

Public Comment from the December 17, 2020 Board Meeting

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Lisa Rottenberg	While Dr. Bein and her team did a great job putting together the metrics presented on the 10th, they are not public health professionals. The public health professionals recommended an adaptive pause. The last thing we need is well-meaning amateurs making public health policy. I'm also concerned that the board is only interested in reactively moving to remote in the event of a crisis rather than proactively moving in concert with public health professionals and local communities to prevent that crisis.
Chris Salituro	<p>Dear Board Members of District 25,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to put the community's health first. Please do NOT grow numb to the fact that currently the number of Americans dying every single day is more than 9/11. That is 3,000+ Americans dying! Every. Single. Day. Three thousand!</p> <p>And this is not a school issue - this is a public health issue! It affects all of us and all of our community. Science is real. We must put selfish desires and political affinities aside and do what is in the interest of the community's health. I implore you to represent the whole community and be sure that whatever District 25 does, it does it within the guidelines for community health and preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.</p> <p>Thanks for your service to our community. Sincerely, Chris Salituro</p>
Bridget Riley	<p>Primary source of spread is indoor dry, stagnant air.</p> <p>Masks reduce aerosols, but ventilation just as critical. Our elected officials ignore that prong.</p> <p>Stores/school across Asia have windows & doors open. They bundle up & have heaters. Humidifiers also found to help.</p>
Amy Johnson	Actions speak louder than words.
Kris Adams	Actions speak louder than words!
Regina Fortman	Actions speak louder than words!
Meaghan Bertog	Actions speak louder.
Joe Kim	Actions speak louder.
Kristen Christiansen	Actions speak louder than words. Take an adaptive pause after break. Keep your staff safe! You have the power to show you care about our safety and not just what we can do in the classroom.
Anthony Kuch	Actions speak louder than words. I beg of you to think about the safety of all people and all families during this time.
Danielle Schuh	Please reconsider an adaptive pause and show you care about our safety and not just what we do in the classroom.
Katy Murray	Thank you so much to the board members who have worked so hard to get and keep our children in school. Having happy kids two days a week is helpful, but 5 days would be better. We have cancelled our winter break travel plans in order to comply with the safety measures, and will be healthy and safe to return to school on January 4. Please do NOT vote for an adaptive pause, and please makes the arrangements necessary for all students to have the CHOICE to return 5 full days per week on January 19. We do not want to take away the choice for remote learning from others, but this year has been awful for my children and we need to be in school.
Kristin Burmeister	Actions speak louder than words. Fully support Kelly Drevline's message.

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Erin Felten	<p>Please keep our kids in school. Please vote NO to ANY type of pause. I can only speak for my son with an IEP who has been back for going into 2 weeks, 4 FULL days a week in person. He has come ALIVE since March. He is telling me (which is so not normal for him) that he can't wait to get to school. He has fallen behind in areas he is already FAR behind in. We are doing our best as his parents to pay for tutors and Kumon outside of school because that is how concerned we are. Please, do not pause school or switch to remote.</p> <p>I have been fighting since the first week of school to get my son into school and STAY in school. So that means sacrificing travel for the holidays, limiting ANY guests, wearing masks everywhere, and doing my part so my son can stay in school.</p> <p>If there are families who travel then they should do their part and self-quarentine, but do not punish the children who are not traveling or going to large gatherings.</p> <p>Please push forward as we know it is possible to keep schools open. Thank You</p>
Rebecca Fahnoe	<p>I write to you as a community member and as a D25 teacher.</p> <p>I do not feel safe. I recently read on an TMS building update that to provide the necessary coverage (due to the lack of subs) needed, as many as 48 students could be placed in the LMC to attend class virtually should their teacher be quarantined but well enough to teach. How does this make sense? I am the director of the LMC and we have 23 tables in the LMC. This does not allow for social distancing. I also find it hypocritical that due to the governor's mandate, you all are not able to exceed 10 people in person for your BOE mtgs. YOU are in a space that is much larger than the Thomas LMC. Yet...somehow it is okay to put 50 kids in a space.</p> <p>I ask you to please reconsider an adaptive pause.</p> <p>Our students (many of whom chose hybrid) are now choosing remote to ensure safe family holiday celebrations. This option is so nice and I wish, as a staff member, I too could take advantage of this and teach from home.</p> <p>My family lost my mother this year to a long battle with Alzheimers. We cannot risk losing my father, so to keep him safe, he will be alone on Christmas. I simply cannot put him in harm's way and because I do not feel comfortable with the safety of my job, this is the difficult decision we will make. We already made this decision for Thanksgiving which was difficult to say the least.</p> <p>Please reconsider your vote.</p>
Kellee Janus	<p>No pause after break! Kids need to be in school and there are already so few kids attending. My son literally has two kids in person, twice per week. How that can be taken away is beyond me!</p>
Kerri Hood	<p>Please stay in the current hybrid model with a plan for full in-person starting early January. There is no reason to go remote for even just a few weeks after the holiday break. People that will travel should self-quarantine for 2 weeks, and that reminder should be sent out to families and added to the self-screener. There are plenty of people sacrificing travel over the break, so that we can keep our kids IN SCHOOL. Do not force everyone to go remote for those that choose to travel. Our kids have sacrificed enough in-person school already!!</p>
Sarah	<p>Kids should be back in person for the 4 day schedule after the two week holiday break is over. There is no reason to have kids work from home all days of the school week after a two week break.</p>
Tracy Falconer	<p>I implore the board to not do an adaptive pause or move all students back to remote learning starting in the new year. Students are just getting started back to being in the classroom 4 days a week and are loving it. Based on contact tracing in the schools it is proving that the schools are not the sources of COVID-19 outbreaks. I ask that students who are in school remain in school</p>

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	and that those families who have traveled do the right thing and quarantine for two weeks or provide a negative COVID-19 test to return to school. This is what is best for our students and the board needs to put what is best for the students first. Thank you.
Danielle Schuh	Please reconsider an adaptive pause and show you care about our safety and not just what we do in the classroom.
Erin Wiggs	Let our kids go to school in person! If you want to stay home, then do so, but do not take away other peoples choice to be in person.
Jennifer Zakaras	I hope this email finds you and your families safe. A rumor has circled that you are once again voting to close schools. I urge you to consider our special education students and vote no to an adaptive pause. Parents who are not comfortable sending their children to school have been given that choice and those of us whose children need to be in school should also be given that choice. Let us do our part and stay home during the holidays so our kids can return to school, in-person, covid-free. Thank you.
Peggy Jones	There is NO data to support a pause. This has already been voted on by the board! Please continue to look at the numbers and the lack there of. Private schools have been in school full time with little transmission, no deaths and no hospitalizations. So far the majority of the board has based their decisions on what is best for the kids. Please continue to think of them in your decision making instead of making decisions based on irrational adult fears. Our kids deserve an in person education. Continue to take the road less traveled!
Bill Arnold	Please choose in person learning only for our children.
Karen Johl	Stop wasting valuable time with talk of adaptive pause. How many parents received calls that their child or children no longer will receive additional educational services because they no longer qualify? Children who are still struggling with services should not be denied! Our son was a recipient of such services, and it helped his education and confidence tremendously. These are the services and level of education we expect and should receive from our district!
Julia Herrmann	Please do NOT do an adaptive pause. Please continue with the plan for ALL children to return January 19th. Children across the state are committing suicide. Pediatric Hospitals have more cases of kids with self harm than they do of Covid. Please don't let one of our children become a statistic! Save their lives and their mental health! Let them go to school!
Suzan Liu	Please vote to open the school back up full-time as early as possible. Enough is enough.
Jennifer Sia	Please keep kids in school. I do not support an adaptive pause. For my kids, full remote school is emotionally damaging.
Lisa Nason	I appreciate everything the board is doing, you are all amazing. Please continue to fight for our kids being in person.
Jeff Nason	I appreciate everything the board is doing, you are all amazing. Please continue to fight for our kids being in person.
Elizabeth Malone	Please continue to say yes to in-person learning. My two district 25 students learn so much more when they are in school with their teachers and classmates. An adaptive pause is the same thing as pausing education.
Christy witherow	Please do not move to adaptive pause after the break.
Barb Donahue	Actions Speak Louder!
Peter Woolsey	There should be no remote, only a push toward in-person. We have spent enough time in remote. Stop playing these games.
Kathy dieringer	No need for adaptive pause. Spend more time on reopening the schools, giving parents an option for remote or full day regular school. Remember the purpose of schools. No need for asynchronous learning days, they are a waste of time.
Holly Connors	Please keep moving to person school. Lets move in January to options, for example: one group for in person school and one group for remote learning. All teachers and Staff need to be in the

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	buildings, to support the students. Our kids depend on school as a safe place, with consistency. Our kids need school in a time like this. To the union: its time to put kids first.
Curt Adams	Actions speak louder than words!
Allison Keough	Please allow the instructional special education students, Resource IEP students and IS students at Westgate to still attend in-person following their current model IF an adaptive pause is considered in the future. These children thrive on routine and consistency; changes in routine and schedules take 3-4 weeks for them to adjust to accordingly. In that time, so much instruction can be lost.
Melissa Van Buren	Those that need to quarantine after winter break should do so, and travel should be added to the daily screening as a reminder to all. I do not believe that a pause is needed after break. If nothing else, we can look at our experience after thanksgiving and see that we have an amazing plan in place and it is doing it's job. Thank you to everyone that is doing such a great job keeping our children and teachers safe and in school.
Joanna Sopel	No adaptive pause. Ask question of travel to daily screening form and exclude traveling kids from in person for 10-14 days
Diana Lane	I would like to encourage the board to do what is best for kids. Kids are falling behind in school and remote learning is not working. My child is struggling with reading and is not receiving any help because he can not be properly evaluated because he is not in person. If you do choose to vote for an adaptive pause please make sure there is a plan to return full in person or at the very least hybrid and that plan is executed and there are no more excuses about we need time to plan.
Eileen Ryan	What has changed since the last vote? Please continue to allow in person instruction post holiday break. Also what is our full in person plan? It has still not been outlined
Dan Ryan	Please continue to allow in person instruction post holiday break. Where is the full in person plan?
Betty Levinsky	Thank you for voting NO to an adaptive pause. I can tell from my experience that any day my daughter gets to go in person it has positive impact on her ability to stay focused and wanting to learn. Everyday she is doing remote learning consists of frustration and anxiety. Please dont pause after Christmas break. We like many other families are not traveling so that our kids can go safely back to school.
Elizabeth Malone	Please do not have remote learning for 2 weeks after winter break. My two district 25 children are already behind this year due to many challenges with e-learning. Please continue to offer in-person learning for those who would like it.
Carissa Lee Holmes	Please keep moving forward with hybrid learning then onto full in person learning for those who are interested/need it. Our district has not had soaring cases or any transmitted at school, that i know of. The only support to moving to full remote is fear. Many are fearful. Do not let fear drive your decisions. Let those that are fearful stay remote - that option will be needed for a while. Let those that are comfortable wearing masks, washing hands and adhering to Covid protocols, come into school and strive for the most normal day we can achieve at this point in the pandemic. We now have testing in many places, plenty of masks available and a vaccine that will be given to more and more people as the winter and spring go on. Its time to live with Covid and not run from it!
Leah Ross	Please do not vote in favor of a post break pause until 1-16 for all families of D25. The families who travel or have symptoms can quarantine responsibly themselves. There is NO need to pause entire buildings and take away in person learning for the masses, especially the children who desperately need their four days and have recently been added to the building for extra days to receive their special services. It would be an absolute injustice to them to shut down now, all because some families will travel? This would be a punishment for the many families who aren't traveling this season and it's not necessary at all. The pause would be a knee jerk reaction and a "just because" kind of action with no scientific or proven merit behind it. This we KNOW. This we SEE. Schools are safely working and we are moving in the direction of a full open by adding

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	children to the buildings for four days. We should not be moving backward with a pause. There is no justification in the claims that other schools are doing this. D15, for example, is not. Yes, some local private districts are. But our leadership refused to follow private schools in opening, so I absolutely will not accept following them now for a pause.
Stacey Cooke	<p>Please continue to keep our kids and their education the top priority as decisions are made regarding the start of 2021. Please keep the hybrid option in place as our children return to school on January 4th. Please do not go to full remote for two weeks after the winter break. The reason I say this is that 1) every family I talk to is purposely deciding not to travel because of the current situation - so that concern is minimal 2) for families that do travel, please add a travel question to the hybrid screening so those families know to stay home for a self-quarantine period 3) District 15 used their recent adaptive pause to gather more data and understand the impact of remote vs inperson on staff case counts. They found that the cases were the SAME whether in person or remote, concluding that schools are NOT THE SOURCE OF MOST COVID19 INFECTIONS. Due to that they are coming back full in person on 1/4/21. There is no point to going remote for 2 weeks after break other than to push our kids further behind. We have personal experience with this as our first grader has slipped further behind and requires even more intense levels of intervention beginning 1/4. To do these remote would be 100% counter intuitive to the purpose of them.</p> <p>Furthermore, please share the plan for full in-person beginning 1/19/21. I have heard Lori Bein state that we know how to do full in-person so perhaps she's under the illusion that we don't need a plan. However, she also had an entire summer to form a hybrid plan - yet when we got the ok to move to hybrid we had to delay that for weeks while the plan was formed. I encourage you to take the steps needed to get AHEAD of the challenges and find solutions NOW so we are ready to set our kids up for success in 2021. Thank you for your time and efforts to ensure our kids are getting the best education and level of commitment that they deserve.</p>
Catherine Olson	Please do not allow for a two week pause (e-learning) after the holiday break. The kids are suffering by not being in school full time as it is, and to take away those precious two weeks of in-person learning is detrimental to the well-being of the children of District 25. If teachers and families want to travel, they need to do so responsibly and quarantine for the recommended time upon their return. Or don't travel like many families are opting not to do because kids being in school is more important to them. There is no reason for the two weeks of e-learning after holiday break when there is the option for families to have their children attend school remotely, which is their choice. Let the families that want their kids in school for in person learning have their choice heard as well. Enough of these games. Also, what is the plan for back to school full time in person? That is supposed to start January 19, 2021!!
Julie Talbot	Vote NO to adaptive pause after break. Board Member Brian Cerniglia must apologize to the community for his insensitive & divisive comments last meeting about "angry parents" wanting kids in school versus "concerned parents" wanting the teachers safe along with comment regarding committing suicide during this stressful, emotionally challenging time for our kids. He is completely inappropriate.
Julie Talbot	Teachers union president speech presented at 12//10/20 meeting was unprofessional, disrespectful and disgraceful as she outright threatened the board members whom voted against adaptive pause. Although I blame Lori Bein, the teachers doing both remote and hybrid is exhausting for them... and our kids are hardly learning. The kids should be in school 5 days since August with a separate remote academy. The Union created this current problem by demanding the year start at full-remote and Lori Bein has showed us time and time again that she stand firmly with the teachers union. I sincerely hope this union president is one of the teachers leaving the district, our community as a whole will be entirely better off without her threatening and unprofessional behavior. I also blame Lori Bein for giving the teachers union president free reign to speak without censoring her threats. Vote NO to adaptive pause after Christmas break!
Julie Talbot	Vote NO to pause after Christmas. Do not be distracted by the tactics of Lori Bein to keep demanding full remote and keep our kids out of school. After a NO vote, she continues to bring

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	this to the table and will not stop until the board gives in. Please VOTE NO! Kids need to be in school.
Jennifer Durkin	I would like to express my disappointment in the lack of civility in these board meetings over the past several months. I understand that there is a difference of opinions out there, but that doesn't excuse the nastiness that has made it's way into these meetings. And it's on all sides...Teachers, parents and board members. I found Kelly Drevline's comments to be unprofessional, and ironic. She basically went on and on about how we should all be thankful for our teachers and shut up and do what they say. I would venture to guess that most people in the district are very grateful for our teachers. And I hope that the teachers are grateful for the parents in this district as well. There aren't many districts that have parents that go above and beyond with the hours of volunteering in the classroom, organizing appreciation events, and just showing up. I was also disgusted by the comment made by the Board President that he would "hang himself" if he had to continue reading the emails he's been getting. This was a horrific, tone deaf comment made at a time when many of our students are fighting depression. It's should not be a flip comment to be thrown out there trying to be funny. There have also been some pretty ugly comments made by parents. As adults we need to do better. This is not the example to be set for our kids. They should be the priority here. The teachers have chosen this profession to serve our children, the Board has been elected to represent the children's best interests, and the parents are acting out of love. My personal opinion is that we should be working as hard as we can to get the kids back in the classroom as soon as possible. My thanks to everyone working hard to make it happen.
Julie Talbot	VOTE NO to adaptive pause! Those parents who want their kids at home, have that choice. Those parents do not speak for me or the community as a whole. Those parents can keep their kids at home and let me choose what's best for MY kids. Don't make the decision for me. Lori Bein has created this divisiveness in our community. If she would've stayed with her decision back in June to go back full-person with remote academy this would not be an issue. She is an ineffective leader lacking transparency, foresight and communication.
Kristin Keil	First let me make my voice clear, I vote no for the adaptive pause, keeping the current hybrid learning model in place. These weekly meetings are becoming exhausting, why do we continue to hold these meetings and vote on the same agenda item? Do the people responsible for scheduling these meetings want the vote to go another way so they will continue to schedule meetings until they get their outcome? To me that is a bully not a leader. What is the data behind the adaptive pause? As far as I can tell the metrics show school is a safe place and with the release of the vaccine shouldn't we at least stay hybrid with the goal to move to back to full in person learning? Just looking at the MAP scores from Fall 2020 is enough data for anyone to see that remote learning is not as effective as in person learning. It is like a bandaid over a cut that needs stitches. Our students deserve to be in school learning. Also the theory behind the pause is because people want to travel? What about all those people that are choosing education over travel? I have 2 older children working at Target walking around the store 5-8 hours a day so that people do not need to leave their homes. They choose to do that because Target is a safe place to them. I choose to send my 6th grader to school because South Middle School is a safe place and he learns much better in a classroom than stuck in our home classroom where his xbox, the kitchen for snacks and his iPhone are assessable all day long. Even though we have rules almost every day the rules are challenged because there is always another student on these electronic devices all during the school hours. Please keep these kids in school, I fear that if you vote yes for the adaptive pause the powers behind this decision will drag out the adaptive pause much longer than the 2 week planned pause and these poor kids won't be back in the building until after spring break. Please think of all these kids that need to be in school, that choose to be in school and all the families that are taking precautions and being careful so that their student can continue to attend school. Thank you.
MATTHE W MUELLER	THANK YOU! Thank you for keeping hybrid learning going. Though not perfect, this hybrid model has been a good compromise to keep the education of our children moving forward. Observing other districts in the area during this time has shown that AHSD25 has provided the most to students in this difficult time. Great job by the teachers to adapting to this new teaching model!

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Alina Laurie	Do not close our schools down. Many families and kids are avoiding travel because their kids need to be in school. If the in-person numbers are light due to many families quarantining after break, the in-person kids can be consolidated to make staffing easier.
Lisa Jordan	Why hasn't Brian Cerniglia issued a public apology for his abhorrent comments at the Board Meeting on the 4th?
Shannon Scalzo	Thank you for your continued work and service to this community. I would like to ask you to please vote AGAINST an adaptive pause. I can imagine you are exhausted, however we need to keep fighting to allow our kids to remain in school. We should not implement a pause based on "what if" scenarios. We had a very long break over Thanksgiving and did not see numbers increase. Kids need to be in school!
Julie Tatum	Please do not go to fully remote after the winter break. It is not necessary. It was not done for Thanksgiving and circumstances will be similar after Christmas/New Years. The kids should remain hybrid and we should be working toward a full 5 day return in January.
Shani Jarrett	The schools need to remain open for all students who wish to attend. In fact, all students should have the option to attend full time. The many children in this great country are attending school full time and in not attending school many children are suffering. I know my children are suffering. My children need to stand a chance in this world and to give them this chance they need to be taught by trained professionals. Now perhaps, some proper have older kids, have quick learners, have a stay at home parent with time to train their kids, or perhaps they live in large homes where students can properly study and learn, but some in our community are not as fortunate and it is not only a social and economic injustice but it is civil injustice to this kids for people to assume just because they are ok, we are all ok. The parent's out here fighting to keep the schools open are fighting for a child's right to learn and to do what's in their child's best interest. We all want the best for our kids and teachers and staff. The schools are safe. The proper procedures and steps have been taken to keep teachers/staff and students safe. Therefore, we need to give these kids/my kids a chance to learn properly in school.
Ryan Cooke	<p>Why do we have to keep voting on an "adaptive pause"? Exactly what is it that we need to "adapt" to? Positivity rates are declining, transmission of the virus does not occur in schools, and our school-aged children are not at risk of serious impact due to catching the virus. I ask you, are we in a worse or different situation now than we were during the previous votes on an "adaptive pause"? The answer is NO. So it seems that you're trying to make decisions based on a few people's predictions of what "might" happen in the future. There was no "surge upon a surge" due to Thanksgiving and there likely won't be one following Christmas either. We do NOT need an "adaptive pause".</p> <p>I propose an "adaptive pause" on voting for an "adaptive pause". Let's "adapt" to the declining positivity rates, to the fact that there is no "surge upon a surge," to the fact that COVID is not transmitted in schools and "pause" these votes.</p> <p>In fact, I propose an "adaptive open"! Let's adapt and have a trial period of full 5-day in-person learning for an "adaptive period of 2 weeks" to truly allow our children the opportunity to "adapt" to learning again. After that 2 week period, go ahead and go back to the hybrid model for 2 weeks to confirm that, yep, the virus continues to NOT spread in schools. At that point, we can drop "adaptive" from "adaptive open" and go ahead and open up fully to 5-day a week learning (in person). Why are we continuing to look for ways to close schools? Let's look for ways to OPEN schools. Of course parents who are not comfortable with their children learning (in person) can remain remote.</p> <p>I see that there are parents requesting that schools go on an "adaptive pause", but I simply do not understand why they feel the need to impart their will on other families who DO want their children to learn (in person). They have the choice to allow their children to be fully remote and shouldn't have a say whether those who are in-person can continue to be in-person.</p>

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Christy Goduto	Please do not vote for a pause after Christmas break. If a family chooses to travel they can quarantine. There are those of us that are not traveling because we feel attending school is more important. I am willing to sacrifice so my children can continue hybrid and then attend the full 5 days January 19. Being in school is the most important and beneficial thing for the kids right now. Thank you.
Kevin Michael	I again request that the members of the District 25 Board of Education show that they prioritize the health and safety of students, staff, and the Arlington Heights community by immediately moving to an adaptive pause for all District schools. Furthermore, due to the amount of holiday travel that will take place during winter break, the only responsible decision is to keep all schools fully remote for a minimum of 2 weeks following winter break.
Cindy Vander Klay	Please consider making the next parent selection form from January-March instead of the end of the year. Families who are currently remote may not feel comfortable going back in the midst of our current spike/flu season/cold weather. Please give all students an option to return to school this spring when Illinois has begun vaccinating, saliva tests have started, & windows can be open in school buildings. Choosing in January without knowing how drastically this virus will change in a few months is an impossible choice.
Paul and Peggy Jones	<p>District 25 School Board Members and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>I am writing you again to encourage you to take the road less traveled and not vote for an adaptive pause. I am frustrated that, once again, this is being brought up not even two weeks after it had been voted on! Nothing has changed in those two weeks. The numbers have not gotten worse.</p> <p>There is no reason to discuss nor is there any reason to justify a post-holiday break. The families who travel or have symptoms can quarantine responsibly themselves. There is NO need to pause entire buildings and take away in person learning for the masses, especially the children who desperately need and have recently been added to the building for extra days to receive their special services. It would be an absolute injustice to them to shut down now, all because some families will travel? This would be a punishment for the many families who aren't traveling this season. The pause would be a knee jerk, "just because" kind of reaction with no scientific or proven merit behind it. This we KNOW. This we SEE. Schools are operating safely. They ARE NOT super spreaders. We should not be moving backward with a pause. As I have stated in previous emails and board comments the justification that neighboring districts are doing this is not valid. Not all school districts are taking a post-holiday pause just as not all districts took a post-Thanksgiving pause. In a previous board meeting Dr. Bein lied to you when she stated that private schools in the area were on an adaptive pause. They were not! The Archdiocese of Chicago did set up a premeditated pause for after winter break, but they did that to allow their teachers, staff and families to travel. Teachers, staff and families, who have not traveled since August, as they have been fully open since day one of this school year. Teachers who have a logical understanding of Covid. Teachers who do not complain about covering each other's classes, cleaning desks, losing an aide, sub shortages or childcare issues. Teachers who are led by a team of professionals who calmed any apprehensions regarding Covid back in August! I teach in one of those private schools and I can tell you and any District 25 teacher that remains fearful that teachers are not dying, they are not in the hospital or on ventilators and neither are the kids we teach! Contrary to what many teachers in School District 25 think, the students are not killing us! The trepidation that District 25 teachers have is based on nothing more than irrational fear and perhaps leadership that has done nothing to quell it. Our district leadership didn't want to follow the private school model for a full open. It's completely inappropriate to selectively choose to follow them now in a post-holiday closure. As nothing our district has done even compares to what the private schools have done. The private schools have gone above and beyond to ensure in person learning something that our district until recently has failed miserably at. With the board taking a more active leadership role and the December 4 no adaptive pause vote we are finally moving in the right direction.</p>

