

First and Last Name	Public Comment for the June 10, 2021 Board Meeting
EWELINA KLACZYNSKA	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I'm a full-time working mom. I moved to Arlington Heights quite recently. My son is to start kindergarten next year and I just learned that District 25 does not offer a full-time kindergarten. Quite frankly this this is disappointing and incomprehensible to me how there is no option for working families. There is not even after-school program offered for morning class. I truly regret not doing my research more thoroughly as I might have purchased house somewhere else. How a developed country like the United States does not uniformly believe that parents should have access to a full-day kindergarten in their district? What am I supposed to do? Quit my job? Sell my home and move elsewhere? Get a better job to afford paying for private kindergarten or after-school program? I feel like a 3-hour kindergarten program will give me just enough time to drop off my son, have some coffee, run some errands and come back to pick up my son. There is not even room for having a part-time job.</p> <p>I would like to know what is being done to move this district forward and provide working families with full-day kindergarten.</p>
Jon miles	<p>After hearing music and bells going off, I went to windsor school on June 2nd 2021 at ~3pm to ask if they had found my guitar I left behind my house. I went to the door and was buzzed in. Police told me a few people in the office(everyone they asked who responded) claimed I piggy backed through the door, which was false, video proof can show that. An employee did not have mask over nose so I asked if we and kids were required to wear masks, she told me "yes", then she said "I think you should leave", to which I said "ok" and started to leave which should be on video and audio for proof, as I turned to leave I was asked why I came to the school, I replied "to see if y'all had my guitar" the employee then got up out of her seat and rushed towards me as I exited the first door. The employee made her hand into a fist like she was going to batter me in front of children. I then started walking home when an administrator called me back and asked me why I was there, I told him "y'all just told me to leave, why call me back?" He told me " if do not work here and do not have kids then not allowed on property when kids were on the property". The rule is while school is in session I am not allowed on the property. I agree with that rule, tho I did not know it was a rule until the police informed me. I then kept trying to leave and the administrator kept calling me back getting within 4 feet of me as if he was also going to fight me. I noticed he was on phone so I guessed he was calling police and wanted me to stay so he could punish me personally. I was obviously correct. Police then showed up at the school and at my house, embarrassing my mother and me. I apologized to Lori Bein and the principal through email, I did not get a response yet. Today the police came back again and told me the Lori pressed charges against me for trespassing and made it so I'm not allowed on any district 25 property at anytime, without first showing video proof to the board. I feel like this is an extreme action considering I have recycled and helped clear potentially dangerous items on district 25 property for well over 100 hours, and this was the first infraction. I volunteer at at local church almost everyday and such a mark on my record is disgusting. I am appalled that they made falsehoods about what happened to apparently protect themselves. The police ensured me they are waiting on video and audio footage to show if they were telling falsehoods or if I was. The police told me that it was up to Lori Bein, but that she worked for the board, so I am contacting the board to try to resolve this and get permission to be on district 25 property. I understand after reading online that Lori has had negative strikes on record already, after such blatant disregard for actual proof, after multiple falsehoods by her and some of her staff, after apparently protecting the employee, I would like her removed from her position. I would also prefer the employee was also removed, such acts of potential violence shouldn't be allowed for someone so close to children, do y'all agree or disagree?</p>

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Alyssa Maloney	I want to encourage the board to renew Dr. Bein's contract. Dr. Bein strives to provide an excellent learning environment for students, as well as an excellent workplace culture and climate for all staff. She is honest, hardworking, and open-minded. She considers all views when making decisions, and approaches situations from a moral and ethical standpoint. I am incredibly proud to work for and with her.
Allison Keough	Renew Dr. Bein's contract. For those who have never worked outside the district or had their children attend other schools, 25 is very lucky to have a woman of her education, experience and knowledge. Coming from CPS, I know what it's like to work under poor administration with high turn-over.
Danielle Schuh	I believe Lori should continue working in District 25. She has proven that she is an exemplary superintendent. She is dedicated to making District 25 the best that it can be!
Carolyn Schneider	I fully support renewing Dr. Bein's contract. She has been so supportive of the band program during this difficult year, while other districts' band programs suffered as their teachers were reassigned to teach other subject areas. Dr. Bein knows that the arts offer children a unique way of knowing and expression that cannot be replicated in other areas of study. With Dr. Bein's approval I was able to host four outdoor band concerts for our students this year. Thank you Dr. Bein! We want to see you continue supporting our students and staff in Arlington Heights for years to come!
Elizabeth Rosin	Lori Bein has been doing a great job managing this pandemic. She has been a true supporter of keeping children safe. Please keep her on for this next term.
Stacie Pacini	Dr. Bein has been a phenomenal leader during this unique year. She has the biggest heart and cares so deeply. I'm honored to work in a district with her leading us. District 25 is lucky to have her!
Colleen Vravick	As a tenured teacher in D25, I feel that Dr. Bein has done an excellent job leading during this unprecedented time. She has done her best to accommodate the needs of the community. This has been a challenging year for all stakeholders. I think it would be a shame to lose Dr. Bein. She is passionate about creating the best learning and working environment for our staff and students. I personally would like to see her contract extended.
Fred DeMarco	Dr. Bein has been an incredible leader during her tenure in School District 25. This school year has brought unprecedented challenges to students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders. She's navigated the often time competing desires of these groups while continuing to preserve the qualities that make our district so special. Please renew Dr. Bein's contract!
Kimberly Nylec	I would love for Dr. Bein's contract to be renewed so she can continue to be our superintendent!! She has been an amazing role model, coworker, leader and asset to our schools and community!
