

Timestamp	Please enter your comment
10/24/2020 15:10:28	<p>I would first like to begin by thanking you for all that you are doing. I cannot imagine the weight of all the decisions you are being faced with during these unprecedented times. While I believe in-school transmission of covid-19 is very low, I trust that your decisions are being made for the safety of all students and staff of District 205.</p> <p>I am writing to ask you for your help in understanding the rationale of some recent academic decisions at the Elementary level, specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)The recent announcement on October 23rd to reassign the 30-minute science and social studies block as additional reading or math time and to not report on science or social studies achievement on the standards-based report card. 2)The decision on September 30th to suspend elementary Spanish instruction due to a shortage of staff and the need to repurpose Spanish teachers to be itinerant classroom teachers. <p>What were the factors that you considered when making the decisions to cut these courses and not others like PE, art, music and/or library? I love AND value ALL subjects and believe they each have their own merit, but these are not normal times and information as to why these programs were cut over others is important to all of us.</p> <p>As you are aware, research shows that learning a second language is easier to learn in children under 10 years of age and is proven to boost problem-solving, critical-thinking, and listening skills, in addition to improving memory, concentration, and the ability to multitask. You have demonstrated the importance of this with the dual-language program at Conrad Fisher yet, you have now deemed Spanish expendable for the rest of elementary schools.</p> <p>As you all know, we have fallen behind other industrialized countries in terms of STEM-related fields and consequently, D205 has placed great emphasis on its importance. Not only does a STEM-focused education open students to new subjects, it promotes innovative thinking, room to explore, experiment and solve problems. Yet we are now cutting back in this area as well.</p> <p>I am asking you to reconsider the outright "cancellation" of these subjects. If we should remain in a remote environment, will you reconsider the hours of the school day schedule past 1:15pm? Doing so would allow for more literacy and math for ALL as well as instruction for critical subjects like language, science and social studies. We say we want a future-focused community of learners in District 205 yet cutting these critical courses seems to fly in the face of this mission.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sarah Jensen</p>
10/25/2020 10:10:23	<p>Hello Board of Education, our third grade daughter suffers with ADHD and has been receiving IEP services. She did so well during hybrid. However currently in remote learning she is physically unable to focus and engage with a screen. In fact she complains that her eyes and head hurt. She has a cloudy look in her eyes after all day of zooming, aka screen fatigue. Our daughter is not learning and the IEP minutes are not sufficient when provided via zoom. This is entirely tragic for her and our family. It is obvious that this is becoming an issue of ACCESS to education, especially for children with disabilities and IEPs. I have emailed the board but have not received any feedback at all. Are you listening to our community? What does the Board think of our daughter's predicament?</p> <p>I implore you in behalf of our children with disabilities to return back to in person learning, at least hybrid.</p>
10/25/2020 10:12:01	<p>Our kids need to be in the classroom. Their education is absolutely essential, and remote learning pales in comparison to in person learning. We are doing an injustice to our children here in Elmhurst.</p> <p>The spread is minimal in classrooms, as shown in numerous studies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released guidelines emphasizing that students get back to the classroom for the sake of their own emotional well-being. And the governor has left the decision up to the districts, so why are you not heeding what the majority of the community is asking for? If someone doesn't feel that it's safe to send their child, they should keep them home. But the rest of the children deserve to see their teachers and friends in person and have the full school experience!</p> <p>If people are allowed to sweat gyms and get their nails and hair done in close proximity to others, why on earth would we not make in-person schooling a priority??</p>
10/25/2020 10:26:34	<p>I'm advocating for my children to be back in the classroom</p> <p>They are not acclimating to remote learning and are both suffering academically, socially, physically and emotionally</p> <p>The harm being caused outweighs the risks</p>
10/25/2020 10:38:33	<p>I have a special needs little girl that is non-verbal, non- mobile and has significant developmental delays. Her one outlet is school. She absolutely thrives at school with her peers and teachers. She does not learn anything on an iPad. Her teachers are amazing and are doing everything they can online, but she is getting nothing out of it. My first grader is significantly behind in reading and writing and he is also struggling from learning on an iPad. From the few weeks he was in school, I saw many gains! I also have a 4th grader.... she is doing fine on a computer, but told me the other day she is lonely. Please let us as parents decide what is best for our children!! They deserve to be in school!</p>
10/25/2020 10:59:50	<p>A group of important people in my daughter's life are her Doctors. I took selecting that group seriously. In doing so I put my full trust in their hands. Before the school year began my daughter had her physical and her Doctor looked directly at my daughter and said "Go to school...wear your mask...wash your hands...don't touch your face - it's as simple as that!" From there I let my Freshman decide what she wanted to do. She 100% selected in-person. And, I 100% support her. Her Doctor also knows we have my senior citizen mother in my home. She didn't change her answer whatsoever. And, my Mom 100% supports my Freshman too. This community and leaders need to work towards more in-person days, certainly not less. To do our part, we are following our Doctors orders when we are out in the community too. Finally, thank you to all the school staff that I know are working tirelessly. Be safe. Be kind. Be a community.</p>
10/25/2020 11:49:01	<p>Kids need to be back in school in person.</p>

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10/25/2020 11:58:33	<p>We believe our kids have a right to an in person education. This is another lockdown of our schools and we need to talk more about the negative effects of remote learning. Our educators are essential and we need to get back to school and stop living in fear. Protect the vulnerable but the rest of us need to get back to school. One could argue it will never be completely safe. It never has been and never will be completely safe. This drive for complete and total safety is causing far greater damage to our kids and no one is talking about it. We are living through these negative effects and it is not right. Our teachers see it.....they know how bad this is for our kids. We should be able to hear about these negative effects from our teachers but they have been silenced. Privately I know some of them disagree with this and want to go back now without any preconditions but are unable to speak publicly. They know how damaging this is to the kids they care about so much about. Some say we will be locked down until the next school year. Some say March. This is not right.</p>
10/25/2020 12:07:36	<p>Hello my name is Nick DeCristofaro I'm an 8th grade student at Churchville middle school during this COVID pandemic there has been a lot of problems but full remote learning is another very big one. My belief is that I have a right to in person learn. And because of remote learning some of my grades in my classes have been suffering our teacher are living in fear and won't go to school and we have to suffer from that. And remote learning makes things a lot harder to learn. The only way we are going to change things is if we speak up and speak our opinion</p>
10/25/2020 12:26:11	<p>I'm disturbed and disappointed by 205's decision to eliminate the elementary school blocks dedicated to social studies and science. It's short sighted and points to the gap between administration and kids in the classroom. What is reading comprehension, information integration, and expressive writing? It doesn't exist in a bubble, and the use of it with focus on science and social studies topics further expands the mind. Why are we denying this to the generation of young thinkers in public schools? Your focus on test outcomes points towards your own concerns without consideration for the kids' future. D205 is failing our kids.</p>
10/25/2020 12:30:50	<p>I think what the elementary school teachers have been asked to do in the hybrid setting is an incredible ask, particularly those in the lower grades. I have to imagine it's challenging to get a group of 25 students to pay attention when they are all in the same room - I don't know how a single teacher can be expected to handle kids in person and online in an effective or productive way. Other districts (Glen Ellyn, for instance) have tried more creative scheduling solutions to avoid this challenge. I urge the district to think creatively as covid will be here the entire school year. To the teachers muddling through this, thank you.</p> <p>I'm also deeply disappointed in the decision to drop STEM and social studies. These are important subjects and, candidly, my daughter's favorite part of the remote day. Math and reading are critically important but we need to find creative ways to address deficiencies in the remote curriculum if that's what's triggering this change rather than taking away instruction that is also important.</p> <p>I don't envy anyone trying to make decisions in this time, but I think we can do better. Other districts are.</p>
10/25/2020 13:04:30	<p>Good evening & thank you for taking the time to read this email (as I'm sure you have been flooded with many more recently!)</p> <p>I'm writing tonight about the decision to take all our schools in D205 to remote learning once again. This is frustrating when our town seems to be running as "normal"- people are going in and out of the gyms, stores, restaurants and bars, and carrying on with their personal lives- but our children can't have in-person education a couple days a week?</p> <p>I have a 1st grader and a child at Madison Early Childhood Center. This isn't about our teachers, who have been doing an amazing job teaching in these crazy circumstances. My kids love school- that hasn't changed (yet) this year- but I do fear it is coming. They are not able to continue staring at a computer screen for 5+ hours a day/ 5 days a week (no matter how wonderful that teacher's content may be). My children (like all of our children) need to be face to face with their peers and their teachers. They need reassurance, guidance, and to feel seen! My first grader has picked up on remote learning fairly quickly- though we have been having a few emotional break downs at the end of long, strenuous days. I try to keep her involved in some activities throughout the town where she can still somewhat socialize safely- in masks.</p> <p>My preschool son is the one that I feel will be the hardest hit. His final year before Kindergarten- and he is missing out on all these socialization skills he should be learning/enjoying- we were just making large strides in this area over the last few months. All the other preschools in town are running smoothly... but my son is missing out because his preschool is part of the school district? Something isn't adding up here. These kids (our youngest and most vulnerable) need to be in school (safely- as they were last week).</p> <p>Please get our children back into their schools as soon as possible... they want and need to be there.</p>
10/25/2020 13:32:43	<p>I would like to thank the School Board for working hard this year to keep students and teachers safe. My kids' teachers have clearly been working extremely hard to keep kids engaged during e-learning. My sixth grader's first year at Bryan Middle School has gone very smoothly, and I can tell his teachers really care about the students. I would especially recognize Ms. Begani for building a sense of community in her classrooms to help the sixth graders learn and feel comfortable sharing.</p> <p>I would love for the district to be able to go back to hybrid learning, but I hope the School Board will continue to work with public health experts to determine the best course of action in Elmhurst. I would also urge the School Board to continue to prioritize in-person learning for the youngest students and students with special needs.</p>

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10/25/2020 13:32:50	<p>Dear D205 Board Members and Administration,</p> <p>First, I'd like to congratulate you for getting all of our kids back to school successfully in September and October. My kids were so happy to be back at school and both said it was their best day ever and they want to go back EVERY day. I had hoped my next letter to the Board would be asking for MORE time at school, but unfortunately, we received the bad news last week that school would be going full remote yet again. I am writing to ask you to reconsider your decision and REOPEN D205.</p> <p>To begin with, I know what you're going to say – the metrics we set up say we are in “substantial” transmission mode. I beg to differ. Two of the metrics, new cases and youth case increases, have DuPage County in “minimal” transmission mode, and one, test positivity, has DuPage County in “moderate” mode. If you average the four metrics, we are still in “moderate” transmission mode and should continue with hybrid learning. In an email to parents, Dr. Moyer said that COVID-19 is spreading rapidly through our community, but where is the evidence of this? We have 6 students and 1 teacher that currently have COVID-19, a 0.08% infection rate in our community of ~9,000 students and staff. How is less than 1% of the community having the virus considered “widespread”? The data is clear that we need to REOPEN D205.</p> <p>Further, the success of all students back at school with no outbreaks supports the continuance of hybrid learning. Private schools in Elmhurst have been holding full day classes and having minimal cases and no outbreaks. Why are they able to effectively do their job and we aren't? In an article from NBC5, “Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady said “the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago has seen coronavirus cases in 31 of its schools, out of approximately 20,000 students and more than 2,700 teachers and staff members.” Chicago students who have returned to the classrooms in these parochial and private schools, have actually had a lower rate of COVID, about half the rate detected than their counterparts in the community.” Could students and staff, perhaps, be safer at school, where procedures are in place to keep masks on and maintain distance? The data shows that, when the proper precautions are taken, transmission in the school setting is extremely rare. In fact, in DuPage County, there have only been three outbreaks in a school setting since October 6, with confirmed cases from those three “outbreaks” at nine total. The average number of cases from these outbreaks is three cases, which makes it about as infectious as the influenza virus according to the University of Michigan Health System. The data is clear that we need to REOPEN D205.</p> <p>Moreover, the AAP recommends that all children are back in school due to the numerous secondary effects of keeping kids out of school. Depression, anxiety, physical ailments such as migraines, vision impairment, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and decrease in physical activity leading to obesity, are just a few of the impacts of remote learning on our children. We need to think holistically about the impact remote learning is having on our children and our communities. The CDC also says that “the many benefits of in-person schooling should be weighed against the risk of COVID -19 spread.” In Dr. Moyer's state of the schools address, he talks about D205 making decisions based on what is best for students. If we think holistically about the health and safety of our students, the data is clear that we need to REOPEN D205.</p> <p>Even more, our tax dollars pay for a full 35-hour per week education. Why aren't you listening to the tax payers who want their kids back in school? I've heard accounts that suggest our kids will only cover 60% of their curriculum this year. You've now taken away Spanish, social studies and science from our elementary school students. D205 is not providing the education that the taxpayers deserve for our children. Will you be refunding tax payers for 40% of their taxes so that they can supplement their children's education for the 40% that will be missed? If the answer is no, I suggest you reconsider your shuttered doors and REOPEN D205.</p> <p>Screens are not school. In-person education is essential. Please, REOPEN D205.</p> <p>Sincerely, Becca Harpster</p>
10/25/2020 13:34:49	<p>I continue to be amazed at the small, but vocal group of parents who feel they know better than the County Health Department and the State officials. This entitled attitude illustrates why schools are currently in remote learning. These parents want what they want but are unwilling to skip out-of-state sports tournaments, workouts at gyms, faux-comings and lake house sleepovers. It is a shocking lack of empathy for those who will be most affected by Covid-19. Many parents in the community are making the right choices every day, but more must do that. It is the responsibility of every person to improve the situation. I truly believe everyone in 205 worked hard to make hybrid work, but WE failed. I ask the Board to ignore the noise from this small number of parents and realize there are more of us in the community who listen to science and are willing to respect the data.</p>
10/25/2020 15:14:50	<p>Keeping kids out of the classroom is a disaster. District 205 is FAILING. Who is making these decisions? Every teacher I have talked to wants kids in the classroom. Parents that want their kids remote can keep them home. In person school is essential. Remote learning is unacceptable. You are scarring these kids for LIFE for a virus that has a 99% survival rate. District 205 leaders, you are failing miserably.</p>
10/25/2020 15:24:20	<p>We need in person education! I am paying so much money for private school and we haven't had 1 single case of covid since August. It is possible. Please find a way!</p>
10/25/2020 15:27:30	<p>My name is Dr. Kelly Henry and I am a local pediatrician and a mother of twins at Field Elementary school. I am writing today to ask the Board to support IASB Resolution 2 for safe “Gun Storage.” Gun safety advocacy and counseling are extremely important to me as a physician and as a mother. We need to do better. We HAVE to do better. We should do everything in our power to PREVENT school shootings, child accidental shootings in their homes and the homes of their friends, and child/adolescent suicides. These can be preventable! The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Illinois chapter of the AAP support safe gun storage. We are told as physicians to stay in our lane. This is my lane and it is yours too as educators and parents! Please vote in support of Resolution 2</p>
10/25/2020 15:45:29	<p>Thank you for your caution in keeping students and staff safe.</p>
10/25/2020 15:53:34	<p>Please get our D205 children back in school. The Dupage health department recommendation was just that a reco and not a manadate and thier are countless other authorizes in the subject calling for children to be back in school. We were able to get student back in the classroom successfully, and parents feel safe with children of school despite the infection rate in Dupage county. Please set new metrics for children to be in school versus remote.</p> <p>We have proven we can do this so please let us continue.</p> <p>Thanks!</p>