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	<p>It is time that Dr. Bein start prioritizing the needs of our children and teachers, who are too afraid to speak up about their desires to be in the classroom. It is time she starts standing up to union pressure. Her time should be spent putting together and fine tuning a plan for our children to return to in person learning rather than placating the union, and encouraging the irrational fear of a select group of adults by calling another board meeting to discuss an adaptive pause that has ALREADY been voted on. PLEASE, hold true to your convictions and vote NO pause. Paul and Peggy Jones</p>
Tricia Spitz	<p>I urge you to vote no for an adaptive pause. CDC and various news outlets continue to report that transmission rate in schools is very low. Please allow parents to make the choice if they want to send their kids to school or keep them home.</p>
Carleen Swanberg	<p>If children are not able to keep the 6' distance while in the classrooms because of higher attending #'s, please continue to offer the HYBRID model for parents. The HYBRID model of 2 days in class is working well for our family, and feels like a safer alternative to full in person learning in a crowded classroom where social distance is not an option.</p> <p>Thank you Dr. Bein for keeping safety first of mind. The others on the BOE who sit in a large room (or gymnasium) at long tables easily spaced more than 6' away from other board members, while talking about how safe it will be for our children to return to a crowded classroom are hypocrites and will be voted out at our first opportunity.</p> <p>A big Thank You to the teachers and leadership at SMS - they are all wonderful to partner with, and doing a great job for our students.</p>
Mark Tack	<p>Leave schools open. Prioritize the kids.</p>
Katie Rausch	<p>Thank you for all your hard work. Please keep our students in person for those who want choice right after the break. Many families have decided to stay home and be safe so that they can return right after the holiday break is over for in person learning. For those families who feel unsafe then they will decide to remote learn, as well as families who have traveled. I hope the plan to full in person is figured out soon so these kids can see more in person time across the district.</p>
Shelby Menely	<p>I commend the board for your recent vote to keep hybrid instruction in place. Circumstances have not changed in the two weeks since the Board's previous vote, and I urge those who voted in favor of NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE to stand your ground. Please continue to base your decisions on science, not on fear and hype. The data shows that the risks are minimal for spread within the schools, when safety rules are followed. At the same time, the social, emotional and mental risks to the children of being isolated at home are significant. Please continue to give the children something to look forward to about their education, by keeping them in person.</p>
Catherine Gripper	<p>Please continue to vote NO to an adaptive pause. As we know from all the previous discussions and votes, those who want to pause have the choice to do so. Those of us that want to send our kids to school deserve the choice to do so also. Many people are not traveling or seeing family over the holiday break for the sole reason to have their children remain in school. These kids deserve the right to an in person education. Don't take the choice away from the parents and children. Please continue to vote NO. Thank you!</p>
Lisa Duello	<p>No to adaptive pause</p>
Alexis Rabe	<p>I do not believe it is fair to make parents choose remote or full in person for the remainder of the year by Jan. 5th. I would love for my son to be back in school, but we made the choice to keep him home between Thanksgiving break and winter break because of the current metrics. We don't know what the metrics will be after winter break or what the spring will be like especially with a vaccine. Therefore parents should not have to make a decision for the remainder of the school year in January.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Andrew Rabe	Parents should NOT have to decide in person or remote learning for the remainder of the year by January 5th. We need to know the metrics after winter break in order to make an informed decision for our family.
Allison Vercimak	Parents should only have to select hybrid/remote for the rest of the second trimester, not for the rest of the year. The COVID numbers in January will hopefully look very different than the COVID numbers in April.
Taylor Lindsey	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.
Tara Tinsley	Please vote NO for an adaptive pause. Listen to the experts who continue to say that school is safe and that schools should remain open for in-person learning. Our children deserve this option.
Lisa Jordan	Anisha...why is it okay to be cheek to cheek with someone at a restaurant Coco & Bleu when you preach about keeping kids apart-please explain. You sound ridiculous and now you look the part.
M Jordan	Why is it okay Kelly Drevline to write a letter to the board about distancing but you can be 2 ft away getting your nails done. Please explain Dr. Bein.
Amanda Eichstaedt	<p>We are so grateful that you are listening to the data that supports in-school learning as a safe option. All children learn differently, and many children benefit from in-person instruction and supports versus remote learning.</p> <p>Please continue listening to the scientists and experts who are saying in-person schooling can be safe. Please do not vote on an adaptive pause.</p>
Mr. and Mrs. Fraser	<p>Dear Board Members and Dr Bein, please can the following be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adaptive pause for week after return from Christmas break due to those who may have travelled, met in larger groups and those out with their usual bubble to limit potential risk to students and staff. 2. To allow parents to have an additional opportunity to opt in to in-person learning. Firstly in January for the time period January to spring break and then additionally in March for the period spring break to end of the school year in June. In this rapidly changing environment it is short sighted if we make families pick for a five month period when situations can fluctuate rapidly in relation to Covid and people may have altering views based on the initial roll out of the vaccine. Thank you for considering
Courtney Kiefer	Please move past the adaptive pause and work towards making a safe in person learning environment for the kids returning Jan 4. Please consider the younger aged classes, esp K for whom social and emotional interaction is essential.
Steve Miller	What has materially changed since the vote just two weeks ago? Has there been any type of surge in positivity rates in the schools? In particular at the kindergarten and elementary levels? Please focus on working towards a safe in person learning environment vs trying for an adaptive pause.
Jennifer Licato	<p>*We believe an adaptive pause through 1/19/21 is warranted, to accommodate a quarantine period for all after potential Holiday travel.</p> <p>*As opposed to a full in-person plan, we ask you to consider retaining the current choices of remote and hybrid learning, which offer both choice and safety.</p> <p>*If schools return to full in-person learning on 1/19/21, we ask you to give those families who choose (or feel forced to choose) the full remote option another opportunity to opt in to in-person learning in the spring, as opposed to having to make a decision in January for the remainder of the school year.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Michele Hilgart	<p>Dear Dr. Bein and Members of the Board, It is my understanding, based on the previous board meeting, that the district intends to circulate a selection memo for parents to choose between full in-person instruction and full-remote learning for the remainder of the school year, and that the selection is to be submitted by January 5, 2021.</p> <p>Please understand that this deadline and selection timeframe are completely unrealistic and unacceptable. The case positivity rate and other critical metrics are changing weekly. One vaccine has already begun to roll out and emergency authorization decisions are being made on other vaccines as trials are completed. It is entirely possible, at this point, that by the time the third trimester starts, widespread vaccination programs will be in progress. Further, there is absolutely no indication at this point that we are going to meet the necessary metrics for full-in person instruction anytime in January. Given all this uncertainty, there is no way you can expect parents to make a decision the first day after holiday break that will impact children through the end of the year.</p> <p>You are not simply asking parents to consider whether or not to continue in the hybrid model deemed safe by the state department of health. You are now asking us to consider whether we are comfortable sending our children into a school environment that will not meet the guidelines set by IDPH, rather than losing all access to their teachers, because you have taken away our safe option. To put us in that awful situation at the height of this public health crisis and then place an unreasonable decision deadline and take away our right to reevaluate throughout the school year is ridiculous and completely goes against the spirit of parent choice. You are not offering parents' choices. You are bending to the will of the vocal constituency, who you know will put their children into full learning in any condition, and you are making the rest of us pay the price of their satisfaction.</p> <p>If information is needed for planning purposes, you may consider instead circulating a survey, similar to the one sent over the summer, that asks families to identify which option they will likely choose in the event that metrics for full in-person are met. But no selection should be forced upon parents until such time that the metrics are met and the plan to transition is being implemented. Further, any decision parents make regarding full in-person or full-remote should be valid through the end of the trimester, as previous decisions have been. Parents should be given the opportunity to reevaluate the decision for the spring trimester based on the state of the pandemic at that point.</p> <p>Thank you for reconsidering this plan, and as always thank you for your service.</p>
Michele Voris	<p>Put the children back in school full time. PLEASE. If teachers don't want to teach, SHOW THEM THE DOOR. If people want to go remote, LET THEM CHOSE. This district is an absolute embarrassment and I am ashamed to live in it. I'm also devastated for my son who used to love school and the teachers and community. He feels betrayed and confused. There's a 99% cure rate!!! He's being forced to be afraid!!!!</p>
Traci Sara	<p>Please consider adding an additional decision point for parents' selection after January 5th. Many of us who have selected fully remote learning to date (based on personal circumstances, community resurgence, etc.) did so still desperately hoping to send our children back to school before the end of this school year. None of us can predict when the agreed-upon FiP metrics will be hit and trigger a transition from hybrid to fully in-person; but asking us to commit to a selection for 5 months when there is still so much unknown is unfair to our kids and too much to ask of parents.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Kelley Costello	<p>I believe that you would have a higher number of active substitutes if children were back in school four days a week. Parents like myself, who are also substitutes in the district, cannot sub when our children are doing e-learning from home.</p> <p>I have faith in district 25 and the mitigation strategies that have been in place and believe them when they say our schools are safe. Therefore, I don't believe an adaptive pause in January is necessary. The plan has always been to remain in hybrid until January 19 to accommodate for any travel or quarantining of staff or students, that would need to happen as a result of it. The two weeks of hybrid was already built into the January 19th start for this reason. This was already voted on by the board. I do not have faith that if we went on an adaptive pause we would be returning as scheduled. There would be some obstacle, some barrier that would present itself. That is why the built in two weeks of hybrid was done to elevate these concerns and why an adaptive pause is NOT warranted at this time. During the last board meeting it was apparent from ALL board members that we wanted a plan, and we wanted to move forward with our January 19th start date. Doing an adaptive pause is not moving forward, staying in hybrid has already been voted upon, with the full in-person date of January 19th. Dr. Bein has also said that returning to full in person would not need any planning time as that is what they have always done and could transition to without any delays. An adaptive pause is a delay.</p> <p>I ask the board members to please uphold these previously made decisions at the 12/17 board meeting. I also would ask that the Cook County positivity metric be raised, as suggested by board members, to at least 10% (ideally 12%). We currently are in school so lowering that rate or maintaining at 8% now seems counterproductive. We should align with Leaving tier 3 mitigations of a positivity rate at or below 12%. Again, based on what we are currently in, the positive case rate per 100,000 should be raised as well. If those numbers would be adjusted I do believe that Dr. Bein's suggested 4/6 metrics plan would be advisable.</p> <p>Please stay the course on returning to full in-person learning for those who desperately need it for their children. Again, I thank you for your time and for representing your community at this difficult time. I appreciate your time and effort in allowing parents the choice in their child's learning.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelley Costello</p>
April Berry	Please keep hybrid learning.
Ryan Berry	Please keep Hybrid Learning

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Matt Izenstark	<p>First let me state that I believe the board has been put in an impossible position. There are clearly people that feel strongly on both sides of the discussion regarding what school/instruction should look like during this pandemic. In districts across the state, this issue has, in some cases for the first time in years, pitted stakeholders against each other. It has bred an atmosphere of anger, finger pointing, and distrust that threatens the nurturing environment that is so important for everyone's common goal of student's emotional, social, and academic development. I am not informed enough to make a confident decision either way, but it is unmistakably evident that a lack of consistency across the state and country threatens to destroy relationships, potentially past the point of repair.</p> <p>With this as a backdrop, I want to strongly voice my unhappiness with the board president and board as a whole. Not for their decision on how the school operates during this time, but for the lack of an adequate, or any for that matter, response to the board president's unfathomable, disgusting, and reckless joke made regarding suicide prior to voting on the adaptive pause. Forget that many decisions are made under the blanket of student's emotional well-being, mental health issues are a reality for many of the population you serve. For parents, and maybe students, to hear a "joke" about hanging oneself at a time when the mental health of our community is at the forefront of concern should be, in my mind, grounds for immediate dismissal. If I was on a zoom and made that comment, I would no doubt, with cause, be reprimanded. If a student said something similar either in person or via zoom, they would be immediately addressed. As disheartening as the comment was, the lack of awareness that any board member showed by immediately denouncing the comment and showing support for the community that you claim to be so heavily impacted by the lack of in-person time, sadly shows me that all board members do not fully understand what a positive/healthy environment is, how to facilitate it, and, as important, what it means to lead the entire community.</p> <p>I implore you to, as we tell our children, think of the impact your words have on the ones that are listening.</p>
Paul Jones	<p>Please vote No for an adaptive pause. The private schools in the area have been in school for roughly 75 days this fall. The majority of students in District 25 have been in school for 14 days! We have continually been hearing from Dr. Bein and the teachers union that they want students in school. However, the numbers of in person learning days tell a completely different story. To those board members who have chosen NO adaptive pause thank you for following the data and realizing that with the proper mitigations schools are SAFE! Please continue to follow your conscience and vote for in person schooling. For those who have not enough is enough. It is time for our children to be in school!</p>
Jenifer Hope	<p>First, I want to thank Dr. Bien for standing up for all teachers, staff and students, and making our health and safety as her top priority. As a psychologist in the district, I am gravely concerned about the mental health of our teachers and staff, as well as the physical safety of everyone who is in our buildings. Teachers are working well into the early morning hours, daily. They are not okay. We are not okay. Students are not 6 ft apart unless they are seated at their desks. Staff remind and use positive reinforcement to encourage 6ft distance constantly, however, these are children. It is not natural. Therefore, during recess and lunch and other more social times, students are well with in that distance. The board needs to come visit during those times. This is not a better learning environment. Teachers cannot interact with their students in person like usual. There are so many sub shortages that interventionists, psychologists, social workers, and even secretaries are being pulled to cover multiple openings daily. This is taking service away from our most needy students. The board is now putting themselves at risk for legal action by not following health department recommendations. If staff get sick due to contracting covid at work, staff can now sue the board for negligence. They are also making this district into a hostile environment where no new people are going to want to join. Many of us are considering other options. We all want to help students. We want what is best for them, but only if it is safe for all involved. We want to work for a board that actually cares about our students and staff's safety.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Jim Small	<p>Dear D25 Board of Education,</p> <p>I have respectfully written the board directly and also via public comment multiple times regarding the grave concern that our entire educational system will implode if you do not take action to ensure the safety of teachers, staff and children. A clear indication that this is coming to fruition is the implementation of a “zoom room” at Thomas Middle School. Because of your lack of governance and taking a reactive vs. proactive approach, you are now having to move to the absolute last resort where you will pack up to 48 kids in a room just so they can zoom with their teacher (who is at home) in a school building. I don’t think I need to explain why this is mind boggling at best. But schools are open, right? That’s all that you care about, correct? At any risk? At the risk of losing great teachers? All the community can do now is plan for the worst, but hope for the best until the next election.</p>
Monica Hinchey	<p>Dear SD 25 BoE,</p> <p>I believe that thinking creatively to solve the problem of the teacher/sub shortage is important but what is going on at Thomas is just not acceptable and puts the community at risk. How can this possibly be safe when it surpasses the 10 person maximum room limit set by Governor Pritzker? This is not the solution that parents such as myself or hundreds of others who asked the board for an adaptive pause (via petition and/or email) ever imagined would happen. The adaptive pause was not only supposed to protect your staff, students, and teachers, but it was also a way to solve the teacher/sub shortage. The set up at TMS sounds like glorified babysitting - is that what we have come to? Some parents are insisting that kids be in school, so we are just putting them in a big room on computers? When the projections of teacher absences and the sub shortage was presented to the board, the board decided not to pass the motion for an adaptive pause. The Thomas set up is not the answer - not the truly safe answer. I ask that the motion be put back on the agenda for the December 17th meeting. The adaptive pause should be effective immediately and last through January 19th, 2021. If there are not enough teachers for TMS, without utilizing Zoom rooms, please return TMS to remote learning effective immediately through January 19th.</p> <p>Also, referring to https://www.sd25.org/Page/79, "Governor Pritzker’s November 13 Disaster Declaration provides that, for purposes of the Open Meetings Act virtual-meeting provision, public health concerns currently render in-person attendance of more than 10 people at the regular meeting location not feasible." I believe if it is unsafe for our board to meet, it is absolutely unsafe for 48 students to be in one area given aerosol and droplet transmission.</p> <p>The board is praising teachers out of one side of their mouth, while dismissing their concerns out of the other. The district 25 staff are working at unsustainable levels for the school year. They keep rising to the challenges they face. They keep working all hours of the day and night for our children. They are exhausted physically, mentally, and emotionally. They are fighters...but how long do we expect them to be able to get up and fight if we do not protect them? Their physical health and well being matter. The health and well being of their families matter. I don’t believe they went into education to be first responders. Let’s stop putting them on the front lines of this global pandemic.</p> <p>We talk about retention rates of teachers and how we are proud of our district's retention rate. We are proud of the caliber of teaching our students receive. When this crisis is over, I can't imagine our teachers, which are the best of the best, will continue to put the students of district 25 first when the board has not put their safety first. And the thing is, they won't have to look far for employment elsewhere. They can head over to the following districts that follow ISBE/IDPH Guidelines and have gone an adaptive pause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 23 • District 21 • District 214

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 211 • District 57 • District 59 • District 15 • District 54 • District 46 • District 2 • District 205 • District 62 • District 64 • District 63 • District 34 • District 30 • District 31 • District 27 • District 28 • District 112 • District 109 • District 103 • District 96 • District 95 • District 220 • District 300 • District 155 • District 73 • District 225 <p>What makes District 25 different from all of the above districts? Why does our board believe they are so uniquely qualified to protect students, teachers, and staff and the district 25 community in the face of the conventional wisdom of surrounding school boards? Why does the board believe they do not have to abide by the recommendations of county and state health departments? How is District 25 immune from Covid-19, hospitalizations from Covid-19, and death from Covid-19?</p> <p>One last thing, it is embarrassing to see in the Trib that our board refuses to take the advice of our superintendent. That our board has refused to take the advice of two accomplished WOMEN in the field of Education, is deplorable. Both Lori and Anisha have dedicated their professional careers to educating our children, yet they consistently make suggestions and the board blushes past them and/or votes against them. This does not go unnoticed. Please explain to me how a pharmacy operations manager, an enterprise technology and operations leader, an IT VP, all know better how to get us through this than someone who has dedicated themselves to the study of social impact and education and is a doctoral candidate in EDUCATION, or know better than the advice of someone who holds a Doctorate Degree in EDUCATION, who you hired based on her expertise, who is responsible for the education and SAFETY of 5,500 children everyday. I challenge you to sit back and seriously think about that today before the next board meeting.</p> <p>The motion for an adaptive pause did not pass 4-3. It is time for the remaining 3 board members to make this right on December 17th. Monica Hinchey Arlington Heights Resident for 30 years. SMS - 7th Grade Westgate - 3rd Grade</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Julie Talbot	<p>Dear Board members, Again, please take the road less traveled and vote NO to the next adaptive pause motion for Thursday night. Please do not be distracted by the never-ending tactics of Lori Bein and her Union to move our district to full-remote. Home is NOT school! I find this new motion for adaptive pause an insult to the Board, specifically because you have already discussed and voted NO less than 2 weeks ago, so why bring this up again (hint, we all know.. Union!). This post-Christmas pause is intended for those to travel for the holidays, essentially saying travel is a safe option but school is not? Please see the hypocrisy! Where are our priorities? If families travel, they will do the requisite self-quarantine, please do not nanny and police the entire district based on what some may do. The superintendent and union continue to discuss the (unfounded) dangers and risks of in-person school but with this new adaptive pause as a motion are now saying it's safe to travel and we will just close school to cover. It is ridiculous and other districts are not following this irrational thinking. Please vote NO, again!!!</p>
Alexis Hammond	<p>Dear SD25 Board Members and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>In person at all costs is NOT what the majority of SD25 parents have asked for. An adaptive pause is required NOW to keep students, teachers and staff safe. This new method of instruction where students sit in groups of up to 48 students is downright negligent. A TMS Zoom Room is not safe for the staff monitoring the room or the students corralled in it. I would ask you to share with myself and the SD25 community how you arrived at this decision. What public health official from the county or state recommended this new instruction model? How can this possibly be safe when it surpasses the 10 person maximum room limit set by Governor Pritzker?</p> <p>"Governor Pritzker's November 13 Disaster Declaration provides that, for purposes of the Open Meetings Act virtual-meeting provision, public health concerns currently render in-person attendance of more than 10 people at the regular meeting location not feasible."</p> <p>If it is unsafe for our board to meet, it is absolutely unsafe for 48 students to be in one area given aerosol and droplet transmission.</p> <p>I believe that thinking creatively to solve the problem of the teacher/sub shortage was the idea of the board itself. This is not the solution that parents such as myself or hundreds of others who asked the board for an adaptive pause (via petition and/or email) required. The adaptive pause was not only supposed to protect the staff, students, and teachers, but it was also a way to solve the teacher/sub shortage. When the upcoming projections of teacher absences and the sub shortage was presented to the board, the board decided not to pass the motion for an adaptive pause. I ask that the motion be put back on the agenda for the December 17th meeting. The adaptive pause should be effective immediately and last through January 19th, 2021. If there are not enough teachers for TMS, without utilizing Zoom rooms, please return TMS to remote learning effective immediately through January 19th.</p> <p>I object to how the Zoom Room information was disseminated. The title of the email. "Thomas Community Newsletter," implies to most PTA information, Student Council information, and yearbook type information etc. For TMS covid cases, the subject of the email has been "TMS Community Notification." In no way does a "Community Newsletter" carry the weight of announcing this blatant disregard for public health. It would appear that you are attempting to hide this information from parents. Parents who are sending their children to school for hybrid instruction expect that the number of students in a classroom is limited and social distancing enforced. Nothing about 48 children in one space is limited.</p> <p>Does Thomas have enough bandwidth to accommodate these additional students on zoom? Let me answer that question for you as reported by my 6th grade daughter who is a remote only student. That answer is no. She was unable to receive instruction via zoom 12/15 for her social studies class. The teacher resorted to emailing instructions to the children so they were able to</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>learn on their own. Teachers are constantly freezing or being kicked off zoom throughout the day. How is the tech team prepared to handle the additional burden these Zoom Rooms will place on the system as of this Thursday?</p> <p>I feel that the board is praising teachers out of one side of their mouth, while dismissing their concerns out of the other. The board refuses to take the advice of the The district 25 staff are working at unsustainable levels for the school year. They keep rising to the challenges they face. They keep working all hours of the day and night for our children. They are exhausted physically, mentally, and emotionally. They are fighters...but how long do we expect them to be able to get up and fight if we do not protect them? Their physical health and well being matter. The health and well being of their families matter. I don't believe they went into education to be first responders. Let's stop putting them on the front lines of this global pandemic.</p> <p>We talk about retention rates of teachers and how we are proud of our district's retention rate. We are proud of the caliber of teaching our students receive. When this crisis is over, I can't imagine our teachers, which are the best of the best, will continue to put the students of district 25 first when the board has not put their safety first. And the thing is, they won't have to look far for employment elsewhere. They can head over to the following districts that follow ISBE/IDPH Guidelines and have gone an adaptive pause:</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 • 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>What makes District 25 different from all of the above districts? Why does our board believe they are so uniquely qualified to protect students, teachers, and staff and the district 25 community in the face of the conventional wisdom of surrounding school boards? Why does the board believe</p>

