

Community Comments October 21, 2021

Jordana	Ramos	<p>I would like to thank the board for continuing with the concurrent model. I have a son in the Westbrook early education concurrent program and though I agree having a dedicated assistant would greatly help the teachers, in the interim they have been doing a great job facilitating at home learning.</p>
Liz	Hutchinson	<p>Dear Admin and BOE member,</p> <p>I am writing to inquire why district 57's quarantine metrics are so stringent/conservative in comparison to nearby districts. These are neighboring schools dealing with the same pandemic, mitigation efforts and reporting to the same health department. As a family we are very puzzled and frustrated that NO compromise/revision is presented in our district vs. neighboring districts about updated quarantine guidelines. Every day our healthy children are not in school is another loss day of learning. Additionally, the infection rate is low in the community. I compiled some data taken directly from their school websites. This is what I found online (as of Oct 20th) taken directly from their district websites:</p> <p>River trails D26- (posted October 8th)-negative PCR test to stay with symptom monitoring Arlington Heights D25- negative PCR test to stay or ten day quarantine with no symptoms Palatine D115- Ten day quarantine with no symptoms for close contacts. Ten days for positive COVID-19 District 54 Schaumburg- ten days no symptoms District 64 (Niles/Park Ridge) ten day no symptoms for close contact or positive covid case.</p> <p>I could go on and on with other districts in the area, but you get the gist. It is quite clear and evident in my pulling of data that this is not adding up in regards to our district. Please consider changing these guidelines ASAP. Thank you!</p>
Anna	Ryan	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I wanted to bring up some considerations regarding quarantine. When students are exposed to a positive contact, they are currently in quarantine for 14 days with the day of their last exposure to that person as day 0. The CDC recommends the following options for quarantine: 14 days after exposure, after day 10 without testing, and after day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later). According to the administrative and nursing team, our district's policy is 14 days because "this is what the board decided". In addition, they recommended that I refer to the IDPH recommendations for schools, I did and the guidelines state that they align with those of the CDC which links you back to the criteria I described above.</p> <p>I understand that the school wants to protect its students. I do too but why don't we abide by CDC guidelines and allow for a 10-day quarantine WITH testing – which would be more conservative than is recommended. If parents are not testing their kids, I understand that you never know when they can get ill, so you want to make sure that they have enough time to "recover" but if you know they are not sick at 5 days, 7 days, or even 10 days – why not let them get back to school by day 10? According to the CDC, "the addition of diagnostic testing of a specimen collected up to 48 hours before Day 10, the estimated post-quarantine transmission risk was reduced to 0.3% for RT-PCR testing, and 1.1% for antigen testing with a test that had a diagnostic sensitivity of 70%". This is from a day 10 percentage of 1.4 without testing. Why can't we give parents an option to send their kids to school earlier, if they get tested?</p> <p>I am not sure if the board is aware, but the MP park district abides by school rules. That means that if your kids go to D57, they have a 14-day quarantine but if they go to a parochial school, they have a 10-day quarantine. This means two kids can be on the same soccer team and have to quarantine for the same reason, but one will be able to participate 4 days sooner. How does this make sense to anyone?</p> <p>You, as the administration, can recommend a change that follows guidelines and the board, as the protectors and decision makers for our schools, should have no reason to deny it. We all know that our district takes a very prudent approach to things but now is the time to take some steps forward. We saw last year that baby steps do not get us anywhere.</p> <p>Lastly, I plan to get my kids vaccinated but many people do not. Is it fair to punish them with a 14-day quarantine (that my kids won't have to abide by) when there are other options that would allow them to return to school earlier? Please consider all of this in Thursday's meeting.</p> <p>P.S. Please continue recommending masks indoors per CDC guidelines.</p>