

Public Comments Received Eletronically from the December 10, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Kevin Michael	I was disappointed and frustrated to learn that the Board of Education voted on December 4 not to take an adaptive pause, and also to proceed with the irresponsible and negligent plan to reopen schools 5 days a week in January as the COVID pandemic worsens in our community. I pledge now to do everything in my power as a parent and taxpayer in District 25 to ensure that those board members who voted to put our teachers and community members at risk with this decision are not re-elected to the school board.
Bryan Branson	I'm extremely disappointed with the majority of the board's decision to disregard the safety of kids, teachers, district employees, and the community by voting against an adaptive pause. The few members who justified their decision by using "metrics" should be more clear in the metrics that used in their decision. I can make any metrics support any decision I want to make by looking at only a certain portion of them which is what some board members have continued to do since these discussions started. The board spent the majority of the "discussion" going over a chart they clearly didn't understand to attack teacher absences. The board could have had a discussion around the existence of unicorns and it would have had the same amount of relevance to an adaptive pause as the one that took place. Lastly the majority of the board owe Dr. Bein and teachers an apology for their tone deaf comments over the support of Dr. Bein's leadership and how great of a job teachers are doing. The board basically said Dr. Bein, the health department, and cdc don't know what they're talking about when it comes to an adaptive pause. I also am appalled that a member of the board described the health department having to tell the district to close down Thomas as a minor setback. I would hate to see what quality's as a major setback. The board talked about setting examples for kids and they did just that: if you scream loud enough you get your way. Congratulations and shame on you.
Kim Dyer	At the last Friday's school board meeting, some of the board members showed a complete lack of respect for teachers, subs and the job we are doing. To suggest we drag in volunteers and people off the street is offensive to all. 3 Board members came to observe at South Middle School. They entered my room with students left unattended as I ran next door to help one of our most experienced and respected subs navigate through technology hell. I know the board members walked around and entered the room I had been helping in to see the sub was still struggling to get things going. To suggest that just anyone can come in and do this is offensive to those of us doing the job. Things are NOT ok. We are struggling to a job we used to love and now feel we can't meet our own high standards. If you truly care about the quality of the education, not just that kids are in the building, and you care about the health and welfare of students and staff, then you would know you can't allow random people to just sign up. People need background checks to make certain we aren't letting the wrong people near children. We need to know people we let in are following health practices. If you really want to do better with getting subs, raise the sub pay. Currently the sub pay is about \$13.25 per hour. When minimum wage goes to \$15 per hour, we will be under minimum wage. Is that what we want in our schools? The districts that aren't having sub problems are paying \$35 per hour. I can't speak to the elementary schools, but the middle schools have had a much appreciated influx of technology so our sub setups have changed. Pay the subs to come in and be trained with the appleTV and Monitor set ups so they are comfortable with them. Finally set the enter and exit metrics to move from remote-hybrid-full attendance, negotiate the MOU for those metrics with the union, then post them and stick with them so people know what to expect and plan for. This will help teachers and subs. Stacey Mallek is brilliant in handling our finances and has done a great job helping us gain reserves. Now is the time we may need those reserves to get through this situation, then look at how to budget higher paid subs into future years. The old adage you get what you pay for applies to this.
Anthony Kuch	If the board is trying to argue that kids need to be in school for a better education, then someone needs to explain to me how classrooms full of substitutes, and uncovered classrooms is accomplishing this. If the goal is just to give kids the opportunity to get out of the house a couple days a week, then mission accomplished. But somebody on the board

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	needs to say that. The current situation we are in is the worst case scenario for providing a quality education.
Anthony Kuch	As a teacher in District 25, I do not in any way feel safe coming to school at this time. My health, the health of my family, along with every student and staff member, and their families, are being put in danger.
Angie Ferrigno	As a board I think you have put yourselves in a bad position. Guidelines should be set and followed to take emotion out of the decision. If Dr. Bien were to decide to find employment elsewhere, I fear the district will have a hard time attracting talent.
Diana Lane	I would like to write in today about the proposed tax levy. I find it crazy that Dr. Bein is purposing this in the middle of a pandemic when millions are affected. The majority of businesses have taken hits and found ways to save cost. As a board please ask Dr. Bein why she is not proactively doing that. We as a district need to be proactive instead of reactive. Please vote NO to the tax levy.
Erin Felten	Thank You for moving forward with Hybrid! My son just started his first week of 4 days of in person-and we are so excited for in-person learning. Thank You to all the board members for the hard work, tough decisions, and dedication. I look forward to FULL TIME, 5 days a week in-person instruction for all children who need it!
Sebastian Enguidanos	Shame on the members of the board who voted against remote learning and shame on the parents who demanded in-person learning. You may be able to hide behind the difficulty tracing your decision to deaths in our community, but those of us who haven't politicized public health understand very clearly that your vote represents an "acceptable" amount of dead community members. History will remember what you have done here.
Carolyn Ullegue	Please consider allowing kindergarten and first grade students to attend school in-person, full time. Our youngest students struggle with online learning and would benefit greatly from more in-person instruction.