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	<p>they do not have to abide by the recommendations of county and state health departments? How is District 25 immune from Covid-19, hospitalizations from Covid-19, and death from Covid-19?</p> <p>The motion for an adaptive pause did not pass 4-3. It is time for the remaining 3 board members to make this right on December 17th. Alexis Hammond</p>
Peter Gripper	Do not vote for an adaptive pause. Parents who take their kids on trips over break or who have large family gatherings should choose to go remote for 2 weeks themselves. Do not punish those of us who canceled our family plans and trips in the hopes of being in school.
Amanda Bhansali	I am writing to you to voice my support of the D25 staff. They are providing a high standard of education to our students in the face of many obstacles and should be congratulated.
Amanda Bhansali	I am writing in favor of an adaptive pause until January 19th, 2021 after Winter Break. Thanksgiving proved that there was a surge in COVID-19 cases in Arlington Heights, Cook County, the State of Illinois, and our nation. Far more families plan to travel for Winter Break, who knows what they will bring home with them? An adaptive pause would give time for all families to quarantine at home for the recommended time with limited interruption to the school day (teachers forced to quarantine, students in person forced to quarantine, etc).
Amanda Bhansali	I am writing to you in favor of adopting the D25 Administrative Team's Plan to identify when the district/school(s) would need to return to a remote learning model. If 5 of the 6 following critical guidelines are in the "Significant Concern" category the school/district will return to full remote. It is sensible, based in science, as well as internal and external metrics.
Amanda Bhansali	It would be helpful in making the "full in person" decision if parents were given a range of # of children that could be in the classroom and what that means for distance between students. If you can maintain 6 foot distancing (from edge of person to edge of person), we would be more likely to send our children back to full in person. If 6 foot distancing cannot be maintained, we would NOT choose this full in person model for our children. Parents deserve to know what the particulars of each classroom would be before we make that decision. At Patton Elementary, our children's classes have 21, 19, and 26 students respectively. What does full-in-person look like in each of those classes?
Amanda Bhansali	I am writing to you in hopes that you will let families consider to opt in/out to the "full in person" model at Spring Break instead of requiring families to opt in/out for the entire 6-month period of January through June. That is a long time and a lot can change in that time. Our family would NOT consider sending our children to a full class (of 21, 19, and 26 kids at Patton Elementary) when the positivity is at 8%, but would consider if the positivity rate was closer to 4% or 3%. We would like to have that option.
Amanda Bhansali	<p>I would like the District to communicate to the entire classroom ANYTIME someone in that classroom is diagnosed with COVID-19. The district already does this (anonymously) for influenza, strep throat, and lice (among other ailments.)</p> <p>Please practice full transparency. Parents deserve to know if someone in their child's "bubble" was diagnosed, whether or not 6 foot distance was maintained.</p>
Alessa Gurrola	I don't support going remote, there's no data to justify that
Christina Klamer	I Do NOT support going remote for 2 weeks after winter break because the data doesn't support that IN ANY WAY.
Karen Jones	Actions speak louder

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Kevin Kearns	<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 16th these are the FACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Region 10 – 12.2%* (7-day average) as of 12/13/2020 · 60004 & 60005 currently has a new case rate of 9.51%** (7-day average) · Thomas Middle School is utilizing ZOOM ROOMS BECAUSE THERE IS A STAFFING CRISIS DUE TO COVID19!! How is this benefiting ANYONE? · Region 10 ICUs are at 83% 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 (12/17) to reconsider the Adaptive Pause effective immediately through January 19th.</p> <p>Lives depend on it.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Margaret Kearns	<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 16th these are the FACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Region 10 – 12.2%* (7-day average) as of 12/13/2020 · 60004 & 60005 currently has a new case rate of 9.51%** (7-day average) · Thomas Middle School is utilizing ZOOM ROOMS BECAUSE THERE IS A STAFFING CRISIS DUE TO COVID19!! How is this benefiting ANYONE? · Region 10 ICUs are at 83% 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 (12/17) to reconsider the Adaptive Pause effective immediately through January 19th.</p> <p>Lives depend on it.</p>
Todd Witherow	<p>I support the continuation of remote through the end of the school year and the offering of full in person beginning 1/19. Please allow families and staff to make the choice that is best for themselves.</p> <p>I also implore the board to hire a crisis manager to help lead and guide the district through the pandemic (a crisis).</p>
Mairin Gradek	<p>Dr. Bein and the Board,</p> <p>While Covid positivity rates continue to decline and a large surge in cases has not been evident after Thanksgiving, I see no reason to take an adaptive pause after Winter break. I question the reasoning behind this. IDPH is still recommending no travel. Any family or staff that chooses to do so needs to follow the guidance and quarantine. If some choose to travel should not impact those who are following the guidelines. As of tomorrow, my 8th grader has had only 11 days of in person education offered for this school year. That is unacceptable and a disservice to our children needing to become academically ready for high school. Our children need more days in school, not less!</p> <p>I also question the need for the separate metrics of staff fill rate AND absences.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued dedication in setting up the best learning scenario our children</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Jeremy Glass	<p>Dear Dr. Bein and Board Members:</p> <p>I am writing to request that District 25 add an option for families to send their children back to school after spring break. Per the Board meeting on 12/10, the District is asking parents to decide on 1/5 whether to choose full remote or full in-person learning, and that decision will apply for the remainder of the school year. I wholeheartedly understand and support the need for families to tell the district our choice in advance so that schools can prepare. However, asking us to decide whether to send our kids back in January - when it is safe to assume the COVID numbers in the area will still be high - and then forcing us to stick with that choice for five months is unreasonable. Not once during this school year have we been asked to make a choice that lasted for five months. I see no reason why families can't make a choice for January through March, and then for March through June.</p> <p>I know many families who are planning to stay home for the winter - for their safety and the safety of the teachers and the community - and then send their kids back to school in the spring. Forcing us to either stay home until June (giving our kids no chance at attending school this year) or send our kids back full-time in the winter (before we feel it's safe for the teachers and the community) is not actually a choice. It forces us to pick between two situations in which we would never willingly participate. I don't feel that it's safe for the Arlington Heights community to put all kids back in school full-time in the dead of winter, and I also never planned to keep my kids home all year.</p> <p>There are huge chances for changes over the next few months with the introduction of vaccines, seeing who can get the vaccine and when, etc., and locking us into a decision that will apply for five months is too much pressure in an already stressful situation. I also can't imagine that teachers are going to want to go from seeing half of their students four days a week to seeing all of their students five days a week in the middle of winter, when the case counts are high. The teachers were already not granted an adaptive pause by District 25 (and we are the only district in the area that did not take a pause), so flooding the schools with kids in the middle of winter would be yet another move that does not support our teachers.</p> <p>Again, I understand the need for us to tell the District our choice for planning purposes. I am simply asking for two phases: one choice for January through March, and one for March through June.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this. I wish you and your families happy holidays. Jeremy Glass Westgate/South Parent</p>
Tracy Marchetti	<p>Our family has a unique health circumstance with my husband having been diagnosed with brain cancer on 1/1/2020. I would love for my daughter to continue hybrid which has been working for us. To decide full in or full remote by 1/5 just doesn't work for us. Choosing my daughter's mental health over my husband's physical health is an impossible situation.</p>
Liz Chlopowicz	<p>PLEASE vote FOR an adaptive pause after New Years for the safety of everyone!</p>
John Chlopowicz	<p>PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND VOTE FOR AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE for after New Years for the safety of everyone!!!</p>
Samantha Riggi	<p>While my family is not ready for a return to full in person in the winter, we would like to consider a return in the spring when flu season is over. Considering how quickly things are changing, I don't feel that it's fair to ask families to commit by January 5 for the rest of the school year.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Chris Chlopowicz	PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND VOTE FOR AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE AFTER NEW YEARS!!!
Chris Chlopowicz	PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND VOTE FOR AN ADAPTIVE PAUSE FOR AFTER NEW YEARS!!!
Pat Litberg	Actions speak louder.
Karen Galazka	Please consider an adaptive pause so that 2021 can start planned and not strained
Michelle Walsh	Please reconsider an adaptive pause after winter break. Many families and staff will be traveling to be with loved ones over the holidays. An adaptive pause would allow them to do so responsibly, by allowing them to follow the guidance of Cook County Department of Public Health. The guidance reads: CCDPH recommends avoiding all non-essential travel. However, if you must travel, we recommend all visitors and returning residents avoid non-essential activities, including work and school if possible, for 14 days after entering suburban Cook County. We want to have our students and staff in school and be able to stay there. If we don't provide an option for a self quarantine following New Years, we risk rising numbers in both our schools and community. We will also have many absences among both students and staff, who choose to responsibly quarantine. Let's be proactive instead of being forced to be reactive.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Nathan Ulery	<p>Of all the concerns related to a return to full in-person school, the most concerning to me is related to a lack of parental notification of COVID cases in a child's classroom.</p> <p>Currently, the district is only notifying close contacts (which are few since, in hybrid school, six-foot social distancing is maintained) and the entire school but without specificity regarding which classroom. Unlike other school districts, AHSD25 is not notifying parents of a positive case in their child's classroom. The student who sits next to our child all day, several days a week, could test positive, and we would not be informed. Simply stated, parents have a right to know that someone in our children's classroom has tested positive.</p> <p>Not notifying parents is problematic because as much as staff may try to do contact tracing, there is no guarantee that children did not interact with each other or that staff remembers every interaction from previous days. Additionally, there is no guarantee that a six-foot distance eliminates all spread of COVID.</p> <p>The information regarding the presence of a case in a classroom should be shared with all parents. Well informed parents can make decisions if they have this information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Knowledge of a positive case allows us to be even more in-tune to potential symptoms and can put us on notice to keep our child home if anything at all is concerning 2) Knowledge of potential exposure can allow us to make better informed decisions regarding isolation from family who have pre-existing, comorbid conditions to COVID. <p>Not only are other schools proactively informing parents of positive COVID cases in their child's classroom – they are flipping classrooms to remote upon a single positive case in order to ensure that schools remain relatively free of community spread. The current proposal to only flip classrooms upon 5 positive cases is concerning. This means in a class of 20 students, 20% of the class could have COVID and parents would not be informed. It is both ironic and irresponsible that AHSD25 would inform me as a parent if there were that many flu, strep, or hand-foot-and-mouth cases in the classroom – but AHSD25 will not inform me if there are that many potentially-deadly COVID cases in my child's classroom.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is unconscionable that you would require 25% of the kids in a classroom to get COVID before you flip that classroom to remote. We are living in a global pandemic, and we all have a responsibility to stop the spread. Your actions thus far have been ill-informed, but not shutting down classrooms until there are 5 cases is irresponsible. If there is a case, the classroom should flip to remote and parents should be informed so more people are not exposed.</p> <p>The Board has clearly already made the ill-informed decision to remain in hybrid when we should be in an adaptive pause and to return to full in-person regardless of the community spread and staffing impacts, but this level of irresponsibility is beyond the pale. Parents have a right to know so they can make the best decisions for their families and classrooms should be flipped to remote for a period of quarantine if there is a single case so we can slow the spread of this deadly disease.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
April Berry	<p>I am writing to advise that 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 vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our School District will have been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. These images show that our School District exceeded the Board's own metrics for any type of safe in-person school attendance as of October 24, 2020 (60004/05 exceeded 175 COVID cases per 100,000 people on October 24, 2020 (Figure 2), and exceeded the COVID positivity rate of 8% on November 5, 2020 (Figure 2)) We have not dropped back out of the danger zone for a single day.</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 family and community spread, and in-person school is causing teachers to get sick and cause a teacher shortage. This situation is not sustainable, and without an Adaptive Pause the situation will continue to harm more and more of our neighbors and loved ones.</p> <p>As your constituent, I demand that you vote yes to the Adaptive Pause until IDPH and CDC metrics are met. Lives depend on it.</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>I support the motion to adopt an adaptive pause after winter break. The recent "Zoom Room" notification to parents of Thomas students that outlined up to 48 students in the commons or library to watch their teacher remotely is concerning as such a set up is too high of a risk for the children of this community.</p> <p>This need to even consider having 48 students in a classroom due to a lack of sufficient staffing was predicted by Dr. Bein and members of the community, including myself, who expressed concerns regarding this Board's refusal to adopt an adaptive pause. These Zoom Rooms demonstrate that the realities of COVID community spread is impacting the staffing of the district and relegating teaching to virtual anyway -- so keep kids at home, safe from COVID. Let's focus on supporting and enabling our wonderful teachers rather than focus on babysitting children with unqualified substitutes and volunteers -- including members of the Board.</p>
Petition: SD25 Parents Demandin g Safe Education	<p>BETTER SD25 - SD25 PARENTS DEMANDING SAFE EDUCATION PETITION - UPDATED VERBIAGE AND SIGNATURE COUNT</p> <p>SIGNATURE COUNT AS OF DECEMBER 17, 2020: 563</p> <p>December 17, 2020 School District 25 School Board 1200 South Dunton Avenue Arlington Heights, IL 60005</p> <p>CC: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent Illinois School Board of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education Kevin Jauch, Regional Superintendent of Education for North Cook County Governor J.B. Pritzker Senator Ann Gillespie</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> 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. Based on these metrics, School District 25 has been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. We demand that all SD25 schools be placed onto an immediate Adaptive Pause until COVID numbers are within the aforementioned guidelines. Current districts surrounding SD25 who are following ISBE/IDPH Guidelines and have implemented 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 • District 34 • District 30

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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>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 Meg Thomson</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	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

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 Prajakta 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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Theresa Warren 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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Jennifer Mckown Peggy Delwo Gary Delwo Toni Stuller Craig Stuller Maureen Pajerski Charles Richardt Jerry Oakes Nicole Oakes Lisa Oakes Max MacCready Lauren MacCready Shannon Hull Tom Wuich Erin Matray Maria Caruso Katie Cosgrove Fred DeMarco Stacy Marini Kelly Ellsworth Allison Vercimak Angelica Andrews Kelly OSullivan Steven Andrews ALODIA C. KENDAL Terri D'Acquisto Lisa Parciak Holly Schafer Kelly DeRosa 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 </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Sarah Dempsey Kelly McMillen Douglas Hammond Sarah Ivy Tracy Bauman Carol Hrejsa Cary Dohman Kara Bolf Christina Dastice Mariam Ghaith Christine Bishop Patrick Braun Molly siegel Karen Galazka Michele Hilgart Bridget Schank Alexis Christensen Amanda Sharpe Mercedes Ritchey Michelle Kasprzak Lisa Groh Bruce Adlon Marjorie Kinney Holly Furman Nancy Sudlow Summer Sander Matt Sander Samantha Brex Nicole hildebrandt Josh Sharpe Herb Musolf Ann Musolf Jason Ivy Linda Norris Deanna Amelio Sue Thomson Scott Corbett Amy Graziano 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 </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>Sridevi Ganesan Todd Cordell Kevin & Cindy Vander Klay Taylor Lindsey 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</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Danielle Rubel Zachary Novick Kathryn Coughlin Sharon Lee Gabriela Porras Clara Nesvacil Nick Rubel Judy Newman Laura Ondrovic Kaitlin Fajks Tina Fries Ethan Williams Lisa A. Jones Cristina Small Tara Houx Brad Houx Richard Watson Sandra Scharff Heidi Sliwinski Amanda Lace Graham Lace Prajka Maindarkar 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

