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For today's public comment, I will be looking at the D205 Decision Criteria, that was sent by Dr. Moyer in an e-mail to parents on August 4th.

1. "Are infection rates at a level that D205 or relevant public health agencies consider unsafe for school to be in-person?" If the answer is yes, the criteria says "Move to fully remote learning." And that this would be based on "guidance from ISBE, IDPH, and DuPage County Health Department using data on positivity rates, hospital admissions, and hospital capacity."

On August 4th, Edward-Elmhurst Health sent an e-mail entitled "A plea to our community" from the System CEO of Edward-Elmhurst Health. In this e-mail it is stated that we are experiencing an uptick in the number of patients hospitalized from COVID-19. The plea was for residents to wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and social distance. Our town's positivity rate has been going up steadily, although it is still below 5% positivity rate. As of August 6th, Elmhurst's positivity rate was 39 positives out of 856 tests, which calculates to a 4.56% positivity rate. This is slightly above the state average. In addition to this, Dr. Moyer echoed Edward-Elmhurst Health in his August 4th e-mail, and also cautioned families against traveling, and "...recommending that families begin staying at home as much as possible...no later than August 10th, to minimize contact with others for a full 14-days prior to the first day of school." Given all of this, can District 205 answer "No" to this first question? It seems that the criteria would indicate to move to fully remote learning.

2. "Can we staff core content classrooms for students choosing remote AND in-person instruction?" If the answer is no, the criteria says "Move to fully remote learning." The criteria also stated that this answer would be known the "Week of August 3rd, using data from families and staff collected on July 31st." Dr. Moyer stated in his August 7th e-mail, "...D205 does not have a sufficient number of teachers who are committed to report to work on August 24, 2020, in order to fully support any form of in-person learning." What communication has the Board of Education and Dr. Moyer had with the teachers of District 205. While I know that quite a few teachers (about 200 according to the ETC) submitted doctor's notes indicating their conditions that puts them in the high-risk category for COVID-19, has the District actually contacted these teachers? Do we know if all teachers want or need to be remote teaching? Were some of the teachers simply informing the District of their conditions so that they can get more appropriate PPE? While I think sending anyone back into the school buildings during a pandemic is wise or safe, what has the District done to ensure they have an accurate answer to the above question? The district is clearly answering "no" to the above question, according to your own "decision criteria" document, the solution is CLEAR. The District needs to move to fully remote learning.

3. "Do we have adequate substitutes and/or other staff to staff classrooms assuming double the average teacher absentee rate?" If the answer is no, the criteria says "Move to fully remote learning." I am a teacher in another district. I have seen first-hand the substitute teacher shortage in Illinois. Many times when I had to be absent from school last year, my class had to be split and sent to other classrooms for supervision for the day. This is obviously less than ideal, but this will be impossible now given the pandemic we are experiencing. I don't know what District 205 does when they cannot fill a substitute position – but I have confidence in saying that this criteria alone cannot be met – which means the district should move to fully remote learning. In addition to this, in Dr. Moyer's e-mail on August 7th, he indicated that more substitutes were needed to "...help fulfill the Open D205 Plan." Since obtaining enough staff and substitutes seem to be an issue – I would expect the district to follow their "decision criteria" document – and move to fully remote learning.

4. "Can we provide adequate spaces for classroom instruction and lunch to allow social distancing and can we supervise lunch? If the answer is no, the criteria says "Move to a 5-hour day without lunch and/or consider hybrid for elementary." I have always questioned why the hybrid model wasn't chosen for K-5 schools, as it was for middle and high school. If in-person instruction is wanted, it is clearly a safer choice than trying to fit every elementary student in D205 into their respective buildings. No amount of social distancing would be possible in that scenario. Given the survey data, however skewed it may be by including the percentage of "no response" in with the percentage of people who CHOSE "in-person learning", this is not possible. Even Dr. Moyer admits in his e-mail from August 7th that "...based on the number of families selecting in-person instruction in grades K-5, the District will not be able to provide daily in-person instruction at that level and maintain the requisite 6 feet of physical distancing recommended by ISBE." I do not understand how the district thought in the first place that they would be able to welcome back all of the elementary school students without reducing class size OR hiring more teachers in order to reduce the class sizes. If we just focus on lunch, the district has sent out several notices that lunch supervisors are needed. It would appear just from those communications that we cannot properly supervise lunch to ensure students socially distance. From all of this evidence, it is clear that the answer to this question would be no.

Finally, I am wondering why the District would go through the trouble of creating a "decision criteria" document, and e-mailing it to the community, if they were not planning on following its recommendations.

I am asking the District to do what is SAFE for our students, our teachers and school staff, and the community at large. Start this school year remotely. Thank you.

Thank you for all the work going into this difficult plan. We have a preschooler at one of the Catholic schools and the Diocese of Joliet published an amazing FAQ document with answers to many of the questions we have for all our children. I sincerely hope that D205 publishes something similar to help parents, no matter their choice and decision for their children's learning method this year, understand the details behind the plan. We need to know more than the scheduled minutes of time for each plan. We need to know the district's responses to various scenarios that WILL come up this school year. We also need details on how services outlined in IEPs will be delivered. We moved into this community for the public schools and their reputation for excellence in learning and supporting all learners no matter their ability. Parents are asking for answers and details. Please provide them. Thank you.

In times of immense pressure, it is difficult to tap into our wise minds. The more stress we feel, the harder it is to think creatively, to listen, to process new information, to be magnanimous, or to communicate effectively. We have moved beyond the point of pointing fingers. In Dialectical Behavior Therapy this is the time to use our TIPP skills. These are the skills that don't solve the problem, they just bring us back to the table, bring us back from the edge, stop us from doing more harm. We have wasted valuable time. And we have mischaracterized each other in ways that will damage important relationships and undermine vital advocacy.

I am asking you to pause. Let's take stock of where we are.

- 1: The overwhelming number of families in our district want their children to return to school.
- 2: It is a daunting and difficult (possibly impossible) task given the size of our classrooms to return every student and every teacher safely.
- 3: We need a robust, thoughtful, equitable remote learning plan.
- 4: It is a daunting and difficult task to prepare for remote learning especially given the uncertainty of who will go remote, when will they go remote, how will they go remote, etc.
- 5: We are living through a pandemic that we have never experienced before and we are all allowed to be cautious.
- 6: There are students and families that really NEED the support and services of their school.
- 7: We are missing details because details are nearly impossible to provide.
- 8: We need to work together: admin, teachers, families, and community

I implore everyone involved to drop all the past gripes, hurt feelings, and mistrust. This is where we are. To truly move forward, it's best we move together. Tonight, please pause in the best interest of your community, and start anew.

- 1: Center the needs of our most vulnerable students and families and teachers. Collaborate with the teachers, families, experts to see how to meet the needs of THOSE students. Once there is trust, there are solutions. Get those kids in class as quickly as you can. Maybe there will be room for more than just the most vulnerable. Maybe we'll lottery kids into other spaces? Maybe we can commit to getting our youngest learners in--across school buildings? Maybe we make room for every High School Junior to spread out and get in-person learning?
- 2: Collaborate and commit to making eLearning excellent. Once there is trust, there can be creative-problem solving. Really prepare for it. Make it a plan you can promote and be proud of.
- 3: (And this one is important!) Collaborate with the community--families, school, parks, city, library, sports, ymca, coffee shops, gyms, stores, make them ALL part of the solution. Get us on the same page and keep us there. Station someone to sit in front of Starbucks and remind kids to put on masks. Ask parents to deny sleepover requests. Draw circles in the parks for movies, dance parties. (From the day you asked people to stay home in preparation from school, my family alone has been invited to 2 birthday parties, a sports practice, and a scouting meeting.) ASK for sacrifice. Be specific. Reward kids walking around in masks or sitting at a distance with coupons for ice cream or whatever. Invite out of the box thinking. This is our opportunity to rethink and reimagine and model the critical thinking we've been talking about for years. We don't need to lock down, but we can make caring for each other our focus. We can heal as a community. We can step up and help as a community.

Whatever you do, please make some decisions and pause enough to carry them through in ways that can invigorate and inspire your staff and teachers and students. Please, start anew.

