

Community Comments 2/17/22

Timestamp	First Name	Last Name	Your Public Comment
2/15/2022 12:01:15	Eric	Nowiszewski	Please make masking optional permanent. My son has finally began to enjoy school again. Masking our kids is barbaric and unnecessary. It is clear to anyone with an ounce of common sense that masking did little to nothing to prevent the spread at school. These poor kids need to return to normal. Enough is enough.
2/16/2022 9:25:28	Mathew	Douvikas	School board members. Take notice of what happened in San Francisco to the three school board members who were recalled. They prioritized pushing their leftist ideology over the well being of our students.
2/16/2022 13:04:59	Judy	Hluchy	I am a grandparent and truly believe that the parents should have the right to say whether or not they want their child to wear a mask or not. Wearing a mask is so wrong in so many ways for these children. Please make it optional. Thank you.
2/16/2022 19:04:09	Dorota	Kula	Unmask our kids!!! Our children need to be heard and understood, too. They are learning to read and write and make friends and speak up for themselves — all crucial life skills. They need their full faces and real, normal lives back right now. Meanwhile, adults eat indoors at packed restaurants and bars, go to indoor stadiums by the thousands and work out at the gym — maskless! District 57. It's about the time!!!!
			Dear District 57 Board Members As community we gather to reflect on a very hard and emotional week. It was a week filled with overwhelming happiness and freedom for some; where others felt tremendous fear and resentment. We did it though! We pushed through our differences and took an enormous step forward that was desperately needed. Unfortunately, there is an uncertainty for our prosperous week. Will it fall back into dark days of children being afraid of what their peers might think of them; or if their teachers will approve of their choice to wear a mask or not. There are a lot of different opinions on this matter, but one is what we are fighting for and that is "CHOICE!" As a mother I make many difficult decisions as you do in for your families. I research healthy eating, good doctors, dentist, schools, caregivers and what religion will be a part of my family's life. The choices I make would best suit my family but may not for others. We are not a one size fits all, but individuals that get to chooses what fits them, that has been lost. Forcing families to send their children to school with a mask is just simply unfair. You have taken an important decision away from parents and forced yours into a place it doesn't belong, in the home of families. Would it be fair for the government and school district to force you to NOT put a MASK on your child because it is decreasing the developmental skills of children? No one should be in favor of that! We should protect the sanctity of family and allow the "CHOICE" that best protects their loved ones. Below are studies and publications that should be a part of the board's decision to continue to support MASK OPTIONAL for ALL families in District 57! A Brown University study published in the Daily Mail indicated that mandated mask policies has further affected our vulnerable children with speech, social and emotional development. None of these children were given an option or consideration of how deeply it has disrupted them mentally and physically. Masking in schools were meant to be temporary as we learned more about Covid. If we are following the science published in the Journal of American Medical Association, we know young children are not only at low risk for developing the virus but also don't play a significant role in the spread while attending school. CDC website also states that extreme harm like death to effect children is 0.001%. CNN medical analyst Leana Wen Tweeted "Don't wear cloth mask, cloth mask is little more than facial decoration". So, the statement confirms that the last two years with at least half the children and adults wearing paper of cloth mask were not effective or "saving lives". We are 1 of 13 states with mask mandates that are not even consistent. Corporations, restaurants, gyms, salons, stores, super bowl and many more public spaces are not any more distant from each other than our children's school. CDC published data that confirmed California a mask mandated state had more cases than Texas whom did not. I conclude this letter with a very strong statement from United States Surgeon General Vivek H Murthy in regards to his public health advisory on the mental health confronting our youth, "Our obligation to act is not just medical-it's moral. I believe that, coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have an unprecedented opportunity as a country to rebuild in a way that refocuses our identity and common values, puts people first, and strengthens our connections to each other". I want to be very clear when protecting my freedom to CHOOSE it is for the well-being of my children. I support if families want to wear mask and I am just asking for the same support and respect. Sincerely, Meegen Munao Lincoln Junior High 7th grader and Westbrook 1st grader
2/17/2022 8:50:12	Meegen	Munao	Lunchroom tables need to be put back in cafeterias and used for people in building having lunch.