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>Mark Allison Matt Hrtanek Cassie Hrtanek Valerie Pajerski Sarah Armsey Shannon Diederich 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 Andrisiunaite 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</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Ben Dodge Carrie Hagan Bethany Larson Natalie Malley Anna Maria Scatena Lisa Welch Ryan Malley 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 </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Larry Andrews Sal D'Acquisto Sal D'Acquisto Jr Sal L D'Acquisto Sr Kelly Fox Tom Lakomski Ayah Jaber Roger Sharpe Maribeth O'Dell 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 Stephen Sutton Eric Sutton Jolanta Sharon Anderson Jill Stark Michael Stark Monica Hinchey Jason Ksiazk Nicolle Grasse Brad Houx Leigh Strauss Daniel Strauss
Kelsey Anstandig	We need an adaptive pause until COVID numbers are within the metrics established by scientific bodies. Do not try to adjust the metrics to fit an agenda to send kids back due to some parents demands. Maintain the hybrid option to enable more social distancing and less exposure. Allow continued choices for method of instruction throughout the rest of the winter and spring and do not force us to be locked into a choice in January.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Donna Hynek	<p>I am writing to advise that 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 vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our School District will have been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. These images show that our School District exceeded the Board's own metrics for any type of safe in-person school attendance as of October 24, 2020 (60004/05 exceeded 175 COVID cases per 100,000 people on October 24, 2020 (Figure 2), and exceeded the COVID positivity rate of 8% on November 5, 2020 (Figure 2)) We have not dropped back out of the danger zone for a single day.</p> <p>Figure 1 image.png</p> <p>Figure 2 image.png</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 family and community spread, and in-person school is causing teachers to get sick and cause a teacher shortage. This situation is not sustainable, and without an Adaptive Pause the situation will continue to harm more and more of our neighbors and loved ones.</p> <p>As your constituent, I demand that you vote yes to the Adaptive Pause until IDPH and CDC metrics are met.</p> <p>Lives depend on it.</p>
Kathy Malaczek	Please no adaptive pause . We are staying home so my kids can go to school.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Kristen Ulery	<p>Dear District 25 Board of Education,</p> <p>As the principal of an elementary school myself, the challenges of managing in-person instruction during a pandemic are my everyday reality, and as a Greenbrier parent, I am concerned about your procedures for handling positive COVID cases in your schools. Parents need to be informed if there is a positive case in their child's class, and the district should NOT be waiting until five kids have been infected to flip a classroom to remote.</p> <p>Parents need to be informed if there was a positive case in their child's class. Six-foot distancing is a guideline, not a guarantee, so if the child who sits exactly 6 feet from my child for 6 hours a day was contagious, it's not a stretch to say that my child could have been exposed, and I should be informed. Schools notify families when other infectious diseases like strep throat or hand foot and mouth are diagnosed in their child's class so parents can closely monitor their child and seek treatment right away if symptoms develop; COVID, which is potentially deadly, deserves a higher level of caution, yet you are choosing to provide less information to parents about COVID.</p> <p>At my school, I inform the parents of all in-person students in a classroom when there is a positive case because informing parents of a potential exposure in their child's class helps protect the entire community. A parent who knows there was a case in their child's class is more likely to keep the child home for a minor symptom that they might otherwise ignore, protecting the rest of the class from community spread. A parent who is notified of the potential for exposure might take extra precautions in isolating that child from a more vulnerable family member in the household. A parent who knows their child spent the whole day in a room with someone who was contagious might reschedule a routine doctor appointment to avoid exposing vulnerable infants who are at the pediatrician's office for vaccinations. In a global pandemic, we are all responsible to help protect the community, and responsible parents will make decisions to protect others if given the information to do so, but you are currently withholding that information.</p> <p>I also think that allowing 5 positive cases in a classroom before returning that classroom to remote learning is ridiculous and irresponsible. If you do not flip a classroom to remote once a positive case is identified, you are facilitating community spread because anyone who is already exposed will expose more classmates before they become symptomatic. Despite the fact that we have 6 foot distancing, I have flipped the entire class to remote for each positive case we have had in my school, and in at least one instance, I believe that action prevented community spread in that classroom. A second individual tested positive after the class was already flipped to remote, and because they were not in-person, there was no further exposure to anyone in our school community. Had that class remained in-person because it was only one case, that person would have been in the classroom while contagious and potentially exposed additional people. Flipping a class to remote for a quarantine period following any positive COVID case is the safest and most responsible practice.</p> <p>Six foot distancing helps reduce community spread, but it is not a guarantee, so District 25 has a responsibility to protect the health and safety of our school community by informing parents of COVID cases in their child's class and immediately flipping classes to remote instruction for a quarantine period when there is a positive case.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kristen D. Ulery</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Alicen Manus	Please keep our schools open. Our children learn the best at school. My son is finally able to go four days a week to get the support he needs from a 504 and reading interventions. Please please please don't make me tell him that he has to stay home again. I wish you could have been the ones to tell him that he got to go to school four days this week. His face was pure joy and he was jumping up and down. Every day when I pick him up from school I ask him how his day was and his answer is always, "It was wonderful." Please let parents choose what is best for their children. KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN!
Ryan Stevens	Please take an adaptive pause for the safety of our students, staff, families, and community members. After the Thanksgiving holidays I heard of many families not following quarantine rules after traveling and I anticipate the same for Christmas and New Years. It would be irresponsible to ignore this virus and the potential spread with families and friends getting together locally and across the globe.
Adam & Janelle Thoma	It is disheartening to see the two agenda items for the board meeting today seek to find ways to remove students from the classroom. It has been less than a month since the board voted no for an adaptive pause. Any agenda items should seek to improve the District's ability to increase in-person education for the students rather than challenge the Board's directive. Please hold true to your convictions and keep our students in hybrid until full in-person on January 19th.
Tricia Fuglestad	Please take an adaptive pause as recommended by the IDPH. The schools are not safe. Please error on the side of caution when making decisions that will impact the health, wellness, and safety of those entrusted to you. It is reckless to tolerate any rate of this potentially deadly infection in the school buildings.
Scott Caro	<p>Dear Dr. Bein, Brian, Erin, Scott, Chad, Rich, Anisha, Gina, and Mayor Hayes,</p> <p>I hope this message finds you well.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to the community in regards to offering a choice for education to the families of SD25.</p> <p>I cannot believe that we we are still talking about moving to remote learning. It's unbelievable that Dr. Bein continues to put our community through turmoil and tension by proposing a motion for remote learning...this happens meeting after meeting after meeting. I wish you could help her focus on sharing the plan to open our schools full time, rather than spending time sharing presentations that do nothing but create fear...week after week after week. If she spent her time and effort on educating our children and focusing on a positive opening plan, rather than focusing so much on full remote learning, we would all be so much better and our children would get the education they deserve.</p> <p>If the recent grade cards aren't an "eye opener" for all of us, they should be. My son is attending hybrid learning and his first term grade card was issued with 49% of the grading standard boxes grayed out, not even evaluated. As a board member or educator, if that doesn't make you feel bad about the insufficient education our children are receiving then you're in the wrong job. This is just more proof that full remote education doesn't work.</p> <p>Please vote NO on Motion #1. I can't understand why we continue to make things so difficult. Many school districts around this country are educating children in perso. I have nieces, nephews, friends and family with children in Ohio who have been attending school in person for five days a week since August. We do not need six guidelines to help us determine when to return to remote learning. We should only move to remote learning at the guidance of the local health department. Super simple. Let's not complicate this.</p> <p>Please vote NO on Motion #2. This is simply another of Dr. Bein's delay tactics There is no reason to resume post holiday in full remote learning. Families and teachers must follow safety</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>guidelines during the break. If they do not, they should chose to keep their children remote. The decisions made by families during holiday break should not impact learning choices for all children. We successfully went back to hybrid learning after Thanksgiving break and it worked just fine. There is no difference!</p> <p>All of the reasons given are excuses and are NOT ACCEPTABLE. Please think about the following questions and statements.</p> <p>1. Prepare facilities Why wouldn't we figure out how to do this during the break? Where is Dr. Bein's plan to return to school? She's mentioned that she has a plan. Let's implement the plan NOW so there is no delay in January. There is plenty of time to prepare and we should not allow this to be used as an excuse to keep our children out of the classroom!</p> <p>2. Safety measure for quarantining Families and staff should staff self-quarantine if they have not practiced safe healthy practices during the holidays. Self-quarantine doesn't not mean teach at home and they should follow the process as others who work...self-quarantine means PTO or sick leave. If families or staff feel strongly about safety at school, why would they put themselves at risk during time away from school? It is hard to understand those who put themselves at risk on their personal time, but are concerned about safety at school. If we cannot operate in hybrid due to staffing, I don't see how we can operate in full remote. If we have large absences and cannot effectively run out schools, I recommend that we use inclement weather days as needed with make up days added to the end of the school year. If we are really serious and care about our children's education, we would make it a priority over the the "end of school date."</p> <p>3. Prepare curriculum No way! We have heard this excuse too many times. If staff is teaching during remote learning, exactly how will they have extra time to prepare for the shift? This doesn't make sense.</p> <p>Overall, we keep getting "smoke and mirrors" and "distractions" with excuses to move full remote learning which don't add up or make sense. I believe we really need to understand and get to the bottom of the real reason for the continued push for full remote learning. I am beginning to question if Dr. Bein has our children's interest at the forefront.</p> <p>As it's been said many times over the past couple months, remote learning families have a choice. As a resident and tax payer in SD25, I should have the same choice for my child's education. Hybrid learning does not impact or effect family members who chose full remote learning.</p> <p>I ask you to VOTE NO on both motions. Thank you, Scott Caro</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Nilima Nanisetty	<p>Thank you board members for all your hard work. Once again, please DO NOT move to an adaptive pause after the holiday break. Again, CDC recommends keeping schools open since they are not seeing schools as a source of transmission.</p> <p>Please do not take away this CHOICE to have our students attend school. Again, the choice remains for parents to keep their children at home. Consider the evidence of actual school transmissions. Our district should not make a decision for all the schools to go to a pause if one or two schools may have an increase in numbers. If evidence of a school outbreak is warranted, it should be decided on a school to school basis.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Karen Joseph	<p>This summer, the Board voted and approved a "RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 BOARD OF EDUCATION'S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE". Since that time, what actions and accomplishments has the Board made toward this commitment?</p> <p>The District is in the middle of its Strategic Planning process and recently asked parents for feedback in a survey. The resolution to eliminate racial injustice was not mentioned in the District's data presentation so those completing the survey could be aware of and consider it when completing their responses. I request the Board and the District include and integrate specific actions to accomplish their commitment to eliminate racial injustice into the District's Strategic Plan and make the process of doing so transparent. Eliminating racial injustice is not a stand alone project. It must be integrated into all the goals and actions the District commits to over the implementation period of this next Strategic Plan.</p>
Prabhath Nanisetty	<p>Thanks for providing us a forum to express our wishes and thanks for all your hard work (and the work of your staff) over these tough months. I understand that another board meetings has been called for debating an adaptive pause. I know that many have continually repeated that we need to follow the science and make our communities safe, however, at this time the science, the authorities, as well as the scientists all point to the fact the keeping our kids in school is the best course of action. There is nothing to suggest that the cause of outbreaks is our children and most of the furor over rising case rates are forgetting that most of the cases are from asymptomatic individuals. Do we deny our childrens growth for the paranoia of their parents? Are we going to follow the science or just when it's convenient for us? KEEP THE SCHOOLS OPEN, PLEASE!</p> <p>The choice is simple, if parents are fearful of sending their kids to school, keep them at home and continue remote learning. If teachers are ill or concerned, stay at home and bring in substitutes OR reach out to the wonderful community to support - there are a lot of talented individuals that would love to provide the relief to our great teachers.</p> <p>Listen to the experts & scientists themselves:</p> <p>"If you look at the data, the spread among children and from children is not really very big at all, not like one would have suspected," he added. "So LET'S TRY TO GET THE KIDS BACK (emphasis mine), but let's try to mitigate the things that maintain and just push the kind of community spread that we're trying to avoid." - Dr Fauci on 11/29/20 https://t.co/th9oAKhHYa</p> <p>"With the above principles in mind, the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." -- American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendation (https://bit.ly/3akZf0i)</p>
Erin Kalaway, RN	<p>I still have not seen any data that supports an adaptive pause or school closures in general. What are we doing in D25?! Get these kids back in school 5 days/week!</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Sarah Dempsey	I am writing to advise that 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 vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.
Andrea Patrick	<p>This summer, the Board voted and approved a “RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 BOARD OF EDUCATION’S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE”. Since that time, what actions and accomplishments has the Board made toward this commitment?</p> <p>The District is in the middle of its Strategic Planning process and recently asked parents for feedback in a survey. The resolution to eliminate racial injustice was not mentioned in the District’s data presentation so those completing the survey could be aware of and consider it when completing their responses. I request the Board and the District include and integrate specific actions to accomplish their commitment to eliminate racial injustice into the District’s Strategic Plan and make the process of doing so transparent. Eliminating racial injustice is not a stand alone project. It must be integrated into all the goals and actions the District commits to over the implementation period of this next Strategic Plan.</p>
Kathryn Stutzman	<p>The current COVID infection rate in our community is over the metrics and guidelines for hybrid/full in-person learning according to the CCDPH, ISBE and IDPH metrics. These recommendations have been determined by infectious disease experts and the SD25 school board should follow these recommendations in providing a safe return to our schools.</p> <p>It is currently unsafe for our children, teachers, and staff to be attending or teaching in-person. Everyone agrees on the importance of our students being in school; however the health of our students, their families, teachers and staff, and their families must be put in the forefront at this time. With the holidays upon us, many Hybrid families have chosen to keep their students home in order to be able to celebrate with their families. This choice has not been given to the teachers and staff at our schools. Knowing that families will be together, it is imperative that this board must vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines and not prior to January 19, 2021. At that time, the school board should look at the current metrics to determine if Hybrid/full in-person learning can be implemented.</p> <p>I am in support of Dr. Bein's recommendation for an adaptive pause . Please give her your respect and support. Kathryn Stutzman</p>
Elizabeth Green	Vote NO to adaptive pause. Remote learning was supposed to be a TEMPORARY solution. Four months of this is enough. My kids hate it. It is hard with 3 children all doing remote in the same, small home. Our middle schooler gets frustrated with the younger ones making noise during his zooms, which are different times than their school day. Why are we still debating this? Give ALL parents a choice. Those who demand full remote are anti-choice. They try to claim they are concerned about the safety of the staff and students, etc. but they really are only thinking of themselves and feeding into the fear mongering of the media and Dr. Bein. All the medical professionals and the CDC keep saying over and over the best place for students is IN SCHOOL. Please lets keep moving forward for a full re-opening January 4, 2021. Thank you.
Rich Menely	Please keep schools open for current hybrid mode with intentions of going full time in person. The parents that want their kids in school should be allowed to do so.
Richard Lenski	I would like to please request that we continue the hybrid model on January and NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE. I also would like to recommend that the school district hold to their motion to go to five days in person learning on January 19th. There hasn't been any problems or break outs in the schools. My first and fourth grader (with an iep) having been doing better on the days the are in person. I do not want to take that away from them. My first grade does not learn anything on the three days he is on zooms. Thank you for you consideration.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Heather Pedota	<p>The return to full in-person learning for my daughter that is in foundations program at Windsor has been so beneficial - THANK YOU for taking this important step! In just two weeks, she has made academic gains and appears happier and more talkative! Being in school with her therapists and very capable teachers is so critical for her learning, please consider these students and their needs. An adaptive pause or reduction in schedule is very challenging to manage and hard for these students to understand.</p>
Michelle Eidle	<p>I'm writing as both a parent and an employee of AHSD25. For the safety of students, faculty, and staff, I ask the board to approve the motion December 17th to move to a full remote learning environment for the two week period after Winter break until January 19th. There will be families that get together outside their home, that will travel and that will not follow the health and safety guidelines for COVID 19. Some of these families will not quarantine and will send their children to school on January 4th. It will happen, and it DID happen after Thanksgiving. Please allow everyone these two weeks at home so when we all return to the classroom, the chance of positive cases is much, much lower and more students can return to in person learning. Many people say that COVID 19 is not being spread in schools. FALSE! IT spread very quickly where my brother teaches in Georgia and his school finally closed yesterday.</p> <p>In addition, when the survey for returning to school comes out, don't make us decide now what we want for our children in March or even April. I want my daughter back in school at Thomas, but not while the metrics are so high and I get a letter every day with a new, positive case. It shouldn't be a full in or full remote decision now. If parents want to commit fully either way, let them. But for those of us that still want some flexibility until the numbers are lower, let us have the opportunity to make the change at a later date when we are more comfortable sending our children back. I know you need to plan for staff. I'm one of those staff and my school has been doing an outstanding job with the situation we're in.</p>
Todd Witherow	<p>From Todd Witherow. In a Daily Herald article published Tuesday, my candidacy for Board Member in the upcoming April election was inaccurately labelled as in favor of Re-Opening schools. This article failed to acknowledge that my prior comments as a parent and individual community member are made for what my wife and I believe to be in the best interest of our child. They are not synonymous with how I would serve the community if I was elected.</p> <p>Board of Education positions should not be determined on political, professional or personal desires, but rather who can best serve our community in providing the best learning environment for our students, the best teaching environment for our teachers and the best working environment for all staff.</p>
Jen Anderson	<p>Consistent with the many previous comments I've made, I'm asking the Board to please vote in support the recommendations our education professionals (i.e. our superintendent and her staff) are making based on guidance from local public health officials and move to an adaptive pause until transmission rates are under control. Our district's and community's health and reputation depend this Board's ability to alter the course and make different decisions today than you have in the past.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Sara and Dan Mungovan	<p>Dear board members,</p> <p>I hope you are all well. I can't believe I'm writing this email yet again, but I've heard Dr. Bein will be asking for another adaptive pause at tomorrow's meeting and had some concerns.</p> <p>-Why are we here again? Is it a staffing concern as before? If so, how do we know this will be a problem after two weeks off for winter break?</p> <p>-What will an adaptive pause do? Other districts, such as D15 are returning early from their pauses because it has done nothing to help numbers and has only hurt kids who should be IN school</p> <p>-We are terrified of what a pause will do to our momentum. We need to focus on the 1/19 target of full in-person once metrics are met</p> <p>-What does a pause mean for starting again once it's over? Do we start in hybrid again?</p> <p>-Many schools have just started four days a week for IEPs and 504s THIS week. How can we take that away from families already? It is not fair to the students who need it the most</p> <p>-After being closed for the last two weeks, Thomas middle school is implementing crucial mental health checks with their in-person students this week, which is amazing...please do not take that away from these adolescents who are struggling</p> <p>-TMS is also being creative and innovative and using "zoom rooms" with up to 48 kids in common areas zooming into class where there are staffing issues. This is amazing! These kids still get to be in school and around peers even if their teacher cannot be there.</p> <p>I beg you to please consider all of this when making your decision to vote on an adaptive pause tomorrow evening. Thanks again for your service and the countless hours you've all put into this.</p>
Danielle Rubel	<p>I am writing to advise that 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 vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our School District will have been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. Our School District exceeded the Board's own metrics for any type of safe in-person school attendance as of October 24, 2020 (60004/05 exceeded 175 COVID cases per 100,000 people on October 24, 2020, and exceeded the COVID positivity rate of 8% on November 5, 2020. We have not dropped back out of the danger zone for a single day. For the board 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 family and community spread, and in-person school is causing teachers to get sick and cause a teacher shortage. This situation is not sustainable, is a disruption to sound instructional practice, and without an Adaptive Pause the situation will continue to harm more and more of our neighbors and loved ones. As your constituent, I demand that you rely on experts in the medical and educational fields and vote yes to the Adaptive Pause until IDPH and CDC metrics are met.</p>
Danielle Rubel	<p>Does each board member read all public comments or just listen to the summary of responses which are categorized. As a constituent, my hope is that the elected members of the board carefully and thoughtfully read each comment submitted to the BOE prior to board meetings so that their votes - on any topic - best represent the community they represent.</p>
Jodi Zera	<p>Please vote no against an adaptive pause. Keep district 25 schools open.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Ann Syversen Bullis	<p>This summer the BOE made an antiracist declaration that is an important first step; however, without action, it is just empty words. I would like to inquire about how the district is planning to implement antiracism work throughout the district. I request that this process be transparent to the community.</p>
Jennifer Huntzicker	<p>First of all, thank you to those board members who thus far have followed the advice of every expert and scientist in keeping schools open and in person. Also, thank you to the teachers that show up every day if able to, and that continue to love our children and love teaching. I know that the board members will continue to vote no on an adaptive pause as nothing has changed since the last two times Dr. Bein has pushed for it. I cannot understand why this is constantly being asked for; it further divides our community and does nothing to help our students move forward. Why is Dr. Bein wasting precious time and resources on keeping our kids out when we could focus on how to get them back in safely? There has been no community spread due to in school learning. Teachers are not getting this from students in their classes. If that was happening, I and many like me who want a choice, would understand the need for remote. And for those of you in the community who are focused on taking away our choice: I truly do not understand you and your need to push your beliefs on others. YOU HAVE YOUR ADAPTIVE PAUSE ANY TIME YOU NEED IT. Every single family already has the option to use remote learning at any time. If you feel your child is unsafe or compromised in their health, please go ahead and go remote. But why are you trying to tell me and others how to parent our children? I would never try to tell you what's best for your family. The families that want a choice believe that the risk of being in school is far less than the mental and educational detriment that occurs when remote. THIS is backed by study after study but you continue to ignore it. You need to take a long hard look at why you are pushing your fears onto others. The teachers are safe from children. Every single expert has continued to say this. And our school data proves it. The teachers who have contracted this virus have contracted it outside of school. LIFE is a risk right now. Going anywhere is a risk. Please stop trying to take away the CHOICE to be in person when that has proven safe.</p>
Andrew Hilgart	<p>Board and Dr Bein, I want to voice my extreme displeasure with being asked to pick a full remote or full in class option right after holiday break. We have been provided absolutely no detail on what changes might be implemented based on either of these options. The way this process is being handled, I do not feel we should have to choose blindly without knowing the full scope of changes that will be implemented with either option.</p> <p>With the lack of information and with our suspicions that you will force our son to have a different teacher if we choose the full remote option, leaves us and my son in a really horrible position. The flip-flopping of direction and the pressure to open up the schools fully has really dissolved trust and made us question every decision we are being asked to make as a parent. Yes, this situation is fluid as we have heard for a year, but now we feel like we have to choose between increase risk in a non-socially distance classroom with more children or even more disruption to my child's education.</p> <p>My child deserves just as much as the people demanding the go back full time in person and we deserve to know the exact plan for this transition and the choices you are asking us to make. If you disagree with our suspicions that our child would receive a different teacher if we choose full remote, then put it on the record and say it wont happen.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Kelly Drevline	<p>That ATA will continue to ask the board to make responsible decisions and keep the safety and well being of our staff, students, and community in mind.</p> <p>The teachers in district 25 will continue to work their hardest to ensure all students are learning, whether students are physically in front of us or on Zoom. We will work our hardest to make sure our lessons are engaging and help promote growth for our kids. We will continue to check in with our students both academically and emotionally. Teachers will also continue to support our colleagues during this trying time. We will put forth our best effort to make the best of an impossible situation.</p> <p>ATA will continue to fight for safe working conditions for our members. Teachers are needed to deliver quality education to their students, so we will work to maintain that safety measures are in place, so that teachers can fulfill their responsibilities.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the board to make sure teachers and staff have what they need to stay safe and be able to continue to deliver instruction. We ask the board to recognize teachers as professionals and what they bring to the district. We are not babysitters, we are educators who have gone to many years of school to perfect our craft. We understand the needs and the developmental milestones of children. We are experts in our field and understand what students need to grow both academically and socially. We ask the board to recognize that no sub or stand in can do the job that a child's teacher can do. Consistency in education is key, and substitutes coming in and out of classrooms daily does not benefit our students. This is why we ask the board to ensure that teachers can safely deliver this instruction to each and every child.</p> <p>Bringing all our kids back to school is the shared interest of the ATA, the board and the community. We are committed to working towards that goal, with the board, in a safe and responsible way.</p>
Karen Wolff	<p>I would like to thank the board members for making level-headed decisions and keeping our students in school. I commend you for recognizing that the most recent and reputable information indicates that our children can and should be in school.</p> <p>I also want to recognize all the wonderful teachers in our district and thank them for their continued dedication; it can't be easy to teach students in the classroom and through Zoom simultaneously. With that in mind, as we work toward full in-person learning while also offering full remote for those who are more comfortable with that option, we should consider having separate teachers for the full in-person students and the full remote students. As many others have also noted, this would create a more cohesive and less stressful learning environment for both teachers and students.</p> <p>Lastly, I encourage you to keep schools that have not had many cases/issues open for hybrid learning upon return from Winter break. As with after Thanksgiving break, any families who prefer the option of remote learning can do so for their students. In this way, families can make the decision that is best for themselves and their children. Thank you again for all your time and effort.</p>
Leigh Strauss	<p>Vote yes on an adaptive pause and protect this community. The school board must restore the trust teachers and the community that was damaged by your misguided decision on 12/4.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Michelle Casillas	<p>SPECIAL ED - NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE: Why do we keep going back to voting on this, we already had a meeting to vote. We should have a choice, again those that want remote already have it so don't take my choice away. Schools are opening up around us, Palatine is opening back on 1/5 and others are following, we should not be going backward. My daughter has an IEP and she does best in person, remote doesn't work for all. Please keep those most vulnerable in person, we all need to have our voices heard not just those that want to keep their children at home which seems what Bein keeps on trying to do until the vote goes her way. This needs to stop and keep moving forward and plan as you were directed to, we are overworked parents that also now have to stop and keep fighting for our children since you can't do your job and move forward.</p>
Alexis Hammond	<p>Dear Board of School District 25 and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>I ask that you not pass Motion #1 at this evening's Board Meeting as it is fatally flawed. I ask for the following revisions.</p> <p>The guidelines to return to the remote learning model should read as follows.</p> <p>The District will return to remote learning if any 1 of the 3 criteria below is met:</p> <p>#1 - When the metrics for Full Remote/Adaptive pause necessitate a return to remote learning as defined by the most current CCDPH, ISBE, and IDPH metrics and guidelines.</p> <p>#2 - When state and/or local departments of public health recommend the school/district return to the remote model due to either an outbreak or an abundance of caution.</p> <p>#3 - When the Superintendent recommends the district return to the remote model due to either evidence of transmission in a school or within the district, an outbreak, insufficient PPE/Cleaning supplies, insufficient staff, total absences, or out of an abundance of caution.</p> <p>I ask that the board recognize that the BOE has not been voted in to usurp the recommendations of the public health departments devoted to keep our community and state healthy. I ask that the board recognize they are not infectious disease experts. The Board has done a tremendous job hiring Superintendent Dr. Bein. I ask that you put your full support behind her leadership and recommendations.</p> <p>I would like to refer you to the following passage of the petition that hundreds of your constituents have signed before you attend the meeting tonight. We do not want the board defining and manipulating the metrics anymore.</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>Based on these metrics, School District 25 has been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. We demand that all SD25 schools be placed onto an immediate Adaptive Pause until COVID numbers are within the aforementioned guidelines."</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Sincerely, Alexis Hammond
Dominic Franchi	My daughter is in SPECIAL ED and she CANNOT learn remotely. It has been a disaster for her. She is frustrated and breaks down crying. She is already behind with her learning and this has made it much worse. She just told me yesterday that she loves BEING IN SCHOOL and she had the biggest smile on her face. Please don't take that away because others are scared. Do not let the politics of this virus get in the way of the kids ability to get the best education possible. You know that remote learning has been a disaster across the country. I urge everyone to say "enough is enough" and quit playing politics with our kids education.
Brian Lisinski	I would like to ask the board to vote NO on an adaptive pause, yet again. Please keep in person learning a choice for families. An adaptive pause will not solve staffing issues and only take away choice from parents. Let's stop letting others decide what is best for everyone else. Provide choice.
Nicole Oakes	I advise the board to say YES to an adaptive pause following winter break and until Covid infection rates are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines. It is unsafe to have students, teachers and staff attending or teaching in-person at this time. I'm not sure how D25 is still in a hybrid schedule with exceeding metrics for multiple weeks. More substitutes and supervisors are not going to be the fix, they are just bandaids for the problem. Please make the health and safety of our students AND teachers/staff the number one priority.
Jacquelyn Levin	Hybrid is the only way to ensure that everybody gets at least some of what they want. If you go full in person, those who want to be in person and socially distanced are left out. If you go full remote, people who want to be in school are left out.
Amy Klehr	Please NO PAUSE.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Whitney Slmon	<p>I would like to voice my support for an adaptive pause until January 19th. This option provides a quarantine period after the holiday break to help prevent positive cases and spread in our schools due to holiday travel. This adaptive pause also aligns with the dates other schools in the area have chosen to go remote, making it easier for some teachers in our district to continue teaching while their children are not attending in-person classes.</p> <p>The staffing shortage has become quiet concerning. One of my children has only received planned interventions 2 out of 4 days in the last week. In one instance, the interventionist was tapped to be the substitute for my child's class. This understandably cause some frustration and confusion for my child. This whole situation could have been avoided had the board voted to take an adaptive pause after the Thanksgiving break. The regular teacher could have taught remotely, eliminating the need for staff members to cover the classes.</p> <p>A lot has been said about ensuring that IEP, 504 and ESL students receive the services they are entitled to. And they absolutely should, but those teaching requirements are not being met when the people providing those services are being pulled to cover classrooms each day. This does a disservice to the children in need of extra support, and it causes undue stress and exhaustion for the staff working double-duty to ensure each classroom is covered.</p> <p>The current metrics in our area are still of great concern, and there is a risk that they will only increase with holiday travel and celebrations. An adaptive pause can help prevent community spread and protect our teachers, staff and students.</p> <p>Regarding, the upcoming transition to full in-person instruction, I do have some concerns. There has been much discussion of choice in our community, but the current plan does not provide a lot of choice for parents. Choosing in-person or remote for the remainder of the year in January makes the issue of choice incredibly difficult. The current numbers do not provide comfort or instill confidence for those parents who are concerned about sending their children to school each day. However, with the vaccine distribution beginning, it is possible that our metrics could improve vastly before March. This means that parents are locked into making a choice when metrics are concerning, leaving them with no option to choose in-person when they feel it is safe to do so. I ask that the board consider an opt-in date for remote families around mid-March. This provides a real option for choice when an actual choice should be available.</p> <p>It is my sincere hope that the board can look at the operational barriers as well as the metrics to make an informed choice that puts the safety of our students and teachers first. A choice that takes into consideration not just how many bodies are in the classroom, but the quality of the educational experience being provided in those classrooms. My Windsor Wildcats know that the Wildcat Way means being kind, safe and responsible. We should all be adhering to those principles right now; being kind to our staff and each other, keeping safety in mind at all times, and being responsible enough to make the tough choices.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Jacalyn Derengowski	<p>Good morning Dr Bein, Rich, Chad, Scott, Gina, Brian , Erin, Anisha and Mayor Hayes, I wanted to begin by saying how grateful I am to live in this community. I am thankful for the amount of time the board members have invested in meetings, reading emails, visiting schools, processing all the information and the time away from their families. You are having difficult conversations and making difficult decisions for our community. Thank you!</p> <p>I cannot imagine the amount of feedback you have received and the positive and negative things that have been said. Social Media and email can be brutal. I would just like to point out, which you already know, but deserves repeating, this is not an “Us” vs “ Them”. I understand and I am sure many others know people behind the names on petitions on opposite sides. Good people, with great kids, who see things differently. Just one of the wonderful things about why this is such a great community. Please remember through the haze of politics, “We” are a community of families of different opinions. Tonight you vote about all of “Us”.</p> <p>You, as a board, have invested countless hours and had multiple discussions and voted “No” to an adaptive pause and set the date for full, in person learning starting January 19th. You used objective, evidence based discussions to support this decision to not go full remote, by not taking away the “Choice” from those families who want in person learning. You have also represented “Us” by providing the “Choice” for those families who want remote learning. You have served the community and I thank you.</p> <p>Why does my family “Choose” full-time, in-person learning option? Yesterday, I listened to my daughter’s break out room while I did Christmas cards. While I checked addresses of the cards that were supposed to go out last year, but since we got them back well after New Year’s, they are going out this year 😊, I noticed something. My attention was drawn to the voices of students who had finished their work and received praise from the teacher for being the first group done. The group had a bubbly chatter, of boys and girls alike, that only exists in middle school. They were at once a single conversation, then several at once, covering a variety of topics. They laughed with the energy that took me back to middle school. I realized I was watching Joy, which was fitting as it is the third week of Advent.</p> <p>The teacher came into the group and it abruptly stopped as class was done, it was over. Hurried goodbye’s and she clicked on the next Zoom link for the next class. I asked my daughter about the class as it sounded fun. She said it was fun, but not the same as being in the actual school. I parented her and reviewed “Word within a Word”. I am nailing 6th grade, by the way. I am grateful for this chance to see education up close and being more involved as a parent.</p> <p>I ask each board member to vote “No” on the two motions before you tonight. “No” to the addition of any metrics that change on any given day and involve “funny math”, as my actuarial husband likes to say. Just look at the John Hopkins study. Vote “No” again to an adaptive pause. Schools are opening. Stevenson, St Charles, Palatine, etc are behind our community and just moving to hybrid in January. I understand the metrics, I understand risk factors, I understand what I can do to optimize my immune system, I understand politics, I understand what expires December 31st, I understand what the Teacher’s Unions want given the CTU tweet and the letter sent to sd211’s superintendent by their Teacher’s Union President. “Listen and you shall see.”, says John Kass.</p> <p>The mitigation’s standards in place are working. Remember that St James, St Peter’s, Our Lady of the Wayside, St Viator’s, Christian Liberty and Northridge, among others, have been open since September and it is working! Setting safety as a goal is unattainable. The families who choose in person accept this risk. Just like I accept the risk every time I drive a car. The families who choose remote have the option, nothing is being taken away from these families. I hear what the Teacher’s Union is saying, but consider 51 million first responders get up and go to work everyday.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>The SD25 board does not get to limit freedoms in this community. I did not vote for you for that role. Your role, as I understand, is to manage education, not the choices the people in this community make. Why do the people who have the most to lose, do so little? The rules are for thee and not for me? Thanksgiving worked out and families need to make the choices for Christmas. School need to open for those who choose to attend inperson on January 4th. The research is clear, kids are “safer” in school.</p> <p>I ask you to do what you outta do, not what you like, as it is easier for you to do. The only thing my children want for Christmas is to be in school, full-time. They are grateful for the opportunities they have in this community. They are not looking to take anything away from anyone. The current plan is to remain hybrid, with a return to school on January 4th, after the holiday break. The goal of full, in-person is for January 19th. The question before the board is will you, like the Grinch, steal that away from them and the other students in this community who “choose” in-person on January 4th?</p> <p>Please be brave, remember who earned the right for you to sit in that chair. Do not be bullied. Freedom is never free.</p> <p>Thank you. We wish you and your families and everyone in our community all the best.</p> <p>Jacalyn and James Derengowski</p>
Leigh Strauss	<p>Please provide a full disclosure of the additional costs incurred by keeping schools open. It is not fair to the community to keep us in the dark about the financial impact of your attempt to keep schools open.</p> <p>Additional work has been needed for extensive cleaning, classroom arrangements, additional employees for contract tracing, and substitute teaching. On top of the salary paid for this work, what is the cost of the materials for cleaning, PPE for employees, and other tools the school district needs to acquire to try to keep the schools safe. Include the start-up cost of a testing program that is \$100,000, as well as the cost of keeping the testing program running through the end of the school year. Also please include an accounting of time that higher-level administrators, with their higher salary, have spent placed in the classrooms because of a substitute shortage.</p> <p>Our taxpayers and community members have a right to know how our money is being spent. We have a right to see if you are being responsible with these funds. We need a full picture of the cost of these mitigation efforts to determine if this cost is worth the short-term gain of keeping schools open during a temporary crisis. We need to know what long-term programs will be cut to cover the funds necessary for this extensive safety effort.</p>
Stacey Esposito	<p>Special Education students need to be in school!!</p> <p>I’m writing for no adaptive pause after winter break. ALL kids need to be in school for their educational and mental well-being. But kids in the special education programs need school more than anyone. They need the structure. They need to receive their services in person. They need to have their aides with them in person. I have seen first hand how hard it is for these students to get the support that they need via remote learning. I employ the board to vote for no adaptive pause!</p>
Gina Tyson	<p>I urge you to vote yes for an adaptive pause through January 18th. I have provided more detail on my reasoning via email and previous board comments. Thank you.</p>
Brittany Polihronis	<p>Please vote NO to an adaptive pause continue with the hybrid model that is working for students and continue to give families a CHOICE. Those that want to take a pause can do so and continue to receive their education of choice. By supporting CHOICE, we are giving all families options, by supporting CHOICE, you are helping those that are suffering the most (children with IEPs, 504s, behavior and functional disabilities) By supporting CHOICE you are allowing teachers to be present in their classrooms with their students, if they choose. Please continue to move the community forward and focus on CHOICE. Thank you to the board for your countless hours, meetings and deliberations. We can and we will get through this.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Carly Lisinski	I urge the board to think about the children in this district when voting on the adaptive pause. Please think of their education, mental health, and social needs. Keep children at the forefront of the decision making process. Please continue to give parents a choice for in person learning, especially because we all know it is safe. Please vote NO on an another adaptive pause motion.
Meghan Faust	I am writing to request that if the district decides to take an adaptive pause, that it only be for general education students and that they continue to allow our most vulnerable students with special education needs to continue to attend school. It has been an extremely rough year for children that require special services, especially the younger children. My daughter attends Greenbrier school and is in her last year before Kindergarten. She is just now finally attending 4 days as week (as of 12/7). If she were to take an adaptive pause and not be able to attend school, the slow progress she has made over the past couple of months would be all but gone. Please do not forget our most vulnerable children when making your decisions regarding an adaptive pause. Thank you for your consideration.
Katherine Scortino	I continue to be stunned by the shortsightedness of the four School Board members who voted against taking the Adaptive Pause. And I am so grateful to the three who voted for it and to Dr. Bein for her tireless efforts to inform and educate and protect the District 25 community and the larger Arlington Heights community. This is a time to pause, re-group, and re-think, a time to utilize wisdom and creativity in establishing the safest and most effective ways to continue educating our students DURING A PANDEMIC!