Casey Whitaker	I absolutely support the approval and renewal of Dr. Bein's contract as Superintendent of District 25. It is so easy to sit at home, behind a keyboard, or a table at a board meeting and spout off what you think should or should not be happening in our schools. However, for those of us that have actually had to do the work, this has been an unprecedented year full of challenges that none of us have had to face during our careers in education...no matter how many years of service. Through it all, Dr. Bein has been a shining example of leadership, grace, patience, compassion, and has always strived to do what is best for staff and students. Any obstacles or roadblocks this year cannot be held against her or her leadership. After all, she's simply followed the school board's requests or demands. Simply put, renew Dr. Bein's contract. Thank you for your time.
Tricia Fuglestad	In the 29 years I've served as a teacher in District 25, I can honestly say that we never had a more compassionate, kind, and genuine superintendent than Dr. Bein. We are so privileged to have her listening ear, good heart, and knowledgeable mind leading this district. I hope the board recognizes and treasures her leadership as they vote on continuing her contract.

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Rebecca Dufern	I support the Dr Bein as our superintendent. She is very dedicated and has our community's best interest at heart.
Mandi Martinez-Dick	Thank you for showing how much you care about all the students in D25. For years we have seen how invested and involved you are. Your care, support, and motivation for all of us is easy to see! Thank you!!
Mindy Joyce	I fully support and encourage that Dr. Bein continue as the Superintendent of AHSD25. As a district parent and employee I have truly appreciated Dr. Bein's leadership as well as her transparency, grace, and patience.
Michelle Gillespie	Please renew Lori's contract as she has shown continued support for what is best within our district for students, families and staff.
Kelly Darby	Please renew Dr. Bein's contract as she has shown continuous support for what is best for our district!
Monica Rahman	<p>Our Esteemed Board of Education,</p> <p>Please note my request that you approve Dr. Bein's renewal contract. Watching our district make improvements prior to, as well of during the Pandemic, is because Dr. Bein lead with great passion and knowledge. I will never forget the energy she brought into our beginning of year all staff pep assemblies and how she inspired us all throughout the course of each and every year. Our hearts broke slowly as we saw decision making being taken out of her hands. I sincerely hope we can move forward under her full leadership and enter the new school year with unity and confidence, instead of skepticism and division. I implore you to consider our great appreciation for her positive impact on us all.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Monica Rahman Patton EL Teacher</p>
Janine Flauter	I am a 5th grade teacher at Windsor. I have worked for D25 for 10 years next year. I have family in the district. I have worked under 2 superintendents. When Dr. Lori Bein began in D25 the climate of AHSD25 shifted to one of care and compassion. She has been such an inspiration. Her intelligence and unbiased leadership has made AHSD25 a premier district. She is an inspiration to staff, students and the community at large. I look forward to continue to serve this community under her dedicated leadership. Please vote to continue her contract. Thank you.
Tiffany Marston	Please vote to renew Dr. Bein's contract through 2024. I am a parent in the district, as well as an employee of 17 years. Dr. Bein's leadership through the most difficult year I have ever experienced professionally has been inspirational. I trust in Dr. Bein's guidance for teachers as we begin to move forward post-pandemic. As a parent, I appreciate the way Dr. Bein consistently prioritized student safety and well-being in her response to the pandemic. This was demonstrated in all of her recommendations to the school board this past year. Dr. Bein was brave enough to speak up and recommend measures to protect our children, even when it was sure to result in scrutiny and abusive comments from many angry community members. Please vote to allow Dr. Bein to continue to support her staff and the children of District 25.
Jim Fischer	Please renew Dr. Bein's contract. She is the best person to be running this school district. She has done so much for the community of learners in D25 it would be a shame to let her go.

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Lisa Schindler	I am writing in support of the renewal Dr. Lori Bein's contract. Throughout her time in District 25, Dr. Bein has been a positive, encouraging, and effective leader. As a teacher in the district, I've found her to be approachable, knowledgeable, and responsive. She is considerate of all stakeholders- teachers, parents, community members, and most importantly, students. This past year has been challenging to say the least. Yet through it all, she has remained poised, hard-working, and reflective. She has worked tirelessly to support the staff, students, and families of the district, and we are now successfully coming out of a pandemic school year thanks to her leadership. She has risen to every challenge presented to her this year, remained professional and courteous despite the disrespect shown to her, and sought to do what was right and safe in a situation where there was no precedent. I would hope that not renewing her contract isn't even a consideration. Our district needs her leadership, and our community needs someone with her integrity, strength of character, and expertise to continue guiding our schools. Thank you for allowing me to share my support of Dr. Bein continuing her role as superintendent in District 25.
Betty Henderson	Thank you Dr. Bein for your unwavering dedication and leadership this year! As a teacher of D25 I appreciate all the support you have given us!
Amy Johnson	I want to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Bein for leading the students in D25 through a global pandemic. There are no rule books written for how to manage this and Dr. Bein used science and compassion to PUT STUDENTS FIRST. While there was no way to make everyone happy in this situation, she ALWAYS had the children in mind and cared for their SAFETY first. As a taxpayer, in D25 I hope that you value what a Gem you have in Dr. Bein when renewing her contract.
Julie McCune	Renewing Dr. Bein's contract would be the best move for the District. She is a reasonable, thoughtful and compassionate person. As a community member and staff member I know she is the best leader for our district. And face it, we've had enough of the unknown; she is the only one who can lead us into next year.
Alina Laurie	Please lift all restrictions at school as quickly as you applied them. The school board shut the schools down in April 2020 even though public officials health did not recommend shutting schools down and neither did the CDC. Prioritize students and their mental health and academic well being. Do not wait for bureaucracy in the state government to push the SD25 school board to take action. Summer school students should not need masks and they do not need to be kept separate. Release a statement confirming that, in the fall, the school environment will return to normal with no mask requirement, no distance required between students, no exclusion of healthy kids from school. All extracurriculars need to return including band, orchestra, sports, and clubs. Middle school kids need their lockers and need to change for gym class. Return to allowing paid riders on the bus system. At recess, kids can run and mingle with all kids and not be kept in one area. All-school assemblies, musicals, book fair, field day, field trips, overnight trips to Loreda Taft and Washington DC all need to return. Commit to this now. Board members: you closed the schools down in April 2020 without any policies from ISBE or CDC or IDPD guidance: you have and will always have the span of control. Prioritize children and their access to a free public education. Don't add to the inequality where kids with parents who can pay for travel soccer, elite dance academies, and private schools can have a normal life while public school kids are in masks, six feet apart. Remember your service on the Board is to be a steward for the children of this community who use public schools.
