

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted In-Person in accordance with Tier 3 Mitigation Requirements imposed through Executive Order 2020-73—reissued by Executive Order 2020-74
Meeting Location: Vernon Hills Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

7:00 p.m. on the 12th of August, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called attendance and the following members attended in person: George Fievet, Michael Engle, Sonali Patil, Wes Polen, Karl Borchers and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were the Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Student Services Mrs. Alicia Corrigan; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. Joel Finfer was not in attendance.

RECOGNITION

No recognition at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In Person Comment:

Julie Simpson, 307 Onwentsia Rd, Vernon Hills

Written Public Comment:

Margaret Clark, 1134 Dawes Street, Libertyville

Gwen Janzen, 269 Danbury Dr, Vernon Hills

Alma Miranda, 8 Altoon Court, Vernon Hills

Simran Dang, 202 Arcadia Ct, Vernon Hills

Andy and MaryJane Wang, 1822 Sawgrass St, Vernon Hills

Rebecca Ferraro, 2365 Sarazen Dr, Vernon Hills

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board member George Fievet announced that Representative Brad Schneider's office wanted to let the community know about the "Congress On Your Corner" event at Century Park in Vernon Hills held on August 17. It was open and free to the public. Anyone interested had to RSVP via his website.

PRESENTATIONS

No presentations at this time.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Vice President Wes Polen discussed Policy 4:182 face coverings: In light of the executive order from Governor J.B.Pritzker on August 4, the district's policy has been updated to reference the executive order so all of our schools can be compliant and maintain students safety. It will be an action item later in the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance LeeAnn Taylor discussed future additions and renovations, athletic flooring at Elementary South, and the tentative budget hearing.

LeeAnn Taylor introduced the Legat team (Ted Houg, Kristen Eastman, and Tom McGrath) for the presentation. This discussion will open up more discussions in the upcoming days regarding the referendum that was approved in fall 2018. More detailed discussions will take place, as well as a report of enrollment trends, different construction funding sources, that will be discussed in the September board meeting. Ted, Kristen, and Tom from Legat have worked diligently with our district team and Middle South leadership and teachers to identify the areas of Middle South that need current renovation. Mechanical items are only needed at Aspen. The presentation was shown to view the current designs.

The next agenda item was the Elementary South athletic flooring. The presentation showed the lowest bids for approval in the September meeting.

The last agenda item was the tentative budget hearing. The finance department held a hearing and opened up questions from the board and the community. The final budget will be presented for approval on September 9th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan reported that the district welcomed 27 new teachers for new teacher orientation the week of August 10th. Throughout the week the administration team shared their mission, vision, and collective commitments to ensure student success. Different district departments presented to the new staff with key information. The topics included building credibility, relationship building, classroom management, curriculum, professional learning communities, and more. The district had a special luncheon to welcome the new staff members. In preparation to welcome back all HD73 students, the district held an all staff kick off event on Wednesday, August 18 at Middle School South. All board members were invited to join. President Cleek addressed the staff as well as Dr. Hannigan, the foundation, and the PTO.

The district welcomed back 3500+ students on August 23rd. The communication that was sent out earlier in the month sparked some questions that were presented in this meeting, specifically about Test to Stay and Shield testing. All testing will take place with parent consent. Parents have received information and consent forms for testing and how they can opt in to the program.

With respect to Shield testing, the district has established a relationship with the University of Illinois to incorporate weekly testing to add another safety mitigation within our district. The testing is at no cost to the district. The testing will take place of a random sampling of unvaccinated students twice a week. The company will do one day a week on the north campus and one day a week on the south campus.

With respect to Test to Stay, this test only applies to students who are considered a close contact at school. If an event occurs that a close contact is discovered outside of school such as a playdate, sleepover, or a sporting event that is not associated with Hawthorn District 73, Test to Stay will not apply. According to the county, as long as both students are wearing masks appropriately regardless of distance and length of time, they both will qualify for participation. With that being said, the Lake County Department of Health determines who qualifies to participate. The school district, nurses, administrative team, do not decide who can participate in Test to Stay. The Test to Stay program will be on site and it will be the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th day after exposure. The district will continue to maintain a COVID-19 dashboard pertaining to building and district exposures which will be updated every Friday and report out the data publicly in board meetings starting on September 9th.

