality and forcing students and staff into harms way and putting unnecessary strain on our overwhelmed healthcare system. The district moving to in person learning will not be worth it if even one child or teacher ends up very sick from this disease. I graduated from high school last year, with the end of my senior year ruined due to this pandemic. But if missing valuable class time, prom, or graduation saved even one life or prevented one person from going to the hospital, it was undoubtedly worth it. During these trying times, we are all sacrificing something. Let's make sure we are only sacrificing in school class time, and not the lives of students and staff. |
| Jonathan Patrick | To the School Board, Dr Bein , The teachers and the community at large: We have been put in an impossible situation and I believe we are all trying to do what's best with what limited information we have. I genuinely think Dr Bein is doing the best she can. And the school board is doing the best they can. The hero's in this equation are the teachers. For they are in the proverbial trenches showing up everyday to teach our children. I think they should be awarded a one time hazard bonus which would not factor in to their pension calculations for duties done above an beyond what was required in there typical job description. And I do not support an adaptive pause at the moment for the elementary school, data continues to show that younger children are not spreading the virus in the same capacity as older children and adults |
| Dawn Katcher | If the main reason for adaptive pause is a staffing issue- maybe the district needs to look at how to restructure the current set up... create a team teaching approach and at each grade level have an inperson teacher and a remote teacher... that way you wouldn't need to have to find as many subs. The kids are used to seeing different teachers throughout the day pre Covid. Putting an adaptive pause because of staffing issues continue to put more strain on parents and provides students with less of an education experience. Remote learning for younger children is incredibly taxing on the family relationships and structure. |
| Jen Starr | I am opposed to the adaptive pause. Schools are not super spreader locations. Our kids need to be in school. |
| Sheryl Terril | Just sad that that there continues to be disappointment for the Arlington Heights families who are experiencing a range of disadvantages from the lack of an option for a primarily in-person education experience. Feeling very fortunate that St. James found a way to make this happen and that we were able to get in before capacity was reached. They are doing a phenomenal job and it is simply amazing that this comes with daily visibility and student accountability for the work being done across 7 class subjects. |
| Katherine Scortino | I strongly urge you to pause all in-person classes in our District 25 schools until at least mid-January 2021. At that time a new decision can be made based on what the evolving situation is then. All of us in the Community need to be following public health guidelines, wearing masks, gathering only with our own families, avoiding large groups (especially in indoor spaces). Please garner all possible resources to fully support the teachers and staff in their efforts to continue providing education to our students remotely. Please provide opportunities for students and parents to express concerns that arise while learning remotely and provide effective solutions. We HAVE to work together to keep every community member safe. |
| DiMarco | I do NOT support an adaptive pause. I strongly believe that we the families who feel comfortable sending their kids in person to school should have that option/choice and should be supported by the District. I also believe that those families who don't want to take the risk or don't feel comfortable sending their kids to in person then they should just keep them in the remote learning. Please do NOT punish those kids who benefit the most by going to learn in person and that are willing to do it in person. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Joseph Goduto | My name is Joey and I am in 6th grade at Thomas. Please do not have us go into an adaptive pause. I love being in school and I feel I learn better there! When I'm e-learning I can't just raise my hand to ask a question. Also, I have been getting headaches from being on the zooms all day. We should be taking steps forward to full in person learning but steps backwards. By taking an adaptive pause you think you are helping us, but in the long run you are hurting us. I cannot handle sitting in my room all day alone when I should be at school with my teachers and friends. Thank you. |
| Chris Hafer | Please vote NO to the Adaptive Pause. |
| Elizabeth Wolff | We all want things to get back to normal as quickly as possible. The fastest way to return to normal is to beat COVID. While it may not be what we want to hear, the best way to beat it the fastest way possible is to reduce chances for exposure. That includes the mitigation's the governor has put in place asking businesses to have employees work from home, reducing time spent indoors with non household members and that includes having students and teachers reduce chances of spread by being home instead of in school. Having children in school and resuming half of their normal activities merely perpetuates the problem by prolonging the length of time we all have to endure this pandemic. |
| Amy Kitzmiller | I'm a D25 resident but also work with high need schools in Chicago. I feel the pain daily of the adverse impact to the most vulnerable students lacking in person education; however, I understand this is a unique time and there is no alternative until the cases decrease. In a perfect world, we could have semi-weekly testing for all students and staff, such as at University of Illinois, in order to ensure an adequately safe environment, but until the community cases are down, there is regular required and tracked testing, or the staff and students are vaccinated, I respect and expect the adherence to the policy based on the community rates and public health expert guidance. The students are a huge component of the community and can put the community at-large at risk. This is unlike any other public health crisis we have encountered and not comparable to other illnesses. Based on the death rates far exceeding what we as a community should have been able to control, this is not a time for weakening our policy, it is a time to pull together as a community and protect our community from further preventable deaths. Let's build our pride in how to come together to do everything we can to wipe Covid out of our town and make our community, schools, and families safe. |
| Kelly Drevline (President ATA) | The ATA would like to reiterate once again how strongly we feel that we continue a good working relationship with the board and admin in District 25. This has been something that we have done successfully for many years and have taken pride in. We understand that pleasing everyone during this unprecedented time is impossible. Please know that we all continue to work towards the same goal, getting our kids back in school. We ask, again, for the board to listen to science, parents, staff, administration and the community at large, and make a decision that will ensure the safety and health of all. This includes keeping our staff, students, and community safe from covid, but also from the effects of an angry community that is blaming teachers for the decisions or lack of decisions made by the board, from the stress of working without proper substitute coverage, and from the stress of watching students not get the services they need due to teacher absences unfilled because of a lack of substitutes. The goal is to get students back in person, and these plans are put on pause while every single employee, including DSL, is needed to fill teacher absences. All these things are having a negative effect on our district at this time, and they all play a role in the quality of education that can be delivered. This community has trusted the superintendent to make good decisions for the district for many years, and have trusted the teachers to teach your children, please respect those people now, and make a decision to keep students, teachers and the community safe and healthy. |
| Kate Hojek | I am in support of an adaptive pause. |
| Max Hood | I am in 4th grade at Ivy Hill. I love my teacher and I love getting to go to school. I am so excited that I get to go for 4 days a week next week! Please let me go! |
| Mariam Ghaith | I urge the board to vote to move our district to an Adaptive Pause. The number of positive cases is on the rise as well as the number of incidences whereby staff must quarantine. You must vote to keep our students and staff members safe. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Amy Kalkwarf | <p>Good evening, I have watched recent meetings in which our Superintendent has presented the case to move to an adaptive pause and even though her presentation cited reputable sources, this board did not even choose to engage in a discussion on the topic. You have completely ignored your Superintendent, who is your boots on the ground and your eyes and ears, and you have also ignored science. I find your comments on just "finding more substitutes" to be totally out of touch with what is happening in our schools locally and across the country. You fail to realize that when staff becomes ill, finding someone to teach their class is not a simple solution. Before the pandemic, there was a sub shortage and now it is almost impossible to cover classes. You have ignored the metrics YOU set time and again and kept kids in school. It is time for all of you to put your personal feelings aside and work with your Superintendent and the teacher's union and take an adaptive pause. An adaptive pause is needed to slow the transmission of Covid and allow students and staff to regain or remain healthy so that we can entertain a better option in the future. Take time to ask questions of Dr. Bein and the teacher's union to get a better picture of what is actually going on in your buildings. Your decisions have resulted in increased cases in our community, which put not only our students and staff in danger, but anyone living within the D25 area. Vote to take an adaptive pause. Reevaluate your plans often. Work WITH the experts at your disposal and STOP debating the science. Look around to other communities who are being successful. Please do what is right.</p> |
| Zac Hood | <p>Ms. Stemler is the best teacher! I love being in school with her and I get to see my friends! I want to go to school everyday. I do not like zoom.</p> |
| Laurie Wasik | <p>Please consider voting to take an adaptive pause until mid-January to mitigate some of the risk of virus spread due to increased holiday travel and family gatherings. As much as I would love to say that we all followed the guidelines and recommendations to curb gatherings, from the students' conversations, that was not always the case. Instead of waiting until ALL the schools are inundated with Covid, please take the pause as a preventative measure, as we know it is rampant amongst our communities. Just yesterday, the positivity rate in only AH zip codes is 10.36% and the new cases per 100,000 population is 384. It is also important to consider the staffing shortage. Many of us are filling in for teacher-less classrooms, but that can only sustain us for so long. It's not working and we don't have a sub pool to pull from. They do not want to come to our district when all the surrounding districts have closed. They know it's not safe. Thank you for your consideration and taking additional time to attend to this serious community matter.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Ayah Jaber | <p>Reopening schools, or simply not taking an adaptive pause, is a great disservice to the community, district staff, and SD25 students. While I do have family members who are staff members, I also have people in my life who are students in this district. Being exposed to both types of district involvement, it has become clear to me that the only reasonable solution is to revert back to virtual learning for the time being. The district utilizes a self-assessment method. This is inefficient for this virus. The reason COVID-19 is the first virus in 100 years to be as impactful as it has is because symptoms can take up to almost two weeks to show. In those two weeks, an individual is still contagious. It is also possible for an individual to never show a single symptom, yet remain contagious. The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign has been championed as one of the best, if not the best, example of how to safely do things amidst a pandemic. They require everyone to be tested (for free) multiple times a week and those tests are the only ways that one can enter any university building or area. Many argue that the families of students can choose whether to send their children back or not. However, staff don't have that same opportunity. Many staff can not choose to not to lunch duty, a job in which they are in a room with at least tens of kids, maskless, for approx. 30 minutes everyday. 2 days ago, only 92 less people died of COVID in America than the number of those who died on 9/11. After the tragedy that was 9/11, the country rallied together because the lives lost were a true loss for the country. The differences between 9/11 and COVID-19 deaths are that that was a one day event. As awful as it was, the attacks on American soil lasted one day. With covid-19, this is the twelfth month since our first known case of the virus and we are still breaking records for number of cases and deaths. But this time, we can do something about it! We had very little ability to save anyone impacted by 9/11 but with COVID, we have the chance to make the difference. 9/11's attacks were committed by international forces but at this point, we are responsible for how the virus has spread. This time, the tragedy is impacted by domestic forces. America is the land of the free. But I don't think that the simple notion that whether kids can go to school or not is an argument is a sign of freedom. True freedom is being able to go about our lives without worry. Freedom is being able to go to work and school. Being able to go to the movies or a restaurant. But deciding to go about these acts regardless of the risk to others isn't freedom, it's selfishness. If we want to truly be free, we need to buckle-down for a bit and take the necessary action to stop this virus. The sooner we do that, the sooner we can truly be free. We can't argue that schools need to be reopened because of the mental health of students. The mental health of students is SO important. But reopening in unsafe conditions is not the answer. Watching their teachers and classmates go in and out of quarantine is not the answer for better mental health. The potential that a student might contract the virus at school, even if they are fine, and infect a family member is too much stress for anyone to handle, let alone elementary and middle schoolers. We need to stop using these students as pawns to get what we want. And start acting in ways that will make eventually reopening SAFE. We don't teach our children to act selfishly so let's be good role models and show them what it's like to work together to be safe and free. I, myself, have lived in this area my whole life. I am a college student working remotely and as someone who personally has found this remote work and 10 months of quarantine to be emotionally draining, I tell you that what students need is for people to work together so it can be safe to reopen one day. Please, take an adaptive pause.</p> |
| Mindy turner | My kindergartener with an IEP needs to be in person for services! |
| Jen Ortman | Please do not have an adaptive pause. Please continue with at a minimum Hybrid, ideally move to full time in school for those who choose to send their kids. We need this. |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Andrea Burger | The argument is not whether it's better for children to be in school. Of course it is! The argument right now is how do we provide the best education to our children during a crazy spike in this pandemic? When we went hybrid, the committee decided on certain metrics. We are way past those numbers and they're still increasing. The community is where we hire our subs from, and when the community is sick, we have no one to fill our openings. This week has been especially difficult to staff-- we've averaged over 25 unfilled openings daily across the district. Even in the dead of winter when teachers are falling ill to the flu, we've never had more than 15 unfilled openings, with the average being around 10. This means that we're running short-staffed in every building, while the teachers are trying to teach to both in-person children and remote learners. This is unsustainable. We need an adaptive remote in order to provide the standard of teaching that we as tax payers expect from our district. In addition we need this adaptive remote to relieve the stress we're placing on the staff. The board needs to make a decision and stop deferring for "more information". We have the information needed to make the correct decision. Go to an adaptive pause until January 19th. Thank you. |
| Chris Hafer | Please give parents the ability to choose the learning method that works best for their kids by making full in-person learning available for all students. Parents can then weigh the risks and make the choice that is the best overall decision for their family. |
| The following comments were received after the submission deadline and were not included in the December 4, 2020 Board meeting. | |
| Ellen Wano | On my lunch hour. Just perused the 3 page attendance list and the email that SMS has another positive Covid case. Are there students here who went out of state or to social gatherings over Thanksgiving break. Yes. Do adults and students who should be quarantining come inside the building? Yes. The community is more than this district and deserves better protection during this surge. |
| Jen Hicks | I understand the cases amount is being taken into consideration for whether or not to return to school but I want to know how much or if anyone is focusing on the children's mental health. There have been several stories about the effects of this on children's Mental health. I would like to know what the school will be doing for children who are struggling. I'd like to know if their mental health is taken into consideration when discussing closing the schools. They have said that there is not many cases transmitted in schools yet they still want to close them and I wonder if when they think about the physical health of a child if they think about the mental health also. |
| Kathy and Dan Kowitz | We support an adaptive pause. Please vote for an adaptive pause, to keep everyone safe. Thank you. |
| Anthony Pagnotto | Thank you for your hard work during this crazy time. Wishing you all the best this holiday season. |
| Mary Kate Schoenbeck | I want to express my support for an adaptive pause of hybrid/in person learning due to community spread, hospital stress, as well as community gatherings during the holidays. This is the smartest, safest approach and hybrid can resume after the holiday season in which people are still continuing to meet indoors without masks. This might not be the easy decision but it is the right one! Please do right by our community. |
| Allison Keough | If you vote for an adaptive pause, PLEASE allow the special education instructional students to continue till break with at least half days as they did at the beginning of the year |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Brian Carlson | <p>I want to start off saying that I respect our teachers so much and appreciate all they do! Teachers are essential just like a doctor, nurse, grocery clerk, teller at a bank... all those we rely on everyday. Children rely on teachers. In person, not remote. Is the possibility of a pause based on community responses or from the teachers? We're hearing it's from the teachers. If from the teachers, they need to step-up! It's their job! Nobody signed up to live/work through what we're experiencing but we all now need to deal with the situation and do what's in the best interest of our kids. Being in-school is in their best interest (as long as all safety precautions from all families/teachers are being followed). Like everybody else, the teachers need to find a way to deal with their home life and their work life. At home there are way too many distractions for an e-learning environment and our kids are not progressing as we feel they should be at these stages of their education. E-Teachers are having a difficult time keeping kids on task, disciplining kids when they need to be disciplined, giving them the individual encouragement they need on a tough assignment and individually congratulating them on an assignment well done. Emotionally there is no comparison between e-learning and in-person schooling for them. On in school days, they are so much happier. As a family we are following all protocols; we do not see extended family, we have canceled all holidays, sports, etc. So if you are telling us it is a staffing issue, why is the staff not being held accountable? Why are they not acting as an "essential" working class. If a student can't see family or explore outside of the household, nor should the teacher. If teachers don't want to show up to work, then just like all other professions, they shouldn't be paid! It's our tax dollars that are paying the teachers and they need to step up to the challenge they've been presented just like all other working parents! Parents need to work, kids need school. Please do not make this adaptive pause about the essential workers not being able to carry out their job. All of us need to figure out childcare and how to explore this difficult time! Bottom line, kids the best education possible need and I believe that's through in-person learning.</p> |
| Erin Miller | <p>Our family, which includes four children in D25, asks that you please vote against an adaptive pause. There is absolutely no reason for it as the safest place for our children is in school. Those who wish to keep their children home have the ability to do so, and those who want their children to continue their education within their school buildings should also have that choice. Please think of the children's mental health and the toll it is taking on them to be stuck behind a screen all day when making your decision. We know these are trying times for all and appreciate all the work you are doing on our behalf. Please vote NO on the adaptive pause. With Hope and Gratitude, Erin Miller</p> |
| Urmi Trivedi | <p>Please keep schools in person learning open</p> |
| Jennifer Dunn | <p>In the conversations about whether schools should stay open or shut, some indicate that all research has shown that schools are not spreaders of the virus. The truth of the matter is that research around schools' role in community spread is ongoing and there are no hard and firm answers. Decisions made to open and close schools are made under uncertainty with imperfect data. Statements that all is known about the science of school spread are inaccurate. This article puts the state of knowledge in perspective: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/covid-19-soars-many-communities-schools-attempt-find-ways-through-crisis?utm_campaign=SciMag&utm_source=JHubbard&utm_medium=Facebook I encourage the board and the community to remember that there are no certainties about the safety or lack of safety in the school environment. More data about our school environments would help. Can we, for example, deploy CO2 sensors as the article I linked to suggests? I think many parents would be happy to contribute to solutions like these that could contribute to more information that would inform safe(r) operations of schools.</p> |

