

Olentangy Schools Public Participation Comments for February 11, 2021

1/27/21 18:03:11

Erin Jeffries Air-ren Jeff-freez
290 Ashmoore dr Powell

Many large companies are not returning employees in person until at least June, possibly later. I urge you to consider the hybrid course for the rest of the school year. Keep our children, and educators safe. Slow the spread.

1/27/21 18:16:16

Nora Wiewel No-rah We-vull
3001 Coltsbridge Dr. Lewis Center

You are doing a great job in these unprecedented times! Let's get these kids back to school full time. What can the community do to support these efforts and push for full time?

1/27/21 17:54:44

Nic Goldsberry Nic Golds berry
399 Wooten Ct S, Powell

With the CDC reports of little evidence of covid spread related to schools, increased knowledge on personal hygiene, and now a vaccine being distributed to teachers, how does the Olentangy board explain the decrease in educational standard by the hybrid model as being acceptable to the children, the parents, and the community? My fifth grader is stressed out at age 11, trying to self teach himself the education lessons that are not reviewed in the classroom and at least once, if not twice a week trying to geeksquad figure out why lessons don't work, answers won't upload, or why assignments don't show up properly on the websites that have replaced our education system. The time is NOW to take that top education system in the state and put it to work to decrease the stress of our children, remove the education burden on parents, and raise the educational standard of our children. As a parent, I don't understand how private schools can operate under the same conditions as the public schools, but provide a better education for their children. Its unacceptable and unfair to our children.

1/27/21 18:32:37

Jennifer Russell
9341 Wayne Brown Dr. Powell

Concerning full time schooling beginning in March. With the current issues getting teachers vaccinated, it would be highly irresponsible to begin full time schooling, especially since the more contagious variant of COVID-19 is making it way through the state, and is set to be the dominate strain by March, with the advice of Dr Fauci to begin DOUBLE masking. Until vaccines are available for the majority of folks (the parents of the students as most students are not vaccine eligible at this point), it's best to limit contact, and continue hybrid and CDL.

1/27/21 18:47:58

Tracey Green

2200 killdeer place, galena

My child is a senior and needs to be in school full time. She needs the interaction and the ability to get ready for college.

1/27/21 18:53:14

Lana Will

2509 Friesian Ln Powell

Yes to 5 day school!

1/27/21 19:11:59

Wendy McDonald

2310 Ashbury Close. Powell OH 43065

Please please PLEASE open the schools full time. The risks of keeping the children at home FAR outweigh any perceived risk at school. Many districts have children in school full time, successfully. That should be our number one priority! My children have missed out on so much, my first grader cries when I tell her it is an "at home" day. She is light years behind my second grade son. She has never been in school for more than 2 consecutive days, after almost 2 years of school. Please please give our kids what they so desperately want and need, and are safe having. 5 days a week in school. There has been zero transparency about what we are waiting on to make this happen. Please be truthful with us. Our tax bills are increasing, and our services are decreasing. We deserve to know the thought process and the measured criteria that you deem necessary. Please!

1/27/21 20:33:14

Shillu Marchawala She-lu

81 Lincoln street

We should continually do hybrid for this year as The cases has been highly mutated of coronavirus going on in Ohio as well. Since the kids are not going to get vaccinated until we don't know when. It's safe to say hybrid is working now and let it be that way until the school year ends. Then we should evaluate over the summer how safe it is to open full-time.

1/27/21 21:03:51

Lauren Collins

5041 Cornice Ct. galena

We fully support our students returning to the classroom full time. We trust the the school will Make safety a priority and believe that the best environment to learn and grow is in the classroom.

1/28/21 9:37:06

Rachel Getzinger

2618 Carla Dr, Lewis Center

Contact tracing was not a priority for teachers have not been asked, by administration, for seating charts after a positive case has been identified in their classroom. Teachers have contracted Covid-19 from their students. District families are not following CDC guidelines with regard isolation, quarantine and reporting positive cases to the Health Department, thus putting teachers and students at risk. There is no CDL option available for those currently on hybrid that do not want to return to the full time in-person schedule. There are not enough vaccines available to our district to protect teachers and staff when full population is back in the schools.

1/28/21 12:35:51

Amy Gedling A me G Ed Ling

8229 Tricia Price Dr

Please please please bring our children back to school full time, 5 days a week. We are new to the district this year and are so disappointed that our children are not back full time yet. We moved from Lakota Schools and Mason City schools were out neighbors. Both schools are and have been back full time. Olentangy schools are ranked higher in the state and we expected that they too would bring everyone back. Lakota has moved mountains to make this happen for their students. We were also the 1st school in the state prior to shut down that had a practice remote learning day and never went back after spring break. Every family was sent home with a chromebook that needed one. They all went back in August full time. Please reach out to them for help on how to do this if unsure of how to manage. Matt Miller is a wonderful superintendent and I'm sure would be happy to assist or share thr measures in place to make this work if we aren't already do them which I suspect we are. That is the frustration. We are taxpayers and those they don't want to or don't feel safe sending their kids back are free to unenroll from anytime and choose a certified online school. Our hybrid kids are suffering and struggling. Even the best students are hurting. I honestly wish at times that everyone would be forced to repeat the school year to ensure a better education for them this year. This is no fault of the teachers. They are doing their absolute best they can to teach them all. 4th grade is a big transitional year normally with multiplication and division and more responsibilities. She loves school but isn't getting all that she should outnof the couple days a week that she is there. My middle schooler is really struggling with Math and I don't blame him either. Junior High and High School is hard enough when you are there 5 days a week. This doesn't even begin to touch on the mental aspect of them not being there and the depressing days and sadness that all can feel. It's time to put these kids first aside from all the other nonsense. There is absolutely no reason for them not to be in school 5 days a week now and we have the Science back that up. The teachers are all still getting paid as they are already there 5 days a week and have more stress so. Do the right thing please for them. Private schools will become a choice for many if we don't get them back. Olentangy won't be the district it

has been built up to be without the support of all the parents and students in our community that it has still now. Thank you for your time. Again appreciate those teachers who have gone above and beyond to help their kids this year.

1/29/21 16:04:14

Teresa Kratofil

2771 Coltsbridge Drive, Lewis Center

Good evening. I am strongly encouraging the Board to maintain the Hybrid learning model for the rest of the school year. I know the CDC has issued new guidelines for students returning to the classroom, however; the guidelines state that not only are masks to be worn, social distancing as well as less dense classrooms are to be maintained. I have a hard time believing that ALL of these guidelines will be achieved and maintained with full student body in 5 day schooling. High school hallways and cafeterias are full now in the hybrid model. Less dense classrooms will be hard to achieve. My daughter has had a few classes that are pretty full now with half the students. Don't get me wrong, my daughter is a senior ,and I would love for her to have that "senior" experience, however; the health and safety of the community is at risk. Not to mention that more contagious South Africa and Brazilian strains that have now made their way here. Thank you for your time.

2/3/21 14:04:53

Chang Keat, Koo

431 Braumiller Crossing Dr, Delaware OH 43015

It appears that CDL option was removed for the upcoming Fall semester (School year 2021-2022). The community has shown great support towards Olentangy School District and we expect the same respect the district will provide not just back to the community but also to the educators. Living among this great school districts is a group that is classified as high risk or immune compromised situation and I am referring to families as well as the teaching staffs. Don't get me wrong. It is vital for kids to return to school as soon as possible and in some families it affects their jobs. I get it, I totally get it. However, how about the population that is at risk? Why are they not given a consideration when the decision is being made? The request is not a permanent request as we are in an unprecedented time that has yet to be overcome. All we ask is that unless the high risk groups are fully protected, there must be an TEMPORARY option given which is the CDL option.