The new district website was launched on Friday, August 20th and it is mobile compatible. Communication was sent out to the community when the site was live.

The next board meeting will be held at Middle School North on September 9th and it will not be livestreamed but will be recorded and posted on the district website. The district will be hosting a special VIP Open House to showcase the Middle School North additions and renovations prior to the meeting beginning at 5:30. An invitation was emailed on Friday, August 20th.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Robin Cleek welcomed everyone back. The board is really excited to start in person this year and look forward to our mitigation efforts to be as effective as they were in the Spring to help keep students safe and learning in person as many days as possible. President Cleek reminded the community to please cooperate and work together to keep the students healthy and remain in school.

ED-RED REPORT

The ED-RED Report has been postponed to September 9th due to Mr. Joel Finfer's absence.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL held a public hearing on the final budget and a presentation was followed by a motion to approve the budget on Wednesday, August 18. The budget was based on approval basis which includes the evidence based funding and tuition revenues. For final budget purposes, the expenditures in the education fund for the 21-22 fiscal school year were set to \$47.5 million. The fiscal year 20-21 tuition was at \$1.14 million. The tentative tuition for fiscal year 21-22 was estimated at \$1.3 million which was showing a 15% increase from last year to this year.

KEY to 73 REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the Key to 73 foundation is looking for board members. If anyone is interested, please check out the website and submit yourself.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Sonali Patil reported that Tom from LAMP held a presentation at their last sites and facilities meeting regarding the projections for Elementary South construction and the mechanical renovations for Aspen. The Open House for Middle North construction is ready to view. The construction at Elementary South is on track and the roof is done at Middle South.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes 06/17/21
- 6.2 Expenditure Report, July 2021
- 6.3 AM EX Report for June 2021
- 6.4 AM EX Report for July 2021
- 6.5 Amazon Expense Report for August 2021
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report for May 2021
- 6.7 Personnel Report:
 - New Hires: 29
 - Resignations: 11
 - Change of Status: 1

29 New Hires: Jackie Jordan, 4th grade teacher, EN; Jessica Salerno, Language Arts, MN; Beth E. Jahn, ELA 6th Grade, MN; Alyson Garman, 8th Grade Math Science Teacher, MN; Maria Blancas, 4th Grade Teacher, DL; Anthony Akmakjian, 6th Grade Science, MSS; Elizabeth Haras, Spanish Teacher, MSS; Sandra Pineda, LBS1 Teacher, MSS; Chris Volpe, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Allison Renda, ESL/Bilingual, HSYL; Kara Hijerstedt, 7th Grade Math Teacher, MN; Sara Lenzi, 2nd Grade Teacher, Aspen; Barbara Rose, .5 SLP, MN; Isabella Martinez, LBS1 Teacher, DL; Chantal Katz, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Angela Kim, LBS1 Teacher, MSS; Rachel Girmschild, Instructional Assistant-LOP, EN; Lisa Nockels, Instructional Assistant-LOP, HSYL; Tracey Black, Instructional Assistant-SpEd, Matthew Beans, Instructional Assistant 1:1, MN; Deepika Bhardwaj, Instructional Assistant-ELL, TL; Anna Toczycki, Instructional Assistant, MN; Jennifer Kappler, Principal Secretary, EN; Hailey Yetman, Instructional Assistant- SpEd, TL; Marlene Wences, Communications

Specialist, DO; Grace Barajas, School Nurse, Aspen; Shana Gicens, Instructional Assistant, ES; Rebecca Dugan, Instructional Assistant 1:1, MS

11 Resignations: Nichole Kelso, LBS1, MN, 6/21/2021; Rebecca Green, 1st Grade Teacher, Aspen, 6/24/2021; Stephanie Cascio, ELL Teacher, HSYL, 7/8/2021; Jane Zhang, 7th Grade Math Teacher, MN, 7/16/2021; Heather Motley, 4th Grade Teacher, Aspen, 7/26/2021; Marykate Purcell, LBS1 Teacher, MN, 8/6/2021; Eleanor Klompus, L/R Supervisor, ES, 8/23/2021; Lora Viers Jacobs, School Nurse, MS, 8/2/2021; Darlene Forman, School Nurse, MN, 7/20/2021; Araceli Tovar, Instructional Assistant, DL, 7/27/2021; Caryn Sturz, Benefits Specialist, DO, 8/13/2021

Change of Status: Maria de Lourdes Hernandez, Principal Secretary, DL

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Sonali Patil

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

CSBO Ms. LeeAnn Taylor explained the two action items on tonight's agenda regarding the purchase of air purifiers for district music classrooms and disposal of surplus.