| First and Last Name | Public Comment |
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| Ashley Dalton | <p>I want nothing more than for our kids to be back in school. I appreciate the efforts that the district has made to make this happen. Unfortunately, it seems we have hit a point to reconsider this. Cases are surging and it seems that there is limited staff available.</p> <p>This week my daughter had 4 different teachers. I know that this can't be an isolated issue and I fear this will continue if we push for in person in the current climate.</p> <p>I want to express my support for Dr Bein and the board to do what they feel is needed given the current metrics and staffing availability.</p> |
| Dawn Katcher | <p>Hello-</p> <p>As you are looking at an adaptive pause- I urge you to ask for educational data. The district takes the MAP every year... the MAP measures individual growth and can also measure school/district growth. I feel like Remote learning is not an equal education to in person and is directly impacting students education, however, MAP data will give us the true information on the educational impact these learning environments are having. If the district, schools, students are having regressions in their education, I urge you to vote no to an adaptive pause. Have the district get creative with a different hybrid structure if staffing is the issue.</p> <p>While everyone has looked at Covid cases, no one has brought up or looked at academic data as well to drive the decisions. I feel like this is another piece that should weigh in on a decision.</p> |
| Jim Vanderpoel | <p>I would really appreciate keeping the kids in school as much as possible. We have all been working hard to socially distance for months now and it has been working. We have made our holiday plans accordingly. Some families have decided to self-quarantine to be responsible members of the community if they suspect that they may have been exposed during their time off. Our teachers are working so hard and are doing awesome at teaching hybrid learning. I don't want my kid to miss out on more critical learning and teacher interaction. We have been working hard together as a community so that our kids can be properly educated and don't want to be penalized for a panic resulting from statistics that are outside of our community and don't seem to have any scientific bearing. Thank you.</p> |
| Yuki Buller | <p>Need a safe place for everyone otherwise education doesn't mean anything for a long run.</p> |
| Alina Laurie | <p>The school buildings do not need to close. Leave the schools open so parents can choose the best option for their own kids. The social distancing and cleaning protocols have been well-done. The virus is not transmitting within the four walls of the building.</p> |