Regina Fortman	As a teacher in district 25, I cherish the leadership and mindfulness of Dr. Bein. I hope that you value her enough to extend her contract, so that she can see us out of the pandemic and into a bright future .

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Christina Dastice	I started the teaching in the district during Dr. Bein's first year. From the very first day, I could tell that she truly cared about all staff and students. That hasn't changed. Not only does she listen to staff input, but she seeks it out. She is available whenever we have a concern and responds to staff emails quickly. Every school year, she has made a point to go into classrooms at all of the schools and connect with the staff and students. When she visits our classrooms she is genuine and interested to hear directly from students about their learning experiences. I have also had the opportunity to sit on a few committees that she has been a part of. She is an excellent listener and truly values the opinion of others. I have never worked with a Superintendent who was as down-to-earth and compassionate as she is. As someone who sat on the Strategic Plan Committee, I was able to witness Dr. Bein's passion for our district and her commitment to make it better. I have watched her handle the pandemic with grace. She has consistently done all that the Board of Education has asked, if not more. I love working underneath Dr. Bein and believe that we need to renew her contract.
Diana Lane	Please consider removing the mask mandate for the next school year.
Jennifer Durkin	I have been told that the district will not be keeping track of students that have been fully vaccinated against covid-19. I was surprised, as the district depends on data for making important decisions. Isn't this the same as receiving medical updates on other vaccinations? For months people demanded that schools be open to full, in-person learning. I was also in favor of having the choice to send my child to school in person. Now, many of those same people are refusing the vaccination. Shouldn't full, in-person learning be an incentive to get the vaccination? Shouldn't other things, like being able to go to school without masks, be an incentive to get the vaccine? I know there are always exceptions, but for those of us that have had our families get vaccinated, and have done what is best for the greater good, please consider allowing maskless in-person learning.
Kathy Brady	I fully support the renewal of Dr. Bein's contract. She has provided excellent leadership to District 25 during a very challenging time. As a District 25 teacher and resident, I appreciate Dr. Bein's thoughtful, measured decisions, which are made in the best interest of the District 25 students.
Barbara Donahue	I support the renewal of Dr. Bein's contract as Superintendent of District 25!!! She has handled this unprecedented year with such intelligence and kindness and put children, both their education and their safety first!! As a parent (now adult children) and a member of the D25 community, I appreciate that, and her. Dr. Bein was thoughtful in her decisions. She looked to the experts, as the world was in a pandemic, to guide her recommendations for staff and students. She did this with grace and professionalism! Thank you for your time.
Kirsten Calderone	Please extend Dr. Beins contract. I've been a teacher for over 26 years. Twenty three have been in District 25. Dr. Bein has been one of the best and most effective superintendents I have ever worked for. She understands the needs of the kids in this district and positively leads her teachers to do great things for kids.

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Deb Tranter	<p>I would like to request that as the board meets to discuss the renewal of AHSD25 Superintendent Dr. Lori Bein's contract, to please make some important considerations. The Covid 19 pandemic is an unprecedented occurrence; we all know this, and yet members of the board and of the community sometimes choose to forget this. Unprecedented - defined as NEVER happening before. We need to step away from this culture of criticism - please! The superintendent in our district (and every district) carries the burden of the safety and well-being of hundreds of teachers and staff, along with approximately six thousand students. Making COVID 19 school opening decisions based on scientific reports made by the CDC and IDPH is exactly the route that Dr. Bein took; versus the popular vote to open school doors 5 days per week to in-person learning while Covid numbers and positivity rates were frighteningly high. Dr. Bein listened to science and kept students and teachers safe - even if it was not the popular vote - because at AHSD25 student and teacher safety is a priority, and due to this decision, families were safe, students were safe, and teachers were safe. Teachers and families partnered to make remote learning work, and then hybrid learning work, and we all celebrated together when it was safe to return to full in-person 5 day a week learning; and teachers and families worked together to transition students comfortably into their new schedule and traditional learning modality. We did all this, and more, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Bein. As a superintendent, she is present in the classrooms and in teacher and parent communication; she is transparent in her plans, responsive, respected and respectful; and a role model for each of us to admire. As the board considers the renewal of Dr. Bein's contract, please reflect on the fact that the AHSD25 status as a destination district is due to Dr. Bein's strong leadership, and please consider that the health and wellness of students and staff during COVID19 is due to Dr. Bein's strength through bullying to follow science and not popularity. A strong leader is one who chooses the harder right rather than the easier wrong. Dr. Bein is a strong leader, our leader, who we would be lucky to keep. Thank you.</p>
Natalie Malley	<p>Dr. Bein has been nothing but amazing while being the superintendent here at district 25. She really has the best interest for all stakeholders- parents, teachers, student and community members. This year she especially shown her strength in leadership with dealing with many difficult situations due to the pandemic. I truly hope she can continue to serve district 25 and our community. She is loved by so many!</p>
Kim Dyer	<p>This year has been beyond difficult and confusing. Can we PLEASE end the year moving forward with peace and cooperation? Give the community and the staff a feeling of peace and relief as we enter the summer. Vote for the plan Dr. Bein has presented for next fall and vote to keep her here through 2024. NO ONE staff, students or parents needs more change right now. Thank you</p>
Lorrie Palm	<p>I would love to see Lori Bein continue to helm our district. During my tenure in D25 over the past 29 years I can say unequivocally that she is the most child-centered and supportive Superintendent with whom we have had the good fortune to work. She does not shirk her responsibility to make the difficult decisions, despite the impossibility of pleasing everyone. I have watched her make those decisions thoughtfully, with the grace and aplomb of a true leader, and always considering the best interests of our kids as her guidepost.</p>
