

Your Comment:

Hi D57 Board, Thank you for serving and continuing to volunteer; this task can not be easy. If you were wondering what the community's views on masking, etc are, I am offering mine. I would prefer masking be up to the parents; a choice made in the best interest of the child. I feel the same way about vaccines, what a child eats for lunch, how a child wears their hair— everything. I do not believe in a one-size fits all protocol. Every kid is different. For perspective, my kids are vaccinated against everything available, including COVID. This was the right choice for our family (I hope). My D57 kid will be masking indoors in school because right now that is what his body needs. However, I believe it is unreasonable of me to expect all the other kids he encounters all day to do the same. A mask or a vaccine may be an unnecessary risk for his classmates. They should not have to jeopardize their health/belief system to accommodate my child's health and our family's belief system. I don't believe my husband and I are the only, parents who feel this way. Are we stuck with mask mandates, etc because of the governor and ISBE? Is my breath wasted here? Should I be taking my complaining higher up? Please let me and the community know. Thank you for listening..

Dear Board Members, Please ask administration to share specifics about the ventilation and air purification at Lincoln, It is a very old building and a very old ventilation system. Parents have been trying to get the answers to the following questions and have not received complete answers yet. Will fresh air (from outside) be brought into the classrooms via the ventilation system at Lincoln, or will it be all recirculated air? 2. How many air exchanges per hour will there be in a typical classroom at Lincoln? 3. What level filters are being used at Lincoln? 4. What does a photohydroionization component do in the air handling units at Lincoln? How much filtration will this provide? How much does it improve the air? Are there any health or safety concerns regarding the ionization this system can generate? 5. What are anodizers and which rooms will they be in? How much filtration do anodizers provide? 6. Will there be HEPA air purifiers in classrooms? If so, which classrooms? Scientists say there needs to be 6 air exchanges per hour. And that MERV 13 filters should be used in schools. We have been told that Lincoln is only using MERV 4 and do not have an answer regarding air exchanges per hour. Scientists say that putting a HEPA air purifier in each class room can help compensate for older ventilation systems. Doing this would provide greater safety for students and keep the opportunity for in person learning with fewer quarantines. Please ask administration to get these answers ASAP, and not wait until the next board meeting. Thank you.

Hello, so exciting the kids are back at school. I just have a quick inquiry. Is it possible for the kids to eat lunch outside (weather permitting)? This could allow for more socialization and safety. As well as not dealing with assigned seating. I know other districts nearby are having outdoor lunch (Park Ridge). Thank you!

Hello, I just wanted to ask if there is any need to test or quarantine after travel outside of Illinois. With the rising cases in some states I would ask that you consider creating a policy regarding if a student, teacher or staff member traveled to an area with substantial community transmission.

I have one final note I forgot to mention in my last message regarding the shield testing. Can you please speak to the validity? The CDC recently announced that the pcr test would not be allowed come December. It was determined that it was not accurately recognizing the difference between covid and the flu. How that inaccurately effected the statistics is concerning. Is this shield test the school wants to use the same as this faulty pcr test?

As the next meeting approaches, I hope that details are shared about this covid testing that the superintendent mentioned. I am hoping this is an open discussion and that the children of parents who may want to opt out are not penalized. I saw a testing option on the Illinois department of public health website for children who were identified as a close contact. It appeared as a nice option to avoid having to quarantine. I think many parents would be opposed to regular testing of asymptomatic children aside from those identified as a close contact. CDC has not definitely indicated that the asymptomatic can transmit this virus. I believe this could lead to unnecessary quarantining of children. Medical testing in a school setting could also cause a lot of anxiety for children. Is this something that the majority of parents want? I would ask that you poll the parent and please give the community of parents the power. Thank you for your time.

District 57 School Board members, thank you for continuing to work to support safe in-person learning environments for our students. As the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in our community continues to rise, I applaud your efforts to adopt a universal masking policy for all unvaccinated persons even before the Governor's announcement. You were right on. I am also glad you are exploring a screening test option to provide another layer of prevention in schools. We know in-person learning is critical and we're ready to do whatever it takes to keep kids learning in-person including vaccination, masks, screening testing, physical distancing, etc. No one mitigation strategy is sufficient to protect students while infections are on the rise so thank you for implementing several strategies. Please continue to prioritize safety while finding ways to keep kids in school. I know this is a challenging time for students, families, and board members. I appreciate your service to the community.

The Covid 19 Dashboard (<https://www.d57.org/covid-dashboard.aspx>) is using different metrics and categories for transmission than the CDC as outlined in the ISBE/IDPH document at the following link: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-IDPH-School-FAQs-20210809.pdf> Per this document, "CDC defines community transmission as low, moderate, substantial, or high..." With low transmission being 0-9.99, moderate being 10-49.99, substantial being 50-99.99 and high being greater than 100 cases/Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days. The D57 dashboard uses, minimal, moderate, moderate and substantial language and the numbers for categorization are different. Will D57 be updating their dashboard prior to the school the year to match the transmission category definitions from CDC? If not, can someone please direct me to whom to contact to discuss why we're using different definitions so I can better understand why?

Dear Members of the Board and Dr. Gorr, I hope you have had a relaxing summer. It's hard to believe school will begin next week. Time certainly flies. To review, I have three students in D57. An 8th grader at Lincoln, as well as a 5th and 2nd grader, at FV. I am including the link to an article that covers a speech that was given by a health professional to a local school board in Indiana. The speech summarizes multiple research studies surrounding Covid, as well as, references the doctor's own experience treating Covid patients. The article provides multiple links to the research. I do believe that the board is working hard to apply recommendations from our local health departments in order to protect students and staff. However, research has, and continues to, demonstrate that citizens must evaluate whether CDC is fully reflecting research in its recommendations. I don't blame you for relying on the health departments recommendations. No one on the board is a health expert. That being said, it is imperative to your position to look at all the evidence that is placed before you. If you are concerned about backlash for the deviation from these recommendations due to the desire to apply the evidence based research, then consider the support you would receive by me, and so many others including health professionals, that would have your back. I kindly request that you take the time to listen to the 6-min speech. It is my expectation to hear back from each board member and Dr. Gorr personally. I understand it is protocol for the president to respond to feedback forms. However, each board member has the right to communicate with constituents. Thank you for your work on the board. I recognize the pressure you are under. However, I do expect my elected representative members to be open to all information, to be flexibility in their thinking, and to exercise discernment in good faith. I trust that personal opinions do not interfere with the broader desires of the families you chose to publicly serve. I understand the complexities and challenges you all face. Please know that I care for each of you respectfully and wish to see the board succeed. I hope you find this information helpful and enlightening. Here is the link -- <https://liveandlocalacadiana.com/a-video-has-surfaced-with-real-source-data-science-from-a-school-board-meeting-in-indiana/>