2/8/21 16:51:54

Heather Lauderback

7511 Tall Pine Dr Lewis Center

Dear Olentangy School Board Members, I am writing in regard to the rebranding of school mascots and specifically keeping the name "Braves". I want to applaud your willingness to remove the offensive imagery and ask that you continue to make the bold move of removing equally offensive language. Many Native American people, including

the National Council of American Indians have made statements specifically about the use of the word "Braves", asserting the use of the word perpetuates the "warrior savage" myth often associated with Native people. This may come as a surprise to people not part of a marginalized group and I implore you to rethink your position. The "warrior savage" myth reinforces the racist views that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated, and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and the deconstruction of Indian culture. The use of this word can be deeply painful for people who identify as Native American and sends a bigger message to the community that Olentangy is insensitive, at best. I believe this mascot and the associated name was adopted at a time when this type of racism was acceptable, but we are in a more enlightened time now and I urge you to embrace a full rebranding, one that sheds painful images and language of the past. Thank you for your attention to this matter, Heather Lauderback 7511 Tall Pine Dr. 614-600-0469

2/8/21 17:05:27

Dan Krumlauf

3501 Berlin station rd 43015

Hello I would like to go on record recommending OSD return to 5 day in class instruction ASAP. Thanks

2/8/21 20:00:21

Heather weidenhamer

5410 Grand Oak Blvd galena

What is the plan for the 2021-2022 school year? You want the parents to submit intent to return without having told us what the plan for next year is. We deserve a straight answer from all of you and expect it to be honored going forward.

2/8/21 19:55:49

Rachel Tate ray-chel taa-te

1424 Jewett Road Powell, OH 43065

We have 4 children in this district and all of them have been negatively impacted by the hybrid situation, academically and/or socially. As an educator, I chose sending my children back into their school buildings because that's their best learning situation. Hybrid is not. I'm so disappointed that OLSD hasn't moved back to 5 days of full in-person classes. We need 5 full days of actual in class learning. If parents don't feel comfortable with 5 days in person, they can choose CDL. Our teachers and staff are wonderful. You can do this! Make it happen ASAP OLSD.

2/8/21 20:08:38

Chris Hicks

4055 Mariners Way

8 to 10 days a month of in-person education combined with 2 hours of busy work on at home days is not the level of educational instruction expected in this district. It's time to provide a concrete plan and timeline to get our kids back to 100% in person learning 5

days a week this school year. Similarly, Mr. Raiff and the Board should provide an overview of the framework and specific criteria for remaining in hybrid if that is the decision made.. Additionally, not allowing live, in-person comments from the tax-paying parents of the kids your school district serves is the easy way out and only serves to make your decision in a bubble. Get the kids back in school 5 days a week or start refunding the taxes we've allowed you to use.

2/8/21 20:38:52

Todd H(uffman)

4824 Alston Grove Drive

Westerville City Schools and Hilliard City Schools both discussed March dates for all in at their board meetings on February 8. What is stopping Olentangy from joining them?

2/8/21 21:05:41

LeeAnne Barton

585 Cliff View Drive, Galena,

The CDC has evidence that Covid is not spread in schools. The district has been able to start the vaccination of the teachers we now need to plan to get the kids back in school full time. Our kids are falling behind.

2/8/21 23:15:41

Tracey Green

2200 Killdeer Place

Last year not being in school full time and being around peers put my step son in depression and later diagnosed with schizophrenia. My daughter is a senior now and missing all her senior activities and classmates and life long lessons she can take with her through adult hood. I am hopeful that the school board will find a way to return to 5 day school and allow the students to have some normalcy. Thank you.

2/9/21 2:45:49

David DaRif

548 Apple Valley Cir Delaware OH 43015

How are you planning now for a return to full time in person learning for the fall! With schools like Hilliard and Westerville going back to full time in March, what is the likelihood we will return to full time in class learning this year?

2/9/21 11:27:16

Carolynn Culligan

6261 Lake Trail Dr, Westerville

At home learning days (hybrid days) are basically homework days. They are not true school days, we did not consider homework in the past as part of the total schooling hours in a year. We have been in school a total of 47 days/9 weeks/2.5 months this school year (group A) compared to what would have been 96 days in a regular school

year, so far. That's the difference between what our Olentangy kids are getting VS what other kids in some private schools or full-time districts are getting. And that's how much our kids are falling behind compared to those other schools around the country. The burden is falling on parents to teach their kids at home (VS doing homework), especially if they have young elementary kids. Unfortunately, teachers are working full time but these kids are getting only half the school year. And I'm surprised there was not a plan in place to continue teaching via online methods on snow days instead of just calling it off for all kids, especially in a year like this. I understand in a normal school year, we have a certain number of calamity days and the curriculum is still covered in full. But I'm quite sure it's a struggle to cover the curriculum in full this year due to hybrid days, and having snow days on top of it, what actual percentage of the curriculum is actually being covered this year? And how much of it is being retained by the kids? "And for those who say let them enjoy the snow day, and play in the snow. Let them be kids." Isn't that what weekends are for?

2/9/21 11:31:51

Audra Van Winkle Od-dra van winkle
4928 Braiden Dr. Galena OH 43021

My girls (1st, 3rd and 6th grade) have been CDL and now in person. The changes in all of their behaviors has impacted friendships, family life and their personalities. We have done our best as parents to address these issues. Please, we beg of you to now do your part in addressing their academic, physical, emotional and mental needs! If our finances weren't stretched so thin we would go private. We trust the district but every day this continues the faith in your decision making and how it impacts their well being is diminished. As an occupational therapist I work with children struggling daily! Their academics, mental, emotional, physical and emotional needs are not being met! This is frustrating to watch them struggle significantly. Put yourselves out there to witness this sadness. Put yourself in my house witnessing the anxiety, depression and frustrations each of my kids faces daily. Get our kids back in school full time, please.

2/9/21 12:04:26

Amanda Sisia Uh-man-duh (haha) Si-see-uh
1221 Royal Oak Dr Lewis Center

I along with many other parents demand to know why you are dragging your feet on reopening schools full time. Your lack of transparency on this issue is very frustrating. I don't need you to hold my hand and "protect" me and my family because you think by opening schools full time it will give people a false sense of security and they will gather outside of school more and spread the virus. We are adults who have the right to make our own choices and choices for our children. We don't need you to tell us we can't be trusted to make good choices so you are going to hold our hands and force us to responsible. That is not your role. Your role is to teach our children and we pay a load of taxes to make sure they get the education they deserve. You are failing our children, they are your only responsibility and you are failing them horrendously in the misguided

belief that you have to be the protector of the community. Please let the community worry about ourselves and get back to doing the only thing you are supposed to do. My kids are doing ridiculous busy work when they are at home. They aren't learning anything. With all these snow days and teacher in service days and la la la they are rarely in school at all. This is a joke! Give us back half of our taxes so we can send our kids to schools that understand the purpose they serve. What are your plans for next year I would like to know as well? All these kids that aren't learning, who are falling behind and flailing magnificently... what are you going to do about them? Are you going to just shove them on to the next grade? Will we have the option to hold our children back to repeat their grade if we feel like they are to far behind to be successful? Are you going to hold free summer school for all the kids who are behind which is almost all of them I would assume? We don't want maybes and we will sees... we want clear goals and honest time frames and answers. Stop hiding and placating us, tell us the truth and if you can't meet our expectations then tell us now so we can jump ship and find someone that can.

2/9/21 12:31:06

Amanda Sisia Uh-man-duh Si-see-uh
1221 Royal oak dr Lewis center

Enough is enough Olentangy! We want to know when are these kids going back to school fulltime? We deserve to know. No more board meetings with vague or tentative plans. No more reading our questions out loud and NOT answering them. Our kids are not getting the education they deserve and that we pay for(THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE TEACHERS). This has gone on WAY to long. This is a total injustice to our children. It's time Olentangy, it's been time. EDIT: Also Olentangy, why aren't parents allowed to attend the board meeting? Why can't you set up chairs 6 ft. apart and allow a few parents to attend? You need to see our faces and answer to us. Stop hiding.