Christine Muhr	<p>Dr. Bein has brought positive leader ship to District 25 and his heroically navigated a pandemic. I appreciate her devotion to both the safety and learning needs of students. Her encouragement and support of staff has also been tremendously helpful. She listens and she cares. Dr. Bein is highly qualified, respectful, and dedicated to this outstanding school district. I hope she will continue to lead our district for many more years.</p>
Deb Wilson	<p>Thank you to Dr. Lori Bein for leading us with integrity, humility, and transparency through this most difficult time. Your grace and professionalism has superseded, and you are an inspiration to more than you know. We, and the students need your leadership now, and for the future.</p>

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Meghan Yarbrough	<p>Twenty-two of the eighth graders who just graduated from Thomas Middle School last week were in my third grade class at Olive-Mary Stitt during the 2016-2017 year. At that point, I had been an educator for 16 years; I had worked in three different districts and under 4 different superintendents over those years. Up until Dr. Bein came to District 25 in 2016, the position of Superintendent had, in my life as a student and educator, been one of anonymity; merely it was someone who worked at the district office and who I saw on opening day of each school year. Beyond that, there was little interaction between me and that person.</p> <p>When Dr. Bein came to District 25, in the fall of 2016, I instantly liked her. She was relatable, spoke frequently about her teaching experience, challenged us to reflect on our practices and pedagogy, encouraged us to try new ideas, and asked us "What would you do if you weren't afraid." She wrote emails to us, often, with random thoughts that included her reflections as a human, an educator, an administrator, a runner and about all the good things she was seeing in our schools. She praised us, encouraged us, related to us, and supported us.</p> <p>Then the weirdest coincidence happened to me. My mom told me about a writer in the Chicago Tribune who always chose a word at the beginning of the year to help focus her New Year's resolutions, energies and goals for that upcoming year. That same day I received a "Welcome Back" Random Thoughts email from Dr. Bein with her "word" for the upcoming year. I couldn't believe how my worlds were colliding! With the help of some caffeinated enthusiasm, and Dr. Bein's approachable leadership style, I emailed her, inviting her into my classroom to work with my students on a One Word project.</p> <p>For the next 6 months, despite the fact that Dr. Bein was new to the district and position of Superintendent, she was in my room at least once, sometimes twice, a week, planning and working with me and my students.</p> <p>My colleagues thought I was crazy for inviting the Superintendent into my classroom for an ongoing project and, before our first planning meeting, I wondered if they were right. But the minute she came in, she let me lead the planning and experience for the kids. She had excellent ideas and helped me to refine some of my "bigger" ideas. The best part was when Dr. Bein and I got into a planning groove and we built ideas upon each others' ideas. We were truly teaching partners, collaborating to create a learning experience for our students.</p> <p>I will never forget how easily Dr. Bein related to my students. Her introduction to my class was brilliant: she had typed up a list of responsibilities she had as Superintendent, taped them to a roll of paper towels, and unraveled the roll to visually show the kids what her to-do list looked like on a daily basis. Then, in the middle of that, she stopped, and said, "I guess what you guys would most like to know is that I'm the person who decides if we have a snow day or not." We all laughed and instantly the kids liked her, which quickly turned to trusting her, and eventually became a relationship that allowed the students to be vulnerable with their feelings around her. The bond that formed between Dr. Bein and my students during this project will forever be a testament of her genuine priority: our students.</p> <p>I bring you this personal story because I wanted to paint a picture of Dr. Bein's commitment to the students and staff of District 25. This educational expert, sitting amongst you, is continuously willing to encourage innovation, research, and who has dedicated her life's passion in betterment of our students and staff in Arlington Heights.</p> <p>The 2020-2021 school year was chaotic; families, staff, and students were pivoting constantly, practicing life skills such as flexibility and resilience. While change is always unsettling, and scary, I confidently knew that Dr. Bein was making decisions that would keep my students, my own children, and my colleagues safe. I knew that we were at the forefront of her mind as she navigated and led us through this unprecedented pandemic.</p> <p>I always find it fascinating when people criticize a leader for making decisions. It's as if they expect the leader to have a crystal ball and to know the outcomes of each decision she makes, before she makes it. Through this past year, I have witnessed Dr. Bein educate this school board, meeting after meeting, about the most up-to-date school guidance provided from the CDC, IDPH, and CCPH. I listened to her answer questions about the guidance, as if she had written it herself. I heard requests for further clarifications of operations and Dr. Bein adding those to her to-do list for the following meeting. I saw with my own eyes how Dr. Bein ensured</p>

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	<p>that the mitigation measures and procedures were in place at each of our schools (ventilation, PPE, distancing, etc). And, most importantly, I experienced the efforts of Dr. Bein and her administration to seek and secure vaccinations for our staff, student teachers, and substitutes. Her efforts were a direct result of the school board's decision to "risk it" and send us all back in-person, before the CDC, IDPH, or CCPH had determined it was safe. Dr. Bein proved to me time and again throughout this school year that she had the best interests of students and staff at the heart of each decision she made. Dr. Bein was at the helm, steering our district successfully through this unprecedented pandemic. I will always be grateful to her for her leadership and commitment for keeping us all safe.</p> <p>As your constituent, a parent of two students at Greenbrier School, and a twenty year veteran educator, with the majority of years spent here in District 25, I am wholeheartedly invested in our school district. I challenge you, school board members, to reflect upon Dr. Bein's service to our district over the entirety of the last 5 years and the positive impact she has had on so many of us. I proudly Align With Bein and highly encourage you to renew her contract. Thank you.</p>
Amy McFarland	<p>I have taught in Dist 25 for 21 years. Dr. Lori Bein has been the best superintendent this district has had during my time here. She has led us to achieve amazing goals, and she has guided this district to be one of the top districts in Illinois. Without her focus and vision, we would not be where we are today with our fantastic curriculum. She is incredibly dedicated and always has what is best for the students and teachers at the forefront of her decisions. She understands that to have quality teaching, a superintendent needs to have the trust and support of the teachers. The teachers in this district are passionate about teaching because we are motivated and feel supported by Dr. Bein. It would be in the best interest of the Arlington Heights community to keep Dr. Bein as our superintendent.</p>