Petition Comments for no adaptive pause

| Name | Comments |
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| Christy Goduto | Please continue to allow the choice for full remote or in person learning. Thank you! |
| Marianne Corcoran | No adaptive pause. |
| Renee Schlenhardt | <p>I do not support "Adaptive Pause" or full remote for any reason at this time. Families can choose remote at anytime, creating their own "pause." It's not right remote families should have any say in anyone else's family. The district metrics are very good, the risk has proven to be low to have schools open. The governors orders haven't included closing schools, and he's been clear that should be a local decision. It should continue to be a local decision and choice for all.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| Kathy Dieringer | No need for adaptive pause |
| Laura Culley | The mitigations the district is doing are working and keeping cases low in the district. In person learning is best and the children will not be able to make up the learning lost if we go fully remote with no option for in person learning. Our local area code positivity rate is nearly 8% now and the |

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| | total covid cases in the district are low. We should not go into adaptive pause due to the harm it could do to children and the metrics in our schools. It just does not make sense. |
| Amanda Eichstaedt | No Adaptive Pause |
| Tomasiewicz | |
| Lauren Rogers | We DESERVE the CHOICE to choose what is best for our kids! Let my kids stay in-person school, where they thrive |
| Jennifer Olson | |
| Shivi Stanley | |
| Shannon Reinking | |
| Betty Levinsky | Please keep schools open. Our children need education. |
| Megan Kerpec | |
| Leah Ross | Thank you |
| Lindsay Nugent | Keep our district numbers in mind, please! |
| Jodi Zera | Please keep schools open because COVID-19 is not spreading within the buildings. Parents who are concerned can choose to keep their children at home. |
| Hope Tokarczyk | Our children deserve to be in school. We all know this is the safest place for them. Please listen to the CDC and follow the science which all leads to the fact that in person is best for kids. Those that don't feel comfortable still have the choice to be remote but please do not take away hybrid for our kids. My boys have only been in school 9 days. They deserve to continue to be excited to go to school at least twice a week. |
| Carly Lisinski | |
| Brett Anderson | |
| Krystyna Tybor | |
| Marzena Mikulski | <p>No adaptive pause! Give parents choice!</p> <p>The data indicates that the transmission rate within schools is low due to all the steps that everyone is taking.</p> <p>Pausing doesn't solve many challenges and introduces new ones. This is a new norm and everyone has to adapt to this norm. Please allow parents to make the best decisions for their children as they are the only ones that know what their kids need! Let's ensure that our kids best interest is the focus of the discussion. Closing schools would be Irresponsible!</p> <p>Please keep the schools open and allow parents make decisions.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work, much appreciated!</p> |
| Kristin Rauen | Please keep our ability to choose in the best interest of our children. Please keep the current hybrid option with the movement to full in person in January. |
| Maureen Schmidt | Say no to an adaptive pause |
| Christine Naunheimer | I'm requesting that the board vote no for adaptive pause. I also intend to remind the Board that the number of public comments via emails are not "votes". We voted to elect the school board members as part of an open election and it is their job to make choices based on multiple factors in the best interest of our children, staff, teachers and community. Unless they request input via a survey of all parents in the district, they cannot count public comments of a meeting as "votes." |
| Lisa Keavy | Both remote and in person should be a choice. Kids need to be in school. |
| Lisa Pils | People have the choice to stay home and choose remote without an adaptive pause. |
| Alicen Manus | Keep our schools open! |
| Emily Gromer | Schools are not active hot spots for Covid. Keep the kids in school and learning! EVERYONE MUST HAVE A CHOICE!!!! Those who choose to remain remote can. My kids deserve to be in school! Thank you! |

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| Katarzyna Malaczek | I strongly believe that in person learning is the only option for my kids. Adaptive pause is not needed at this time . |
| Katie Taranda | Remote is always an option for any child. Why does an adaptive pause need to be forced upon everyone. |
| Star Smith | Remote learning puts my daughter at a disadvantage. She struggles with reading and spelling, but not enough to need intervention assistance. Her teacher did not know to what length until she started in-person. There is only so much a parent can do, children need an educated teacher face-to-face! |
| Sarah Lerch-Halliday | Give parents the choice for in person or remote. |
| Patrick T Keavy | |
| Katy Murray | Please vote no for an adaptive pause |
| Michelle Casillas | No to adaptive pause - kids need to be in school. |
| Kristina Heaton | As stated, an adaptive pause is not necessary based on the current metrics. Parents who currently have a 'personal discomfort' have the option to keep their children in fully remote learning without an adaptive pause. |
| Katarzyna Zurek | |
| Tom & Erin Kalaway | |
| Justyna Stelmaszak | No adaptive pause in SD25 |
| Nicole Towle | Families already have a choice to send their kids to school or stay home and remote learn. Those who seek the adaptive pause agenda should concern themselves with their family's personal decision and keep their kids at home; give other families the right to choose what works for them and do not infringe on those rights. I want my kids in school. |
| Melissa Newkirk | There is no reason for an adaptive pause. Let the kids go to school |
| Carrie Skony | |
| Janelle Thoma | |
| Michelle Kuhn | All cases in the school have had no close contacts. The system is working and there is minimal risk for the kids to continue in hybrid. The mitigants in place work. |
| Stacey Cooke | Signing this to reaffirm our family's position that metrics do not support an adaptive pause and families who are more comfortable with remote learning ALREADY have that option. |
| Jaime Yeh | I believe that in-person education is the best choice for D25 students given the mitigation measures in place. My own 4 children in the district are more engaged, motivated and connected during in-person days at school. Please continue to maintain that necessary choice for all students. We would be doing a vast disservice to our community if we went on an adaptive pause. |
| Dominic Franchi | Please lets these kids stay in person hybrid or go full in person. The e-learning has been very ineffective and the devastating effects on the kids mental health is horrible. We are two working adults and this has been virtually impossible and tough on our mental health has well. I fear this will have lasting effects. Please do not go back to an adaptive pause. We can do this with masks, washing and social distancing. This virus is real but the media has overblown it's lethality for political purposes. Please do not continue to live in fear of this virus. Please get all of these kids back in person school. Thank you. |
| Danny Chiao | No adaptive pause |
| Joanna Sopel | People who want adaptive pause have a choice to keep their kids home ! |