Bridget Riley and	I think it important to let every single parent know that the school board decides if the school is safe for students not science. Until I started paying attention to these emails, I thought Lori Bein made the decision based on science and safety.
Angela Houghton	Remote learning is not working for our youngest students. I am asking for kindergarteners and 1st graders to return to school in-person five days a week. These are critical years in their development, and sitting in front of a screen all day is not cutting it.
Tara Tinsley	Thank you for voting NO on the adaptive pause. Our children are suffering academically and mentally. It is imperative that schools stay open.
Kate Renno	I am writing to express my extreme disappointment with the outcome of last Friday's emergency board meeting, to ultimately vote no on an adaptive pause. I commend Dr. Bein for presenting this motion to the board again, and thank those board members who voted in favor of the adaptive pause. I still have significant concerns about us adequately staffing our buildings with our dedicated teachers, having capable substitutes to fill in when necessary, and the overall health of the Arlington Heights and neighboring communities as we are only at the very beginning of seeing a potential post-Thanksgiving surge in COVID-19.
Stephanie Levinsky	VOTE NO to the proposed tax levy. Manage the budget better....the community members are budgeting more carefully due to Covid and the school needs to as well. It is not fair and incredibly insensitive to request the community be further taxed during this difficult time.
Kellin Girard	Please give parents the choice for full in-person learning in January.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Jim and Cristina Small	<p>Dear D25 Board,</p> <p>We wanted to recognize that Brian did a very good job demonstrating leadership at the December 4th meeting. His words were tactful, balanced, and thoughtful. I appreciated his quote in the media regarding the frustration with folks emailing about science to selectively support their own narrative. Parents can quote whatever science they want, but now it is all about common sense and ensuring our educational system does not implode amidst this pandemic.</p> <p>Our greatest concern now is what the future state of our schools will look like after this school year ends when teachers are eligible to fully consider opportunities outside of D25. From the dozens of D25 and neighboring district teachers we have spoken to and per review of public teacher board comments, there is a growing sentiment that D25 is not a good place to work. Teachers feel neglected and alienated specifically by the Board and its lack of follow through, which increases the likelihood of teachers considering taking roles in other districts or exiting the teaching profession all together. Even substitutes are bad mousing our community saying to not work here. The media coverage of our local issues presents us as a divided community at war with each other and the board. This is embarrassing at best and is creating a bad reputation for our community as a place for which historically families desire to live in and benefit from our school system. To the contrary, we believe Arlington Heights is an ideal community to raise a family and we value our schools and teachers, which is the reason we moved here.</p> <p>We currently have great teachers and we fear that given other districts are also seeing teacher shortages, they will gladly incentivize our teachers to quit D25. Please do the right thing. Respectfully yours.</p>
Sara Tsoles	<p>I wanted to thank the board for their support especially with students with special needs. My daughter has a 504 and is struggling so much with being at home and making academic progress. Allowing her to go to school 4 days a week will help bring back her confidence as well as exponentially increase the amount of instruction she is able to focus on. This decision has made a world of difference for families that are struggling to help their students academically and emotionally. We appreciate you speaking for the kids who are unable to speak for themselves. Thank you so much for broadening who you are including! Thank you!</p>
christy witherow	<p>Please continue to offer in-person learning & developing a sustainable plan for the remainder of the year to add a full-in person option.</p> <p>I give you my continued gratitude for all that you are doing for ALL of our children.</p>
Leigh Strauss	<p>Does the tax levy properly account for the funds that will be needed to entice new teachers to our district? The School Board of District 25 is building a reputation of a district willing to put teachers and staff in harms' way, regardless of public health recommendations during this pandemic. As teachers look for work in the next year, they will be able to easily see what districts took care of their employees at a time of temporary crisis. Our district does not provide this care.</p> <p>What are you doing to ensure that we will still be able to hire top quality teachers when the boards' recent decision has proven that the wellbeing of our teachers does not matter?</p>
Gina Tyson	<p>Please re-consider your decision on an adaptive pause. I want my children in school as well, but the risks, which are not all health related, right now far outweigh the benefits. The outbreak on the second floor of Thomas Middle School shows that in-school transmission does occur. You are burning out your teachers at an alarming rate by pulling them from their planning time to sub, which people who are not educators might have a hard time understanding, but it has a direct negative impact on the education our children are receiving. If they do not have planning time because they are subbing or doing two jobs at once, our student's experience suffers regardless of it being in-person or remote. They</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>cannot pour from an empty cup. Teachers across the state are taking note of what is happening in this district and the impossible working conditions teachers in this district are being faced with. Dr. Bein has told you this is not sustainable. She is the expert on how to run a school. Your leadership and the divide you have caused does not look good right now, and if it continues on this trajectory we are risking far more long-term than simply taking a pause until it is safe for staff and students to be back in the building. Just as corporate workers take note of companies who have reputations for treating their employees well, teachers do the same. A school is only as good as the quality of the educators it attracts, hires, and retains. You are risking that for our kids and future generations of kids. Thank you.</p>