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10/25/2020 15:54:21	Our son is a First Grader at Hawthorne. We support prioritizing education here in Elmhurst — in person learning is essential to all students, especially the younger demographic. We believe that schools can remain open safely with the requirement of masks and social distancing protocols. The science regarding Covid spread in schools is mixed at best while the negative impacts on our kids is clear. For every week of in person learning that is cancelled, our kids fall further behind, both socially and developmentally. The private schools in the area have remained open safely; the public schools should as well. Our students deserve a fair and equal education. They are not getting that under the current all remote learning schedule.
10/25/2020 16:16:59	I have a daughter who attends Timothy Christian and my twin boys attend Hawthorne. Timothy Christian sent out an email regarding their decision to remain open that states they have not seen ANY student-to-student or student-to-staff transmission. Throughout this school year I have seen a significant difference in their behavior and mental health. My daughter is thriving and loves going to school each day. Both my twins have regressed and are at the point where they don't even want to sign on to elearning. Not to mention that they both have math at the very end of the day after they are completely checked out. I get to witness first hand the emotional, social, and academic impact elearning has on students. It's unfair that certain students get to go to school while others are forced to "learn" on a computer. Our students deserve a fair and equal education. What's fair and equal about remote learning? My twin boys used to love going to school. They had such a passion for learning that has now disappeared. Every morning it is a battle to get them to want to be on the computer. Moreover, I have spent thousands of dollars on tutors to help my boys catch up to where they should be. In addition to being forced to be on a computer for the entire day-where I can honestly say they have not learned a single thing- they need to sit for additional- in person- instruction at night. Kids are meant to be in school. As someone who has witnessed first hand the difference between kids that are able to attend school in person and those that do not, I can assure you that the right decision would be to- at minimum- return to the hybrid system before it's too late. I am begging you to think of the long term repercussions this will have on the students. Our students will already be at a disadvantage compared to those that have been able to attend school in person this entire year. Please give our kids a fighting chance and reopen the school. Thank you.
10/25/2020 16:28:04	I moved here 3 years ago for the schools specifically, my heart breaks for these kids especially the really young kids they need in person, not only am I paying high taxes but now I'm having to pay for tutors because our kids need it and unfortunately a lot of kids are going to fall behind- these kids are the future ! Please go back to at least a hybrid solution for the kids !!!! The kids are the ones who suffer the most out of anyone it's not the adults it's the kids who suffer
10/25/2020 17:00:14	Science tells us that COVID-19 transmission is VERY UNLIKELY at school. The private schools in Elmhurst are proving that. Let our kids go back to school. They need it.
10/25/2020 17:51:03	With twins in kindergarten at Emerson Elementary, I wholeheartedly support the school, the district, and our teachers. I greatly appreciate the option to choose remote learning for my children. I also find that the grade has provided EXCELLENT resources for us to learn and advance in various subjects. Sure, there are technical difficulties however, the problem is quickly rectified and follow up communication is always established. We face many uncertainties Considering the current circumstances, but we are unified in our unique learning experience. Thank you!!!
10/25/2020 18:07:36	Thank you for being brave enough to take a stand and follow the IDPH pandemic guidelines despite the incredible pressure from parents desperate to do what they think is best for their children. As we've seen repeatedly in this pandemic, personal self-interest is not always in line with the interest of the public at large. We do not yet know enough about the ability of children to spread Covid-19 to others. We do know for certain children can catch it, so it is reckless to assume the converse can't also be true. While it is clear they do not seem to suffer the worst of the symptoms, this cannot be misinterpreted as an inability to spread it. In fact it is the very nature of this disease that produces either mild symptoms (the sort easily confused with colds or allergies) or no symptoms at all in children that makes it nearly impossible to study if and who they are spreading it to because many aren't being tested. If they are tested, then it's often after someone else near them has gotten sick, at which point it begs the question who got sick first? It's most convenient for parents to argue it wasn't the child, but it can't be proven. As we enter the colder months requiring the two 15 minute maskless snack breaks to be held inside, it is critical that transmission rates be acceptably low enough that we don't fall into the trap of assuming a super-spreading event won't happen simply because it hasn't happened yet and under the far more optimal conditions of good weather allowing for snack breaks to be held outside. Under CDC guidelines, Covid-19 is now defined as airborne, meaning, in an enclosed space, viral load accumulates over time in the air and can be infectious at spacing greater than 6-feet. Airborne also means a certain amount of viral load escapes through non-medical masks. The CDC has also recently updated their guidelines to say that it only requires a fifteen minute exposure to someone infected to become infected yourself. These updates are indicative of the fact that the science surrounding Covid is still developing. It is dangerous to assume what hasn't been proven. It is dangerous to our teachers to believe they can't catch it from students, particularly when our community is experiencing uncontrolled spread. The only fair choice to teachers and the community is the one that errs on the side of safety. If parents want their kids in school, then we all need to start doing our part. Wear masks. Social distance. And for pity sakes don't, whatever you do, ignore these guidelines and gather inside. Thank you.
10/25/2020 18:46:28	Hello Board if Education, our third grade daughter suffers with ADHD and has been receiving IEP services. She did so well during hybrid. However currently in remote learning she is physically unable to focus and engage with a screen. In fact she complains that her eyes and head hurt. She has a cloudy look in her eyes after all day of zooming, aka screen fatigue. Our daughter is not learning and the IEP minutes are not sufficient when provided via zoom. This is entirely tragic for her and our family. It is obvious that this is becoming an issue of ACCESS to education, especially for children with disabilities and IEPs. I have emailed the board but have not received any feedback at all. Are you listening to our community? What does the Board think of our daughter's predicament? I implore you in behalf of our children with disabilities to return back to in person learning, at least hybrid.
10/25/2020 21:14:04	I respect the Board's decision to close the schools for the safety of the students and staff. I encourage you to continue to keep Elmhurst safe. Thank you.
10/25/2020 21:22:13	While I would prefer to have school in person- Safety is more important to our family- unfortunately many members of our community aren't willing to wear masks or socially distance so it ruins it for all of us that are. Please make safety for students AND staff a priority until numbers go down. If teachers have to quarantine- who will replace them?
10/25/2020 21:27:53	I want to thank the district 205 board and the Elmhurst school administrators. I know this has been a difficult time for everyone involved, however, I have been incredibly impressed by the way the situation has been handled in district 205. The right decision was made to go back to remote learning. We must curb the spread of the virus in order to protect each other and keep our families safe. While I know remote learning would not be anyone's first choice, teachers are doing an amazing job and both teachers and principals have been very proactive in communication when possible. We are so proud to be involved in the Dual Language program at Conrad Fischer and look forward to getting back to being in person, but are incredibly thankful for a board who considers the health of our children and families during this period of remote learning.
10/25/2020 21:31:18	I fully support the Board's decision in closing District 205 Schools again. Protecting the health of the students, staff and families should always be paramount.
10/25/2020 21:34:38	I fully support the decision to go to all remote learning. The health of the students, faculty and staff must be the top priority.
10/25/2020 21:34:58	I would like to thank the school board for being proactive in their attempts to keep our kids safe during the current pandemic. Although there were not an alarming amount of cases in schools, the numbers are on the rise in our communities. If we don't take the precautions of remote learning for two weeks while our communities get this under some sort of containment, then it could easily spread through our schools and affect students and staff.

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10/25/2020 21:43:00	Good evening. I am a physician who sees COVID patients in my line of work. COVID is here to stay. Masks & distancing works. Washing hands works. Our kids need to be back in school. Full remote teaching at elementary & middle school level is detrimental to our kids in so many ways. Private schools are able to maintain full in person teaching. Other Dupage school districts are still in hybrid mode despite the rising numbers. We can chose to be also. Please put our kids back in school for both their mental & physical well-being. COVID is here to stay. Even my pediatric colleagues feel in person learning is vital for our children's upbringing. Thank you.
10/25/2020 21:47:22	I don't envy the impossible situation you are in. I appreciate and respect you trying to consider everyone's opinions into making a decision. It is impossible however to please all. You made a very conscientious plan based on science, facts and data and unfortunately that led you to make a decision many people are not happy about. But it is not D205 that is to blame for the rising infection rate in DuPage. It is not your fault that the virus is still here. It is not your fault that positivity rates have exceeded the threshold previous outlines for in-person instruction. 2020 stinks and we have to make the best of it. With a 78 year old mother who I'd like to keep healthy, slowing down asymptotic cases allows my children to spend more time with their grandma.
10/25/2020 21:49:05	I'm very grateful that the board is choosing to put the safety of our children, their families, and our teachers above all else. I realize not everyone shares this sentiment but it is so important for us to exercise every possible caution if we truly want to hasten a return to "normal life." I trust the board to make the decisions necessary to help us get there as quickly as possible, and understand we all are dealing with this situation the best we can (shout out to the teachers), and we all must strive to be agile and flexible in every facet of life right now. Thank you!
10/25/2020 21:50:16	The learning and social/emotional losses occurring with remote learning are real and painful to watch. Teachers' comments during PTC's about how MAP scores are flat to declining underscores the reality. I understand the guidance that has been posted by the IDPH, DCHD, and the Du Page Regional Education office. What makes D205 so different though than other DuPage districts and private schools that are continuing with the hybrid model? Covid transmission rates within D205 have not been reported to be any higher than that of neighboring districts yet all students have been forced to go 100% remote. Why not allow kids who are living in low risk situations continue to attend in person while those who prefer remote learning continue on that track? The one size fits all model just doesn't work. Furthermore students were typically receiving about 32 hours a week of instruction. Now weekly instructional hours have been cut to about 20. A reduction of almost 40% at a time when kids need structure and learning opportunities more than ever. Throughout all of this the Elmhurst teachers union has continued to stay silent while hiding behind a Facebook page full of self-serving propaganda. Their silence is damning to their position. They need to stop hiding while using the teachers and students as their puppets and sacrificial lambs. The whole situation has become an embarrassment to D2 05 parents and teachers and has left our students dying on the vine. D205 and the Elmhurst teachers union can and must do better
10/25/2020 21:57:55	I want to thank District 205 and the BOE for holding to the parameters of the Open 205 plan and switching seamlessly to remote learning when community positivity increased. The teachers and staff worked quickly to work on remote again and my students were well prepared. Please continue to care for the health and safety of students and staff.
10/25/2020 21:59:03	Thank you for thinking of safety first. While not ideal, remote is part of our lives now and the right choice when needed.
10/25/2020 21:59:22	Dear Dr. Moyer and Board, I appreciate the tremendous pressure you are under. Please continue to lead our schools and community, guided by science, data and good sense. Thank you.
10/25/2020 22:24:06	Don't let the morons who won't wear a mask or follow guidelines or participate in ridiculous protest persuade you do to put anyone in danger. I expect we'll be back and forth on in person instruction all year and we are ready for that. I want my kids in school as much as every one else. Sadly I think it's best they are in school where guidelines will be followed because there are large groups of youth hanging out downtown at 2pm everyday, they will be better off in school where the guidelines are followed.
10/25/2020 22:25:36	I trust our Elmhurst school officials to make the right decision for the health and safety of our kids and their teachers. Thank you for all the hard work! If you think we need to be remote, even though I prefer the hybrid or in-person learning, I will respect that decision and honor it.
10/25/2020 22:28:48	Thanks for your decision to go remote. Keep us safe!!
10/25/2020 22:35:03	Thank you for keeping our students and their families safe. Thank you for keeping our teachers and their families safe. Thank you for following the metrics of what you said you would follow. Thank you for doing the right thing.
10/25/2020 22:35:25	I believe district 205 has made the correct decision in temporarily closing down in-person learning. I commend them for the care shown regarding the staff, the children, and their community's health!
10/25/2020 22:45:57	Thank you for being proactive and implementing the two week pause in light of cases spiking again. It is extraordinarily upsetting that my kids have to be fully remote again since they thrive in an in-person school setting, but we are also gaining strength in characteristics such as adaptability and resilience. Just since this past Friday, I have been made aware of three people testing positive that we have connections to, one being a child, who is also a close friend. The other two are in their 20s and 40s. There are valid arguments on both sides of this, but the truth of the matter is that right now - right now - there is a global pandemic. It's our reality and we can get through it safely if we act as if there is one.
10/25/2020 22:46:07	I support the Board's decision to go to remote learning for 2 weeks as the Region and Elmhurst attempt to flatten a surging trend line in COVID-19 cases. We are moving upwards as a community and the County Health Department has recommended going remote for now, hopefully until the trend flattens, or revisit this at that time. Thank you for prioritizing the health of our students, faculty and staff.
10/25/2020 23:00:16	I support the School Board's decision to revert to fully remote learning. Thank you for prioritizing the health and safety of staff and students and their families.
10/25/2020 23:17:43	As a grandmother of 2 children in District 205, I appreciate the steps the Board and Superintendent have taken to keep our children, teachers and staff safe during this pandemic.
10/25/2020 23:18:16	Science, math, and logic, as taught in District 205, must continue to guide the decisions about whether in person or remote learning is best. Emotions are not a useful basis for decision making. Thank you for following the science to protect the health of our community.
10/25/2020 23:42:04	I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board and the administration for putting the health and well-being of our children, community and teachers first.
10/26/2020 4:38:55	Remote learning has been working well for my family. I know it hasn't been easy for many people, and that the decision for an adaptive pause was a difficult one. However, I know it wasn't made lightly or without full consideration for the impact it would have on our community. I truly appreciate the decision to keep 205 students, teachers and staff safe by following the clear trends and very real science in front of us. I trust you will continue to do so. Thank you.