I'm curious to know why milk isn't being offered again this year? I understand you probably don't want kids walking around the lunch room to get their milk but can't it be located at the doors to grab when they walk in? From my experience, milk doesn't travel well in thermoses. Please consider offering milk again! Thank you

Dear Members of the Board, ISBE has now put out updated guidance that clearly recommends universal masking regardless of vaccination status for all students and staff at K-12 schools. <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-School-FAQs-20210802.pdf> "4. Who should wear masks in schools? Everyone. IDPH and ISBE endorse the CDC recommendation that all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools wear a mask while indoors, regardless of vaccination status." This is in response to new CDC guidance due to recent information that unlike previous variants of covid-19, vaccinated individuals experiencing breakthrough infections of the Delta variant carry similar levels of virus in their noses and air passages to those of infected unvaccinated individuals, and they can similarly transmit the virus to others. (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0730-mmwr-covid-19.html>) The CDC is also recommending universal masking for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in all indoor settings in areas of substantial and high community transmission due to the Delta variant, which now includes Cook County and Mount Prospect (MP 85.3 cases per 100,000 <https://covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu/> <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>). Two other local districts (D21 Wheeling and D63 East Maine) have switched from a "vax or mask" plan to a "masks for all" since the revision of the CDC guidance on July 27. Many local businesses, park districts, libraries, etc. are doing the same. Last night, D59 Elk Grove voted to start the year requiring universal masking, in part because the new ISBE guidance clearly advantages schools with universal masking in having fewer and shorter quarantines. "According to the new CDC close contact definition, classroom students who were within 3 to 6 feet of the infected student are not treated as close contacts as long as both the infected student and exposed student were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask and other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K12 setting." The quarantine period is for 14 days but can be reduced to 10 or 7 days under certain conditions, one of which is "The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return". There is also a "test to stay" option that avoids quarantine with every other day testing but "Test to Stay is only applicable when both the COVID-19-confirmed student and close contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks and the school requires universal indoor masking for all individuals (age 2 and older), regardless of vaccination status, as recommended by the CDC." District 59 did a very succinct slideshow explaining how a universal masking rule helps keep children in school. Screenshots of the slides are here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xzd_vE1VENbKkGNmVnUu0eCghvDJtqMcTtJeMc8O9w/edit#slide=id.p and video of the presentation is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPAv_0j3y8A Please revisit our Covid mitigation plan in light of new guidance before the start of school, and ASAP as students are already participating in indoor band and orchestra under the old rules. Please align with guidance from the CDC, AAP, IDPH, CCDPH, and ISBE and require masks for all staff and students at our schools regardless of vaccination status to start the school year. Please do this for the health of our students, staff, and community, and to have the best chance of keeping students in school and the least disruptions as we start our new school year. Please also consider taking advantage of the free SHIELD covid testing program, which uses non-invasive (saliva) testing and provides staff to implement the testing. This provides another layer of mitigation as we reduce other layers by having more students in school, reducing distancing, ending cohorting (D21 will continue cohorting through 6th grade), resuming normal passing periods and use of lockers, and beginning to use cafeterias again, while we start school with a more transmissible strain of the virus in circulation. This also would provide the possibility of keeping more students in school using the "test to stay" protocol in cases of close contact. D59, D26, D15, D21, and D63 plan to implement SHIELD testing. D23 is also investigating its use. I appreciate all that the Board and District have done to keep our students safe. Please continue to respond to changing guidance and make the best decisions for the well being of our students and staff. Thank you, Pam Koerkel

Hello School board, I know there are many parents that feel that the use of masks on our children should EITHER be parental choice OR to be masked while indoors except for lunch. I feel it is unfair to ask the staff to have to police which children should be masked and which one should be. They have enough to do and worry about as it is. Would it be possible to make class assignments at Westbrook, Lions Park and Fairview based on Mask preference? Can they cohort the classes now splitting up the masked and unmasked? It would be great to not have to resection classes throughout the year because of changing guidelines. I know this doesn't help at Lincoln but maybe it could work in the other 3 schools. Just a thought. Also would the schools benefit from having an air purifier in their rooms and position it near where the teachers would hold small group sessions? I would be happy to donate money or set up a fundraiser to help buy the classrooms an air purifier. Thank you for your time and consideration and for all that you do for our district. I truly appreciate it.

Good Afternoon Dr. Gorr, District 57 Administration and Board of Education, Thank you for all you and the staff have done over the past year and a half to plan and adjust for the safety and education of our students and community. Thank you for also prioritizing masking for the start of the school year while many students are unable to be vaccinated. I've put off sending this note, because I truly appreciate how much is on everyone's plate now and the increasingly challenging and ever changing circumstances. I had hoped there would be updated guidance that addressed some of my concerns. I'm writing to ask that you continue to layer mitigations and add mitigations to start the year as safely as possible. I hope that you strongly consider and implement Shield testing, increased ventilation / air purification, follow Cook County travel guidelines along with having lunch outdoors as much as possible as weather allows (and consider adding tents for lunch). With increasing cases of a more transmissible variant, increased summer travel, family celebrations and coming together again indoors in larger groups - it makes sense to be cautious and to adopt as many layers as possible to protect the health and safety of all in our schools and community. Ideally I would hope that families would test prior to the start of school so we can have the safest start possible with increased summer exposures. Unlike the spring transition to in-person learning with decreasing cases and nationwide restrictions in place, less restrictions, summer travel and the Delta variant have changed the circumstances yet again especially for our unvaccinated children in a school setting. If Shield testing is not something that can be offered or implemented by the start of the school year, I hope that there might be a partnership and some specific direction for families on the easiest, quickest and most convenient way for them to test when needed and to encourage testing before the start of school. Most of the State of Illinois testing sites are only open during business hours which does not support community surveillance testing as children in school at those times. Air filtration and ventilation is a lasting investment in creating a healthier school environment for years to come. If additional air purifiers are needed I see this as something the community could assist with and invest in if there is not available funding. (I would happily contribute to a fund or purchase something needed for the school). Lastly, I want to note the emotional toll the pandemic has had on all, including our children. We have all adapted so much and continue to do as much as we can to navigate this time in a safe and considerate manner. I hope that there will be focus in school on acknowledging the losses and challenging times our children are experiencing. Thank you for your time. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to be of assistance. Sincerely, Kate Morton kate.e.morton@gmail.com

