

Please factor the information in these articles into your decisions:

<https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2021/02/18/michael-osterholm-on-how-new-covid-variants-could-change-the-pandemics-trajectory>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/02/26/science/reopen-schools-safety-ventilation.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/16/health/covid-children-inflammatory-syndrome.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7006a5.htm?s_cid=mm7006a5_w

District 57 Board of Education members, Thank you for your efforts to identify the best and most appropriate path forward to return students to in-person learning as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic. As a board member identified at the last meeting, I understand you are making decisions based on the best available information and data at the time you must make the decision. As you evaluate learning model changes, please support and direct the district to implement mitigation measures, including physical distancing based on the current public health guidelines. I understand the six-foot physical distancing has a direct impact on the number of students that can physically be in-person in a classroom at any one time. While there are tremendous and incalculable benefits to students being in person, it should be balanced with what we know works to limit transmission risks associated with COVID-19. We know the risk for transmission of COVID-19 increases as people spend more time indoors in close proximity with people they do not live with. This perfectly describes schools. However, the evidence is accumulating that in-person learning can be safe even when community levels of COVID-19 are high. This is great news, but the important caveat is that in-person learning can be safe if schools consistently and correctly apply mitigation measures. The Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) identifies two mitigation measures that are the most important to keep students and staff safe in schools. These include universal and correct mask use and physical distancing. When community transmission is over 50 new cases per 100,000 population per week, CDC strongly recommends (they use the word require) physical distancing of six feet or more. As of March 2, there are 99.9 new cases per 100,00 population in the past week in the 60056 zip code (<http://covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu/>). When community transmission falls below 50 new cases per 100,000 population, CDC recommends physical distancing of six feet or more to the greatest extent possible (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>). I fully support the Board and district planning for the time when community transmission falls to lower levels identified by CDC. This will happen and we should be prepared to immediately transition to learning models that focus on more in-person instruction. In the interim, I ask the Board to consider implementing the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Education as they exist.

Dear D57 Administration and board members, I am a parent of two Fairview students currently in hybrid. I am also a D25 teacher, and I have been teaching in person fully at 4 schools since January. Even with a subject like band, which I teach, we have kept students and teachers safe with proper PPE. I have seen very few problems with transmission of the virus in the three elementary schools that I teach. There have been occasional cases with the need to quarantine,

as students are not always able to maintain six feet. We have followed protocol for contact tracing and this really stops any kind of spread in its tracks. With all the teachers getting vaccinated, I would fully support D57 giving students a full day option. Certain subjects like P.E. and music can be so much more productive in person. I know that from teaching band. I have seen the difference from switching from remote to in person learning with my students. They have improved so much more with the in person time with me. Please consider a full day option for the mental health and academic need of our students. Parents should be able to choose a remote or full day option as fits best with their family's needs. I have seen how well this can work and know we can do a great job here in D57 too! Thanks for your consideration.

- Why is our district so behind in getting our children back fully to school? Dist 25 (4)days in person (1) day at home Dist 15 (5)days in person K-6 Dist 59 (5) days in person Dist 62 (5) days in person * All schools have options for children to stay at home Why are we not following in their success? It's very sad to see a kindergarten trying to learn two days out of the week with no teacher. There is no motivation to learn and I'm afraid keeping it this way will put them behind. Is there another option for the kids at Lincoln Jr High during their lunch not to have a white cardboard? It's very uncomfortable and like the children are being punished. Can we not have clear ones?

- Please make sure there are dedicated remote teachers on staff. Please keep the remote option open. I am high risk and do not want to die because I do not have a remote option. We need choices.

Dear District 57 Board of Education and Administrators, I know I am late sending this second email but hopefully you will have a few seconds to read before tonight's meeting. Today one of my LMS students had ONE period with a live teacher during his in-person hybrid day. That class was P.E. My son went to school to sit on a computer with no live instruction outside of how to play ping pong. He said he read a good portion of the day because he completed all of his asynchronous assignments quickly. This is NOT working. My daughter's ELA MAP score dropped 10%. We are failing our kids. Kids must get back to school full-time with teachers teaching in-person for the last nine weeks of the school year to try and make up for lost learning before the summer slide starts. Thank you

Dear Members of the Board, You already took the time to read my lengthy previous letter, but I wanted to provide a couple brief updates. Districts 64 and 25 have now announced that they will not use a live-stream model for next year. I really see that as a model of last resort. It provides less than ideal quality of instruction for remote and in-person learners, is hard on teachers, in our case would require reassignment of many students to new classrooms, and draws complaints of in person learners on screens and 4 day in person weeks. Two other districts without capacity for 6 foot distancing have since decided to go full in-person: District 64 and

District 23. District 21 will be discussing the issue at the same time as our district on Thursday night. That leaves 26, 27, and 63 in hybrid. D59 is reportedly considering moving from their 4 day 4 hour hybrid once teachers are fully vaccinated. I really hope that as variants spread that schools don't find themselves in the situation of last November, trying to reopen just as soaring cases force a chaotic, sudden closing down. As you consider the decision about reducing distancing, I hope you will be clear about the actual distancing that can be achieved and the anticipated effects on quarantines, and the use of metrics in decision-making. Thanks again Please view the following link for my document as it had formatting and tables that would not carry over. Thank you!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B60op3cLpiL_w__D336Wt2JwBss_kJfC/view?usp=sharing

Thank you for all that you continue to do to make our district the best it can be for all students to learn and grow. Please advocate for all students and implement a full day learning plan as soon as possible. Many students simply need in person guidance in order to learn. So many of our young learners have not developed the ability to focus on assignments and move from one item to the next on their own. They become frustrated with their struggles and want to quit. I see it daily. It is heart wrenching as I continue to try to maintain my full time job while also attempting to guide my child in her schoolwork. I believe it is safe to send kids back with the myriad mitigation techniques already in place, even with less than 6 feet spacing. Please do what's best for the children and the community and offer a full day in person option. Lastly, there is no need for an adaptive pause after spring break. It is unnecessary. The only schedule change we need is to go from part day to full day. Thank you.

- I would like to urge you to vote for full day in-person instruction five days a week. Anything less at this point is unacceptable. I am not advocating that you take away full remote for those who need it. But the task force survey laid it out for you quite simply, the majority of people who responded want full in-person instruction, even if 6' cannot be maintained. The district (board and administration) has been hanging their hat on the fact that all kids are in the same position, so if there is learning loss, it's equal across the board. Maybe that was true last spring, but it is an outright falsehood at this point. The surrounding districts and private schools have been successfully educating their students. A claim D57 cannot make. Surrounding districts have gone back to full time in-person learning, or have an upcoming date for full time in-person learning. Now is the time to act. You have let our children down for far too long. I ran across a comment from a parent stating, that they have faith in the district to catch up on any learning loss next year. My question, as the parent of middle schoolers, is what about this year's eighth graders? They are heading to Prospect next year grossly behind their peers from surrounding schools. You have set them up for failure. Two Hundred and Forty-four students who are not entering high school on a level playing field. They have not been in school, they are not as prepared for high school, and they will not be accustomed to a rigorous course load or even a full day of school... they simply are not used to being IN school, all day, every day. Remote and hybrid has bred a class of kids who are complacent, and quite frankly lazy after sitting home for a year. Maybe, you're ok with 244 kids leaving District 57 ill-prepared for high school with an

inferior education than the hundreds of other kids they will join at Prospect...what about this year's seventh-graders? Is one year enough time for those 269 students to catch up on the loss of learning this has created? Will it take two years? Are the 256 sixth graders likely to be caught up in time to go to high school without being at a disadvantage? Or will they all be struggling to keep up with Prospect's standards? Every day is crucial for all of these kids from your Graduating Class of 2021, to these poor kindergarteners who are somehow expected to learn to read over zoom. Every single day matters. Do not delay this any further. Your next survey needs one question, with two answers.. Full in person learning or full remote. Do not overcomplicate this as well. Now is the time for you to finally do what is right by these kids.

- Good Afternoon, At the last board meeting, it was suggested that there may be a "pause" of in-person learning after spring break. The current COVID numbers and hospitalizations in the state continue to fall. The hospitalizations in Illinois are lower than they've been since they began tracking this in April. Numbers are falling across the country. While I understand the delay at thanksgiving, and even the pause after winter break, the current numbers are nowhere near where they were at that time. Please don't deprive our kids of even more in-person learning in the spring, especially if the COVID numbers continue on this current trajectory. Thanks

- Good morning! I am writing you today to ask that you please consider giving parents a choice of full-day remote or full-day in-person option. Many other districts around us are now switching their models to allow for full-day in-person learning. Just recently, Park Ridge has joined the districts that are opting for this. I believe that if we continue the current model, our students' learning loss will be catastrophic, especially when compared to districts who have welcomed the students back into the building. It is time to follow the science and get our children back into the buildings. Let each family decide for themselves if in-person or remote is best for them. Thank you for considering this and putting our children first!