Thank you for your time.
Joanna Spathis

I am livid at the lack of planning and leadership by the Board and Administration of District 205. How could you be voting on options on August 25th when school is supposed to start on 8/24? You act "surprised" that staffing would be an issue- during a pandemic when spacing is needed? Seems like a decision and plan has gotten punted on repeatedly. And stop blaming teachers- you are the leadership of this District, Board of Ed. I have friends who are teachers in other nearby districts who have received far more support, leadership, investment in PD and help preparing for in person or virtual learning, plus IT investment and safety installations (eg plexiglass) in their classrooms. District 205 leadership has delayed on the planning and prep needed. Save face, go virtual so you can't claim it's a staffing issue. Give teachers the training and ability needed to TEACH VIRTUALLY. Full days with live online instruction. If my employer can do job coaching and training online all day, so can a District with a surplus of \$ like 205 has.

This is complete nonsense the back and forth. Stick to the plan that the kids are aware of and the families have planned for; E-learning/hybrid. Focus on the kids not your political garbage of who is right. These kids deserve better than this!!

I am a middle school teacher as well as a parent of middle school and high school students. I believe strongly that students should be back in school in a hybrid model, which my near by school in Dupage County is implementing.

I am shocked by the proposal to delay the start of school to Sept 14. No one with a vested interest in the students can believe that keeping these students out of school for another month is a healthy option for our students. I feel that the community is being coerced by both the administration and the teachers union by being presented with options that are so extreme that the community is forced to retract their wishes to have students be in person.

Why have other districts been able to overcome these staffing issues and Elmhurst cannot?

Why is there not an option where everyone meetings in the middle? Such as- a short SHORT transition period of remote learning followed by gradual return to school. It would seem that would give all parties what they are asking for- more time to ensure safety, in person learning for those who want it, and students back in school on time.

I cannot imagine the toll the proposed schedules will take on these students- school until almost July? No breaks? Students mental well being benefits from these breaks in the calendar. None of these proposed schedules are viable options.

The union needs to stop their terrible coercive social media campaign and get to the table to work with the board and administration with the best interests of the students.

Everyone involved in this needs to do better.

<p>Why is this Board refusing to align to the rational decisions made by all our surrounding districts? Please start the year August 24 fully remote. Then, we can move to in-person learning later in the fall with more planning, cooperation and time. A mid-September start date just seems irrational to me. Hiring a bunch of subs in a rush is irrational too. And the anti- teacher language being used by this Board is heart breaking. Those same teachers are the folks we will need to go above and beyond each day for our kids! Who the heck talks to their employees like that?! You should all be ashamed.</p>
<p>This is unacceptable. How can you delay this Flimsy proposal until 8/25? School needs to start by 8/24 like initially communicated. Are you really looking out for the best interest of the children? Are there enough teachers to start teaching remotely? Yes I want in person learning for my children but if it's realistically not possible why then isn't the default remote learning? Punting the problem to another date is a waste, especially when you say it still may not be possible to have staffing by 9/14. Not teaching our children or being able to come up with a solution is unacceptable. You are paid to do a job, provide guidance, foresight, problem solve and I am seeing none of this.</p>
<p>This has gotten out of hand. I would like to know where and how the board is going find, hire and train enough teachers to open in person learning. You and the ETC have had since MAY to get a plan in place. Why are teachers needing training to teach remotely? What was happening all summer? It's clear that educating the children of this community has not been the priority. If we have to go remote because teachers won't get in the classroom, I hope the kids can still do the 4 sports that were deemed safe. Enough is going to be taken from them this year, their athletic career should not be.</p>
<p>I want to thank the Board for volunteering their time and let them know that this is not a thankless job. I have already submitted my opinion for how I think the school year should proceed via email to the Board Members. I do not envy your position and your need to keep the interests of the entire community in mind which may or may not be in line with the interests of your own children. Thank you.</p>
<p>Hi my name is Rosie DeCristofaro. I am 12 years old and I will be going into 7th grade at Churchville Middle School. For academic purposes we would benefit so much more if there was in person learning. From my personal experiences and many other too, E-learning was not effective. I was falling behind day by day. Students need to socialize in order to stay well mentally and physically. Kept away from some other classmates is not good for anyone. Please give us a chance to go back. I know we can wear our masks, and I Know we can social distance. I know we can do this.</p>
<p>I am asking the School Board to vote NO on the Amended Calendar Recommendation for 2020-21 School Year. Is starting the year with remote learning on August 24th no longer a possibility? How many parents would change their survey response to remote learning after learning the school start date would be pushed back to Sept. 14th? Will a new survey be sent out to parents before this decision approval/denial is made?</p>
<p>The school year should not be extended and possible days off taken away because a decision was not made sooner by the district. Students, teachers, and parents should not be feeling this much anxiety over the start date and safety of school. Making such drastic changes with less than 2 weeks before school is supposed to start is unacceptable. The district has known about Coronavirus for months. There is absolutely no reason a solid plan wasn't in place sooner. Parents are stressed enough about the pandemic. Worrying about changing schedules so close to the start of school should not be another stressor. Please do not approve this calendar amendment and start the school year remotely on August 24th.</p>
<p>Dear BOE and Dr. Moyer, As the number of COVID-19 infections continue to rise in Du Page County, I'm advocating for 2 things: a commitment to start the academic year with remote learning to best ensure the safety of our students, staff and families, and 2) to start the year on August 24th, a date that is already one week later than the original start date of the year. The sooner you commit to a remote learning plan, the more time you'll have to plan for this platform. By starting the year as late as September 14 and ending on June 25, our students who are in AP classes will not have completed their classes in time for May testing, which puts them at a serious disadvantage. Other school districts have made this difficult decision: Naperville 203, River Forest, Arlington Heights, East Aurora, Lyons Township, Elgin, Chicago Public Schools, North Chicago, Oswego, Evanston, South Holland, Homewood Flossmor, Township High School District 211, Palatine District 15, Schaumburg District 54, And Glenbard South.</p>
<p>Covid has taken away so much from us all. Do not take away more by delaying school start. Our kids need some type of normalcy. If it can't be found in the classroom at least it can in scheduling.</p>
<p>Class of 2020 had a bad ending. Class of 2021 has it even worse. You want to extend the year, take away Sping break, etc? How does this affect college planning, family vacations, graduation celebrations, etc. Will it be worse or better by then, who knows, but Id like to keep my childs hopes up that the last and final year is not going to suck even more.</p>
<p>Have you considered those who paid for the overseas trip at York for summer 2020 that was moved to Spring break 2021. They will be out non refundable money. Without Spring break will the kids get special dispensation for the work missed if is safe to go at that time? Will the chaperones be available? Are you prepared to compensate the non refundable \$500 (as it stands today). Approximately \$25,000 total based on 50 kids cause frankly there will be no more rescheduling.</p>
<p>Most importantly, the constant ifs and whens and maybes is causing more anguish and anxiety to our D205 family's than is necessary. Create of new survey. I bet many more parents would choose an Aug 24th remote start over the new proposed schedule. So lets join other districts statewide, 8/24 remote with phased in hybrid teaching when, where, and if possible.</p>
<p>The students, parents, and teachers of CUSD205 deserve reasonable, flexible action plans for both short-term and long-term solutions as we all navigate the unknowns of COVID-19. We all agree that no decision is perfect – but we also all agree a decision needs to be made. Parents need to be able to plan for childcare and tutoring arrangements. Parents need to know classroom assignments and hybrid schedules. The superintendent continues to reference 85% of parents want in-person, why isn't the board surveying parents now? Does the board assume that 85% of parents would have expected that if they choose in-person it would result in a plan that now has not enough teachers for in-person, a significant delayed start to any form of school and zero cooperation between the board and teachers? The superintendent appears to want the board to vote on starting school late – on September 14th – why can't we start remote until September 14th? Instead of taking a strong leadership role in the planning of school during a crisis this board and superintendent has failed the community and caused tremendous stress and chaos. Our taxpayer dollars deserve better. Before making any decisions, the board needs to re-survey parents based on the boards current lack of any plan and failure to find common ground with the Elmhurst Teachers.</p>
<p>I do not like the new start date of September 14th. I would like them to start as planned on August 24th with remote learning until it's safe to do in-person. Numbers are increasing which make it unsafe for staff, teachers and students for in person learning but no reason we can't start as planned with remote as many school districts around us are planning to do. Why should we take the risk when other districts are not? Why disrupt next summer for these kids especially seniors that will then turn around in 5 weeks to go to college?</p>

Speaking on behalf of our son, an incoming York freshman, we would like to change our vote to 8/24 remote e-learning (instead of 9/14 "hybrid maybe"). When we expressed our preference for hybrid learning via the D205 survey, that was based on an August start date assumption. September 14th is a game changer for us, that frankly we had not anticipated.