2/9/21 12:54:12

Danielle Pesantes Dan-Yell Puh-son-tez
85 Winding Valley Dr

This'll be short, but super important! You all have the power to help our children during these difficult times. With staff being fully vaccinated by the end of this month, our schools can offer full-time instruction safely for all. So many children are falling through the cracks, and the long term affects of this will not just disappear overnight. The sooner we can be full-time, the sooner our students can start to recover emotionally and educationally from this past year. PLEASE, Olentangy parents are begging you to follow the neighboring districts yes, they're smaller in size, but we have more buildings, more employees , and more PPE to keep everyone safe. PLEASE listen to your district

2/9/21 13:14:33

Christy Hoyt
636 Cardinal Hill Lane, Powell

Now is the time to practice what you teach—about fear, about taking risks, about doing what is best, not just what is easy. We need you. And we are waiting for you to step out of your comfort zone, take the necessary steps along with the district to get your classrooms safe, and get back to doing the thing we love you for—educating our kids in person. There is no replacement for the training and experience you have, which is so evident in all the ways we are messing up our kids' education at home. OPEN UP OLENTANGY!

2/9/21 14:18:18

Marion Ruffner

1184 N 3 Bs and K Rd

My daughter, older than elementary I might add, cried today when she learned of the snow day. She NEEDS structure, she NEEDS socialization, she NEEDS at school days. Enough is enough. The numbers are down as far as covid cases but, I suspect the mental health issues and medicating of kids during the time is much higher than normal.

2/9/21 14:17:10

Gina Cribb

6136 Firestone Place, Westerville

It's time to pull off the bandaid and return to 5-day in-person schooling. We have plenty of antidotal evidence that full in-person schooling is safe. Mason has been full in person all year and their infection rates are no higher than ours. Their population per building is similar to our district. Our kids are suffering and can't sustain this any longer. The damage to these children both academically and emotionally is exponential. It's time to return our children to the schooling they deserve.

2/9/21 14:27:53

Vanessa and Steve Bartos

2954 Nantucket Dr. Lewis Center, 43035

We are very concerned about the attendance police for the district. We have 4 young children in this district. We moved here so that they could all go to the Olentangy Schools. My husband and I are extremely concerned that our youngest children are not becoming the readers they should, and our older children are becoming depressed in this isolated environment. PLEASE explain Olentangy's plan to reopen to 5 days of in person learning.

2/9/21 16:21:58

Sean Cameron

9515 Ireland ct. Powell Ohio 43065

I am writing in support of returning our students to in person 5 day a week schooling. The quality of education has become a joke and the side affects on our children are

very apparent. The decision lies with the superintendent and WE would like to know an exact date on when students will return to in person 5 day a week learning?

2/9/21 16:43:06

Michelle Cosner Michelle Cozner
749 Maple Vista Dr, Delaware, OH 43015

As an Olentangy staff member, I want to first state how proud I am of the school board to hold the health and safety of the staff and children as a top priority. I work as a lunch room aid and my position requires me to be around unmasked children most of the time I am in the building. My job is to keep them safe as possible while keeping myself safe in the process. I have to constantly remind kids to wear their mask and keep social distance and it can be exhausting. As a parent, my child is learning in the hybrid model. From what I see in my day to day, I don't see how we could safely return to "all in" without kids being on top of each other as well as the staff. As a parent, I want my daughter learning 100% back in school, but I know the safest way is to continue doing what we are doing. It's safer for the staff and safer for the kids. Fact is, mask wearing and remains part of getting through this pandemic even after we are fully vaccinated. Please know you are all appreciated. Staying hybrid is, in my opinion, the best choice to continue keeping us all safe as possible. Thank you for your time.

2/9/21 17:47:24

Patricia Boysel, CNP
4232 Hyatts Rd Delaware 43015

My concerns with full in person learning are multiple. 1. Parents have not been vaccinated and will be exposed. 2. Mitigation measures such as distancing are not possible with everyone in school. 3. By the time this occurs, very little of the year is left. This is a significant disruption and will be very difficult for families for just 1-2 months of school.

2/9/21 18:00:14

Nicole Frazier
5677 Liberty Rd N, Powell

Mr Raiff, Good evening. My family would like to ask for your attention in a very important matter. Our family is not doing well on the current hybrid attendance model. Our children (Declan frazier, a 2nd grader at LTES, and Quinn Frazier, a 1st grader at LTES) are suffering academically, socially and emotionally by not being offered daily instruction. There are countless benefits to attending school in person, and denying these experiences to our children that are in such a crucial point in their development seems negligent. At the very least, our children need daily instruction from an actual educator, not from a working parent, or a daycare facility, or from a computer. We need you to listen to us when we share our needs for in person instruction. These are needs, not wants. We don't take the safety concerns lightly. Neither do all of the other districts that have opened full time successfully. My spouse and I are both pharmacists, and we

do thoroughly understand the risks of this pandemic. We also understand the efficacy of the vaccine, and all of the other safety measures we have been taking all along, such as masks, distancing and common sense infectious disease prevention. The benefits for our children attending school in person daily far outweigh the risks. Nobody likes to make decisions that could result in negative outcomes for kids or teachers. My family understands that pressure. It weighs heavy on all of us, as it should. Unfortunately, our school district has already made decisions that resulted in negative outcomes for our kids and teachers. While nobody could have predicted what the best course of action was going to be, we are equipped with a huge amount of knowledge and expert recommendation now that we can't ignore. My family isn't the only family that's been suffering. But, I speak for my family in this letter. We have a responsibility to acknowledge that the next best option is a return to daily in person instruction. My kids deserve it. My family believes that it is their right to have an adequate education. Please hear us. There is a way to provide what my family, and what many other Olentangy families need going forward. The only way to give our school district what our children deserve is to offer an attendance model that allows the children the option to attend school full time in person if they decide that is what's best for their family. My family is 100% certain that daily instruction is what's best for us. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We know that you have the children's best interests at the heart of the decisions you make. Please help them reach their full potential by getting them back where they belong full time.

2/9/21 21:20:03

Stacie Bowers

391 Abbotsbury Drive, Westerville

Thank you for all you are doing to keep staff and families safe. I know there are many challenging decisions to be made. We are all doing the best we can in these times! I'm confused about prom and graduation. I've heard prom is on for 4/24 at express live from my son at OOHS. I've heard from a friend at OBHS that prom is cancelled. Is that true that one high school is on and one is off? Now I know we are one olentangy but maybe OOHS is still having prom because they didn't have any homecoming festivities like OBHS did. Can you please let me know what is really going on with prom? Can you also let me know how One olentangy aligns with these discrepancies especially the way homecoming and football games were handled so differently? Next — graduation, is it still really on schedule for 5/23 at the Shottenstein Center or is that up in the air still being figured out and if so will it be different depending on which olentangy high school you attend? Thanks for clarifying.

2/10/21 8:16:59

Kari Severson Kay-ree Seeverson

6690 Golden Way, Powell

As a parent of high schoolers, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH Olentangy! You need to share your plan to get back to school FULL TIME immediately. Our kids are suffering and

there is absolutely no evidence that COVID is spreading rampant through schools. It has been almost a year and there has been no creative thinking or solutions presented or real leadership from anyone. Several large school districts around the area have committed going back to school FULL TIME in March. The teachers have already had one dose of the vaccination and will be fully vaccinated the first week in March. There is no excuse anymore. Test scores already show how far the kids have fallen behind and now you are being asked by the Governor how you are going to address that. How can you address catching the kids up when you haven't addressed getting them back to school. Please stop talking about your hybrid consistency. Hybrid is not consistency. Today is February 10th and my kids are at school for the second time THIS MONTH!! That is completely unacceptable. You need to get these back to school full time immediately.

2/10/21 9:59:40

Melissa Dykstra Dike stru
225 kitdare drive delaware ohio

Voicing support for outdoor graduation ceremonies in stadium vs drive through graduation if we are unable to be at Schottenstein Center in May. Please support the class of 2021.

2/10/21 11:08:36

Sreevalli Navuluri
2562 Bryn Mawr dr,lewis center,OH

1.Hybrid nodels kids recieved instruction only on school days.It was mostly homework on online days.What isyour plan to compensate their learning loss? As other school dustricts are returning to 5 day inperson,when can we expect that?