Renee Schlenhardt	<p>First, thank you all for your efforts to meet the needs of all of the students in the community by continuing with Hybrid until full day choice starts on January 19th.</p> <p>I was also appreciative to hear the dialogue at the last board meeting focused on the kids' needs - it was refreshing to see questions asked around how students of varying needs can be met if forced to remote, for example students with IEP's, SpED, English Learners and learners that perform much better in an in-person environment.</p> <p>I strongly urge Dr Bein and the Board Members to engage with local schools, both private and public who have done this successfully and are still offering full in person instruction choice, while maintaining a successful remote option. Saint James' motto is "Find a Way" and I don't think that could be more apt for District 25. I encourage you to continue to problem solve, rather than problem create.</p> <p>Lastly, I'd also like again to ask that the focus be on doing whatever it takes to remove the issues and put our kids' education and social/emotional well-being first. Our district is lagging behind. Local peers in private schools are surpassing those in private. The equity gap will continue to widen. Science has proven that schools are one of the safest places to be, the mitigations are working, and children are not spreaders. I have yet to find a scientific article that says it's safer to keep schools closed.</p> <p>Consider that enrollment has dropped and is continuing to drop from previous years. This is also a concern as a taxpayer as this will impact our property values, as our district becomes less desirable than our other districts nearby who are making it work.</p> <p>Thank you, Renee Schlenhardt</p>
Renee Schlenhardt	<p>CORRECTION to the RECORD.</p> <p>This comment specifically addresses the misleading information Dr Bein spoke in the last Board Meeting on Friday December 4th. She stated that local private schools have taken a pause through January. This is a completely FALSE statement and misleading. Local Catholic schools were mandated by the arch Diocese to go remote AFTER the Christmas break for two weeks, this was a mandate and not individual school decision. Saint Peter is OPEN and will remain open provided the internal metrics continue to support it. They have NOT closed or gone remote and are staying the course through the end of the year and into 2021.</p> <p>I ask that fact-checking be done before making blanket statements like this, as this is misleading and frustrating to the staff that are currently working and teaching students in person and making it work.</p> <p>Thank you, Renee Schlenhardt</p>
Kerri Hood	<p>I want to thank the board for keeping the kids' education as a priority. My children have been so excited to go to school 2 days in a row this week. They are looking forward to the next 2 days already. I also would ask you to look at some options to help alleviate the staffing shortage. By creating a remote academy to start in January, you will have dedicated teachers and students in this plan. That means the in-person teachers and students can focus solely on those in the classroom instead of having to also manage half a class of "zoomers." Please continue to move forward with your plan for full in-person learning starting in January as well for those that want it. If children need to change</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>teachers to make this happen, that is a much smaller sacrifice to make vs. forcing kids to continue working remotely. Also, making this change in Jan gives a good break point where the switch would be less stressful on children. Had we followed the original plan from summer, we could have prevented these issues from even occurring as we would have had the chance to set up remote kids with remote teachers and in-person kids with in-person teachers from day 1. The lack of planning by the district is what caused this issue, so we need to get plans made quickly without these continued delays. Move FORWARD and stop looking for more barriers on why we can't.</p> <p>Also, there will be elementary education graduates in December. What are your recruitment efforts to attract and hire these graduates ASAP for sub positions, classroom monitors, remote academy instructors, etc? We need to act fast on this! These graduates are going to be eager to work in a great district, so how are we getting their attention?</p>
Karen Johl	<p>Thank you to Rich, Chad, Scott and Gina for keeping our kids in school. I look forward to the plan for full in-person learning moving forward.</p> <p>I am hoping we get apologies from Dr. Bein for her outright lies that St. James and Our Lady of the Wayside had been closed for adaptive pause. I also hope Brian Cerniglia not only apologizes for his ignorant comments about hanging himself, but also educates himself on just how serious a mental health crisis we are facing during this pandemic. In the last week I have seen reports of two teenagers killing themselves due to the isolation they feel now. It is beyond disappointing that someone who represents our district would make such a disgusting comment.</p> <p>Finally, I hope you do not waste money on rapid testing. The results are inaccurate 70% of the time. They are not even acceptable for employees looking to return to work. It is not a useful test.</p> <p>Money could be better spent recruiting sun and permanent teachers for the district. Lack of staffing should never be a reason for kids to be kept out of classrooms.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Amy Harder	<p>Please vote for an adaptive pause until January 19 for the health and safety of the students and staff.</p>
Jeffrey Van Buren RN	<p>Good day</p> <p>In light of the current crisis I can not support any more of my hard earned money supporting our poorly run public schools. We have a public education system that does not support the public or the children it serves. The current system that the public supports is a constant struggle between the teachers, teachers union and the superintendent vs the board of education and the public who pays taxes to support these educators. Real change needs to happen (abolishing the teachers union) before we the people can be asked for more money. Last year before covid my children were receiving an excellent education and in class experiences. Now we have some hodge podge of some half ass plan that was put together after the start of school. There was no motivation during the summer to plan for the first day of school. There are a lot of family's that have made hard decisions to reduce or terminate their employment so they can do the jobs of the teachers who are so scared to work in the classroom despite the fact that they still are receiving full compensation. We have a group of well educated well trained staff but we don't have creative ideas. We just have obstacles to solutions no creative solutions. I DO NOT SUPPORT ANY TAX LEVY.</p>
Vicky Stella	<p>Please consider an adaptive pause until January 19, 2021 for the health and safety of the students and staff.</p>
Karen Galazka	<p>Please consider a pause after winter break to avoid the strain that teachers have been feeling since Thanksgiving break.</p>
Kelley Costello	<p>I would like to thank the board for not passing an adaptive pause and for letting our kids continue with in-person learning and for going ahead with full in-person for January 19th.</p>
Leah Ross	<p>Please listen to every medical and professional expert who says our children need school and that their minuscule covid risk pales in comparison to the social-emotional and academic losses magnifying daily. We must continue to add children who need more days</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	to the building. We must admit the new science and data supports open schools and think creatively and positively together to protect the vulnerable while ALSO maintaining open, functioning schools for all who need them. This is essential. Hybrid was a first step and is no longer the gold standard. We need to make progress toward a full return.