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Briana Hafer	<p>The board has voted "NO" twice on an adaptive pause, and since the last vote, there has been positive progress, with no post-Thanksgiving surge and, as recently as this Tuesday 12/15, Illinois medical workers started receiving their initial doses of the coronavirus vaccine. Because of the successful multi-layered mitigation protocols to which our students and families are adhering and that are actively enforced at our schools, the chances of in-school transmission are very low no matter the level of community spread. Given the positive direction things are going, I implore you to please shift your focus from continued votes on "adaptive pauses" to, instead, working towards how the community could come together to work in support of BOTH our students and our teachers being able to return to school in-person full time.</p> <p>For example, instead of the same survey being sent asking about hybrid v. remote v. full in-person, what about a survey to the community asking for them to contribute towards solving the problem? One that could list the various needs such as "We need support crew to assist in the cleaning and maintenance of our buildings over the holiday break to ensure a safe return to in-person learning in the New Year. Please sign up here (link to day/time slot) to select a time," and "We are in need of more PPE/cleaning supplies, please sign up here to donate (and link to options for donating hand sanitizer, wipes, masks, etc.). Or a survey asking parents if they have an area of expertise they'd be willing to lend to the board in an effort to go full in-person (i.e. architects/designers who can come up with unique ways to incorporate more students into a classroom safely). Or what about a weekly survey to teachers asking them what supplies and/or supports they need to continue safe instruction? Then post the results daily/weekly for parents to sign up and donate that need. i.e. Parents can sign up to volunteer for lunchroom/recess supervisors, crafters can sew new reusable masks for staff and faculty who need them, cub scout/girl scout troops can make and prepare hand sanitizer to distribute to the district (my husband is a cub scout leader and actually prepared sanitizer in accordance with FDA Regulatory Requirements and donated hundreds of travel hand sanitizers to the Arlington Heights Postmaster to distribute to their USPS workers). These things CAN be done! We can come together to provide the choice for full, in-person learning, while also ensuring the safety of both our teachers and our students. No one is denying that this is a unique and challenging time. But if you give us a chance by utilizing your time to create a coordinated effort, we can prove that, instead of divisive, we are an inclusive and supportive community and we are all willing to help wherever we can. Thank you.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Megan Panico	<p>Thank you for your vote and your decision to stay in hybrid and not pause through Jan. 19. It was a risk, I acknowledge, but you also put yourself in that position after having our children out of school so long and not starting school in-person in the first place (and starting two weeks late!). This is the hole the Board has dug for themselves, and more importantly for my kids. And honestly, I've stopped watching the Board meetings last week because of the stress and cat-and-mouse games that it just seems to be week after week.</p> <p>Please allow the kids of SD25 to go back in-person full time on January 19th. Do not continue with hybrid. The vaccine is upon us in the community. Too much time has been wasted emotionally for my kids. I don't understand community members who believe we should stay hybrid. Hybrid creates terrible instruction and learning. (I should know, I'm a hybrid teacher. It's awful). Teachers who have serious medical at-risk conditions should be approved to stay home, but they should teach the students who choose fully remote so that there can be fluid and meaningful instruction for kids who are in-person so that a teacher isn't teaching to a zoom and a room simultaneously. If you think it's sound teaching, it isn't. Remote kids can be taught by remote teachers. Yes, they may change their teacher, but that can't be much worse than the lack of meaningful instruction in a hybrid format. More minutes are spent dealing with first grade inappropriate zoom behavior than actually teaching them literacy in a hybrid format</p> <p>I've written you before and I'll remind you again: I'm a high school teacher and a staunch union supporter and a member of the union leadership board in my district. And I'm telling you this: teachers must be back in the classroom. I'm sick of the union bulldozing efforts. The mitigations in the classroom and the buildings are not only sufficient, they are exemplary. When the ATA union president tells you otherwise, the union is crying wolf. I've watched that union bulldoze your Board meetings, and let me tell you that my own union, Local 1211, has NEVER stormed a Board meeting during this crisis period. The union behavior is disgusting and shameful and embarrassing. My union (and others in the area) would never think of doing such a public act. The ATA acts as if they are revered doctors and nurses in a Covid ER, "risking" their lives. Please. They aren't, and they have you fooled. But they do have an essential role in the community, full time, in-person. As a teacher, I have an obligation to serve the community, and the district has an obligation to provide a safe environment for the staff. SD25 has done that and held up their end of the deal. In fact, SD25 has bent to their bargaining for school to not even start on time, on September 1, to have professional development most of the day on Mondays, while my kids have all sorts of unstructured time doing virtually nothing at home. You, the district and Board, have given them enough compromise. They must go back to the classroom with no more hybrid ever again come Jan. 19. I demand it in my own union, and I'm demanding it as a parent in this community.</p> <p>I look forward to my 1st grader and 3rd grader going back full time in-person on January 19.</p> <p>Thank you for your service and happy holidays.</p> <p>Sincerely, Megan Panico (Patton parent, 1st and 3rd grade)</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
<p>Laura Culley</p>	<p>I am submitting a new petition that includes 353 signatures to keep our kids in school. Since Nov 28, three petitions in favor of in person school with choice for those that need it has been submitted to the Board. In total, 829 signatures have been sent to the Board to say no to adaptive pause. We thank the board for its continued leadership in keeping our kids in school. I will be submitting a spreadsheet with names and comments from petitions for public comment to Lana O'Brien.</p> <p>Below is the text for the latest petition:</p> <p>Keep our Kids In School</p> <p>We do not believe an adaptive pause is needed for January. District 15 (Palatine) will be in school Jan 5th because families were responsible, community metrics decreased, and like our school, schools were not the source of infections. District 15 found that having an adaptive pause did nothing to reduce the staff positivity rates. What an adaptive pause will do will be to reduce the quality in person instruction that our children receive for their educational and social emotional needs.</p> <p>If families travel during the break, they should be allowed to take their own pause for their children per CDC guidelines of 10-14 days with no COVID test and 7 days with a negative COVID test. The entire district should not have to quarantine if they are not traveling or seeing family over the break.</p> <p>References: https://www.smores.com/s20bz-news-from-ccsd15-board-of-education https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html</p> <p>Signed, Laura Culley Michelle Casillas Lisa Keavy Lisa Jordan Christy witherow Patrick T Keavy Heather Lepold Erin McLaughlin Vasilka Aleksieva Stacey Cooke Catherine Rigney Melissa LeFevour Elizabeth Malone Tara Tinsley Julie Talbot Jacalyn Derengowski Erin Miller Renee Schlenhardt Melissa Van Buren Erin Felten Allison Johansson Scott Caro Tomasiewicz Sarah Boeche Sarah Riddle Betty Levinsky George Guiwargis</p>

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	<p> Shivi Stanley Truman Tinsley Carrie Skony Leah Ross Katie Starzyk Mairin Gradek Stephanie Harrison Lisa Duello Kelly Dudle Angela Sisi Marzena Enger-mikulski Nadia Viken Angie Johnson Erin Wiggs Suzanne Volpe Karen Pinnello Sara and Dan Mungovan Jared Woods AGNIESZKA MIESIAC April Zaimi Janelle Thoma Eileen Ryan horeya czaplewski Y Jennifer Sia Danny Chiao Dan Ryan Desiree Barnett Catherine Gripper Amanda Antell Hope Tokarczyk Peter Gripper Colleen Corliss Bill Jurjovec Crystal Gausden Liz Osterhues Janet Reich Susan Chen Katy brown Anna Minukhin Erin Kalaway Betsy Geiger Ryan Fetzer Amy Hoffman Lisa Nason Jeffrey Gradek James Reich Heather Molina Jen Starr Maryann Zaleski David Katcher Sean Molina Patrick Schiltz </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Julie Forsberg heidi steinike Jennifer Youngman Lisa Fischer Chris Hafer Victoria Giurato Lisa zimny Marianne Corcoran Justyna Stelmaszak Kellin Girard Sarah Klancnik Kyle W heaton Kristina Heaton Stacy Hineline Rose Mike Nevel Katy Murray Colleen DeHart MARGARET COSSENTINO Andrea Newman Alina Laurie Doug Reed Kathy dieringer Nadia Creamer Mollie Gottfred Peggy Jones Christine Boros Samantha Tragos Kristin Keil Mike Boros Jeremy D. Rogers Tracy Falconer John Hoffman Jodi Zera Kate Zurek Joanna E Kostich Tony Steinike Kristin Rauen Rick Carney Katie Campbell Melissa Lenski Denise Stephanie Rapone Elizabeth Green Alexandria Kraniotis Kerri Hood Amy Klehr Star Smith James Cummings Christy Goduto Robert Culley Lara J Solonickne Cari K </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Ewa Dabrowski Sara Yantis Brett Anderson Mike Hineine Jennifer Huntzicker Shannon Scalzo Jen Ortman Marina Pavlik Antonio Sasmitamanggala Karen Johl Magda Lisa Pils Iliyana Zecheva Brian Lisinski Connie Lasalvia- Gonzalez Bernadette Knight Laura Weigle Jenny Olson Daniella Griffiths Julia Herrmann Joanna Sopel Chris Stack Mark Tack Rob Klancnik Colleen DeGeorge Marta Topolska Ryan Cooke Christy witherow Stacey Esposito Mike DeGeorge Robyn Warter Carissa Lee Holmes Monika Ciepiela Adam Thoma Jana Gunn Ewa Rasztar Evan Korkofigas Agnes Kowal Jeff Van Buren Kathryn Taranda Angelika Babich Meghan Marabella Brian J Splitt Catherine Olson Steve Zurek Jennifer Sadalski Zornitsa Titova Amanda Eichstaedt Sonia Rorer Mary Beth Arnold Carol Kelm Marina Lara Carly Lisinski </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Denise Gordon Erin Felten Lauren Pierce TRACY K FERRARO Chris Naunheimer Kristine Gruzewski Laura Reed Jen Kim Tim O'Meara Julie Forsberg Mark Tack Lisa Duello Katie Johnson Evan Korkofigas Susie Fetzer megan vaeth Jaime Yeh Paul Jones Josette LaMonica Erin Wiggs Tim Wiggs STEPHEN P HOOD Spencer Wiggs Tyler Wiggs Christine Quiroz Katie Rausch Peter Gripper Kim Metler Ryan Fetzer Emily Korkofigas Ruth McAllister Ruthie McAllister Megan Brunet Allison Ritt Devlin Joanna Sopel Chris Rapone Gus M Rousonelos Samantha Tragos Samantha Tragos Cassandra M. Mellor Andrew Green Stephanie Fossler Brian Lepold Jen schmit Caroline Tsourmas Ryan Fetzer Katherine Baumgartner Matt Baumgartner Michelle Kuhn Renee Schlenhardt Michael Rosciano Beth Dover Stephanie Levinsky

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Nikki Mather tim mather Stephanie Rapone Pat Fronimos Stefanie Julie Talbot Kevin McLaughlin Sean Molina Erin Felten maureen schmidt Mike Murray Krystyna Tybor Erin Blackburn Colleen Van Ham Katie Johnson Rebecca Linscott Monica Fogle Peter Woolsey Jennifer Curtis Amy Ashcraft Daniel Johnson Michelle Melissa Newkirk Debbie Johnson Debbie Johnson Courtney Kiefer Mike Weber Jennifer Ponivas Todd witherow Steve Miller Phil Pavlik Britt Polihronis Dan Benassi Lisa Benassi Agnieszka Niedojadlo Larissa Laufenberg maureen schmidt Beth Dover Joe Hanna Brian Lepold Susan March Jason Brown Kathleen Guret Chris Duello Amy Elston Kelley Costello Lisa Fischer Kelley Costello Michele Voris Celina McIntyre Renee Schlenhardt Joanna E Kostich Jennifer Youngman </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p> Emily Gromer Emily Gromer George Archos Maria Fragias Ira Levinsky Laura Ackley Marina Pavlik Kelly Causero Terese Orlando Dan Benassi Michael Zaleski Anna Minukhin Maureen Elia Michelle Casillas Liz Osterhues Mark Culley Karen Medina Zinn Kate Jigalov Briana Hafer Jaymi Griesmeyer Greg Mikulski Dorota Kupinska Jan Kupinski Chad Fischer Michael Enger Emily Mikulski Emily Mikulski Greg Geissenberger Anna Geissenberger Mark Tack Gitana Lapys Sylvester Szczesny Daniela Martin Ben Martin Brian Ashcraft Kate Fontana Alicen Manus Katie Kalenjian Carmelo Scalzo Maria Fragias Justyna Nowak Erin Kalaway, RN Bill Johnson Chris Tokarczyk Eric Manus Jeff Van Buren Sarah Genthner Robin Marnell Katie Peterson Michael Dover Melissa Van Buren Sarah Marella O'Neil </p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	Lindsay Jurjovec Dominic Franchi Jim Jim Carol Kelm Danielle Valentin Lisa Kusumpa