2/10/21 11:37:18

Michelle Shipley
2888 Lewis center rd

Hoping to get an update on where we stand with senior prom? Seniors this year have had more losses and more frustration from not being in school full time to not spending their senior year with all of their friends being that they are split into two cohorts. Let's at least give them their prom. My hope is that the school is working toward giving them that.

2/10/21 11:20:00

Dr. Jessica Reuter Roy ter
185 w. case st

It is time to send kids back to school 5 days a week. The culture of safetyism that has been adopted has made any risk of anything intolerable anymore. Those in favor of keeping schools from fully opening do so with fear that any risk at all is considered unacceptable. However, being adults, we know that some risk is inherent in everything

we do. Is the solution to never open schools, gather, talk, learn, participate in activities that are not virtual endlessly? We have closed, been separated, been in fear long enough. our kids are suffering immense challenges as a result of the focus only being on safetyism. The side in favor of closures, cancellations, and separation do not seem to be able to accept that the rate of incidence is decreasing, teachers have gotten first vaccines (which have been determined by the CDC to not be necessary), the elderly are getting vaccinated so less risk of infecting vulnerable people in the community. What is the final criteria for returning children to 5 days a week in school? it seems to be a moving target. Those of us that want our children back in school are demanding criteria be outlined and a plan set in motion so that our children can begin the journey back to normal. it is unhealthy to continue in this manner. we feel as though we are not being heard and are demeaned because we can more perspectives and sides to this issue than just the fear that the culture of safetyism has been trying to instill in the community. Another personal frustration comes from the fact that properties have been reassessed at significantly higher value and the recently passed levy has now gone into effect. Therefore, more taxes are being paid by residents for less and less education. It is not acceptable. I am asking the school board to be open to hearing ALL residents of this community and request that hybrid be moved to 5 days a week starting in March. I have a map of the school districts in ohio that are already 5 days a week. I do not think I can attach to this comment though. It is more than either fully remote or hybrid combined. I'll end with a quote from an essay on The Danger of Safetyism by Matthew Crawford: "I suspect the ease with which we have lately accepted the authority of health experts to reshape the contours of our common life is due to the fact that safetyism has largely displaced other moral sensibilities that might offer some resistance. At the level of sentiment, there appears to be a feedback loop wherein the safer we become, the more intolerable any remaining risk appears. At the level of bureaucratic grasping, we can note that emergency powers are seldom relinquished once the emergency has passed. Together, these dynamics make up a kind of ratchet mechanism that moves in only one direction, tightening against the human spirit."

2/10/21 11:58:02

Sharmi Galani

3854 Delwood Drive

To the school board and Superintendent - All familie who wish to be back to 5days in person learning by mid March should be able to do so. Kids education is suffering and whatever we can salvage for the remainder of the school year, we should. Parents jobs are suffering as they have been expected to be back to normal many months ago. Financially, parents are having to pay for outside help educate and watch their kids, Teachers have been allowed to jump the line to be vaccinated leaving many over 65 without vaccinations. Public health departments only focus on certain safety issues and not the whole person. They aren't trained in education and what lack of educatio is doing for these kids. Eventually we have to go back to normal and we have to stop living in fear. Thank you for your time.

2/10/21 12:29:07

Heather Primavera

1196 Caribou Run Delaware, Oh 43015

It is time to rip the band aid off. Let's get these kids back to school five days a week. It has been made painfully clear by multiple studies, organizations, experts etc that we need to get these kids back to full-time in the classroom education. There will always be something to fear, something to keep an eye on, there will always be risk, a new strain, whatever else. We can not keep waiting around for the situation to be completely perfect. Please, let's be proactive. Let's stop waiting and watching. Let's be the Olentangy that we love and make this happen. Its been a year, we have the data, five days back in, PLEASE. And also, we LOVE and APPRECIATE our teachers. The need for five days back in does not diminish their excellent and hard work through this hybrid model and always.

2/10/21 13:26:50

Alyce Elbert ah-lis el-bert

2847 Pebble Dr., Lewis Center

As a mother of a high school senior, I implore the OLSD school board to begin development of contingency plans for graduation, prom and other special end-of-year ceremonies. The school district has been successful in getting our students back to school in a safe environment and I have confidence that the proper plans can be put in place to have safe events. A drive-thru graduation ceremony should be considered as a last resort ONLY. With proper planning and the support of the community, I am confident that ideas can be created that are creative and able to give our students the recognition they deserve. Thank you for your help.

2/10/21 13:47:11

Jennifer Kerns

5189 Augusta Drive, Westerville

It is time to get our kids back to school 5 days a week. I can notice a huge difference in all three of my kids' mental health on days that they get to attend in-person school. They enjoy learning in person and interacting with their teachers. Sitting in front of a computer all day is not a great substitute. Now that our teachers are getting the vaccine, there should be no more excuses of why we cannot return to full-time. If other parents are not comfortable with it, there are plenty of home school alternatives for them to choose from. Also, being a single mom trying to run a business and help my three children with virtual learning is not a sustainable model.

2/10/21 13:38:52

Sue Lorenz

4111 Village club Dr Powell Ohio

Dear Mr. Raiff, I am parent, community member, front line health care worker and mother to four children at Olentangy Liberty High School. I am raising a severely autistic

child, and triplets that were born very prematurely and also have disabilities. This past year has been exceedingly hard on them. The disruption in schedule, the stress of seeing their mother fight Covid everyday and the delivery of education has had a great impact on my family. I am writing because, like you, I want to see the students in our schools succeed and I've seen first hand the powerful impact in person education can have on students' academic success. We need to return Olentangy to its traditional form of education providing in person learning five days a week. I understand that you have many voices pleading for your attention. I understand that it's tempting to say that this decision is "hard" and "complex." But, in the end, it is not. Schools can reopen safely, and thus should be reopened. As studies have shown the community spread of COVID-19 is not from schools according to the research data released by the CDC in mid December. Other studies have shown that COVID-19 is not spreading in schools. A study published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) showed only 3.7% of COVID-19 cases at 17 in-person K-12 schools were tied to in-school transmission. The public health risks posed by COVID-19 are tangible and have received considerable attention, but communities must also weigh them against the less obvious public health risks of not reopening which include kids' mental health, child abuse going unreported, learning loss and caregivers having to drop out of the workforce and falling deeper into poverty. I realize opening schools will require mitigating measures and compliance, and continued school and community vigilance, but in the end the benefits are far greater than the risks. Thanks for the consideration.

2/10/21 14:11:51

Eric Ziegler Air-Ick Zig-Ler
6232 Storm Haven Ct Lewis Center

I'd like to see the kids back 5 days a week in classroom. I see on Olentangy instagram pages that they kids are in close proximity already, so what does it matter. I understand that we had to go remote/hybrid at the start because there was little understanding about this novel pandemic, but now there is much known about it, and in fact little to nothing to fear in this age group.

2/10/21 15:10:39

Ellen Hammerstein-Woo Ellen Hammerstein-Wu
366 Abbotsbury Court Westerville, Ohio 43082

I am quite concerned regarding the consideration of Olentangy school district reopening this spring 2021. I don't agree with this plan, as a parent of a senior at OOHS & as well as an employee of Olsd. I am also speaking as a substitute Intervention, Cafe, Playground Aide. Our schools and cafeterias can't function with students at all grade levels in any crowded assembly or at lunchtime. It has been difficult for all students and families to deal with Covid-19 and these changes will not create a normal environment for anyone. Please and I repeat do not consider opening in person five days each week. My family would prefer that OLSd has Graduations as a drive.thru again for 2021 students. My daughter and her friends would also prefer a non contact Graduation and

no.prom is ok as well. Yes,It has been mentally exhausting for all concerned, but change is a part of our lives as adults.I would also agree that a cafeteria is a petri dish,but somehow it is working out better in a.hybrid scenario.