To the Members of the District 57 Board of Education: I am writing today to urge you to change your decision regarding masks in schools. It is imperative that we align with the updated CDC and IDPH guidance that recommends masks for everyone in the school setting regardless of vaccination status. As per the CDC, studies are showing that those who are vaccinated can become infected with the delta variant and spread it to others unknowingly as they may not have any symptoms. In addition, the delta variant is much more infectious--typically someone infected with the delta variant is spreading it to 8 people whereas other variants are only spread to 1 or 2 people. We must do all that we can to protect our population of students for whom the vaccine is not yet available. When considering all of this most recent data, to not require masking by all in the school setting is simply negligent. Our students handled masking beautifully last school year. Our low Covid numbers last spring show that our mitigation measures work. We must continue with masking to ensure safety for all. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Kimberly Finnerty District Nurse

I would like to thank the Board for deciding to follow public health guidance in requiring masks for unvaccinated students at our district in order to keep our children and communities safe, and keep as many students as possible in in-person learning this fall. There is public support for masking as an important mitigation in our schools as shown here: <https://www.change.org/p/school-district-57-board-of-education-safe-return-with-masks-to-d57-schools-05359d50-6f73-4f77-977d-0e9690dfa395> I also would like to urge the Board and Administration to adapt to recently changed CDC and IDPH guidelines for K-12 schools in light of the Delta variant, and require masks for all students and staff to start the year. I understand that many districts are probably waiting for more clear ISBE guidance which may emerge before the beginning of the school year. However, we will have students in our middle school for summer band and orchestra starting this coming Monday, and I have been informed that we will be following the previous Board decision for 2021-2022 school year regarding requiring masks only for the unvaccinated, which aligned with the previous CDC and IDPH guidance. My vaccinated band student will be wearing a mask and is unlikely to have severe covid if she contracts it from another unmasked student at band, but new evidence shows that she could still transmit it to vaccinated and unvaccinated (due to age) family members. Since the last board meeting, the CDC has issued new guidance for all staff and students to wear masks in K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status, which was adopted fully by IDPH, and Cook county has just moved into substantial transmission. Some school districts have recently stated that they will be adopting the stricter "masks for all" for summer school and activities until they have had more time to review the changing guidance and make decisions about the start of school. In addition, communication has not gone out to families about providing proof of vaccination, or what to do if a student has symptoms now that they will not be flagged by daily self-certification and how they will be cleared to return after a covid-like illness. Please take timely action to ensure the safety of our students as circumstances and guidelines change. Thank you, Pamela Koerke

Please continue to require masks for unvaccinated individuals. Let's follow the science. Also, thank you for the work that you are doing. You sure are dealing with an unusual time in our history. Sincerely, Linda Rush Hindmand

Dear Board Members and Superintendents, This letter details the violation of students' legal right to an education and the unconstitutional overreach of the elected school board officials and paid employees to mandate health requirements, specifically masking and quarantine/vaccination segregation for the school year 2021/2022. Individual board members may be held legally responsible and liable for violating constitutional laws since they are not healthcare professionals. School board members are not protected by qualified immunity, and they have allegedly violated civil and criminal laws, and can be held responsible individually along with the superintendent. As of July 1, 2021 the school board has the authority to determine all return to school plans. We ask that the school board implement an optional face mask form for students for school year 21/22. An opt in/out form will provide parents/guardians control over their student's medical needs. In addition to a face mask form, the school board should not adopt any quarantine/vaccination segregation of non-vaccinated students for school year 2021/2022. In consultation with legal counsel, they have outlined the following violations of constitutional and state law. Illinois School Code is extremely specific regarding laws passed by the legislative branch of the state and adopted into school board policy. FACE MASK LAW 1. There is currently no state law in Illinois enacted by the Illinois Legislature, or any Administrative Rule enacted that requires any individual, including students, to wear a medical device otherwise generally known as a face mask in order to prevent any illness, including but not limited to any contagious or infectious disease, virus, etc. 2. There is no lawful authority, neither State nor Federal, that has the ability to lawfully and legally require any individual in a private setting, in a public place or within an individual's workplace or place of employment or in a school, a school classroom or any school property to require any individual to wear a medical device otherwise generally known as a face mask in order to prevent any illness, including but not limited to any contagious or infectious disease, virus, etc. ISBE AUTHORITY 3. The Illinois State Board of Education, School Superintendents, School Boards, teachers or any other Illinois educational personnel are not medical nor health care professionals, licensed in the State of Illinois to perform medical diagnosis or prescribe remedies, medical interventions, etc. and therefore have no lawful or legal authority to require any individual or student in a school, a school classroom or any school property to wear a medical device otherwise generally known as a face mask in order to prevent any illness, including but not limited to any contagious or infectious disease, virus, etc. pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2, Illinois School Code, State Board of Education - Powers and Duties. IDPH AUTHORITY 4. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) does not have the lawful and legal authority to mandate, require or force any individual to wear a medical device otherwise generally known as a face mask in order to prevent any illness, including but not limited to any contagious or infectious disease, virus, etc. and to do so is unlawful and acting outside their statutory authority pursuant to 20 ILCS 2310-15. 2 / 3 5. Further, any and all IDPH guidance, suggestions, orders or directions provided or given to Illinois Schools, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) or Illinois School officials, Boards or Superintendents regarding school health care policy, measures or safety precautions, school attendance procedures, or face mask or facial covering requirements is 100%, unequivocally, without question or contemplation, unlawful and illegal. In 1897, in Potts v. Breen, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that: "While school directors and boards of education are invested with power to establish, provide for, govern and regulate public schools, they are in these respects nowise subject to the direction or control of the State Board of Health" CDC AUTHORITY 6. The CDC (Centers For Disease Control) is an advisory agency to the Executive Branch of the United States Government; it is an advisory agency only and possesses no rule making authority, federally or within the 50 states of the United States of America, and has no authority to lawfully or legally to mandate or require any individual, including students, to wear a medical device otherwise generally known as a face mask in order to prevent any illness, including but not limited to any contagious or infectious disease, virus, etc. BAILEY V. PRITZKER RULING/AUTHORITY 7. On July 2, 2020, a Clay County, Illinois Court ruled in a Class Action case, Bailey vs. Pritzker (20CH06), that the Illinois Governor had no Constitutional nor legal authority to issue any Executive Orders after April, 2020, pursuant to the IEMAA and as such any Executive Orders issued were unconstitutional and "void ab initio". This Illinois Court Order continues to be valid and is currently applicable. EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-10 8. The Governor's recent Executive Order, 2021-10, that attempts to further expand, or intended to continue, renew or reiterate any mitigation or restrictive policies previously stated regarding movement or health-related measures or that requires any individual in a private setting, in a public place, within an individual's workplace or place of employment, a school, a school classroom or school property to wear a medical device otherwise generally known as a face mask in order to prevent any disease, virus, etc. or defer such authority or rule-making to the IDPH or the ISBE, violates the Bailey Court Order and is unlawful and has no legal authority. COVID VACCINE STATUS/FDAAUTHORITY 9. The COVID vaccine is an experimental, FDA unapproved medical treatment and is only authorized for use pursuant to the Emergency Use Act (21 USC 564(b)(1)(C)). Therefore, the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-3, regulates the use and the administration of that experimental, unapproved treatment and states: ". . . the option to accept or refuse administration of the product, of the consequences, if any, of refusing administration of the product, and of the alternatives to the product that are available and of their benefits and risks." Therefore, every individual has the right to refuse any vaccine authorized under the EUA. VACCINATION ID CARDS 10. Vaccine Identification cards issued by local health care personnel as the result of being administered a vaccine that is not lawfully mandatory are not a legal document and have no legal or authoritative value. As well, these vaccine ID cards contain personal and private health information protected by federal law pursuant to the HIPAA Privacy Rule, 45 CFR Part 160 and Subparts A and E of Part 164, and specifically Rules number 1 and 18; that personal identification information is private by federal 3 / 3 definition and protected pursuant to federal law and not required to be disclosed unless by voluntary consent. ILLINOIS HEALTH CARE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE ACT 11. Pursuant to 745 ILCS 70/1, Sections 2,5 and 7, the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, states: "Sec. 2. Findings and policy. The General Assembly finds and declares that people and organizations hold different beliefs about whether certain health care services are morally acceptable. It is the public policy of the State of Illinois to respect and protect the right of conscience of all persons who refuse to obtain, receive or accept, or who are engaged in, the delivery of, arrangement for, or payment of health care services and medical care whether acting individually, corporately, or in association with other persons; and to prohibit all forms of discrimination, disqualification, coercion, disability or imposition of liability upon such persons or entities by reason of their refusing to act contrary to their conscience or conscientious convictions in refusing to obtain, receive, accept, deliver, pay for, or arrange for the payment of health care services and medical care." "Sec. 5. Discrimination. It shall be unlawful for any person, public or private institution, or public official to discriminate against any person in any manner, including but not limited to, licensing, hiring, promotion, transfer, staff appointment, hospital, managed care entity, or any other privileges, because of such person's conscientious refusal to receive, obtain, accept, perform, assist, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer or participate in any way in any particular form of health care services contrary to his or her conscience." "Sec. 7 Discrimination by employers or institutions. It shall be unlawful for any public or private employer, entity, agency, institution, official or person, including but not limited to, a medical, nursing or other medical training institution, to deny admission because of, to place any reference in its application form concerning, to orally question about, to impose any burdens in terms or conditions of employment on, or to otherwise discriminate against, any applicant, in terms of employment, admission to or participation in any programs for which the applicant is eligible, or to discriminate in relation thereto, in any other manner, on account of the applicant's refusal to receive, obtain, accept, perform, counsel, suggest, recommend, refer, assist or participate in any way in any forms of health care services contrary to his or her conscience" A citizen's Individual Medical Choice to refuse to wear a facial covering or face mask, to refuse or reject an experimental and FDA unapproved and untested medical treatment by way of vaccine, or a parent or guardian's choice to exercise the same for a minor child or children is a protected individual medical and conscience choice and right and is protected by Illinois law and shall not be violated or infringed. It is now the burden of the districts legal team to provide statues or codes that counter the ones we laid out in this letter. Respectfully, Concerned Parents