We sincerely hope you're doing well, under the circumstances. We know you're enduring beyond what can be reasonably expected, unfairly bearing the brunt of everyone's frustration, which is really a universal frustration overall, and shouldn't be directed at you or any one group...parents...teachers...etc.

Everyone is simply coping at this point, and we sincerely hope by resolving to launch 8/24 remote e-learning across D205, this will unify most constituents at this time in a positive way, moving forward.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts and consideration. Thank you.

Warm regards,
Nichole & Mike Santoro

I'm writing to ask that you do everything in your power to get our special education kids back in a face to face learning environment. I have 3 children in the district; a sophomore at York, 7th grader at Sandburg and a 4th grader at Jackson. The 4th grader has an IEP. Watching how much she has regressed in comparison to her siblings is heartbreaking. School is where she learns, where she sees her friends, where she is empowered to take a lead role in her own education. That cannot be duplicated in a remote environment. My high schooler will be okay. My middle schooler is struggling, but we are doing what we can to figure it out. But my 4th grader is missing out on cognitive, emotional and social development that is irreplaceable with potentially lifelong impact. I understand there are risks to her attending face to face learning. And risks for her teachers. Please find a way to provide an environment that is as risk-free as possible as soon as possible so that no more time passes her by. And on a final note, this is not about me looking for 'babysitting' for my special needs kiddo. This is me acknowledging that D205 staff can provide her with something I can't possibly duplicate. Thank you for your time.

With numbers rising and risk increasing as students have attempted to join in sports camp without success, it would logically seem appropriate to begin all remote. Almost all surrounding areas and the City of Chicago have switched to remote for safety of both students and staff. I myself as an educator do not wish to return to the classroom due to safety concerns.

By default, students and staff have naturally been somewhat quarantined and away from one another since mid March. It is unfathomable to expect students and staff to return without there being cost for concern once they are all back together. I do not wish to have the safety of my own children compromised in anyway because a school board and superintendent cannot make the most appropriate decision. It is both unreasonable and inconsiderate of staff and students to expect them to return into groups of classrooms where they are thereby exposed daily to the same children and staff and their families and whoever their families expose themselves too. It is a web effect as far as exposure as each person leaves school and then exposes them selves to Family, friends, etc. outside of school. Inadvertently one person could be potentially exposed to hundreds of people based on this.

Finally since the Board and staff don't feel it's safe to meet in person, I flat out don't think it's right to expect children to come together in person.

I don't think anyone really "wants" remote however at this point in time with so many unknown factors and numbers increasing, and is CLEARLY the best course of action.

My vote is for remote start!

With regard to delaying the start of the school year, in my opinion, it is simply delaying in evitable. Very few educators are willing to come back to the classroom at this point due to health and safety and I sincerely doubt that three weeks time is going to make that big of an impact on the staff members where they feel it is safe.

Start late, end late...honor 85% majority wishes...do not take away our kids right to in person education.

I am a parent of a middle school and elementary school student in the district. After reviewing the three options being discussed at the meeting this evening, I believe a fourth option should be under serious consideration. This would consist of a remote start for all while planning for a return to in-person that incorporates the needs and concerns of all parties as much as possible (IEP's, training, distancing, etc). Given the clear need for more space in the elementary school, I opted for full remote in order to support the teachers' efforts to manage the near impossible logistics should all children return. I have faith that the excellent teachers in our district will deliver high quality remote instruction, particularly if given the support and faith in their ability to do so. A remote start would also allow for a more timely start to the school year, which I am certain students, faculty and parents alike would welcome. Thank you for your consideration of this option. I hope that the board will take this opportunity to demonstrate its openness to compromise, collaboration and creative solutions to a complex yet vitally important challenge.

I think that we should be able to go back to school for a few days a week because in person learning has been more helpful for me and multiple other people. And from my personal experience, e-learning doesn't help me learn as better. If we do go back to school, I would hope that you inforce social distancing and masks. I think that we should at least go back 2 days a week.

This was adapted from a Facebook post.

The D205 school board and the Elmhurst teachers union need better optics on this, but that's partially water under the bridge.

It probably isn't true that "both sides are equally bad". And I actually think both sides want a high-functioning school district, safe and educated kids, and a structure that aims towards the needs of families.

But watching you both spend weeks sniping at each other on social media is a very, very bad look. Also, I think Elmhurst parents assumed for most of the summer that both the administrators and teachers were working very hard to come up with flexible lesson plans and class structures that could be adapted to a rapidly changing situation (in-person, remote, hybrid, etc.). However, "what it looks like", here I'm not saying that's what it actually is, but what it "looks" like, is that most people involved spent most of the summer waiting for "someone else to do it". Waiting for survey results. Waiting on guidance from the government. Waiting on professional development classes to be assigned. Waiting on class rosters and layouts and schedules. And now, we've got a near-catastrophic last minute scramble and many, many very angry people.

If this is actually a false view, and everyone has actually been working hard and smart and creatively to get this done, you've done a "terrible" job of showing it. Optics. We can do much better.

As a final point, the inflexibility of both sides is a bad look. The impression, from all of the recent communications, has been that the D205 school board was never going to accept anything except the model they pushed, with most kids in school, all teachers in school, and a handful of remote learning. And that additional classroom space and staff would magically appear. And the teachers union has given the strong impression that they were never going to accept anything but full remote learning, and if working parents lose their jobs or their kids aren't educated, so be it. When two sides have immovable positions, any negotiation is meaningless.

We can do better than this. There's no reworking the past, but we can make a fresh start here. I truly believe that everyone wants some version of "what's best" for the kids and the community. Everybody "must" be willing to compromise to reach something workable. I don't know what that is. But delaying school start an entire month so that we can continue to brawl on social media isn't it.

Just to throw this out there as a discussion point. Many, many people are suggesting: Remote start, teaching done mostly from home, while we ramp up planning for in-person and hybrid. Then start to pull in the more "needy" groups, such as special needs kids, kids of needed educators, and kids of essential workers, for in-person/hybrid learning. And then ramp up from there, perhaps with a lottery system for people who want to go to in-person.

Good Evening,

My name is Nathan Thokkudubiyapu and I am D205 student, a Sophomore attending York Community High School. I have been an Elmhurst resident all of my life and a district 205 student for 12 years now starting with Madison Early Childhood Care to York right now. I have always been proud of this district as it has always made the right decisions to allow for us--the students to have a high quality education. I have been watching D205 board meetings for a few years now and and this is the first comment I am ever making because the decisions that was made tonight by the board must also include student input.

I have read all the comments from 08.06.2020 meeting and the tweets from the ETC twitter account. I have gone through the Open D205 plan numerous times and I am okay with it. I understand that several teachers are complaining about it which is completely understandable though the information they are requesting should be given to them. D205 has spent around if not over half a billion on matters to ensure our safety and you have told the community through very little compared to what has been discussed in the board meetings. I have listened through several board meetings and how you all discuss every little detail though it is not in the summary or board recap emails so I urge you to be more detailed in those emails and the superintendent emails to allow for our community to be more aware of the Open D205 plan. An example of this is how the head custodian spoke about what they will be doing at each school in one of the past board meetings so perhaps you could have him send out an email about what the custodians will be do. Parents + teachers wants to know about what you guys are doing so please provide as much details as possible. I feel that this will comfort them more.

Your job is to provide us a high quality education and we could not get that in the end of the Spring semester as a high school student. Nevertheless, I have seen the "Remote Learning Plan 2.0" by Dr. Grens + his team so I am hopeful that it will be better this Fall. I attend school for a high quality education and I am happy to see that D205 is planning better than to the best of there abilities to ensure that I receive one. I am also very pleased to see that the "Summer Professional Learning Plan 2020-21" by Mrs. Tammaru + her team has so many new opportunities for my peers and me so thank you. In this comment, I was actually planning on complaining about several issues that occurred in the Spring but I actually saw that it was all covered in the Remote Learning Plan 2.0--please move forward with it.