2/17/2022 9:39:01	i/Man/People	hatzopoulos	Also, judge and IL JCAR members have ruled/ notified that bonded paper subjects do not have authority without due process. Be lawful and legal, as PEOPLE FIRST, not bonded as slaves for sovereign wealth funds, won't you? https://www.zeebiz.com/world/news-sovereign-wealth-funds-public-pension-fund-assets-hit-record-usd-319-trillion-here-is-a-report-175046
2/17/2022 11:03:09	Anna	Rejdak	I won't let my kids longer wear mask. They have to breathe. Covid 19 will stay with us for the rest of our lives. We will not wear masks for the rest of our lives. If some would like to, let them wear mask. We want to normally live. I believe kids should not wear mask at school.
2/17/2022 11:05:24	Agnes	Gorski	Dear Board Members I hope you were able to see and reflect on the smooth transition our students and teachers are having since going mask optional last week. My kids are reporting every day how happy they are going mask free, how respectful and understanding students and teachers are towards each other's choice. When I dropped my son at Lincoln this morning I saw a car with 4 or 5 students inside, masks free, laughing and chatting while walking to the building. They waved to a student coming from the other side with his mask on. Our community is proving we can understand and respect each others' decisions. PLEASE DO NOT BREAK THAT!!! We are one of the few states with mask mandates not because of the science or concern, but because of the politics and the power struggle. Try to put politics and orders on the side and please listen to the people. Respect the ones who feel more safe wearing their masks but at the same time allow families who think differently to have their choice. We all love our kids, we care deeply about their well being and we hope our school system can support them as well. Thank you for your service.

		<p>District 57 Board Members,</p> <p>As the legal proceedings related to the state requirements for schools to follow COVID-19 masking and exclusion continue, please consider developing your own plan that will continue to assure safer environments for our kids while at school during the COVID-19 pandemic. If the court, or the district's legal advisors clarify that districts do have the authority to enact their own requirements, we fully support a district masking requirement when community transmission of COVID-19 is at CDC's substantial or high levels. When case activity falls below those levels, masking requirements could be removed.</p> <p>The Board's decision to remove masking requirements and stop contact tracing and excluding close contacts immediately following the Sangamon County judge's verdict seems to indicate that the district was only doing those things because they had to rather than doing them because they helped to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools and to support safer in person learning. Other districts, including those named in the lawsuit, have continued these requirements pending the appeal through the court or based on their own district requirements. Preventing the spread of COVID-19, keeping children healthy, and meeting their educational and social needs are not mutually exclusive goals.</p> <p>It is very encouraging that cases and hospitalizations have decreased significantly from their peaks just 1 month ago. However, as of 2/15/22, the number of new cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days for 60056 was still 4.5 times the level that CDC recommends people wear masks in public indoor settings to decrease transmission. COVID-19 spreads through droplets and the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, sings, yells, etc. Masking continues to be an effective and critical tool when the number of new infections is high because people who do not have symptoms or have not yet developed symptoms may be unaware of their infectiousness to others. CDC estimates these individuals account for more than 50% of COVID-19 transmission. More COVID-19 cases in the community increases the likelihood that students, staff, or visitors in our schools may be infectious. The community benefit of masking is due to the combination of reducing the emission of virus from people who are infected (with or without symptoms) and by reducing inhalation of these droplets by others who are masking. The individual prevention benefit increases with increasing numbers of people using masks consistently and correctly.</p> <p>COVID-19 has impacted everyone over the past two years in some way. People have lost loved ones who died as result of COVID-19, seen family members or friends hospitalized, lost their jobs, and struggled with mental health issues related to the unknowns of a novel infectious disease pandemic. Masks are not a singular cause of emotional distress. Doing what we can to limit COVID-19 transmission, protecting ourselves and those around us, and learning about how to care for and respect those around us will help us to weather the COVID storm now and in the future.</p>
2/17/2022 11:45:34	Chris Hoff	<p>"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction." - Isaac Newton</p> <p>This falls true in the reaction of masks. Though there is debate on how effective masks are, we cannot be blind to say that wearing them has not come at a cost. Masks are hindering our children's ability to hear, see emotion, LEARN and so much more.</p> <p>If we are all in this "together" then let's please actually do so. My sister and I, whom are both in this district, share very different views around covid and masks are a big topic of where we differ. HOWEVER, though not easy, we both have respect for each other on how we choose to support and care for our families. Choosing to agree to disagree has been the most peaceful path we have taken to get through this, TOGETHER. Though we may not agree with the same safety measures, we both agree that each individual family has that right to choose what is best for their own family.