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10/26/2020 4:51:47	District 205 is correct in closing schools due to the rise in numbers of those with COVID-19 in DuPage County. This decision is not easy, and is not made lightly. The decision is made with human lives at stake. For reasons beyond rational thinking, and beyond empathy, there are those who oppose this position. Students can and do learn from their parents how to contribute to society and act on behalf of others. This sense of community is missing when we think of our isolated troubles in regard to COVID-19. The response from District 205 is a community response, in a community district where the lives of many are, rightfully so, put in front of the rights of any particular individual or family to have their child schooled—at school. Those who oppose closing are simplest wrong, misunderstanding the role of public education, and missing an opportunity to teach their children about working with, and not against, other human beings. Thank you to District 205 for all the hard work and thoughtful decision making that goes into this unprecedented year. Thank you.
10/26/2020 5:42:14	<p>The covid spike in Elmhurst is driven by deniers and lazy people who refuse to mask or distance appropriately, and socialize as if everything is normal. These are not the people who should be guiding our local public health practices.</p> <p>In the interest of public health and safety, the school district must not yield to these ignorant and selfish people. Allowing Elmhurst schools to become a breeding ground for covid contagion impacts the entire community.</p> <p>If a return to remote learning is what is needed to stem the spread of infection and save lives, then so be it. The school district should investigate ways to assist with childcare and tutoring assistance as needed.</p>
10/26/2020 7:04:46	Right now, as this comment is read, there may be 100-200 people outside of the district office protesting the shift to remote learning. While this group has every right to protest, please understand that our district serves over 8,000 students. While this group may be angry, they do not even come close to representing the vast majority of us who know that sending our students to school in-person is not safe. Our family commends the Board for shifting to remote learning and we understand it may have to remain this way all winter, unless we as a community, local and nationally, begin to take this virus seriously. Thank you to all the teachers who are tirelessly teaching our children. School is not closed, just the buildings are closed. Thank you.
10/26/2020 7:26:45	Some in the community have begun to cite studies on low transmission rates of the virus in schools. The facts are: no one has done studies of transmission during winter months, when everyone must eat and do PE inside of the buildings. In the US, these studies were conducted during warmer months, when students were able to eat lunch and have PE outside. People are forgetting the dangers involved with large numbers of students indoors, eating and drinking indoors. We simply don't have safe ways for students to eat, drink, sing, play instruments, run and play indoors when harsh winter temperatures arrive.
10/26/2020 7:34:35	I would like to voice my support and appreciation to the District for following science-based public health recommendations that are in the best interest of all. And would like to thank our teachers and administrators for providing excellent instruction under these challenging circumstances. Public health experts recommend school closures based on the infection and transmission rates within the community. If we wish to reopen schools, I implore our community to be vigilant about mask-wearing and social distancing. Getting our kids back in school should be a priority, but cannot happen until we all work together to reduce and limit transmission in our community.
10/26/2020 7:47:31	Thank you for protecting our community, our teachers and our children in this challenging and uncertain time by making the difficult decision to return to online learning only for a time as the COVID19 infection rates continue to climb in DuPage. If adults and families outside of school grounds and hours wear masks in public and practice social distancing, I am hopeful our children will be empowered to safely return to the onsite classroom in the not so distant future. In the meantime, you are taking the best course available to you to prevent needless loss of life in this already hard time. Thank you,
10/26/2020 8:28:55	Please follow the science and health department guidelines in determining in person schooling. Our students, staff and the entire Elmhurst community are at risk if you ignore the rising Covid cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Of course schooling our children should be one of our highest priorities. This is made much more difficult by those in the community who ignore safety protocols. Thank you for your efforts.
10/26/2020 8:30:40	The numbers of cases within the schools aren't the cause to trigger any alarms or concerns for the students and the teachers. This is in fact why we instituted a hybrid model and it was working to control and monitor the cases. We cannot be dependent on the county's numbers to identify our path forward. The children's mental health and education are the brunt of a poorly managed system and their website education shouldn't suffer. We had a right to choose to send our children into school and they should be there, those that chose to have their kids home gave up their right for an opinion on the student body and shouldn't hold a larger voice to the issues that arise within the system.
10/26/2020 8:37:45	Thank you to the Board and Administration for making the right decision to move our students and staff back to remote learning. You were consistent in following the metrics you laid out in the back to school plan, and you continue to put safety above all else. Thank you for your continued dedication to this process in these very difficult times. Your work is valued and appreciated.
10/26/2020 8:42:07	Good evening Superintendent Moyer, president and board members. Thank you for your continue work during these difficult times. I would like to ask that the Board vote to direct your delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards to vote to approve Resolution 2 at the 2020 Delegate Assembly meeting. Resolution 2 proposes that the IASB support and advocate for legislation to strengthen child safe gun storage laws. Safe firearm storage laws (commonly called Child Access Prevention or CAP laws) protect youth in three primary ways: reducing school shootings, reducing completion of suicide, and preventing unintentional shootings by children. The IASB position states it typically only considers issues within the school districts, but school shootings happen within the school. The majority of school shooters have a connection to the school and as many as 74% of shooters obtain their weapon from their own home or the home of a relative. Another factor is suicide. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, and the rates are now at an all time high. School districts have an important role to play in preventing youth suicide and raising awareness of this issue. Reducing youth access to firearms is a critical piece of any suicide prevention plan. Just last year a 7th grader at a middle school in Lyons township brought a gun to school and went into a bathroom and shot himself. Let's help keep firearms out of the hands of children. Please vote yes to support Resolution 2.
10/26/2020 8:42:09	Please help our children. I usually comment about following the science, which is still relevant. However, the mental health issues are growing. I know of 3 children HOSPITALIZED due to mental health issues. Drinking and using drugs has skyrocketed. Several parents struggle to get their kids out of bed on a daily basis. Depression is rampant. The kids are bored and have no opportunity to engage with sports, extracurricular activities or clubs. Please help them!
10/26/2020 8:49:36	Our family is supportive of the pause in in-school learning. We are supportive of any decision that is risk-based and made in consultation with data and the guidance of public health professionals.
10/26/2020 9:12:40	Thank you for working to keep students, staff and families safe. We know remote learning is not easy for anyone but recognize that keeping our community healthy and safe for everyone is most important. We appreciate the board making these difficult decisions based on recommendations of health officials.

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10/26/2020 9:35:17	Please get our children back to school and teachers back in class. This is totally unacceptable to see these kids suffer and fall behind. We will see the effects of this for years to come. Please fight for our children.
10/26/2020 9:57:27	I want to thank CUSD for listening to the recent guidance issued by the county regarding the spike in COVID positivity and choosing to keep our children and families safe during these uncertain times. As a parent, there is nothing more important to me--not sports, not some imagined risk of "falling behind"--"NOTHING" more important to me than the health and safety of my children. Such a shame that this seems to not universally be the case here in Elmhurst. In any case, "this" parent thanks you for putting the health and safety of our kids, our teachers, and our support staff first, and doing the right thing by moving to a fully remote setting until the science dictates that it's safe to return to the classroom.
10/26/2020 10:31:17	I am not sure why our school District who was one of the first in DuPage county to start hybrid learning is one of the few possibly only who now is back to remote learning only. Other schools in DuPage county that are in session have not gone backwards due to the increase in cases in DuPage. I don't think shutting schools down for two weeks is going to make are numbers drop seeing as the number of cases in our schools including staff is so low. I know this is a tuff situation but this pandemic is not going away so we need to learn how to live with it and move forward not backwards. Yes kids are resilient but I don't think anyone can argue that our children are getting the same education they were a year ago. They are missing about 10 hours a week of academic time which is a lot of hours missed over the course of a school year. The teachers and staff are doing the best they can under these circumstances but we need to be working to get our kids in school more days of the week not less. If teachers / staff and students follow the guidelines from the CDC and stay masked and 6 ft apart being in school should be "safe " for everyone and should not require a shutdown.
10/26/2020 10:38:36	<p>Please continue with the remote learning! Cases are continuing to rise and I know from school pickup that many kids are taking off masks as soon as they leave York and walking home in groups maskless. I know this is tough but cases in DuPage have doubled in the last few weeks and already there is a lot of non-compliance (restaurants staying open, people not wearing masks). The risk of kids congregating and spreading the virus to vulnerable family members, or teachers getting sick, is too high right now. We cannot risk overwhelming our local hospitals and the more risks we take, the more people die.</p> <p>I work as a senior scientist at a major national medical/public health organization (but my opinions are mine only). Our cases are rising because we are congregating in groups and not following public health guidelines to control the infection in our community. We need to keep school closed, wear masks and practice social distancing. If we want to open school, there needs to be compliance with this as well as extensive contact tracing and testing. My son will be logging in from home if school reopens.</p>
10/26/2020 11:15:13	First of all, I know you all have been working hard and I thank you for that. Our teachers are doing an amazing job. This hasn't been an easy time for anyone and there is never a decision that will be "one size fits all". With that being said, I currently have a 1st grader in D205 and a 4 year old attending Immanuel Lutheran. Immanuel initially seemed to have similar procedures and safe guards in place as did the district schools. I understand that private schools are able to limit class sizes and therefore can attend full time. As much as I would love for my 6 year old to be full time I was content in at least sending him on a hybrid schedule knowing that class sizes are larger at Hawthorne. My 1st grader was thriving being at school and beaming everyday at pickup (even if it was only 2 days a week), only to have it ripped away just a month after we started back in person. I am so thankful that my masked up 4 year old can play with his friends on a playground at school and interact as young kids should and need to do. It also pains me to see that while my younger one is out enjoying in person school 5 days a week, our other child is sitting at home in front of an iPad for close to 5 hours a day. How is it that all these other children at private schools can continue to safely attend school all while d205 children sit at home staring at their screens? The district has offered a full remote option and for those that do not feel comfortable coming back in person they have the choice to stay home. Why do families who want to send their children not have that option? I would understand if the numbers backed this up, however they just don't add up. Outbreaks are not occurring in the schools and one off cases are being contained and handled as necessary, meaning the protocols are working. Cases will come up, it's about containing them as has been the case. Please listen to the families, they know what's best for their kids and it seems the board is losing sight of that.
10/26/2020 11:21:57	Thank you for making the safety of our children and teachers a priority. I want hybrid brought back, but only when deemed safe for all. I know you are getting a frenzied pushback for your decision, but as a parent of a D205 student, I stand behind your decision in the wake of rising cases and potential increased community spread. Thank you.
10/26/2020 11:34:43	<p>The uptick in Covid-19 cases has everyone concerned; however, so does the mental and physical health impacts that remote learning has had on our children. If the private schools can stay open, what are they doing right that we aren't? Has anyone reached out to those schools and "asked, what are you doing right"? Even with a vaccine, we all know that this is not going away anytime soon. We are all empathetic to those who have been impacted directly or indirectly by this virus, but we need to continue to move forward for our children. If we do not get them back into school and provide some sort of "structured normalcy", the effects of Covid-19 will pale in comparison to what long-term effects this is having and will continue to have on our children. Let's all work together on a compromise, for our children, and get them back school.</p> <p>Thank you, Tim Kenny!</p>
10/26/2020 11:38:47	I am writing to beg you all to reconsider closing down the schools in District 205. I can mention all of the facts and statistics about screen time, mental health issues, and the infection rates that others have mentioned, but I want to focus on how it has personally effected our children and family. Our children have been learning through computer screens for a total of 5 months and approximately 324 hours since the Pandemic started. Our children can't take it anymore! They have lost interest in school, no longer find the excitement in learning, and long for social interaction from friends and teachers. My children are not where they should or need to be, which I think will be reflected in the MAP testing. As a parent, it is heartbreaking to watch this happening knowing that it doesn't have to be this way right now. I understood that the schools would probably close again at some point if the data showed outbreaks in schools, but I have yet to find that data on our schools or schools on a national level. You should make your decisions based off of numbers specifically pertaining to schools, not just the State and Dupage County Numbers as a deciding factor. The other issue I have has to do with our taxes, school fees, and our home values. Are we going to get a tax credit? What are we paying for? Our tax dollars are supposed to be paying for 35 full hours a week, and that is not happening. Is the school Board going to reimburse the working parents for the extra services that they need to bring in to teach their children while they are working? What is going to happen to our home values with all of the negative press our School Board and Teacher's Union are getting with the handling of the pandemic and their public arguing on social media? How many families are looking to flea the districts' schools and go private or move completely? I think that us, the Tax Payers should have more of a say or get a refund on our property taxes. I bring up all of these points to show the ripple affect that your decisions have. I understand that the School Board, parents, and students never asked to be in this situation of unchartered waters with this Pandemic, but we are! All I ask is that you put your politics, and special interests aside and listen to the parents, teachers, students, and facts as it pertains to schools and children.