Superintendent Dr. Moyer, Mrs. Caforio, Dr. Harrel, Mrs. Stuefen, Mr. Collons, Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Trautmann, and Mr. Kocinski: Thank you for everything. I know that so many individuals have called you guys are an bad leadership team and have said horrific things about you guys to your faces but please know that you are an exceptional leadership team. You have made amazing decisions that we the students are thankful for. Unfortunately, I have also seen "Amended Calendar Recommendation for 2020-21 School Year" memo. I understand that several teachers have requested for leave which is disappointing to see that our own teacher don't wanna educate us but WE CANNOT DELAY THE START OF SCHOOL. Please understand that ending school in somewhat late June, canceling breaks + non-attendance days, and also other calendar events will cause several issues. I am sorry to say but if this decision is made(to delay the start of school), several students including myself will begin to question your leadership team. Many students don't actually know who any of you are but I am thankful for knowing who makes our district's decisions and I speak on behalf of all students regardless of even if they know who the heck board of education is but making the decision to delay the start of school will cause more individuals to be more disappointed. If you guys cannot get enough staff to employed or work, then consider doing full remote to open up school. I chose in person--hybrid school because it was the best option for me because I want educators to educate me but its sad to see people who call themselves educators that do not want to educate students and take a leave. Choosing to delay the start of school will cause MORE issues, breaking family traditions, e.t.c. I want to go back to school with the hybrid model and I hate the idea of remote learning because teachers aren't really teaching remote students, there just a resource that we as students can potentially use but most students do use teachers as a teacher but if D205 cannot support all the students, then let's do remote learning for all students for like a month or something. I would hate that though I hate delaying school to September 14th EVEN MORE.

I know that you all will make the right decisions and I will be watching you guys throughout the meeting listening to everything so please really make the right decision. All your decisions have BOE, parent, staff, district, admin, faculty. e.t.c input but these--this decision needs STUDENT input. I apologize if I ever seemed rude throughout any time of this response but I really did want to let you know what the students want. You are an exceptional group of leaders and we are lucky but please make the right decision tonight. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and instructional coaches and admin for everything that you all have done and I wish you all the best for this school year. Thank you so much and sorry Mrs. Trautmann for making your read all of this.

Sincerely,

Nathan Thokkudubiyapu
Sophomore Student
York High School

I voted for hybrid. I want my child in school but things have changed. We don't have enough teachers so start remote! The only logical answer is to start remote learning and make it the best that it can be. Please start school on time!!!!

Post poning the opening of school by 4 weeks is not an acceptable plan. There are many districts, schools, universities and communities that have come together to safely bring teachers and students back to school. What has been done to identify best practices to implement in Elmhurst district 205? How were the teachers engage in the solutions? What changes are being made within the classrooms to keep everyone safe? Has Elmhurst district 205 invested in any advanced technology to support remote learning?

After learning the K-5 schedule will be moving to hybrid with a likelihood to all remote, I am very concerned about the viability of extended remote learning for young kids. With this new remote schedule and guidelines, this leaves an enormously hefty burden on working parents with young children who now need to proctor and guide 5 hours of daily online learning while holding down their jobs? If we were truly trying to solve the problem of providing the best education for each age group, where is the creativity in the solutions this district has recommended?

Class sizes are a big concern that I totally understand for teachers, parents and kids alike. If older high school aged kids can be expected to remote learn more successfully than kids who don't yet know how to read or tell time, why not spread the K-5 kids into the high school building to make space for in-person learning with reduced class sizes?

If we are delaying the school year start until September 14th, a solution to make the best use of district buildings needs to be urgently considered. We should absolutely think critically about how to use existing space and resources to promote the most effective learning environments for K-5 and 6-HS. Additionally, the same type of consideration should be made for kids of all ages who have IEPs or special needs. Let's put them first here, too.

I am not an administrator or an educator and I understand this idea isn't something easy to pull off, and I admit that. I'm frustrated by the lack of true, creative problem solving shown during this process, but I am committed as a parent to push us all to do better. If this type of solution would take time or extra money to prepare our schools to serve this way, sign me up and I will lead the charge to rally parents, many of whom I'm sure would love to pitch in and help. This community needs to come together to ensure kids have better outcomes this year.

Dear Dr. Moyer and Members of the Board of Education:

The first time I attended a Board meeting was in January 2016. Public comment encompassed several concerns, yet one remark has always echoed with me throughout the years. It focused on how those concerns had been addressed. The speaker aptly stated that the district had set the stage for divisiveness. I respectfully ask you to hear those words today better than you seemingly did in 2016.

I realize I have publicly stated my reasons for withdrawing my children from this district--but I am now publicly appealing to you to ensure no parent ever feels compelled to make a similar decision. District 205 is filled with much good. I thank God for the amazing educators, staff, and principals who have worked with our family. I am likewise grateful for the parents who advocate for all children here because they grasp THAT is what distinguishes a community from people simply living alongside each other.

As a mother of six, I do not think finger-pointing productive. When I find Sharpie on the wall or Diet Coke on my keyboard, I am more concerned with an immediate remedy than a CSI analysis. But, when we encounter the same inherently destructive scenarios over and over, I realize I cannot simply keep dabbling at disasters. It is senseless to shame anyone for the joy of doing so; but to disregard the backstories that define accountability dictates repetition of mistakes. It sets the stage for divisiveness.

I ask that you consider the district's accountability when it comes to communication and respect for both parents and educators. Other districts are also home to teachers' unions, parents who sought a variety of learning plans this year, and remote plans that left everyone tapping their chins last spring. Other districts are also living with COVID19 but are collaborating effectively with staff and are making judgment calls with the resources they have available to them--even if it means going all remote.

"Times are tough" would be an insulting understatement. We are all stressed and seeking support. The indecision and inconsistent information from D205 are intensifying emotions and tearing apart friendships and working relationships. If stakeholders are turning to social media and local press, maybe now is the moment to finally do more than write those voices off as unprofessional. Instead ask yourselves when you finally began listening--and if you are at last truly hearing.

There is much good in District 205. Please preserve it by considering accountability. Otherwise, the divisiveness that has shaken our community will worsen and will leave little for this virus to attack.

Thanks for your time,

Katie Marsico

Please start the school year by Aug 24. The kids need routine and to get back to learning. E learning is better than no learning. Start remote if you have to and then transition to hybrid after sept 14th. Give the teachers whatever they need. Just get the kids back to learning. Even half day instruction with no lunch is better than nothing.

I cannot believe the school district is laying blame on the educators. Opening school as scheduled does not comply with CDC guidelines AT ALL. Reopening under the current plan will result in illness and death. To turn a blind eye to that fact is not only highly irresponsible but pathetic.

How is it that board is allowed to meet remotely, but lays blame on the teachers for wanting the same assurance?

How will you feel when your decision results in the death of an educator or an educators family member?

Teachers are not martyrs for elementary education.

Please put your differences - the school board and ETC - aside for the sake of our kids. We all want the same thing - to feel safe, and provide our kids with a good learning environment where they can thrive educationally and emotionally/socially.

We all have different home situations but the bottom line is the same - the kids need structure and school back in their lives. I am the last person who wanted remote learning; I have adamantly felt that the kids need to be in person in some capacity and support the desire to put a hybrid or fully in person plan in place (my kids are elementary), but it is clear that we are not there yet. Seeing the plans for school to be pushed back to Sept. 14th start date with still no guarantee that we can even staff the hybrid plan is just not acceptable. The possibility of remote learning has been far more of a probability than a possibility to happen at some point, and there should be plans ready to go if we'd had no choice but to go with this option. It's time for a decision so that everyone can plan and adjust their lives to accommodate it; we cannot continue to string this along. None of this is ideal for any of us, but allow us to help be a part of the solution, which should not be delaying the start of the school year by a full month. It is clear from Friday's letter that the pieces are not yet in place for a hybrid plan, so we need to start the kids on time with a remote plan and continue to work together to get the right set up to move to hybrid when we have the appropriate staffing and logistical needs worked out. With no guarantee that this will happen by September 14th, this is not an acceptable plan and we need to just make the call to start remote and begin getting plans in place to do so.