Joy Kirr	<p>Dr. Bein is a professional leader. She knows leaders can't please everyone. She has provided the leadership and professionalism we needed during this year of constant change and in years prior. I look forward to her continued leadership in AHSD25.</p>
Megan A Nuccio	<p>As a parent and a staff member I would really like to see you all vote to renew Lori Beins contract. This Board usually gets a lot of comments from the "squeaky wheel" portion of this town. They aren't the majority. Your recent Board election vote totals proved that. Please take into account most people have been very happy with Lori Bein over the years and are still very happy with her.</p> <p>Thanks. Have a great summer.</p>
Tim Morkert	<p>District 25 Board Members, as you consider whether or not to renew the contract of Dr. Bein, I'd like to share my thoughts for consideration. This past year was the 29th of my teaching career, including having 8 superintendents. Without pause, Dr. Bein has been the best of them. Her intelligence, creativity, compassion, flexibility and ability to put the kids first have helped to further elevate a great district. A test of true leadership is how one handles a storm. Well, Dr. Bein handled a storm, and then some. In a situation where she couldn't win, she fought for the best of the kids...always. While doing this, she put up with an incredible amount of abuse, but persisted. It would be an egregious error to let her go. Please do the right thing, and renew the contract of Dr. Bein.</p>
Lorrie Palm	<p>I would love to see Lori Bein continue to helm our district. During my tenure in D25 over the past 29 years I can say unequivocally that she is the most child-centered and supportive Superintendent with whom we have had the good fortune to work. She does not shirk her responsibility to make the difficult decisions, despite the impossibility of pleasing everyone. I have watched her make those decisions thoughtfully, with the grace and aplomb of a true leader, and always considering the best interests of our kids as her guidepost.</p>
Mary Beth Delaney	<p>As a resident of Arlington Heights and a D25 teacher, I want to thank Dr Bein for her care and hard work. She puts the needs of students first while listening and truly hearing the ideas and concerns of parents and teachers. Dr Bein knows education and makes sound decisions based on data and best practices. We are lucky to have her.</p>

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Jodi Copersmet	<p>I fully support the renewal of Dr. Bein's contract as Superintendent of District 25. Prior to the pandemic, Dr. Bein's commitment to the students, and staff members was very clear. As a District 25 parent and employee for the past 20 years, I have seen 100% dedication from Dr. Bein. Through this pandemic, Dr. Bein was a leader that I was proud to stand behind. This was an unprecedented year, with obstacles and challenges that needed to be seen from different perspectives with compassion and empathy. Dr. Bein diligently and thoughtfully gathered and evaluated ever-changing information that was being shared from Federal and State Health Organizations and worked around the clock to ensure the safety of D25 STUDENTS, STAFF, and ALL COMMUNITY members! Frankly, as a lifelong Arlington Heights resident, I am embarrassed at the way a select group of parents had a complete disregard for other people living in our community. Dr. Bein spent countless hours dissecting the mitigations being recommended from the CDC, IDPH, and other organizations. Then made plans for every possible scenario that would impact the students and staff that were DIRECTLY involved INSIDE the schools, during a PANDEMIC, when there were so many uncertainties.</p> <p>Dr. Bein has been nothing short of amazing before the pandemic and during the pandemic. I am confident she will continue to be the perfect match for the D25 Schools! Thank you for your time.</p>
Oksana Lukaszewskyj	<p>I want to compliment the outstanding leadership of Dr. Lori Bein. She is kind, caring and compassionate. I have spent my entire teaching career in D25 and experienced many things, both good and not good.</p> <p>Prior to Dr Bein coming to D25, we had some "interesting" superintendents. And I do not mean interesting in a flattering way.</p> <p>The first time I met and chatted with Dr. Bein was at her first Sayonara party held at South Middle School. We had a lovely conversation. She did not look down on me as several before her would have done. Our conversation was friendly and genial. After one conversation I could tell how much she truly cared about the staff and students of D25.</p> <p>I have always admired Dr. Bein's leadership qualities: Confident, prepared, courteous. Over the past several years, I have had the pleasure to serve on several committees with Dr. Bein. She always made sure everyone was heard and took the time to make sure she understood each person's point of view. One committee I am ever grateful for is the Food Allergy committee.</p> <p>Under Dr. Bein's leadership, we educated the school community and the community as a whole on the dangers of Food Allergies. I live with food allergies. To bring awareness to the public how dangerous food allergies are meant the world to me and to many parents of D25.</p> <p>The past 16 months have left me even more awed and inspired by Dr. Bein more times than I can count. Through a global pandemic, she lead D25 with grace and integrity. She made certain her staff knew she was thinking about us. What to the outside world many may have seemed like little gestures, were huge to the staff. Somehow she had perfect timing with said gestures. At least she did for me.</p> <p>Spring of 2020 had me feeling unsure about what I/we were doing as teachers. When I would be needing it most, Dr. Bein would send an email, or a video encouraging us to keep doing what we do best; make a positive impact on the lives of young people.</p> <p>I have recently had a family tragedy. On more than one occasion Dr. Bein has checked on me to see how I am doing and how I am adjusting to my new life. To find a superintendent that would take the time to do that, we would have to back to the beginning of my career when Dr. Weber was our superintendent.</p> <p>There are so many more wonderful things I could say about Dr. Bein. I will end with she embodies grace, love, knowledge and genuine compassion for her students and staff of D25.</p>

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Dana Hackett	<p>Dear Board of Education, Tomorrow marks the close of my 21st year of service in District 25, under three different superintendents.</p> <p>Only one of those three ever cared to know my name, and that was Dr. Bein.</p> <p>Dr. Bein came into our district as a breath of fresh air. I will never forget her first Opening Day with all of us -- she shared a picture from her tween years and she made us laugh. She talked about her personal teacher-hero and she made us reflect. She told us about her family and she made us cry. She was approachable, she was real, and she was exactly what District 25 needed.</p> <p>In that first day and from that day forward, Dr. Bein has inspired us. She challenged staff to create a culture that put students first, to find joy in the little things, and to understand that we actually mattered. Dr. Bein visited classrooms, she attended extra-curriculars, and she has always, always gone above and beyond.</p> <p>Dr. Bein is still exactly what District 25 needs.</p>