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| Carol Nugent | <p>I've listened to all D25 board meetings, as I have a vested interest as a crossing guard employee and grandmother. I love my job! I understand the choice of sending your child to school or continued remote learning, and I respect both. The parents and children whom I have crossed this year are happy and healthy and love being back in the classroom. I do miss the others who have chosen to stay with the remote concept. I love that it's a choice!! I'm of course afraid that D25 will not continue schooling as it should be. Here's why:</p> <p>I don't believe, after watching the many board meetings and listening to experts and parents, that we should implement an adaptive pause in the educational curriculum.</p> <p>I truly believe as a grandmother of 4 children who attend D25 schools and 1 who's been attending a parochial school since August/September that these children are better served being in the classroom in person.</p> <p>Studies have shown the negative emotional effects on many students. I also feel our superintendent has a skewed outlook, which is a bit dangerous, about our many children living in so-called affluent families not struggling, not to mention the working families and single-parent households who cannot afford daycare.</p> <p>Socioeconomic status should not be a determining factor in the D25 decision. Please, let's get the children back in the classroom with their peers.</p> <p>As far as the lack of teachers, it's my opinion that the district should have had a game plan in place that included interviewing substitute teachers and other ancillary staff. We've been in this for 9 months and D25 has had more than ample time to plan, including over the summer.</p> <p>I hope to hear the next board meeting offer some problem-solving answers instead of excuses. Honestly, if the school district was a company/small business/corporation, we'd be shut down. Our children and taxpayers deserve the best answer. If that's not possible, then please step down and allow someone(s) to step in.</p> |
| Erin Zurek | Please give parents a choice. |
| Lisa Duello | |
| Steve Zurek | Please no adaptive pause |
| Peter Woolsey | We moved our daughter into private school as a result of the decisions made by district 25. There have been zero issues at her school. She is happier and better behaved than when she was doing distance learning. I worry that she will advance academically more than her public school peers that have been in remote and how that will affect her going back to SD25 when in person is full time again. |
| Gitana Lapys | NO adaptive pause please! It's no outbreaks in the schools and my kids doing the best in person. Thanks |
| Chris Duello | Those who want a pause can already do it. It is their CHOICE. |
| Todd Witherow | |
| Greg Geissenberger | Illinois Metrics are already improving and our R number is the 2nd best in the country |
| Peggy Jones | Please take the path less traveled abs do NOT offer an adaptive pause. Reach out to those in the private school community and see how they are making school work for their kids. Our kids need you to fight for them!! |
| Amy Ashcraft | My kids absolutely need to stay in person, in school. The current, relevant Covid metrics do not support an adaptive pause. Bogus results from biased surveys, inability to keep appropriate staffing levels, poorly negotiated union contracts and a general 'me before we' sentiment from the school district do not warrant even a discussion about adaptive pause in our schools. |
| Sheryl Terril | |
| Maryann Zaleski | <p>Follow what the science tells us- it is safe for children to return to school and we can do so responsibly.</p> <p>Hold parents accountable for their private lives and tell them if their kids in-person education is of utmost importance right now, then people need to consider eliminating or reducing all unnecessary activities to reduce exposure so we can continue to make school a safe choice.</p> |
| Elizabeth Green | |

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| Kristin Irmen | |
| Jennifer Ponivas | |
| Melissa Lenski | My child learns best with in person learning. He has an IEP and is finally allowed to go back 4 days a week. Please do not take that away from him. |
| Brian Ashcraft | Please keep the schools open for in-person learning. There seems to be a good number of people that want the schools open, and the reported in-school transmission rates are low. These two measurements are strong indicators that the kids should have the opportunity to learn in the building. |
| Eileen Ryan | |
| Lisa Jordan | No adaptive pause |
| Dan Ryan | |
| Kristin Keil | I submitted a public comment but I understand there is a petition going around in regards to an adaptive pause so I am signing this petition in support of no adaptive pause. I hope that the school board recognizes that these petitions don't have as much value as the personal public comments as anyone can sign without reading the fine print, especially when the petition is pages in length. This petition is short and to the point with no underlying text. |
| Nikki Wiedner | I would NOT LIKE an adaptive pause. Kids NEED to be in school! |
| Stephanie Levinsky | How many more experts need to say that in-person school is best AND covid is not being spread in schools? |
| Robyn Warter | No adaptive Pause is warranted. |
| Darinka Ferguson | My children's attitude towards school is so much more positive on the days that they are in school versus at home on Zoom. The 7 day rolling average positivity rate has been declining, why even consider an adaptive pause if the numbers are going down???? |
| Alina Laurie | Please follow the CDC and keep the schools open. Our SD25 buildings are the safest place for kids. |
| Catherine Gripper | |
| Brittany Polihronis | Please continue to give choice to families. No Adapted Pause! |
| Jennifer Huntzicker | Procedures for safety in our schools are in place and transmission from students to adults is not happening as far as I can tell from the dashboard. Let's keep these kids in school. |
| Kelley Costello | |
| Mark Tack | Leave schools open |
| Adam C Thoma | |
| Katie Rausch | Parents have choice! Adaptive pause is not supported with metrics and medical experts insisting schools remain open. Follow their guidance on that and keep us open. Parents uncomfortable with in person have the option for remote and that's their choice. I choose for my children to be in person and that's my choice! I have never thought about taking choice away from remote only parents and they should never think that they can take away my choice either! |
| Erin Felten | My 2nd grader NEEDS to be in school-remote does not work for our family with our son needing in-person for his IEP needs. |
| Robert Culley | Keep kids in school. Move to 5 day per week in January. |
| Michele Voris | Back to school and normal life for these kids!!!! |
| Jenny Vuckov | |
| Egidijus Lapys | In person school is the best option for my bilingual family. |
| Kristy Harvey | Please keep the choice for kids to stay in school. This is so important for the mental health of many of these kids. |
| Stephanie Rapone | <p>I trust and respect that school board members are continuously seeking factual, non-biased, information about recommendations from the CDC, ISBE, local departments of public health, and other critical non-biased sources to determine metrics to move to an adaptive pause. Schools are not spreaders of COVID.</p> <p>Just like "XYZ school district is doing it" wasn't a good enough reason for full-day in-person, it's not a good enough reason for adaptive pause.</p> |
| Desiree Barnett | An adaptive pause would only further hurt our children. |
| Patrick Schiltz | No adaptive pause - use less jargon please |

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| Jen Starr | I support NO adaptive pause. |
| Christine Boros | |
| Brian Lisinski | |
| Sean Molina | Vote no on an adaptive pause. All those families that are uncomfortable with in person learning have the option to remain home and should do so. Let parents make the choice themselves. |
| Daniela Martin | Our children need in person school! The metrics in our area do not support an adaptive pause. |
| Stacey Esposito | My children have thrived since returning to in person learning. They are beginning to love school again. Please say no to an adaptive pause. |
| Mairin Gradek | |
| Heather Molina | |
| Cindy Smiskol | School should NOT be the thing that closes. Other businesses & activities should be limiting in-person patronage and "pausing," specifically so that schools can remain open. When there are 8 or fewer children in a classroom, there is plenty of space for distancing and NO PAUSE should be necessary. |
| John | NO to SD 25 adaptive pause |
| Michael Zaleski | |
| Vasilka Aleksieva | |
| Stephanie Fossler | |
| Suzanne Volpe | Stop penalizing children because of the teachers' unions fear about Covid |
| Jeffrey Gradek | |
| Kelly Dudle | |
| Jane Zaleski | |
| Beth O'Meara | |
| Briana Hafer | |
| Danielle Valentin | |
| Diem Lai | According to Dr. Bein there has been two transmissions in the school since hybrid started. This is the data we should be looking at. The district has asked people who traveled during the Thanksgiving break to stay home. Please allow in-person learning from now, 11/30, to the end of the school year (June). |
| Jenni Von Tobel | Based on the levels in our zip codes and the negligible transmission rates in school, I don't believe an adaptive pause is warranted for SD25. |
| Andre Newman | Hybrid is working great for my kids and they love being in school. Please don't take that away from them. It's a risk I am willing to take by sending them in-person! |
| Erin Wiggs | Vote No to adaptive pause. |
| Richard Duong | I do not support an adaptive pause. I would like my kid to be in-person learning from now to the end of the school year. |
| Michael Boros | My kids need face to face learning. Online learning is not appropriate for their age levels. |
| Greg Mikulski | No adaptive pause, data and all government agencies recommend kids be in school. The transmission rate within school are very low. Please consider kids needs when making decision. |
| Tim Wiggs | Vote No to Adaptive Pause |
| Ewa Dabrowski | The remote learning is not working for my kids. Sitting for many hours in front of the computer does more damage than good. Their mental health is at stake. It's so hard to explain to the kid's why their cousins, who attend private schools, are full time in school since August and they are doing just fine. This is so unfair. All kids deserve education! |
| Samantha | Keep schools open! Those who chose to keep their kids home can do so. |
| Ryan Fetzer | |
| Kelly Causero | Keep our schools open for the mental health of our children |
| Marina Lara | No Adaptive Pause! Please keep our kids in schools with COVID rates being low |
| Anna | No |
| Angela Zielinski | |
| Colleen corliss | |