2/10/21 15:18:25

Nic Goldsberry Nic Goldsberry
399 Wooten Ct S, Powell, OH 43065

Dear School Board, With Westerville City, Hilliard City, and Dublin City schools returning to 5 days a week in person learning, what is Olentangy's plan for returning to 5 days a week to in person learning? If not, would it not be advisable to consult the school districts that have been able to overcome the obstacles and execute in person learning for our children? How are those highly ranked school districts able to achieve normalcy for student learning but the Olentangy district is unable to be successful with this task. Does it take more parents writing in, more vehicle caravans protesting, or lawsuits for the superintendent or board to make the tough decisions, and simply let our children have the right to a fair education? I know its tough to be a leader, but this is what this school district is about... creating leaders, doing the right thing, and creating and developing highly intelligent students. Please don't be complacent and use fear mongering tactics to justify the lack of education our students are currently receiving. Please execute 5 day a week in person learning. Thank you.

2/10/21 16:54:15

Susan Wilson Susan Wilson
7389 Summerfield Drive, Lewis Center

Olentangy Administration and Board members, I am writing to encourage you to consider the data and the way it is presented when making school model decisions. In preparing for the school year, you decided on the school models based on the color of our county. There was a different set of rules and indicators at that time than there is now. The rules were changed this winter. The new rules allow the colors to indicate more red than the old rules. I attempted to include a comparison of a map for Feb 4th showing the color coding for the old rules and the new rules, but an image could not be copied. Instead of 84 red counties, we would have just one. There would also be nine yellow counties. There are no purple counties. If it was safe based on the old rules before, it is certainly safe now. Now we have better treatments, vaccinations, fewer deaths, fewer hospitalizations, and fewer cases. Please get the students back in school 5 days a week and allow all events to occur. Thank you, Susan Wilson, parent at Olentangy and educator in SouthWestern

2/10/21 18:10:42

Kate Naveau Na-vo
2937 Pebble Drive

The plan to bring students back 5 days a week has always been if we reach level one. How can we bring all the kids back for a full five days if we are still at level 3?

2/10/21 19:12:23

Nicole Hanson

1530 Kearney Way, Delaware

To the school board and Mr. Raiff - I implore you to develop an immediate plan to return to school full time immediately. We started the year with certain criteria to return full time. We are currently in a state where the numbers meet the criteria to return full time to school. Teachers are getting vaccinated now as well. The students will wear masks and have barriers or distance in place along with rigorous hand sanitizing procedures. Various subject matter experts have stated that it is in the best interest of students both mentally and physically to return to full time learning. Some kids are not thriving working from home without teacher input while parents are working full time. I am concerned for the safety of our teachers, but I think the risk that going back 5 days a week is no greater than the risks posed to those that work in grocery stores, physician offices, the post office, or restaurants. Please develop an immediate plan for return to school so that our kids return to full time learning. Thank you - a very concerned parent.

2/10/21 21:03:05

Jennifer Franklin Kearns

jen-i-fer frank-lin kurns

336 Cherry Leaf Rd, Delaware

I applaud the district rebranding effort that is already underway. However, in my opinion and in the opinion of many other allies throughout our community, changing the offensive Native American imagery associated with Olentangy High School while maintaining the mascot name does not remedy the problem. While our voices as parents and community members matter, we realize what matters the most regarding this issue are the facts and the opinions of the Native American community. If the intent is truly to create a more inclusive community, I urge the rebranding committees and school board to reconsider the continued use of "Braves." It would be disappointing to see all of the hard work that has gone into this process stop short of creating an inclusive mascot and logo for every one of our schools. Thank you for your consideration.

2/10/21 19:11:19

Arrowhead Elem. Parent Prefer to remain Anonymous

Polar Drive Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 ****This comment was removed due to violation of Board Policy 0169.1: Public Participation At Board Meetings, which requires the participant to state their name, address and group affiliation if and when important.***

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2/10/21 21:28:39

Lauren Emmons

5262 Willow valley way Powell oh

It's time. It's time to put a target date and plan in place to get the kids in our community back to school 5 days a week. The virus isn't spreading in schools and the mental and emotional well-being of our kids and, frankly, parents is on-the-line. It's time to "rip off the band-aid" and overcome the fear that has plagued us causing unnecessary stress and anxiety. We need to get back to normalcy and provide these kids with the high quality education, something OLSD prides itself on. We expect more. With the high taxes and resources available to the district, there's a way to do this. Please make the right choice with our investment, our children, and our community. Get these kids back to school full time this year. Announce a date and a plan for this school year at the next board meeting!

2/10/21 22:18:22

Sharon Prince Sharon Prince

4895 Braiden Drive, Galena OH

My perspective to you comes as being a parent of a Senior this year. Myself, and numerous others, have been grossly disappointed in the lackluster efforts of this School District & all High Schools when it comes to Senior recognition, Senior events, and the meaning of what it is to have your last year in High School, just to name a few. Parents have been encouraged by administrators to do things for our kids outside of their sports or classrooms, but the celebration for our kids cannot come from us alone. They have felt no support from their schools. Being in a hybrid schedule has not allowed them to continue to bond with their fellow classmates, as a matter of fact, they have lost friendships due to not being able to connect and see each other. At OBHS, where we are districted, the only Senior event was Thanksgiving, which was poorly attended & split between hybrid A & B. My daughter has felt alone this school year, felt as she is being kept apart from other friends and classmates, and is truly not experiencing what we have all experienced as a great final year of high school, before going off to college & potentially never seeing each other again, maybe in the hopes of a reunion in the distant future. As I watched OLSD go above & beyond for the c/o 2020 as they seemingly were "ripped away" from finishing their final 2months together, it is just sad & disappointing to see that none of you seem to care about the class of 2021. They have endured this pandemic FAR MORE than their previous predecessors indeed! I implore you to allow the SENIOR CLASS OF OLSD to be allowed to go back full-time! They should have the final opportunity to be together before they are indeed forever separated. As much as I would love to state the case for my 8th grader to go back full-

time as well, I feel that you should know I would rather you strongly consider at least letting the Senior Class return fulltime, more than any of the other grades. They NEED this, they will get no closure, no memories worth keeping and holding on to, all I see in their young faces is sadness, regret and bitterness. Again, on behalf of myself and my family & many unspoken Senior Parents of Olentangy Berlin & all other Olentangy high schools, PLEASE let our Seniors go back to school! They need the last few important & final traditions, such as Senior Prom, graduation; do not take that away from them. While other parents other grades may disagree with me, (& I mentioned I have a younger one also), I would much rather they see it from a Senior Parent perspective and realize these kids don't have any more time left before graduation. They should be given the priority in returning back to school full-time with their peers & extend them the minimal same courtesy you so gallantly extended to the class of 2020 before them. The current class of 2021 deserves more than being swept under the rug. I plead & implore you to do the right thing to these young adults-to-be, give them the final few moments of their Senior Year they want to remember! Thank you for your time & I pray you strongly consider this perspective.

2/10/21 23:14:53

Brooke Rigdon Brooke Rig Don
252 Hideaway Court, Powell

I'm writing to you with urgency regarding getting our children back to school five days a week. It's time to take a bold step forward like many other large school districts in this state and open our schools full time. We, the parents and the tax payers, overwhelmingly need our children to get the quality education they deserve and that we are paying for. The emotional and mental toll that you are creating for our children by not transitioning to full time is becoming irreparable. Children are not super spreaders of Covid-19. Schools are not the place this virus is being spread. The data overwhelmingly supports these facts. It's time to prove that you've read the research that is so widely and publicly available and make a decision to put our children first. Return our kids full time this March.