Thank you for your informed and intelligent decision to require masks in the schools. Children unable to get the vaccine are now the highest risk group. Thank you for protecting our children and our community from spreading this disease unnecessarily.

My eldest is starting kindergarten this year. Given the bizarrely heated debate over public safety, I wanted to thank you for making the decision to keep masks on indoors. My child is obviously too young to be vaccinated, and not only do I not want him to get Covid, I don't want our family to play a part in community spread. Thank you for making the safest choice possible, even though I'm sure you've caught backlash. Be well.

Thank you for requiring masks. This decision shows your strength & leadership. I am so grateful that my niece is in this school district.

I just want to thank our district leaders for requiring masks in school and on the bus. I would not be sending my children to school without a mask mandate. I appreciate that you are following the science and recommendations of the public health community and attempting to avoid any negative consequences from allowing large numbers of unvaccinated people to gather. Thank you for doing the right thing for children, families and the broader community.

Thank you so much for committing to masks in school and keeping all our students safer this school year!

To our D57 school board – I was able to watch the board meeting on 7/16/21 and wanted to share my thoughts on the topic of masks. While I fully respect the debate and varying opinions, I feel as though the metrics are being ignored. While this may not be your intent, I feel that the decision for mandating masks was made based on fear on what MAY happen. Corrine, you specifically said “we don't know what the 4th of July holiday will bring with a peek expected in 4-5 weeks.” That's right...we DON'T know. Can we please instead act upon what we DO know? Kevin, you brought up metrics about how much of the population is vaccinated, our rate of infection right now, etc. Can we please focus on that because that is what we DO know. I'm not suggesting that we ignore the CDC or other expert knowledge, but knowing the metrics and seeing overall improvement over the last few months, now is the time we give parents back some of the decision making for our children. As mentioned by many, the CDC and others are just recommendations and not law/mandates. As I'm sure you know, D25, our neighboring district made masks optional, regardless of vaccination status. I urge you to reconsider making masks mandatory for our K-5 kids. Some of these kids will never be vaccinated. Does that mean they will wear masks forever? Getting a vaccine that is not yet FDA-approved for kids is, and should remain, a personal health choice. I really would like to know what our “exit strategy” is. Please, can we have a path and set plan and not just base decisions? Let's set some solid metrics for when kids can get back to normal without masks. Will it be 5 weeks after a vaccine is available for kids under 12? When a majority is vaccinated? What if a vaccine is not even available until next year? Every day we take risks, and while I know a pandemic is very different and hard to compare to; I wanted to remind you something Kevin mentioned because it is so powerful and true - the risks of death or severe harm from other things, such as Flu, Suicide, etc. is SO MUCH MORE than getting sick from Covid. Shira Doron, a hospital epidemiologist at Tufts Medical Center in Boston has been quoted saying – “When the risk is tiny, and you continue to mandate mitigation measures, you're not appropriately characterizing the state of the pandemic.” We need to keep moving forward and getting our kids back to a more human experience at school and with their fellow classmates and teachers. To be able to smile and laugh and understand each other better. Thank you for serving our community and for listening to all viewpoints.

Thanks you for keeping our kids safe and making masks mandatory!

Thank you so much for protecting our children from COVID by requiring the use of masks for unvaccinated students and staff this fall. With cases back on the rise in unvaccinated populations and a new, more contagious variant, we are extremely relieved that our school board followed the science and continued this simple preventative measure.

