

Timestamp	First and Last Name	Please enter your comment
2/19/2021 20:11:33	Liz Heywood	As a parent of a kindergartener and first grader, I am extremely grateful that my kids are able to attend in person learning now. Thank you for making this happen and I hope that all kids on D205 will soon have this opportunity. After only a few days of more "normal" school, I already notice a difference in my children's excitement for school and learning again. It is life changing for them and worth every ounce of effort to continue the momentum for others. Every day counts!
2/22/2021 12:23:58	Eric Treida	I do not feel it's safe to push these kids back into the classrooms before everyone's been vaccinated with only 3 ft social distancing especially with this new variant that is out that affects more kids. Don't make a pressured decision.
2/22/2021 20:33:04	Tracie Wilcox MD	As a child of an 8th grader I am writing to the board with my recommendation to open District 205 middle schools for full time in person learning. 8th grade is a critical year - a time when kids should be feeling confident both academically and socially as they transition to high school. They are unable to gain this confidence in the present hybrid / e-learning model especially when only going to school in person 1-2 days per week. As the COVID case numbers continue to decrease in Illinois and teachers have begun to get vaccinated the time is now to open the schools. For the emotional, mental, and social well-being of our students we can't wait any longer. Studies continue to show minimal transmission of COVID within the schools especially when community spread is low. This has been proven in Elmhurst, as our private schools have safely conducted in person learning. Studies also continue to show children's mental health has suffered during the COVID pandemic. This is exacerbated by the isolation children have experienced from learning at home for the majority of time over the past 11 months. Kids are hurting - they are angry, they are lonely, they are falling behind academically, and they are disappointed that we as adults have not done a better job looking out for their well-being. We can do better for all the children of district 205!
2/23/2021 8:46:18	Amy Wellman	My first grader is thrilled to be in school every day so thank you for making that happen! My first question/comment concerns the plan for next school year. Covid is not going away. We now have a vaccine that will be readily available to the teachers/parents who want it by this fall. I can't see why school would not be full time (eating lunch as well) in person this fall for all grades and would like to understand if that is not what the Board is planning for as well. My other comment is regarding remote students. We only have 2 in my daughter's classroom and other classes seem to have similar numbers. Wouldn't it make logical sense to put those remote students with a teacher who also needs to be remote? So that our in person students and teachers can make the most of their day without having to teach to zoom?
2/23/2021 9:16:58	Katie Larsen	Thank you for all you have done so far to get our elementary kids back in school. I've already noticed a more positive attitude in my second grader after only one day. We need to now focus on how we will get our MS back full time. I'm a current Bryan parent and we need them back to at minimum an A/B schedule. With all of the mitigations that we are doing, there is zero reason they should not be back. We are spending an absorbent amount of money to do saliva testing and the teachers have been vaccinated. What else do we need to do? I would also like to know the BOE plan for the next school year ASAP. I'm considering moving out of the district based on this. Please let the community know what we need to all do to get our kids back in school 5 days per week now! Thank you
2/23/2021 9:21:29	Laura Valenti	Hello and thank you for continuing to move forward with the plan to get all children back in to the classroom. My name is Laura Valenti and I have two children, a 3rd grader and kindergartener at Field school. I'm writing today to please consider going back to a full day schedule with lunch in the classroom. With all of the mitigation's in place, teacher vaccinations and declining positivity rates, it is safe to do so. Both of my children are continuing to fall further and further behind especially my kindergartener. I'm especially worried about my kindergartener who needs more in person time. Her behavior and confidence has changed dramatically. She has started to have separation anxiety which was never an issue and tells me she does not want to go to school because it's boring. In school they are restricted to their seats and told to stay in their bubble and have limited help and interaction with the teacher. They are having to rush and go through the material very quickly. This is not how a kindergarten class should be. I'm concerned that the teacher is still having to teach on zoom if there is a child that is remote and the shorter school day that my child is still not getting the attention needed. She is struggling with reading and math and especially socially and emotionally. This needs to be a priority and it is crucial that these kids go back to an all day schedule. Thank you.
2/23/2021 9:41:38	Mari Saenz	I need to share the incredible frustration & concern I have over Sandburg & Bryan not being back on site. Are you aware of the mental toll this is taking on our kids?? They have been isolated and remote learning is not a conducive long term environment. Teachers have vaccines - so what's the issue now? Anyone who doesn't want to be I send their kids to school can choose remote learning. We must act now to get our kids back to school.