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| Jacalyn Derengowski | No to an adaptive pause. |
| Kerri Hood | We do NOT need a pause! Those that want a pause have the option already do pull their kids remote. Why must the rest of us that want in-person also be forced to change yet again?? Some parent pushing for a pause again are doing so so that they don't have to tell their kids they are the reason why they are remote. It's extremely selfish that my kids - who suffer in remote learning - should not be able to go to school just so other parents don't have to look like the bad guy to their own kids. Nothing is going to magically change between now and Jan, so there is no need for a pause. The numbers are steadily declining, which shows the spike was NOT due to being IN SCHOOL. |
| Mike Murray | I support No adaptive pause |
| Victoria | |
| Chiara Crudele | |
| Tatiana | stop this nonsense |
| Rick Carney | |
| Sarah Riddle-Krodel | |
| Julie Talbot | I would like to remind the Board and Superintendent that emails in support of full remote and/or adaptive pause are NOT community votes for those selections and that this is not an election. On the Board Buzz, email comments are listed as "votes" and that is clearly not the case. In addition, parents wishing to remain full remote should have that choice and therefore should not need to email the superintendent and board supporting full remote for all students, since they are NOT speaking for the entire community, just their children. They will always have the choice of full remote, regardless of hybrid or full in-person. All children learn differently and those parents supporting full time remote should not dictate if my child attends in -person school. |
| Kellin Girard | I fully agree with the current metrics and do not support an adaptive pause. Thank you! |
| Julia Herrmann | My kids grades are suffering! |
| Heidi steinike | It is SAFE to be in school and it is the BEST choice for our kids. Remote learning cannot replace and will never be equal to in- person learning. |
| Gina Smith | No to adaptive pause |
| Horeya Czaplewski | |
| Agnes Kowal | |
| Melissa Van Buren | No adaptive pause! |
| Ewa Rasztar | Please do not have adaptive pause for District 25. |
| Susie Fetzer | We do NOT support an adaptive pause! |
| Janet reich | Full in person!!!!!!!!!! |
| Alessa Gurrola | |
| Rob Kanabay | |
| Megan vaeth | |
| Denise Stienstra | No to Adaptive Pause |
| Carissa Lee Holmes | |
| Katie Guretz | |
| Lauren Pierce | |
| Julie Mueller | I feel the guidance of health experts shows that schools are not spreader locations, especially with masks being worn, and with the distancing allowed in hybrid. All of the notifications for Covid cases found in my children's schools have stated that there was no close contact identified. For this reason, I do not think an adaptive pause from hybrid is needed. |

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| Katie Starzyk | My children have suffered terribly with the current learning environment. They need to be in school five days a week and the Administration needs to stop discussing barriers and focus on creative solutions. |
| Erin McLaughlin | Please vote no for adaptive pause. |
| Michelle pet | |
| Ryan Cooke | I have seen no data that COVID-19 is spreading in schools, so schools should remain open. Our state officials and even the CDC and WHO have all said that schools should remain open. In fact, positive cases are down since the school board first voted to NOT do an adaptive pause, so I want to know exactly what has changed since then that would make you feel we should revert back? |
| Lisa Nason | Please don't go to Adaptive Pause, just the little bit of in person school has helped my sons mental health so much. Please, please, please keep them in school for hybrid. |
| Heather Lepold | My 3rd grader and 5th grader's emotional health and learning is maximized at school (in-person, w/ their teacher and classmates). At this primary age it is so critical to plant seeds for lifelong learning which benefits overall well-being. Academics will come later when their brains are more developed, but our children need the support of sd25 in this moment. My family desperately need help from sd25 BOE and staff to return elementary aged students (K-5) to full, in-person learning (w/ mitigations, masked). We cannot do this without you. |
| Erin Miller | We have 4 children in D25 and are fully opposed to an adaptive pause. Please follow the science and the CDC guidance that states that schools are the safest place for our children to be. |
| Cathy Olson | |
| Colleen Van Ham | I would like to retain the ability for students to attend school in person should a family be comfortable with that option while others can remotely learn. |
| Allison Ritt Devlin | |
| Heather Kelley | Please do not go to adaptive pause and continue with hybrid. We also would like to keep the 4 day option for IEP students that is to start on Dec 8. |
| Christine La Valle | I fully support in person school and do not wish for an adaptive pause. |
| Tara Tinsley | Follow the advice from the experts and keep the schools open. Our children are suffering and deserve a CHOICE for in-person learning. |
| Chris Stack | I am strongly not in favor of any sort of reduction in in person learning, or a delay in returning to school full time, as it is not in line with CDC guidance and is extremely detrimental to the learning and development of my child. I consider any delays in returning to school full time, or reduction in in-person learning to be a dereliction of duty by the school board and administration. |
| Melissa LeFevour | No adaptive pause. The numbers aren't there to support a pause. |
| Sarah Klancnik | |
| Diana Lane | |
| Nicole Mather | No Pause, please our Kids Need to Be in School, if only for 2 days! And if a Pause what is needed then, go full pause, no school and make up at the end of the school year in the summer! |
| Lisa Fischer | |
| Katy brown | No adaptive pause |
| Mollie Gottfred | We wish to maintain hybrid at minimum!!! |
| Catherine | I believe masks are preventing the spread of Covid within the schools, hospitals and all other facilities that require masks. My children are struggling to learn at home. Please keep the schools open and consider offering a full in school option. |
| Doug Gottfred | |
| Liz osterhues | We need choice! |
| Jennifer Cummings | |
| Daniella | No adaptive pause |
| Kara McCarthy | Our children need to be in school. As a parent and teacher I see firsthand how remote learning is impacting our children. These children need to be in school with their peers and teachers where they can receive appropriate instruction. School helps shape these minds - not only educationally but socially and emotionally. So many of our students do not have homes that are safe/ conducive to learning. They will be left behind in all of this, as will so so so many others. |
| Nikki Difiglio | |

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| David Katcher | As recommended by the CDC and Dr. Fauci, please keep in person school in place. |
| Chad Fischer | |
| Jessica Weglarz | |
| Bethany Schiltz | |
| Beth Dover | Please vote NO to an adaptive pause |
| Katie Guretz | Our family needs in person learning for so many reasons. I am so grateful for the days my children are at school. My children need their special needs met! I need to get back to work so Santa can come and we can pay our bills. |
| Courtney Kiefer | Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe, and know that as a community we are willing to make that happen for teachers and all school staff. |
| Jennifer | |
| Sara Yantis | |
| Karen Pinnello | |
| Steve Miller | I would humbly ask the administration to follow the data not of the overall population but limited specifically to the data from schools and children, particularly those in the kindergarten and elementary school age groups. We have not been presented with any data that would indicate that an adaptive pause would be necessary or even prudent for children in these age groups. We recognize that there are segments of society today for whom COVID is a potentially lethal threat. But there is no data, to my knowledge, that suggests that the same risks apply to children. I ask that you follow the guidance provided by the CDC, American Society of Pediatrics, et al, and get these kids back in school where they can continue to grow, learn and flourish. We owe this to the kids. |
| Jeff Siena | |
| Bill Jurjovec | |
| Jennifer Durkin | Remote learning is causing emotional harm. Our kids are not meant to "learn" remotely. |
| Steven Melich | |
| Elizabeth Malone | My children are suffering academically on remote learning days. |
| Becky Grotjan | With one son in district 25 and another at St James School, I've seen first hand how successful an Arlington Heights School (St James) has been all school year at keeping its facility and students safe 5 days a week at in person learning. It saddens me to see the constant meetings and conversations about adaptive pause or the debate on sending kids 5 days a week in district 25. How do I explain to my children that it's ok for 1 of them to be in person but not the other? As someone who has lived in AH my entire life it just disappoints me that the board is continuing to have this debate. Bottom line the kids in person. |
| Laura Weigle | |

Jeff Van Buren

To whom it may concern

I have been silent for too long with the people who are making the decisions for my children. I'm not really sure what to say. I'm really tired I'm really done with a lot of the back and forth. I'm done with the unexpected. My children my 3 sons and my niece that the wife and I have been supervising during the hybrid education period. I have seen them suffer and slowly start to succeed as school starts to return to in person education. We faced the unexpected two weeks ago when the topic of adaptive pause was brought up. The wife and I sat and watched the board meeting over the internet and we saw progress. We saw the board stand up and start asking questions and making requests. We saw the superintendent tell the board why they needed the adaptive pause. I saw Rich stand up and ask for the recommendation from the CDC. I saw him wanting more. More knowledge, more data, better data to reflect what is going on inside the walls of the school. I was amazed at this I was amazed that we did not follow like sheep. Dr Bein has been a constant obstacle a person who does not see the solutions but only sees the problems. She has obviously stood with only the teachers, only the teachers union and what appears to be the leadership of the state.