First and foremost, I request that the board and administration continue discussions with the Elmhurst Teachers Council in a respectful manner. The concerns that all stakeholder have expressed are real and need to be met with compassion and understanding to engage in an authentic commitment for collaboration.

Next, your "Decision Criteria" document that the district has created appears to be a down-line of blame with 5 out of the 6 criteria pointing to staff to relieve burden of poor planning by the district. It is your job to hear staff concerns, staff who are the experts in their classrooms, best teaching practices, and with their students, to relieve the burden they carry. If our staff does not feel that it is safe to return to in-person instruction, then it is not safe. Do not blame teachers for your inability to provide creative solutions and options for all stakeholders.

Lastly, your proposed start date of September 14th only postpones what we all want; our children to be in school. Because it is unsafe for ALL stakeholders to return to in-person learning, start the year remote. Let our children meet their teachers in a safe and welcoming environment. Let our children see their teachers faces and hear their voices. Help ease everyone's anxieties by starting remote. Provide time for teachers and children to prepare for in-person and remote learning. Allow teachers the option to work from home or from their classrooms so that they can choose what is best for their teaching, personal health, and childcare needs.

Instead of finger-pointing and shaming, it is time to publicly support the incredible staff you hired. Defend your teachers for wanting to keep their students, Elmhurst families, and themselves safe. Work in a spirit of unity and collaboration. Model empathy and understanding. Stand up and tell your community that you are willing to do what's right, even when the decision is not popular.

I am reaching out as a very concerned member of the community regarding the reckless and downright stupid choice of the Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 Leadership Team and Board of Education to move forward with in class learning this year or the possibility of a "hybrid" model. There is no safe way to open schools as Covid 19 continues to ravage our country and communities. You must realize the danger of group gatherings as you have continued to meet via Zoom/video calls throughout this pandemic. I guess you and your family are too important to risk catching this virus, right? Why would you even entertain the idea that it is safe for children (who are known to be super spreaders of the virus) be put back in classrooms that are already full? Rules and regulations are not going to keep kids from sharing and spreading this virus at school and bringing it home to their families. Are you willing to say the death of ANY child is worth opening schools? Are you willing to be the reason you bring death to your community? Because each death will be a direct result of your choices now.

This is not to mention the personal safety of your teaching staff. They have the right to work in a safe environment and it is cowardly and childish to blame them for the delay in school opening. They are not your scapegoat for your incompetence and lack of forethought. You and only you are the reason school reopening is delayed. You have had 5 months to figure this out. You have had 5 months to see the devastation this virus has caused across the globe and yet you have done nothing but pass the blame onto teachers who are rightly afraid for their lives to return to the classroom. Teachers are not the sacrificial lambs of society (or this district and board) and they are doing their best to support their students during this time. A dead teacher isn't going to be able to teach anyone and then you really would have staffing problems. Now is the time to re-evaluate how we can continue our children's education safely. Just because 85% of parents want their kids back in school doesn't mean you should do it. 85% of parents want a full time babysitter for their kids. What a stupid deciding factor in all of this. If your friend jumps off a cliff, will you do it to? You are the leaders so start acting like it. Use common sense and move forward with an online curriculum for the safety of our children, our teachers, and our community.

Dr. Moyer and Members of the Board of Education:

My wife is a Journalism major/English minor. She has always enjoyed talking more. I have degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Law. Between us and six kids, things are loud. We have had to learn to find bottom lines. That often comes in the form of facts, numbers, and data.

How data is presented matters. It makes people more or less willing to accept results. Or, as my wife reminded me, more or less willing to accept other people.

We have heard the district needs to hire staff because it currently lacks sufficient teachers to accommodate various aspects of a return plan.

*Are numbers insufficient because teachers are unwilling to work? (Or are they willing to work--but remotely?)

*How many applied to work remotely/have indicated they would be willing to work remotely, versus saying they simply couldn't work at all?

*How many applied for a remote position?

*How many did so with medical substantiation/documentation detailing a need to work remotely?

*Of those percentages, how many had their requests granted?

*How many were denied? Very generally, was there a formulary or methodology for determining a denial?

Lastly, and depending on the answers to the above, is there a point when the district would be inclined to A. work with the resources it has readily available (including teachers willing to operate remotely) to formulate a functional plan with functional and consistent beginning and end dates or B. concede it prefers to search for new staff even though it has teachers willing to make themselves available remotely?

It goes without saying that noting people are unwilling to work when they in fact are (and in a capacity being utilized increasingly across Illinois) is not an accurate presentation of data. And it does not build trust, which is what is needed.

Best,

Carl Marsico

With my experiences with Elmhurst School District 205 always having manipulated the data to meet their purpose but not telling the true narrative, the data from the survey being manipulated did not surprise me. What is surprising me at this time is the lack of prior planning and the original options to parents being remote or 5 days attendance for K-5. Were you banking on more parents going remote? Were you thinking social distancing would not be a concern for the community? I know the building my children attend was already bursting at the seams with my son's REACH group meeting in the same room as another group and there being 24 kids in that room along with 4 teacher stations so they had a very small space in the room. Having in person 5 days was fool hearty to begin with. So that didn't work. Now to set up the narrative that teachers are the problem is not working in your favor. Please give the board a real decision. Do not push the opening to 9/14. Allow all teachers to go remote while your administrative staff figures out this problem created by lack of foresight and planning. Bring a plan to the 8/25 board meeting allowing for an earlier opening to school with 100% remote and gradual entry that mirrors many of the districts in the area, including Naperville who Elmhurst compares themselves to.

It is not safe to have in person learning right now. It will be easier to start remote then move into in-person versus starting in-person and then have to readjust to remote learning. Which is what will happen. We have the resources to do remote learning. Let's start there.

On Monday, my daughter received her high school schedule, along with other York students. If the district were to decide to move forward with remote learning at the beginning of the year, would she retain the same schedule and teachers?

When will it be safe? Many around the country, teachers and communities alike are using the hashtag #OnlyWhenItsSafe in a declaration of when we can return to school.

I have the answer to this question. NEVER. The reason why is because it NEVER HAS BEEN. Teachers around the country have fearlessly, steadfastly, and passionately persevered through it all. I'm not just talking about snot and poor hand hygiene and vomiting kids and flu season - I am talking about teachers teaching in makeshift open air schools during tuberculosis pandemics and teachers clipping little notes to the shirts of students when someone had measles or chicken pox in the 70s and 80s. I am talking about freaking ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS.

Teachers - don't sell yourselves short. Every time you set foot in a classroom in every year since your first day of student teaching - you have been exposed and vulnerable. Any of a host of pathogens could be brought home on any given day. We have weathered horrible flu seasons and risked being exposed to and potentially bringing home to vulnerable family members not only influenza but MRSA, norovirus, and a host of vaccine preventable infections. All without masks. All without face shields. All without scrubs. All without virtual learning.

You ARE essential employees. You are the very fiber of what our communities NEED. You are our children's heroes. We NEED you. All of you. Not "when its safe."

I am an infectious disease specialist. I am the single mother of a Hawthorne first grader with no second parent and no family in the state of IL. I am my daughter's "only" person. I am also an adjunct clinical professor at Northwestern University heading back to the classroom with my students, indoors, next week. I believe that in-person education in at least some capacity is not only possible, but crucial. It CAN be done.

Was I scared walking into the hospital back in March, up against this enemy knowing I had committed my life to a field of infectious and communicable diseases and this one was like no other? YES. Was I scared sending my daughter into "emergency childcare" with 10-15 other kids. YES. Do I still undress in my garage when I get home from work and shower immediately every single day? YES. But months have passed - and the fear of the unknown has become the routine and respect for the known and for those of us who have been living and breathing on the front lines - we WILL all get through this TOGETHER.

These leaps of faith have to come at some point. If not now, then when? We know more now than we did in March. We know MASKS work. We have expanded access to testing and rapid contact tracing and isolation protocols. We know we need to stay home when we are sick. Never before have we taken so many precautions as we hypothesize in-person and hybrid instruction. Ironically we will likely be returning to some of the safest classrooms we have ever known.