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10/26/2020 11:39:02	My daughter is a first grader at Hawthorne and I believe she can safely learn in school. Spending 5 hours a day on an iPad is not the education our children deserve and she loved going in person even for just the 2 days a week. I'm a huge proponent of public education and it saddens me to feel that our district is failing our children. They wear masks, keep their distance and have followed the rules and the data supports that this virus is not spreading in schools as was once feared. Please consider doing what is right especially for your youngest students and get them back in the classroom where it's best for them to learn.
10/26/2020 11:45:18	The choice to send the students back to school is difficult although I believe that the best choice is to close down until the positivity numbers in this region subside. They are growing quickly - highlighting the danger of contracting this deadly illness. The choice to go back endangers public safety, public health for what I perceive is a desire to return to better days (last year). I think the longer we delay acting responsibly the longer this Sisyphean dilemma will plague us.
10/26/2020 11:47:46	<p>I want to start by congratulating the district administration, on the great steps and effort that went into transitioning all grades to a hybrid classroom while implementing safety standards and best practices to keep our children and teachers safe. Truly a monumental effort.</p> <p>It's important now that we continue to move the goalposts forward. The first (of many) scientific studies are beginning to clearly show that schools and daycares are NOT associated with HIGHER RISK OF COVID TRANSMISSION. -- Reference PEDS Study "COVID-19 Transmission in US Child Care Programs" from the American Academy of Pediatrics (DOI: 10.1542/peds.2020-031971). -- Reference "Covid-19 Transmission in Schools" from the World Health Organization (Covid Update #39 dated 10/21/2020)</p> <p>Let's follow the science and get our children (especially early learners) back into school full time. Let's investigate and implement the successful models set by the Archdiocese of Chicago and countless other private schools & daycare facilities throughout the country. Let's NOT allow anecdotal evidence and fearmongering to drive our response.</p> <p>The time to act is now, this situation isn't going away anytime soon. Every day we delay is critical time lost and WE can do better than this.</p>
10/26/2020 11:48:08	Thank you for everything you've done to try to open our schools. Whether they are open for in-person or remote learning, the quality of education has diminished significantly. When my children attended school in-person, they were required to follow along on the Zoom call all day long. This is unacceptable. I work in a district where the teachers communicate with remote students on a laptop, so they are teaching to the in-person students as well as the students on Zoom. This is the way our teachers should be teaching as well. We moved to Elmhurst because the schools were rated quite high. We are not experiencing that as of now. Please provide professional development that supports teachers by providing future focused instruction which takes them out of the "front of the classroom." This is a tremendous opportunity to implement critical thinking and problem solving project based learning assignments to the students. The person who does all of the talking is the most engaged, so let's get the children to do most of the talking. Thank you for considering additional professional development to provide support for the teachers to become even better than they were before.
10/26/2020 12:04:16	Hello - Happy to keep doing the best we can to keep our children safe and we support your decision to let how we educate our children evolve as needed. Keeping everyone safe, children and educators is important to us.

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10/26/2020 12:05:37	<p>Good evening - thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this meeting and for your service on the Board. Over recent weeks it has become increasingly clear that for our children who comprise the students of D205 the 'cure' for the ongoing virus situation has likely become worse than the 'disease'. The evidence continues to mount that students are falling behind academically, have dramatically shortened athletic seasons, are exhibiting signs of depression at a high rate, are socially isolated, and have reduced physical activity levels. All of these direct and tangible impacts from the remote learning model (and even the hybrid mode to a large extent) significantly outweigh the morbidity and mortality of the virus for the K-12 age group (e.g., as of October 26th there has not been even one death from Covid-19 in DuPage County for a person under 20 years of age but 46% of teachers are reporting more anxiety, depression, and stress from their students and recent estimates suggest that only 60% of the curriculum will be covered this school year with D205).</p> <p>It is time to step back and reset the situation using all evidence we have available, including the best practices from public schools across the country and private schools right here in Elmhurst that are open and in person five days per week. Students and parents are not interested in a D205 administration vs. teachers union blame game of what caused D205 to be in the situation we are in, who is primarily responsible, etc. It is time for everyone to move to a model of We Can and make decisions that will get the 1000's of students in D205 that selected in person into the classroom.</p> <p>A few specific thoughts for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Masks and distancing requirements need to be followed, but with these safeguards in place we cannot afford to have sweeping quarantines out of 'an abundance of caution'. Policies that quarantine students in classrooms even when spaced appropriately and athletic teams that are all quarantined when only one small group was truly in close contact need to be revisited. The D205 quarantine to case ratios of 30:1 to 40:1 in recent weeks seem to go beyond reasonable precautions. 2. Look at data other than case-based metrics and put focus on Elmhurst data first while supplementing with DuPage County data. Why not include metrics based on deaths, ICU admissions, hospitalizations, and cases rates of the <20 years age band in addition to the overall new case rate in the decision of remote vs. hybrid vs. in person instruction? Why not look at Elmhurst data first, then Elmhurst + adjacent cities, then overall DuPage County? Elmhurst comprises just 5% of the population of DuPage County and 3% of the land area so using county-level data as the sole or primary factor to make this decision feels questionable. 3. Let the athletes play. Please review the recent study by Dr. Andrew Watson at UW-Madison with over 30,000 athletes in the study that found no increased virus transmission rate. 4. Do not forget about the students that are being disadvantaged to an even greater degree by the mandated remote model. Students that speak English as a second language, those that don't have a good home environment for learning, and students with learning challenges have potential negative impacts even beyond those being seen within the overall student population of D205. Do not assume remote learning comes without many risks as well. <p>To conclude, please consider reverting to hybrid instruction immediately with an urgent focus on returning to full in person instruction as soon as possible (with separate remote option). Our children and your students are counting on you.</p>
10/26/2020 12:17:59	<p>Please do whatever is safest for the students, teachers and staff. And do not buckle to the sociopathic lunatics who are only considering their own personal inconvenience.</p>
10/26/2020 12:26:18	<p>Our daughter is in first grade, which normally should be an exciting a formative year. We are not happy with the way Emerson and district 205 has decided that full-time online is the best solution for our children. Hybrid is a terrible solution for a first grader, but to go to online is even worse. My third grader is doing okay, but is at an age where online learning is more appropriate because that age is naturally a little more independent.</p> <p>My first grader is regularly lost and sometimes spends 30 minutes teacherless wondering what she is supposed to do, which creates feelings of being way behind and stress. I've heard my six year old say she is stupid several times.</p> <p>I do not think enough focus is being given to the Education Crisis we are dealing with. I thought Elmhurst prided itself on education - it is unquestionably failing. My suggestion is to hit the pause button for the younger kids and tack on to the summer for school because this is not productive and seems to be doing more harm than good for these kids.</p> <p>A pandemic or not, we need a workable solution for school and I will tell you this is not a good solution for our young children. My question to the board is, does anyone think what we are working with now is acceptable? Bring the young ones back full time.</p>
10/26/2020 12:30:12	<p>Thank you for your diligent work to get our children back in school. Please reconsider your choice to move to full remote learning. This is the third time our district has gone fully remote in 2020, and each time it becomes more challenging for kids in our district...with greater consequences and setbacks for them. The safeguards in place for our hybrid model will allow our children to get some type of in-person experience in this challenging environment.</p>
10/26/2020 12:48:04	<p>While I certainly appreciate the difficult position that the teachers and the district have been put in regarding compliance with county and state health requirements and the ever changing landscape of this Covid environment, we need to keep the kids in school at least part of the time. There have not been outbreaks at school. Having that sense of purpose and accountability is essential, particularly at the high school level. Fully remote is doing a disservice to the kids. Having a high school class meet only 2 times a week simply isn't enough. If we are going to stay remote, change the schedule so that Wednesdays are mandatory and a full day of learning. In fact, make it so that all 5 days of the week have all classes, periods 1-8. We've already had so many changes to the schedule each and every week, changing it again wouldn't be a surprise to anyone. Thank you.</p>