Pam Wuich	After listening to all the facts presented at the last board meeting, I was VERY disappointed that a pause was voted down. I urge you to reconsider and vote YES for a pause after break for the safety of our children and teachers
Thomas Wuich	Please vote in favor of a pause after the holiday break.
Rebecca Fahnoe	<p>Dear Dr. Bein and Members of the BOE,</p> <p>I am writing to advise that with the current rising COVID infection rate in our community, it is unsafe for our children, teachers, and staff to be attending or teaching in- person. This board must put Adaptive Pause on the December 17 agenda and hold another vote.</p> <p>As of today, Wednesday, December 8th, our local stats are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 10-12.8% * (7day average) as of 12/6/2020 • 60004 & 60005 currently has a new case rate of 11.31% ** (7-day average) • Thomas Middle School is still closed until 12/14 • Region 10 ICUs are at 84% capacity • NWCH is AT CAPACITY. THIS MEANS THERE ARE NO MORE HOSPITAL BEDS. <p>* http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/hospitalization-utilization ** http://covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu/?fbclid=IwAR1cZWn6hWH-d4D0haYKbTZOWqoWIV2eg0GoUN_qxyHS4OLRk9VwLAj7QhM</p> <p>D25 Parents and staff are getting COVID positive email notifications from their schools DAILY. For you to say that schools are safe and that they aren't contributing to the rising COVID infection rate is simply not true.</p> <p>I am a teacher and a teacher friend of mine just tested positive. She is the only one in her family leaving their home. She is part time and only teaches one ELA class. She has subbed multiple times in her off periods and it is quite possible that this positive is from one of the classes she picked up to be a "team player".</p> <p>In-Person school IS contributing to the speed, and the the filled hospital. With the hospital full, what happens if a D25 teacher, D25 child, or any community member has a life threatening emergency right now (COVID, heart attack, stroke)? The answer is they will most likely die - and it could be someone in your family.</p> <p>I ask you to please put a motion on the agenda for the 12/17 BOE meeting to reconsider an ADAPTIVE PAUSE effective through January 19th.</p> <p>Respectfully, Becky Fahnoe Arlington Heights resident D25 teacher, Thomas Middle School</p>
Kaitlin Fajks	<p>With the current COVID infection rate in our community, it is unsafe for our children, teachers, and staff to be attending or teaching in-person. This board must put adaptive pause on the agenda and hold another vote. We must be proactive, not reactive, during this pandemic. Schools shutting down at a moment's notice is not better for learning.</p> <p>With most of our absences attributed to quarantine, our school staff is being spread even more thin by covering these absences. School staff members are currently prevented from</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>performing their own jobs and provide the amazing services we have to support our students since they are being pulled as guest teachers. A pause would allow more of our teachers to teach their own students.</p> <p>This current model is not sustainable. Students benefit from predictability and learning from their own teachers. If you truly care for what's best for students, staff and the community, then vote yes for an adaptive pause.</p>
Ira Levinsky	<p>Teachers and the administration of D25 have not been financially impacted by the Covid-19 crisis ---this is not true for Arlington Heights residents. Many are struggling financially and making choices and taking actions they never imagined they would due to personal budget shortfalls. To impose a tax levy at this time is insensitive to the financial crisis many tax payers of the community are facing. Make adjustments/make cuts and figure it out without as many of us have in our personal lives.</p>
Jennifer Schmidt	<p>Please consider an adaptive pause until January 19 for the health and safety of the students and staff.</p>
Amanda Bhansali	<p>I am writing to advise that with the current rising COVID infection rate in our community, it is unsafe for our children, teachers, and staff to be attending or teaching in-person. This board must put Adaptive Pause as an action item on the agenda and hold another vote.</p> <p>As of today, Wednesday, December 8th our local stats are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Region 10 – 13.8%* (7-day average) as of 12/9/2020 + 60004 & 60005 currently has a new case rate of 420 cases per 100,000 people ** (7-day average) +Thomas Middle School is still closed until 12/14 +Region 10 ICUs are at 84% capacity. +Northwest Community Hospital is AT CAPACITY. This means THERE ARE NO HOSPITAL BEDS AVAILABLE. <p>* http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/hospitalization-utilization **http://covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu/?fbclid=IwAR1cZWn6hWH-d4D0haYKbTZOWqoWIV2eg0GoUN_qxyHS4OLRk9VwLAj7QhM</p> <p>D25 Parents are getting COVID positive email notifications from their schools daily, so for you to say that schools are safe and that they aren't contributing to the rising COVID infection rate is just simply not true. In-person school IS contributing to the spread, and to the filled hospital. With the hospital full, what happens if a D25 teacher, D25 child, or any community member has a life-threatening emergency right now (COVID, heart attack, stroke, brain aneurysm)? The answer is they will most likely die - and it could be someone in your family.</p> <p>As your constituent, I demand that you put a motion on the agenda for the next BOE meeting to reconsider the Adaptive Pause effective immediately through January 19th.</p> <p>Lives depend on it. Sincerely, Amanda Bhansali</p>
Todd Witherow	<p>I do not feel like we are making the needed progress on a plan. We are looking for a perfect plan that makes every happy, which will never be possible during the pandemic. A good plan executed violently today will always beat a perfect plan never executed. Please communicate the specific plans to reduce the stress on our teachers by eliminating multiple learning medians (zoom and room) and return to full in person. Thanks.</p>
Ellie Branson	<p>An adaptive pause is necessary for the health and well-being of not only our schools, but our community as a whole. Remember, because kids are often asymptomatic, they are not</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	getting tested as often and our school's numbers are not always up-to-date as Dr. Bein has reminded us.