Are these kids gonna stay seated at all times? Nope. Are they going to keep their masks on every minute of the day? Nope. But we need to do the best we can to help these kids ease back into the classroom where they have a chance to adapt to change and experience the commitment of their teachers to their education in a meaningful way. Adhering to the best practices *most* of the time will dramatically decrease the chance of transmission of this virus within the classrooms. We simply cannot "wait" for phase 5 or for a vaccine or for <1% circulating virus in our communities to return to in-person education. In all probability these thresholds are more than a year away. It's time for all hands on deck, every physical space within D205 up for a conversation regarding creative use, and a plan to get our kids back into the classrooms.

There are signs on the hospital lawns that read "heroes work here." Myself and every employee in every essential service walks in, masked up, heads held high, and directly into the fire. When I chose my career I did so knowing full well there would be risks. You all as teachers did the same. I will continue to work passionately, sleeplessly, and at the forefront of my field until we get to the other side of this nightmare. That is my promise.

Teachers - get your capes on and tell us what you need - please. These kids need you.

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Teachers - get your capes on and tell us what you need - please. These kids need you.

as a senior this year, I would love to have a normal in school experience. Sadly we are pass that option, and to keep any sense of normalcy I believe we have to go on with the planned school timing with remote learning. Starting in September and ending in June would throw off everyone's schedules, especially for the seniors. Our after high school plans could be ruined by this, our AP testing time frame will have to be rescheduled, seniors would have to reconsider their plans for college and other after high school possibilities. please consider your seniors and our time lines. Starting august 24 remotely and ending the end of may would be the best option.

Thank you for all your time and help during this challenging time. I saw the plans to do a later start and possibly lose spring break and end in late June. I selected hybrid but would prefer remote over the late start options. Could we start with remote and move to hybrid when ready? Could we shorten Xmas break over spring break. It's long winter. Please do your best and thank you for all you do.

I am fully in support of in –person learning. Everyone agrees that in-person learning is superior to remote learning. Classes that need the “hands-on” portion to learn (science labs, vocational classes, and driver's education) will really be a challenge. There are also a lot of unintended consequences in going remote – the arts suffer, athletes suffer (both in and out of season), and all extracurricular clubs suffer. I can't even imagine how elementary education will be taught.

School needs to start on August 24. Delaying until September 14 feels like last spring with high school graduation, which our family experienced firsthand. You are continuing to give false hope only to create more disappointment later.

By starting in August I recognize that there may be a need to start remote. The hurdles to start in-person seem to be too high to overcome at this time. If a remote start is decided as the best course of action how will it be determined when the schools are safe to start having teachers and kids go back? Is it number of positive cases? Is it positivity rate? Is it a vaccine? Is it more PPE? There needs to be a mutually agreed upon plan with metrics and benchmarks to get from remote to hybrid to full in-person learning. For example when “x” benchmark is reached then small groups can start coming in for science labs, behind the wheel driver's education, or industrial tech classes. When the next benchmark is met you add more kids to the mix and so on until you eventually get to hybrid and ultimately to full in-person learning. Without a roadmap with benchmarks we don't have a plan and we can't move forward without a plan.

I appreciate all that the board, teachers, and administrators do for this community. Nobody predicted we would ever be in this situation and I know everyone is looking at the best interests of the entire school community.

It is time to start working together to come up with the plan.

Thank you and good luck.

Thank you D205 for satisfying the needs of all Elmhurst families by providing both in-person and remote learning options. The D205 mission is “We make decisions based on what is best for students” Families have carefully made their decisions, twice now, based on what is in the best interest of our children. Please provide in-person school as planned.

The CDC, ISBE, and AAP all state that in-person learning is best for our children, even in the Covid environment, with proper precautions. In-person learning is ESSENTIAL, and 85% of Elmhurst families have chosen it. My 4 children (2 elementary, middle, and high school) need and want to return to school. E-learning simply does not work for any of them. We have painstakingly considered all the risks, and school is that important to our children.

To successfully reopen schools, we need 100% family commitment to CDC guidelines of: MASKS, DISTANCE, WASHING HANDS. It works. Families who choose to return must fully commit to this for student and teacher safety. One noteworthy point, however, is that 6 foot distance between desks is a goal, where possible, not mandatory when people are seated and masks are on. AAP says 3-6 feet is sufficient. Since we have a gap between families who want in-person education and teachers willing to return, please let's do one more survey for families and ask if any are willing to go remote – perhaps some will change their minds, especially if some kids are unwilling to distance or wear masks for 5-7 hours straight. Commit to teachers to provide them plexiglass barriers, any PPE they want and any other safety items. Switch the middle school model to teachers switching classes, not students. It's easy enough to group students by ability level, just for this year. Have lunch in classrooms, not gathered in cafeteria. There are several other solutions to make school work. Look to IC Catholic grade school for their plan- it's a good one.

Thank you to the superintendent for the option to start school in September with a hybrid schedule. I very much hope you are able to fill the positions. Our youngest children desperately need in-person education. Thank you.

It is time to stop the divisive behavior and communications.

It no longer matters what you think the data shows about community preferences and I say this because I chose a hybrid option for my kids for fear of them losing classes that they really wanted to take. I also chose hybrid knowing I would have an option to change to remote later. You skew choices/data when you tell parents if they choose remote then they are locked in and cannot change. This potentially creates an inaccurate representation of the communities feelings/ choices and then should be considered with caution and understanding of the inherent flaws in the data.

It is now time for the board and superintendent to exhibit leadership in a very difficult time. Leadership often means having to make the tough and sometimes unpopular calls for the health and safety of everyone. We need our kids back at school and if the only way to do that effectively is by starting remote then we need to do what many other local districts have done and make that same call.

The reality is that if you have a significant staffing gap now and can't open the schools with a hybrid/remote option by August 24 then you most likely will still be unable to open the schools by September. Typical time to fill for a teacher position is 45 days or more. That is 45 days under normal circumstances with the labor (teachers) available for recruitment. These are not normal times with teachers looking for jobs in schools.

If you have a clear staffing plan that includes typical time to fill for each open role in the district that allows time for recruitment, interviews, screening (reference and background checks), onboarding etc. then you should be able to see that three more weeks is not going to make a difference.

The teachers union is ready to get back starting remote and phasing in over time. This is what other districts have decided to do. If you wait until September to come to this reality then many of the teachers that would be available to start remote may not be available at all.

While this is an exceptionally challenging time for parents, it is important to note that the teachers who work with our children every day do not feel safe teaching in person. Education is an essential service, but it can be done remotely. The district must take the brave and bold step of making unpopular decisions based on those they serve and those who know the children best. Currently, district administrators are placing blame on teachers and waiting for the opportunity to turn that blame on the governor. This means that teachers will have less time to prepare for remote learning and children will be waiting longer for the school connection that we all so desperately want. Please do not vilify the people that we entrust with our children on a daily basis. Please listen to teachers and trust them in making the decision that will be safest for everyone.

I feel strongly District should only hold distance learning classes this fall. The risk to students, teachers and their families is just too great. None of the schools that have opened in other parts of the country appear to have opened successfully.

I cannot believe the school district is laying blame on the educators. Opening school as scheduled does not comply with CDC guidelines AT ALL. Reopening under the current plan will result in illness and death. To turn a blind eye to that fact is not only highly irresponsible but pathetic.

How is it that board is allowed to meet remotely, but lays blame on the teachers for wanting the same assurance?

How will you feel when your decision results in the death of an educator or an educator's family member?

Teachers are not martyrs for elementary education.

My name is Dan DeCristofaro and I want to start off by saying that my family and I support our students, our teachers, our staff, and our fellow parents in trying to get through this. My wife Bernice and I have been with this school system since preschool for all 3 of our kids. Starting with Madison where the teachers nicknamed our son "The mayor of Madison", to an early education Kindergarten class at Field, to Emerson, Churchville, and now York. When the kids were younger my wife volunteered every week at Madison or Emerson. She helped with, and then co-chaired the Emerson Running club. She still sees kids to this day that remember her as "Mrs. D". When we see teachers in our community they all ask how is Rosie or how is Nick or how is Danny doing? We met so many friends over the years via sports or in the Emerson parent drop-off line we still know and see today. We used to joke that Bernice recruited more kids to York's Jr Duke Wrestling team than I did and I was one of the coaches.