Let me tell you about me. My name is Jeff Van Buren I am a nurse at a local large teaching hospital in the suburbs. My current position is in a procedural department. I have been there for just over 20 months. Before this for 10 years I was an intensive care nurse in the surgical intensive care unit. My specialty was bringing patients on the verge of death back to life. There were always problems but there were always solutions. In March I was approached by my current supervisor and told that I was being redeployed back to the icu because there was a problem and I was going to be part of the solution. The hospital had created a new policy that stated that if staff (all hospital staff in all roles) were given a redeployment assignment and did not accept it we were sent home for the rest of the day to ponder our decision to refuse redeployment. We were asked to come back the next day and when we were given our redeployment for the second time and we still refused we had chosen our destiny it was that of voluntary resignation. They were willing to let go talent that was very much in need. (It currently costs well over \$100000 to train and orient a critical care nurse) I was faced with a decision to go be part of the solution or be unemployed and risk my family being homeless and hungry. I chose to be part of the solution and trust me I left the icu for a long list of reasons. I spent the next 2.5 months caring for critical covid patients in the icu's.

Ok back to the topic. Dr Bein is proposing an adaptive pause. The board did not want it before they wanted more data. Have we collected that data? Well the students have been out of school since that board meeting since returning to school this Tuesday. None of the students have been in school and yet the district has reported cases from the school district. This would point to the fact that this has happened as a result of spread outside of the schools. If we are going to make decisions about students being in school we should look at data from inside the school. To date, from the data that is provided via government sources there has been no cases that have been a result of spread in school. So

My question is, if that is in fact true why would we close down in person education for the students that want to be in school?

If we are going to make decisions about our schools we need data that reflects what is happening in schools. What is happening outside of school is important but those numbers don't reflect the community that is the individual schools and classrooms. If there is no data to support spread in schools then there is no data to support a move to an adaptive pause.

I can see an advantage under certain conditions for what is referred to as an adaptive pause but I don't see the advantage now. Now that the kids have been back to school for a week.

Let's talk solutions again because problems with no solutions are road blocks to progress. Every morning before I am aloud entry into the hospital that I work at I fill out a screening app. I take my temperature and I assess weather I have any symptoms. I also report through the app if I have been exposed to a know positive case, if I am waiting on test results or if any one in my household is positive, symptomatic or waiting on test results. This is one of the many strategies that my hospital uses to mitigate the risks and make it safer for my patients and the staff that I work with.

During my day when I'm caring for patients, and collaborating with my colleagues I wear a standard procedural mask and safety glasses. I only wear an N95 mask when directly dealing with a know or suspected positive covid patient. Also even during procedures where I am giving medications to sedate the patient, the patient also wears a procedural mask just like I do. I can tell you that this mitigation strategy is working. I don't have the ability to stay 6 feet apart from patients and staff. I don't have the ability to limit my time with a patient or staff member. Masks work and

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| | <p>are very effective. Also I was speaking about this with a fellow nurse today and she had said that none of the staff have been sick with colds that normally sweep through out unit this time of year. This means that masks work even under the conditions of not being able to distance our selves and limit time.</p> <p>I'm really tired. I'm tired of the lack of data. I'm tired of the fear mongering that the superintendent, the teachers, the teachers union continues to push. These people have told us that they will die or get covid if they work if they teach in person. If the mitigation strategy that I spoke of really did not work the entire health care system would of shut down along time ago during this pandemic. Right now I have lost confidence in the superintendent and the teachers union. I have lost confidence in all because I'm not really sure who is at the wheel, who is in control. I can tell you for sure that I'm not in control of my children's education. I'm not really sure who is? Can you tell me?</p> <p>I support is the move towards full in person school education five days a week with students in class with a teacher in the same class room. I support the use of masks by both students and staff. I support data driven decisions. I support teachers that are in school for the students. I support the voluntary resignation of any teacher whom does not want to teach in person with mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and support of my children.</p> <p>Jeff Van Buren RN BSN Critical Care Certified Nurse Trauma Nurse Specialist Father of 3 boys at Ivy Hill Elementary School</p> |
| Michael Boros | My kids need in person learning. Who is going to take accountability when they fall behind too far that they cannot get into college and graduate school? Is it you? |
| Frank J Biga III | Our schools need to be back in-person 5 days a week. I am sick of paying property taxes and getting this completely inadequate substitute for educational services in exchange. If schools are not back in session come January 6, I will withhold my property tax payment in March. The current administration should be directed to achieve full in-person learning by the beginning of the new term and if it can't or won't it should be bought out and a new administration should be found. The costs would be worth it. Our kids need a human education. |
| Alex Yantis | By all means proceed with all cautions. As long as everyone follows and respects this precautions in order to protect not only themselves but more importantly others we should be able to give the children the education they need. |
| Kevin Allender | REJECT A MOTION FOR ADAPTIVE PAUSE |
| Meghan Wood | Please no adaptive pause for sd25 |
| George Guiwargis | Thank you for your understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently and my three boys significantly benefitted from in person instruction and support versus remote learning. It has been a struggle to say the least, for the kids, parents, grandparents, etc.... PLEASE get the kids back in school!!!! |
| Carol Kelm | This should be a no brainer! |
| Megan Brunet | |
| Kathleen Zilewicz | |

Petition Comments for yes to in person

| Name | Comment |
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| Laura Culley | |
| Colleen DeGeorge | Please do NOT do an adaptive pause. |
| Sarah Klancnik | |
| Carly Lisinski | |
| Paul Simkus | Yes |
| Erin McLaughlin | Thank you for your hard work. We believe you will put our children's education first. |

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| Eileen Ryan | Hybrid is NOT spreading covid. Bottom line. Please don't let Bein bully you in to making a decision that negatively impacts thousands of children. |
| Melissa Van Buren | Vote NO adaptive pause |
| Kerri Hood | Please say NO to a forced pause for all students in our district! There is no need for this! Kids need to learn the best way they can, and not all can manage remote learning successfully. If people want their kids to be remote, they can pull them remote themselves. We don't need to force everyone to do the same! |
| Victoria Giurato | |
| Yes to in person | |
| Stacey Esposito | Please keep our kids in school. Remote learning is taking a toll on their mental health. Give parents a choice. |
| Iliyana Zecheva | |
| Christy Goduto | |
| Jenny Olson | |
| April Zaimi | |
| Kellin Girard | Please continue in person learning and make decisions based on CDC and IDPH recommendations. Thank you for all you do! |
| Michelle Casillas | No adaptive pause |
| Maryann Zaleski | Please continue to listen to the expert scientists and medical professionals who are telling us it is safe to be in the classrooms. They have no incentives to steer us in the wrong direction. With the right precautions taken and mitigations in place, in-person learning can happen safely and responsibly. 6 weeks of remote learning will lead to worse outcomes and regression for children. |
| Melissa Sherman | |
| Jocelyn Fredell | In-person school option please :) |
| Jodi Zera | I urge the district 25 board of education to remain in the hybrid model and follow through on their plans to bring students back to school five days a week in mid-January. Schools are safe and the education, social development, and mental health of our community's children is extremely important. |
| School in person till Christmas | |
| Tara Tinsley | Please listen to the experts and keep schools open. Our children our suffering and deserve a CHOICE for in-person learning. |
| Amy Hoffman | |
| Sara | Mungovan |
| Dan Mungovan | |
| Steve Zurek | I can't keep explaining to my son why he can't go in person. Please let us work together to resolve the issues at hand and keep our kids in school. |
| Alicen Manus | Please keep our schools open! |
| Betsy Geiger | I support in person learning for my kids! |
| Marella oneil | Yes stay in person |
| Erin Felten | In person, 5 days a week (with remote option)! NO Adaptive Pause! |
| Erin Zurek | Yes to in person. |
| Angela Nevel | Yes |
| Jennifer Huntzicker | Keep our kids in school and work towards getting them in full time rather than looking for ways to step back. |
| Susan Chen | As long as we are able to keep kids/teachers safe, hybrid is still a good option. |
| Janelle Thoma | |
| Britt Polihronis | No adapted pause |
| Jennifer Sia | I support in person learning. I do NOT think an adaptive pause is in the best interest of our students. |