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2/23/2021 9:48:37	Jenny Sommer-Witruk	<p>Our children's best interest needs to be put first and that is achieved by all grades being in the classroom full time. The science and data overwhelmingly supports this at this point and it is your job to get this done. Implementing a \$660k saliva testing program should lead to 5 days a week in person learning. End of story. Anything less is a waste of money. The majority of families support their kids being in the classroom. Masks, saliva testing, sanitation protocols, teacher vaccinations should be leading towards more normalcy for these kids that are suffering. The goal for Bryan and Sandburg needs to lead to 5 days a week in classroom ASAP! It can be done safely! The plan for 21/22 school year needs to be full in person learning nothing less!! Families are sending their kids to private schools or moving out of this district in droves. The prosperity of Elmhurst depends on the school districts reputation. Our reputation is suffering irreparable damages and this needs to change. The metrics are decreasing rapidly and we need to live with the virus as it goes from pandemic to endemic status. The parents demand action now!! Our kids deserve it!</p>
2/23/2021 10:15:37	Erin Vitellaro	<p>It is imperative the middle school children also return to school full time, especially since the staff is now vaccinated and the district is regularly testing. Given this, I fail to understand what the issue is, especially when you consider all of the data that suggests children are better off and school and the fact that neighboring districts and private schools are figuring out solves. Please make this a priority and bring solutions rather than excuses. In addition, communication needs to improve in general with regards to future plans for the remainder of this year and next. The last minute communications and lack of preparedness that has plagued this district this year is unacceptable. Be better.</p>
2/23/2021 10:49:34	Robyn Pretzie	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I know it was stated that you didn't want comparison from public schools to our private schools right down the street, but I can't hide these numbers anymore. I have 2 children in district 205 schools (6th grader at Bryan abs 9th grader at york) I also have a junior at ICCP (honestly thank myself everyday for sending her to ICCP as a freshman than york. Junior year if the most important year of high school and District 205 is failing our kids) Numbers don't lie... remember these are ALL "hybrid models"</p> <p>Bryan 9 days in person 45 hours</p> <p>York 12 Days 54 hours</p> <p>ICCP 47 days 376 hours These kids go to school 8 hours everyday, and are "in person" every other day since August!!! This is a "Hybrid Model"</p> <p>Thank you, Robyn Pretzie</p>

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2/23/2021 10:53:06	Amy Nelson	<p>I strongly encourage the BOE to take a hard look at the remaining 2020-2021 calendar and consider extending the school year further into June. Sadly, educational and social learning loss has occurred in EVERY child in one form or another, and any "normal" school day that we can tack on would be one small step towards repairing this damage and setting our children up for a better start to the 2021-2022 school year. While I understand there are instructional hour maximums for our teachers, what are the instructional hour minimums for our students? Sure, the calendars show 5-hour days... but we all know that our kids are engaged MUCH less than this on their at-home days. Far less. For example, my MS child often has one complete hour of downtime with no teacher interaction within the 5-hour schedule during her at-home days. 20% UNDER the minimum requirement. 20% under, three days a week (with an additional fourth day every three weeks courtesy of the ABC schedule).</p> <p>I imagine the state BOE has given allowances for this year. I imagine the unions remain strict on their calculations to protect their members. I get these two pieces. However, we should not wave away this school year and hastily say we will make up for it next year. We should not accept ANY minimum requirement as enough when it comes to our kids. We simply need to open our eyes and calculators to see where we really are with respect to instructional hours -- both the instructional hours given by our teachers vs the maximum allowed (not minimum!) AND instructional hours legitimately received by our children across all three levels -- and do whatever we can to align these. Whether it is one additional day of in-person learning or one month, please lead by example and show our kids that we feel they are more valuable and capable of so much more than the low bars and minimums established for them.</p>
2/23/2021 11:52:30	Mari Saenz	<p>I need to share the incredible frustration & concern I have over Sandburg & Bryan not being back on site. Are you aware of the mental toll this is taking on our kids?? They have been isolated and remote learning is not a conducive long term environment. Teachers have vaccines - so what's the issue now? Anyone who doesn't want to be I send their kids to school can choose remote learning. We must act now to get our kids back to school.</p>

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2/23/2021 16:36:02	Michael Fotinolaro	<p>Good evening. I'm writing to you tonight to implore you to halt the saliva testing IMMEDIATELY.</p> <p>Mandating this testing is unethical, illegal, and GOES AGAINST CDC guidelines.</p> <p>This is pure theater. STOP IT NOW! Many parents are agreeing to this only because they think it will get their kids in school 5 days a week. But it's clear that's not the intention at this time.</p> <p>Can you guarantee with 100% certainty that our children's DNA will not be compromised? Sold? Stolen? DNA is a hot market. Genealogy companies realized they could make huge money—more than selling kits and memberships—by selling the samples. They didn't disclose it for years, until they got caught. And people still don't know/understand because they don't read the fine print. People are scared because they don't know where their samples have gone and what people are doing with them.</p> <p>If you can guarantee it 100%, and accept liability if something is found later, then we have a conversation.</p> <p>Committing to this testing is a GROSS DERELICTION of your FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY to the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES of District 205. You're MISAPPROPRIATING OUR TAX DOLLARS for something that is DANGEROUS, UNETHICAL, AND UNNECESSARY. This is an invasion of privacy and not in the best interest of our students.</p> <p>This testing program also violates CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Check the CDC's page on "Interim Considerations for Testing for K-12 School Administrators and Public Health Officials": According to the CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-testing.html</p> <p>"If a school is implementing a testing strategy, testing should be offered on a voluntary basis. It is unethical and illegal to test someone who does not want to be tested, including students whose parents or guardians do not want them to be tested.</p> <p>It is not recommended to retest individuals who have tested positive and do not have symptoms for COVID-19 for up to 3 months from their last positive test. Data currently suggest that some individuals test persistently positive due to residual virus material but are unlikely to be infectious."</p> <p>What will you do with those individuals? WILL YOU NEVER ALLOW THOSE INDIVIDUALS IN SCHOOL?</p> <p>CDC also says: Testing should be done in these types of schools: -Schools in communities disproportionately affected or that lack access to testing -Schools in communities with moderate, higher, and highest risk of transmission -Schools with an active outbreak</p> <p>***We do not fit into either of the above categories!***</p> <p>Forcing families to consent to testing in order to send their children to school is UNETHICAL AND ILLEGAL and the CDC agrees. Please halt this program immediately.</p>