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10/26/2020 12:55:59	<p>I have several issues I'd like to bring to the Board, I'm sure they are topics that other parents have also brought to the table as well.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We want our children back at school, we have been told that we need to keep our children safe - but what about their mental, emotional and physical needs? Having a child say they want to kill themselves, cry in front of the computer, and suffer emotionally is NOT keeping our children safe. We can do better, and we need to do better. Many private schools and daycares have stayed open, and are teaching their kids face to face, without computers. Why can our children go to the Y or park district to learn with other kids, but they can't in their own schools? Studies show that children are not spreading COVID, and from school correspondence, there have been no outbreaks in the schools. 2. The e-learning schedule is not conducive to growth nor is it fair to ask our kids to sit for 5 hours with ONE 30 minute break and no lunch. I have listed research at the end of this comment supporting the need for more breaks during the day. In fact, I'd agree that the kids need more breaks from the computer. As a professional, we are told to never schedule a meeting for over 2 hours, and if we do, we need to include breaks - how can we expect our kids to sit for longer periods of time? The fact that our kids need to eat a large snack or lunch at 10 because they don't have an actual lunch, is not conducive to reversing the childhood obesity epidemic either, especially when we are asking our kids to sit in a chair all day. 3. Why are the kids e-learning while at school? It's not fair to the kids, or the teachers. There has to be a better way for our kids to learn when they are in-school. To be honest, we are appalled and ashamed of the decisions put forth by the board. We moved to Elmhurst for the school system, and have been greatly disappointed. My sisters are principals and both are shocked at the decisions being made. 4. I would like to thank the teachers, principals and staff at all schools for their incredible work that they have done thus far. <p>Resources: https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/1/183 https://edsources.org/2020/when-children-return-to-school-dont-skip-recess/636028 https://dc.etsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4883&context=etd</p>
10/26/2020 13:03:56	<p>It would be tremendously more beneficial for K and first graders to go every day for 2.5-3 hours for no-nonsense core instruction. Then, they could come home to continue asynchronous work and specials. PLEASE consider amending the hybrid schedule for primary students for Trimester 2. I am not necessarily asking for more in-person learning, but better in-person learning.</p>
10/26/2020 13:30:07	<p>I urge District 205 to continue to use remote learning to protect students AND teachers and staff. The numbers are rising and if we ever want to see our kids back in school full time, an abundance of caution must be used now.</p>
10/26/2020 13:34:23	<p>Thank you for your decision to keep students, staff, and Elmhurst safe. My son is doing just fine with remote learning and his teachers have been great. We have healthcare workers in our house and don't want to risk spreading Covid to anyone outside of our bubble.</p>
10/26/2020 13:38:18	<p>District 205 Administration and Board of Education, Thank you for following the data regarding the increasing spread of the COVID-19 virus in our community and making the decision to move the district to remote learning until the number of cases come back down. You are doing the right thing for the health of our children, teachers, families, frontline healthcare workers and those at most risk.</p>
10/26/2020 13:52:58	<p>Thank you for doing the right thing for our community! You have our full support. We are never going to get this thing under control if people continue to gather in public spaces and live their lives normally. It is only going to drag this on longer. We need to show more concern for our teachers and students that are high risk as well as their family members who are high risk.</p>
10/26/2020 14:04:41	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I have never felt as helpless as I do today in my ability to make a difference for my child's education. Our family moved to Elmhurst this summer, excited to take part in what I had been told was an exemplary model for public education. We happily took on 2-3 times the tax dollars of any other area in our consideration list, knowing we were making the right decision for our children. Instead, we found out on Friday about yet another blow in a series of blows that have been dealt to D205 students, and the COMPLETE opposite of what we thought our children would experience in Elmhurst public education.</p> <p>The cutting/"shifting" of core subjects like Social Studies and Science for Elementary students compounds the disparity of education that our public students are receiving vs. private students in Elmhurst, and other public school students around the country. Social Studies and Science teach critical thinking and have always been prioritized within the STEM focus, but suddenly now they need to be cut, so we can continue operating on a shortened day where teacher/student interaction is already extremely limited?</p> <p>How can a massive reduction in teaching time each week (solely chosen to limit screen time), and now a reduction in core competencies, possibly be explained as a good/right decision? It is a CHOICE to follow this teaching model, and the CHOICE is not being given to the parents and students on the receiving end of these decisions. How are we supposed to trust that D205 is acting in our children's best interests, which is the stated mission, when instead this signals clearly that failure is an acceptable choice?</p> <p>LISTEN to what the vast, vast majority of taxpayers and parents want and move to full time-time in person learning now. Please don't allow decision making parties to only reference studies that support one (remote/hybrid) point of view, when there are COUNTLESS examples of other schools WITHIN Elmhurst and around the nation who are able to operate successfully. Below are several studies from the World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics that states schools are NOT a transmission zone for COVID. We MUST move forward, following cues and success tactics from others who are providing in person instruction so safely and successfully, to give D205 students a level-playing field education experience.</p> <p>-- Reference PEDS Study "COVID-19 Transmission in US Child Care Programs" from the American Academy of Pediatrics (DOI: 10.1542/peds.2020-031971). -- Reference "Covid-19 Transmission in Schools" from the World Health Organization (Covid Update #39 dated 10/21/2020) This is not going away anytime soon.</p> <p>Thank you, Erin Danielson</p>

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10/26/2020 14:30:11	<p>I am devastated watching my two D205 children's love for learning & self-confidence bottom out. This happens as we watch our 5th grader thrive at Timothy Christian. We moved her there in August after learning of D205's plans for school this year & are so grateful that she got a spot & that we could afford to send her there; she needs more support in reading & we were correct that she never would have thrived at D205 this year. We currently have a 1st & 3rd graders at Emerson Elem. The teachers & principals are trying their hardest; teachers, students & parents are giving 120% efforts & we are all getting at best 30% results from this FAILED attempt at education. Screens are not school. Remote is NOT necessary. This district has far too many resources to be at this shameful level. Perhaps the high school & middle school students & teachers are able to achieve success, but the the elementary school teachers & students are BURNING OUT! Our 3rd grader is able to be more independent, but he is not thriving. And MAP testing today was pointless & PURE CHAOS.</p> <p>Our 1st grader Polly is struggling every day - she used to love school. Now neither kid wants to login, and every day Polly worries aloud about how behind she is. This week the 1st graders are supposed to be working independently from a task list - clicking on a video, using 2 different workbooks & independently reading; Our daughter is so behind in reading (per a D205 letter to us this past month) & she can not keep up with independent teaching. I could buy her workbooks & stick her on youtube at this pace - it's the same thing! Today she sat alone & confused for 20 minutes; her teacher is forced to be pulling kids out in small groups & she was teaching another group. So Polly sat there with tech issues; she finished half of one of her 4 tasks that she was supposed to complete in 30 minutes of alone time.</p> <p>Do any of you board members have kids in 1st grade?! Please, come to my house & witness this chaos. Have any of you board members spent an entire day at an elementary school & experienced what you are putting the teachers through?! Being expected to teach multiple subjects to new learners simultaneously at home & in class - and teaching foundation subjects like reading & math IS NOT HAPPENING SUCCESSFULLY OVER ZOOM. Though there are less subjects to teach now since the district has shamefully STOPPED teaching Spanish, Social Studies & Science to kids!</p> <p>How do you sleep at night making these decisions? Who is taking accountability? Is it Dr. Moyer? Is it you board members? Is it the teachers union? IT DOES NOT MATTER! As you adults battle it out, our youngest kids are slipping through the cracks. Just today I have had texts from mom's stating that they have a 2nd grader crying under the kitchen table during math, a 3rd grader completely checked out during his chaotic remote MAP testing, a 6th grader napping during school & a mom who is one of the strongest women I know was crying herself. I was crying a lot last Thursday & Friday too - this is not school.</p> <p>Our 1st grader is so behind, we are told by her teacher that at night we are to work on sight words, reading, math fluency & the phonics work that she misses while in her break-out-room for Acceleration during school. Why is she not being taught IN SCHOOL?!! I am shocked & absolutely disillusioned in your decisions to do complete remote school, for such low virus levels in our community. Timothy Christian has 1,200 kids in class all day, & has had only 3 cases of Covid at the school. D205 kids should be in school full-time; or at the very least hybrid & full days; not these ridiculous half-days.</p>
10/26/2020 14:32:23	<p>We have been residents of Elmhurst for over 30 years and are both retired educators. We are trying to consider, understand, and respect every decision that is confronting educators through this difficult time. As schools have moved back into remote learning we have deep concerns for the education and welfare of our homeless students and families. We would like to know what provisions have been made to provide a stable, warm, and safe location for our homeless students to access remote learning in this already stressful time. Will you share those arrangements with us?</p> <p>In addition, many of these students qualify for free or reduced meals. How are they currently being distributed?</p> <p>Thank you for addressing these community concerns.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kevin and Jeri-Lynn Koehler</p>
10/26/2020 14:45:39	<p>Dear District 205 Board Members, As an Elmhurst parent and teacher of many years, I believe our students need to be in school and your employees are essential. The metrics that were used to return to full-time remote learning needs to be re-visited. We should only return to remote learning if absolutely necessary as our students in District 205 need to come first. Transmission in schools has been very low across the country, and in our district, as school is a controlled environment. I know my children are losing hope, and feel like their future is in jeopardy. Board members, the "cure" cannot be worse than the "disease". Right now, it is. Please listen to your community as you are governing on behalf of US! Thank you for your time, and all that you do for our community.</p>
10/26/2020 14:54:15	<p>As parents and members of the community we understand the struggle that our school systems are facing, and are thankful for the incredible dedication our teachers have exhibited. On the other side of that coin, we as a community are incredibly frustrated with the approach our community leaders have taken to the education of our children. Our children are suffering, plain and simple. The school system that we once celebrated, and one of the major reasons we purchased a home in Elmhurst, has failed us. "We don't have enough teachers willing to teach" is one constant excuse for this failure yet millions of people are out of work. Furthermore your Reach Program currently dedicates time to only a few students, while elsewhere 25 over stimulated children are in a class at once. Do the right thing Elmhurst, your Superintendent has to go.</p>
10/26/2020 15:30:45	<p>Thank you for moving to 100% remote in an effort to keep the students and staff of district 205 safe. It was the right thing to do. Please do not return to hybrid as planned in early November - COVID-19 cases are rising at an alarming rate and we as a community need to do everything we can to keep all of our citizens, including our district families, students and staff safe. Now is not the time to let our guard down.</p>
10/26/2020 17:14:51	<p>Hi my name is Rosie Cristofaro and I am a 7th grade student at Churchville middle school. Please allow us to go back to school. I can't take this anymore. Its so hard to do learning online. Most of the time I have a nervous breakdown from stress. It's so hard to wake up everyday and put a fake smile on my face. Many kids I know including me are so sad. Please, we will wear our masks and social distance.</p>
10/26/2020 17:40:07	<p>My child is falling behind academically. His social skills and lack of stimulation are causing him to fall behind in his social skills. He has a hard time concentration in his surroundings and stay on task.</p>
10/26/2020 19:26:33	<p>With all the funding given to district 205, we should be able to maintain a safe environment for all students to return to full-day in-person learning. Remote learning has not proven to save lives or reduce numbers of infections. In-person learning has proven to help our students stay engaged and move forward with their learning. Why is the school board ignoring these facts? The emotional & educational well-being of our students is being jeopardized due to following numbers of positive Covid infections in the county instead of number of infections in our schools. Please allow our students to return to school so they will not be left behind while we follow these arbitrary numbers.</p>

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10/26/2020 20:41:35	<p>I have 2 children in D205 schools, and while we are sad that they cannot be in person at school full time, we appreciate that the district is following the science and keeping our community safe. Unfortunately we are in a pandemic, and these are unprecedented times. It is hard to know what the best thing to do is, but following the guidelines of the experts seems like the best idea. Our family would like to thank the teachers for the wonderful job they are doing teaching virtually.</p>
10/26/2020 20:50:15	<p>On behalf of a committee of parents from the Dual Language Program at Conrad Fischer we would like to first thank the board and district for their support of our child's learning during this very difficult time.</p> <p>We believe the District and our school personnel are working hard to partner with parents to ensure that the Dual Language Program is thriving in these circumstances. We have been very impressed by the ingenuity, creativity and support the teachers and staff at Fischer have demonstrated. They are truly our superheroes.</p> <p>As parents, we have observed that the current COVID-19 learning environment, coupled with the momentum of the program within the community, is bringing up some questions and potential concerns. We respectfully request that the board include Dual Language as a separate agenda item at the November board meeting to discuss the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our children have greatly benefited from the AB hybrid model allowing them to get increased exposure (4 days) to their learned language and conversation with peers which data tells us central to the success of this model. How do you anticipate this need will be met as the year continues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On remote days, the children spend much of their day alone in breakout rooms without hearing their native or learned language. ○ We have floated a possible solution of parents assisting in the classroom virtually and we will be working with school personnel to support them in the current virtual learning environment. ● At the recent kindergarten dual language information night, there were over 30 families that expressed interest in the program in the fall. That doesn't include the siblings that are already in the pipeline. We want to meet the needs of the community, but are limited on physical space as well as dual educators at Fischer and would like to discuss potential options. ● Related, many dual parents who opted for full-time virtual are witnessing their children struggle in this format and believe they are falling behind their peers. If they were to opt to change their selection come January, there is not enough space or dual educators at Fischer to accommodate all of the kids. <p>We believe that due to the strong partnership between Fischer leadership, staff and parents, the success of the dual community we have built is attracting significant attention to the program, which will lead to continued growth. We believe that the need to create space through potential building expansion, use of mobiles/alternate space will be necessary. We believe this issue will need to be more immediately addressed due to COVID-19. While we understand that we are operating in a pandemic we are asking for clarity from the board regarding the commitment to the dual program and the longer term plan for recruiting qualified teachers into the program, addressing space concerns, and further assessing data as it becomes available.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your commitment to our community. We look forward to partnering with you to cultivate and grow our Dual Language program.</p>
10/26/2020 21:10:58	<p>Please provide a plan of action to ensure hybrid instruction is reinstated in November. What do we need to do as parents and guardians to help our children return to school?</p> <p>My family strictly abides by the guidelines set by the CDC. What more can we do to help our district succeed? We want our kids and educators to return safely to the classroom.</p> <p>Full remote learning isn't the best option for our children emotionally and for some, academically. I work from home and my kiddos grades haven't suffered. I'm not inconvenienced by remote learning.</p> <p>My motivation for promoting hybrid instruction is based on the studies that clearly state full-time remote learning isn't in the best interests of our children emotionally and academically. It's estimated by the World Bank our children stand to lose \$10 trillion in earning power due to these shutdowns. Again, please provide a solid plan that brings our children back to hybrid school instruction.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

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10/26/2020 21:51:17	<p>My name is Heather Stotts and I have (3) children in District 205 currently in 5th, 3rd, and Kindergarten. I want to start by saying I fully realize what a unique and unprecedented time this is for our community, and I realize everyone is trying to do the right thing for the health and safety of our children and faculty. I fully recognize you will never make everyone happy-- the decision a family makes on what feels safe for their child is very personal and each choice should be respected. This is why D205 giving families the choice to be remote or go in person was so important...people should have a choice.</p> <p>First, I would like to address concerns as a parent who chooses to have their children learn in-person, as I feel the D205 leadership has greatly failed the students who fall in the 85% of families who voted "Yes" to in-person learning. Some key questions I think many parents would like to have addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Question #1: why are decision metrics based on DuPage County COVID rates? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/>Parent Sentiment: these metrics are not at all relevant to the decision around in-person learning. <input type="checkbox"/>Proposed Solution: change the metrics to be specific to D205 student/faculty in-school transmitted cases. If we are not seeing COVID spread in the schools, then why shut down in-person learning? •Question #2: have you reached out to learn from your counterparts at Elmhurst private schools as well as neighboring suburb Western Springs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/>Parent Sentiment: the schools mentioned above have been back in-person, 5 days a week (full learning days for many) with no significant reports of cases or spreading of COVID in-school. It appears to be working for them and they have a fraction of the resources D205 has. <input type="checkbox"/>Proposed Solution: pivot now to adopt 5 day/week, in-person model with AM/PM groups. <p>Next, I would like to voice a growing concern for our youngest learners. As a parent of a kindergartner I can tell you remote learning isn't just challenging, it is not working. Five and six year-old kids are not equipped to learn over a Zoom call, and teachers should not be expected to have to teach this way. It is not working for anyone involved - Teachers, Parents, but most apparent are the students. Kids are learning a fraction of what they should be in a day, and they are not engaged. Teachers (and parents) are spending most of the time redirecting the student's attention, and also concerning is the social and emotional damage this environment is inflicting on the youngest learners. The hours of anxiety from both the parent and child in trying to get the child to engage and pay attention is resulting in tears and frustration for all.</p> <p>I think many parents of the youngest learners would like to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Question #3: have administrators and Board members directly talked to our Kindergarten teachers, and gotten their perspective on Zoom-based instructing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/>Parent Sentiment: Administrators and Board members are still not acutely aware of what the Teachers are experiencing <input type="checkbox"/>Proposed Solution: by getting teacher's input, and including them in the construction of a new plan, they will be more engaged and the new plan will be more appropriate and effective •Question #4: has Dr. Moyer and anyone on the Board of Education sat in on a Kindergarten Zoom classroom to observe? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/>Parent Sentiment: parents believe this experience would be eye-opening and instructive. •Question #5: would the leadership team be willing to change the plan for the youngest learners (K thru 2nd), and move to an AM/PM model for hybrid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/>Parent Sentiment & Proposed Solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/>The K thru 2nd would be getting daily engagement on the core subjects and teachers could focus their attention on one group. <input type="checkbox"/>Also, in this scenario a virtual classroom could be created with a designated virtual teacher for those kids whose family prefers only remote learning. This way each group is getting attention specific to their mode of learning. <input type="checkbox"/>We realize this change would affect the ability for full day kindergarten, but as long as we are remote or hybrid nobody is really getting full day kindergarten as it was intended. We would encourage you to survey full day Kindergarten parents and ask the question: Which Hybrid Model would you choose: (1) AM/PM 5 days/week in person (revised hybrid approach) or (2) Current Hybrid model <p>In conclusion, I would like to share a personal experience to help clearly paint this picture for you. My kindergarten has been part of the 205 full day kindergarten program this year. The experience was so counterproductive trying to keep him engaged with the zoom 8:15-1:15 that last week we pulled him from the program. He would beg me every day "mom can I please be a half day kid? Zoom school is so long...I'm so bored". It was frustrating for him and we could see he wasn't learning anything. We love his teacher and she was doing a great job and the best she could given circumstances but the reality is "Kindergarten is not meant to be on zoom". So last week we pulled him from the full day program, switched him to half day with District 205 and enrolled him in a local kindergarten enrichment program that meets 5 days a week in person for the afternoon 12:30-3:30. After just 4 days in this program, he comes home excited to share everything he learned and is showing us more progress in 4 days than we have seen in 2+ months of District 205 Remote/Hybrid model.</p> <p>I have 3 very different learners in my house; however, I see my 3rd and 5th graders doing ok. They are old enough to engage with their teachers, engage with small groups in break-out rooms, and are focused in with their teacher the entire day to learn. It breaks my heart to see how my kindergarten child is experiencing elementary school for the first time.... the youngest of learners shouldn't be doing school this way. Our amazing teachers are trying every possible trick they know, they are doing the best they can, but they too shouldn't be asked to do school this way. There are better solutions for the youngest learners; we just need our D205 leadership to listen to their teachers and parents....we need Dr. Moyer to set aside his ego and be ok to say "Plan A didn't work for all ages, let's change and adapt and try Plan B"...make the changes necessary...be willing to collaborate and work with others in the community. This isn't a time for decisions to be made in silos, it isn't a time for egos, it is a time to get collective expertise from other administrators, teachers, parents, and students to make the right choice for our children.</p> <p>Thank you and I would hope the board and Dr. Moyer take the time to answer and address the questions I have outlined above either publicly or privately.</p>

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10/26/2020 22:38:29	<p>I submit to you my request for the reopening of District 205 Schools immediately. This is a virus, and a serious one, I understand. But also serious is my children's education and their mental and emotional health all of which are suffering right now. My children used to be eager students who achieved high marks but all three are struggling with their schoolwork now and are regressing and disinterested in learning. I worry constantly about how they will catch up, can they ever catch up? Will they ever regain their love of learning?</p> <p>How can a teachers union, that proclaims to be fighting for the safety of our students, so selfishly cast their needs aside. The kids need to be in school, they need to be in their classrooms with their teachers. I am not a teacher and am not a good substitute for one either. In fact, I work full time and have only limited ability to stay home with them. Instead I have to pay a babysitter and it is costing a fortune. There is no support for that, no way to recoup the thousands of dollars families are spending on babysitters. This is on top of the extremely high taxes we pay to support the schools already.</p> <p>There are simple measures, like mask wearing and cleaning that we are already doing that would allow for the safe reopening of schools. Why are schools in other towns able to re-open but we are not? If they are doing things that we are not then lets look into that, lets implement the measures that they are in order to allow for our schools to open too.</p> <p>I am extremely disappointed in the teachers union and strongly urge the Board to stand up for the children of Elmhurst. Re-open the schools!</p>
10/27/2020 9:38:29	<p>It would be tremendously more beneficial for K and first graders to go every day for 2.5-3 hours for no-nonsense core instruction. Then, they could come home to continue asynchronous work and specials. PLEASE consider amending the hybrid schedule for primary students for Trimester 2. I am not necessarily asking for more in-person learning, but better in-person learning.</p>
10/27/2020 9:47:40	<p>Hello.</p> <p>First we would like to thank the teachers and staff of Fischer Elementary during this very stressful time for their continued support of our Dual Language program and especially my son's teacher Mrs. Olague. She has been a great teacher for my son's 2nd grade class during this difficult time, always keeping everyone on track and trying to keep them motivated to learn. She is a wonderful example of the dedicated teachers that we have at Fischer!</p> <p>Secondly, as parents of a student in the Dual Language program, we believe the District and our school personnel are working hard to ensure that the Dual Language Program is thriving in these circumstances. We have been very impressed by the ongoing ingenuity, creativity and support of all of the teachers and staff at Fischer. And truly appreciate that the District enabled the program to use the AB Hybrid model for the in person students, as it has allowed them to have increased exposure to not only native language speakers for English and Spanish, but to have in person language support, both of which are central to the success of the Dual Language educational model.</p> <p>Our concerns though are during remote learning days, the children spend much of their day alone or in breakout rooms without the benefit of this increased exposure to native language speakers for English and/or Spanish and minimal language exposure or practice among their peers. The difference between in person and remote in language acquisition is vast.</p> <p>We would like to know what the plans are for the next term, beginning in January. Will the hybrid model be the same as it is now? If students move out of the remote path and elect to join the hybrid model, will there be enough space to accommodate them all? We believe that continuing the AB model for a minimum of 5 hours a day for Dual Language is essential for language acquisition, as peer practice and language support is necessary for the educational model to be successful.</p> <p>Please consider adding Dual Language to the Board Meeting agenda in November so that this can be discussed thoroughly.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Karen and Paul Sienko</p>
10/27/2020 9:53:12	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>My name is Bernice DeCristofaro. I am a mom of a 7th & 8th grader at Churchville, and a Freshman at York. Our family supports our D205 teachers. We have the best teachers in the world, and words cannot express how thankful we are for them.</p> <p>With that being said, I am begging you to please have school in person. This is killing our kids, emotionally, educationally, and physically! I have talked with seven medical doctors and they all have said that kids need to be in school physically, including our Asthma Doctor. One of our Pediatrician's have said that their practice receives 15 phone calls a day from parents asking what therapist/psychologist to take their child to because they are depressed and or have thoughts of suicide. Meanwhile obesity is at an all time high.</p> <p>One of the most disturbing things to watch through all of this is Max Schoenberg continually posting inaccurate charts and statistics from unreliable sources. In fact I have seen medical professionals and math teachers call him out on the sources of which he gets his information and the bad math of his charts and statistics. This is just adding and flaming inaccurate & unnecessary fear.</p> <p>I am not going to reinvent the wheel on the logistics on how to get the kids in school, I don't have to. Look at what the other school districts around us are doing as far as in person school. Itasca School Dist. 10 offers e-learning as well as the majority of their kids attend in person school 5 days a week, including lunch/recess and a 3:10pm dismissal. Itasca and other school districts have separate teachers that teach to the remote students, while also having teachers that teach only to the students in person. Also, look how successful all of the private schools are around us in regards to in person school.</p> <p>Please do the right thing! Please stop taking our kid's rights away by taking away their right to an education.</p>

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10/27/2020 10:58:13	<p>I would like to thank the teachers of district 205 for their adaptability and continued efforts in trying to provide the best education possible during this time. I would also like to thank the school board for its efforts in delivering that education to our children. However, I urge the school board and teachers to be forward thinking leaders in responding to this crisis in regards to returning our children to the classroom, especially our younger learners (K-5). It is clearly evident that we have been mostly reactionary in our planning rather than strategically planning for worst case scenarios. We must anticipate that COVID numbers will increase and this pandemic can become endemic and require a multi-year arc for resolution. We must also anticipate that if a vaccine is available, it will take some time (minimum 1 – 2 years) for the general public to be fully vaccinated due to the politicized nature of COVID and vaccine production. If we use this as our baseline, then a plan can be developed for returning our children to the classroom because you will have already anticipated these scenarios, rather than looking at this week by week.</p> <p>Despite rising numbers, there have not been large outbreaks of cases in local parochial schools that have had a full return to the classroom, particularly if the appropriate measures have been taken. We can use their full return as a control group to gauge the coming months, and should there continue to not be a large outbreak in these schools, despite the rising COVID percentage rate, it proves schools can be fully reopened. We all must continue do our part outside of school to limit social interactions that could expose our children to the virus in order to prevent transmission in a school setting.</p> <p>It is extremely important that young children get off the computer and get back to in-person learning. Excess screen time is associated with multiple health risks including obesity, poor developmental outcomes, poor sleep, and inhibited eye development, particularly during such important times of brain growth and development (resources found on American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Ophthalmology, the World Health Organization websites and publications).</p> <p>We must be cognizant that our short-term decisions have long-term ramifications. Our children spend the majority of their time being students. Thus it is imperative that our schools be maximized to not only provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our children but also for our teachers so that they may effectively do their jobs. Additionally, teachers should not be pulled between half a class on a zoom meeting and half in person. This divided attention for the teachers decreases their effectiveness to provide that education.</p> <p>We cannot simply say we will see what happens in 2 weeks and keep thinking the model that we have is adequate. We must say “what is our plan in the spring? What is our plan next school year and the year after?” We need a plan for every scenario with the singular purpose of getting the children off the computer and back in the classroom. If this cannot be achieved, then we must also plan how we are going to ensure that our children have met their learning targets, as there will be a discrepancy over the coming decade in children that had a full return to learning and those that did not. Fifteen years from now, the world won't care if our children didn't get a full education, it will simply say you aren't qualified and I am going to go with someone who is (think job applications, college applications). Thinking that we are all in this together is naïve - the State of Illinois may be taking these precautions but other states are not. We again must anticipate the long-term ramifications of these decisions we make today. Otherwise, instead of Generation X, Generation Y, or the Millennial Generation, we will have a Lost Generation.</p>
10/27/2020 11:03:05	<p>Board and Superintendent: you need to reopen our schools immediately, stop using this ridiculous and misleading DuPage metric, implement a more fulsome academic curriculum and schedule, and explain to the community who is making these decisions and why so that you can be held accountable. You are destroying the education and lives of all public school students in Elmhurst.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who is the “we” referred to in regard to the decision to close the schools? Is this Dave acting unilaterally, or is this Dave working with the Board, and how and when was this decision made? Surely the Board cannot think this is the correct approach to educating our children. If it is Dave acting unilaterally – Did you, the Board of EDUCATION, really give unilateral control to Dave for this decision? Is that legal? Was this an approval item in an open meeting subject to public comment? Or was this a handshake deal that Dave made with the union that 205 would use a DuPage metric rather than Elmhurst? Again, is that legal? And why are you more concerned with the teachers union than the students whose education and lives you are destroying? Why is Dave making these decisions and who is holding him accountable for going against the children, parents and taxpayers? - Why would you use a DuPage metric that is misleading and has no impact on Elmhurst? College students who are away at school but have parents in DuPage are registering as positive tests in DuPage. The metric should be local Elmhurst only and anyone not currently residing in Elmhurst should be removed from the metric. This is very straightforward and could be easily implemented if you actually cared about educating our children. If you continue to use the DuPage metric, our kids will never go back to school – you understand that, right? Or that is what you want? Clearly you agreed to this with the union, or why else would you use a metric that has no direct bearing on Elmhurst? - Why are D205 schools closed but not other public schools in DuPage? Again, it had to be a handshake deal with the union, right? Why are Elmhurst kids the only ones not being educated? - Why have private schools been in person all year without issue but D205 schools are not? How are they all safe but D205 students are in danger? Every parent I have spoken with this year wants their kids in school 5 days per week. With all of the safety protocols in place, the virus does not spread in schools, this is very clearly established. So why is D205 unable to make this happen? Let me guess, the teachers union. - Who came up with this Ridiculous 2 days of class per week schedule in the first place? Why not a full schedule every day? The kids can handle it, so it must have been Dave prioritizing the teachers union again. Every parent I've spoken to wants a full schedule every day. Imagine wanting your children to be educated, what an amazing idea. - Why are you continuing to prioritize the teachers union over the students? Every teacher we have spoken to over the past 2 weeks has indicated they want to be in school just as much as the kids do, but union leadership is telling them to stay home and be quiet. You are going to let union leadership ruin our children's lives and education as a negotiating tactic??? <p>You are a Board of EDUCATION. You were elected to Educate our children. Quit hiding and do your job. If you are not willing to do whatever it takes to make that happen, you should resign immediately.</p>
10/27/2020 11:21:56	<p>Thank you for getting zoom classes up and running during normal school hours and also making the school building at York as safe as you could with masking, social distancing and HVAC system changes. I read the emails that clearly stated continued in-person learning was dependent on our community doing its part outside of school and keeping our spread low. That being said we ALSO thank you for continuing to follow the guidelines given to you by public health experts stating when in-person learning is no longer recommended. I'm pretty sure you already know we all "WANT" the kids back in school. Getting the kids back into the buildings is up to us. Can we embrace the suck as a whole community -not divided community- and get our rates lower so that the kids can get back to hybrid? We are grateful given the circumstances my daughter has been engaged and thriving at school as much as can be expected right now. I'm really proud of all her teachers putting in all the extra effort necessary to pivot and make this new format work as best as they can. My freshman literally has no preference to being in the building or at home. We support you listening to the public health experts during this world pandemic. Please continue to do so.</p>

Timestamp	Please enter your comment
10/27/2020 11:23:26	<p>To the Board: I want to begin by thanking you for your service, especially during this time of uncertainty. I am writing regarding the District's decision-making and the occlusion of it. In July, I wrote a letter (addressed to the Board, not for public comment) in which I expressed understanding of the difficult position you were in and expressed neither support nor opposition for a specific instructional setting. Rather, I asked you to commit to the detailed disclosure of instructional decisions, in a manner widely and readily available to the public. I have also requested a number of documents. I have not seen clarity on what I hoped to learn so I take this public forum opportunity to hone in on specific questions I believe to be of the greatest public interest.</p> <p>My first concern is about public comment. Why are our comments being read aloud by a Board member (at this moment)? The residents of Elmhurst are paying for the technological capability to allow for live, call-in participation. It also would not be out of the ordinary for a public body with adequate facilities to allow the public the choice to speak in person (following precautions) or to call in. Why is this not an option with 205?</p> <p>My second area of concern relates to 205's methods of decision making and their transparency. I am respectfully asking for answers to the following: Who directed Superintendent Moyer to sign 3 side letters to the contract between District 205 and Elmhurst Teachers' Council in the spring? Why did the Board neither validate them before— nor disclose them to— the public? Why, after declaring Act of God emergency days in March and also designating teacher training days later in the spring on Fridays, did District 205 also decide to conclude the school year one week early? Why did the Board approve a policy to dismiss teachers before the end of their contract—paying them in full—instead of engaging with them to collaborate on best practices for remote learning and/or to plan for the fall—while they were still on the clock? Why on July 14 was the public led to believe the Board was approving the Open D205 plan during a School Board meeting when that is not in fact what happened? Portions of Open D205 were presented under agenda item 4.A., which had no mechanism for approval. Agenda item 7.A. listed a resolution giving the Superintendent authority to modify the opening plan. And instead of approving OpenD205 or alternatively, a document including specific parameters reflecting fundamental attributes, the School Board handed over their authority.</p> <p>How was the decision made to cut Spanish at the elementary level? I'm not asking the Board to debate second language acquisition and critical age but why was the public not made aware of how that decision was made and the alternatives considered? More importantly, how was the decision made to cut out science and social studies to make reading/ELA instruction more intensive? If there are a number of students demonstrating learning loss in ELA, why not schedule to meet with them in small groups during the ELA block of after 1:30? Have you considered growth projections (or lack thereof) for students who are high achieving in reading and also interested in science and social studies? What are the plans for these students or should we be satisfied if they demonstrate zero growth in ELA, science and social studies? Shouldn't Illinois make a decision on the status of the (5th grade) Illinois Science Assessment before our science is pulled? If remote learning is to continue, there is opportunity to group students more creatively as physical barriers between schools do not exist. There is no reason why students ready for science and social studies cannot be grouped with a teacher in that area. There is no reason why arrangements cannot be made for students across the spectrum of ELA to be grouped in a class to foster growth. On tonight's agenda are the Superintendent's goals, or at least there is an item named that. Where are the goals and why can we not see them? Is there a goal to first inform the public of potential changes as they are contemplated or is the status quo of surprises acceptable? The Board has the levers-- and I'd argue the obligation--to hold the line. I respectfully ask that you follow your own policies for oversight and where there are gray areas, adopt policies to instill a deliberative public approval process when fundamental changes such as dropping science, dropping social studies and lowering learning targets in ELA are possibilities.</p> <p>As you know, I have requested documents from 205 to shed light on its decisions and the direction given to teachers and staff since March. As of today, I have not received a number of them, even though the Illinois Office of the Attorney General has directed you to provide them to me. Please help all of us understand what has been happening within our school district. Thank you. Dannee Polomsky</p>
10/27/2020 11:55:36	<p>When will we have the opportunity to complete an unbiased survey? As a parent I feel like I am being asked to pick from the lesser of two evils. Please send a more open ended survey to allow for a real concrete feedback.</p>
10/27/2020 11:59:01	<p>I want to start this email by thanking each and everyone of you for all your hard work and efforts into getting the school year up and running.</p> <p>I have two children attending elementary school, a 3rd grader and a 1st grader, and although my daughters are less than 2 years apart – this year the educational experience for these two grade levels cannot be more different.</p> <p>I believe that (although not ideal by any means) 3rd grade students can handle to a certain extent e-learning with the hybrid model, I cannot say the same for these 1st grade students. I have observed the 1st grade classes, and have watched these children each day lose a little bit more their passion for learning. Some struggle to maintain attention, some are looking or creating constant distractions, and I have lost count of meltdowns. I believe child engagement was one of the topics discussed in the 9/30 board meeting, as a parent of a first grader, I can tell you with each passing day they are less and less engaged.</p> <p>I know that each of you on this email take pride in providing high quality education for the students of the district, however, this year it feels that the younger students are being left behind.</p> <p>These are fundamental years for learning - they should be learning or strengthening their reading and reading comprehension skills – we are two months into the school year, and my youngest has yet to read or join a reading group. At curriculum night it was more than evident that this grade level is not progressing at the pace hoped for, in fact, there is concern on how far behind we are. I understand and know this is not new information I am providing you and it is an issue across the district.</p> <p>I also hope and believe that everyone on this email has been working diligently to come up with a solution as soon as possible (waiting honestly should not be an option given the urgency). We need to get these kids in class 5 days a week, where a teacher can focus her full attention on the children in her classroom without worrying what is happening in “Zoom”. Maybe that is doing A mornings and B afternoons (I am not sure) with asynchronous learning when they are not in class. I am confident you are considering multiple options. The time to put these into action is NOW. If we continue to do nothing but wait another week/month/semester, we are basically deciding to hold these children back – potentially a whole grade level – and it will be years before they can catch up.</p> <p>My concern is not a reflection of the teacher's ability – I have nothing but positive things to say about their teachers. They are doing everything they can to engage and teach their students. The reality is that 3rd graders are much better equipped to handle 4-5 hours of zoom classes, 1st graders do not have that “maturity” yet.</p>

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10/27/2020 12:06:21	How does the district plan on executing MAP assessments? As a parents of child who was unable to successfully complete the assessment, by the time she was allowed into the test, the class was 15 minutes from adjourning- and hence she got kicked out. What is the district's plan to evaluate our children and see if they are truly progressing academically? How are we tackling the continuous technology issues that quite honestly should not be occurring this late into the school year.
10/27/2020 12:23:35	Can the Board and Superintendent explain what is preventing York from having a regular full schedule every day, even if some are remote? Why is that not possible? Who is suggesting that is not possible and why? Why did you agree to half the amount of instruction? Who made this decision? The kids can handle it and the kids and parents want it, so why are we not doing that? Why are you not doing what is best for these kids?
10/27/2020 12:28:51	We support D205's sensible decision to pause in-person instruction in the face of a steep uptick in Covid infections and hospitalizations in our community. Studies indicate in-person instruction is safe when community spread levels are stable, however that is not our current circumstance. We look forward to seeing our own kids and all D205 students back to in-person learning as we all know is optimal. In the meantime we ask that D205 increase and emphasize communication about the importance of individual responsibility and behaviors outside of school hours in mitigating community spread. If getting our kids back to safe in-person learning is the priority and goal, then distancing, masking and avoiding indoor interactions are key. We're deeply grateful for the ways our educators have gone above-and-beyond to keep our kids engaged and learning. We thank the board for continuing to aim for a balanced approach to these unprecedented challenges, and for its time.
10/27/2020 12:28:58	Is the board still planning on tearing down Lincoln over the summer if we are not past COVID restrictions? How will the board address social distancing guidelines and concerns for the following school year to ensure we do not run the risk of having to resume remote or hybrid learning in 2021/22
10/27/2020 13:06:53	<p>Dear Elmhurst School Board Members,</p> <p>I can only imagine the weight that has been on your shoulders this year. There is much to balance and I'm confident you are doing your best to do what's right for our community.</p> <p>I have lived in Elmhurst for 13 years, and have a graduate of York, Senior at York, as well as a 3rd and 1st grader at Emerson. As someone who also works in healthcare, I acknowledge and support that we must use data to drive decisions on our approach to in-person schooling. We have also learned in healthcare that local numbers are a more reasonable approach to addressing COVID-19 support and operational decisions within our communities. When reviewing the data for Elmhurst, it seems that 60126 numbers support a continued hybrid model. While I realize we have multiple zip codes that feed into D205, the data also seems to indicate that public and private schools have been able to keep school related exposures low while maintaining in-person schooling (many of them full days).</p> <p>In looking at the following metrics, I would encourage D205 to use reasonable discretion and consider more local data when determining our in-person approach to schooling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •While DuPage county metrics are in the substantial category, according to the COVID Northwestern dashboard, Elmhurst has a 14-day positivity rate of 4.18% •According to the dashboard on dupagehealth.org, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oSince March 1, only .5% of cases are linked to public schools (.3% from private) oLess than 5 total outbreaks linked to public schools from October 6-20 •According to elmhurst205.org, there 8000+ students in Elmhurst with only 3 positive students last week <p>While remote schooling has been ok for our Senior, it is a much different story for our elementary school children, where I think the priority should be. During hybrid, their spirits and engagement increased while with their teachers and peers. My hope had been that we could continue to build upon our hybrid model and focus on improving the approach to ensure our children get the support they need, academically, socially and emotionally, while equally supporting our teachers and staff.</p> <p>The American Academy of Pediatrics states: The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020.</p> <p>We know that racial and social inequities exist all over the country, yet we are not immune to this in Elmhurst and I am concerned that these disparities will increase in our current model. Many parents have begun to supplement with tutors, sitters to monitor remote learning, transitioning to private schools, or even moving to their 2nd homes to ensure in-person schooling. This creates a significant division that will likely impact our students and district for years to come. I hope that we are truly looking to be fluid in terms of transitioning children back to the classroom as soon as we are safely able to. In the meantime, I think it's critical we continue to improve upon our models and throw out old frameworks that worked in the past, yet are no longer relevant in our new normal. I am asking that this be a consideration as the board, administration, teachers, and unions prepare for our future plans.</p> <p>If our numbers require us to remain in a remote (or even hybrid) learning environment, I think it is important that our district focuses efforts on supporting the resilience and engagement of our students and teachers. It's so easy to disengage in this environment, and most organizations that make the decision to move remote are deliberate about practices to focus on maintaining culture and engagement. If there are efforts already in place, it would be great to hear about them.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued work to support our community, schools, teachers, staff, students and parents. I do believe we live in an amazing community, with people looking to support where they can. Please consider beyond our traditional resources about how we might be able to accomplish what is needed for our students to get equal access to education. Please know that my intent is not to complain or focus solely on what is best for my children, yet share concerns, encourage holistic and innovative thinking about solutions and offer my assistance if it would be valuable.</p>