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| Jennifer Zakaras | Please listen to the experts and follow the science. Keep schools open. Mental health is just as important as physical health for our kids! |
| Katie Rausch | Follow data and not staffing issues to figure out a way to keep these kids IN person! |
| Lisa Duello | |
| Stephanie Fossler | |
| Jenni VT | Per the cdc, schools should remain open bc the spread is very limited with good mitigation practices which we have. |
| Katie Starzyk | Please keep my children in school, they are begging you! |
| Melisa Denham | My daughters Angelika and aliyana Denham in kindergarten and 3rd grade at ivy hill |
| Mairin Gradek | My children need in person instruction. Their spirits are crushed and need the consistency |
| Katy Murray | Please vote no for an adaptive pause |
| Kelley Costello | Yes to In-Person learning |
| Rose Lesniak | |
| Jennifer Sylvia | |
| Kristin Irmen | |
| Katie Campbell | Please keep our children in the classroom. |
| Shannon Scalzo | |
| Adam Thoma | |
| Kathy Dieringer | Reopen |
| Kim metler | Please keep the path of opening up to 4 days next week for our IEP/504 kids! It is desperately needed |
| Liz osterhues | Keep schools open and allow families to have a choice. |
| Elizabeth Green | |
| Stacey Cooke. | Please keep the in-person learning option available. No adaptive pause. Thank you |
| Catherine Olson | No to an adaptive pause. Kids are suffering, they need to be in school. |
| Lindsay Nugent | |
| Nikki Difiglio | |
| Alina Laurie | Say YES to in-person schooling |
| Colleen Corliss | |
| Mircea Marchis | Yes |
| Chris Duello | Listen to the CDC, listen to Fauci, work to get the kids back in school. Stop working to remove them! |
| Bethany Schiltz | |
| Renee Schlenhardt | There is zero evidence given that supports going fully remote (aka "adaptive pause") and to do so would be continuing to be of disservice to this community. |
| Kristin Rauen | |
| Angela Sisi | |
| Adrienne Murphy | |
| Dave Dobbs | Voting NO for adaptive pause. The well being of our children is at stake! |
| Marina Pavlik | In person learning |
| Kristin Keil | I believe that continuing to allow students to attend in person learning would show the them we value their education and are trying our best during the pandemic to give them consistency. It will allow the teachers to continue to teach in the same setting which they have established a routine. |
| Shana | No adaptive pause |
| Stefanie Brown | Please continue to say yes to in person learning. Our innocent, future generation's whole well being depends on it. |
| Magda | No adaptive pause |
| Stacy Hinline | |

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| Daniel Pearl | Yes To In Person |
| Julie Forsberg | |
| Jaime Yeh | Support in-person learning and choice. Vote no for an adaptive pause. |
| Chris Tokarczyk | I do not support going back to full remote learning. Follow the science and data and keep schools open for hybrid with intent to move to full in person on January 19. |
| Tracy Falconer | Our children and teachers need to be back in school. This virus has a 98-99% survivability rate. There is no reason to keep children and teachers from learning in person with proper precautions. The virus is here to stay and we as a society need to learn how to manage it and get back to our lives. |
| Lisa Keavy | |
| Jana Gunn | |
| Allison Johansson | Please continue to give parents the option to have their child attend in person if they wish to do so. |
| Julie Talbot | Vote NO to adaptive pause!!!! Get kids in school 5days a week! |
| Scott | I support in person learning. |
| Monika Ciepiela | Please continue with In Person learning for my kids. |
| Mindy Turner | My kindergartner with an IEP needs to be in school! |
| Lauren Noble | |
| Connie Gonzalez | Keep in- person learning, do not go to adaptive pause |
| Catherine Gripper | |
| Dan Ryan | Yes |
| Jason Brown | Children's education will suffer by being remote. They don't learn anywhere near as much as in person |
| Brett Anderson | |
| Peter Gripper | Yes to in person for those who want it! |
| Katie Taranda | Yes to in person! |
| Katey Koch | |
| Crystal Gausden | |
| Todd Witherow | In person. |
| Richard Taranda | I understand the concern, but feel that pauses should be based in individual class impacts to broad teacher concerns. Going to school is one of the few things our children get excited about now, and while I appreciate the school being cautious, if there is no impact to some classes, it does not seem like a broad school pause is the appropriate solution |
| Terese Orlando | I continue to support my son attending in-person. He is doing so much better academically, mentally and emotionally. Please follow Dr Fauci's recommendation to keep children in school in person. Thank you. |
| Leah Ross | Five days of in person school for those who choose and remote for those who choose. |
| Stephanie Rapone | My son needs extra support and focus and an opportunity to gain critical skills and maturity at this point in his life. In-person learning is so important for him and our family. For those who feel differently, they can keep their kids home full time. Teachers are not getting COVID from students. PERIOD. It's not happening anywhere! These decisions must be made on FACTS, not FEAR. Keep in-person learning. And please make it abundantly clear to Dr. Bein and the community that safe in-person learning opportunities is the priority. Stop her stall tactics. She needs to stop spending time shutting down schools with no reason (TMS cases could not have been transmitted at school or transmitted in the prior two weeks since the campus had been closed), stop calling emergency meetings for adaptive pause with NO facts driving those requests. She needs to start hiring people for full-time in-person learning in January. |
| Carrie Skony | |
| Gitana Lapys | Please vote NO for adoptive pause. My kids do the best in person. Please don't take away the education they deserve! |

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| Jen Schmit | Please consider the voice of the children who NEED to be in-person for learning. Every student/family already has a choice to stay home, always has and always will for the entirety of the school year. |
| Susan March | Yes, continue in person learning |
| Lara Solonickne | |
| Katie Karsten | Parents/families should be given a choice. Follow metrics and science - stop with the constant back and forth. It's getting us nowhere but more divided. |
| Tricia Spitz | Please vote no for an adaptive pause. It's in important to me and my family that my children stay in school. I believe it is devastating to suggest that the schools close again after everything families have been through thus far. I urge you to consider the emotional and social aspect of your decision that you make on the behalf of all families and teachers in the district. Please spend your time and efforts developing a plan to safely move forward in getting our children back in school permanently . our society is built on the foundation of education and for my family we believe they are not Receiving an education at this crucial time in their lives through a video screen. |
| Beth Dover | |
| Robert Culley | |
| Joanna Sopel | Give us a choice! |
| Christy Witherow | Please remain committed to giving the parents of this community THE CHOICE to send their kids in-person. Thank you. |
| Katie Johnson | Yes |
| Amanda Eichstaedt | Please no adaptive pause |
| Marianne Corcoran | Stay in person!!! |
| Jared Woods | |
| Mark Tack | Open schools like grocery stores, hair salons, and gas stations. |
| Melissa Lenski | |
| Lindsay Jurjovec | |
| Cari Klinkenborg | To be concerned about the health of a child, you have to be concerned about their whole health. Mental health has taken a backseat, and the isolation during this time is only compounding the issue. I implore you to continue hybrid. |
| Betty Levinsky | |
| Nikki Wiedner | My 3 children need to be in school. They are struggling every single day at home. The health care providers and CDC have even said it is best for them to be in school. If we don't give it a try, we'll never know. I love and appreciate our teachers dearly, and am not being insensitive to them. The statistics have shown that elementary children aren't contracting this virus at the level that adults are or even passing it at the same level it's been said, so they are the safest people to be around. Please give them a chance and us parents the choice! |
| Nadia Creamer | Please don't force kids to learn at home keep them in the schools the science supports kids needing a proper education. |
| Stephanie Harrison | |
| Sarah Riddle-Krodel | |
| Desiree Barnett | Please do not take away the in person option. It would really crush my children. They're struggling so much academically and socially as it is. They need to be in the classroom with a teacher. |
| Carol Nugent | I don't believe going to adaptive pause will fully address students' education needs. Families have options to remain with remote learning, and the option to learn in the classroom should be offered as well. The parochial schools have had a good record with in-class learning, and I know D25 can be successful, too. Children's education should be a priority. |
| tatiana cretu | full time in person , NO MASKS OR SOCIAL DISTANCING |

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| Amy Ashcraft | My son is in the ERP program and has greatly benefitted from 4 full days of in-person learning. My daughter, while only in-person for 2 days, craves the interaction with her classmates and staff and is noticeably more positive and upbeat after having spent the day at school. Please consider what the superintendent's real reason is for an adaptive pause, which appears to be staffing there are no metrics that support this movement backwards. It appears as though this request for full remote is due to poorly negotiated contracts and mismanaged staffing issues, none of which is our responsibility to fix. |
| Magdalena McMeekin | |
| Lauren | |
| Erin Kalaway | Everyone deserves choice! |
| Pat | YES to in person |
| Stephanie Levinsky | How many more scientists and health experts (CDC, Dr. Fauci, AAP) need to state that children and teachers are SAFE and SHOULD BE in school before you start listening, acknowledging and acting in accordance with their words? |
| Juan Gonzalez | Please do not go to adaptive pause |
| Greg Geissenberger | The kids need your support, they don't have a union, they only have us (their parents) and you as the board looking out for them. They need and deserve our support. Remote learning truly does not work for many of our kids. |
| Christine Quiroz | |
| Jennifer Hahne | The forced decision for all families to take an adaptive pause is an issue of equity. There are specialized circumstances. We are all in the same storm ridden waters but not in the same boat. Most families in Arlington Heights have the resources to manage it but not all do. Some children need in person supports. It's an issue of equity. |
| Truman Tinsley | |
| Stephen Hood | |
| Michelle Kuhn | At a minimal, please continue hybrid. Socially distancing and mask wearing work. Teachers need to be responsible in their actions and the impact it has on their students. Daycare issues and vacations should not have any impact on decisions regarding in person attendance. These are individuals personal responsibilities and are part of being an adult. Adults need to think before taking actions. The non-education industries have been figuring things out for months. It may not always be easy but it is not impossible. |
| Erin Wiggs | Let kids be in school! |
| Brian Lisinski | |
| Karyn Augelli | YES |
| Tej Shah | |
| Margaret Jones | |
| Jacalyn Derengowski | The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Edmund Burke Say no to Adaptive Pause. Open the schools to 5 day a week, in-person learning. Let them learn! |
| Carmelo S. | Please consider keeping hybrid learning as an option for the children that need it. |
| Mairin Carlson | |
| S.rorer | Vote for in person |
| Lisa Jordan | In Person School |
| Joanna E Kostich | I'm a retired teacher. I would go into the classroom to teach because I feel it is extremely important for students to have interactions with others while learning. I fear we are creating a generation of ignorance, through no fault of the students. Teachers, step up and do your job! |
| Andrea Newman | Please continue the hybrid model |
| Caroline Tsourmas | I believe it is in the best interest of the children to be back in the classroom full time. As other essential workers have gone back - so should our teaching staff |
| Doug Reed | Open the schools. Keep them open. Not one case if a teacher dying from COVID contracted from a student in the entire country. |
| Mollie Gottfred | The kids need to be in school! |
| Ewa Rasztar | |