Last week I posted online that our family felt that the mental health aspects of this pandemic warranted a level of parent choice for hybrid in-person learning. Yes with Masks and yes with social distancing and yes fully knowing that it will never be what it was before this virus. We've seen first-hand what this isolation is doing to our kids and I know they are not alone. The country, in my opinion, is only starting to see the long term effects of this isolation on our population. No parent should ever have to make this choice yet here we are. Like any Facebook post it had a lot of mixed reviews. I never thought it would have been picked up and reported on in the Elmhurst Patch, but so many community members were weighing in with a polite exchange that it caught the reporters attention. It was great to see. What I personally learned from everyone was that our teachers need help. I followed up and posted again the spot online where we as parents can sign up to volunteer, with my wife and I signing up. Things like lunch supervision, pickup lines, library duty, security, sports assistance, or any other type of task that myself not being an educator may be able to help with until we can get through this and afford our educators some time to get a lunch break or to have more time for lesson planning. I spoke with several parents who did sign up and my only ask is if we can please work to get more. Even a little bit every week will add up greatly.

At the end of the day who knows how this will all end up. It may be inevitable that we have hybrid learning for the next year while we wait for a vaccine. It may prove that the hospitals are overwhelmed again and our society may grind to a halt once more.....Let's hope not. There is no guarantee a vaccine will work and there is no guarantee that all of a sudden this virus will go away once we do release the vaccine. Members of the medical community have had mixed reviews on how effective it may be and when it may be ready. Where does that leave us? I just know that it feels like the powers that be in our school system are so far apart in their negotiations that the only ones stuck in the middle here are us parents and our kids. E learning in the spring is what all of us parents are remembering as the basis for our opinion. Can you blame us for not wanting a repeat of that? We know that the most vulnerable kids among us are the ones who will be left even farther behind by e learning no matter how well it improves. Even the best E learning will never be a full time substitute to in-person learning for our kids. Again where does this leave us? There are many in the community that view education as an essential service for our kids and at the same time we have staff members, students, and student families that have legitimate health concerns that justify not taking any additional risks and learning from home. The question is what is our risk tolerance and how do we balance this? Again....where does that leave us?

I personally will not sit back and let the fear from this virus defeat us to the point that we can't even try to make a hybrid model work. I say NO WAY! I say let's do what we can to come together and see if we can make this work. We know that there are teachers and staff in the group that would teach in person just like we know there are teachers and staff in the group that would do very well leading the effort for remote learning. Let's lead by example, together, as one team. Let's develop the best online classroom experience possible. Let's develop a network of teachers, staff, student-teachers, and volunteers that can, as best possible, mitigate the risks in a hybrid model. Let's work together to try and maintain our sports teams with sufficient staff and volunteers so we can give our kids something to look forward to that isn't a video game. Nothing would make me happier than seeing the York Cross Country team flooded with students wanting to try a new sport. My wife and I both stand to be part of this team and I would ask every parent in the community to see if you can spare a couple hours. Something, anything to help our kids and to show the community and the country that we can do this.

Please start remote learning on Aug 24th and continue to figure out in-person learning. Once details are ironed out, create an in-person hybrid start date. The children need to be learning.

Not interested in delaying the start of school to accommodate hybrid learning. Would prefer starting on time with e-learning in place.

Dear Dr. Moyer and Members of the Board Of Education,

I'm writing as a parent of three (attending Sandburg and Field schools) and as a fellow educator in an adjacent town. Watching this summer unfold, we have become disappointed in, and frankly embarrassed by the school system.

As a teacher myself, I have worked all summer long as part of my district's Leadership Team, alongside our Remote Learning Team to develop a detailed, safe plan for our district for both in person and remote options.

My hope is that our own children can attend a district in which the adults can work in a collaborative and respectful manner with a one shared goal to give our students the best education that we can under the circumstances.

Please be leaders in a time that requires leadership, and work respectfully with your staff to do what's best for our children and community in order to start our school year on time.

Respectfully,
Anna Morgan

By prolonging the school start is not a solution. Students should start on time with e-learning while the district is sorting out the details in regards of staffing and safety. E-learning is the solution while planning for in-classroom learning.

I think that the best option in going back to school is working our hardest to get kids back into the classroom at least 2 times a week but for the time being, pushing back school should not be in the list of options. There are other options.

This is no doubt a challenging time for so many people, and everyone is struggling to make decisions that fit their family. While my family has opted for in-person learning at this time, if the board of education doesn't feel the same way, we will support their decision.

I signed up my kids for hybrid back in July when it was due. If I knew the teachers weren't 100% comfortable with the plan I would not have done that. I was hoping we would get more details from the board. For example, are we putting kids in small groups to limit interaction with large numbers of kids, plans for covid testing and details on how lunch would work and specifics as to how we would handle that. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE - continue with the plan to get our kids back in school. It is so important that these kids get back in the classroom!

I am a parent of a Kindergartener and 3rd Grader at Conrad Fischer. Please listen to the teachers. If they are not ready to come back in the classroom based on the plan you have created, show them the respect they deserve.

I currently have an incoming sophomore student at York and an incoming 4th grader at Fischer. I am writing today to urge you to start the school year REMOTE for ALL Kids on August 24th 2020 and REJECT the proposal for in-person learning.

We would like to thank the Board for their efforts in continuing to push to return students to the classrooms this fall, which is in line with expert opinions on what is best for the students as well as what the parent community wants.

I understand, a large percentage have responded to wanting in person learning. This percentage is not accurate as it includes people that are planning on elearning, but selected in person as they did not want to be in person.

Good evening, I know this hasn't been an easy process but the blaming of the teachers needs to stop. The open 205 plan lacked details and did not give assurances of safety for the students or the teachers. Instead of

How much longer is the community of Elmhurst and the school board going to support the lack of creativity, foresight, planning and most importantly leadership brought by the superintendent Dr. Moyer? Plan for school. We are in strong support of the "in person" academic model this year despite the inherent risks. The benefits of attending in person greatly outweigh the risks for both of my children. Overall the positive social and mental health benefits of attending in person far outweigh the risks. As a parent of two students in the District 205, one in Bryan Middle School and one in York High School, I strongly oppose the District's proposal to start the school on September 14.

First, as clearly stated in the proposal, the postponement does not guarantee that the District will be able to offer the hybrid model on September 14. The District is asking the parents and the students to sit idle for the second week of school. Second, by starting the school on September 14, the District is guaranteeing significant disruption to the lives of District 205 families through summer of 2021. I will be willing to entertain the pros and cons of this proposal. Finally, the District's proposal lacks alternate plans. It does not offer any concrete plans regarding what is possible as of August 24, the current start day of the school, or on September 14 in the event that they cannot start on September 14. As a mother of a student with IEP, in person learning is important to our family. However, given the rising number of cases and uncertainty of the current situation, there is a real possibility that the state could order the school to be remote. If we push back our start date to mid-September, what does the schedule for the school year look like? I fear (and have heard) that spring/holiday breaks may be truncated, or even eliminated, and I wanted to voice my concerns. If we push back our start date to mid-September, what does the schedule for the school year look like? I fear (and have heard) that spring/holiday breaks may be truncated, or even eliminated, and I wanted to voice my concerns. I am strongly opposed to the 3 options being proposed by the Superintendent to push the start of the school year by several weeks. It is time to make a decision and move forward - kicking the can down the road in hopes of a better remote experience than what we had in the fall. Focus on providing some level of in-person or additional scaffolding for kids on IEP's or 504's. Stop wasting time, energy, and money. Let's all come together and get rowing in the same direction, our kids need us to.

Dear Board Members:

I continue to be dismayed and disturbed by the tone toward our teachers in communications from the District 205 Administration. While I understand that decisions are difficult during this time and appreciate the efforts of the Administrators, they are paid (very well) to lead and to set visions and courses of action — not to whine and blame faculty and staff who are rightfully concerned about procedure, pedagogy, health, and unanswered questions. Unlike other schools and districts who have set forth courses of action that — while imperfect — inspire confidence, communication from District 205 has fostered greater anxiety, confusion, and led to a lack of trust, and it's time to stop accusing teachers and get to the business of finding the best way to educate our children. Teachers are willing to do this. Please stop pretending that they are the problem. For the sake of the health and our community, find a solution that makes sense in this time and place. Local leading experts are calling for schools to go remote until they can reopen safely. Let's do this. No more games. Peace -- Caryn Rivadeneira

I urge the District 205 administration team and Board of Education to work with the ETC in order to start the school year as quickly as possible. Delaying until September 14th is not an acceptable option. There are no good options. Is it possible to bring in professional mediators to bridge the gap between the BOE and the ETC? I would also urge you to bring healthcare professionals to the table. If the district's planning committee is acting in accordance with the health guidelines, is it possible to shift the elementary hybrid model to 5 half days? This eliminates the need to supervise students eating lunch at school. This also creates more routine and stability for the students, and less time spent in the classroom. Thank you for your time and efforts.

