

Olentangy Schools Public Participation Comments for January 14, 2021

1/13/21 22:48:17

Jeff Martin

1606 Cottonwood Dr Lewis Center

Our students need full time school

1/14/21 11:56:24

Maureen Botos More-een Boat-iss

4737 Sibel Ct. Powell, Ohio 43065

I would like to show my support for sending our children back to school full time starting immediately. Studies show that children are not spreading the virus in schools even where 6ft social distancing can't occur. It is in the best interest of our children and our community to have our children in school 5 full days.

1/14/21 13:23:17

Sarah Sepe

Sarah 7578 Hill Gail Ct., Lewis Center, OH 43035

(no comment left)

1/14/21 13:23:08

Scott Whetstone Scott Wet-stone

599 Village Park Dr

Please let our kids go back to school 5 days a week! My son has an IEP and already has enough struggles when it comes to school and learning. The at home learning just is NOT working, we have tried to be patient, we have tried different methods, we have tried hiring a tutor and NONE of this is working! He is falling farther and farther behind the longer this hybrid approach goes on. He needs to be in school with his friends and classmates, the mental toll this is taking on our youth is immeasurable. We have seen studies where the virus doesn't spread in schools and with some kids still electing to do CDL it will make it a little easier to social distance. If parents aren't comfortable with sending their kids to school, then they can elect to do CDL but please don't penalize the kids who need to be in school 5 days a week! A major reason we moved to this district was for the schools. A big reason why I'm comfortable with my son going back full time is because of how much I trust OLSD and I know that they will do everything in their power to make sure our kids are healthy and safe! These kids are young, and for the most part very healthy and resilient, but the mental health is quickly going down the tubes. This virus isn't going anywhere anytime soon! If we're waiting for everyone to get vaccinated, we're going to be waiting for YEARS and we obviously cannot afford to do that! The sooner we can get back to full time, the sooner these kids can get back to some sort of normalcy which is what they all deserve!!! Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone who continues to do everything they can to get our kids back to 5 days a week! It certainly does not go unnoticed!

1/14/21 13:28:51

Lisa Knapp Leeeesa Nap
228 Hideaway Court, Powell

I'd like to express my strong support for parents to be able to choose between virtual or 5-day a week in-person school. While online learning may work well for some, it just doesn't work for many, including my own son & others who are struggling. Most parents aren't capable of teaching their HS/MS children the complex classes Olentangy offers, especially AP/honors. School was shut down so officials could determine whether school was safe; given the science & data we have now, I see no logical reason why OLSD cannot re-open. Our teachers are exceptional; they treat each child as an individual, helping them surpass various struggles they may encounter, & as a result, many Olentangy kids are successful after graduation, including my two oldest sons. Sadly, the quality & personalized attention many kids need just isn't there like it used to be (through no fault of the teachers, of course) & they are behind. Teachers are overloaded with teaching 2 classes & unable to provide much individual assistance. Studies show that young people are experiencing feelings of hopelessness & suicidal thoughts at record numbers due to being isolated. 10 months or years is neither reasonable or healthy. The data shows that improper education is more hazardous to kids than the virus. They are missing out so much in their lives right now & important rites of passage are being lost forever. They are not OK, & neither are their parents. Delaware County Health is no longer requiring contacts of positive students/staff to quarantine, as long as all parties were masked & the "contact" occurred @ school. Studies across the world & Ohio show that the virus isn't being transmitted by contacts within schools, or even from kids to adults; it's being spread at home via gatherings, & this was stated by our Governor. Several districts have successfully conducted full-time school all year, including Mason City Schools (HS has 3,500 students). Re: risk: per ODH, 93% of Ohio's covid fatalities are aged 60+, while 87% are aged 65+. Zero school aged children have died in Ohio of covid-19 & comprise just 2% of all hospitalizations. Olentangy's demographics primarily do not fall into any of these categories. School is the safest place for our students & staff to be. The Governor has set 3/1 as the date he would like to see schools in person & has offered the vaccine to teachers/staff at schools who agree to open, with vaccinations set to begin next week. I'm curious as to how Olentangy responded? I hope that our teachers are permitted to choose to get the vaccine, if that makes them feel safer. However, these dates often appear to be stall tactics, first was "flatten the curve," then "wear the mask," then "follow the colored map," then "reduce the hospitalizations," etc. Now it's "eradicate the virus." That's impossible, & even the vaccine manufacturers have stated the virus will be with us forever. The goal posts have changed dozens of times & will continue to for YEARS if action isn't taken. If it's true (rumor) that OLSD won't open until "75% of the population has been vaccinated," that's unattainable any time soon. Studies haven't been done on kids to show they are safe, & that could take another year; what if it's found to not be safe? Vaccines aren't 100% effective; the flu shot was just 30% effective last season, & it takes years to establish herd immunity. There's no way to test a person's immunity.

QUESTION: What are the benchmarks that need to be achieved in order for Olentangy to resume school 5 days a week in person? Our Governor clearly has no plan, but our schools should. FT school is a step back to normalcy & achievement for our kids, & a step ahead to our kids' mental & physical health & their futures. If not now, when? 6 months? A year? We cannot remain in this a holding pattern much longer. I hope OLSD will step up & be Trailblazers in getting our children back to school. Thanks for your consideration! Lisa Knapp

1/14/21 16:23:47

Blasen Archibald blay-sun

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The last letter we received from the school board concerning the prospect of going back to full-time made no commitments or timelines and suggested that hybrid learning is "working" and has been a "success". I encourage the school board to recognize and acknowledge that hybrid learning is NOT working and has not been a success in terms of education. A simple comparison of grades this school year vs prior years would provide ample evidence. If the only metric that matters is number of cases spread at school then what are the thresholds to a return to full-time and are those metrics realistic? OLSD parents want their kids attending school full-time. Let us as parents share the risk of returning to full-time in person school so we can do what's right for our kids. Those who are still concerned can use the online option. Please prioritize a return to full-time learning. Waiting till there are no cases or all have been vaccinated is not acceptable. Other districts and states have returned to fulltime successfully and I have full confidence that OLSD can do the same. You have our support for full-time in person, be bold!