2/10/21 22:01:36

Blasen Archibald Blay-sun ahr-CHIH-bawld
161 Charterhouse Ct. Powell, OH

Mr. Raiff, We all recognize that this may be a difficult decision for you and recognize that some people will likely be mad no matter what you decide. Given those realities, I encourage you to focus on what is best for the students which is a return to fulltime in-person school. Parents who opted for hybrid learning knew that fulltime in-person was the plan from the very start. The return to fulltime in-person cannot wait until every single hybrid parent feels it is safe because 'safe' means something different to everyone. We all take risks every day and parents expecting you to guarantee complete safety are asking for the impossible because you couldn't guarantee safety before the pandemic and you won't be able to guarantee safety after the pandemic. Based on the

letter you sent on February 9th, it seems there has been too much value placed on “consistency and stability.” As you pointed out, “consistency and stability” are not “ideal” and don’t make up for full-time in person learning. We must remember that the standard is fulltime in-person, not hybrid. If we let every possible doubt and what-if be an excuse for inaction on this issue, how will we ever get back to fulltime? There is no such thing as the perfect time to return. I believe we have more than enough to justify a return to fulltime in-person school. Teachers have been offered the vaccine, which is even more than the CDC says is needed. Governor DeWine has voiced his full support, hybrid parents knew fulltime was the expectation, and other school districts are already back fulltime in-person. Now is the time to take action. If you wait until after spring Break to make a decision then the decision has already been made and a return won’t happen this school year. If a return means less social distancing then so be it. If it’s ‘safe’ enough for people to go to the store, go to the barber, go to restaurants, and play sports, it’s safe enough for our kids to return to full in person school and get the full educational experience they need and deserve.

2/11/21 1:01:22

Josh Hough Hough-same as huff
6050 Orangewick Dr

I am strongly in favor of full time, in-school, learning as soon as possible. There are dozens of school districts around the state that haven been full time since the fall, as well as, private schools with very little interruption from COVID. This school district is "supposed to be" one of the best in the state but it has become influenced or misguided by politics. The result has made Olentangy Schools "followers" rather than "leaders". You ask the community to support the schools through levies, which haven been passed (every time), signifying "our commit". Now it is your turn to commit to teaching our children, in-school, 5 days a week. I am not trying to down play the seriousness of this pandemic but there are always going to be challenges or obstacles that need to be addressed. It's time to get back in the class room, full-time. Our kids deserve better. Be a Leader, not a Follower.

2/11/21 7:26:32

Sarah Narayana Sarah Na Ri Ya Na
7746 Lydia Dr Lewis Center

Hello Board Members, While we applaud the district rebranding effort that is already underway. However, in my opinion and in the opinion of many other allies throughout our community, changing the offensive Native American imagery associated with Olentangy High School while maintaining the mascot name does not remedy the problem. While our voices as parents and community members matter, we realize what matters the most regarding this issue are the facts and the opinions of the Native American community. Native Circle is the longest active Native American education website. They explain the term “Braves” dehumanizes and equates the Native American male to something less than a man. Comparative example: calling an African American

man 'boy'. The use of such mascot names has been condemned by the National Congress of American Indians, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, the NAACP and more. The National Congress of American Indians called upon the Secretary of the Department of Education to immediately eliminate race-based Native logos, mascots, and names from state educational institutions across the United States. There is no question, we as a district have no choice but to eliminate any variation of the name "Braves". Choosing otherwise would be a tremendous slap in the face to the Native American community, the advice of the American Psychological Association, and recommendation of the NEA. We encourage you to reopen the discussion in this matter and come to the only conclusion worthy of a district truly endeavoring to create One Community. Thank You,

2/11/21 8:45:14

Carmen Crowley Car-men Craw-lee
4860 Lakeview Drive

I object to bringing students back full-time. The reason I allowed my child to attend the school under the hybrid model was because with less kids attending, I knew there was a better chance for keeping the kids safe. I think Olentangy has done a good job. My husband is a teacher and his district will be coming back full time. The only way to do this is to compromise social distancing and other measures that have kept kids safe. I know people who have violated the quarantine rules and gone on vacations. I have received the emails weekly of covid cases in my daughter's building. We are not out of this. Its not the time to make restrictions looser. It only takes one exposure. Many people like myself are still working 100% from home to prevent transmission. I appreciate you taking my comments under consideration. I know the parents pushing going back full-time are the loudest. But there are parents that would prefer to continue doing what is working for the rest of the school year.

2/11/21 11:10:48

Lindsay Livingston
5483 willow bend court Westerville oh 43082

Dear Olentangy School Board Members, I am writing in regard to the rebranding of school mascots and specifically keeping the name "Braves". I want to applaud your willingness to remove the offensive imagery and ask that you continue to make the bold move of removing equally offensive language. Many Native American people, including the National Council of American Indians have made statements specifically about the use of the word "Braves", asserting the use of the word perpetuates the "warrior savage" myth often associated with Native people. This may come as a surprise to people not part of a marginalized group and I implore you to rethink your position. The "warrior savage" myth reinforces the racist views that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated, and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and the deconstruction of Indian culture. The use of this word can be deeply painful for people who identify as Native American and sends a bigger message

to the community that Olentangy is insensitive, at best. I believe this mascot and the associated name was adopted at a time when this type of racism was acceptable, but we are in a more enlightened time now and I urge you to embrace a full rebranding, one that sheds painful images and language of the past. Thank you for your attention to this matter,

2/11/21 10:37:56

Cindy Tyson

5243 Cornice Court, Galena, OH 43021

Mr. Raiff and Board, I recognize the return to school full-time decision is not an easy one and there will be unhappy people no matter the decision. However, I can tell you my daughters are not thriving or getting the proper Olentangy education they deserve. It is not providing structure, routine or the appropriate amount of instruction needed per week to learn. The majority of teachers are working harder & longer hours than they have ever done in their careers and we know they want our children to thrive. The hybrid model is not working. Studies are showing depression, suicide rates and mental health concerns are rising for teens. The pediatric medical community and Governor Dewine have made it clear the importance of full-time in-person learning based on several factors which outweigh the Covid19 risk. Small, medium and large school districts have figured out safe full-time in person learning for their students. It is time for Olentangy to take action and show why we are one of the top school districts. We need to return to full-time in-person learning and do what is right for the majority of our students, teachers and parents.

2/11/21 11:22:19

Dr. Neela Manendo Knee-la mon-en-dough

5123 Valley View Lane, Powell OH 43065

Hello Board Members, While we applaud the district rebranding effort that is already underway. However, in my opinion and in the opinion of many other allies throughout our community, changing the offensive Native American imagery associated with Olentangy High School while maintaining the mascot name does not remedy the problem. While our voices as parents and community members matter, we realize what matters the most regarding this issue are the facts and the opinions of the Native American community. Native Circle is the longest active Native American education website. They explain the term "Braves" dehumanizes and equates the Native American male to something less than a man. Comparative example: calling an African American man 'boy'. The use of such mascot names has been condemned by the National Congress of American Indians, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, the NAACP and more. The National Congress of American Indians called upon the Secretary of the Department of Education to immediately eliminate race-based Native logos, mascots, and names from state educational institutions across the United States. There is no question, we as a district have no choice but to eliminate any variation of the name "Braves". Choosing otherwise would be a tremendous slap in the

face to the Native American community, the advice of the American Psychological Association, and recommendation of the NEA. We encourage you to reopen the discussion in this matter and come to the only conclusion worthy of a district truly endeavoring to create One Community. Thank You, Dr. Neela Manendo

2/11/21 11:17:25

Sarah Walker

2136 Ben Brush Pl Lewis Center

Hello Board Members, While we applaud the district rebranding effort that is already underway. However, in my opinion and in the opinion of many other allies throughout our community, changing the offensive Native American imagery associated with Olentangy High School while maintaining the mascot name does not remedy the problem. While our voices as parents and community members matter, we realize what matters the most regarding this issue are the facts and the opinions of the Native American community. Native Circle is the longest active Native American education website. They explain the term “Braves” dehumanizes and equates the Native American male to something less than a man. Comparative example: calling an African American man 'boy'. The use of the word “Braves”, also perpetuates the “warrior savage” myth often associated with Native people. The use of such mascot names has been condemned by the National Congress of American Indians, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, the NAACP and more. The National Congress of American Indians called upon the Secretary of the Department of Education to immediately eliminate race-based Native logos, mascots, and names from state educational institutions across the United States. The Olentangy school district was established in 1911. The Cleveland Indians were established just 4 years later. As you likely know the Cleveland MLB team decided, after years of protests to change their name just two months ago. I believe both of these mascots and the associated names were adopted at a time when this type of racism was acceptable, but we are in a more enlightened time now and I urge you to embrace a full rebranding, one that sheds painful images and language of the past. We encourage you to reopen the discussion in this matter and come to the only conclusion worthy of a district truly endeavoring to create One Community. Thank You, Sarah Walker