Jacalyn Derengowski	<p>Hello Dr Bein and sd25 board members</p> <p>Thank you all again for your hard work on getting out schools opened and providing a remote option for those families that choose.</p> <p>Hopefully Dr Bein will be presenting a plan to the board to ight with steps forward to unite our community.</p> <p>I wanted to address the proposed tax levy the board will be discussing at 7:15. My request is to vote no. No discussion needed right now. Illinois voted NO to the Progressive Tax already. Just like families in this community, make the hard choices needed to balance your budget with the money you have been allotted. Any bad choices that were made resulting in a negative, do not use Covid as an excuse to come to the taxpayers. The CTU already tipped their hand about getting more money to try and open schools. Failure to keep schools open and get them open fully as of December 10th, disqualifies the Board from asking for any more money from the tax payers of this community. Get the schools fully open with a remote option, then budget conversations can happen.</p> <p>Second, I include the article from John Kass that better articulates the frustration of our community. Stop using the students of our community as prisoners of war with the ATA. Educational reform is greatly needed and tightening of belts to get out of the economic crisis in Illinois, but stop using the students of Illinois.</p> <p>https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/john-kass/ct-coronavirus-schools-kass-20201210-kityu45m2jfh5hyd6vcfreizeu-story.html</p>
Bethany Larson	Please allow our qualified and invested Teachers to teach remotely. Substitute Teachers are NOT AN ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT FOR OUR AMAZING TEACHERS!
Ben Silver	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>My name is Ben Silver, and I am a Community Lawyer with the Citizen Advocacy Center. CAC is a non-profit, non-partisan community legal organization with over 25 years of experience promoting access, accountability, and transparency in local government. It recently came to our attention that this School Board has censored certain spoken and written speech during the public comment portion of recent School Board meetings. Specifically, the School Board has limited comments that mention school personnel by name.</p> <p>This is an unconstitutional restriction on First Amendment freedom of speech. The public comment portion of meetings under the Open Meetings Act is a public forum, subject to the full protection of our Constitution.</p> <p>Free speech in the United States allows the government to prohibit only a very limited set of subject matter; a ban on naming personnel is not a valid prohibition, and our courts have repeatedly affirmed this.</p> <p>Just this year, nearby Hinsdale High School District 86 settled a federal lawsuit on this exact matter. I have included a link here for the Board's review and invite the public to search Google news for "Hinsdale District 86 free speech."</p> <p>https://patch.com/illinois/hinsdale/district-86-settles-free-speech-lawsuit</p> <p>The District spent about \$43,000 settling the lawsuit.</p> <p>My sincere hope is that it will not come to this in District 25.</p> <p>The School Board should immediately move to fix this problem and assure members of the public that it will not unconstitutionally restrict the subject matter of speech during the public comment portion of meetings. Any policy reflecting such a prohibition should immediately be rescinded.</p> <p>Furthermore, I hope that the Board will make every effort to reach out and apologize to any member of the public who has been censored under this unconstitutional policy.</p> <p>I am available to answer any questions that the Board or public may have on this or any public accountability topic at bsilver@citizenadvocacycenter.org or 630-833-4080.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my comment this evening.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Jennifer Huntzicker	<p>Please continue to listen to every medical and professional expert that says our children need to be in school and that the extremely small Covid risk pales in comparison to the social-emotional and academic losses magnifying daily. We must admit that keeping kids out of school is not only wrong, that it is denying science. Continuing to say that every district around us is not a sound argument. If they're wrong, why would we follow their lead? Kids do not have a high risk of either contracting or spreading this disease. However, when it does happen which it is likely to do, continue to use mitigation efforts to stop it. Those who need to stay home due to medical vulnerability are able to do so. Please continue to offer choice for those who would like to be in person and plan NOW to get those who choose it back in school full time. Plan NOW so that it can be executed when the metrics deem it appropriate.</p>
Laura Culley	<p>I would like to thank Chad, Scott, Rich and Gina for voting no to adaptive pause at this time. School remains a safe, controlled environment for children and teachers.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing additional details tonight from Dr Bein on her plan to get us back to in person in January. I hope that it includes innovative ideas that can prioritize in person learning while accommodating those that need remote learning for their individual needs. I see other districts implementing "remote academies" where a remote teacher that has a medical accommodation or has seniority priority teaches remote students while the rest of the teachers teach students in person. If a child needs to be remote, they listen into the class on zoom and are sent home assignments. That way the teacher does not have to divide their attention between the in person and remote learner and has less preparation work to do. If an in person teachers needs to be remote, the class is remote with them or you can do a partner teacher arraignment. Innovative solutions such as these could lessen teacher planning time, stress, and provide a consistent experience for students that addresses individual needs.</p> <p>Please let us know how the recruitment of subs is going. How many recruitment requests sent out and in what types of media (e.g., 10 signs, 1 video on SD25 website, how many posts to monster or other social media), how many requests received, how many positions filled, reasons for positions not being filled (in process of paperwork or back ground check), and estimated time that new subs will be available. Regardless if our teachers are remote or in person they all have a risk of contracting the virus so we need subs in order to continue the educational achievement of students.</p> <p>Lastly, please provide details on testing and not just on approvals. Please let us know who would be eligible, the costs, and who would be mandated to take them, how often and where the tests would be administered and what kind of tests these would be. Please let us know how other districts have used these tests and what has been learned from their experiences. Please let us know what the overall goal is with testing as this has not been made clear.</p>