The first action item sought board approval for the purchase of air purifiers in the music rooms as part of the district's mitigation strategies.

The second item sought board approval for disposal of surplus property. In regards to the district transitioning to a 1:1 tech ratio for ipads and chromebooks, the district has a lot of outdated devices that are at the end of their lifecycle or hold some value that will be sold to an asset company.

ACTION ITEMS –

Approval for the Purchase of Air Purifiers for District Music Classrooms

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Purchase of Air Purifiers; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Approval for the Disposal of Surplus Property

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the disposal of surplus; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Policy 4:182 Face Coverings

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 4:182 Face Coverings; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment- currently unavailable while school is not in session
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there was one FOIA request received since the last board meeting that has been responded to as identified in Section 8.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

President Robin Cleek would like to discuss reading email comments during board meetings in case the community feels uncomfortable coming in person due to the increase of Covid cases right now. This will be a future topic discussion.

Vice President Wes Polen would like to start discussing possible public forums. This will be discussed at the September 23rd board meeting.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – With no further business to discuss Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Karl Borchers meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. All in favor? Yes.*

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____

From: **Peter Hannigan** hanniganp@hawthorn73.org
Subject: **Fwd: Public Comment 8/12**
Date: **August 12, 2021 at 3:01 PM**
To: **Jessica Flores** floresj@hawthorn73.org



From: Gwen Janzen <gwenjanzen@hotmail.com>
Subject: Public Comment 8/12
Date: August 12, 2021 at 2:59:34 PM CDT
To: schoolboard Board <schoolboard@hawthorn73.org>
Cc: Gwen Janzen <gwenjanzen@hotmail.com>

Dr. Hannigan and board members,

Thank you, as always, for your diligent work on behalf of our students. I wanted to take a moment to write today because I have been moved by the passion with which our community members have been vocalizing their concerns for our students. I don't agree with the level of hostility that has been displayed in some cases, but I can sympathize with the frustration many are feeling.

My family, like most, has sacrificed much this past year, and we have worked hard to fight the spread of Covid. We stayed home, wore masks, avoided exposure, and my husband (a teacher) wore a mask all day when his classes returned in person. Each member of our household got vaccinated as soon as we were eligible. Many would say we have "done our part." It hasn't been easy, and there is a temptation to ask the question, "When is enough, enough?" I know many others in our position are asking this very question. It's not always comfortable to learn (or teach) in a mask all day. It's frustrating that we must continue to do so, especially for those who are fully vaccinated or for folks who (for whatever reason) don't have concerns about their children becoming seriously ill from Covid. These people may be asking, "When is enough, enough?"

If one was to ask any Olympian, or any other highly competitive person, "When is enough, enough?" They would tell you this... It's *not* enough just because

you have worked hard. It's *not* enough just because you are tired, frustrated, or sore; it is *only* enough when it is actually *enough!* It is enough when you have reached your goal, accomplished what you set out to accomplish, and achieved what you needed to achieve.

In D73, the goal is to educate students *in person* this year, in a safe, consistent, predictable routine that can support their needs while helping them to grow and flourish academically and emotionally. Though some folks may not agree with or appreciate all of the layers of mitigation necessary to achieve that goal, we simply cannot back down from our hard work. We must continue to model fortitude, determination, teamwork, and patience for our students and our community. With most students in D73 still unable to be vaccinated, Delta raging around us, and with high levels of transmission in our area, we are clearly *not* out of the woods yet. There is literally *no* disagreement among public health experts. Layered mitigation (including universal masking) is the best and only way to continue to keep our children safe at this time.