Brenda Stevens	<p>Lori Bein has been an amazing leader this year! In moments of craziness, Lori remained calm and reminded all of us to do the same. In moments of transition, Lori encouraged us and reminded all of us that we could persevere. Lori cares about students, staff, and parents and always thinks about what is best for the entire D25 community. As a D25 parent and teacher, I express my hopes that you would renew Lori Bein's contract as there are no other hands I would rather have the D25 community be in.</p>
Mary Goumas	<p>Good evening, My name is Mary Goumas and I'm a fifth grade teacher at Patton. I wanted to share with you how much of a positive impact Dr. Bein has been to me, the students, staff and community of district 25. From the first day that Dr. Bein came to our district she made it a point to know all of the staff and was in our rooms a lot, more than any other superintendent I've worked for. She cares about the students and has come to Patton to join my running club the past few years. She has joined my summer book club, including last summer during the pandemic when we all met in someone's front yard and wore masks. Year after year my class has shared books with her that they enjoyed reading. She always reads them and then sends us a letter with her thoughts about the book. She makes herself available to staff at all times and listens to what we have to say. I've never had a superintendent like Lori Bein. She cares about our community and wants what is best for kids.</p>
Jacquelyn Loeppert	<p>Coming together on a decision to renew Dr. Bein's contract would be a good way to show some unity and help our divided community move forward. She has tirelessly worked through this unprecedented time to support our students.</p>
Melisa Andrews	<p>I am asking that the board approve Dr. Bein's contract.</p>
Kristen Christiansen	<p>Dr. Bein has so incredible leadership skills during such a difficult school year. Her organization, openness, communication, and dedication was shown at each meeting and message she conveyed. She kept EVERYONE's interest in mind when making tough decisions and worked to make sure the teachers were comfortable each step of the way. . She is the one person at each school board meeting who ALWAYS took into account all effected parties with such kind thought and respect. I encourage the board to recognize all Dr. Bein has offered and continues to offer and continue her contract.</p>

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Leah Ross	<p>Please set your minds on opening the 2021-22 school year with the same forward progress and momentum that every other faction of society is celebrating now and will be throughout the summer. It's baffling to think that we will be facing contact trace quarantines, exclusions, and rules about distancing and masks after three months in "phase five" and beyond...we all know the vast majority of our community will be resuming fully normal behaviors and to pretend that school children are the source, origin, and danger zone that perpetuates Covid 19 is a totally false pretense that needs to finally END.</p> <p>I realize completely that school boards and superintendents are beholden to the guidelines set forth, but we also all know that you have the power to debate, discuss, challenge, push, call for votes and establish the school environment that YOU all know is right for our children. For ALL children, with families in control of what they know is right for their own particular children in their many and individual scenarios. There is no "one size fits all" for how to respond to this virus. Many can and will vaccinate. Many won't. Many can't. Many will still want to wear masks. Many won't want to and, quite frankly, should not. ALL OF THIS SHOULD BE RESPECTED AND ENCOURAGED.</p> <p>There is no way these children should be forced to mask and quarantine any longer. The excluded children aren't developing Covid. It is unfair to children and families to withhold in person schooling due to NO fault of any involved person as viruses are invisible, they will spread, they always have, and the control tactics giving everyone the notion that invisible particles can be stopped and known exactly the distance they travel is silly and...also...MUST END. We know all of this and have the data. Use it.</p> <p>And the silver lining is that as a society we have learned not to see masks anymore as strange or disturbing or scary, and children especially are taught in our wonderful schools to respect differences and different needs amongst their classmates. It is of course encouraged and understood if some children still feel comfortable or need to wear a mask. Entire student bodies, especially young children who absolutely must be allowed to show their expressions, breathe freely, see their teachers faces, see facial expressions and speak and learn without only eyes as a means of communication, should NOT BE FORCED TO MASK ANY LONGER.</p> <p>I realize the IDPH and the CDC and the CCPHD have been your guides through this tumultuous and often impossible school year. And I appreciate every effort toward our kids ultimately being in school five days a week. But I need to hear these above questions and concerns being actually discussed amongst the board. I need to hear challenges and debates. This is why we have a school board. If the IDPH ran every school in Illinois, we would not need you. We would not campaign for you. We would not have elections and vote for you.</p> <p>I feel that we are all ready to celebrate a successful school year, with a community full of healthy teachers and healthy children... This is all real and true. We have so much to celebrate and clearly even our governor feels that our state is ready to fully open. But I feel that much of the celebration for our district is potentially premature if we are only going to find ourselves back in the same state of unnecessary controls and policies when August rolls around. To truly celebrate, I need to know that the same progress we are seeing all around us will be a part of our next school year from day one.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Jean McLoone	<p>Good Evening! Thank you for all of your time and efforts as school board members. I have always been proud of our community and proud to say that I am an educator in District 25. I would like to thank our superintendent Dr. Lori Bein for her leadership, ability to have the strength to make tough decisions, and care for everyone. Her traits have been consistent since she arrived in our district. She gets to know and listens to the community, staff and students. Her focus is on providing the best for our children. Although this year has tested all of us. She has remained consistent. As we move forward as a district I trust Dr. Bein to continue to be focused on the best for our children, staff and our community. Thank you.</p>

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Laura Smith	I am thankful for Dr. Bein! She has helped to make D25 a supportive and positive place for children to learn. She has the best interest of students in mind! She is resourceful and has worked extremely hard to meet the needs of D25. I am proud that she is our superintendent and I want to share my support for her publicly.