Dear BOE Members, I'd like to start by saying that I 100% do not believe that you do not care about the kids. You are in a situation that none of us could ever imagine we'd be in. This is not what you signed up for. I get it. What I've seen over the course of the past year crystallized for me during the last (2/18) board meeting. With all due respect, many of you are exhibiting symptoms of "Analysis Paralysis". Let me explain. According to the definition, "Analysis paralysis or paralysis by analysis is an anti-pattern, the state of over-analyzing (or overthinking) a situation so that a decision or action is never taken, in effect paralyzing the outcome. A person experiencing analysis paralysis gets so lost in the process of analyzing and evaluating various data needed to make a decision that they become unable to act." In an article by Pawel Grabowski of Smashing Copy (a marketing consultant firm), "We often collect vast amounts of data hoping it will help us make necessary decisions and then become paralyzed by the abundance of information. (You might consider this the data equivalent of a "food coma.") Analysis paralysis typically manifests itself in: -Unnecessarily long planning sessions. -Long and

exhausting information and requirements gathering sessions. -Slow movement towards a final decision. The question you should ask yourselves is what is causing your analysis paralysis? Why are you unable to make a decision, stand behind it, and see it through? Is it because you are looking for the perfect solution? Are worried you'll regret the decision you made? Is it because you are afraid of failure? Or is it fear of making the wrong choice? I suspect it's a little bit of all, but mainly the fear of making the wrong choice. Here's the good news. You can make a choice based on the data you have from the parents. For the spring and even perhaps next fall, give parents 2 choices. The first is full remote learning. The second is full, 5-days/week in-person learning. You then transfer the choice to the parents and can absolve yourself of any of the fears that have kept you from deciding: Is this the perfect solution? It is for the parents – they get to choose what's best for them and their families. Will you regret your decision? You shouldn't – you've accommodated the needs and wishes of the parents. Are you afraid of failure? Trust our administration, teachers, students, and parents who believe that failure is not an option. Do you fear making the wrong decision? Again, you can't make the wrong decision – you are giving the two best options for all families. I ask that you keep these comments in mind as you vote for Spring 2021 and as you plan for Fall 2021.

- I would like to address the suggestions made at the last BOE meeting that a full-time in-person option is being considered. I am concerned that a full-time in-person option would compromise CDC requirements and potentially the dedicated remote teacher option. This also seems to go against the recommendations of the Task Force which was specifically put in place to conduct research and make the best recommendation. Based on the new CDC guidelines there seems to be clear requirements on desk-spacing based on community transmission rate. I feel like if the BOE just adopted the CDC requirements as our District's requirements, then it would be very clear as to what the buildings/classrooms would look like from a capacity perspective. Right now the MP area is in the ORANGE level and the guidelines clearly state that the 6ft requirement should not be compromised. If this is the case, there should be no change in the spacing between children at this point. However, these metrics are dynamic and the district/BOE must establish a cadence to move in/out of the CDC levels in terms of limited attendance for Red/Orange tiers. This should include what attendance would look like when transmission levels drop under a certain level. It seems like this would be the best use of the Task Force's time and efforts for a return to school in the fall. The district needs to continue to follow CDC requirements as this provides the safest return to school for all students and the options are equitable with a more robust asynchronous option for hybrid students if full-day cannot be accommodated. Finally, I feel like the dedicated teacher remote option needs to remain in place for the spring. I feel like the district made it clear at the beginning of the year that a ROBUST remote option would be available to families and it would be very upsetting for those families to lose that option as it is the safest option that the district can make available. Thank you.

We would really want the kids to go back to school full time. We are okay with less than 6 feet distancing. We think that Julia is not getting as much education and learning at home like she

would at school. This is hurting her learning and she's getting robbed of the education that she should be getting. Plus we don't like her spending so much time in front of screen instead of interacting with other students.

- As a newer resident of Mount Prospect, I am very disappointed and unsatisfied with overall decisions made with the schools over this last year through the pandemic. First and foremost our children need their teachers and education in a in person manner. E-learning and zoom is not good enough . With all proper precautions, protocols with daily screenings, mask wearing, and other protective barriers used throughout school there is no reason these kids couldn't be back full time in a safe manner. Many other schools / districts have gone back to school full time many months ago and are succeeding. It is very clear the board/superintendent are not interested in what the parents of their students want and or may need from them. From the very beginning the survey that came out was completely disregarded with the majority of parents wanting to send their children back to school . Why do we need to continue to fill out these surveys if the board doesn't care to listen to the parents?

Hello, Please keep the same full remote option until the end of the school year. We have seen too many family members and friends of family suffer from Covid. Thank you.

- My children have always loved school. They even became excited when they had homework, because they couldn't wait to accomplish it and make their teachers (and parents) proud of them. They loved seeing their classmates and learning along side them. P.E. and lunch were the highlights of their day...especially outdoor recess. I could barely keep them awake past 6:30, because their bodies and minds were simply exhausted from the joys of school. They no longer show excitement. They are regressing terribly. Despite our efforts to assist them, there is NO SUBSTITUTE FOR IN PERSON SCHOOL. Nothing can replace the personal interaction with their teachers, administrators, and peers. Hybrid gives them a fraction of this, but this model is conducive to no one. My once thriving daughter now requires intervention for Math AND Reading. My son who received straight A's his entire school life, now brings home B's and C's. Grades aside, the lack of socialization and physical activity has taken its toll as well. I lay awake EVERY NIGHT wondering what more I can do and HOW MUCH MORE MONEY CAN WE SPEND SUPPLEMENTING WHAT THEY ARE LACKING IN SCHOOL. I cannot stress this enough. The pressure on parents to make up the slack is staggering. I don't have the time to explain the enormity of experiences we have endured because I am home helping 3 kids TRY TO LEARN.

Our children deserve to be in school full time. They are suffering with the lack of education they are receiving. Since when do we not put our children first?! Why is everyone else around us going back to full time and we keep getting told no it's not safe. We are their parents and we want them back!! They need this!! My 5th grader is falling so behind because of this and it only

gets harder as she transitions to middle school. Why are these kids not given the opportunity to be back in school?? They want to be with friends and have their teachers full time!! Wake up and Look around!! All the towns around us are putting their students first and letting kids come back full time. You all should be ashamed of yourselves and the decisions you have made so far regarding these poor innocent children. LET THEM BACK!!!!!!

I'm just taking a minute to express my hope that we will be back full time in person this spring. Dealing with home learning is taking a huge toll on our family and our relationship with our son. Every single day is a huge struggle with him and his afternoon work. He hates working from home and hates having to learn with his mom. Tears every single day, it's a nightmare. These kids are all dying to be back and so many schools are doing it without a problem. I just don't see the issue at this point. Time to get things back to normal. Kids are suffering and are having an awful time learning this way. It has been a full year now.. the madness needs to stop. Thank you for your time!

- D57 Board Members: As I know we can all agree, a strong education and focus on learning is SO very important for our kids. After watching the board meetings over several months, what I am seeing from many is a strong cognitive bias. "A cognitive bias is a systematic error in thinking that occurs when people are processing and interpreting information in the world around them and affects the decisions and judgements that they make. When you are making judgments and decisions about the world around you, you like to think that you are objective, logical, and capable of taking in and evaluating all the information that is available to you. Unfortunately, these biases sometimes trip us up, leading to poor decisions and bad judgments."* Subconsciously, I think you are making selective use of data, or you might feel pressured to make a decision by your colleagues. This is a very real issue that I think is at play with many on the board. As a full-time working parent, I do everything I can to help support my daughter at home, but I'm not a teacher...I don't have that special talent that our teachers do to help kids learn. And our teachers in D57 really are amazing. Our kids are lucky to have them. But for the hybrid students, it really is NOT enough. 2 ½ hours a day is not enough. Hybrid is a good transitional approach, but it cannot continue. For many parents with kids in the hybrid plan, we are stuck between a rock and a hard place. I can't speak for everyone, but I know I desperately want my kids to have the in-person social interaction and schooling, but the education received in D57 for hybrid is NOT equivalent by any stretch of the imagination to what our remote kids are receiving. That gap needs to be closed right away. As it has been brought up in the last meeting. Your job, as the school board and administration, is to ensure that ALL kids are given equal education. Right now, that is NOT happening. It NEEDS to be fixed. In regards to the adaptive pause idea. I URGE you to dismiss this idea. As many parents I'm sure have outlined in letters and in speaking today, there is no strong evidence to suggest this will make any difference. Our parents and community is responsible and I have full confidence that they will do the right thing if they decide to travel. Please don't force everyone to have to change schedules AGAIN and strip 2 more weeks from their in-person schooling. There are NO other schools that I am aware of that are doing this type of pause. WHY are we even considering this?? And finally, I'm hearing people in our community say that the virus is a "short-term

problem” and that we should just wait until things are better. I ask these people to define the word “short-term.” To me over a year, is no longer “short-term.” This virus is not going to magically disappear by the fall, just as it magically didn’t disappear after the “2 weeks to flatten the curve” we heard early on. We NEED to learn how to manage it safely. It will not be PERFECT for a VERY long time. And we simply cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Please STOP striving for and WAITING for perfection. Instead, let’s embrace the health measures necessary to get kids into classrooms all day, safely. It has been said many times – if there is a will, there is a way, PLEASE allow us to make the CHOICE between full time in person or full remote. It’s the easier and most logical choice. And it what the MAJORITY of our community wants. That can’t be ignored. Theodore Roosevelt has been famously quoted saying – “It is hard to fail, but it is WORSE never to have TRIED to succeed.” PLEASE...don’t be afraid to try. Ref*: <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-a-cognitive-bias-2794963>

Please allow my child to go to school full time. Please allow all children access to full time school. The MAP scores demonstrate what we already knew. My child learned nothing in the last year. All those hours in front of the computer, all the energy expended by the teachers and staff resulted in a zero increase in learning. More accurately, he declined in language arts and plateaued in math. Things are more somber: he actually dropped down a math class so now he is reviewing math that he already learned. His scores would be worse, if not for the tutoring we began in November when we truly lost all faith in D57. The purpose of a school is to educate children. District 57 has failed to educate my child and most of our children. Please abort this course and return children who need to learn in a classroom to the classrooms. Thank you for listening.

