

Please enter your comment

With regards to any current or future hybrid model, preference for 5 days a week, full time schooling, to the greatest extent possible, should go to K and First Graders. I believe K and 1st grade parents would pay additional fees to secure the necessary building and staffing requirements to run this model- whether it be renting a classroom in an unused part of the Elmhurst Park District or even hiring additional Teacher's Assistants. Online learning for children who are unable to read instructions and also feedback from teachers is not feasible.

Hello D205 Board Members and Administrators,
My name is Elise Fulara and I am the parent of a 5th grader at Lincoln and a freshman at York.

I wanted to write in to briefly to share my gratefulness for the COVID-19 Dashboard that the District has published and is maintaining on its website. I believe this is an excellent step towards the goal of transparency and I personally find it very helpful even though my children are fully remote for the time being. I know it is something we will be referring to in the future in helping us to make a decision about when/if our children will be making a transition back to any form of hybrid or in-person learning this year. Although our children are remote, their teachers are impacted by any quarantines and positive cases in the schools and this in turn, affects our children's learning experience.

My family had an experience with a thankfully very mild positive diagnosis of COVID-19 this past July, and when the kids and I had to quarantine for 4 days longer than my husband needed to isolate, I immediately was able to foresee the complex challenges COVID-19 would place on staffing within a large school system. In a district like D205 where intra-district households are commonplace and when the course of individual's illnesses may be much more protracted than what my husband experienced, it is a shame that many members of the Board of Education expressed as late as August resistance to considering the realities of how these circumstances will impact staffing, instead pushing for in-person learning when the resources obviously weren't available. It is also truly a shortcoming that the Open D205 plan seemed to fail to fully take these public health complexities under account.

I have been a regular viewer of the BOE meetings since 7/14/2020, and I would also like to thank and recognize Dr. Kevin Rubenstein. I'm sure public health was not the field into which he expected he would need to take a crash course, but I have appreciated hearing his voice of reason at BOE meetings. He does come across as having done his homework and I appreciate that he seems to be strongly relying on data and public health input to guide decision making and planning.

And lastly, I want to share for the record, that my children are doing very well with the remote option and that I really credit their teachers with having pivoted and adapted their classrooms and curriculum so quickly online. It truly speaks to what professionals they are. I hope that the BOE always remembers that people – and not anything else – ultimately, are what matter and make this district strong.

Thank you for your time and be healthy,
Elise Fulara
Elmhurst, IL

Good evening,

Tonight, I would like to discuss the District's Standards-Based Grading policy. Being a teacher in another district, I have been through three years of Standards-Based Grading professional development. My district was hoping to move towards SBG for all grades this school year, but unfortunately the pandemic has us pushing this back until next year.

I love Standards Based Grading. I think it is an awesome way of keeping parents informed of exactly where their child stands in regards to a standard. It tells them exactly what has been mastered, and which areas that they need more work in. As we all are well aware, even the typical "straight A" student, still had areas of strengths and areas that needed more development.

Imagine my surprise then when I received an e-mail from my son's school stating that next to the Standards-Based Grade, there would also be a traditional letter grade. In Standards-Based Grading districts, this should not happen.

Standards-Based Grades of 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 DO NOT EQUATE to the traditional "A, B, C" letter grades. They are two completely different grading policies and systems. Any professional development on SBG will tell you that there is no correlation.

My question then is, why is the district doing this? Parents who have 6th graders are already used to this way of grading, since it has been in place in elementary schools for a few years.

Please re-think your current policy of displaying both a Standards-Based and Traditional letter grade. This is not going to help anyone in the long run.

I want to take a quick minute to voice my concerns with the current learning environment with the Primary Education students and teachers. As a parent of a 1st and 3rd grader, doing hybrid 2x a week, I have the following concerns:

1. the children are spending close to 4 plus hours a day in a chair in front of a screen with no in person interaction with students or teachers. When they are in school, they are still glued to their screens.
2. My 3rd grader eats a snack at 10am with a 30 minute break, and then is expected to stay focused until school is dismissed at 1:15. I know this is hard for him and I am sure others. It is easy to tell them to just deal, but I am pretty sure that this will not suffice for the long haul.

The Other concern I have is for our teachers. They are doing an amazing job as well as the administrators, But we are only in our 2nd full month and they look exhausted. They only let the children see the positivity of the situation and their classroom, but as a parent we can see they are exhausted and defeated. These teachers are having to teach a class not only on zoom, but in person as well. How long can we ask them to stay up late updating the 25 plus seesaw posts, responding to countless emails from parents, and the constant reminders to keep kids focused, engaged, and quiet during the zoom classes. As a spectator, it would be enough for me to want to quit a job I love. I have always believed that one should not complain unless they are offering some solutions. I propose the following:

1. Let's send out a anonymous survey to the teachers via their principal with a few questions as well as the comment section to understand where they mentally are in this process as well as gage their daily workload. These are the essential workers that we need to take care of. I take care of them, then our childrens 's education will really be in jeopardy. I just believe that they should have a voice.
2. Let's send out a quick survey to the parents to see where everyone is at after these two months. Let's try to include some unbiased questions and get some real answers that may or may not fit the narrative of some people.
3. Depending on those results, it may be time for us to look at sending our kids five days a week back to school from 8:15 to 1:15. The remote teachers can still teach the remote, and the children that want to attend school will be in school. I believe that the solution will help take work off of the teachers, lessen the screen time for the children, and provide the in person social contact that these children need outside of their iPads or chrome books. Please note that I understand everyone has the children's best interest at heart, and everyone is doing the best they can during this time of uncertainty. All I ask is that we continue to be flexible and make changes when needed when the system is not working anymore.

Good evening BOE, Dr. Moyer, and d205 cabinet,

I am sophomore at York and have been listening to the BOE meetings for a few years now--I truly commend the work all of you have done and offer the utmost of gratitude. You have handled the COVID-19 situation tremendously well and I thank you for that. This past weekend, York High School students experiences what I call "Fall Break." Thursday was Parent Teacher Conferences, Friday an Institute Day, Saturday and Sunday a weekend and Monday was a holiday. I ask that the district continue this format and set up of days providing this "break" to students as it really was refreshing to spend time with family and get away from school work. It also provided a great time for many of my peers to catch up on all their missing work. I ask that you continue this break in the coming years. I know scheduling conflicts always arise but this break really helped everyone during these times. Please consider my proposal and enjoy the rest of your evenings. Thank you!

Dear Board Members,

I urge you to re-evaluate the current hybrid model for primary elementary students. I believe that I speak for many parents and primary teachers when I say that this is not a sustainable plan for K-2. The community has not been solicited for feedback since June. We are ready to be heard in order to make learning better for our students and teachers. Please consider sending K-2 to school 5 days per week (A/B, morning/afternoon). These young learners need their core curriculum taught in-person with their teachers' attention on the classroom, not split on Zoom. Then, the students can spend the other half of their day at home doing other learning activities such as specials, independent reading/writing/math assignments. Five hours a day on a computer is unacceptable for young children. Please reach out to your community and teachers so we can work together to increase the quality of learning. Thank you for everything.