I want to send a big thanks to the Board for making the decision to require masks for unvaccinated individuals this fall. I feel so much better sending my son to Fairview knowing that the Board made the decision to keep him, his peers, teachers, and staff safe and healthy. I am grateful to you for prioritizing students' (and teachers') needs and health. THANK YOU!

I want to commend the board for the decision to require masks for the unvaccinated for the 2021-22 school year. It is 100% the right decision. I'm proud to live in a district that adheres to scientific best practices and prioritizes the safety of our vulnerable children.

Thank you for listening to the science and requiring masks for unvaccinated individuals this school year. This gives me peace of mind as my 3rd grader, who cannot be vaccinated yet, starts the year. This Delta variant has a lot of unknowns and to make masks optional, I believe, would do more harm than good. Thank you for all you do.

Just wanted to send a quick thank you for your commitment to keeping our kids, staff, and teachers as safe this year as possible and requiring masks in all the younger grades. Our kids are eager to return to school in the Fall, but I have been so nervous with the delta variant popping up and how vocal some people are in our community about refusing masks and vaccines. I am grateful for your leadership and willingness to listen to science, pediatricians, and public health officials who agree that masks are an important tool in stopping further spread.

Hello, I'm reaching out to show my support of your decision to have unvaccinated children wear masks for the start of the school year. I'd like to emphasize that my family has already had covid so my support of mask wearing is not because of concern for my own children's health, but because we care about other members of our community who aren't able to be vaccinated yet. I do think it might be beneficial to add some goals for when mask mandates will be lifted (i.e. when children under 12 are fully vaccinated) to hopefully settle some of the fears that masks will be required forever. Also, I think it would be great if you considered following D26's protocol of implementing saliva testing to reduce quarantine time. Thank you for all of your hard work during this difficult and confusing time.

Thanks for supporting all children by requiring masks for unvaccinated folks. While I would like all folks to be masked in the presence of unvaccinated children, I appreciate the compromise.

Mask Optional Illinois High School Sports-22,331 strong IHSSCentral Facebook IHSSCentral Twitter This Email Has Been Sent To In 2,168 Illinois Board Members I am Kevin Dennis Admin Of the Group Illinois High School Sports Central & Our Twitter page, member base total 21,331. As you know many districts have made masks optional this fall and that is the purpose of this email. I am writing in concern from many parents across IL on moving school districts to optional masks this fall. Many have told us that the liability issues are the problem. Well, I do not understand how it can be. How can a parent sue a school for a COVID case if you have no way to prove where they contracted it, especially now that everything is open? Also, if the liability is a problem then why have parents not sued schools when a child contracted it in the recent school year? It has been nearly 16 months going through all this. How much more can these kids deal with masks? Many have said that if this masking happens in their school, they will move away or homeschool. When do the school boards decide to be normal? Too many schools are more concerned about masks and guidelines than education. Do you think parents do not know more about their children's health than you all? Unless you were there on the day of the child's birth and all the way until now knowing every little problem these children have had, then you have no right regarding their health. No one knows their child better than a parent, not even a school. School leaders need to work for the education of these kids and less on dealing with their health on a virus. I am sure parents know if it is safe or not for their children. Let the parents decide if masks are safe for the kids, not a school board. Look around at all that is going on: fairs, public pools open, and games are being played. Did you know all through this, IL kids played out of state with not one Covid case, not one kid sick. I covered tournaments for the Reebok tournament series, UNITED HOOPS-Hammond IND, and no cases, no sick kids. Yet IL students were faced with false-positive testing and quarantines that created more kids, not sick missing schools, missing games, and education from the waste of time virtual learning. CPS only had 15 days of in-school learning. How about all the memories these kids lost? Teams had to forfeit games during the season and a state tourney over it. When do you let parents make a decision?? Making them wear masks is unconstitutional, So many of the Bill of Rights are violated in forcing masks, especially when we are in phase 5 reopening. Also, there is no way ISBE can withhold funding to schools because of IL School Code 5ILCS 5-5/2-3.25. There are no laws that are in place to stop school boards from making masks optional. In ending here I am the youngest of 15 kids 7 were Marines one Air Force 3 in Nam together, One MIA & shot, We all went through the measles-mumps-chicken pox-small pox-Hong Kong flu-segregation, Through all that, not one school closed or Business. Yet this virus has a 98.9% survival rate. But many school-board think we still need masks? I ask any board this, How many in 2020-2021 school year how many cases did the mask prevent by the mask? God knows no one wore the same type. ?????By not allowing optional masks you take away the power from the parents to make decisions & YOU take it upon yourself to make the health decision for their child. Therefore since you have been granted the option of mask or mask option by the JB Pritzker-ISBE-CDC-IDPH, Now if a student is vaccinated or not,, test positive that will fall on School BOE because unlike last year? This year you have been granted a choice to one or the other #1 choose to let the parents the taxpayers have control of their child while in school meaning Optional mask. #2 You take control over the health of their child while in school, Keep in mind if you choose to now allow the parents to make the choices on masking, You BOE can be held accountable for any that test positive vaccine or not, By allowing the parents to be giving an option? Then the blame is solely on the parents no one else, You decide. GIVE THE POWER TO THESE PARENTS TO MAKE THEIR DECISION Click Link Below is a list of districts I mentioned that are interested in going mask optional And more on our push. SCROLL DOWN TO HERE; Meaning schools still have control CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. However, if school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies for their school based on local conditions, they should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases. Schools should communicate their strategies and any changes in plans to teachers, staff, and families, and directly to older students, using accessible materials and communication channels, in a language and at a literacy level that teachers, staff, students, and families understand. CDC GUIDELINES ?? In the link below is a list of districts & more info ????????? ? MAKE MASK OPTIONAL INFO for 2021 School Year ?? ???Mask Optional School List. Thanks, we look forward to your reply

Thank you for protecting the children and staff!

Thank you for your commitment to the health and safety of our kids. Masking helps ensure that young children who will not yet be eligible for vaccines are safe at school.

Thank you for your recent decision to require students who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 to have to wear masks! I feel safer knowing that my children who are too young to be vaccinated will have some protection against new, contagious COVID-19 variants.

Thank you for choosing to continue to require masks for unvaccinated individuals in our schools. Also note the American Academy of Pediatrics to keep everyone masked until our vaccination rates improve and more children can be vaccinated. Please keep doing the right thing!