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2/23/2021 17:08:08	Tricia Buhrfiend	<p>I ask the Board to quickly move toward a 5-day in-school for our Bryan students. With the vaccination of the teachers, it is now time to turn towards the best interest of the students.</p> <p>Safety measures are being put in place. For what? For when? School will be out for the summer before Bryan finally moves forward. Many students are struggling and need the support of 5-day in-person school now. Give these families a real choice! Looking toward the future for Bryan, I also ask the Board to plan for next year. If we can't get Bryan back to a 5-day in-person schedule now, what about the fall when many more Lincoln kids are added to the school? Does this transition and timing still make sense? Should the Lincoln project be postponed? Should the Lincoln kids be placed elsewhere in different schools with greater capacity than Bryan (see space study just completed)--other elementary schools? Churchville? The pandemic has changed everything--all plans. Hopefully, the administration and the Board are considering updates to Lincoln project as well and the negative impact this may have on all Bryan students if it moves forward as planned.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
2/23/2021 18:06:54	Rachel Mikula	<p>To: The Board of Education, Superintendent Moyer and Leaders of the ETC:</p> <p>It is with great concern that I write this as both a parent with 4 children attending D205 schools and as a mental health clinician working in the western suburbs. While I am glad to see that you are starting to implement more IN PERSON learning across the district, your plan is far from acceptable. All children in the district should be offered the opportunity for a full day of in person learning. If this means that you start with the elementary aged students, then what are you waiting for? Teachers are being vaccinated, we have a universal mask policy, we have agreed to 3 ft of social distancing and the metrics continue to drop. Just get creative with space in the buildings and figure it out. Schools all over the world and in our own backyard with less resources and less space have figured out a way to get their kids in the buildings full time, what is holding us up here in one of the most well to do districts? The parents in this community have asked over and over what we can do to make this happen, so please tell us? I am extremely concerned with the lack of attention given to the middle school students at Sandburg and Bryan who are still stuck in a plan to only return with the hybrid AB model come mid March. Really? Human growth and development teaches us that Middle school aged children are in the prime of their growth. The brain growth that occurs between the ages of 10-15 is the second (to the toddler years) greatest in human life. We also know that middle and high schoolers learn best through interaction and activity, yet your plans continues to put these well known facts on the back burner and leave the adolescent population of this community stuck in some robotic form of education we have come to know as zoom mayhem. Couple all of this with the fact that the rates of depression, anxiety, Post traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues are increasing at alarming rates among our school aged population. Some mental health agencies have waiting lists that are close to 6 months long for services for children and teens. Children and teens are suffering. The sense of anxiety, isolation, loneliness, worthlessness, hopelessness and uncertainty is only exacerbated by remote and hybrid education for many students. The lack of motivation I encounter is astounding and this from students who are normally A and B students who are now only passing a few classes. The self loathing and loss of sense of self only continues to contribute to the depression rate increasing among our youth. With this we see a rise in suicidal thoughts attempted suicides and suicides among our youth. As a nation the systems in this country have historically failed our children, the most vulnerable and precious resource we have, the future of this community and this country. I never saw D205 as one of these failing systems until recently. The students of this district deserve better. Please, send our children the message that they matter, that their education matters. Please, put bureaucracy and politics aside and do the right thing. Please, stop waiting around and expedite your plans to give all of the students in the district the choice to be in school FULL TIME now. Yesterday is not soon enough. The health, wellness, success and future of our children depend on this.</p>
2/23/2021 18:15:18	Mia Allen	<p>Good Evening and thank you for taking the time to read my comment. I have 3 kids. 1 at Lincoln, 1 at Bryan and 1 at York. I'm writing in regards to middle and high school kids getting back into school full time, full days with snacks and lunches. The use of lockers and all other things that makes a kids day normal. What we are doing and have done to these kids is abusive. I have watched my 3 kids go from loving school to not wanting to go at all. Hybrid was a model we all tried to adapt to but was never ever meant to be a long term solution. It has been a year and our kids are still not back to any semblance of a normal day. This is going to effect them for the rest of their lives and we don't have any idea to what degree. I do appreciate all the Board is doing but please work tirelessly to get ALL kids back into school full time. Because we all know that is where they should be. 3' distancing is fine if that means the kids can get back. My Daughter at Bryan is getting only 6 days of a shortened in person day. It has been sad to watch this continue week after week after week. Make the change NOW!! Not 3 weeks from now but NOW!!!! Start ASAP. Our kids lives are depending on you to do what's right for them. Thank you.</p>