

First and Last Name	Public Comment – April 29, 2021
Christine Organ	I would like to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI.
Karen Joseph	Thanks to the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. The Strategic Plan aligns well with the Board's commitment to eliminate racial injustice and with the approved DEI policy 1:32. As stated at the last meeting, the DEI policy is meant to be built into the DNA of what we are as a District. That being said, I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI very soon.
Monika Tietz	I just want to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and included within DEI core values and goals! I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI.
Alina Laurie	It's time to update SD25 procedures regarding anyone identified as a close contact. First off, the CDC latest guidance is that a person can take a test 5 days after "close contact" exposure and if test is negative they can resume normal activity. Secondly, the "close contact" distance is 3 feet instead of 6 feet. Even if the county health dept hasn't updated their procedures yet that should not hold SD25 back from doing the right thing. Our community has ample access to the vaccine, all SD25 who wanted the vaccine had the opportunity to get it. The best thing about independent school districts is that each can make the decisions that are best for their students. The greatest impact on students right now is needless exclusion from school and exclusion from school activities such as music and sports.
Alexis Christensen	I would like to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. As a District 25 parent, I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI.
Leah Ross	I am incredibly concerned about the policy of contact tracing, that completely disregards that an airborne virus can move wherever it wants to and it's also invisible. A virus might move to feet 3 feet 4' or 10 feet or it might not ever enter anyone else's body whatsoever. Nobody throughout history has been able to predict who will get a virus next and you certainly cannot do that with groups of children and tell the healthy children they have to go home. These are decisions we must trust parents to make, and we must give families control again now that we are through the worst of this pandemic, to make choices about when their child is ill and when their child is well. We decide if our children are at risk, or if they have been exposed, or if they are sick and need to stay home. The children are also wearing masks and although they've been blamed to be wearing them wrong it is an incredible insult and age discrimination against the middle school group that you would make them wear masks but deny their effectiveness. Why are they wearing masks then? They have complied with every rule all year long. And now that nearly 100% of these children are in school they are being threatened on a daily basis just by showing up and working hard that they might get a phone call and be told to stay away and get kicked out of sports and activities and potentially culminating events at the end of eighth grade like graduation in the last week of school. Contact tracing is a complete failure and does more harm than good. The number statistically currently on the district 25 dashboard prove this. .07% of all excluded cases have ever become positive cases... And the positive cases are likely the ground zero cases where the child acquired Covid outside of school likely from an adult. We have known Covid transmission within schools is so small to nonexistent at this policy of contact tracing now where we exclude hordes of healthy children is a complete and total travesty of our rights and public education. It is a total failure and it is certainly not needed at this stage when we have a vaccine protecting all adults who have chosen to take it at this point. The number of excluded children far exceeds the number of total positive since September 1 of 2020 to an embarrassing degree. 197 positive children since the beginning of the year in the building. 2,632 healthy children have been excluded this year. It is a violation of our rights to public education as taxpayers that our school district is using health guidance as law and claiming it is law when it is only guidance to remove healthy children from the school building and demand they stay out of the building and all activities for 14 days.

The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the April 29, 2021 Board meeting.

Michele Hilgart	I just wanted to thank the board for your time and commitment to incorporating DEI initiatives into the strategic plan. I am looking forward to swing these initiatives come to life over the coming years.
Jennifer Hahne	"I would like to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI."