

BOE Mg. 12-10-20 Post-Public Comment (Responses)

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
12/8/2020 17:59:3	Shirley Stilson	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I implore you to return our kids to school by January in the hybrid set up with plans to open up more as allowable. With the mitigation policies in place, school is now a very controlled environment and is desperately what our children need. They are falling behind academically and deeply suffering emotionally. I hear story after story of children who are despondent, having thoughts or plans for suicide or are involved in self-harm. Please give us a choice with what we need to do for our children.</p> <p>As parents we would also like to know which parts of the curriculum they have missed and will miss so that we can help them to catch up in order to start the next academic year and not be at a deficit.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time.</p>
12/10/2020 13:30:	Cindy Harrison	<p>When I hear the public comments at these meetings, I can't help but think some of the good people in our community have unreasonably high expectations.</p> <p>As long as I have been in Elmhurst, our district has used a guru-focused and consultant-directed decision-making process. This has always met with the approval of the board and most parents.</p> <p>Suddenly, we are in a pandemic, and people expect the district to switch over to data-driven decisions guided by the most up-to-date evidence.</p> <p>I assume that once this is all over, D205 will be expected to pivot back to the guru/consultant model.</p> <p>Major transitions are difficult even for big corporations, so assuming our school district will changeover immediately and flawlessly doesn't seem realistic.</p>
12/10/2020 15:55:	Jason Garcia	<p>Earlier this year, we were excited to send my stepson back to in-person learning. Despite everyone's hard work, we found in-person learning was remote learning plus babysitting.</p> <p>I don't blame the teachers or principals because I can't think of a way that any teacher could teach two lessons to two groups of students simultaneously.</p> <p>Will in-person learning in 2021 be a discrete experience with a dedicated teacher, or will it again have a teacher trying to do two jobs at once and doing neither well.</p>
12/10/2020 17:09:	staff member	<p>I have concerns about all students returning to school in January if data shows there is still substantial spread of the virus. I would urge you to consider waiting until conditions improve. But, if you decide to move forward, please move the in person start date back to January 11, at the earliest. I am mainly concerned that families will gather indoors without masks during the New Years holiday, thus increasing the likelihood that students come to school with Covid, as we saw with the return of students after the Thanksgiving holiday.</p>
12/10/2020 17:35:	Andrew Hamil	<p>Dear Board of Education,</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts during this very trying time. Remote learning will never be a replacement for in-person learning, and yet we must be patient until it is safe to return to school. Today in Illinois there were 11,000+ new COVID infections, and this daily number is expected to continue to rise after the holidays. As you continue to discuss the re-opening of schools, please do so with a focus on the safety of students and staff. Please listen to ALL stakeholders, not just the loudest. Please recognize the amazing job our teachers have done, learning new technologies and new ways to teach. It's been difficult to read some of the online rhetoric about the teacher's union and the perception that there's an unwillingness to return to work. What is missing from these characterizations is that the union made up of PEOPLE, people who may have underlying conditions that make them more susceptible to COVID, or who may take care of immunocompromised loved ones or elder family members. They have concerns about getting sick and infecting their own families. Please be flexible in your decision making. If COVID infections continue to rise, January 6th won't be the time to re-open. Please invest your time and efforts in making remote learning better, not just reopening schools for the sake of having bodies in buildings on zoom.</p>

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12/10/2020	<p>Michael Thompson Kids want to be teachers when they grow up, and for good reason: nurturing, fun, exciting, developing and really cultivating how a child grows and views our world. Let our district leaders on both sides of this issue now give our teachers the opportunity to win back the students, to connect with them, to be the role models that our kids need them to be. We can all appreciate how fearful it can be to go out in public - to the grocery store, convenience store, church, parks, doctor's office, etc., and how it can be just as uneasy to enter our schools. But let's not forget how impactful it is that you, as an educator, can literally infuse your influence in a child so that they will remember you forever. We need to maximize this potential for teacher and student directly by returning to school in person. Through these 3.5 months of school I have been pretty discouraged by the current Remote Learning/Zoom teaching format and how it has prevented my child from reaching excellence in academics, social development, and interpersonal growth, from achieving that high point of his potential. My son cannot fully engage in this type of screen-based learning environment, devoid of natural and meaningful peer-to-peer interaction. He has not had the opportunity to establish friendships, be part of a team, and to comfortably express his ideas in a classroom. These children are not afforded the time and attention that is imperative for their growth, and I don't think the instructors can fully engage and connect with each child at all. Why and how is this acceptable? At what point do our leaders make a stand for the betterment of our teachers, students, and community? It's a call to action that has been going on for some time now, and very simply, it's time to answer in full support of direct in-person learning. Thank You - for this opportunity to express my opinion. Thank You - for this opportunity to express my opinion. Thank You - the board members and administrators for the time and effort you are all putting in to help our students and teachers. And Thank You - the parents of D205 for continuing to push and advocate for our community.</p>