I support your recent decision to follow CDC and AAP recommendations to require masking for unvaccinated students, especially as vaccines for under-12s are anticipated this fall. Thank you for all you do for our community! Rachael

Hello d57 school board, I wanted to take a quick minute to thank you for your hard work preparing our schools to return in a few short weeks. I am relieved to hear that children in our school district will be wearing masks until they are able to be vaccinated, following the logical advice of most doctors and educated leadership. The loud rallying cry last spring was "reopen the schools", and it seems clear that we can do that, but in a safe way. There is a loud minority pushing for no masks, and I'm afraid those are the same people who have not taken Covid guidelines seriously all along. We saw last spring that kids are ok wearing masks in school. We'll be thrilled to be done with masks when the time comes, but we are clearly not finished with this pandemic, and don't need to put our whole community at risk because some people refuse to believe scientific facts. Thank you for all your work. I know being on the board can be a thankless job, and you're getting more pressure and abuse than should be ok. You are so appreciated by my family and so many members of our community. Erin Rohlena Westbrook and Miner (NSSEO) parent

Dear District 57 School Board members, I was happy to learn that the board voted to require masks for unvaccinated D57 children. My kids will be attending Westbrook and Fairview this fall after a year and a half of remote learning, and we are thrilled to get back to life as we once knew it. My husband has unusually sensitive lungs. The walls of his lungs are thin in spots, to the point of causing lung collapse and requiring partial removal and surgical mending. While he has had his vaccination shots and it provides us with a partial sense of relief, I cannot help but feel for the numerous families whose lives could change by the spread of the new Delta variant that's gaining steam in the United States, following months of horrific spread worldwide. The fact that children are more susceptible to it than to past variants, and with breakout cases among vaccinated adults seemingly common in the news (e.g., within the NY Yankees and the Rockies, within the Biden administration, and in U.S. Covid-19 hot spots), my family heads into the new school year with our chins up, our masks on, and our fingers crossed. In years past, I would have found it implausible that I'd be thanking the school board for making sound decisions that align with reduced community spread of a virus that has ravaged the economy, and reduced the quality of life for too many survivors. It's beyond analytical comprehension that some nearby districts aren't requiring masks for younger, unvaccinated children. The reality of "mask-optional" classrooms puts the decision to reduce viral spread in the hands of children, and not their parents or community. However, I've recently seen the enthusiasm coming from those demanding that you, the Board, "unmask our children". After so much practice and in the midst of a Covid uptick, my children would be uneasy sitting in a room with unmasked, unvaccinated classmates. I want to thank you for staying the course and approaching the upcoming in-person school year with caution and care. Thank you for your time, Sarah Cook

I just came to leave a quick comment that I support the way the Board voted on Thursday regarding masking. It's my understanding (please correct me if I'm wrong) that you (the Board of Education) have some flexibility in how you handle mask rules, but you have no flexibility on the quarantine rules. That being the case, if you had made a different decision regarding masks, such as "parents' choice", then (based on the new CDC definition of "close contacts" in a K-12 school setting) unvaccinated people without masks would absolutely have a negative impact on the number of people that would have to be quarantined if there is a positive case. I understand that Dr. Gorr noted that more clarification is needed on that new exception. If it does hold with IDPH, then I think that your vote outcome on Thursday was to maintain the safest and most consistent learning environment possible. This will minimize disruption, because quarantine is so very disruptive to learning. Anything we can do to minimize having to quarantine is a good thing. All that said, I do hope that some sort of "goal line" can be established as to when it might be safe to drop masks. Maybe that's not the Board's place to establish, but it's something to consider. I don't think anyone wants masking to go on indefinitely, but I agree that now is not yet the time to remove that precaution. I just hope that you're pondering the question of "when?". It sounds like you plan to re-evaluate this decision periodically, which I think is always a good idea. As always, I thank you for your tireless time and efforts on the Board.

As the parent of two D57 students, I am writing to recognize and thank you for the district's decision to require face coverings for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated. I know this is not a popular stance and I want you to know that there are many parents and families that appreciate the district's position. You may not hear from all of these families that assume this was the easy choice since it is supported by public health and healthcare experts. Please don't forget that these families are out there when you hear from a very vocal contingent that will not be happy until schools and other venues have no COVID-19 prevention measures in place. We will get to that point but we're not there yet! Your decision to make face coverings a requirement for those not yet fully vaccinated provides a strong incentive for staff and families to consider being vaccinated. The evidence from CDC is clear; protection from COVID-19 through vaccination is much safer and more effective than risking protection through infection. The decision to require face coverings for those who are not vaccinated will also help to avoid students being impacted by quarantine if exposed to a case at school. The CDC's updated definition of close contacts for K12 settings means that when both students are wearing masks, the contact does not need to quarantine if exposed to a case! This was one of the major issues for families last year so the mask requirement should be good news for anyone concerned about students missing in-person learning. Keep the masks until children under 12 have the opportunity to be vaccinated. A parent's "right" to decide their child does not need to wear a mask clearly ignores the fact that masks work both ways - 1. to protect the wearer from disease AND, 2. to protect those around the wearer in the event that person is asymptotically infected. Information cited by CDC says that between 16% and 50% of pediatric cases may be asymptotically infected (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>). I appreciate your work. This has been a challenging period of time for everyone, including school board members. Thank you for working to protect our children and to ensure their access to high-quality, safe in-person instruction. Thanks, Chris Hoff

Dear D57 Education Board Members, My name is Braun Reyes, and I am a father of 3 students who attend school in District 57. First, I would like to thank you for all your hard work and for taking time away from your families to volunteer on our board. The last year and a half was very tough on the community and you all continued to represent us well in the face of a lot of challenges. The topic of "returning to school in the fall with masks required for unvaccinated students and staff" was discussed and an initial decision was made. I feel that the right decision was made and I also agree with the strategy of ongoing reassessment of that decision as new data and recommendations are made available. As this topic continues to be discussed, which is a decision that affects my children and family, I would like to recommend a few changes in how evidence is presented and debates are had. 1) I do not think it is appropriate to use "opinion pieces" as basis for decision making that affect the potential health and well being of our children. Member Bull referenced the following article from mymag.com: <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/07/the-kids-were-safe-from-covid-the-whole-time.html>, as evidence supporting a potential decision to make masks optional. Though this article does reference scientific findings and other data points, it is not the opinion of a medical professional. The author, David Wallace-Wells is not a medical professional. He is a journalist with a degree in history and is not qualified to be a person upon which we base our community health decisions on. We should continue to use the opinions of medical professionals and organizations such as the CDC, IDPH, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. An alternative to using unsubstantiated information and in conjunction with health departments would be to commit to certain metrics that would warrant making masks optional, such as cases per 100k or by bringing in local pediatricians to present opinions on the matter. The decision to return to school last school year was made anchored by the recommendation of distance requirements by the AAP and the detailed opinion from a pediatrician, who was also a strong proponent of wearing masks indoors, that attended that meeting. Saying an article or study came from "New York Magazine, so it must be valid" is not appropriate and we as a community deserve better representation in that regard. 2) When we compare ourselves to other districts and the decisions that they are making, let's present the full set of facts and not just those to favor one side of the debate. In making another point in favor of making masks optional, Member Bull referenced the school district in Barrington and their decision to make masks optional. This was only a portion of the facts. Per the article from CBS: <https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2021/07/16/barrington-school-district-220-mask-policy/>, the decision to make masks optional was only for grades 6 through 12. That decision is not too far from your own decision to vote in favor of requiring masks for unvaccinated Lincoln students. When the community is watching these proceedings, I believe they are looking for information as well as guidance. When facts are omitted to garner support for a particular option, debates are not being had in good faith. Sharing the actions of other districts is a great way to frame problems and potential solutions, but only within the context of all the facts. 3) When engaged in discussions/debate, perhaps there is a way to set a better example in how tactful those discussions are. Finally, I would like to comment on a response from Member Bull that was in direct response to an opinion expressed by Member Bennett-Kill. Perhaps because it was not clear that her reference to the "most vulnerable" meant the unvaccinated, he chose to declare that her opinion was "a bunch of nonsense". That level of attack seemed unnecessary especially after she clarified her statement. The board is an extension of our community and should set a better example. I am not sure if there are official standards for debate during meetings, but I feel that a higher level of tactfulness could have been used at that moment and hopefully is not a sign of how future disagreements are going to be handled. In closing, I would once again like to express my appreciation for all that you do. I do not pretend to represent any majority of families in expressing my thoughts. This is simply how I feel things could be improved on behalf of my family. Sincerely, Braun Reyes