MICHELLE CASILLAS	<p>Special Ed - Thank you to those that voted for no adaptive pause, my daughter started from half to full days this week and is over the moon. She is so much happier and tells me she likes school better than being at home learning because learning at home is too hard for her and she doesnt want to be in 4th grade again.Thank you for the making the choice for these children and all the other children that want to be in person.</p>
Petition: SD25 Parents Demanding Safe Education	<p>UPDATED SIGNATURE COUNT: 547 SD25 Residents, 529 with addresses on file</p> <p>PETITION: SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 PARENTS DEMANDING SAFE EDUCATION</p> <p>December 10, 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</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>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 NBC5 Chicago 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: 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 CCDPH, 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 • District 46 • District 2 • District 205 • District 62 • District 64 • District 63

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>curriculum 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 Jennifer Eichorn Bliss Hansen Joseph Kim Jill Larsen Steve Chiappe Megan Hill Gina Heuer Beckie Hejna Jamie Impastato</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Meg Thomson Whitney Simon Nicole Keith Meghan Yarbrough Kate May Michelle Walsh Camille Ziemann Kristie Burmeister 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 </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Rebecca Reiter Nina Koufalias Ana Fergus Kelly Drucker Lisa Lightcap Tracy Roth Louis Arce Kirsten Boyce Jeanette Hanik Kevin Michael Prajkta Maindarkar Jennifer Amling Katie Peterson Rachael Hooker 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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Sara Michael Nicole Bielawa Tony Montesano Kendra Lintner Sharon Todd & Katelyn Lorenz 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 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 </p>

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	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 Jennifer Leigh Diva Pagnotto Ellie Hicks Susan Weres Mr and Mrs R Fraser Alice Dahl Sue Villanova Sean Conroy Sarah Galla Katherine Scortino Lauren Gonke Michelle Brinson Cynthia Mc Intyre Nick Larse Michael McIntyre Ken & Sue Kowols Talia Dohman Dr. Matthew Kinney Carol Vittore J Gerdes Kristen Cordell Sharon Korb Melissa Conroy Jeremy Fischer Sarah Dempsey Kelly McMillen Douglas Hammond

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	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 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 Kevin & Cindy Vander Klay Taylor Lindsey

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Anthony Pagnotto Kate Limbers Laura Zoumboulis Lauren Stump Timothy Schank Kristin Allen Anne Porto Greg Domsten Tricia Hasan 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 Lynn Kaniff Joseph Impastato Alexis Rabe Elizabeth Wolff David Peterson Sharon Anderson Chris Fries Terry Peterson 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 Anne Ingratta Chris Stahlmann Lawrence E. Rhyner Danielle Rubel Zachary Novick Kathryn Coughlin Sharon Lee Gabriela Porras </p>

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	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 Prajta Maindarkar Amanda Forssander 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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Roopa Prasad 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 Lakomski Blair Christensen Jurgita Andriuniute Heather Kral John Chlopowicz Chris Chlopowicz Ryan Chlopowicz Jennifer Skilbeck Steve Skilbeck 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 Anna Maria Scatena Lisa Welch Ryan Malley </p>

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	Donna Hynek Katherine Redmon Cindy Wilson Randall Warren Tara Zapatka Patrice Costello Dave Zapatka Katie Wilson Rebecca Fahnoe Noleen Nelson 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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>Maribeth O'Dell Amanda Taylor Dan Bratek Lance Schulstad Katherine Pozniak Ellen Sharpe Deb Artman Colleen Engle Raymond Siebert Margaret Short Anna Lange Nicole Barbieri Jackie Hallmark Ann Genmel Kathleen Wohlbrandt Daniel Puccini Michele Lara Ana Kecman Emily Morrison Debra Kowalczyk Joanne Kohn Beatrice O'Donnell Holly Schafer</p>
Katherine May	<p>We beg of you. We implore you.</p> <p>We plead with you to have mercy on our teachers. They are spread far too thin, working an obscene amount of hours, and struggling to meet the needs of their students. This is not the work environment that lends itself to quality employee retention.</p> <p>We moved to Arlington Heights 16 years ago because of the schools and because this community attracted and retained quality individuals. As a teacher myself in another district, I can tell you, the talk amongst the professional community...is that you absolutely do not want to work in school district 25. What a joke.</p> <p>This district has become a time bomb waiting to explode. The trigger pulled by noisy, selfish, and narrow minded adults. How are you allowing yourselves to be pushed around?! This resistance to factual data and due diligence for public safety coupled with a complete lack of big picture focus has handicapped any hope of growth our students had for this year.</p> <p>Their failings rest on your shoulders. Yours. Not our teachers. Yours. You did this. Its vile and reprehensible to treat our community with such disregard.</p> <p>Only you can change this. Sincerely, Kate May and Daniel Puccini</p>