As a parent in this district and a central office administrator in another, the difference in how districts and teachers can work together, striving for a common goal, is striking. The district in which I am employed faces the same challenges. Dear D205 Board of Education and Administration,

The constant changing of plans and the public disrespect of the teachers has made it difficult to trust that the administration truly has the best interest of its students and staff in mind. The community is fed up. We've never been here before. Thank you, Sarah Galarza

As a working mother (part of a dual-income family) I am terrified of being responsible for remote learning either 3 or 5 days a week for my three elementary-aged children. While my 5th grader is fairly independent, I am not. Remote learning for my two younger children will require me to be almost constantly available for them during the remote learning school day. It will be impossible for me to also do my job. My husband and I have had to make difficult choices. And, of course, there are plenty of families in Elmhurst who have the resources to hire a nanny or a tutor, but there are many who do not. School should work for EVERYONE, not just those with resources to outsource. My hope is that, to ease the anxiety of our students, families, teachers & staff - our community- we commit to beginning school remotely and on time. If we do not have our health, we have nothing.

I sympathize with the administration, teachers, parents and students in this awful situation. The decisions are tough and can't make everyone happy. However, I beg of you not to delay the start of the school year. Our children's health and safety is our top priority. XC as a cut sport will have a negative impact on many students. XC is different than other sports, it reaches a wider group of students. Being part of this Team supports growth and development in ways that a classroom cannot. I think that we should be able to go back to school for a few days a week because in person learning has been more helpful for me and multiple other people. And from my personal experience, e-learning doesn't help.

Please open the school on August 24th. If you are not ready for hybrid by then, or it's not possible due to COVID conditions, you should open remotely on 8/24

Whether or not school starts remote or is pushed back to 9/14 for hybrid, the students will still be home during that extension, so we strongly believe learning should begin on 8/24. There is a high likelihood that Dist. 2 Rather than push back the start date, let's at least begin remotely. When there is a safe in-person/hybrid plan in place, those that wish to switch can do so at that time; but at the least the school year will start on time.

Opening remotely on schedule (8/24) is by far the best way to buy time to come up with a workable hybrid plan should conditions allow. It will also likely avert a teacher's strike...

The number of unanswered questions that D205 is providing to families, teachers and staff is alarming. This is my first year with a student in D205, and I am grateful for the option for remote schooling. We all want sch

Dear Board Members,

I am a parent of two current 205 students. My children would not be who they are today without the hard work of the teachers and staff of this community.

As a parent and as a community member, I would like to encourage the Board to reconsider its current reopening plan. The plan is not best practice, and it fails to center the most at risk members of our school commu

The City of Minneapolis has adopted an inclusive plan that includes remote learning for all but in person availability for at risk students. This plan is equitable and allows for social distance within the buildings as there a

I have attached a copy of the plan to my email dated August 4.

Additionally, the science is ever evolving on the spread of COVID. The latest information reflects that young children spread COVID very efficiently, making in person learning for whoever wants it a dangerous proposit

I once again encourage you to rethink the current 205 reopening plan by learning from the work of other districts who are implementing best practices and by incorporating the latest scientific findings to keep our comm

Very truly yours,
Angelina R. Russo

I understand the teachers & students all need to have a safe environment to teach & learn. If the students are all "remote" from home- It would be best for the teachers to teach from their classrooms. Without student

CNN reports that "97,000 children tested positive for Covid-19 in 2 weeks as more schools plan to reopen." The reason we haven't seen these terrifying statistics until now is that schools closed in mid-March when cor

Although the prevalent rumor is that children are not affected by COVID-19, NPR reports that a new CDC analysis of children hospitalized for the coronavirus found that 1 in 3 were admitted to the ICU, just like adults.

Now that parents have more information (ie there are no teachers for hybrid) can we either 1) collectively switch to remote start and start training teachers for this now or 2) send a final survey to parents with everyone'

With my children in Reach and AP courses, I'm not willing to sacrifice their courses by just choosing remote over hybrid. But you may see MANY parents would have chosen remote if they'd known hybrid would be suc

It does not appear hybrid is feasible. Let's move on.

As the Grandma of 2 grandkids who have attended Elmhurst schools since kindergarten I must admit to being a bit shocked that consideration is still being given to in person attendance in the classroom. The situation

Hi,

I'm a parent of two Lincoln students and understand the complexity of the issues at hand with opening the schools safely. However, given the situation, it would be best to start the school year on-time even if it is virtua

Thank you.
Reena

Kids need to attend school in person, better physically and emotionally, it's been too long with no in person school attendance, you have got to be kidding me if you think you want to delay school by a month and e lear
D205 BOE and Administration,

I support starting school 100% remotely and bringing teachers asked students with the greatest need back gradually as conditions in the community and school buildings improve.

Health and safety need to be the first priority as our community navigates the changing realities of COVID and the latest research from experts to ensure teachers and students can learn in a safe environment.

Thank you.

We have 3 children at Emerson elementary, and we strongly support, at minimum, a hybrid model that allows multiple days of full-time school attendance during the school week. All three of our children have IEPs, and 1
In addition (as I am sure has been stated by many others), remote learning for the fall is not feasible for our two-working-parent household. If we had to provide childcare as well as assist our children in learning to cover
A hybrid model with 2-4 days full-time attendance is more feasible than any other scenario we've seen proposed. Even 2 days full-time (vs 2-4 days part time) is preferable, as it allows caregivers to switch out between th

I am saddened that Elmhurst school district is so divided. No matter what platform the district decides to turn to, the curriculum must be purposeful, rigorous, and aligned with the CCSS. Teachers must work with students

I strongly support in-person learning or a hybrid model. I have 3 children in elementary school, and they are really missing the structure and engagement provided by school. They all have IEPs and, as acknowledged

I am a local physician and incoming parent to twin kindergarteners. I, along with others in the community, have been frustrated with the lack of transparency provided by the district and teachers council. As a physician

If we move to a hybrid option, who will be teaching the children the two/three days he/she is not in school? Will he/she be watching pre-recorded teachings? Or will he have a teacher?

Additionally, if the children are not able to move around as much, go to gym, etc, has there been a consideration to shorten the school day? I imagine it will be tough for kids to stay in the same class more than usual, etc

This situation required EARLY strong decisive leadership, clear open communication and collaboration with ALL parties involved. The public has not seen this and it's causing unnecessary and unwelcome anxiety in the

While many of us would love our children to be in school, it obviously is not going to work in D205. Please start the school year with remote learning using the D205 teachers and not substitutes. Require the teachers to
Thank You

The only option that should be considered for calendar is the one that allows for our high school students to adequately prepare for AP exams. To put York students at a disadvantage because of Leadership's poor plan

I am very discouraged to hear the board would rather delay the first day of school by 3 weeks than begin the school year remotely while continuing to work towards a safe plan to open our schools. Based on community

Congratulations on bringing the community together. Now both the in-school and remote learning proponents agree on one thing - school should begin as scheduled on August 24th; which was already a delayed start

I'm supportive of in-person learning, but I also think our kids are ready and need to get back to school sooner than Sept 14. I would prefer we start remote and phase into in-person learning as we are able to solve the

We need to think creatively to get kids ready for remote learning: small meet-and-greets with teachers (outdoors); walk-throughs of tools/technology for kids and parents; sample schedules, etc. Also, letting us know what

As parents, we want to help this be successful.

It is unacceptable for a district with our resources to continue push back the start of school, regardless of what form that learning takes. Rather than push back the first day of school - again - the District needs to seriously

I strongly believe that the schools should be closed. I actually think it is a matter of time until this happens. How do schools plan to handle the scenario where a student has been diagnosed with covid, and has already

Okay, so let's say soup is defined as a liquid dish that contains pieces of solid food from which it extracts its flavor. You can agree with me on that statement right? Okay, now let's say that hypothetically speaking, I want

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