I want to go one step further and ask that you not only follow the state mandate (as you are doing), but also pledge to continue all layered mitigations *at least* until vaccines are available for all of our elementary kiddos *and* we have achieved stable, herd immunity levels in our district population. Lessening any of the mitigations too soon could end up being detrimental to student health and safety, but it could also bring about uncertainty and turbulence, as it would inevitably lead to quarantines and learning disruptions. As we are all hoping not to have to go back to remote learning, we must all work together to do what we can to avoid it. Though my entire household will be fully vaccinated at the start of the school year, we are happy we can do our part...until "enough" is actually *enough!*

Thank you all for your continued strength, leadership, and partnership in education for District 73!

Regards,
Gwen Janzen

Dear School Board 73 members,

I wanted to thank you for the decision to move forward with this school year with a plan that includes the full reopening of D73 schools. I was pleased to learn that locker assignments would be reinstated for the upcoming school year. I was especially pleased that all clubs, activities and sports would resume.

I wanted to address the mandatory mask requirements you have laid out for the school year. I know you mentioned that you are following Governor Pritzker's masking mandate and are ready to make adjustments if the guidance from IDPH and ISBE change. I know you will continue to mask the kids without actual proof that masking mitigates the spread of Covid-19 but please ask yourself a few questions.

When will the end date for masking our kids be? If your answer is that you will mask until 100% of the entire world population is vaccinated. Will it be after assurance that the 3rd, 4th, 5th.... millionth booster has been rolled out? Will my child ever have an opportunity to see the faces of her friends and teachers? Given the lack of actual scientific evidence behind Governor Pritzker's mandate will you board ever stand up for our kids? If not this August, then when? Have we not learned anything from history?

I would like to ask you if the Governor's mask mandate is legally binding? Although he continues to extend his emergency orders for the state, there is no clear emergency at this time. Every Illinoisian who is eligible for the vaccine has had time to receive it at this time. His mandate is not a law. It has not been passed by the Illinois legislature.

If you are worried about liability, there is no liability for not following a non-legally binding mandate. On that note can you please speak to the outcome of your conversations with the schools' insurance companies and lawyers on this issue of mask mandates?

There is no evidence that masks prevent the transmission of Covid-19.

There is plenty of evidence that demonstrates the harms of masking children.

A recent WSJ article addressed the risks of using masks:

"Those who have myopia can have difficulty seeing because the mask fogs their glasses." This is especially true of my daughter. Her glasses fog up because of her mask and she can't see. Have you ever tried to study with fogged up glasses for over the entire school day? How can my child be expected to learn without being able to see clearly? My daughter loves school. She is grateful to have such a wonderful supportive staff at her school but wearing glasses and masks is a bad combination for sight. Last year during sports she had to wear a mouth guard with a mask which made it extremely difficult to breathe.

"Masks can cause severe acne and other skin problems." This issue is especially of importance for our pre-teens and teens. This is one more problem that they should not have to worry about. Some kids

have had to get a few doses of medication to treat this problem that would likely not exist if they were not forced to wear dirty masks the entire school day.

Kids need a school where they can be allowed to have facial expressions. Forcing masks on children demonstrates to them that they are somehow wrong by showing their faces. My child has done nothing wrong. This is not a burden that she should have to bear for the adults who feel she should wear a mask at all times. When in our history has a society placed the brunt of the burden on children?

There are only a few countries in the world where masking has been done on a long-term basis. These countries have been found to have high rates of suicide, elongated faces from the masks and depression. Children are not able to receive their social cues with the masks on. Our children will only fully grow and mature and they are able to provide emotional expression with their faces. This cannot be done with a mask on. If we are truly using the masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19 then we should look at Japan. Japan has over 90% mask compliance yet Covid-19 still spread. Korea has a 99% mask compliance rate yet Covid-19 still spread and new surges appear. If masks work then why aren't they working?

We will never be at a zero Covid-19 transmission rate. This is simply something we will have to live with. I applaud the layered mitigation steps you have taken but have we ever had layered mitigation for the flu or a cold? A virus with animal reservoirs will never reach zero transmission rate. That is a fact.