- Remote learning works for our student we will not return to in-person. I do not trust that families in the area are following COVID restrictions. In our household we have family members who are considered high risk keeping them safe is my main priority. Any difficulties that my student may experience will be addressed with her teacher so we can come up with a plan.

- Dear Representatives of our School District 57, I’m writing to you as a desperate Mom of 2 third graders, please let our kids go back to school in full time hours as soon as possible. All districts around us are open to at least 2 full days with plan to be fully open soon. Last survey clearly shows that majority of parents want to send their kids back to school even if school cannot guarantee 6 ft distance, so how can you ignore it. I understand that there are families who would like to continue with remote option and nobody question it, but let those kids who would like to be back in school in full time do it. I’m not a teacher, my kids have been struggling a lot for last year because of circumstances, but now it’s time to go back to school. My 8 years old son wrote a Christmas wish list and he asked for cure for corona virus, so all his friends can go back to school. What would you do or say to 8 years old boy who gave up his dreams just so he can be back in school. What else has to be done or say so you finally agreed for these poor kids to get the education that they deserve? They want to see their friends and teachers and

talk to them, they want to play and share their successes with them, they want to be noticeable when they need help! Do we really need some kind of tragedy to happen so you will finally open your eyes?! They have been trying for almost a year to do their best, they have been trying because you asked them to try. Why don't you want to try? You teach these kids "Can do attitude", so please set up an example for your students. Can you do it? Open our school to full days for our kids!

- I want to start again by thanking the board for all of your hard work and commitment during this difficult year. I know all of you are thoughtful individuals with the best interests of children and the community in mind, which seems to often get lost in the minds of people who are struggling or just at the end of their rope and need what they need and can't get right now due to the almost incomprehensible changes in all our lives over the past year. Complaints are a steady diet of all school board meetings right now, even at those providing full in person options, such as "why 4 days and not 5", or "why is my kid on zoom in the classroom" (livestreaming), or "why do you keep quarantining kids and sending them remote" (<6 foot distancing). A lot of twists and turns this year were brought on by coronavirus and no one's fault. Our district finally had just enough in our budget to get by and then a pandemic hit. Just as we had enough data and planning time to be ready to start hybrid in-person, cases spiked and schools that did go in person had to stop suddenly to go to adaptive pause with almost no notice. And now just as there is more comfort and a desire after a year for more in-person time in school, coronavirus throws a bunch of new variants, for which again we have almost no data on the effects on school safety. I don't feel that our board has "failed our children." Many children have been successful in a robust learning model, and many have benefited from the addition of in-person instruction through hybrid. Our board has made thoughtful and careful decisions with the community in mind, and not out of line with other districts with similar resources. In the end, communities met the pandemic with the resources of the district they funded, with different class sizes, classroom sizes, staffing and budgets (and other factors such as percent opting in person and Federal assistance formulas). Those that could bring in all students full-time with 6 foot distancing did so if not immediately, then early. For the rest it has been a tougher year. I want to thank the board and administration for the option for dedicated remote learning. I remember back at the beginning of the year when the decision was made, and the considerations were for safety as well as equity. Our district wanted to be able to provide equal access to learning and services to all students, at least some of whom would have to be remote due to health concerns. I think it was a well thought out decision, as well as a prudent one for safety reasons. An initial plan for full in person with distancing "as much as possible" was changed partly due to community feedback, and many other districts followed suit. Little was known at that time about the true risks of in person school (and sadly not enough even now). If we had chosen to start the year in person and it had turned out well, it would have been worth it, and if people had gotten sick or worse, it would have been a disaster. No one has a crystal ball. The d57 remote option has been very successful for a lot of families including my own. I thought it was crazy with the amount of online time but my children have been very successful and independent, such that my husband and I could continue our jobs working from home. They have been engaged and seem to be learning much as usual. They even managed the teacher and

schedule changes when other students went to hybrid almost without skipping a beat. A substantial change to this model would be detrimental for them and our family, and likely many others. I worry that a change to a livestream model or one with more asynchronous learning would see them disengaged like last spring and that I would have to leave my job to manage their learning. Obviously online learning is not ideal, but it has helped my family and many others (I think it was 44%?) to get through this school year so far until our world gets right again. 26% of families chose full remote as their ideal option in the survey, and given that all 4 options cannot be offered, some will go with a second choice and a presumably higher percentage of families will ultimately choose and rely on that model for their children's learning for the remainder of this year. The district is tasked with serving all of their students, and I ask that you not shortchange the needs of this sizeable group in your planning. There are clearly a number of families who desire and need full day in person school. Actually all of our kids do, and I wish that this pandemic were over. If it were possible to provide that even for some while maintaining social distancing, and without impacting other learners, that would be an easy decision. Our district's limited resources lead to a difficult position for administration and board in balancing different needs. As you make that decision, I wanted to correct some misinformation provided in the Task Force report. I am grateful for all of their work and research, but district websites do not always contain complete or updated information on their covid plans, and I have run into some corrected information in watching various districts' board meetings. Although they listed D15 as providing full-time in person instruction with less than 6 feet, based on information on the website listing "6 feet to the greatest extent possible", at a recent board meeting it was made clear that the district is strictly adhering to 6 feet by having hired over 40 additional teachers to teach remote sections of elementary, and by keeping middle school hybrid for the rest of the school year. Below are short clips from the board meeting covering both issues.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_0XUTj7xxXx7EEZ1SvMgJ2YOlxB7gjJp/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12-jpeK736VUn3WyBSOObMbXaR5azojNQ/view?usp=sharing>
District 28 has actually been full in person/full remote all year (listed as hybrid) and apparently is keeping 6 feet distancing as listed ("The district plan to offer either full-time in-person learning or fully remote learning is the result of having enough space within the district's four schools to accommodate safety measures of physical distancing.") - from July 21 Special Board Meeting Minutes <https://www.northbrook28.net/Page/319>. District 62 was listed as not maintaining 6 feet, but confirmed in their 2/16 board meeting that as they move from 47% to 55% of their learners in person they intend to continue to maintain 6 feet of distance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXUQoRgowdg> So as for other districts going full in person with less than 6 feet distancing, that is true so far for D59 and D25. D59 started four days at less than 6 feet on February 16, but are only going in person for 4 hours and going home for lunch, keeping that masking layer of mitigation intact. Since the afternoon is remote, they are actually still calling it hybrid. D25 has been full in person 4 days a week without 6 feet since January 21. D34 recently set a date of April 12 for full in person, and one model they presented had 3'6" to 4 feet between desks front to back (60" side to side). D23 will have a special board meeting on March 2 to discuss going to 4 day in person (and reducing distancing), given metrics and new CDC guidance. District 21 has a special board meeting for March 4 which may be related, agenda is not available. Private schools have been in person, with caps on enrollment and at the cost of remote learning. If people don't like the options given they can go elsewhere. I am