</p> <p>I want to note the positive feedback from my family alone from the first week of kids being able to go to school mask-less: My child who's been suffering from a rash from his mask is finally getting a break and it's starting to clear up. He was so happy to see his friends faces and he hopes he'll see his teacher's face soon because he said he doesn't even know what she looks like.</p> <p>My kindergarten son's teacher said he was a completely different kid and was beaming in school! Another of his friend's in class said "he got his smile back!". If that isn't enough to squeeze your heart, I'm not sure what to say after this.</p> <p>I hope we continue to grow through this and support each others difference of opinions. I have told my children to be respectful to all those who choose to wear a mask and to stand in their choice to not wear one as well. This itself is a learning lesson for the children. We can all see differently about a topic, but let's respect that there is no right or wrong decision and that the right for free choice is the most prudent option.</p> <p>We have hidden behind a mask from a virus for the past few years. We have lived in fear and division. Let a new chapter begin. I'm calling it - "Smiles are contagious; let's start spreading more of them."</p>
2/17/2022 11:46:12	Katlyn Lubrano	<p>Dear Administration of D57,</p> <p>While many parents are not vocal about it, there are a lot of parents who ARE happy to have a choice for their child if they will mask or not. Personal reasons or health reasons, does not matter, each family should have a choice in what is best for their child's well-being. After 2 years of this, many families are going through things at home that no one else would understand so we should all respect the fact that we are doing our best but sometimes our best looks different than someone else's... and that's okay! It is time we move forward together and stop creating more division within our community. It is okay that we don't always see eye to eye but please realize that this day of peeling away from the safety of a forced mask was inevitable. The governor was sued in the first place because it is unlawful.</p> <p>If you walk the halls of the schools you would see that this is not a small fringe minority..... students are happy and quite frankly, many parents just appreciate having the ability to choose instead of a unilateral one size fits all approach. My son's teacher stated, "He was over the moon happy today" on his first day without a mask and as a mother, I burst in to tears of joy for him. Sadness also swept over me thinking about what these children have endured.</p> <p>Mask mandates are being lifted across our country and recently the CDC stated that masking guidance will be changing since numbers are low and cloth masks are not effective at stopping a respiratory virus. This is our opportunity to safely move forward and TRY. Please continue to TRY this approach for the sake of these kids. No one is proposing we force anyone to take the masks off, we just want the equal option to choose what is best for our children whatever that may be.</p> <p>Mount Prospect's town slogan is, "Where friendliness is a way of life" and it's time we come together and start being more friendly and kind to ALL opinions. Please do not shut one group out and become dictators over our children but rather embrace & accept our differing views and listen to the parents of this community by giving the freedom to choose. Thank you.</p>
2/17/2022 11:50:24	Tabitha Zamar	

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2/17/2022 11:58:48	Paulina	Kadzielawska	<p>Dear Representatives of our School District 57,</p> <p>I am a parent of 2 kids in the district. I am grateful that the mask mandate has been lifted, because it allows us to keep moving forward. By joining the majority of states in this country that have proved to be successful without mask mandates, we should have that right too. I hope our district will keep this permanently, as it is crucial for mental wellbeing of our kids, we have deprived them of so much in the past two years. Our families deserve this choice, our kids and teachers too!</p> <p>This hasn't been received well by all families, however this triggers a major flashback to last year when exactly at this time lots of parents and kids were speaking out for in-person learning. They were faced with huge resistance from many including this Board. Looking at this from today's perspective going back to in-person learning was the best decision for everyone, the only questions are why did it take us so long to get there? Why was there so much stress put on our community around this issue? It's the same with the mask controversy right now. Speaking as someone that has severely immunocompromised members of the family, they wouldn't want to hold back the society as a whole, especially other kids. These mandates has caused so much unnecessary damage emotionally and resistance to this inevitable change constantly adds social pressures in our community. People that still fear have tools to protect themselves and with additional safety measures taken by our district, its time to join the rest of the country.</p> <p>Finally it's time that this board was fairly representing all of the families in the district with all points of view. We all crave unity, but all views need to be represented in order to come up with a plan that serves all. It's time for everyone to focus on one main issue that still lingers which is the educational gap caused by this pandemic. We would like to see an in-person summer school program offered to all interested students and more after school or Saturday programs that could focus on Math and English. We can do so much more with this!</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for your commitment!</p>
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