Whitney Simon	<p>I am once again calling on the school board to follow Dr. Bein's recommendation for an adaptive pause until January 19th. Our metrics are simply too high to support safe in-school learning. The cases reported in our community amount to 1 in every 10 residents of Arlington Heights. As a point of clarification, leading health experts and scientists such as Dr. Anthony Faucci stated that schools are the best place for children IF bars and restaurants are closed. We currently have businesses staying open in flagrant violation of the current mitigation strategies, and we still have nonessential stores open for business. As long as these places remain open, and as long as we are experiencing significant community spread, it is simply not safe to have kids and teachers in classrooms. I am in disbelief over the fact that despite Dr. Bein's presentation, despite the guidance of the</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>health department, despite the metrics (which HAVE increased since last week) the school board has voted against an adaptive pause. We are so close to the end of this horrific pandemic; the vaccine is imminent for our community. Any positive cases in teachers, students and staff at this point would be absolutely in vain. Please take the responsible course of action and put our schools on an adaptive pause until January 19th, a date which accounts for community quarantining after holiday travel. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Brittany Polihronis</p>	<p>Thank you to the board of education for voting No to an adapted pause and for allowing parents to have a choice of what they think is right for their families. The countless hours you have spent is unbelievable and much not even seen by the public, thank you to your families as well for supporting you through this time.</p> <p>I would like to ask the community to begin to heal and be understanding of everyone's opinions and feelings, we need to stop the hate and divisiveness this issues has caused. Whatever your choice is right now, I respect your decision and hope that you respect my families and others.</p> <p>Let's move forward with a clear path of what the next 6 months of education will look like for our children. I would like to see a plan from Dr. Bein that illustrates how we will begin to move children, who choose back in to school, and a robust plan to make remote learners have the same valuable education. Here are the next steps:</p> <p>1) All students with IEPs and 504 where space is available should be back in school by Monday (I have heard from families that this is not actively happen, so please ensure parents are given the option)</p> <p>1) Provide selection for parents starting on Jan. 19th that include the new information regarding 6 feet to the best extend possible as voted on. Once we have the numbers you can plan accordingly and move forward.</p> <p>2) Consider an online academy - this will allow remote students to have a better connection and education. Allows for teachers who want to teach online to have that option (have teachers apply for these roles). Yes this would create a change but if it is in our children's best interest we need to consider this.</p> <p>3) Adjust metrics to focus on positivity rate within school as the highest priority, followed by positivity rate only in AH (60004 & 60005), remove the new case metrics as this is a followed way to look at the data.</p> <p>We have now learned more about this virus and what is happening within schools and how education in person needs to prioritized, please do not miss out this chance to make a change for the best for D25.</p> <p>Thank you again for your countless hours and work you have done. Brittany Polihronis</p>
<p>Kathryn Coughlin</p>	<p>Please let the PhD make timely and appropriate decisions about her schools.</p>
<p>Maryann Zaleski</p>	<p>Dear Board Members, Please know that the parents who are supportive of their children receiving in-person instruction are NOT looking for "babysitters". As an educator, I am offended by the commentary made at the last Board meeting by Board members who insinuated these parents are just looking for ways "to get their kids out of the house". What a terrible statement to make, and what a slap in the face to all educators. Teachers are professionals. Teachers are experts in their field. And educators are some of the most essential people we have in this world. Education helps people understand the</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>world around them, and it provides children with the tools they will need to navigate our world successfully. As Board members, you should never imply educators are anything less than experts in their field.</p> <p>You do realize that the group of parents asking for in-person instruction have been forced to advocate for their children, correct? These parents are trying to HELP their children who are academically and mentally struggling with remote instruction. Research has shown that children absorb and process information differently, and it is UNREALISTIC to believe that remote instruction currently meets the needs of each and every student in this district. I am thankful the district has recently started to bring students with needs back to school four days a week, but it took almost 9 months to get here. Do you know how long that is in the educational world? There is no doubt that these children have regressed. And there is still a considerable amount of children who are currently regressing, staying stagnant, or not receiving the differentiated instruction needed to make educational gains. By continuing to force all students to receive remote instruction in the hybrid model, we are doing an injustice to these children who are regressing. It is time to fully and safely bring children back into their classrooms with the educational experts. Academic loss is not a good look for our district.