Robert Andrews	Please renew Dr. Bein's contract.
Pamela O'Connor	I want to thank Dr. Bein for her leadership during this extremely difficult school year. She is an asset to this district and couldn't have worked harder for the whole community during the covid crisis. The demands of this school year were unrelenting with many implications for each decision made, and I know Dr. Bein was a critical thinker who used her amazing skillset to guide us. She is the one person at each school board meeting who ALWAYS took into account all effected parties with such kind thought and respect. I encourage the board to recognize all Dr. Bein has done and continues her contract.
Lara Rebsamen	I fully support renewing the contract of Dr. Bein, in the time I've worked in District 25 there have been three superintendents. She in the most down to earth, in touch with reality and knows the pulse of the community. I fully support the renewal of Dr. Bein's contract not only as employee but also as a tax payer of the district.
Erica Palmieri	Dr. Bein has shown grace and leadership throughout this entire pandemic. Balancing the needs and wants of families on completely different sides of the spectrum was near impossible, but she managed to do it while helping teachers and students feel supported. Please vote to keep her as our superintendent!
Meaghan Bertog	Dr. Bein has shown grace and leadership throughout this entire pandemic. Balancing the needs and wants of families on completely different sides of the spectrum was near impossible, but she managed to do it while helping teachers and students feel supported. Please vote to keep her as our superintendent!
Britt Polihronis	<p>Thank you to the board for their commitment to district 25. As we close out this school year, I would like the board to continue to show progress on the following areas that have been talked about for the last several months.</p> <p>1) Full Day Kindergarten: Where are we with this initiate? This was discussed over 4 months ago, it is absolutely necessary that D25 offer full day kindergarten in the next 2 years. We can not continue to fall behind what every other district is doing. Please stop overcomplicating this matter by wasting time with discussion of a different building, etc.. we can make it work in the space we currently have.</p> <p>2) Pandemic Funding, Intervention support: I have asked the board and Dr. Bein to provide a clear understand of what intervention support looks like at both the elementary and middle school level. In looking at the pandemic funding the district is putting a sizable amount of money into this however current intervention support model is not adequate. You are taking students out of other activities through their day missing key movement breaks to support these interventions. Isn't another way to use this funding is to have intervention support inside classrooms where students can learn and grow together. Models of learn should be pushed in as much as possible not pushed out...when possible. This further alienates children who are not the same as their peers.</p> <p>3) Strategic Committee: Can you please provide an update on the strategic committee teams and when participates are being notified.</p> <p>4) Special Olympics: I am excited to hear that their is potential movement on the special olympics front for our district. As a parent I believe there is more we can do with special olympics and how we can integrate the model of inclusion into our schools through the unified schools program. I encourage the board to look into both the events and the inclusion model of special olympics.</p> <p>As we end our school year, thank you for the amazing teachers, administrators, staff, and board members for supporting our children this year. It has been a hard year and one I believe we can all learn and grow from. Let us not sit back now, lets lean forward and do more.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

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Ryan Stevens	With all the unknowns this year, I believe Lori demonstrated great leadership and balance within the district. I feel that she listened to and vetted concerns from parents and teachers alike.
Stephen Zurek	When will the plan for next year be in writing that Parents will have time to make the best decision for their kids.
K. Wolff	As we finish this school year and look to the next, it is time to talk about taking the masks off students. There is no reasonable explanation for students' continued use of masks. We've known for awhile that children by-and-large do not get sick from or transmit this coronavirus, and everyone who wants a vaccine has had it, or will have had it, by August. It is time to do what is best for students' mental, emotional, and physical health. Students need to see their friends' faces, interact with their teachers, and be able to breath. It is time that students once again get to experience everything great about our schools. It is time we recognize masks on children are no longer helpful but are instead harmful. It is time for our district to be a leader in what is right rather than a follower in what is wrong. Thank you.
Kerri Hood	<p>Please plan for the 2021-2022 school year now. Remove the mask mandate, contact tracing, quarantining of HEALTHY children, testing, non FDA-approved vaccine mandate and social distancing. Our state is about to open in phase 5 tomorrow, and yet this school district is planning on moving backwards for the fall. We have plenty of data now within our own district and throughout the nation to show that kids are not a risk. Out of 3000 children who were forced to quarantine for 2 weeks in this district, only 5 tested positive. 5. We don't know how severe their symptoms were either, or if they were ever actually sick. So, you sent 3000 students home for 2 weeks to protect 0.167% of the population. USE THE DATA. It isn't hard to see that this was not necessary. Maybe you didn't know then, but we all know this now. You have had plenty of time to review this and use common sense to see it is unreasonable to continue this practice. You know this, and yet you are still treating our children as though they are the biggest threat out there.</p> <p>Please stop ignoring the fact that many of these kids, their families and teachers have not been holed up inside their homes for the past year. They have been unmasked with friends both inside and outside, participating in sports unmasked, eating in restaurants unmasked, going on vacations to FL, etc. Nobody is actually living in fear, yet you want to keep the fear fresh and alive in the least vulnerable population in the world - our children.</p> <p>We have asked for choice for the entire past school year. That is still what we want. CHOICE. People that feel their children should wear masks can put masks on their kids. Those of us who don't feel that is necessary can make those decisions for ourselves and our own children. I will not be forced or manipulated into getting any non FDA-approved vaccine for my children. Your threats of no teacher access or no contact tracing or mandatory testing or whatever against anyone who has chosen to listen to their pediatricians over you is not acceptable. I will no longer mask my children. They will not stay home when they are healthy. They will not be tested constantly. Use your common sense, use the data, use your voices, and speak up about this NOW and plan for this NOW. You do have the power to make decisions for this school district. If you did not, we wouldn't have you here. Let's not be a follower again next year. Let's do what we all know is right and put kids first for once. Again, there is plenty of data out there to use to show these mitigations are no longer necessary period. Those that want the vaccine have gotten it or will soon get it. This virus is here to stay. The masks should not be. Move forward.</p>
Allison Duffer	Dr. Bein has shown grace and leadership throughout this entire pandemic. Balancing the needs and wants of families on completely different sides of the spectrum was near impossible, but she managed to do it while helping teachers and students feel supported. Please vote to keep her as our superintendent!