also not clear on how closely they have to adhere to ISBE guidelines. Districts providing full in person with 6 foot distance: D15, D28, D31, D54, D62. Other schools, as listed by the task force, are maintaining hybrid where they don't have room for full in with 6 feet: D21, D23 (for now), 26, 27, 63, 64. So how safe is 3-6 feet? And how does it impact quarantines? We don't have a lot of local examples to find out from. District 25 has had outbreaks at both of their middle schools. Thomas was sent remote for a month by the health department (this happened during the fall when they were in hybrid). The entire 8th grade of South was just sent remote for 2 weeks by the health department in February after they started full in person. Their middle school students are not cohorted, which probably contributed to the outbreak status as well as students being now within 6 feet of each other throughout the day. Their elementary schools have not had outbreaks, but it looks like quarantines have gone up since they went full in person January 21. Even though cases have been a lot lower than at their peak in October/November, quarantines have recently reached the same high level. <https://www.sd25.org/SelfScreener> D59 just reduced their distancing on February 16th, with no mask free time, which gives one data point that does not show increase in cases or quarantines.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hHV9ZKGSdPphO3ee-vqPW_eUKf1X2ROeT9mNqcs9dKQ/edit#gid=97775695 Even with 6 foot distancing, District 15 has been quick to shift to remote learning for whole classrooms and in at least one case a whole school. One district's superintendent recently shared information that at another district without 6 foot distancing, each case takes out another 3-20 students (I think it was D26, their past meetings are not available). As more staff get vaccinated, they may no longer have to quarantine after exposure, but student quarantines aren't going anywhere soon. So without resources to go all in and maintain 6 foot distancing too, the administration and board are faced with another tough decision with incomplete data, this time about offering a full time school schedule, as covid throws another curve ball in the form of variants that may make everything we know about spread in schools obsolete. One choice is to go keep remote learning intact and bring students in more days by reducing distancing to approximately 4 feet. This would not affect remote learners, but would mean taking away a safer seeming, preferred in person option for some other families. I hope you are also aware that it would subject them to likely additional quarantines and disruptions of in-person learning that come with reducing distancing. I would be glad to be able to continue remote learning uninterrupted, but I would hate to see a plan go poorly for our district. I watched districts forge ahead in the fall with return to in person learning, holding on to hope against rising cases, only to hold emergency meetings just days later to go back to remote and the resultant turmoil and frustration. The writing isn't on the wall yet but the warning signs of new variants are there. District 25 made and held metrics to go to full in person, so did D23, and I assume D59 may have as well (I didn't watch). If a plan is made to reduce distancing, maybe consider specifying metrics for the go-ahead as we did for hybrid? For sure have metrics in mind that would move back to hybrid or remote/adaptive pause that include internal cases, quarantines and ability to staff schools as well as community spread. The CDC has actually just finally given us clear guidance for the community spread metric and hybrid vs. in person. I would also suggest that the district at least look into surveillance testing in this model. This is an additional mitigation measure now listed by the CDC to continue in person learning without full 6 feet despite higher community spread. It may be cost prohibitive, but should at least be considered if we are thinking of going to 4 feet distancing in person. District

21 was recently discussing a plan to use the U of I testing, which is \$20 per test. They said it would take about 3 weeks to set up and then would be weekly saliva tests for all in person students and staff (that would consent I assume). They estimated that for the rest of the year for the size of their district it would cost a million dollars. But they thought there was Federal funding to help. Their meeting was the same time as D57 so I had to turn it off before a decision was made, but it sounded favorable when I left.

<https://www.uillinois.edu/shield#:~:text=SHIELD%20Illinois%20uses%20a%20saliva,virus%20that%20causes%20COVID%2D19.&text=The%20test%20produces%20rapid%20results,alternatives%20such%20as%20nasal%20swabs>. Finally, before moving to full in-person with reduced distancing, please consider a model like the D59 4 hour 4 day hybrid that keeps the additional mitigation layer of masking in place. Another option would be a switch to live streaming. A livestream model would improve safety of full in-person learning through increasing distancing, but be costly and affect teachers and learners across the board (even at Lincoln where it is primarily happening for hybrid learners). More teacher/class changes for all and another learning model for teachers to adapt. I personally hope you do not choose this model. Remote learners already went through schedule and teacher changes so other children could have access to in person learning, and a complete disruption again is daunting. Livestreaming may also take away whatever benefit (other than parent work schedule) was to be gained from in person learning - true face to face teaching away from a screen. If it doesn't keep 6 feet there will still likely be increased quarantines and disruptions. If new variants and rising cases lead quickly to a return to remote, the district may end up meeting the needs of no one. The third option would be to maintain the current full remote and hybrid in person options. This was the recommendation of the task force put together for the purpose of informing the board on spring options and trying to find a way to fully reopen. Given the number of families likely to choose an increased in-person schedule, and the resources of space, staff, and budget, they could find no workable solution. Reducing distancing would adversely impact a portion of current in-person learners and fail to meet the best supported safety precautions identified in their own research. A switch to a livestream model would be costly and disruptive to all groups, especially those in remote learning, and likely still fail to fully meet those safety guidelines. Students are currently offered the choice of a robust remote learning opportunity, or in-person learning to the extent demand and resources allow while maintaining safety. At that point, many districts have held fast and focused further efforts on maximizing in-person learning time for targeted groups. As I recall, one of the reasons for the survey was to get numbers of opt-ins to see if the full time choice could be offered easily (with distancing) as in some other districts. We checked, and it could not. Others had stated that they only wanted the chance to know they had tried to look at all possible solutions before accepting it if they could not be found. So here we are. The board could of course choose an alternative to the recommendation of the task force, whose findings are non-binding, but the community would presumably be expecting a clear and persuasive rationale for doing so. If the board decides to maintain the current model, it was suggested to address the concerns about the hybrid model, particularly at the elementary level. I had a couple of suggestions: Consider livestream for elementary hybrid classrooms only (core subjects would rotate) Look into any options to help with partnering, providing, or subsidizing childcare/supervision for learning time not spent in school buildings. Are 2 cohorts 6 feet and masked safer than one cohort 4 feet and masked? I don't know. Prioritize targeted groups for

increased in-person time to the extent allowed by distancing - this may include other than ELL/IEP students as possible A couple other thoughts: Update the covid dashboard regularly and include information on quarantines Provide proper PPE (fit tested N95 masks) for staff in close contact with unmasked special ed students Please read aloud some or at least summarize emailed statements at board meetings. A few districts are doing this, and otherwise the voices of remote families (who are least likely to attend meetings in person) are not "heard" during the session. Thank you for your time and I hope some of this information is helpful as you make your difficult decisions.

- Thank you for continuing to offer a full-time remote elementary offering with dedicated remote teachers during this challenging covid pandemic. I am grateful that our youngest learners nor teachers of those students have been put in a situation with live stream instruction where the attention and focus is further divided. I recognize this offering may not be sustainable for the 21-22 school year due to budget and staffing but I urge you to continue to offer a dedicated remote teacher program through the remainder of the 20-21 school year. There have already been many disruptions to the educational models being offered; from teacher changes to schedule changes to instructional methods. After the March 4th board meeting, there are only 12.5 weeks remaining in the school year, approximately 10.5 weeks if you remove spring break and days off, depends on student's grade level. If you decide to modify the in-person offerings as requested by some of the community members for the 20-21 school year, please do not do so at the expense of the remote program and it's learners. I implore to let the remote program stand as is with dedicated remote teachers and to not implement any elementary live stream remote models.

- Dear Board, I am writing this letter to appeal to you to consider offering full time in person learning in addition to e-learning, after the Spring break. With positivity rates being its lowest since the pandemic started, and most teachers being able to vaccinate, I do not see why not. Current hybrid model is simply deficient in terms of academic content, and quite honestly, I am not sure its legal. And while my 4th grade student seems to be doing better in terms of social-emotional development I cannot help myself but feel like we are being scammed. How can 2,5 hours of supervised instruction be enough for 10 years old child? Asynchronous unsupervised content that is not graded cannot be counted toward instructional time. Our children have suffered greatly already. Screen addiction, depression, academic failures are just few of the many side effects my children experienced. The time is NOW to step in and save our kids. They are our future, and its in your hands. We have lived through unprecedented times, so I understand your conservative approach in the beginning of the pandemic, when not a lot of data was available. However, a year later, it is apparent, that schools are not spreaders and can be re-opened if safety protocols are followed. Education is essential and should be treated as such. To the board member Maye: Thank you from all of us for asking tough questions! We appreciate you. To the rest of the board: you should do the same to represent the people that elected you. You cannot continue to ignore a large group of parents, coming to the BOE meetings for months, pleading, begging, crying, asking you to put students' needs first. We elected you to be

our voice, so please be one. To the admin: when you asked our help 3 years ago, the entire community stood together to save the district. We knocked on doors, donated money, displayed signs on our yards because we believe in the power of education. Now we need YOU to save our children. Are you there for us when we need you most? Many families are planning to unenroll their children and join private schools. And even more are looking to move out if you continue to follow the same path, including my own family. Our schools have significantly dropped in ratings, which will ultimately affect property values. Aren't you concerned? Besides, how should working families continue to make it work with so many other districts offering full-time instruction? Mount Prospect is a blue-collar community and majority of us are not millionaires, we are hard working families, often dual-working, trying to get by. What about single parents? Please, be mindful of all of us. You are at the crossroads right now, please choose the right path, while its still not too late. Thank you,

- Thank you for the work you have done to set up hybrid learning for our kids. We are very happy with the 2 full day in school and 3 day remote hybrid set up. It feels like the safest option for us right now since vaccines are still not readily available. We really appreciate having this 2 day hybrid option instead of completely full time which is riskier before vaccination is possible. Thank you.