Please reconsider making masks optional for the kids this year. Have those hard conversations with the ISBE and IDPH. Let the kids have their lives back. They have already missed out on so much. My daughter was in the 3rd grade when this started. Enough is enough! Let our kids be kids! For those parents who feel more comfortable with the masks on then by all means they can have that choice. My child should be not forced to have a mask when there are no proven scientific studies that support it and plenty of studies that demonstrate the long-term physical and psychological damage on growing children.

When will this board be comfortable with unmasking? 2 months? 6 months? 2 years? 20 years? I'm sorry but my child is losing her childhood every day. She has already been carrying this burden for over a year.

This district's school board has the authority to relieve this district's children of this mask burden. I ask you to leave the choice to the parents.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your consideration of this matter,

Alma Miranda

8 Altoona Court

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 7:20 AM Gulati Family <hellogulatis@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of School District 73 Board and Dr. Hannigan,

I hope that you are all well and enjoying your summer - and have had an opportunity to recover from the demands of the past school year.

My name is Simran Dang and I am the mother of two Aspen elementary students. I first want to commend you for the fantastic job that you did last year navigating the school district through the pandemic. I truly appreciate your leadership in making very tough decisions that put the needs of the students, staff and families first. And in the face of some very ugly pushback.

We kept our children home all of last year learning virtually through the district. I believe that it was the right decision for us, although it was not an easy one by any means. The reasons we kept the children home were several-fold: I lost my beloved aunt early in the pandemic and it was traumatizing & devastating for my family, and my husband has several high-risk factors that make him susceptible to severe disease by covid. Later in the year, we also saw the impact of the Delta covid variant on our extended family & friends in India; it was very scary and caused the deaths of many more people.

I'm writing to ask you to consider re-implementing the option of virtual learning for at least the first half of the school year. This is for two reasons. The first is that we are only at the beginning of the Delta covid wave amongst the unvaccinated. Our scientists are still learning a lot about Delta but we know that it flared in India for about 4-5 months - and then apparently burned itself out. We are at the beginning of that wave now here in the US, just as the school year starts. The second reason is that our children under 12 do not have the option of getting vaccinated yet. I appreciate the mandatory mask mandate in schools. However, I still worry about the density of classrooms (3-6 feet separation may not be enough) and, in particular, the unmasking of children during lunchtime. Some schools are fundraising for HEPA filters in the classroom and setting up tents under which

students can eat lunch, distanced while outdoors. I wish the latter was something our schools could explore with greater seriousness, at least while the weather is good. (And I would be happy to fundraise for HEPA filters if the district is open to that option.) Another option would be to implement a mandatory testing protocol. I realize that is likely controversial for a public school but am impressed by the schools and colleges which have been able to implement such a regime.

In any case, while I am ambivalent about returning the children to school in-person in 10 days, my husband is adamantly opposed and interviewing licensed teachers and tutors to home school them ostensibly until they can get vaccinated. I don't want to be in this position so far into the pandemic. While I am not a fan of virtual learning for young children, I also am not comfortable rolling the dice with the Delta variant.

I realize that the state (ISBE) has placed constraints on local school districts; however, if there is any possibility that optional virtual learning could be re-implemented for the first half of the school year, I ask that you offer that option. I believe that there are enough families who could support it at home and would opt for it (at least temporarily), if given the choice. Doing so would alleviate some of the density within the schools and hopefully contribute to a safer environment for all. Again, this request is only until children under 12 can get vaccinated. Hopefully by then, the covid rates will fall again.

Again, thank you for all of your service to the school district and community.

Kind regards,
Simran Dang
202 Arcadia Ct.
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 7:26 AM MaryJane Wang <jojane13@gmail.com>
wrote:

Dear D73 Board Members and Dr. Hannigan,

We have lived in the district for 13 years and have been fortunate to have had three children go through D73. We just wanted to say thank you for your steady, responsible leadership throughout the pandemic. Our community is incredibly fortunate to have such intelligent, dedicated public servants working tirelessly to keep our children safe. You have set the example for other districts to follow and have shown the utmost wisdom from day one.

The science is very clear as unanimously stated by the CDC, IDPH, LCHD, and the AAP. Universal masking is a crucial layer of protection for schools. Simply put, masking limits the spread of the virus, thereby keeping children safe and keeping them in school - which is what we all want for our kids. This is especially necessary in elementary schools, where the vast majority of students aren't yet old enough to be vaccinated.