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Marianne Corcoran	<p data-bbox="313 287 537 315">MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p data-bbox="313 317 1463 495">We are currently in a children’s mental health crisis. According to doctors at Lurie, “We know that children are facing increased social isolation and losses of their usual sources of support such as their peers their teachers or their coaches. And many children are no longer able to access their usual sources of mental health care.” At Lurie children’s hospital, emergency room physicians are seeing a 50 percent increase in mental health visits. Hospitalizations are up over 20% and suicides are on the rise.</p> <p data-bbox="313 531 1455 646">https://wgntv.com/news/medical-watch/unseen-risk-of-covid-19-and-children-anxiety-depression-and-suicide/?fbclid=IwAR3AMOLKpn2jICUutDhGR6YpYPD1QXz6Mg4OfNguTDQ9uF9XM71UtxojUa0</p> <p data-bbox="313 682 1438 894">My suggestion is to send out a “pulse survey” every single week to every single family. Same three questions every time. This will help us get a better picture of who needs help and when. It will also help lessen the stigma of mental health and asking for interventions. If we need to hire more support staff, this will help us address that as well. Here is an example: Is your child currently struggling socially, emotionally or mentally? What are your specific concerns? Would you like the school to try to help?</p> <p data-bbox="313 930 1450 984">Here is another example of a survey sent to citizens of the United States from the CDC with very worrisome results.</p> <ol data-bbox="313 1020 1463 1381" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by ... having little interest or pleasure in doing things? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? Select only one answer. 2. Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by ... feeling down, depressed, or hopeless? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? Select only one answer. 3. Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by the following problems ... Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? Select only one answer. 4. Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by the following problems ... Not being able to stop or control worrying? Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day? Select only one answer. <p data-bbox="313 1417 1005 1444">https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/mental-health.htm</p> <p data-bbox="313 1480 1463 1717">“Children cannot heal in the environment that made them sick.” We cannot expect the children to improve their moods, scores, grades, social skills, etc. until we free them from this situation. Get them back in school full time and you will see that they will improve on all fronts. Remote learning and isolation made them sick. Make their health your priority, as it should have been all along. We are giving these children false hope, which over time has led to fatigue, burnout, and feelings of powerlessness. You keep saying that schools will open when it is safe. It is safe. Doctors say so. Epidemiologists say so. Please listen to the experts since this is not your area of expertise.</p> <p data-bbox="313 1753 1390 1839">https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/opinion/letter-why-is-our-childrens-mental-health-of-little-concern-to-our-school-boards/?fbclid=IwAR0zPCfcBBetYinAcFGBT7fQ-qBRaFhksw1WQYnmb2cYGd43Pj_f-jpcdQ</p> <p data-bbox="313 1875 561 1902">PHYSICAL HEALTH</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>Doctors around the world, people much more qualified than our superintendent to make these types of decisions, say that children should be in school. Please listen to the real experts. Over 120 physicians have gotten together to fight for children’s right to be in school based on the facts that they are not spreading it or getting sick. Dr. Dobkin already came to speak to you about this, maybe you’ll listen to 120 physicians instead of 1. One very important point they make is that “there’s evidence to suggest that using metrics as hard and fast rules like that may not be useful in assessing risk at school at all...we have a sense of being able to evaluate what people are reporting and meld that with what we’re seeing in our day-to-day practices and make a recommendation synthesizing all of those aspects.” It is so important to use the data that we collect in our own schools to determine what is safe and what is not.</p> <p>https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/12/more-than-120-physicians-join-push-for-in-person-classes-in-ann-arbor-public-schools.html?utm_campaign=aanews_sf&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1s36R7veWXlhdbXTbguOhd_ykivOjOPKQfD40AVL4FCYP-VF9ykVF8-c</p> <p>QUARANTINE FOR TRAVELERS, NOT EVERYONE Motion 1 of your plan tonight does not solve the staffing issue. I appreciate the creativity of the Zoom Room at Thomas and the fact that some in class learning is better than none. Please consider eliminating this idea of a pause every time things get difficult. This is incredibly hard on parents, children and staff to constantly deal with this uncertainty and anxiety. Most people will not travel. Even if they did, the ones that do not travel should not have to quarantine for them. My family, for example, is sacrificing seeing all of the grandparents because, right now, their health and going to school is paramount. If my kids sacrifice seeing them, why should they have to miss school as well? It is not their job to quarantine for others. CHOICE is key here. You choose to travel, then you quarantine. Natural consequences.</p> <p>METRICS FOR CLOSURE TOO COMPLICATED Motion 2 of the plan is much too complicated and can easily be misinterpreted. I do not trust that it will be used to the letter as most motions in the past have been creatively twisted to fit the agenda of the superintendent rather than the needs of the children. The Department of Public Health should be notified of said outbreak, NOT just by the superintendent but by a majority of the board, to ensure its accuracy. If a school needs to shut down for 2 weeks, the rest of the district should not follow suit unless they have their own outbreak.</p> <p>WHAT WORKS? I am happy to share with you the emails my family has received from Jim Rigg, Superintendent of the Chicago Catholic Schools. He has been incredibly successful in caring for his staff and students, including my son, in full-time in-person school since AUGUST. They handle concerns swiftly and with precision. They do not instill fear. They send helpful, supportive, and informative emails every week. They send out unbiased surveys to see how people are doing. They have clear expectations of staff and families that must be followed. They do not live in constant fear that someone will take it all away on a whim.</p> <p>NAY SAYERS I respect people who choose not to send their kids to school for myriad reasons. They are the lucky ones for already having the option that serves their family’s needs. They have had that option since March 13, 2020 and it is GUARANTEED until at least the end of the school year. I do not have the option that serves my family’s needs. The option that I want has never been offered, my children have never experienced it, and the superintendent constantly threatens to take it away. All I want is a choice to send my children to school while others have a choice to keep theirs home.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dr. Marianne Corcoran, PsyD Licensed Clinical Psychologist</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Michael Andrews	<p>I'll get right to the point, as I have made public comments for each of the recent board meetings, but I feel it is important to continue to voice my concerns. Those who deny and downplay the dangers of Covid-19 are perpetuating lies. At a time when there were nearly 600 cases per 100,000 in our community in mid-November (according to the D214 metrics) D25 voted down an adaptive pause, a precaution nearly every surrounding district decided to take. Now we are dabbling in another extreme position--ditching hybrid and forcing us to choose either remote or in-person for the rest of the year. In the fall, when cases were closer to 60 per 100,000, I felt safer allowing my son to attend TMS knowing there would be ample safety precautions and social distancing. Like many other parents who take Covid seriously, I am not comfortable sending him at the moment. But if cases go down again, as we hope they will, I would want him to be able to attend--but certainly not in a full in-person scenario. Only until the virus is truly under control should we enact a full return to normalcy. It is cruel and unfair to punish the children whose families are taking the virus seriously and keeping their children home at this time. In closing, we are hopefully seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as vaccine distributions have just begun. Until then, let's not be cavalier with our community's overall safety.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
<p>Carissa Lee Holmes</p>	<p>Dear Dr. Bein and Board Members of District 25:</p> <p>We are a group of medical professionals in the area, and many of us are parents to students in the district. We have patiently waited for the board to put forth a timely and reasonable plan to reopen our schools for full time in person learning for the families who desperately need it. We are strongly opposed to any pausing of in-person learning.</p> <p>While no setting where adults and children congregate can be made completely risk-free, schools have been demonstrated to be low risk for transmission of Covid-19. Data has been reported again and again showing that schools are not sources of major community outbreaks. Studies have been done at Brown University with data across 46 states as well as in England, Sweden, Germany, Australia, Japan and Korea – the sources of any community transmission of Covid-19 was NOT the schools.</p> <p>The American Academy of Pediatrics, The Centers for Disease Control, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (Dr Fauci), ISBE, IDPH have all recommended months ago that children return to in-person learning.</p> <p>Let us be clear – there will never be zero risk. The vaccine will likely not be available to those under 18 years by the time the 2021-22 school year begins. Waiting until the virus is gone completely is unreasonable and not an option. We need to learn how to live with this virus and plan education delivery accordingly. The risk to the children is too great to wait for numbers to “get better” or for a vaccine that cannot be made mandatory. These risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depression Suicide Poor learning retention Food Insecurity Increased anxiety/irrational fears Arrested development/irregular sleep patterns Lack of motivation/inability to focus Video game addiction Poor hygiene/obesity Drug/alcohol abuse Abuse/violence in the home <p>It is extremely unfortunate that confusion and disagreement about what is best for students and educators has led to months of uncertainty about our students’ future and a lag in the reopening of our schools for full in-person instruction. We agree and sympathize that no superintendent or board member should be in the position or is qualified to make public health decisions without appropriate guidance from the medical community. We are the medical community. It is our educated belief that, with basic mitigation strategies in place (masking, physical distancing to the best possible degree, hand hygiene and creative scheduling), the risk of school based transmission of Covid-19 among our students and teachers can be effectively minimized.</p> <p>Stores have found a way to reopen safely. Hair salons have a found a way to reopen safely. Sports have found a way to play safely. Dance studios have found a way to reopen safely. Doctors’, dentists’ and orthodontists’ offices have found a way to reopen safely. It is now time for schools to be added to that list.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Carissa Lee Holmes, MD, FAAP, Pediatrician, 15 years Vera Boutros, MD Family Medicine, 12years John Marcus, PharmD, 12 years Margarita Valdecantos, MD, Family Medicine, 6 years Jody Schaaf, RN, Neonatal ICU, 16 years</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
KimDyer	<p>I would ask again that professional and rational heads prevail. This community has been horribly divided by a few noisy and mean spirited people. We need to focus on what is best for the kids. That means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School board and union need a positive working relationship 2. Community needs to know however they feel there are parameters to how they behave and treat people. Stalking people and posting personal life information on social media is wrong and divisive. 3. Could board members really have open minds. I'm not asking that we all agree but board members with Return to School signs in their yard appear to have made their decision at all cost. You haven't been elected to represent a small group of people, you've been elected to represent ALL. 4. Have we considered every option that is best for kids? 5. I have a proposal. We have hired 9 contact tracers if I'm properly informed. I do not know what that costs. We are currently paying for sub to sit in rooms with kids while teachers teach from home. If we go full in that number could increase. We have parents who will be pulling kids from school who are hybrid to protect them from overcrowding (less than 6 feet). Why don't we look at 4 days a week with half days for hybrid. It is working many places. We would run blocks in the middle school and the elementary schedule can be worked out. I know before we were told it was a bussing cost, but is it that much different than all the extra costs for sub in rooms while teachers teach from home, and contact tracers? Is it worth trying for the rest of this year with the hopes that next fall will be norma. I've spoken with many credible medical resources who feel that next fall the vaccine should have been in effect for enough time to allow us some return to normal whatever that means in the post Covid world. <p>Personally, I love having the kids in the building, that is why I became a teacher. I hate the limitations we have in Science. That being said, I problem solve everyday. That is what the board needs to do actually problem solve instead of a few people stamping their feet at the request of a small, noisy group of people who have no respect for personal boundaries and people with differences of opinions. Are you as board members willing to represent people who practice cyber bullying against other members of your board and members of your staff? Stand up for what is right, call out bad behavior and make decisions based on real evidence.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Stephanie Rapone	<p>Isn't the district's tagline "D25, it's personal"? How is taking away options that best fit students' learning, developmental, and emotional health acting in a manner that is personal? How is taking away choice making school "personal"? GIVE CHOICE - It's the PERSONAL solution.</p>
Daniel Strauss	<p>It is hypocritical to use a CDC comment about National school safety to justify keeping schools open and then only use hyper-local, school-specific cases to consider a pause. All of the Regional Metrics and Guidances directly call for a pause. Stop putting teachers and staff in danger!</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Erin McLaughlin	<p>SD25 Board Members,</p> <p>1) Please vote NO to the reopening metrics outlined in Motion 1 of tonight's agenda. The D25 administration and the Board of Education have not provided evidence that the community metrics listed above are in any way related to or at all useful in assessing the risk of COVID 19 at school. To the contrary, data is growing that schools are not a significant spread of COVID 19 when safety mitigation strategies are in place. Please reference the National COVID-19 School Response Dashboard created by Brown University in collaboration with Emily Oster: Professor at Brown University, Galit Alter: Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Susan Johnson: Immunologist, Biotech Sector, and Lindsay Shultz: Physician and public health analyst. Organizing Partners of this study include: AASA, The School Superintendents Association; the National Association of Secondary School Principals; the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Their data collection from over 5000 schools, over 4 million students and over 1.3 million teachers nationwide, shows a less than 1% confirmed COVID-19 Case Rate in Schools. www.explaincovid.org</p> <p>2) Please vote NO to an adaptive pause from January 4 - January 19 2021. This is simple. Families and teachers are expected to follow safety guidelines over the holiday break. There is no reason to accommodate remote learning for staff and students who choose to disregard policy set forth by your own D25 Reopening Plan. In conclusion, please return to hybrid learning on January 4, 2021 and full in person learning on January 19th, 2021 with safety mitigations in place. Please have families select a learning model (full time or remote) for the remainder of the school year, organize your staff and move forward. This paralyzed state of confusion is tearing our community apart. Our students, our teachers and our community are suffering. Thank you again for your service to District 25.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Erin Lakomski	<p>I am writing to advise that 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 vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our School District will have been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. Our School District exceeded the Board's own metrics for any type of safe in person option on October 24, 2020 (60004/05 exceeded 175 COVID cases per 100,000 people on October 24, 2020, and exceeded the COVID positivity rate of 8% on November 5, 2020) and we have not dropped back out of the danger zone for a single day.</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 family and community spread, and in-person school IS causing teachers to get sick and cause a teacher shortage. This situation is not sustainable, and without an Adaptive Pause the situation will continue to harm more and more of our neighbors and loved ones. Schools mimic the greater community.</p> <p>I demand that you vote YES to the Adaptive Pause until IDPH and CDC metrics are met and hold to the metrics as a guide for in person learning.</p>
Beth O'Meara	Please give families the CHOICE for in-person learning and vote NO on an adaptive pause, again.
Jen Kim	<p>I would like to thank the school board, administrators, school staff and teachers for their hard work and allowing my son to attend 4 days a week this week.</p> <p>My son is a 504 student, he has epilepsy. This is the first week since the beginning of school I have not seen him have a seizure. Being off screen and in the classroom has decreased or eliminated his seizures. Thank you. This week has truly been the change my son has needed.</p> <p>Please for the health of my son and so many like him do not vote on an adaptive pause. I cannot express the impact of being in school has on reducing his seizures. Thank you for your continued support in my sons education.</p> <p>Jen Kim.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Jennifer Hahne	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>Unfortunately, COVID has become the sole topic of discussion within the District as of late and as a parent of a child of color I would like to remind the stakeholders that there are other pressing concerns. The concept of diversity, equity and inclusion should always be a priority for our community and for our students and staff. I would like to remind everyone that this summer, the Board voted and approved a “RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 BOARD OF EDUCATION'S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE”. Since that time we have heard nothing of what actions and accomplishments have been made toward this commitment?</p> <p>The District is in the middle of its Strategic Planning process and recently asked parents for feedback in a survey. The resolution to eliminate racial injustice was not mentioned in the District’s data presentation so those completing the survey could be aware of and consider it when completing their responses. I request the Board and the District include and integrate specific actions to accomplish their commitment to eliminate racial injustice into the District’s Strategic Plan and make the process of doing so transparent.</p> <p>Eliminating racial injustice is not a stand alone project. It must be integrated into all the goals and actions the District commits to over the implementation period of this next Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Thank you for your prompt consideration.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Liz Osterhues	<p>TOPIC: Keep SpEd students in school, Vote NO for Adaptive Pause</p> <p>Dear D25 Board members and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>As we continue to see that our schools are safe and no spread of COVID exists within our schools, I continue to ask that you keep our children in schools. Teachers and staff are doing an incredible job keeping our children safe. Children are doing an amazing job following mitigation protocols. And families are doing a great job of doing their part to keep our schools safe by quarantining when necessary. All of our combined efforts are keeping our numbers down and our children safe in school. For those parents concerned about sending their children to school, I respect their decision to remain remote and only ask that while they have the option to keep their kids home, or quarantine because of travel/exposure/etc., we have the option to send our children to school.</p> <p>Board members, as you prepare for the possibility of voting on an Adaptive Pause (again!), I hope that in spite of being threatened by the ATA union president, you will continue to listen to the data, the research, the scientists, health experts and organizations and work to keep our students where they are safe and learn best - in school. I hope you will take notice of our community and the private schools that continue to remain in-person. I hope you will take notice of local districts, such as Barrington and Palatine, who have made the recent decision to return to in-person learning as early as January 5, 2021. And as you continue to ponder the sustainability of teachers teaching in a hybrid model, I hope you give as much, if not more thought to the sustainability of students learning remotely (hybrid and full remote) - especially our most vulnerable students with IEPs and 504s. I applaud our teachers and I continue to thank my children's teachers for all they are doing. I do all I can to support them - whether it's constant words of encouragement and thanks, small tokens of appreciation or doing everything in my power to support my kids at home to aide their learning and make their teachers' jobs easier. While I know teachers' jobs are more difficult than ever before, so is our children's learning, and this new model isn't sustainable for our children. They are suffering too, but unfortunately they don't have a union looking out for them. They have us. They have you.</p> <p>Should you go against current science, go against best-practice, go against guidance issued by the ISBE, CDC and IDPH, cave to your own personal (and possibly misguided) fear of the virus (yet continue to go out socializing), or cave to your fear of the union and Ms. Drevline's threats and accusations, and vote to place our children in Adaptive Pause, I ask you again - PLEASE find a way to keep our students with IEPs in school. While Dr. Bein previously supported placing ALL students in Adaptive Pause (12/4 meeting), with no regard to the impact this decision would have on the neediest students, I hope that you all work to find a way to keep them in school should an Adaptive Pause take effect. It can be done and should be done. I am hopeful, Dr. Bein, that you have seen the error in your thinking, and are committed to finding a way to educate students with IEPs and 504s in-person during a possible Adaptive Pause. Please work with the Board to do what is right and what is best for our students in special education. This is a plea supported by internal and external data that show schools are safe for our students and staff, and a plea supported by an abundance of research that shows in-person learning is best-practice and remote learning is most detrimental to students with special learning needs.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued commitment to our district and its students, families and staff. Please remember the needs of ALL of our students, ESPECIALLY those in Special Education, and remember how much your decisions and votes impact their needs and their learning. Thank you for taking the time to listen to families as we advocate for our children and their education.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Heather Lockhart	<p>Please approve an adaptive pause through 1/19 to keep our entire community safe. Parents can choose to keep students home but the staff does not have this same choice. Keeping the schools open with the covid cases, hospitalizations, and death rates at these levels is irresponsible, dangerous and the reason why the majority of districts around us have taken the adaptive pause. There is a domino effect that will occur should you choose to keep the schools open in a reckless manner and ultimately the board of education will be responsible and liable for the unnecessary illnesses that occur. Yes, teaching is essential which is why we continue to teach in these times through remote and hybrid learning plans. We all want the schools open fully but until it is safe to do so, we need to make the right decision for students and staff. This is not easy for anyone, but we are living in a pandemic and must adjust our way of life to ensure life continues for as many as possible.</p>
Daniel Strauss	<p>I hope the Administration is staying in touch with the families of infected students so we know how many family members and friends have been infected. You should be tracking exactly how much damage is done by the decisions of this board.</p>
Graham Lace	<p>Members of the Board,</p> <p>I am writing to advise that 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 vote yes to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our School District will have been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. These images show that our School District exceeded the Board's own metrics for any type of safe in-person school attendance as of October 24, 2020 (60004/05 exceeded 175 COVID cases per 100,000 people on October 24, 2020 (Figure 2), and exceeded the COVID positivity rate of 8% on November 5, 2020 (Figure 2)) We have not dropped back out of the danger zone for a single day.</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 family and community spread, and in-person school is causing teachers to get sick and cause a teacher shortage. This situation is not sustainable, and without an Adaptive Pause the situation will continue to harm more and more of our neighbors and loved ones.</p> <p>As your constituent, I demand that you vote yes to the Adaptive Pause until IDPH and CDC metrics are met.</p> <p>Lives depend on it. Sincerely, Graham Lace</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Alexis Christensen	<p>This summer, the Board voted and approved a “RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 BOARD OF EDUCATION’S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE”. Since that time, what actions and accomplishments has the Board made toward this commitment?</p> <p>The District is in the middle of its Strategic Planning process and recently asked parents for feedback in a survey. The resolution to eliminate racial injustice was not mentioned in the District’s data presentation so those completing the survey could be aware of and consider it when completing their responses. I request the Board and the District include and integrate specific actions to accomplish their commitment to eliminate racial injustice into the District’s Strategic Plan and make the process of doing so transparent. Eliminating racial injustice is not a stand alone project. It must be integrated into all the goals and actions the District commits to over the implementation period of this next Strategic Plan.</p>
Michelle Pet	<p>PLEASE VOTE NO TO ADAPTIVE PAUSE</p> <p>Dear Board of Education - Please vote NO on an adaptive pause in January and share a plan for the choice for full, in-person learning. Since your last vote on December 4th, things HAVE changed. Progress has been made. We now know that, 3 weeks out, there has been no post-Thanksgiving surge and, as recently as this Tuesday 12/15, Illinois medical workers started receiving their initial doses of the coronavirus vaccine. Because of the successful multi-layered mitigation protocols to which our students and families are adhering and that are actively enforced at our schools, the chances of in-school transmission are very low no matter the level of community spread. Given the positive direction things are taking, please vote NO to an adaptive pause in January, with the hopes that the next meetings can be about how we can all work together as a community to work in support of BOTH our students and our teachers being able to return to school in-person full time.</p>
Eric Pet	<p>Dear Board of Education - Please vote NO on an adaptive pause in January and share a plan for the choice for full, in-person learning. Since your last vote on December 4th, things HAVE changed. Progress has been made. We now know that, 3 weeks out, there has been no post-Thanksgiving surge and, as recently as this Tuesday 12/15, Illinois medical workers started receiving their initial doses of the coronavirus vaccine. Because of the successful multi-layered mitigation protocols to which our students and families are adhering and that are actively enforced at our schools, the chances of in-school transmission are very low no matter the level of community spread. Given the positive direction things are taking, please vote NO to an adaptive pause in January, with the hopes that the next meetings can be about how we can all work together as a community to work in support of BOTH our students and our teachers being able to return to school in-person full time.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Beckie and Mike Hejna	<p>1. Vote for an Adaptive Pause until January 19th to keep the health of our teachers, staff, students and community at top priority after winter break.</p> <p>2. Adaptive Pause will slow the transmission of COVID after the holiday. Families will travel and we cannot assume that they will all quarantine after travel. It is the holiday season, while some may stay home and not visit with friends and family, many will and that is their choice. Some of those that had more exposure will not quarantine after the break. Please use common sense when figuring this into the equation of voting FOR an adaptive pause.</p> <p>3. Create metrics for a SAFE return to hybrid, followed by in-person.</p> <p>4. 6 Feet must be met. I also want my children back in the classroom. I want my children to be safe and under the guidelines of the IDPH and not the guidelines and metrics that half of the board (who do not hold degrees or doctorates in medicine or science) want to set. Find a way to create safe social distancing measures to protect the health of our teachers and our students. Anything else is subpar and should not be accepted. Our local pediatrician, who serves many in our district, confirmed that if numbers go down in our REGION (note not just our district), vaccines are available and metric guidelines that are set by IDPH are met, hybrid/in person can be an option. Anything less than those measure, she advises to not return to in person.</p> <p>5. Listen to your teachers within the district. All of them.</p>
Blair Christensen	<p>This summer, the Board voted and approved a “RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 BOARD OF EDUCATION’S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE”. Since that time, what actions and accomplishments has the Board made toward this commitment?</p> <p>The District is in the middle of its Strategic Planning process and recently asked parents for feedback in a survey. The resolution to eliminate racial injustice was not mentioned in the District’s data presentation so those completing the survey could be aware of and consider it when completing their responses. I request the Board and the District include and integrate specific actions to accomplish their commitment to eliminate racial injustice into the District’s Strategic Plan and make the process of doing so transparent. Eliminating racial injustice is not a stand alone project. It must be integrated into all the goals and actions the District commits to over the implementation period of this next Strategic Plan.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Amy Ksiazk	<p>I am once again imploring you to consider an adaptive pause til at least 1/19/21. Due to the havoc that Covid is wreaking on our community. Our teachers are heroes and they deserve to be treated so much better. Our students in our schools deserve a better education than they are receiving right now due to staff shortages and the inconsistent subs they are receiving due to scrambling everyday to attempt to fill these positions. Board members that have visited the schools may leave thinking the schools are thriving with this hybrid model. On the surface, it may appear so. But that is not really the case. Our schools are not thriving, they are barely surviving. Staff is hanging on by a thread. Exhausted, stressed to the max, and scared. The board members that have visited our schools do not have any idea of what is really going on everyday, not under the surface or behind the scenes. Maybe our Board members should watch the struggles that take place behind the scenes. The constant scrambling and juggling the staff has to go through everyday. There is no way the Board can determine how a school is doing by spending a couple of hours at one. There is so much more to what this staff is experiencing and going through on a daily basis. What happens when a literacy teacher gets pulled from her kids to get placed in a classroom. What happens to her literacy kids? She then has to scramble to adjust her schedule and try to get her own students needs met. They have no idea the amount of work that teachers are putting in outside of school hours. A couple of hours at a school here and there does not give them a full picture of whats really happening. Not only are they working more hours and harder than they've ever worked before, they are also concerned about the possibility of getting sick. Some of them have health issues that make it extra concerning, some are concerned about bringing it home to their children who may have immuno compromised conditions. What you are asking of your staff is unacceptable. You are not showing any compassion or concern - your actions do NOT match your words. You are putting students and staff in danger on a daily basis.</p> <p>Now lets talk about consistency...</p> <p>Windsor currently does not have either full time kindergarten teacher. The kinders at Windsor are having to work with subs everyday. This is at least through the end of the year. A child that was just getting to know his literacy teacher, that teacher was pulled from literacy to sub in a classroom. Our beloved music teacher is not at school. My daughter is wondering what happened to her and if she'll be back. She misses her and says the sub just keeps doing the same thing every music class for weeks and is bored. These situations are not exclusive to Windsor. They are happening all throughout the district. The Board has said over and over again that part of the reason they are not supporting adaptive pause is because of the inconsistency that it would cause for the students.</p> <p>Thats exactly what is happening now!!!!!!! If we were in an adaptive pause, these kids would still have the teachers they have formed relationships with. Please wake up!!! Put the staff and students first, show that you care!!!! Stop nit picking and focusing on the metrics and pay attention to whats going on right in front of your faces! Focus on not only the physical health of your staff but also the mental health of your staff. When the staff thrives, the students thrive!!!</p> <p>Amy Ksiazk</p>
Kathryn Coughlin	I beg you to look to the future of our district by supporting the needs of our teachers now.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Maryann Zaleski	<p>Dear Board members,</p> <p>Back in September when our schools were entirely remote, I addressed all of you at a Board meeting. In that impromptu speech, I pointed out that we hadn't even TRIED to see what it would be like to bring back students into buildings, and we needed to TRY.</p> <p>At that point, our district had not even chosen a date for children to return. We hadn't seen how mitigations would work and whether hybrid teaching would be something our teachers could effectively do. The idea of students and teachers returning to school in a hybrid model was overwhelming. So much has changed since then.</p> <p>Beginning in October, students have been able to attend school 2 days a week, and just recently our students with needs who wanted to receive in-person instruction have been able to come back 4 times a week. This is PROGRESS. We need to keep making that progress.</p> <p>Since I cannot address you in person today, I am imploring you now- we again need to TRY. Parents in this district are once again asking for a choice in how their children receive education beginning in January. I understand how the idea of students fully returning must seem overwhelming, but based on what our schools have been able to accomplish thus far, we do NOT need to take steps backward. We need to move FORWARD, and our community needs to do so TOGETHER.</p> <p>What is being asked of you today is to make a motion on having schools return to remote learning for the initial two weeks of the school year. Please vote NO to this motion and think about the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What purpose does this adaptive pause serve? 2) Why is our superintendent asking us to move backwards instead of forwards? 3) If the reasoning is staff shortages once again, why is there a staff shortage after having a two week break? 4) If the argument is a pause forces people who traveled to quarantine- I beg you to think about this. <p>Our zip codes- 60004 and 60005- have done what is asked of us by our governor. Our numbers actually WENT DOWN after Thanksgiving. There was no surge here. When bars, restaurants, and other non-essential businesses are closed, schools CAN safely remain open. We've proven that. So, why is there an assumption that all these families in D25 are going to travel? Sure, there might be a few, and that is their choice, but on the whole, most of the people in our community are sticking around here and celebrating the holidays with their immediate families. If someone has traveled, then THEY need to be the ones to self-quarantine. There is no reason the majority of our students should be forced to remote learn because of the few who traveled. If you must make a motion to require all parents in the community to self-quarantine, then please do so. Our district should not move backwards here.</p> <p>This work is challenging right now, no doubt, but please know that it matters. It matters to each and every child in our district. Thank you for continuing to think about them as you make your decisions, and please continue to look for solutions, ask relevant questions, have civil conversations, and find ways to move FORWARD.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maryann Zaleski</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Antonio Sasmitam anggala	<p>I urge the board to vote no on another adaptive pause. I think we can all agree that education is an essential service to our community, and the option for in-person learning is essential for the mental and emotional health of our children.</p> <p>I want to stress that I am a federal employee who has had to work during the entire pandemic. I am a member of our union, and I am a proud union employee. Being a federal employee, we are prohibited from engaging in any sort of strike or organized job action, and we would be fired immediately if we tried to engage in such action. As I am writing this (before the noon deadline on Thursday), the Federal Government is facing another shutdown. If a budget doesn't get passed, I would still have to go to work but I would not get paid until a budget is passed. 2 years ago, a shutdown lasted over a month.</p> <p>I include this information, not for sympathy, but for perspective. No one is asking our teachers to work without knowing when the next paycheck will arrive. No one is asking parents to force their kids to come to school no matter what. We are asking for the choice to be made available. Parents can absolutely keep their kids home if they feel that is best for them.</p>
Bethany Larson	<p>"In-person" sounds good, but in reality it is not providing our children high quality instruction when teachers need to take covid related leave and our students are being taught by substitute teachers. Subs are NOT an adequate replacement for our amazing teachers!!</p>
Sabrina Singh	<p>No adaptive pause please!</p>
Kevin Vander Klay	<p>Please consider having two selection dates for families to decide in-person or remote for the new year.</p> <p>Additionally, please weigh the available staffing as a more significant criteria for in-person learning numbers. The "zoom room" doesn't seem like a workable solution and will be over crowded as more teachers are not able to be in classrooms.</p>
zachary novick	<p>Why are you risking public safety, the safety of our teachers and students, and the reputation of our district? What's in it for you? Who do you think you are?</p> <p>You are laymen serving at the pleasure of your constituency.</p> <p>Listen to IDPH, CDC, and Dr. Bein.</p>
Megan Geltner	<p>Dear School Board Members,</p> <p>Please consider Dr. Bein's repeated request for an adaptive pause thru January 19th. This is a temporary status that would give the schools time for the district's shift to full in-person, as well give people a chance to quarantine from holiday travel, and protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff.</p> <p>I have been disappointed with the board's decision not to give an adaptive pause after Thanksgiving, and take a gamble on people's health. I worry about the ramifications for this decision in retaining high-quality District 25 staff and attracting new hires in the future. Time and time again, Dr. Bein has presented the challenges D25 schools are facing when it comes to staffing and providing continuity for our students. Please take her recommendations seriously, and vote for the temporary adaptive pause.</p>
Matt Larson	<p>Regardless of safety concerns, the teachers that have children in other districts studying from home need to be able to teach from home. Consistency with our educators is much more important than simply being "in person."</p>
Nicole Towle	<p>Please vote NO to adaptive pause (again).</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Rebecca Fahnoe	<p>Please reconsider an adaptive for for the beg of January.</p> <p>I am a lifelong community member of Arlington Heights and a teacher at Thomas Middle School.</p> <p>With the likelihood of holiday travel and the fact that as a large school, We are hardly keeping our head above water with staffing needs, please please please reconsider an adaptive pause.</p>
E Jones	Please vote NO to an adaptive pause in January.
<p>The following comments were received after the submission deadline and were not included in the December 17, 2020 Board meeting.</p>	
Mariam Ghaith	<p>I am writing to advise that 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 vote YES to taking an Adaptive Pause until COVID rates in our community are below the IDPH and CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our School District will have been in the COVID positive danger zone for 6 weeks as of December 17. Our School District exceeded the Board's own metrics for any type of safe in-person school attendance as of October 24, 2020. 60004/05 exceeded 175 COVID cases per 100,000 people on October 24, 2020, and exceeded the COVID positivity rate of 8% on November 5, 2020. We have not dropped back out of the danger zone for a single day.</p> <p>D25 Parents are getting COVID positive email notifications from their schools all too frequently, 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 family and community spread, and in-person school is causing teachers to get sick or have to quarantine because of direct contact. This in turn has caused a teacher shortage. Many substitute teachers are unwilling to work at this time and trying to find suitable coverage has been a challenge for our school administrators and staff. This situation is not sustainable.</p> <p>As your constituent, I demand that you vote yes to the Adaptive Pause until IDPH and CDC metrics are met.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Erin Miller	<p>Dear Dear Dr. Bein, Brian, Erin, Scott, Chad, Rich, Anisha and Gina,</p> <p>Thank you for listening to the community in regards to offering a choice for education to the families of SD25. I am asking, once again, that you please vote no for an adaptive pause after the winter break. I struggle to understand why this continue to be put up for a vote after it has been voted on repeatedly, and my family thanks Scott, Chad, Rich and Gina from the bottom of our hearts for making the right decision and allowing families the opportunity to continue to send their children to school in-person. After seeing our four children's report cards come home, especially my three elementary students, where the majority of the report card was greyed out because they were unable to be evaluated due to eLearning, it was evident to me more than ever that remote learning is failing our children.</p> <p>I work for a local youth mental health organization and I can tell you that our calls for help are increasing daily with children deeply struggling with remote learning. It is effecting their mental health in more ways than anyone may realize. Our daily picture is of a 20%+ increase in intake calls, higher level of clients showing more critical mental health issues, children who are not getting out of bed or leaving the house, anxiety about what feels "abnormal" today and anxiety about returning to "normal" soon. We hear stories from parents and families every day about children slipping deeper into mental health issues or suicidal ideation – just as we hear stories from families whose happy, healthy children have shrunken into themselves, battling anxiety and depression, as well as feelings of hopelessness. This is not unique to us and it is clear that expanding access to services that support children's mental health, ability to cope, and resilience will be crucial in the coming year. We need to get children back into school as quickly as possible and I look forward to seeing the plan that Dr. Bein has to make this happen after winter break. As the science shows, schools are not super-spreaders of COVID and truly are the safest place for our children to be. Please vote NO again on the motion for an adaptive pause. We cannot wait to see the plan to return full-in person.</p> <p>Wishing you all a wonderful holiday and thank you for the important role that you play in our children's well-being.</p> <p>With Gratitude, Erin & Chuck Miller</p>
Ryann Uden	<p>Please go with the teachers' recommendation for instructional models. We trust and respect their preferences here.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Lindsay Nugent	<p>Greeting Board, Thank you again for your time. I wanted to send a quick email praising the NO “adaptive pause” the past few weeks. District 25 has been so successful continuing hybrid and it has truly made a difference in the lives of both my girls. Remote days are getting harder and in person keep getting better!</p> <p>I am a huge proponent for the choice of in person learning, as I've written to the board many times, however, I really do understand the concern for an adaptive pause after the long holiday break. I understand teachers are stressed and tired and if this really will help them recharge and get back in the classroom then that's fine. I remain concerned that any pause will bring us right back to where we were in the fall with weeks upon weeks of remote learning and excuses why we can't get back in the classroom. I plead with you all that if we pause, we get our kids back, hopefully full time as positivity continues to decline, the week of 1/19. You owe this to the District 25 students who have worked so hard to follow directions to make in person learning a choice for them. I hope you all have a nice, relaxing and healthy holiday with your families.</p>
Jeanne Coughlin	<p>We are grateful to live in a community that employs intelligent administrators who take into consideration the safety of all. Please, let's support those trusted decision makers.</p>
Mike Notaro	<p>I am writing as a follow up to a previous letter focusing on what I and many think is an incorrect and skewed approach to learning during this pandemic. In short, the repercussions of remote learning (isolation; lack of socialization; increased depression, child abuse, drug use rates; emotional distress, etc.) has not and is not part of the conversation - at least not an equal part. As of now, the board has approached this dilemma from the standpoint of “how to not catch Covid.” Literally - that has been the over-riding goal. How is it possible that the board is not giving the appropriate weight to the fallout of what's happening to our children and approaching problem solving from a “how can we get our kids and staff back in school safely. It is harder to argue with death and life-changing impacts we cannot immediately and currently see, in contrast to the death and hardships the Covid pandemic is causing and being slammed in our faces every day.</p> <p>There is no judgement here. People should operate at their own risk tolerance level. But two sides exist. TWO. Everyone should have a choice. Not just those who have a lower risk tolerance of the pandemic and higher risk tolerance of the long-term effects of remote learning. Please give us a choice and view this issue correctly. Thank you as always for all of your hard work.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Christine Organ	<p>his summer, the Board voted and approved a “RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25 BOARD OF EDUCATION’S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE”. Since that time, what actions and accomplishments has the Board made toward this commitment?</p> <p>The District is in the middle of its Strategic Planning process and recently asked parents for feedback in a survey. The resolution to eliminate racial injustice was not mentioned in the District’s data presentation so those completing the survey could be aware of and consider it when completing their responses. I request the Board and the District include and integrate specific actions to accomplish their commitment to eliminate racial injustice into the District’s Strategic Plan and make the process of doing so transparent. Eliminating racial injustice is not a stand alone project. It must be integrated into all the goals and actions the District commits to over the implementation period of this next Strategic Plan.</p>
Tim Schank	<p>While thinking back on the last couple months of board meetings, I have been torn between invoking the image of Nero fiddling while Rome burned and the image of Carl Spackler in Caddyshack urging the bishop to continue playing golf in a torrential thunderstorm because he doesn't think "the heavy stuff's gonna come down for quite awhile." I needn't remind you all how that ended for Rome ... or for the bishop. And, either way, my point stands.</p> <p>It is nothing short of shocking that this Board (collectively, not each of you) has ignored science, safety, reason, and common sense in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of the Board has maintained a steadfast focus has been on achieving in-person school, to the greatest extent that it can be shoehorned with a semi-straight face. And this has come at the expense of giving due consideration to an adaptive pause, which was implemented by virtually every suburban school district that D25 would like to consider a peer. In the face of an overwhelming surge in every COVID-19 statistic imaginable, the majority of the Board has continued its quixotic and foolhardy pursuit of in-person learning, at the expense of giving appropriate consideration to the present reality.</p> <p>This has been particularly short-sighted because the best thing that we can all do in the name of future in-person learning is to manage the present crisis and, once again, "flatten the curve." But the majority of this Board refused to do its part towards that end and suspend the in-person contact that occurs in every D25 school. We continue to see notification emails every day about COVID-19 in our childrens' schools. And even though many people like to argue that there is no evidence that the virus is spreading in schools, the fact of the matter is that in-person learning has not been taking place on a large enough scale for enough time to yield meaningful data. It's not just about whether or not there have been outbreaks at particular schools. It's about the asymptomatic spread of the virus that is can and is taking place during any large-scale in-person interaction. The opportunity has been squandered for D25 to do its part for the community prior to winter break. I urge the board to implement an adaptive pause that will continue at least through Monday, January 19 -- which will at least help things "settle down" after various holiday gatherings. That is the very least that our district can do to try to help our community.</p> <p>Further, it has been reported that the Board will consider eliminating hybrid learning for the remainder of the school year and turning to a model with full in-person learning and full-remote learning. As long as it can be done safely and in accordance with metrics and spacing and other safeguards established by experts (and not bizarre and overaggressive interpretations of those metrics), that seems fine. I disagree, however, with any such approach that would require a family to commit to one of those options for the full remainder of the school year. If this change is made, I urge the board to include two decision dates -- one for January through early March and then another for the remainder of the year. There have been many impassioned statements before the</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
	<p>Board about the importance of parents being allowed to make choices for their children. And it's clear that this Board has made that choice a priority. That having been the case to this point, it should remain so. Families should have the choice to make decisions for their children regarding in-person vs. remote learning at least two more times over the course of this year.</p> <p>I will thank you all again for the time and effort you spend as Board members. Even though I do not agree with the decisions reached by the Board, I respect your service. I wish all of you a happy holidays and a healthy new year.</p>
Chris Hafer	Please continue to vote no adaptive pause.
Karen Mukhopadhyaya	<p>Dear Board Members, Dr. Bein and District Staff,</p> <p>After watching the Dec. 10 Board meeting, I feel that parents will have to choose between two bad choices. We can either send our children to classrooms that likely won't meet IDPH or CDC safety guidelines once full in-person learning begins, or give up the chance of in-person learning for the rest of the year. I would like parents to have the chance to opt-in to full in-person learning later in the school year when cases will likely be lower in the community. If this is not possible for staffing reasons, then I hope that parents will have the ability to take their children out of in-person learning temporarily if metrics indicate there is high risk for transmission at school but the Board chooses to continue full in-person learning.</p> <p>Sincerely, Karen Mukhopadhyaya</p>
Kelly Ellsworth	<p>Still urging the board to vote again on an adaptive pause.</p> <p>In addition to this, at a previous meeting it was stated that January 5th parents need to choose full in person or remote fir the remainder of the year. This takes away everything involving parents choice that the board has been pushing.</p> <p>Since the board is dragging their feet on any sort of real plan with metrics and logic being followed, I urge you to let parents decide when they want their own kids to attend in person school.</p> <p>You have taken away so much from the families already, don't go back in your mantra of providing choice, if you are taking it away.</p> <p>Furthermore, the actions of some in our community over this has become abhorrent and reprehensible. You need to understand that even if you are not a part of these groups, or the individuals making the hints ugly, you are aligned in their beliefs and therefore are aligned with those actions.</p> <p>It is unfortunate because we know this is not the board. I hope some words can be spoken to this as our community remains divided over the same cause.</p>
Ellie Branson	<p>Please vote on an adaptive pause until COVID 19 rates are lowered and the holidays have passed. We have to consider the safety of our community as a whole (in addition to the staff and students of course!). Please listen to the information Dr. Bein is providing every week, as she is gathering information from public health experts, which none of you are.</p> <p>I would also like to hear what teachers are telling you on your visits. What have principals stated to be problematic at this time? Did you see substitutes struggle? Please report your findings on your field trips.</p>
Megan Kalweit	Please allow a choice of back to school. Making parents chose for the rest of the school year is unfair to the children.