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10/27/2020 13:07:12	<p>I would like to express my utmost concern over the lack of efforts to reopen our schools. Our children, especially the younger ages (kindergarten-2nd grade) NEED in-person instruction in order to move forward with their education. They cannot expand their knowledge base and learn new concepts from a one-size-fits-all virtual instruction curriculum. I have a first-grade daughter and she has gone from loving school with enthusiasm and excitement to hatred or depressed apathy towards learning. She cries most days and just stares aimlessly at the screen the other days. It breaks my heart to think this is what the teachers union pats themselves on the back for. Our children are suffering and deserve better. We pay an extraordinary amount of taxes to fund our schools and we chose this location specifically for its educational reputation. The d205 schools need to listen to their tax base and provide the education they have long-promised. There are zero cases of Covid having been spread between students at the elementary level. Why are we punishing them for a threat that does not exist?? Please reopen our schools. Our children are depending on you.</p>
10/27/2020 14:36:19	<p>Board of Education- How can D205 use "DuPage County statistics" and retreat to full remote while other districts in DuPage County are still in school? Why did D205 arbitrarily shorten the school day while already aware of the absolute failure of the Spring 2020 semester? Why did D205 arbitrarily shorten the school day while other schools in DuPage and suburban Cook are full days? Does anyone on the District205 Board recognize the social and emotional regression of the students?</p> <p>Jeff Fischer</p>
10/27/2020 14:39:51	<p>My child has fragile x and I have noticed during Covid when he is not in his routine for school and social, he regresses, which in turn is going to drastically impact his educational and social development.</p>
10/27/2020 14:46:55	<p>School needs to reopen for the sake of our children's educational and mental health needs. Study after study show that Covid is NOT spreading through school, so there is no justification to close.</p>
10/27/2020 14:58:17	<p>It is extremely frustrating to watch the private schools in town hold live classes 5 days/week and D205 cannot even commit to a 5 day per week remote program. There was no plan in March and we continue to watch our kids fall behind academically and socially with an extremely limited weekly workload. We need leadership to put a plan in place today as our kids don't have the time to wait for a 100% safe environment.</p>
10/27/2020 15:18:40	<p>I implore you to see that schools are essential!</p> <p>I concur with statement from Scott Hoboken. Over recent weeks it has become increasingly clear that for our children who comprise the students of D205 the 'cure' for the ongoing virus situation has likely become worse than the 'disease'. The evidence continues to mount that students are falling behind academically, have dramatically shortened athletic seasons, are exhibiting signs of depression at a high rate, are socially isolated, and have reduced physical activity levels. All of these direct and tangible impacts from the remote learning model (and even the hybrid model to a large extent) significantly outweigh the morbidity and mortality of the virus for the K-12 age group (e.g., as of October 26th there has not been even one death from Covid-19 in DuPage County for a person under 20 years of age but 46% of teachers are reporting more anxiety, depression, and stress from their students and recent estimates suggest that only 60% of the curriculum will be covered this school year within D205).</p> <p>It is time to step back and reset the situation using all evidence we have available, including the best practices from public schools across the country and private schools right here in Elmhurst that are open and in person five days per week. Students and parents are not interested in a D205 administration vs. teachers union blame game of what caused D205 to be in the situation we are in, who is primarily responsible, etc. It is time for everyone to move to a model of We Can and make decisions that will get the 1000's of students in D205 that selected in person into the classroom.</p> <p>A few specific thoughts for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)Masks and distancing requirements need to be followed, but with these safeguards in place we cannot afford to have sweeping quarantines out of 'an abundance of caution'. Policies that quarantine students in classrooms even when spaced appropriately and athletic teams that are all quarantined when only one small group was truly in close contact need to be revisited. The D205 quarantine to case ratios of 30:1 to 40:1 in recent weeks seem to go beyond reasonable precautions. 2)Look at data other than case-based metrics and put focus on Elmhurst data first while supplementing with DuPage County data. Why not include metrics based on deaths, ICU admissions, hospitalizations, and cases rates of the <20 years age band in addition to the overall new case rate in the decision of remote vs. hybrid vs. in person instruction? Why not look at Elmhurst data first, then Elmhurst + adjacent cities, then overall DuPage County? Elmhurst comprises just 5% of the population of DuPage County and 3% of the land area so using county-level data as the sole or primary factor to make this decision feels questionable. 3)Let the athletes play. Please review the recent study by Dr. Andrew Watson at UW-Madison with over 30,000 athletes in the study that found no increased virus transmission rate. 4)Do not forget about the students that are being disadvantaged to an even greater degree by the mandated remote model. Students that speak English as a second language, those that don't have a good home environment for learning, and students with learning challenges have potential negative impacts even beyond those being seen within the overall student population of D205. Do not assume remote learning comes without many risks as well. <p>To conclude, please consider reverting to hybrid instruction immediately with an urgent focus on returning to full in person instruction as soon as possible (with separate remote option). Our children and your students deserve to be in schools.</p>

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10/27/2020 15:26:32	<p>11 years ago we leaned my husband Matt had ALS. A disease with no treatment or cure and typically fatal in 2-5 years. He would most likely die from pulmonary failure due to a respiratory virus or pneumonia. We have faced job loss and financial difficulties in paying bills. We have been hand washing, wearing gloves, masks and socially distancing when necessary for years. We have been living safely with ALS for 11 years.</p> <p>We have also been living. Not making decisions out of an abundance of caution but living with safety precautions. Matt has been heroically living with ALS because we are taking precautions when we go out and we do go out. We socialize safely and love watching our kids in their high school activities.</p> <p>Yet our son Paddy who is senior at York, has only been allowed to attend 4 days of school this year due to an abundance of caution. He had to take a SAT in Indiana because his 2 ACTs that he was planning on taking at York were cancelled. He was 1 of 2 students at York who needed testing accommodations but District 205 was unwilling to administer the test due to safety reasons. So we (including Matt because I had to drive Paddy) had to go out of state to take the test. He did take the SAT offered by York on 10/14 but those results will not be in before the November 1st college application date. He has 3 Honors/AP classes that have labs that he can't fully complete the projects because he's remote.</p> <p>He can't participate in football and lacrosse contact days that were approved by the state because they were again cancelled by York due to an abundance of caution.</p> <p>So out of abundance of caution York is putting the seniors at a disadvantage while private schools and public schools in neighboring suburbs are attending in person/hybrid.</p> <p>With hand washing, masks and socially distancing he could safely return to hybrid and sport "practices" can start up.</p> <p>If we can Live with ALS for 11 years, students at York can return to a minimum hybrid.</p>
10/27/2020 15:35:19	<p>I'm going to keep this short and sweet, so maybe my comment will actually be read. Open back up our schools. If the past 2+ months have shown us anything, it's that the precautions and the procedures that D205 has put into place are working. There have been zero student-to-student transmissions and also no student-to-staff transmissions. You said our students would be safe at school with their masks and their distancing, we trusted you and it's working. The transmission rate of the general public in no way reflects what is happening in our schools and our community. Closing schools, specifically for Elementary Students, causes more harm than good. These children NEED to be in school. These early years are the foundation of their learning and what is happening during elearning can in no way be a substitute for in person learning, regardless of how amazing of a job our teachers are doing. Open up schools, be creative, return the elementary kids to school, keep the higher risk HS kids home. DO SOMETHING!! E-Learning is not the answer every time their is a spike in the county numbers, look at a smaller more representative sample. Parochial Schools are OPEN, with the same statistics we are facing, why can't the district schools be?</p>
10/27/2020 15:41:58	<p>Our children's' mental health is at a dangerous point. I'm living it first hand with a depressed 8 year old. Whose spirits rose after starting hybrid! Crying and asking me why she is sad all the time. Telling me she'd rather die than do remote learning. A child that used to LOVE school now hates it. If the private schools can do it, neighboring towns are doing it, American Academy of pediatrics is supporting it, neighboring states are doing it, other countries are doing it safely with very, very low transmission. The DuPage County Department of Public Health has a broader stroke to be concerned about. We here in Elmhurst need to be worrying about our children in our community first. The numbers in Elmhurst do not support the need for these kids to be remote. These numbers are going to stop climbing until we get a vaccine. I am in the healthcare field and everyone I talk to supports in-person learning done safely with masks and handwashing etc. The mental health of our children is at stake and those stakes are way too high to be keeping them at home. And other communities are doing hybrid but they aren't stopping at 1:15 each day. We need to be looking at those who are successfully doing it and find out what they're doing so we can emulate it. These kids need to be in school all day! Part of learning especially, in the elementary school age, is being able to be around your peers learning through conversation and collaboration, etc. That cannot happen on zoom. These kids are going to have PTSD dealing with COVID is hard enough! We need to get them back in school or we do permanent damage to our children in our community!</p>
10/27/2020 16:54:08	<p>DuPage is doing a better job than Cook or IDPH in making the DATA associated with COVID available in a meaningful and consumable way, but we're still NOT leveraging the DATA to make our decisions, and instead are basing everything on emotion, fear (based on ridiculous 'What if scenarios'), and risk of death to a very small percentage of the TOTAL population; specifically the elderly (i.e. above 70 years of age) or those in LTCF (Long-Term Care Facilities). This doesn't mean I don't care, my grandfather was in a LTCF for over 20+ years of my life, but COVID is going to be with us for MANY more months, likely through 2021 (yes, a whole entire year more), so the MAJORITY of us are going to have to figure out how to LIVE with it, not try to hide from it, and those at most risk, or those that come into contact with those at most risk NEED to take the necessary precautions to protect each other! All of the following can be pulled (not easily unfortunately) from the IDPH COVID Stats webpage (updated as of 10/27/20):</p> <p>ILLINOIS - Population is approximately 12.65 million people as of 2019 Totals: 382,985 Cases to 9,568 Deaths (Risk of Death - 2.5%) LTCF: 33,440 Cases to 5,019 Deaths (Risk of Death - 15%) Total Net of LTCF: 349,545 Cases to 4,549 Deaths (Risk of Death - 1.3%) 70+ YoA: 39,788 Cases to 6,696 Deaths (Risk of Death - 16.8%) Under 50 YoA & Net of LTCF: 246,718 Cases to 504 Deaths (Risk of Death - 0.2%)</p> <p>DUPAGE - Population is approximately 923 thousand people as of 2019 Totals: 23,408 Cases to 608 Deaths (Risk of Death - 2.6%) LTCF: 2,525 Cases to 444 Deaths (Risk of Death - 17.5%) Total Net of LTCF: 20,883 Cases to 164 Deaths (Risk of Death - 0.7%) IDPH Site won't provide Deaths Age Demographic at the County Level.</p> <p>I'm SURE the numbers for ELMHURST are even better than the County, if they're being tracked!!!</p>

Timestamp	Please enter your comment
10/27/2020 16:54:19	<p data-bbox="327 170 1963 203">Good evening Dr. Moyer and Board Members,</p> <p data-bbox="327 219 1963 251">I would like to thank you for keeping the students, teachers, and families of Elmhurst safe. I am so glad to see leadership following the guidelines they set.</p> <p data-bbox="327 267 1963 310">I know that there are a lot of upset parents, and that a protest is being planned. I know that I have not always agreed with the decisions that Dr. Moyer and the Board have made during this pandemic, but know that right now, this Elmhurst family is on your side. We are thankful for your leadership and decision given the metrics of DuPage County.</p>
10/27/2020 20:18:32	<p data-bbox="327 310 1963 383">It is extremely frustrating to watch the private schools in town hold live classes 5 days/week and D205 cannot even commit to a 5 day per week remote program. There was no plan in March and we continue to watch our kids fall behind academically and socially with an extremely limited weekly workload. We need leadership to put a plan in place today as our kids don't have the time to wait for a 100% safe environment.</p>
10/27/2020 21:11:26	<p data-bbox="327 383 1963 431">I am very careful with where and what I post, but I think with all of the effort put into disagreeing with the D205 school board, I am shocked at how few of us are taking the time to watch and listen to what they have to say. Thank you Dr. Moyer and all of the board members who clearly put your heart and soul into what is best for our district.</p>
10/28/2020 8:14:39	<p data-bbox="327 431 1963 483">Is the board still planning on tearing down Lincoln over the summer if we are not past COVID restrictions? How will the board address social distancing guidelines and concerns for the following school year to ensure we do not run the risk of having to resume remote or hybrid learning in 2021/22</p>