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| Katie Cox | Please make the children of our community a priority! The current hybrid/remote plan is not sustainable nor is it in the best interest of the children. There has been a significant academic slide and tremendous social emotional damage caused by this plan. Our children and families deserve better and deserve a CHOICE! The science has been ignored while fear and feelings are prioritized. Our children's educational needs must be prioritized. Please have a full in person and a fully remote plan and allow parents to choose the one that is best for their student (s). It's time for Dr Bein & the school board to move forward and fulfill its duty to educate and meet the needs of ALL it's students. |
| Kyle W heaton | Follow the science. School is safe |
| Amy Klehr | Please continue to keep the school's open. No adaptive pause! |
| Megan | We are sick and tired of this district dragging Their feet. We want our children back in school where they belong |
| Jennifer Youngman | |
| Kathy Malaczek | Please keep our schools open for our kids. No adaptive pause . |
| Marta Topolska | Yes |
| Lisa Nason | For my kids mental health please keep the schools open. |
| Paul | |
| Maureen Schmidt | Yes to in person |
| Christine Boros | I am not in favor of an adaptive pause. |
| Michael Boros | |
| Ewa Dabrowski | The children should return to school full time. Remote learning doesn't work for a lot of kids. My kids developed some health issues during the last couple of months. We have to deal with frequent headaches, poor vision, insomnia, behavioral problems, etc. I can honestly say that long screen time does more damage than good. It is hard to explain to my kids why their cousins, who are in private schools, are going to school full time since August and they are just fine. All kids deserve to be at school, not just kids who are privileged. It can be done safely, as it is showed at many other schools. |
| Nicole Towle | Please don't impact our children's ability to have the best education option possible in the current COVID circumstances. Please continue to let families choose what is good for them! Those who prefer to keep their kids at home should do that - but taking that same right from kids who really desire in person school - it's not right or fair. We need in school options for our kids' mental health. |
| Samantha Tragos | |
| Kate Fontana | |
| Heather Lepold | |
| Geralyn Walsh | The mental health of the children in this district has been ignored since March. I am appalled. Kids are struggling, yet for some reason, their needs come last on the list. Numerous experts have recently stated that schools should be OPEN. Privates schools have found a way to be IN PERSON with appropriate safety measures since March. Where are my tax dollars going? |
| Ryan Fetzer | |
| Roberta S Mather | With proper safety precautions in place it is in the children's best interest to have in person learning. Parents should have the right to decide what is in the best interest of their children. Many are suffering from remote learning especially the younger children. |
| Justyna Nowak | Let's please keep out schools open!!! |
| Diem Lai | No to adaptive pause. Yes to in-person learning. |
| Richard Duong | No to adaptive Pause. Yes to In-Person Learning |
| Michelle Pet | Yes to full time in person learning! |
| Tracy Ferraro | All students should be in school if that is what their parent feels is best. Teachers get paid to teach in person. It is absolutely imperative to give that choice. The CDC says all students should be in a school. |

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| Katie Peterson | |
| Yvette Brancato | Yes for children to continue to attend in person school. To have consistent of being in the school with there peers. To much screen time is making them into zombies. Forgetting how to interact with others and not having enough exercise throughout the day. New information coming in from the teacher is really making it hard for the kids to grasp the information! |
| MARGARET COSSENTINO | Mentally and emotionally these kids need this. |
| Kathleen Guretz | My kids need to be in school for so many reasons. I need their special needs met at school and I need to get back to work! I am hearing about great kids starting to try drugs. I know of a suicide attempt. I am making the biggest sacrifice being home with my kids so they are supported on Zoom School. Our family cannot afford to hold on any longer. We are considering moving. My hope was they would be back in school by now so I could work and Santa could come. |
| Kelly Dudle | |
| Amy Cataldo | Please stay in person as much as possible. |
| Cindy Smiskol | |
| Jenn Kalsch | |
| Kate Schneider | Yes |
| Alexandria Kraniotis | |
| Heather Molina | |
| Megan Bolewski | My children who are currently in hybrid plan, love to be in school with teachers and other friends where they have better, in depth learning experience. In those days they always tell me "it was the best school day of the week !" ♥ On those 2 days they are more excited to be in school since it feels to them like good, old school days. They understand and follow required social distance guidelines because they care about everyone in school and community. I really hope they could at least be in hybrid plan during this time than go to adaptive pause with remote teaching through middle of January. Thank you . |
| Tanja Aleksic | Please we would love to see the kids back in school full-time and everyday. |
| Sean Molina | Please continue to move to full in person learning. |
| Jennifer Ponivas | |
| Zornitsa Titova | Yes, please continue in person program. It is crucial for our children to have that option and be able to socialize with other children during this very difficult time. The in person instruction can NOT be substituted by online classes. Ever since the hybrid program became available my 4th grader has been happier, more optimistic and excited about school and everyday activities. Prior to the hubris option she became distant, unhappy and anyone who knows her could tell this was not the same child! Mental health for our children is just as important! Please continue to provide both options in order to accommodate the families who wish to send their children in person as well as the ones that may not be able to do that and prefer distance learning. |
| Therese Perkins | |
| Janet | Reich |
| AW Green | Get the kids back in school before it's too late! Why am I paying exorbitant taxes for a school system that's currently broken? If the teachers don't want to be in school, no one is stopping them from leaving; like everyone, they have a choice! If I see one more educator in this district out at restaurants, bars or community gatherings outside of this district (you people know who you are and you knew I knew who you guys were) who is refusing to be in-person, I will take and post photos for all the world to see the hypocrisy, just because we have mutual friends doesn't mean I support you as shouldn't anyone else in the same predicament! |

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| Amanda Antell | In person!!! |
| Dawn Katcher | |
| Tricia Walsh | Please keep the schools open for in person learning. Thank you |
| Colleen DeHart | Remote learning continues to hurt my children's emotional and mental health. These kids need to be in school. They look forward to their hybrid days and right now that is what is keeping them somewhat interested in learning. Experts are saying the spread in schools is minimal. It is one of the safest places for people to be. The kids are listening and wearing masks. Please keep our children's mental health in mind when making decisions. Their lives depend on it. Thank you. |
| Veronica Kim | My daughter, Hayden Weber, is a second grader at Windsor and is thriving in school and has improved greatly (both academically and emotionally) with the addition of an in-person component to school. She has a very small class size (only 5 on her days), and while I don't know what other classes or schools look like, this seems like a very safe situation in which to continue the hybrid arrangement. I don't support an adaptive pause from now until January 19, however, I do see the benefits of a pause for the two weeks following winter break, from January 4-19 given the likelihood of slightly larger family gatherings or travel. |
| Christine Naunheimer | I am not in favor of an adaptive pause. Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do. We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option. Thank you for understanding that while some parents prefer remote learning during this time, that should not dictate what every parent should do and how each child should learn. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning. |
| Debbie Johnson | Please keep schools open. My son learns best and feels best when he is in person with his teacher. |
| Agnieszka Miesiac | |
| Melissa Finnegan | |
| Ashley McGann | Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. My kids love school and we hope that we can continue to safely attend. |
| Lisa Kusumpa | Thank you for all you have done and continue to do! We are so grateful you are continuing to listen to the data that supports in school learning as a safe option! |
| Nadia Viken | I am not in favor of an adaptive pause. |
| William A. Johnson | Please provide in person learning as much as possible. Noticeable difference in my child's learning and well-being. Thank you. |
| Megan Brunet | |
| John Dreyer | The science supports in class learning. |
| Chris Naunheimer | I do not support an adaptive pause. |