Dear D57 School Board: First of all, I would like to thank the school board, superintendent, teachers, principle, vice principle and all of the school and district staff who work so hard to make learning in D57 so great. It is clear that all of D57 is dedicated to providing an excellent education for all of the students in the district. I truly appreciate all that each of you have done to continue to provide a quality education to our students during this unexpectantly difficult school year. This is my first time writing to the board, I felt it was very important that the perspectives of all of the parents in the district are taken into consideration when deciding on the remote vs. in person learning options for the students for the rest of the school year. I am a parent of a Kindergarten Student at Westbrook school and I am writing to express my desire to continue with a true remote option with a certified teacher assigned to the remote class who is focused on remote learners. At this time our family is not able to allow our child to attend school as we have someone in our home with a compromised immune system who does not qualify to receive the vaccine at this time. Due to the level of risk to our family member we have selected to remain in the remote learning option for the rest of the school year. My child has flourished in remote learning and is doing extremely well. Our family would like to continue to have this option not only for our family but for the other families at Westbrook who are unable to send their children to school for similar reasons or who need to continue with this option for other reasons. If the only remote option offered is full-time live streaming it would greatly effect the quality of the learning as it would be difficult for teachers to give the attend needed to both in person and live streaming learners at the same time. Given the fact that we are not in an idea situation due to the pandemic I understand we all need to be flexible and I understand that things cannot return to normal right now no matter how much we would like this to happen. I have attended all of the board meetings virtually and I am thankful to have such a thoughtful,

caring board that cares about all of the students and providing an education for all of the students in a environment that is safe for them based on each students individual needs. It is essential that we continue a true remote option with teachers assigned to focus on remote students as this option has benefited the students who have engaged in this learning option throughout the school year. Thank you so much for my letter.

- Dear Board Members, I want to thank each of you for the extraordinary amount of thought and effort that has gone into balancing D57 leaning options so far this school year. My daughter has been doing remote learning and is thriving with her Westbrook teacher, who is able to keep her engaged and mostly motivated with the use of social connection, and by sharing each student's successes with the rest of the class. The students have formed a community and are interested in each other. I am writing to express my concerns over the possibility of a switch to livestream remote learning, where remote students observe a teacher instructing students in a classroom. I have to say, no way of framing this to my child will make her understand why we remain remote when other children are in class. If Westbrook lacks the space to accommodate children with CDC-recommended 6' spacing (not to mention the other many hurdles to accommodate all enrolled children for full day in-person learning), then those whose families opt for remote should not go punished. My family is healthy. We are not categorized as high-risk. However, my husband had a portion of his lung removed at a young age and we are extremely wary of the risk to him and our family posed by COVID. Therefore we feel we have no choice but to remain separate while D57 can't follow best practices, and before we have a chance get vaccinated. This has been hard on us but in terms of learning, my daughter has mastered remote learning. She used to have an IEP and, as a tier 3 student, requires a rich connection with her teachers. While I am skeptical that a full time option will be possible this school year, I am wary of the trade-offs that would be seen by remote learners as a result of implementation. I believe all education should be superior, and those families who choose not to in person this year should be accommodated, rather than pushed aside as observers. Despite the talents and passion of our many teachers and staff, I would not expect the outcome of livestream remote teaching to be anything but a bone tossed to at least a quarter of students. Thank you for your time.

Please keep full remote an option for D57 families. As a nurse that is fighting this pandemic at the bedside, I refuse to expose my children to crowds and people outside of our household. It is important that families have a safe option to choose that is consistent with CDC and IDPH guidelines as well as local positivity test rates

- We would like full remote option to remain for our two children in D57 schools at LP and Lincoln. My husband and I work full time- approx 100 - 120 hours per week since pandemic started. I have pulmonary embolisms, a medical condition that puts me in higher risk group and my husband is approaching 58 years old this year. He is on good health, but overworked with work demands. We are both working from home and on calls most all the work day, so not

assisting kids much at home. Remote is not ideal, but is best solution for us right now- preferable to hybrid and full in person. We prefer not to have our kids attend live-streamed class, where possible. We have no family nearby as backup plan, if one of both of us becomes ill with covid so we are strictly distancing; keeping both of us healthy and safe is priority to ensure our kids have caretakers. Thank you for consideration

- Good Evening Board, I would first like to thank you for all the hard work you have done this past year as I imagine it has been a very difficult time. After watching the past couple board meetings and all the negative comments I hear, I felt I needed to pass along some positive. My daughter is a 4th grader at Lions Park and she has been doing full remote since the beginning of the year. She has been very involved in our decisions on whether or not to attend in person and we all prefer to be full remote over the hybrid option. She did not want to have 1/2 her day doing independent work and prefers to be on the computer to have the full day interaction with a teacher and her classmates. Since my wife and I have been working full time from home since last March, the full remote option has worked very well for us as well as her. I hope the full remote option with a dedicated teacher will continue until the end of this school year as that is how we would like to finish out this current school year. Thank you again.

- Hi! I have been wanting to email for some time, and haven't gotten around to it until now. We are a new family to 57, transferring from a local private school for monetary reasons. This could not have been a worse year to do so. Instead of being in school FULL TIME this entire year, with NO COVID SCARES, my kids have been fully remote, and now hybrid. The detriment to their mental health and personalities has been drastic. My husband is an essential worker who cannot work remotely. I am part time essential worker who cannot work fully remote. This is HARD and UNBEARABLE. Do you know what I almost did today? I was having such a difficult morning dividing my time between my kids' asynchronous schedules, and yelling in frustration because no one was listening to me, that I almost called a neighbor to come over because I was worried I was going to physically harm myself or my children. Are you hearing me? I love my children and would NEVER hurt them. But I was at such a point today, that I was questioning myself and I was trying to plan ahead because I needed a frigging break!! We got through the day and I was finally able to drop them off for a measly 2 hours of in person time. OUR KIDS NEED FULL TIME 5 DAY SCHOOL!!! I was the last speaker at the last board meeting. I wasn't planning on speaking. We know you love the kids and want them safe. We all do. We think 5-day full in person at less than 6 feet is safe. I spoke about parents who chose fully remote not because of safety, but because they cannot get their kids to and from school during the work day. I had two parents text me personally to thank me for speaking, and said they were part of the fully remote parents who chose so because of logistics. You, the board, have analysis paralysis. Make a choice, and get our kids in school full time. Give those parents who want full remote, full remote. And give parents who want/need full day in person, full day in person. These are the only 2 choices and I implore you to make this decision on March 4th. It is your RESPONSIBILITY to get our kids back into school.

I am writing in to request the continuation of a full time remote option with a classroom teacher (as it is now) for the remainder of the school year. I have a third grader at Fairview and have Ben very pleased with the education my child receives and impressed with the tremendous effort his teacher, Ms Quinlan, shows every day. I do not believe it is a possibility to house all students simultaneously at Fairview, while maintaining ISBE and CDC guidelines, and I know it would be easier (or allow for the possibility) for those who want to or need to go back in-person to do so, if a portion of students stayed remote, with a continued robust education. I know none of this is ideal, and every one of us has been affected by this terrible situation, but there needs to be an option for families that don't feel comfortable (for many various reasons) or see it as a viable healthy option to send their children back to school full time, in person. Thank you, and I appreciate your efforts in coordinating this monumental task.

Good afternoon, all! I wanted to start by saying just how thankful we are for all of the challenging, tiring work you have done in the last 12 months (and before, too!) We recognize that you have been put in many tough spots while trying to ensure that you're advocating for all children in D57. We appreciate that it is impossible to make everyone happy and know that you have genuinely done your best. We have been a full remote family all year. It was the best option available to us and, thankfully, both of our children have adapted wonderfully to this method. The teachers have been nothing short of super heroes this year, fully supported by the instructional assistants (where applicable.) The teachers our children have had the benefit of learning with have managed to connect, encourage engagement, and teach remotely and we understand the demands that have been made of them to accomplish all of that. They have been amazing and we are forever grateful to them. It is our desire to allow our children the consistency of remaining remote for the remainder of the year. Specifically, we would like to allow them to continue learning, while supported by a full time teacher, in the manner they have been since the beginning of the year. We fully recognize, and support, other families having in person options because those are what their students require and what suits them and their situations best. We would also like to be offered accommodations that suit us, our students and our situation best. For us, this is remote as it currently stands. Thank you again for your work and for your time in reading this letter.

Dear Board of Education Members and Administration, Thank you for your hard work during this difficult time. I especially want to say thank you to Mr. Maye for acknowledging the board's analysis paralysis. I wholeheartedly agree with him saying the board has been spinning its wheels for the past year. Survey after survey with flawed questions resulting in skewed metrics and we have very little to show for it. At the recent board meeting, it was suggested to do another survey about mental health. Many of the board members have middle schoolers. I know if my students were asked about their mental health they would say they are fine and they would say they are satisfied with remote school. Some more targeted survey questions might be: 1. Has your child started seeing a mental health professional in the past year? 2. Has your child's BMI increased over the past year? 3. Have you noticed a change in your child's academic

performance from a regular school year? Is your child receiving tutoring from someone other than their teacher? 4. Have you heard from your child's teacher(s) about your child's lack of engagement during remote learning? 5. If you had to choose one model for the remainder of the school year, would you choose full-time in-person or full remote for your child(ren)? I appreciate that my two children are back at school two days at Lincoln but it is far from enough. They are not being challenged and every day at home they are bored with constant down time. Both of them had negative growth on their MAP scores. While many people pushed back about returning to in-person saying there will be no socializing, that is far from correct. My children are absolutely loving gym as well as lunch where they do get to socialize with their peers. On the days they are in-person, our dinner table conversations are lively and full of smiles as they tell us about their time in school. I urge you to vote for a full in-person return to school after Spring break. A remote model should remain for those who want to stay remote. New CDC guidelines state that it is safe for elementary and secondary schools to return to school if there are virus mitigation strategies in place. Locally, our positivity rates are down and teachers should be fully vaccinated by the end of spring break. The weather should be warm enough for kids to go outside at lunch and for PE. Many suburban Cook County districts, including those on the Task Force's list are moving towards more in-person days. District 70 elementary students will return to a full-day classroom schedule beginning April 12. District 37's shift to in-person after spring break will provide students with 27 more days of in-person instruction over the last 10 weeks of the school year AND the superintendent told parents "Engaging with a daily onsite schedule now is important preparation for Fall 2021, when we will absolutely be conducting school daily onsite." It's time for our kids to get back to learning in-person and start preparing for Fall. Thank you

- District 57- with a child battling depression and anxiety, I request, hybrid/remote option to continue. our children are going through so much and need to know that this option is still available.