Hello! Thank you so much all your hard work and time preparing for back to school. I think this year is going to be wonderful! Also, thank you for putting our kids health and safety first. I am in favor of masks to keep the unvaccinated kids as safe as possible. It is quite a balancing act, half of our family is vaccinated, but I have 3 kids too little to get the shot. We ALL still wear our masks in public or crowds, because our littles are still at risk. Please continue to follow the science and make decisions based on keeping all of our kids as safe as possible. Thank you so much for all you do every day! I appreciate you. ??

After watching the board meeting last night, I just wanted to send a note to say thank you to the board. I am a mom of a 7 year old and a 9 year old at Lions. Since my kids are not eligible to receive a Covid vaccine yet, I'm relieved that masks will still be required for everyone. As nervous as I am to send my unvaccinated kids to school, it is comforting to see that you are making efforts to make sure it is as safe as possible by following the suggested guidelines. Thank you. We appreciate all that you do to keep our kids safe while they are at school.

Dear D57 Board Members, Thank you for your decision last night regarding unvaccinated individuals wearing masks in the schools. Thank you for serving all families in the district, including those with health needs that would otherwise have to keep their children home during this ongoing pandemic. You showed us in the Spring that we can safely bring our children back. We appreciate your vigilance in keeping safety a priority. Our son is ecstatic that he will be able to return this Fall. With appreciation, Paul and Mary Meske

I just received the update from the meeting. I am very upset by the decision to make masks mandatory for unvaccinated children when indoors. This virus poses no serious threat to children and enough adults have been vaccinated and/or have had the virus and therefore it likely poses no serious threat for adults either. Furthermore, D57 should look at what other surrounding districts are doing and should implement the same policy that masks are optional when indoors. Schools are no more threatening an environment as stores and restaurants and in both those settings unvaccinated patrons are encouraged to wear masks but not required. I could go on and on but I 100% disagree with this masking policy.

Absolutely NO for unvaccinated children to have to wear masks and vaccinated children do not have to. What is the final goal you are trying to achieve because vaccinated people CAN contract and DO spread COVID!!!! This is absurd, makes NO sense and will not be tolerated. I expect a response.

Dear Members of the Board, I am completely appalled by the Board Members who voted to force vaccine identification at the middle school. This will cause segregation and virtue signaling which will lead to bullying. How does this even come close to an "equitable learning environment" for all students? There is ZERO statistical evidence related to covid in this age group to support such an intrusive "marker" on students. The following is a citation from the IL General Assembly: (745 ILCS 70/1) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 5301) Sec. 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Health Care Right of Conscience Act. (Source: P.A. 90-246, eff. 1-1-98.) (745 ILCS 70/2) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 5302) Sec. 2. Findings and policy. The General Assembly finds and declares that people and organizations hold different beliefs about whether certain health care services are morally acceptable. It is the public policy of the State of Illinois to respect and protect the right of conscience of all persons who refuse to obtain, receive or accept, or who are engaged in, the delivery of, arrangement for, or payment of health care services and medical care whether acting individually, corporately, or in association with other persons; and to prohibit all forms of discrimination, disqualification, coercion, disability or imposition of liability upon such persons or entities by reason of their refusing to act contrary to their conscience or conscientious convictions in providing, paying for, or refusing to obtain, receive, accept, deliver, pay for, or arrange for the payment of health care services and medical care. It is also the public policy of the State of Illinois to ensure that patients receive timely access to information and medically appropriate care. (Source: P.A. 99-690, eff. 1-1-17.) Furthermore, it is the right of each family to make the decision to mask their child or to not mask their child based on their own health situations and recommendations of their own physicians. The BOE does NOT have the right to dictate to all families what is best for their own child. The Health Care Right of Conscience Act supports this claim. The CDC, IDPH and ISBE fall in line with the Act by not requiring universal masking, nor do they require vaccination identification. Beyond individual rights surrounding health care, Board Members should support their positions on a factual basis supported by evidence and not emotion and fear. It is unsettling that the board is implementing a policy to a great many students to accommodate a select few parents' hysteria whose position is not supported by any real data or evidence. We need a board to act like mature adults who make decisions on rational information and to not simply react with emotion. There is huge a cost to students by focusing on fear and personal feelings rather than utilizing the real data. Member Bull set the example for this standard. You must make masking optional like so many other IL school districts are doing, including our neighbors in D25. You must not enforce vaccination identification. You are opening the district up to potential litigation. Reverse your recommendation to the Administration today.

Data is finally showing that the isolation from last year killed more young people than in years previous. The following numbers were pulled directly from the IDPH website and can be found under "Death Statistics." In 2020, 552 children ages 1-17 died. A 10% increase from the number of deaths in 2019. The increase was found in the top 3 leading cause of death; accidents (which includes overdoses), homicide and suicide. 10%!!!! Even more staggering was young adults ages 18-24, that had a 34% increase year over year from '19 to '20. Once again, accidents/drug overdoses, homicide and suicide. There was a 25% increase in ages 25-44. In 2020 there was a 67% increase in overdose deaths alone for ages 25 and under... In every single age group, there was a substantial increase in overdose deaths. D57 BOE making masks mandatory and now your segregation and discrimination?! You own this, right?