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Kim Brinkman	As a D25 teacher and Arlington Heights resident, I'd like to publicly thank Dr. Bein for her leadership over the past year, and I encourage the BOE to extend her contract. Dr. Bein's decisions this year have reflected the best interests of all stakeholders. Her performance as a superintendent during her tenure here has always been personal for everyone involved. She has demonstrated that she can make the best decisions not the easiest decisions. I ask that you extend her contract so she can continue to positively lead D25.
The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the June 10, 2021 Board meeting.	
Kris Adams	Dr. Bein has shown grace and leadership throughout this entire pandemic. Balancing the needs and wants of families on completely different sides of the spectrum was near impossible, but she managed to do it while helping teachers and students feel supported. Please vote to keep her as our superintendent!
Marianne Corcoran	<p>Since the election I have written several emails to Dr. Bein and the board, in various groupings, and the only person to write me back in those two months is Dr. Bein. I do want to thank you for that. So many times throughout the election, the candidates, all of them, talked about transparency. Before the election Anisha, you used to ask Dr. Bein to clarify for the public what something meant or how you all came to a decision behind closed doors. I very much appreciated that. Rich you used to ask the questions that we all had, almost as if you knew what the public was thinking. So in the spirit of transparency, I ask, what happened since the election? Where has the voice of the public gone?</p> <p>The second topic I want to bring up is personal freedoms and privacy. I do not want my children to wear a mask. I am the parent, I know their medical history better than anyone, I weigh the risks, and I make the call. You probably think I sound selfish- but guess what? A good mom has to be selfish sometimes. We have to put our kids first and protect them. Masks are detrimental to children for so many reasons. Breathing, kind of a big one. Children are missing out on social cues, the sound of correct pronunciation, mouth movement for correct pronunciation, they are developing skin issues, bacteria lives in their dirty masks, the list goes on. Now onto the FDA emergency authorized vaccine that is being pushed on our kids. When it's flu season I decide if I get them a flu shot. Now during Covid season you better believe that will also be MY decision. All of these pending threats for next year of taking away remote learning for my kids if they don't get vaccinated but are contact traced? You claim we have medical privacy but the vaccinated kids (who obviously would have to report that status) not only stay at school but they also get access to a teacher? How do you have the right to withhold a public education from a child? A healthy child? Where is the academic peer reviewed research that proves that masks are effective? Where are the scientific articles that you can use to prove to me that my healthy child needs a mask?</p> <p>You fall back on the cdc and idph every single time, but those are simply guidance, not law. You have the power, all of you, to change what is happening. Do what is right and give us a choice WITHOUT consequences whether we vaccinate or mask our children.</p> <p>I am so tired of fighting for choice. I constantly feel like I am in an alternate universe where America is no longer the land of the free. My kids are trapped in recess zones and can't cross imaginary lines. We show proof of vaccines to gain access to education and public events. We are told to wear masks to protect others when it is detrimental to our own health. I don't tell anyone else how to parent and care for their children. Stop telling me what to do with mine.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment for the June 10, 2021 Board Meeting
Kathy Dieringer	<p>My name is Kathy Dieringer. I have two children, one heading to Prospect and the other at Windsor. Masks need to be optional for next school year, period.</p> <p>This year, you sent home over 3,800 healthy students to quarantine because they were a close contact. 5 tested positive. You can't say that these 5 got covid from a child at school. 14 days away from school is isolating for children. It is not right and it needs to end.</p> <p>There is a vaccine for 12-15 year olds and soon for the little ones. It has been stated by the district that students who are not vaccinated and considered a close contact; they will be sent home as if they were sick, with no teacher interaction for 10-14 days. These students will absolutely fall behind both academically and socially. There were students sent home 3 separate times this school year for close contact (all tested negative). That would be 30 days without teacher access. Here is the solution, stop contract tracing. As I mentioned earlier, you sent home over 3,800 students this year because of close contact, vast majority remained healthy.</p> <p>Next, I would like to have each of you review the definitions of discrimination and equality. The district can't discriminate between a student who has been vaccinated vs a student that has not been vaccinated. I can't wrap my head around a healthy student being sent home with no teacher access for 10-14 days, not now and surely not next school year. I know when my child needs to stay home, not you. Not the school nurse, just me. It is your job to provide an education to all students, vaccinated or not, every single day.</p> <p>The districts new mission statement is to "empower an inclusive, diverse community of learners to innovate and thrive as learners." If you deny any student access to their teachers at any point in time, you are not living into your mission and your mission will need to be adjusted to "empower an EXCLUSIVE, vaccinated community of learners while withholding an education to healthy students."</p> <p>There are many reasons why students choose not to get vaccinated: could be it is not FDA approved. Could be for religious reasons. Could be immunocompromised or they simply feel like this vaccine is rushed. If you send healthy students home to quarantine without access to teachers, you need to remove the majority of your bullet points listed on your educational philosophy and objectives section that were adopted in April 2021, since most of it will not true. Do the logical thing, stop contract tracing. Prove that you can live and breathe your educational philosophy, mission statement & vision of the district.</p>