Dear District 57 Board of Education, First off I want to thank you for navigating the district during this unprecedented time. I can only imagine how difficult that must be. The reason for my email is that I have heard about the potential for the Board to approve a full day in person option for students. While I think this is a great opportunity for the students currently attending school, I am very concerned as to how this will impact those students that are learning remotely. Our family has stayed silent until now as we know the board is doing the best that they can to accommodate all families. However, that cannot continue to be at the detriment of the remote learning children. My daughter is currently learning remotely and is thriving in that environment. My worry is that with a move to full in person she will once again be asked to switch teachers. That would be her third teacher this year as well as losing friends in her class and her enrichment Reading program. That is a lot to ask of a 9 year old child. Also, I am concerned about the model of instruction. My understanding is that the remote students would participate with the live students simultaneously. My concern with that is that the students participating remotely will not be given the same attention as the students in person. I am asking that if these rumors are true the Board seriously considers the ramifications this decision would have on

these remote learners. These students (and teachers) have been through enough this year and asking them to change once again is simply not acceptable. Thank you for taking the time to read this message. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

- Dear BOE, Thank you for everything that you have done this year. I believe that the board has done everything for the safety of the children, staff, and the community. Our family is incredibly happy with the way remote learning has been going this school year. Please do not take that away. Please continue to have dedicated remote teachers/classes. Thank you

Members of the Board, Thank you for the time and energy you have put into making this year as safe and positive as possible for our children, teachers, and support staff in the District. I have a 3rd grade student who has been remote all year and I just wanted to share that she is excelling. I know a lot of individuals are sharing that remote learning is detrimental for their kids, but our daughter has taken so well to this environment and learned so much. She has made new friends, learned new concepts, and developed a ton of tech skills. I have watched her confidence and resilience blossom. Thank you for maintaining a full remote option with a dedicated teacher for the full day. Ms. Quinlan is doing an excellent job and made the transition for our daughter from Ms. O'Donnell's class very smooth. My husband is a teacher in another district and he has commented a number of times how difficult it is to balance teaching students in person and online at the same time, so it is great for us that she has that devoted attention all school day. Our son is a 1st grader at Westbrook who elected to return half days. Though, admittedly, the morning asynchronous portions have been difficult for me to manage with my full-time work schedule, it is worth it to see the joy on his face that he gets to see his friends during the day. We have been pleased with the safety precautions and communication from Westbrook. There have been many shifts with our schedules and expectations already this year as adult employees and with our students, I would love to see everything stay as-is for the remainder of the school year and a focus on helping d57 staff and teachers obtain their vaccines. The idea of another change for our kids is incredibly overwhelming. Thank you again for all you do!

Hi. I wanted to make sure the board understands that it is very important to keep a true remote learning option for the kids and families that need it. It is essential that this option remains in place. We need a true remote option with certified teachers that are assigned to the remote classes and can focus on the remote learners. These kids need teacher to engage them. It is important that they are a part of the class and interacting, not just watching a class. I feel like it would be a bad idea to change anything else at this point. The school year is almost over and the kids are just getting settled into the new hybrid, remote classes. Please do not change things and keep the true remote option for our kids that need it. It is important to take care of all of our kids and this is the best way to do it. Thank you

I would first like to thank you for the time and effort you put into our district. I understand this is a completely voluntary role and would not want to bear the responsibilities that are cast on all of your shoulders at this time. Thank you for doing the very best you can with the information you have available. With that said, I would like to advocate for a full in person day option for our students. A couple of board members asked about the mental health of our children, and while I am not a specific mental health professional, I am an Emergency Department (ED) nurse in one of our local EDs who frequently treats patients in psychiatric crisis. As expected, since the pandemic started we have seen a dramatic increase in adolescent mental health. What is most disturbing though, especially recently, is that we have seen a decrease in the age of these patients. Where normally we work with 15, 16, 17 year olds we have started seeing a marked increase in patients 12, 10, even 7 years old coming into the department talking about isolation, loneliness, depression, anxiety, and even suicide. In my experience with these patients, these feelings most often stem from the isolation and loneliness these kids are feeling while being home during this pandemic. I am grateful that in our society today we are encouraging people, young and old, to not be ashamed of taking care of their mental health but many people continue to see it as a stigma and do not report it, so I guarantee the minimal amount we see in the ED represent only the tip of the iceberg of children at home who are suffering in silence. To share my personal story, we were very pleased with the remote option that the district provided this fall and winter. (I have a 3rd grader at Fairview and 1st grader at Westbrook). We were not one of the families that struggled with remote learning and I was very proud of my kids for the academic progress they have made, however, hybrid has been a completely different story. Academically it is severely lacking. It is similar to the Spring 2020 model where there is little to no direction, no supervision, few assignments, and extensive parent involvement with minimal academic gain. I almost immediately wanted to pull both children back to remote however the smiles my children have getting off the bus each day, the excitement when they tell me about their day, the begging and pleading that they would do whatever it took to continue to go into school, even if just for a few hours a day prevented me from returning to full remote. It has been heart breaking and has brought me to tears multiple times listening to the kids talk about how much they miss their teachers and friends and that they just want to be in school. I know, absolutely 100%, that my children's academic progress is being hurt by staying hybrid but the impact it has on their mental health is 1000% worth it. They are so much happier. My daughter told me the other day, "Mom, we just laughed all afternoon, I haven't laughed like that with my friends in forever, it was the best day ever". My son said he doesn't care that he doesn't get to play with his friends at school "just being with them makes me happy". This is why I respectfully request that each board member votes to allow a full day in person school day to help address not only the children's academic progress but also their mental health, and social progress. As a frontline essential healthcare worker I implore the board to vote to open the schools up to full days. Keep the full time remote option, but give our kids the option to be back in school where they belong. It has been shown that it can be done in many different settings and we can do it too. Even if we cannot strictly adhere to 6 feet of distance we have many other avenues of mitigation in place and especially with vaccinated teachers, we can make this happen safely. Please feel free to reach out if there is any additional information I can provide or if you have any specific questions for me. Thank you for taking the time to read all of this and thank you for your work within our schools/district. Thank you

Dear Administration and Board of Education Members, After watching the last Board mtg, and reading through the Task Force report, I am writing in to say I hope you will consider going with their Recommendations # 1 and #2. The current hybrid model IS working and I think should be left in place, especially for Lincoln. The students have been through so many changes already. Leave it in place, maybe with a few tweaks for the elementary level, and focus the efforts to the Fall re-opening plans. Many students and parents are very happy with the current hybrid model. In addition, please consider the 2 week adaptive pause after Spring Break, for the safety of the students and staff. Thank you.

Please keep a true remote option with teachers designated to just teaching remote. I have 2 children in D57. One is in kindergarten and the other in sixth grade. We decided a few weeks ago to keep the one in Kindergarten home through the end of the year because he has such a wonderful teacher and is learning so much from her. She is able to focus on the remote kids and spend time with them and work with them. My sixth grader has a 504 plan and has gotten straight A's so far this whole year due to having wonderful teachers that are focused on helping the remote kids. Their time is not being split and they can truly help them. We are considering keeping him home the remainder of the year as we have high-risk individuals in our household and he has been so successful. I truly feel if you end this option that these children will fall to the wayside for the remainder of the year. There are just a few months left of the school year please keep it how it is with teachers designated as full remote. It's been working for those of us that continue to choose full remote otherwise we wouldn't keep them home AND safe. Reevaluate over the summer for the fall. Everyone should not have to suffer because of a few loud parents that can't make it work for them.

- Please continue to provide full-time, live stream teachers for REMOTE learners. The students who learn from home deserve every bit of quality education as the ones who go to school. Making the remote learners to be flies on the wall in a classroom full of their peers will be disastrous for their learning and self esteem. Please continue to dedicate teachers for the remote learners, even as the population of in school learners grows. Thank you.