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Melissa Buchberger	<p>Please vote for an Adaptive Pause to protect our staff and students and to increase the quality of education our students are currently receiving. With so many staff members needing to stay home due to the pandemic, the quality of education that our students are receiving in the classroom is simply not worth the risk students are taking by being physically present in the classroom during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. If we took an adaptive pause, many teachers that have needed to stay home would be allowed to teach all of their students remotely and the quality of instruction they would be receiving right now would be much greater. Also, the staff that is still teaching in person would be safer at home and also able to give a higher quality of instruction when they are not dividing their attention between in-person and virtual students.</p> <p>All of the elementary school districts in our area have decided to take an Adaptive Pause at this time to protect students and staff and Covid-19 numbers are at their highest. Please take action to protect our staff, our students and our community.</p>
Nicole Keith	<p>*I encourage the board to vote on an adaptive pause after the winter break and begin the school year full remote until Jan.19th. It seems highly probable that families with have gatherings over the holidays and NYE just adds another level to that.</p> <p>*I also encourage the board to revisit discussions on the parent options moving forward with regards to full remote or full in-person. Parents should not feel committed to making a 6 month decision now thru June. I encourage you to think about a month to month(or every 6 weeks) parent decision option or even the ability to start hybrid in January. But making parents choose full remote or full in-person(for the remainder of the school year) based on what is happening in January, is not right. The metrics in February or March will hopefully look much better and most parents will be ready to send their kids to full in-person. Added to this, what would stop a parent from choosing full in-person and just not sending their kid to school until the data is better? The child will still be in attendance, but virtually. This is something being discussed by a lot of parents right now. We should not be forced to make our kids go full remote in Jan and then unable to switch to in-person when we feel comfortable to do so.</p>
Christine Naunheimer	<p>Please vote NO for an adaptive pause - please move towards return to full opening of schools.</p>
Paul Marusek	<p>I expect the District 25 school board to follow the state guidelines for full remote, hybrid, and all in school options. I also expect full transparency on the standards and statistics the board is using for their decisions. I don't understand why districts all around 25 are full remote and 25 is discussing opening for full in school without being transparent of the statistics and information they are using for this decision. The value of my house is driven by the quality of 25's schools. I care more about who the school board is than who the mayor is, because they impact my children and my home value more than anything the mayor can do. Please act responsibly and trust your voters with the information you are using for your decisions. And please don't think you are smarter than all the villages around us without having facts behind it.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comment
Katie Sondergaard	<p>From a Thomas family: I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for choosing to take the adaptive pause for the prior two weeks, as well as again beginning tomorrow, through mid-January. I imagine it must have been a difficult and brave choice to make, and I personally am grateful. As the parent of 3 students at Thomas, it makes me feel safer and more encouraged to know that you and your team made the choice to prioritize the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff.</p> <p>Obviously, I do not speak for every parent, just myself and my family, but please know that we are grateful, we are being wise, and ultimately...we are all doing the best we can. The kids are not "falling behind," they are simply learning in a different way, with different measures. They are learning "real life" things like coping, adapting, perseverance, patience. Frankly, those lessons are just as important as reading, writing, and arithmetic, in my opinion. Thank you for helping us to teach these values to our kids! It matters!</p> <p>I sincerely hope you are having a great day, and are looking forward to a peaceful holiday season.</p>
Tim Schank	<p>I recognize that this comment may not be timely for this evening's meeting, but I wanted to highlight the email from this afternoon regarding Thomas Middle School.</p> <p>Quite simply, it is an embarrassment to every single one of us in District 25 that this situation was allowed to come to this point by the majority of the school board. This highlights the importance of implementing an adaptive pause for all schools in the district at least through Monday, January 18. Such a pause will allow our schools to do its part in helping to flatten the curve for our community and diminish whatever virus spread may have occurred at holiday gatherings.</p>

Petition Comments for Keep our kids in school

Name	Comments
Laura Culley	
Michelle Casillas	No adaptive pause
Lisa Keavy	There is no reason for a pause. Two of my other kids' school is starting again January 4th. Trust the community and families who travel will follow the guidelines. The kids need to be in school. It's not where this is spreading.
Lisa Jordan	
Christy witherow	Do NOT go to adaptive pause following Christmas break. Please show us what the plan is to open school full time in January.
Patrick T Keavy	There is no empirical evidence that COVID significantly spreads through school. However e learning is NOT an effective option and we are doing extreme damage to our children for absolutely NO benefit
Heather Lepold	
Erin McLaughlin	Please vote NO for adaptive pause following the D25 winter break. Please resume Hybrid on January 4th 2021 with full in person learning in January 19, 2021.
Vasilka Aleksieva	
Stacey Cooke	There is no reason to go remote for 2 weeks in January.
Catherine Rigney	The schools should remain open as all data regarding spread of covid supports that it is safe to educate children in schools. Parents should have the option to send children in person 5 full days. This has been proven to be successful in other school districts. My 1st grader is very behind academically and I attribute this to remote learning.
Melissa LeFevour	No adaptive pause!
Elizabeth Malone	Please vote no to an adaptive pause in January. My two district 25 students face many challenges on remote learning days.
Tara Tinsley	Please keep our kids in school.
Julie Talbot	Vote No to pause after Christmas break. If teachers don't want to come back after break, they need to find a new job/career. Stop pandering to the demands of the Union and educate our children!!! Vote NO
Jacalyn Derengowski	Keep the schools open with a return to class on 1/4/20 after the Christmas break and continue on the path of full reopening on January 19th. There is no evidence to support closing (adaptive pause) and I would argue is cruel to those students who have just began 4 day a week of classes as part of the path toward full-time, inperson learning. Stop playing a political, war game with students with a teachers Union that cannot be held accountable. Open the schools, let them learn.
Erin Miller	Please vote no to an adaptive pause after winter break and bring students back in-person five days a week.
Renee Schlenhardt	I'll add Illinois medical professionals are emphasizing the importance of student's access to in person choice. Our local Dr Dobkin (prominent local Pediatrician and with Lurie's Children's Hospital and Dr Marianne Corcoran, Psychologist. Please look Decatur medical professionals statement as well: https://decatrish.com/2020/12/dear-decatrish-city-schools-of-decatrish-should-offer-in-person-learning-option-for-all-students/?fbclid=IwAR0Bvg8Wn-XaMk8z7NuetksUV8B4SP1uyZZWQXJfIRluOjF-yGQMoYd4SP4
Melissa Van Buren	
Erin Felten	Please keep schools open!
Allison Johansson	
Scott Caro	No adaptive pause after holiday break.

Tomasiewicz	No pause! Our children need to be back in school 5 full days!
Sarah Boeche	Keep our kids in school after break
Sarah Riddle	
Betty Levinsky	
George Guiwargis	I vote for No adaptive pause. Get the kids in school!!!
Shivi Stanley	
Truman Tinsley	
Carrie Skony	
Leah Ross	Stay open, open more, make progress
Katie Starzyk	
Mairin Gradek	
Stephanie Harrison	Please keep schools open after winter break.
Lisa Duello	
Kelly Dudle	Please do not begin an adaptive pause after winter break. Thank you.
Angela Sisi	I agree with the comments above and do not support an adaptive pause.
Marzena Engermikulski	Please no adaptive pause!
Nadia Viken	
Angie Johnson	Please keep schools open - PARENTS CHOICE
Erin Wiggs	Keep schools open! My family DOES NOT want an adaptive pause!
Suzanne Volpe	Stop politicizing my children's education, stand up to the teacher's union fear tactics, and get back to in person learning!
Karen Pinnello	Thank you!
Sara and Dan Mungovan	NO adaptive pause
Jared Woods	
AGNIESZKA MIESIAC	No to pause
April Zaimi	
Janelle Thoma	
Eileen Ryan	
horeya czaplewski	
Y	Please do not proceed with an adaptive pause. There is no reason to have one and no issues after the thanksgiving break.
Jennifer Sia	Our three children need to be in school. Their emotional well-being is at stake. Therefore, our family, as well as others, have canceled all of our holiday plans to see family and friends in order to stay healthy and safe for our kids to go back to school in January.

Danny Chiao	The science does not support an adaptive pause. Leading health professionals all support kids being back in school for in person learning. There is more information out there about the harm and damage being done to students elearning in isolation than there is about students being exposed to the coronavirus. Elearning is also extremely challenging for working parents of young children who cannot elearn on their own. Please follow the science. Most importantly, please allow families to make decisions for themselves. Parents are the ones who know what is best for their kids.
Dan Ryan	Yes
Desiree Barnett	If you decide to travel over break, follow the CDC guidelines of quarantine for 7-10 days after travel. It's not necessary to shut down an entire district because some may travel. I believe families that traveled over Thanksgiving respected that rule.
Catherine Gripper	
Amanda Antell	
Hope Tokarczyk	There is no reason to go remote again. The schools have been doing a phenomenal job and that is where are students are safe. Making the children go remote will cause more harm emotionally and mentally. There are hundreds of articles out there stating reasons why children belong in school. We are now in phase 5. There are treatments and a vaccine. Keep the schools open and continue to plan for full time in person on January 19. Thank you for your continued dedication to keep our children in school!
Peter Gripper	Keep school open
Colleen Corliss	
Bill Jurjovec	
Crystal Gausden	
Liz Osterhues	Keep our kids in school. Science and the CDC say schools are safe. Data shows our schools are safe. Keep kids safe and keep them in school.
Janet Reich	No pause needed with the holiday break being a pause itself. We need to move forward, not backward. The goal has always been getting the kids back to school full time.
Susan Chen	Please allow kids in school as long as deemed safe.
Katy brown	
Anna Minukhin	Reopen schools (NO PAUSE)
Erin Kalaway	
Betsy Geiger	
Ryan Fetzer	No pause required
Amy Hoffman	
Lisa Nason	Please keep the kids in school for those of us that want that choice and are not planning any travel. Do not go on an adaptive pause.
Jeffrey Gradek	Please do what is best for our children and community. Please open schools full time.
James Reich	Please keep it open, in fact, open full time.
Heather Molina	
Jen Starr	There is no basis for pausing in person learning. Illinois has seen the lowest positivity rate this week since 11/4. Schools are not spreading COVID.
Maryann Zaleski	An adaptive pause is not necessary to bring the school year. Many families in our city plan on following our governor's recommendations and Tier 3 mitigations regarding the holidays and unmasked get togethers. Families who choose to travel should be required to self-quarantine for 10-14 days, which should allow the children that did not travel to continue benefiting from in-school instruction.
David Katcher	There is no evidence, data, or medical expert advice to suggest moving to an adaptive pause. This has already been addressed and voted on. Please move towards full in person.
Sean Molina	
Patrick Schiltz	What's changed from a week ago? Nothing of any significance is the answer. Keep the children in school.

Julie Forsberg	
heidi steinike	
Jennifer Youngman	
Lisa Fischer	Please say no to adaptive pause.
Chris Hafer	If the district truly values equal opportunity for all, then please continue to support family level choice. Families who want to have remote learning have had that choice and will continue to be able to take that option if they feel that is best for their family. No judgements any reason is valid. Likewise, other families need the choice to send students to school buildings for a wide variety of reasons - all of them valid. Respect each other and give each child and their family a chance to succeed.
Victoria Giurato	We will not be traveling for the specific purpose of keeping our kids in school. It is crucial that they are in the classroom, where they thrive, as much as possible. They are struggling with remote learning and need to be in person with their peers and teachers.
Lisa zimny	My kids love going to school, please let them back asap
Marianne Corcoran	No pause please!
Justyna Stelmaszak	No pause for school!
Kellin Girard	Please do not take an adaptive pause in January. Give parents the choice for full-time in-person learning.
Sarah Klancnik	
Kyle W heaton	
Kristina Heaton	There is no need for an adaptive pause. Please continue as planned towards progress to fully opening schools.
Stacy Hinline	
Rose	
Mike Nevel	Keep the schools open for in person learning
Katy Murray	
Colleen DeHart	Please vote NO for adaptive pause. The research continues to show that schools are not big spreaders. The risk of harming our children's MENTAL and EMOTIONAL health is more severe than the risk of spread. Please consider our children's future.
MARGARET COSSENTINO	Please keep our schools open not only to keep our kids up to date academically. But, for their emotional needs to be met.
Andrea Newman	
Alina Laurie	
Doug Reed	Open the schools for full on person and allow remote for those that don't want to attend in person. Nothing less than 5 days is acceptable. Stand up to the unions. Let the teachers use up their benefits and fire the ones who won't come back. Have a backbone and listen to the parents not the unions.
Kathy dieringer	
Nadia Creamer	Keep the kids in class enough with remote learning!
Mollie Gottfred	Let us have the choice!!!
Peggy Jones	
Christine Boros	Please keep the school open for the kids. It is so important for them.
Samantha Tragos	Remote learning is not cutting it. There is not enough teaching and learning happening on remote days. There needs to be a choice for in person school and no adaptive pause for families who are CHOOSING to do the right thing by not traveling and having gatherings over the break.
Kristin Keil	No need for an adaptive pause, keep the kids in school
Mike Boros	No on any adaptive pauses.