Re: masks mandatory for non-vaccinated children: I have a 10 yr old who has asthma (going into Lincoln) which he has been hospitalized for. When our family catches any virus, it usually hits him the hardest. In a normal school year, he gets strep 3-5 times. The last thing I want, is for him to catch Covid. That being said, I feel that the other measures the schools are taking to sanitize, wash hands and mitigate spread, are enough that I think masks can and should be optional. The AAP states that child deaths occur in .00% - .03% of all pediatric covid cases (link below / for states reporting data). No one wants to take chances with their child's health and safety, but the numbers show that covid is not a deadly disease for children. It's a calculated risk like anything in life. I don't sit down and run stats on car accidents when we get in a car. I don't look up "critical injuries during kid's soccer games" before sending him out on the field. At some point, I have to stop worrying about every little thing that can get ya. If you want your child to be masked, I support that. I encourage you to do what you think is best for your child. But, if you are going to send your child to school, other risks are there regardless of if they have a mask on or not. And god forbid if they catch Covid, 99.97 - 100% of kids, will survive. Masks should be at the parent's discretion and creating an environment where the masks become a scarlet letter at Lincoln, is abhorrent. Middle School is hard enough, you are giving kids one more thing to differentiate them, and expose them to bullying. The vaccine is not even FDA approved yet, and it is not a mandated vaccine. It was created to protect the elderly and high risk population, which school aged children are not a part of. <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>

Dear Board Members, Thank you for your continued work to keep our kids' educational experience fulfilling while also keeping them safe in the face of the ongoing pandemic. Since it is unlikely that D57 students (especially the under 12 group) will be vaccinated by the start of the school year I hope the pandemic safety measures such as distancing and masking will continue to be utilized.

In order to protect the unvaccinated young children in our family, we support a continued policy of masks at school.

I'm writing in today to encourage the Board to please push for opening more spots for the before/after school care, Kids Corner. I am new to Mt Prospect and the district; we chose to buy our home in Mt Prospect because we loved the neighborhood, the people, the downtown, but mostly we were drawn to District 57. We are very excited for our children to start school in the district and for our family to get involved in the school and community. When I registered our daughters online I indicated that I would be utilizing Kids Corner for before/after care. Then, this summer, through a parent group on Facebook I found out that not only did the registration already happen, but it was completely booked. An email the following day confirmed that new parents in the district never received notification that the registration for Kids Corner had opened. I understand that the Admin team is trying to hire more staff, but when I spoke to someone at the Admin office she made it seem like they were trying, but I should really just try to find something else on my own through a private daycare. Let me tell you, this seems to be an impossible task, especially for someone new to the area, and on top of that sort of unfair since I never had a shot at getting in to Kids Corner. This Admin suggested I call KinderCare and Children's Land for before/after care. I will tell you that Kids Corner does NOT offer before and after care any longer at the Kensington Street location and Children's Land is \$225 a week for one child. Additionally, I have tried sourcing information online and have called so many daycares. Red Wagon does not do before/after. St Mark's has a waiting list. The YMCA is closed, etc. There seems to be very few to no options and I cannot afford to pay almost \$2000 in before/after care at the ONE location I found for my children. Especially when D57 Kids Corner is about \$900 a month (and no bus fee then!) As a working mom with a husband who works construction hours (too early for any drop off) I am asking that the Board helps us working parents and does not let this issue fall off their radar. I look forward to a positive and fair solution. Thank you. Lindsey Johnsen special.lindsey@gmail.com

Dear Board Members and Superintendent Gorr, Thank you for your tireless work and service to our district and community. I am writing you today because recently there have been organized efforts from parents to discourage the district from requiring masks for students and staff who are not vaccinated, and to only have in person learning. Some people have gone as far as to ask individuals from outside of the district to show up in support of no masks. I ask that you continue to follow the science and pediatricians advice regarding masks. The CDC is adjusting recommendations daily as the pandemic swells with more and more variants. With the increase of cases in and around Mount Prospect masks should be worn indoors where there isn't proper ventilation, like outdoors. Masks are proven to prevent cases. Today July 15, 2021 the governor announced that 2% of covid deaths in Illinois have been breakthrough cases. Mount Prospect is only 55% fully vaccinated, most of which are 65 and older. Our youngest population still can not get vaccinated and are at risk. I know there are many in our district that are saying that children can not get Covid, pass it or die from Covid, that is simply not true and you can watch the news to hear the heartbreaking truth. There are many in our community that are immune compromised, the vaccine does not protect them, We must do our part to protect our district and community by wearing MASKS indoors. If the mask requirement is removed how will the schools keep track of students and staff who are vaccinated? Will you ask if all family members are vaccinated? Will the teachers have a list and will they now need to add one more duty to their already taxed time? With all the unknowns I agree with science that masks should still be worn indoors. Last year my daughter stayed remote because our families health history and the extreme anxiety the pandemic has brought on for her. She is so excited to start 7th grade, to make new friends, and walk the halls of her school. I'm afraid that if the mask requirement is removed the fear will keep her from learning and attending in person. I ask that your continue the use of masks at school and allow concurrent remote learning as discussed at the end of the school year. Thank you for your time, and all the work you have done to make D57 schools safe. Ronda Thomas

Dear D57 board and administration, Thank you for all of your hard work to ensure that the students and faculty have a safe and successful 2021/2022 school year. Please continue to offer a safe environment for those who are unable to be vaccinated by maintaining mask requirements for unvaccinated individuals this school year. Thank you!

Hello! I fully support having kids wear masks while in school. While we struggle with another step during getting ready for school, this inconvenient hassle is far outweighed by the possibility of sickness spreading through the school. And, yes, it's one more thing for teachers to police and that's no fun but, again, outweighed by the possibility of sickness spreading through the school. I have been very proud of the job this district has done to keep those whose pandemic guidance has been a mix of wishful thinking, selfishness, and willful ignorance at bay. The road has been tough and those who oppose ANY measures have been vocal but please do not falter.

Hello Board Members, Thank you for your service to our wonderful school district. I'm writing to express my strong support of mandatory masking for unvaccinated adults and kids in our district. Although the rate of death from covid for children is low, there can be long term and serious conditions that result from even minor infections. Especially for kids with (known and unknown) underlining conditions such as in our family. Please help all children attend school safely this fall and continue a strong preventive approach during this ongoing pandemic. Thank you!

Dear School District 57, As a parent, I would like to see D57 still require all students and any unvaccinated staff members to wear masks. Our children are not yet able to get vaccinated and are still vulnerable to be exposed to Covid 19 when at school. I know that thus far the district has taken great precautions to keep our children safe and I hope that continues for the upcoming school year. Thank you.