I would like to see the board put more focus on finding a way to offer a true full time in person option, the same option many of us selected last summer. While I believe all of the educators in D57 have been doing their best, the quality of education in neither the hybrid nor remote model is as good as a full time model. My daughter cries the days she has remote or asynchronous learning and talks about how she hates school. On the days she can go to the classroom, she jumps for joy. I understand the desire to be cautious, but districts across the country and across the state are doing it. Please investigate the possibility thoroughly and give us a choice.

- Please continue with a full time remote option for at least the remainder of the school year. We are almost in March. We have had enough changes for this school year. Enough. Please leave the full time remote with teachers and not live-streamed. Thank you.

- While not ideal, my family is doing okay in remote. Keeping things consistent for my kids is by far the best way for their continued success. It's almost spring for goodness sake. Their anxiety levels will go through the roof transitioning them to in-person at this point and grades will suffer. By the time they are acclimated it will be summer! We are so close with vaccines. Don't make another change. Make a new plan for Fall and don't torture staff and families with more complicated hoops to jump through. If there are a few special needs children or parents in crises... help those few.

I just want all the board member to know that there are many of us out here that support your efforts. We appreciate all the work that you've done to make/keep our children safe & engaged in their education. I personally support the 6' distance option for learning & feel the hybrid model for middle school is going quite well. Please keep up the good work and keep your heads up. There are some crazy people out there, but sanity and consistency should reign. I hope the one board member that threw all the others "under the bus" at the last meeting is ashamed of himself,. That was completely inappropriate and I, as an active parent in this district for over 9 years, am very happy to let my friends and neighbors hear about his flip flop style of representation. We don't need that in our school management and we DEFINITELY do not need that in our Village government. Thank you again.

- To begin I offer my thanks to the D57 Board of Education, the Parents, and the Educators for the opportunity to offer my thoughts and recommendations as a dedicated father of two in D57, and as an alumni of the D57 school system. To state things plainly, no one receiving this message is failing our kids, we are all present, and being present is important. We are a community of highly engaged parents and educators, and with that degree of high engagement there is bound to be disagreements as we face these uncertain times. Let's be clear, our situation is uncertain, and it will remain so for the next 1-3 years, to say anything otherwise would be false. I urge the Board, the Parents, and the Educators to not let COVID diametrically change our relationships and the way our community interacts. We have been a progressive and constantly improving school system for decades and we need to continue down this path. That being said, we must continue to improve, and we must recognize the new reality that is today's education format. Classroom technology has accelerated at warp speeds in the past 12 months and we must acknowledge that COVID will be here forever. Let me repeat, COVID will be here in the Fall, the best we can do is risk manage our current situation with the resources we have available. We cannot overnight add a new story to Lincoln Jr. High, Fairview, or Westbrook; the classroom capacity we have today will be nearly the same in August. With this situation in mind, I propose that we continue down the path of constant improvement which has always been a hallmark of this town. I propose we move to a full day in-person education format

after the Spring Break period. I propose this for a number of reasons; 1. We must learn. Moving to this model now will inform the Board, Staff, Parents, and Students how we can improve and execute a best in-class program this Fall. 2. Vaccination Longevity is Unknown. Post-Spring Break, the majority of teachers in our system will have had the opportunity for vaccinations. The longevity of vaccination efficacy is uncertain, and therefore this time-period would provide our Educators an opportunity for themselves to try the new format and determine their own best practices for the Fall. 3. Survey Results. There is a clear desire by parents in our system for a full-day format. We do not need to argue over the details of this model, if the district believes we need cubicle-style setups for the lunch room, then so be it, I trust your judgement in these details. 4. Student expectations. Students would benefit from a gradual return to school, we began with two hours for Hybrid learners in January, in this model we could transition them gradually upward towards a 4-6 hour period for the final 10-12 weeks of the year. This would prepare them mentally for the social / emotional expectations that will come this Fall. 5. Weather? Finally, I would conclude by noting that Spring weather will provide opportunity for outdoor lunch sessions and the ability to open classroom windows for better airflow; however, as a long-term resident of Chicagoland, I will never make strong predictions for the weather and therefore I mark this appropriately with a question mark. To conclude, let me repeat that no one receiving this message is failing our kids. We showed up, we are engaged, and that is most important. We have a unique learning opportunity this Spring to try the full-day program, one which will provide learning opportunity to allow us to optimize our models for the next school year when COVID will still be with us and there will not be an approved vaccine for children. I strongly urge the Board of Education to pursue such a model. Thank you

- Wondering if the board is interested in having Dr David Dobkin speak before or on the day of the board meeting next week. He is a prominent pediatrician in the area who has spoke at surrounding districts on mental, physical and health implications relation to the covid-19 pandemic. He is a member of the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago board, and member of the AAP amongst many other organizations. He is willing to speak on the 4th, but would like some time in advance to know so just thought I would reach out to get your thoughts. Please let me know before the weekend, thanks! I can also provide his contact information if this is something you'd like to coordinate.

I thank you for the hard work and things that you may have to put up with over the last year. After watching the meeting, I strongly believe that you should be following the new CDC guidelines for reopening schools. We know there was a Taskforce to help. It has been very helpful to a certain point, but as this point with new CDC guidelines issued, we should be following them instead. After reviewing the guidelines, it appears at this time we should continue to do half day/hybrid schedule till community spread is in the Yellow or Blue tier. We think the board should decide that the District should follow these guidelines. There should be a plan in place that once we go to the yellow tier that we can quickly move to a full day in person. Like maybe two weeks. To do this I think you need to survey the parents of the kids for them to

commit if they want Full day in person or Full Day remote when we reach the Yellow tier. Thank You!

I'm writing to you as a D57 parent but also as a concerned Mount Prospect resident. When our kids and families are struggling then our community can't thrive. We are asking you to vote for all day every day school options for our kids as well as maintaining full remote options. I work in agile development and I want to share some core principles that could help us move forward. First don't solve problems that has not happened yet. If one keeps looking at potential future problems it leads to lots of what ifs and no action. Next, avoid scope creep. This means extra requirements that don't add value to what one needs to deliver. Lastly, the faster you can get your solution out there the faster you can learn from it and make it better. Adding a full day option as soon as possible is what I'm asking. Let's make education better for the half of the district willing and wanting full day in person instruction.

- I know it is difficult to make everyone happy. There comes a time for action, when deliberation and worrying has to stop. 1) Specific to Lincoln: a. Immediately you can open the school on Wednesday, have the cohorts alternate weekly, hence we are getting true 50%, instead of the current <40%. b. I was surprised to learn that the all-remote kids were not mixed in with the hybrid kids. I invite you to have my kids and others do an informational video for the full remote learners to explain how they really can't tell the difference between remote dedicated teachers and live stream teachers. No kidding, my kids and their friends didn't notice. If you make this transition, you will free up more teachers for in-person instruction, helping expansion to 5 days per week. c. Specials are currently remote for everyone because at the beginning of the year scheduling apparently never imagined that we would be in person. Why not use the last quarter to offer this in person. Normally kids would get their 4th rotation (music, art, PLTW, and computers). Instead, why not offer a 2 week in-person rotation of each. Ok, so everyone will miss out on an in-depth quarter on some subject, but in the grand scheme of things, does it matter? Wouldn't a 2 week hands-on focus in each be better educationally than sitting in a room with your head phones on? d. Let these kids go outside at lunch e. Let it go on the 6 feet – if you went around measuring at all of the nearby private schools, it's less than 6 feet. 2) There are numerous examples of private and some public schools in our community which have been open full time at full capacity with less space and less funds than our school since the beginning. Studying these schools as well as others across the country, the CDC has advised that in the K-8 range, there has not been spread in school. In cases where someone had contracted covid elsewhere, it did not spread through the school. Requirements to wear masks, wash hands, social distance, and children's natural resistance, have shown schools to be safe. In fact, safer than leaving people to their own independent socializing. 3) The detrimental affect to the emotional, physical, and educational well-being of students by not being in school for long periods of times is well-documented. The CDC has been saying since the fall that the first priority should be to get kids in school and closures are a last resort. 4) Parents were scared in the fall, but attitudes have shifted. Current cited reasons for not choosing hybrid has predominately been the difficulty of the schedule shifts. Followed by 1- my kids doesn't want to

get up earlier 2- my kid doesn't feel like it 3- my kid likes to snack all day 4- it is much easier to cheat at home 5- my kid and I can't handle another schedule change. These are all actual excuses from people in our district. The few covid concerns I have heard are related to an elderly person in the home who will complete their vaccinations in the next few weeks. The school, in its complicated hybrid models, is preventing kids from going to school and allowing complacency which is not best for the community. 5) Our kids are falling behind the private schools in the area and public schools in other regions which have been opened. It doesn't make sense that if I pay for private schools – it is safe, if I pay for private basketball or theater classes – it is safe. But if I pay through my tax dollars regardless of whether the service is rendered or not, then its not safe? Maybe it does make economic sense to the school, but It does not however make sense for our kids. Stop acting out of fear – you are doing more damage by being closed. Stop acting out of complacency – it harder to teach this way for the teachers that care. Stop acting like this problem is going to go away, it's not, teachers will all be vaccinated in the next few weeks – figure out how to educate the kids in this community in person and offer the extras that makes school engaging, we are paying for it, and our kids deserve it. thanks