2/11/21 11:45:33

Tiffany Keehn

3332 Vinson Drive, Lewis Center

Dear Olentangy School Board Members, I am writing in regard to the rebranding of school mascots and specifically keeping the name “Braves”. I want to applaud your willingness to remove the offensive imagery and ask that you continue to make the bold move of removing equally offensive language. Many Native American people, including the National Council of American Indians have made statements specifically about the use of the word “Braves”, asserting the use of the word perpetuates the “warrior savage” myth often associated with Native people. This may come as a

surprise to people not part of a marginalized group and I implore you to rethink your position. The “warrior savage” myth reinforces the racist views that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated, and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and the deconstruction of Indian culture. The use of this word can be deeply painful for people who identify as Native American and sends a bigger message to the community that Olentangy is insensitive, at best. I believe this mascot and the associated name was adopted at a time when this type of racism was acceptable, but we are in a more enlightened time now and I urge you to embrace a full rebranding, one that sheds painful images and language of the past. Thank you for your attention to this matter

2/11/21 11:40:17

Kariena Turner car-ee-na

265 Tara Glen Dr. Delaware Ohio 43015

My name is Kariena Turner and I am a parent here in Olentangy. I am writing today regarding our new branding for Olentangy High School. I emailed Krista Davis last month and she said that the new branding was done with help from local Native Americans and the Diversity Council. I sent a follow up email with more questions on Monday asking her to perhaps reach out to the Native Americans the committee said they worked with to send an email or video a message letting concerned parents/students know that they have approved and are happy with the new direction. I am sure she would have responded if she had the time this week but since I haven't heard back I thought I would reach out to others to see who will respond first. I do not get offended for others when they have spoken for themselves so out of respect for the Native Americans she said you worked with I do not want to go against their decision.. if it was approved. I also come from out west and have been lucky to be surrounded by Native American culture and wish that for our community especially since we carry a Native name..Olentangy, and many of us live in a Native named City...Delaware and our kids play and swim at a Native named park...Mingo. I believe that hearing from the Native Americans who helped in this process would be immensely helpful and respectful to their wishes. However, if there wasn't a large input from the Native Community and it's being exaggerated I encourage us to reach out to others to get their input. I will also do that personally, but need to know what the symbol is in order to offer a full picture of the direction we are going. I know we have Covid which is both a mental health and physical health issue, and for parents in Olentangy it is a more important and pressing issue at this moment in time, but since our resources are being utilized for this rebranding now, lets fix it now, saving time and money. I also understand that for many retiring the logo and possibly the name is difficult. It holds a place in their heart, its part of their youth, their jobs, their school spirit. I would encourage us, when we have received approval from our Native Community regarding the new symbols, we should ask them if they would like to help retire the symbol. A ceremony letting go and of thanks and ushering in a new era for Olentangy High

School. And in the future we should just name all our new schools after animals....
Thanks! Kariena Turner

2/11/21 12:55:43

Lara Kretler

5585 Ketch St, Lewis Center

Dear Olentangy School Board Members, I am writing in regard to the rebranding of school mascots and specifically keeping the name "Braves". First, I want to applaud your willingness to remove the offensive imagery - but second, I must also ask that you also remove equally offensive language. Many Native American people, including the National Council of American Indians, have made statements specifically about the use of the word "Braves", asserting the use of the word perpetuates the "warrior savage" myth often associated with Native people. This may come as a surprise to people not part of a marginalized group and I implore you to rethink your position. The "warrior savage" myth reinforces racist views that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated, and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and the deconstruction of Native American culture. The use of this word can be deeply painful for people who identify as Native American and sends a bigger message to the community that Olentangy is insensitive and uncaring - even racist. I believe this mascot and the associated name was adopted at a time when this type of cultural insensitivity and racism were considered acceptable, but we are in a more enlightened time now and I urge you to embrace a complete rebranding, one that sheds painful images and the language of the past. Thank you for your attention to this matter, Lara Kretler

2/11/21 12:33:56

Michele Guthleben Mi -shell Guth lay ben

9284 Hampshire Ct, Powell

Superintendent Raiff and Olentangy School Board Members. I write today to state my full support for Olentangy schools returning to school full-time. My son who is in 3rd grade has been attending school under the Hybrid Model. We appreciate the support of the fantastic teachers at Scioto Ridge Elementary school with doing their best with the current part-time education model but our son has suffered emotionally and scholastically. As I know many other of the children in our community have as well. As leaders of our community I believe you have done your best in giving all sides consideration, put in place necessary safety accommodations and supported the teachers with their concerns. It's time to now make the decision to send our children back to school fulltime. Science, government officials and your community have provided evidence and support in favor of this decision. Risk is an innate part of life. Everyday we send our children out in the community with the hope that they come home safe and healthy. This risk is no different with the COVID pandemic than without. Let's take a leap of faith together and provide our children with the education they deserve. Thank you.

2/11/21 13:14:55

Beth Rores roar-eez
2121 Tucker Trail Lewis Center

Dear Olentangy School Board Members, I am writing in regard to the rebranding of school mascots and specifically keeping the name "Braves". I want to applaud your willingness to remove the offensive imagery and ask that you continue to make the bold move of removing equally offensive language. Many Native American people, including the National Council of American Indians have made statements specifically about the use of the word "Braves", asserting the use of the word perpetuates the "warrior savage" myth often associated with Native people. This may come as a surprise to people not part of a marginalized group and I implore you to rethink your position. The "warrior savage" myth reinforces the racist views that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated, and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and the deconstruction of Indian culture. The use of this word can be deeply painful for people who identify as Native American and sends a bigger message to the community that Olentangy is insensitive, at best. I believe this mascot and the associated name was adopted at a time when this type of racism was acceptable, but we are in a more enlightened time now and I urge you to embrace a full rebranding, one that sheds painful images and language of the past and encourage you to reopen the discussion in this matter. In doing so, my hope is the OLSD will come to the only conclusion worthy of a district truly endeavoring to create One Community and eliminate the Braves name. Thank you for your attention to this matter

2/11/21 13:33:38

Eric SeyboldtEric (See Bolt)
6922 Saint Ninians St.

I would like to implore the Board to implement the strategy of full time in-school attendance. We now have enough data and experience that confirms that schools do not spread Covid 19. The CDC has agreed with this. The teachers are getting vaccinated and, therefore, are not at risk. The students never were at risk beyond traditional flu/cold symptoms. It's time to normalize and get the kids back in the school full-time. There is literally no data or science that supports any other conclusion. Thank you

2/11/21 13:57:34

George Reed
6593 Kellogg Drive Powell

"Maximize learning for every student" - that's the Olentangy mission from what I've read. And, prior to this year, I bought into it, but now I'm not so sure. My first concern is with "snow days" - I'm perplexed that we can close schools when less than 1" of snow falls. I grew up in NE Ohio, and if schools were closed for every inch of snow that fell, I would have barely attended school from December through March. No, we walked, buses ran, parents dropped off - but we went to school, in snow, and cold, wind and rain. On this last snow day, a snowplow/salt truck had passed my house 4 times prior to 9AM - four

times! And yet schools were closed. I understand that different areas have different county/township services taking care of things, but maybe Olentangy needs to work with the different municipalities and work out a way to cover the district more effectively. My child actually wants to be at school and learn, and he has been sad when schools are closed, especially for less than 1", for goodness sake. My next point in relation to "maximize learning" is the fact that kids are not given enough work to do when they are at home. I've spoken to numerous parents who say that by noon or 1:00 each day, their child is done with all their assigned work. Why is that? I give my child additional workbooks/reading/learning to do, but for the amount of money we pay in taxes for this premier school district, I don't see the effort to make sure there is maximum learning. I understand that it isn't easy for teachers to have to make dual lesson plans for each day, but I think our children can be challenged more. And thirdly, I don't understand why there are so many long weekends throughout the year - They get 2 weeks off for Christmas Break, and then in less than two complete weeks at school, they have a 4-day weekend. And why do they have a Friday off before a week-long Spring Break? My student said to me: "The only thing I want for my birthday this year is to be back in school every day." His birthday is next month. Let's give them the education they deserve, and the education for which we are paying handsomely. Let's get them back in school, let's have less days off during the year, let's give them a full-day's work to do at home if you won't allow them to return full-time, and let's get back to 'maximizing learning'. Thank you for your time.