</p> <p>Also, please stop wasting time. We know in-person instruction can happen safely and responsibly with the right mitigations. Dr. Fauci has said so himself, in addition to multiple other health experts. Are we no longer considering the medical experts? Do not continue to delay these decisions about how we should proceed by pushing decisions back another week, and another week, and another week. Decisions need to be made NOW about what January and the rest of the year will look like for our students. Consider that there will be a spring break, and start planning on how that will be addressed. I understand the importance of teacher input, and student input, and parent input- but, you will never be able to accommodate everyone's preferences here if you keep surveying the crowd. There will be no perfect plan. There will only be a plan that has more benefits than drawbacks. Please come together as the LEADERS you are expected to be and provide the district with a plan. Please make the decisions that need to be made as soon as possible.</p> <p>With that being said, please take the Remote Academy instructional model into serious consideration for the 2021 semester of school. Local schools in the area have been able to implement this instructional model, and I do think it would alleviate many of the issues both teachers and parents are reporting. The expectation of teachers to simultaneously teach in-person students and remote students has been pushing teachers to the brink of burnout. They cannot continue to be expected to successfully teach in this model. By implementing a Remote Academy, teachers would be alleviated of the stresses hybrid teaching presents and focus on delivering high quality instruction once again. Also, with a Remote Academy, parents who want to opt for remote instruction would be accommodated as well. Their children would be able to continue learning with others remotely without being forced to return to classrooms. Finally, those children who benefit most from in-person learning would be able to do so. Please think about how this would work for all stakeholders and use a "can-do" mentality as you consider the ways this model can be implemented.</p> <p>Finally, and simply, thank you for all you do. Our community does seem divided currently, but we are very much aware of the time and effort you put forth in your roles as Board members and are grateful for it. Hang in there. We will all get through this somehow.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maryann Zaleski</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Kate Murray	<p>Please set up and follow parameters for what our district is following for remote, hybrid, and full return. We have a right to know that the board is following through on commitments to science and safety.</p> <p>We moved here for solid education not warm bodies sitting in a classroom. Can the school internet even support full Zooms? Do that homework before moving forward please.</p>
Renee Schlenhardt	<p>Student enrollment in district 25 is down as parents have elected to send their children to private school. This will more likely continue with D25 having a permanent decrease in enrollment.</p> <p>2020 CPI through November is .9% and projected to come in at 1% for the year, projected expenditures for the coming year should be based on actual expenses for the year ended June 2020 This data is not available on the website.</p> <p>Current year expenses should be down with the decrease in in-person teaching and services. For example, transportation is nearly non-existent as few students need to be bused. Actual expenses for the current year could be down dramatically and this needs to be examined and factored into projections for the new year. An increase in Levy is not necessary.</p>
Michael Tumilty	<p>Request that the Board consider implementing an adaptive pause that allows special education students to continue to attend in-person.</p>
Beth Kovacic	<p>We should be in an adaptive pause. Choose safe metrics and finalize a plan.</p>
Katie Rausch	<p>Thank you to everyone's hard work! You have put in so many hours and it's greatly appreciated! Please continue with IN person til winter break. Things are going well and sub issues don't seem to be so needed as once stated. Also a plan for January needs to happening now. No more pushing it back. You have decided to change the 6 foot rule at earlier meetings so now we need updated metrics, please figure this out now.</p> <p>Remote academy...should have been don't in august but sadly it wasn't and now our teachers have to struggling with teaching in two environments at the same time. Consider it please</p>
Jeanne Coughlin	<p>Thank you Dr Lori Bein for fervently working for what is best for students of all ability levels, learning styles, including the vulnerable and at risk. Please continue to pursue qualified staff at all times. Thank you for recognizing that IEPs are legally binding.</p>
<p>The following comments were received after the submission deadline and were not included in the December 10, 2020 Board meeting.</p>	
Erin Kalaway, RN	<p>Thank you to the board for acting on facts versus fear. Please continue working with Dr. Bein to develop a plan for those teachers and students who want to be fully in person at school.</p> <p>For those who continue to say "school isn't safe," please show us your evidence. Emotions, accusations and assumptions do not suffice.</p> <p>As a healthcare professional, I place great emphasis on scientific data, and I have yet to see anything that shows me school is unsafe for teachers or children. In fact, there is evidence to the contrary showing more harm being done by depriving children of socialization, physical activity and other resources that are unique to in-person learning. Teachers are not catching COVID from their students. Remove emotions from this process. Give families the choice to send their children to school.</p>
Peter Gripper	<p>Regardless of one's thoughts on remote/hybrid/in person, everyone should support the tax levy. At a minimum, the district has seen massive unforeseen costs with new iPads, increased bandwidth, and purchase of Zoom & other technology licenses. Please support the levy.</p>