Jeremy D. Rogers	There is no reason to close the school in January. Covid cases in the schools are low and are isolated primarily to teachers and have not been traced back to the classroom. Private schools continue to remain open without issue. This attempt to reclude seems misguided and misplaced and without logic.
Tracy Falconer	Please keep the schools open. Our children need in person learning. It has been proven many times that schools are not the source of Covid outbreaks. The children are just starting back 4 days a week. Don't take that from them. They have gone through enough these last 9 months. For those that travel over the holidays they need to quarantine but let's not punish everyone. Thank you.
John Hoffman	
Jodi Zera	Vote for no adaptive pause!
Kate Zurek	
Joanna E Kostich	Enough damage has been done. Students need to be in school in person.
Tony Steinike	
Kristin Rauen	
Rick Carney	No Adaptive Pause
Katie Campbell	Please keep our children in the classroom.
Melissa Lenski	Vote NO for adaptive pause! Keep our kids in school. The numbers are showing that there is no reason to take a pause. Cases are not spiking in the schools. Please do what is best for students and keep them in school! Thank you!
Denise	
Stephanie Rapone	Do not go to remote learning for everyone. Rather, set the expectations with families that if they have contact with people outside those that they live with that they need to be remote for two weeks to quarantine, as recommended by the CDC. MANY students need to get back into in-person learning as soon and ask quickly as possible. Having remote learning has not slowed spread just like having in-person learning has not increased spread.
Elizabeth Green	NO adaptive pause
Alexandria Kraniotis	
Kerri Hood	Keep schools OPEN and move to full 5 days in-person. Districts that have been fully remote have metrics similar to or higher than ours! This is proof that closing schools has ZERO effect on the community or case counts!
Amy Klehr	No adaptive pause.
Star Smith	Remote learning is NOT a replacement for face to face learning for the majority of students. We need to put the students first!
James Cummings	
Christy Goduto	I believe it is each family's responsibility to quarantine if travel is necessary. School is a first priority and should be opened for this that want to attend in person.
Robert Culley	
Lara J Solonickne	Follow Governor Pritzker's guidance and keep the schools open.
Cari K	Please reopen if it can be done so safely. At the very least, please continue hybrid.
Ewa Dabrowski	Schools should be open beginning of January. There was no increase in cases after Thanksgiving break. Every family who travels during holiday should quarantine but other kids should return as usual.
Sara Yantis	
Brett Anderson	

Mike Hineline	
Jennifer Huntzicker	Our school metrics are good! Why would we take a step backwards? Keep these kids in hybrid and move to 5 day in person!
Shannon Scalzo	Nothing has changed - we cannot go into adaptive pause based on "what if's" the thanksgiving holiday has proven that people are being responsible.
Jen Ortman	
Marina Pavlik	
Antonio Sasmitamanggala	
Karen Johl	Keeping kids out of school for people to travel is ridiculous. Quarantine those who are not following the rules. Do not punish kids who need classroom instruction.
Magda	No to adaptive pause ! Keep our kids at school
Lisa Pils	Keep our kids in school
Iliyana Zecheva	
Brian Lisinski	
Connie Lasalvia-Gonzalez	Please do not go on adaptive pause. Kids are not spreading the virus at school.
Bernadette Knight	No to adaptive pause
Laura Weigle	
Jenny Olson	No to the adaptive pause.
Daniella Griffiths	Please do not disrupt hybrid learning. The students and teachers have done so much to make this work. We are very safe and plan to stay home and see few family or friends inside our home during the holidays.
Julia Herrmann	
Joanna Sopel	Keep the schools open please
Chris Stack	
Mark Tack	Please leave schools open. Our kids need it. Current hybrid model is better than nothing. Please don't change what you have worked hard to establish. Full-time, in-person will be ideal when you are ready, but for now please do not mess with the current hybrid schedule. Thank you.
Rob Klancnik	Keep schools open!!
Colleen DeGeorge	Please DO NOT have an adaptive pause in January, the kids need to continue to be in school.
Marta Topolska	I want my kids to be at school in person.

Ryan Cooke	<p>Why do we have to keep voting on an "adaptive pause"? Exactly what is it that we need to "adapt" to? Positivity rates are declining, transmission of the virus does not occur in schools, and our school-aged children are not at risk of serious impact due to catching the virus. I ask you, are we in a worse or different situation now than we were during the previous votes on an "adaptive pause"? The answer is NO. So it seems that you're trying to make decisions based on a few people's predictions of what "might" happen in the future. There was no "surge upon a surge" due to Thanksgiving and there likely won't be one following Christmas either.</p> <p>I propose an "adaptive pause" on voting for an "adaptive pause". Let's "adapt" to the declining positivity rates, to the fact that there is no "surge upon a surge," to the fact that COVID is not transmitted in schools and "pause" these votes.</p> <p>In fact, I propose an "adaptive open"! Let's adapt and have a trial period of full 5-day in-person learning for an "adaptive period of 2 weeks" to truly allow our children the opportunity to "adapt" to learning again. After that 2 week period, go ahead and go back to the hybrid model for 2 weeks to confirm that, yep, the virus continues to NOT spread in schools. At that point, we can drop "adaptive" from "adaptive open" and go ahead and open up fully to 5-day a week learning (in person). Why are we continuing to look for ways to close schools? Let's look for ways to OPEN schools. Of course parents who are not comfortable with their children learning (in person) can remain remote.</p> <p>I see that there are parents requesting that schools go on an "adaptive pause", but I simply do not understand why they feel the need to impart their will on other families who DO want their children to learn (in person). They have the choice to allow their children to be fully remote and shouldn't have a say whether those who are in-person can continue to be in-person.</p>
Christy witherow	Please NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE
Stacey Esposito	Please do not take a pause after winter break. We did not see a surge after Thanksgiving break. Our kids need to be in school.
Mike DeGeorge	Keep our kids in school
Robyn Warter	No adaptive pause!
Carissa Lee Holmes	
Monika Ciepiela	Please DO NOT go forward with an adaptive pause. My child needs to be at school as much as possible.
Adam Thoma	
Jana Gunn	
Ewa Raszta	Please do not do an adaptive pause in January. I am so thankful that my daughter can be 4 days in person, since she has IEP service. Being at school in person, it helps her so much!
Evan Korkofigas	I agree that an adaptive pause should not be mandatory for schools in district 25
Agnes Kowal	<p>Dear Superintendent and School board...please keep our children in school. An adaptive pause is completely unnecessary. It should be at one's own discretion if traveling out of state to high risk area. There is absolutely no reason for kids to go back to remote at this time.</p> <p>Many families are making hard decisions and foregoing holiday celebrations to be able to go back to work and school after the holidays. Same applies for teachers who have a responsibility to teach in person. Stop with the excuses and get these kids back to school. Many school districts have figured out how to be back safely and have been back without outbreaks. Why can't district 25 figure this out and why must our children continue pay the price for this inadequate leadership?</p> <p>Remote learning is not an education. It's not fair to the teachers who do double work and the students who are stuck in front of a screen. Pls listen to the science...SCHOOLS ARE NOT SUPERSPREADERS! Get these kids back to 5 days of in person learning before more of them fall further behind.</p> <p>I would like to conclude and remind the Superintendent of the January 19th date that was last given for a full return. Will this change again? Or will you keep your word and get these kids back to school?</p>

Jeff Van Buren	There are currently no metrics both in school and out of school that support a move to adaptive pause post winter break. The current trends in virus spread in the community has peaked and is trending down. Everyone talks about following the science and the metrics. Let's look into our schools to find the answers there is no evidence of spread in the classroom or the school. Also there are nearly 4500 students and 850 staff throughout the district and there is no need to make an aggressive move abs close the entire district because of a small percentage of people who travel. No one knows the extent of people who traveled for thanksgiving what we do know is that there was no uptick in the cases in the schools. Dr Bein is at it again pushing her own agenda that is not backed in science but pushed my the teachers union.
Kathryn Taranda	Families should be responsible for their own quarantine after winter break. There is nothing to say that if we take an adaptive pause it will improve or stop anything. People who practice safety and caution during winter break should not be forced to do remote learning because of others. Remote learning is always an option for those who want it.
Angelika Babich	Our children need to be in school. Kids are not spreaders of Covid. We have been opened successfully in school during hybrid, bring our kids back full time. The Covid vaccine isn't recommended for children under 16 to receive it, so how long do you plan to keep our kids home? Oir children need to go back to school full time!!
Meghan Marabella	PLEASE give our children a chance esp kids on IEP/504. We are failing them. How about the families who already got Covid? They are safe to come in per doctors and HD. Also please give our kids grace with the grading, this isn't the norm so it shouldn't be treated like the norm. Thank you!
Brian J Splitt	Get kids back in school
Catherine Olson	
Steve Zurek	Please just keep doing what is best for our children and don't cave to the ATA.
Jennifer Sadalski	
Zornitsa Titova	Please keep the in person option available!
Amanda Eichstaedt	No adaptive pause
Sonia Rorer	Teachers are essential workers and schools are businesses. Our children need to learn with in person learning. Keep schools open.
Mary Beth Arnold	Please keep our children in school and do not have the adaptive pause. Our children need to be back full time in person.
Carol Kelm	Return to school on the 5th of January
Marina Lara	Why??? No need for adaptive pause!! Unless we see cases go up significantly! We all, children and adults, can't do this anymore! Why are we so behind on priorities for our children than in other school districts and even countries.
Carly Lisinski	Vote No pause
Denise Gordon	Why is an adaptive pause being recommended when the board voted 4-3 against it just 2 weeks ago? I'm curious what has changed in these 2 weeks that you need to vote on this again...
Erin Felten	Please do not shut down schools again. FULL remote is not needed. Allow for those families to take an adaptive pause, but do not force this on all of us. Especially with the kids with IEP's who need to be in school. Please VOTE NO to an adaptive pause. My son has been back in since last week 4 days a week and he is THRIVING. Please, our children deserve the opportunity to be in school. My family has been doing all that we can JUST to we can have my son in school where he needs to be. We have cancelled plans, cancelled trips, not been with family for holidays. We are doing this because school is VERY important for my son who is behind. Please please do not take this from us. Thank You for voting NO to an adaptive pause.
Lauren Pierce	
TRACY K FERRARO	The CDC recommends all students should be in school. There is no spread of CoVid in schools.
Chris Naunheimer	Keep schools open.

Kristine Gruzewski	If families travel stay home, we are not traveling, my child should not be punished.
Laura Reed	Get the kids back to school!!
Jen Kim	Please do not vote for an adaptive pause. There is no data to support that decision at this time.
Tim O'Meara	
Julie Forsberg	
Mark Tack	Keep schools open!!
Lisa Duello	
Katie Johnson	Please don't close schools. There really is no need. The kids will be fine, just as they were after thanksgiving. Thank you
Evan Korkofigas	I agree that an adaptive pause should not be mandatory for schools in district 25
Susie Fetzer	
megan vaeth	Other schools are safely doing this. It's a joke ah isn't
Jaime Yeh	
Paul Jones	
Josette LaMonica	Please listen to what families want and do NOT pause. Families have the option to e-learn. My boys need in classroom focus. They are not learning what they need from e-learning!
Erin Wiggs	Please keep our kids in school.
Tim Wiggs	Keep giving families a choice. Keep school open.
STEPHEN P HOOD	Why is the superintendent continually trying to push us backwards? There is proof that closing schools has zero effect on # of cases as shown by other districts that have been fully remote since day 1. Their # of cases per their dashboards are the same as (or higher than) ours. This also shows that full 5 days from hybrid will have zero negative effect as well. Keep moving forward with the end goal of full 5 days in person by Jan 19th without any more delays! Dr. Bein has stated nobody needs time to plan anything for this as "we already know how to do this." So, there should be zero need to take extra weeks (or months) to slowly roll any of this into place. MOVE FORWARD!
Spencer Wiggs	Please give us kids a choice. Keep the schools open.
Tyler Wiggs	Give us a choice. Keep the schools open.
Christine Quiroz	Keep our Kids In School We do not believe an adaptive pause is needed for January.
Katie Rausch	
Peter Gripper	Keep kids in school
Kim Metler	Please keep the schools open, my 2 daughters that have been invited 4 days a week are the kids I remember! Smiling, happy and wanting to go to school.
Ryan Fetzer	No pause required
Emily Korkofigas	
Ruth McAllister	
Ruthie McAllister	
Megan Brunet	
Allison Ritt Devlin	
Joanna Sopol	Keep the schools open please
Chris Rapone	
Gus M Rousonelos	Keep the kids in school !

Samantha Tragos	Remote learning is just not cutting it. If parents choose to keep their children home, they have that choice. Keep the choice available for those who choose to go in person. There is just not enough learning or teaching happening with remote. If families wish to travel or have gatherings over break, that is their CHOICE, and they should self quarantine. My family is CHOOSING to not travel or have gatherings so that our child can have the education that she deserves to have in person. Adaptive pause is just another step backwards.
Samantha Tragos	Remote learning is just not cutting it. If parents choose to keep their children home, they have that choice. Keep the choice available for those who choose to go in person. There is just not enough learning or teaching happening with remote. If families wish to travel or have gatherings over break, that is their CHOICE, and they should self quarantine. My family is CHOOSING to not travel or have gatherings so that our child can have the education that she deserves to have in person. Adaptive pause is just another step backwards.
Cassandra M. Mellor	Keep Our Kids in School
Andrew Green	I give a vote of no-confidence in Dr. Bein, she has continually failed to implement voted-on initiatives and an inability to plan ahead in these trying times! Our children deserve better than what is currently being offered.
Stephanie Fossler	
Brian Lepold	Let the kids go to school. It's overdue.
Jen schmit	PLEASE continue to offer in-school learning. There is NO need for an adaptive pause.
Caroline Tsourmas	I believe with all parties wearing masks, it is in the best interest of our kids for the students to return to the classroom full-time
Ryan Fetzer	No pause required
Katherine Baumgartner	Thank you to our teachers for all they do! We promise to be responsible over break to keep ourselves, family, friends, classmates, and teachers safe and healthy!!
Matt Baumgartner	Please let our children stay in school! We are sacrificing so much, missing our family and friends, because our children's education is a top priority and essential to their development and wellness.
Michelle Kuhn	
Renee Schlenhardt	
Michael Rosciano	Keep our kids in school
Beth Dover	Please vote NO to an adaptive pause. We are all making sacrifices to allow our children to attend in person.
Stephanie Levinsky	Is this how Lori does business? Keep having meetings and votes until you get your way. Give me a break. She's a joke and needs to go!
Nikki Mather	Please No Adaptive Pause! We are making great progress, let's keep it up. A pause on in person learning will send the kids back a step.
tim mather	In Person 5 days a week, please! No Pause, just keep going forward, not backwards!
Stephanie Rapone	Do not go to remote learning for everyone. Rather, set the expectations with families that if they have contact with people outside those that they live with that they need to be remote for two weeks to quarantine, as recommended by the CDC. MANY students need to get back into in-person learning as soon and ask quickly as possible. Having remote learning has not slowed spread just like having in-person learning has not increased spread.
Pat Fronimos	These kids don't go anywhere other than school. They are not carriers that are going to spread this virus. They need to be in school and based on the school report card too, our scores will only go lower. My child is struggling with academics.
Stefanie	
Julie Talbot	Vote no (again!!) to adaptive pause. Reopen to full 5 day a week January 4th!
Kevin McLaughlin	
Sean Molina	

Erin Felten	Vote NO to an adaptive pause
maureen schmidt	
Mike Murray	Please vote No adaptive pause
Krystyna Tybor	
Erin Blackburn	I would like you to think about how other groups of employees that also have union representation are handling COVID management differently than the ATA. One example is flight attendants. They are around adults that are much more likely to spread the virus, some that refuse to wear masks, with less protocols in place than a school environment and less than the 6 feet of recommended distance. I don't see the flight attendants' union show the same refusal behaviors that ATA leadership is demonstrating. You wouldn't even have to be present tonight talking about this topic if Lori Bein would simply stand up to ATA leadership like many other superintendents have. Staff and board members are clearly not afraid of potential exposure at nail salons, big box stores, or local fundraisers in downtown Arlington Hts. but seem to collectively put themselves on a pedestal. It is unacceptable that the students of district 25 are becoming the scapegoats for covid transmission. Please vote NO to an adaptive pause.
Colleen Van Ham	
Katie Johnson	Please don't close schools. There really is no need. The kids will be fine, just as they were after thanksgiving. Thank you
Rebecca Linscott	An adaptive pause is not needed. Most parents as were surveyed want some sort of continued in person learning and the majority of the school board agrees. Families who travel can have their children learn remote for 2 weeks to help ease safety concerns.
Monica Fogle	Yes
Peter Woolsey	I find it despicable that Superintendent Bein is attempting, again, to pass an adaptive pause. She is like a petulant child who whines and begs when their parents tell them no. The new case count is on the decline and the statistics did not support an adaptive pause the first time around and do not support one now.
Jennifer Curtis	
Amy Ashcraft	
Daniel Johnson	Vote no on the adaptive pause.
Michelle	I am voting NO to an adaptive pause. We need to have our kids in school FULL time.
Melissa Newkirk	Please vote for NO adaptive pause. For the families following the guidelines and not traveling we want and need our kids in school.
Debbie Johnson	NO, we do NOT want/need an adaptive pause!
Debbie Johnson	Please keep kids in school. There is no need for an adaptive pause.
Courtney Kiefer	
Mike Weber	
Jennifer Ponivas	
Todd witherow	
Steve Miller	No adaptive pause. If families have traveled over the holidays or chosen to place themselves at risk, they can self-quarantine the first week of January and those children can learn remotely during that period.
Phil Pavlik	
Britt Polihronis	Vote no to an adapted pause
Dan Benassi	
Lisa Benassi	
Agnieszka Niedojadlo	Keep kids at school
Larissa Laufenberg	I feel it is in the best interest of my own children to be school fulltime. Thank you.
maureen schmidt	

Beth Dover	Please vote NO to an adaptive pause. We are all making sacrifices to allow our children to attend in person.
Joe Hanna	NO adaptive pause! Our children need to be in school, in person.
Brian Lepold	Let the kids go to school. It's overdue.
Susan March	Please stay in school
Jason Brown	Kids need to be in school, they don't learn at home
Kathleen Guret	
Chris Duello	Keep our children in school!
Amy Elston	
Kelley Costello	
Lisa Fischer	Please say no to adaptive pause.
Kelley Costello	
Michele Voris	Put the children back in school full time. PLEASE. If teachers don't want to teach, SHOW THEM THE DOOR. If people want to go remote, LET THEM CHOSE. This district is an absolute embarrassment and I am ashamed to live in it. I'm also devastated for my son who used to love school and the teachers and community. He feels betrayed and confused. There's a 99% cure rate!!! He's being forced to be afraid!!!!
Celina McIntyre	I DO NOT support an adaptive pause.
Renee Schlenhardt	
Joanna E Kostich	My grandsons NEED to be in school in person full time. I am a retired teacher. I speak from 33 years of experience.
Jennifer Youngman	
Emily Gromer	No adaptive pause!
Emily Gromer	No adaptive pause!
George Archos	No adaptive pause
Maria Fragias	Vote no to adaptive pause.
Ira Levinsky	Open the schools. How did public school teachers become the most coddled profession? How do we have a school board that continues to vote a majority way and Lori overrides their vote with more meetings.
Laura Ackley	
Marina Pavlik	
Kelly Causero	The board has already voted TWICE for NO adaptive pause - can we stop wasting everyone's time and start focusing on returning to school and preparing for that?
Terese Orlando	Thank you for your consideration in keeping D25 in the Hybrid model.
Dan Benassi	
Michael Zaleski	
Anna Minukhin	Reopen schools (NO PAUSE)
Maureen Elia	SPED children need services in person
Michelle Casillas	No adaptive pause
Liz Osterhues	Keep our kids in school, give parents choice.
Mark Culley	
Karen Medina Zinn	My son in speciap Ed early education. He gets slp services. He was just mived from self contained to blended as is doing great. I need consistency for him to continue to succeed. He is going 4 days a week now.
Kate Jigalov	Keep the schools open please!!!
Briana Hafer	

Jaymi Griesmeyer	My daughter is nonverbal. As hard as her teachers work to make virtual learning work for her- it doesn't work. Communication is already a struggle, trying to do it from behind a computer screen is exhausting. I can't count the number of times she is misunderstood. She needs to be in school, learning face to face. An adaptive pause would be detrimental to her. I am a teacher and have been working in person all year. I feel safe with the precautions in place and it is best for my students. Our D25 students deserve the same. My daughter deserves the same. Please vote no to an adaptive pause and continue to give the students who need and want to be in school that opportunity.
Greg Mikulski	No adaptive pause
Dorota Kupinska	No adaptive pause!
Jan Kupinski	Keep schools open, no adaptive pause!
Chad Fischer	
Michael Enger	NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE
Emily Mikulski	I like going to school not elearning. It is so hard to do elearning. Please don't close my school.
Emily Mikulski	I like going to school not elearning. It is so hard to do elearning. Please don't close my school.
Greg Geissenberger	Please keep the schools open. Our children need it! They don't have a union to protect them, only us their parents and the community.
Anna Geissenberger	please keep schools open, remote is not working for kids
Mark Tack	Keep schools open
Gitana Lapys	Please vote NO for adoptive pause. I know so many families, including ours, that decided to cancel travel plans in order for the kids to be able to go in person after winter break. It was a tough decision because I am not going to see my other child, who is on travel ban from her work at a mental hospital and can't comeback for the holidays. But two days a week in person at school makes a huge difference for my kids, so we are staying home and hoping for the in person school after the winter break. The days in person at school helped my kids academically and mentally. Please don't take that away!
Sylvester Szczesny	
Daniela Martin	I am emailing to say NO to an adaptive pause. Dr. Fauci and the CDC state schools are safe and should stay open. The science shows schools are safe. Our children are struggling at home and those that need to go to school need to have the choice to go in person. This was voted on already. Why are we doing this again??
Ben Martin	I want to be in a classroom learning with my friends and teachers not stuck in a room for 6 1/2 hours a day . I learn better in person. This school year is hard at home and lonely.
Brian Ashcraft	
Kate Fontana	
Alicen Manus	Please keep our schools open.
Katie Kalenjian	Please vote no to a pause - if a family travels they should stay home for 2 weeks. My children need to be in school as much as possible, we will not be traveling. Thank you!
Carmelo Scalzo	The government based their decisions to close on actual data not hypothetical data of what might happen, IE what might happen if kids come back from break and might have covid... if they do and it causes a significant outbreak then based on that data you shut down in person at that point. And if they do not... and there is no spike you stay open per the Board's current vote. If the infection rate stays low and there isn't a spike in cases you can't keep calling a vote base on hypotheticals every other week. There has to be a consistent measurement or threshold that triggers an action, not an opinion of what could happen.
Maria Fragias	No adaptive pause for students
Justyna Nowak	No adoptive pause
Erin Kalaway, RN	
Bill Johnson	Please keep our kids in person school. We do NOT want adaptive pause.

Chris Tokarczyk	This shouldn't even have to be voted on again. The kids belong in school.
Eric Manus	Keep the doors open. It is a symbol of hope!
Jeff Van Buren	No to an adaptive pause
Sarah Genthner	
Robin Marnell	No need for pause since we have been in school this whole holiday break anyways
Katie Peterson	
Michael Dover	Please vote NO for an adaptive pause following winter break.
Melissa Van Buren	
Sarah	
Marella O'Neil	Keep school open!
Lindsay Jurjovec	
Dominic Franchi	This is ridiculous. Dr. Bein should not continue to call on votes. We voted twice recently. NO ADAPTIVE PAUSE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN SPECIAL ED OR HAVE IEPs. Thank you.
Jim	The current science(s), pragmatism and the children each and all, overshadow the logic of an "adaptive pause". Particularly, in lieu of "travel concerns" for some veiled under the guise of "safety for all". Of course, we still need react and respond accordingly when science/and the numbers (in schools) show otherwise. In the interim, let's all be safe, smart and move on.
Jim	The current science(s), pragmatism and the children each and all, overshadow the logic of an "adaptive pause". Particularly, in lieu of "travel concerns" for some veiled under the guise of "safety for all". Of course, we still need react and respond accordingly when science/and the numbers (in schools) show otherwise. In the interim, let's all be safe, smart and move on.
Carol Kelm	Keep kids in school!
Danielle Valentin	We've been in this situation for almost 10 months. Covid isn't going anywhere anytime soon. We cannot keep running in fear. We need to plan and execute the plan to get our kids in school. The only other option is to slow down the curriculum and learn at a slower pace. If you're not willing to change the curriculum then solve for getting them in school there are tons of ways to do this safely and successfully.
Lisa Kusumpa	We appreciate everything that is being done to keep our teachers and kids safe for them to continue going to school!