2/11/21 14:45:34

Todd Yamokoski Todd Yam-oh-cow-ski
3750 Delwood Drive Powell

Dear Mr. Raiff and the OLSD Board, Mitigating risks, like we have done for nearly twelve months now, does not mean ZERO risk....it means we will ALL do our best to make sure students and teachers are as safe as possible back in school FULL time, not just hybrid or "consistent in-person learning". Your goal, as well as mine and a significant number of families across the district, has always been to return to five in-person days. You have also promised "transparent communication", so I am personally looking forward to a DETAILED PLAN and TIMELINE to help address the statements that were made earlier in the school year that the District "will continue to collect information" and "monitor the situation". We are ready for a plan and a commitment to that plan this school year. I understand that these are dynamic and unprecedented times, but I think most would agree that 'transparency' to the parents and students of the OLSD families is the key to trust and the success of this back-in-school plan. With all due respect, the OLSD Board has had months to address risk-mitigating strategies in our facilities, space concerns, teacher development, infrastructure needs to meet bandwidth requirements, and opportunities to have open forums to discuss the needs and requests of the parents that you serve. Those families that do not feel safe sending their kids to school or to school full time should be provided the opportunity to continue distance or virtual learning. Those families that want and need their kids to be back in

school full time should be given the chance to see their children succeed as well. This community has supported our schools and passed levies when OLSD has asked for our help and financial commitment, including this past spring to pass another significant levy that will mean a property tax increase for all us. We now need you and the OLSD Board to step up and fight for our kids. We ask you now as leaders, administrators, and teachers in our schools and those assisting in the current and future development of our children...to LEAD!!! Olentangy has consistently been a top school district in the state of Ohio. Don't follow. Don't take the easy path and glide into the summer or the '21-'22 school year. You owe it to this senior class, many of whom are now in their thirteenth year in our schools, to give them and thousands of other Olentangy students a chance to finish out this year with their peers TOGETHER AS ONE. Thank you for your time and consideration for getting our children back in school FULL time to learn this spring.

2/11/21 14:54:15

Ceylon Wise "Salon" Wise

4842 Normandy Dr, Galena, Oh 43021

Hello Board Members, As a result of last summer's events, it's great to see Olentangy taking some steps in the right direction regarding race. Admittedly, we have a long way to go and much work to do ensuring an equitable experience for all students. But to Olentangy's credit adding staff to the district equity and inclusion team, expanding the One Community conference, as well as working toward long and short term goals in the area of race and equality are all positive steps in this long journey. However, when it comes to the district rebranding plan, I'm afraid the board has a tremendous blindspot. The Olentangy High School "Braves" nickname is widely viewed as dehumanizing and equating Native American males to something less than a man. It is comparable to calling an African American man "boy". How can we claim to have zero tolerance for racism in our buildings when the school walls, athletic jerseys, basketball court and football field are all covered with the a racial slur? How can we endeavor to be one community when we completely disregard the offense that name causes a small but present portion of our community? How can we continue to associate that word with one of our schools when the National Congress of American Indians, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, the NAACP and others all condemn its use? The fact is we cannot claim our school buildings to be a racism free zone while the school itself maintains a racist slur as its nickname. I'm aware there is a vocal segment of our community who would prefer to continue using that name in the interest of tradition. Tradition is an important part of life, but not when it dehumanizes and demeans. Holding on to such traditions will appease many but simultaneously insult, offend and devalue students and families throughout the country and in our own community. This is not a time for upholding tradition. It's a time for doing what's right and frankly inevitable whether or not it is politically popular. This decision rests solely in your hands. Thank you for your consideration and courage as you lead us away from outdated and offensive traditions in favor of a more respectful, inclusive, and equitable

Olentangy experience for all students, staff, and community members. Thank You,
Ceylon Wise

2/11/21 15:37:57

Ashley Wise

Address previously on file (4842 Normandy Dr, Galena, Oh 43021)

Hello School Board Members, As an active community member, I applaud the district's rebranding effort that is already underway. I realize the time and energy that goes into such a task, however, in my opinion and in the opinion of many other allies throughout our community, changing the offensive Native American imagery associated with Olentangy High School while maintaining the mascot name does not remedy the problem. It is actually painting over an issue, not progress. Choosing to keep the name "Braves" while overlooking the objections of people from a minority community is actually an example of privilege. While our voices as parents and community members matter, we realize what matters the most regarding this issue are the facts and the opinions of the Native American community and today I choose to speak up as an ally. The use of this mascot and the associated name was adopted at a time when this type of racism was unfortunately acceptable, but once you know better you do better. Olentangy, this is your chance to do better as we strive to be "One Community". I strongly encourage you to reopen this discussion and allow the committees charged with the task of rebranding to be able to truly do so while being respectful to our Indigenous brothers and sisters and fiscally responsible. Respectful by acknowledging the offense it causes and fiscally responsible by avoiding having to revisit this issue in the future. Native Circle is the longest active Native American education website. They explain the term "Braves" dehumanizes and equates the Native American male to something less than a man. Comparative example: calling an African American man 'boy'. The use of such mascot names has been condemned by many nationally recognized groups such as the National Congress of American Indians, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, the NAACP and more. The National Congress of American Indians called upon the Secretary of the Department of Education to immediately eliminate race-based Native logos, mascots, and names from state educational institutions across the United States. If NFL and MLB teams are finally looking at this issue why not Olentangy High School? Thank you for listening and reopening this discussion so that we are not perpetuating these offenses to the next generation of Olentangy students. Let's do better. Thank You, Ashley Wise

2/11/21 16:05:53

Karen Gavin Karen Gavin

537 Maketewah drive Delaware

Our kids should be back to five days a week ASAP. We've been "cautiously" waiting long enough. Staff and administration have done an amazing job keeping our kids safe and I'm more than confident we can move FORWARD to provide the kids with a consistent schedule. Aside from the academic aspect, our kids need the social and

mental well-being that friends, peers, and staff provide. There are choices if a family is not comfortable yet with a full time schedule but don't hinder those of us that are. Thank you for all of your efforts and work this past year!

2/11/21 16:17:40

Stephanie Klupinski Stef-a-nee Clue-pin-ski

656 Mystic Pointe, Lewis Center

Dear OLSD, I applaud the district rebranding effort that is underway. But simply changing the offensive Native American imagery associated with Olentangy High School while maintaining the mascot name does not remedy the problem. Take a lesson from the team formerly known as the Cleveland Indians. The organization dropped their mascot a few years ago and then of course and deservedly still faced scrutiny. The team recently announced that they will be changing their name. Why would OLSD just punt on the issue when you could make the right decision and change both the name and the mascot? The use of mascot names like "Brave" has been condemned by the National Congress of American Indians, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, the NAACP, and many more. The National Congress of American Indians called upon the Secretary of the Department of Education to immediately eliminate race-based Native logos, mascots, and names from state educational institutions across the United States. Our motto as a district is "One Olentangy." Community is a pillar of our district. According to our district website, "Community pride, support, and commitment is essential to pave the way to a more successful future." The ability for OLSD to take pride in itself is diminished by pretending that the name Braves is not offensive. It is 2021. Let's get with the times and drop the name "Braves." Let's take pride in our district by doing the right thing, by taking the non-offensive path. Let's show that we respect, honor, and value all people. Let's truly be One Olentangy. Thank you, Stephanie Klupinski