Now that the delta variant is here, universal masking is more important than ever. Emerging research shows that even vaccinated people can spread the delta variant, which is why we all must wear a mask whether we are vaccinated or not. Furthermore, the delta variant is proving to affect children in greater numbers not seen with previous variants. It is transmitted faster and has a viral load 1,000 times higher than other variants.

Mask use doesn't just protect the wearer from other people - it protects all other people from the wearer. Masks block respiratory droplets from the wearer from being emitted into the air, thereby forming a crucial mitigation layer that limits transmission and keeps everyone else safer. For this reason - arguments based in concepts of personal choice and freedom do not apply.

I am all for choice and personal freedom when the consequences of one's choice only affect oneself. If I don't want to wear my seat belt - that's a risk I might take for myself. It only affects my own safety. But if I want to drive 100 miles per hour down the street - that's a risk to everyone else's safety. Just as speeding puts others in harm's way, failure to wear a mask is not without consequences to others.

Thank you for upholding the governor's universal mask mandate and keeping everyone in the school and the community safer!

Sincerely,

Andy and MaryJane Wang

Sent from my iPhone

From: **Margaret Clark** clarkmm1@gmail.com
Subject: email public comment for 8/12 board meeting
Date: August 11, 2021 at 9:03 PM
To: floresj@hawthorn73.org
Cc: hanniganp@hawthorn73.org



Dear Superintendent Hannigan and Hawthorn District 73 School Board,

Thank you for all you have done to keep our children safe throughout this pandemic. I am writing to ask that you continue to follow the guidance from the CDC, ISBE, and IDPH when establishing mitigation measures. I fully support the plan for this upcoming year, as presented in the August 4, 2021 correspondence from Dr. Hannigan, which aligns with this guidance. My family knows that D73 has the best interests of our children and the community in mind, and we extend our thanks for your hard work during this very difficult period.

The American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly advocates that all policy considerations for school COVID-19 plans should start with a goal of keeping students safe and physically present in school. If this is the goal for our children, then I see mask wearing as critical. Thank you for taking the responsible position on this. I know there are some in our community who disagree with mask wearing. I am here to state my support of it and to encourage you to always follow the science and listen to the experts, as you have been doing.

My family is looking forward to starting this school year. Thank you again for all that you do.

Best,
Margaret Clark

From: **Rebecca Ferraro** becc37@shcglobal.net
Subject: Indoor lunch
Date: August 12, 2021 at 4:16 PM
To: floresj@hawthorn73.org, **schoolboard Board** schoolboard@hawthorn73.org



Dear District 73 Board of Education and Dr. Hannigan,

I was so pleased to see in your recent email that masks will be required for all teachers and staff. Covid-19 safety this year is unfortunately still going to have to be at the forefront of our minds as we work together to keep kids safe from infection and spreading. To that end, my family has concerns about unmasked lunches in school. As a family, we have yet to eat inside a restaurant since March 2020. With the Delta variant being more contagious than previous strains/variants of Covid-19, unmasked time inside is not something we feel comfortable with. While I have already arranged to pick my daughter up during lunch time so that she can avoid indoors unmasked time, I'd love to see an option that would allow all students a safer way to eat; unfortunately many parents like myself are concerned about indoor eating and do not have the ability to pick up their children for lunch. I am writing to suggest we find a way to offer lunch outside. I realize weather is not always desirable. However, for the most part, with the exception of rainy days, eating outside would be a viable option. Perhaps there is a location in which students could spread out much more than the minimum 6ft or we could even rent/buy tents (no sides) in case of rainy days? The kids, in my experience, have had lunch and recess opposite each other so they could easily dress for recess and eat in their coats on chilly days. Hopefully vaccines for students under 12 will be available sooner rather than later, and the cold weather will be less of an issue. Thank you for taking the time to read about our family's concerns. I truly appreciate all your efforts throughout this pandemic to keep our students safe.

Yours in education,

Becca Ferraro

(Mother of Paige Ferraro, 3rd grade, Dual Language)