Dear BOE Members, As a mental health professional, I am begging you to allow our children to return to full in-person learning. I work at a family therapy practice in Arlington Heights with eating disordered teens. I cannot stress enough how much our children are suffering. My practice has a wait list that is months out to help kids with anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, self-harm, and eating disorders. This is not something to take lightly. While I understand being in your position is difficult, it is extremely insulting to ask for more data on mental health after parents have stood in front of you (in tears) talking about the deterioration of their child's mental health. I, myself, am struggling to help my eating disordered clients who are spiraling downward, as well as care for my own children who are only in school for 2.5 hours per day. Please expand your thinking. My son was able to return to Prospect High School for full in-person learning in January. He was one of the students that was doing well with remote learning. I made the decision to send him back in person because I know it is critical for mental health to get out of the house, and to not spend hours a day in front of a screen. His mood has changed drastically. I want the same for my daughters who attend Lions Park and Lincoln Middle School, as well as all the other children who are suffering emotionally. I attended the BOE meeting on Thursday evening because I was excited to hear the data that was collected by our task force. What a disappointment. We are coming up on a year of our children remote learning. Both the BOE members and the task force have failed to investigate the mental health of our children, even with several parents pleading for the return of in person education for MONTHS due to mental health. Thankfully, the task force took the time to investigate surrounding districts' re-open plans. However, once again, the parochial schools in the area were ignored. While I fully understand that parochial schools had no choice but to open or shut down, they have been successfully teaching children full time in-person since August. They have been successful with less space, older buildings, and fewer resources. Why do we insist on ignoring this important data? This is the third letter I have written to the BOE members. I wasn't going to write again, as I feel it is falling on deaf ears. However, at the end of the meeting Board Member Maye gave me

hope that it may be worth one more shot. Thank you, Mr. Maye, for recognizing that mistakes have been made and it's time to move forward. Thank you for being moved by the testimony of ACTUAL parents and children in our district, rather than spewing out metrics. The "collect more data and make a decision later approach" has been the easy way out for almost a year. We have been strung along for far too long. Please give the D57 parents more credit than thinking we believe more data is needed to move forward. The board members stated a couple times that they receive letters from parents who still feel remote learning is the way to go. No one is taking that away from them. Can we please stop sending irrelevant surveys out and just do what is best for our children? Asking remote families if we should extend remote learning for two weeks after spring break is irrelevant. There is only one relevant question at this point - would you send your child back to school with less than 6ft of distancing? I will not fill out another survey and will encourage others to stop wasting their time as well, unless that is the question being asked. Please, let's do what is right and move forward with full in-person learning for those that need it. Thank you

I understand that everyone wants to stay safe during COVID19 pandemic and that certain "statistic" presentations can sound very intimidating. All I am asking is, please consider people like me who are single parents and essential workers. Managing 100% remote or hybrid with pick up at 10:30AM is almost impossible and extremely costly. I would love to see my child full time in school for many reasons but especially for aspects of his development which can not be achieved remotely.

- I would like to take a moment to thank Brian for his ability to look at the decisions you as a board have made over the past year, and recognize that the decisions that made were not in the best interest of the children. The board has failed the community. I also urge the rest of the board - especially those who found it appropriate to tell him he was wrong and accuse him of having ulterior motives for making that statement, to look back at this past year, and where our students are now and ask yourselves if this is they best you can do. I do not believe it is. I have three children, two currently in D57 and one in D214. The year my oldest started Kindergarten at Westbrook I was a young mom with three small kids, but we moved here for the schools. We overpaid for our house for the schools. It was all about the schools for me. I could've bought a MUCH bigger house elsewhere.... but the schools drew me in. Within the first month of school, the principal, Jan Ewing, was fired. People were up in arms. Everyone loved her. They went to board meetings to fight for her to keep her job... I didn't know much about her as a new parent in the school district, but I kept thinking what the hell did I get us into?! It was a strange year, and we got through it with an interim principal. The following year, Dr. Gorr started as Principal. She had a meet the Principal morning in the Westbrook Library... she talked about her plans for the school, and our kids. She then talked numbers... the amount of money spent per student in D57 vs. surrounding districts... 59, 25, 26 and even the Glenview district that she came from. Our amount spent per student was significantly lower then any of the other districts. As we all know the majority of of money for our schools in D57 comes from property taxes. But even given that, our district ratings were so high! Our kids were receiving an amazing education. One

parent there (and I wish I could remember who it was) said, " so we're like the TJ Maxx of school districts ... we're getting a designer education at a bargain price?!" That stuck with me all these years... and through all that we've been through since that meeting at Westbrook ten years ago, we've always had two things... high taxes and good school ratings. I knew my kids were getting the education I moved here for... until now. School ratings have dropped. People could overlook larger class sizes because our schools were rated so high. But they aren't anymore. Which means house values are going to drop, and that means people in this town are going to appeal their taxes and win... because the comps won't be as high as in years past. Which means your amount of money spent on each child will decrease. There is a vicious cycle here.... and you have the ability to get us back on track by getting our kids back in school full time. My son's LA teacher said to me in our conference in January that his reading MAP score had dropped since the previous year. And she seemed genuinely surprised by this. Quite frankly, I'm surprised the drop wasn't more significant. They haven't been in school for A YEAR... of course his test scores dropped. Children deserve to be in school. five days a week, full day... what you are giving them right now IS NOT WORKING. Please stop kicking the can further down the road. Do what is right for this community, and the students. We are depending on you to make the right decision. Full in time school, and a full remote option for those who need it, immediately. I fear if you don't you will see a mass exodus to school district's that are putting their children's education first. I know I actively look at real estate listings in D25, and I only have two years left in this district. Thank you.

- Hi, I am the parent of a 1st grader at Westbrook and soon to be kindergartner next year. I am writing this email in response to watching the board meeting on 2/18/21. I was very discouraged to hear the task force recommendations. I work in healthcare in a hospital setting. We wear masks and distance when possible. What I can say from my experience is that masking works! In my opinion doing masking, classroom cohorts and physical distancing as much as possible is enough. I was happy to see the conservative measures in the beginning and the transition to hybrid but we need to keep moving forward as we learn more about Covid, and cases decrease. I wish you would use the survey and listen to the majority of people that agree with me and want full in person learning. Please consider the other side of the coin which is full in person. Instead of coming up with reasons why you can't....how can we make it happen safely. We don't know how many families would pick in person vs remote and maybe some classes will be able to accommodate your sticking point of 6 feet. Take out some storage cabinets and have bare minimum in classes. Think of it as a remote class that you would see at a work setting when you bring your own supplies. There are so many options we can pursue. To tweak the current asynchronous is not enough. I think you are doing a true disservice to all the Westbrook hybrid students. I am glad to hear that remote is going well but what about the hybrid students? If a family decides that full in person is not for them then they DO NOT have to send their child. You are giving them a great option with remote but the hybrid is not a great option and the other children will continue to suffer. My last concern is about the fall. If you decide to stay with how it is and "tweak" hybrid I think it says a lot about the fall as well and sadly I cannot let you make that decision for me anymore. So, please give me the decision for my family with full in person or remote!

- Dear BOE Members, I'd like to start by saying that I 100% do not believe that you do not care about the kids. You are in a situation that none of us could ever imagine we'd be in. This is not what you signed up for. I get it. What I've seen over the course of the past year crystalized for me during the last (2/18) board meeting. With all due respect, many of you are exhibiting symptoms of "Analysis Paralysis". Let me explain. According to definition, "Analysis paralysis or paralysis by analysis is an anti-pattern, the state of over-analyzing (or overthinking) a situation so that a decision or action is never taken, in effect paralyzing the outcome. A person experiencing analysis paralysis gets so lost in the process of analyzing and evaluating various data needed to make a decision that they become unable to act." In an article by Pawel Grabowski of Smashing Copy (a marketing consultant firm), "We often collect vast amounts of data hoping it will help us make necessary decisions, and then become paralyzed by the abundance of information. (You might consider this the data equivalent of a "food coma.") Analysis paralysis typically manifests itself in: -Unnecessarily long planning sessions. -Long and exhausting information and requirements gathering sessions. -Slow movement towards a final decision. The question you should ask yourselves is what is causing your analysis paralysis? Why are you unable to make a decision, stand behind it and see it through? Is it because you are looking for the perfect solution? Are worried you'll regret the decision you made? Is it because you are afraid of failure? Or is it fear of making the wrong choice? I suspect it's a little bit of all, but mainly the fear of making the wrong choice. Here's the good news. You can make a choice based on the data you have from the parents. For the spring and even perhaps next fall, give parents 2 choices. The first is full remote learning. The second is full, 5-days/week in-person learning. You then transfer the choice to the parents and can absolve yourself of any of the fears that have kept you from deciding: Is this the perfect solution? It is for the parents – they get to choose what's best for them and their families. Will you regret your decision? You shouldn't – you've accommodated the needs and wishes of the parents. Are you afraid of failure? Trust our administration, teachers, students, and parents who believe that failure is not an option. Do you fear making the wrong decision? Again, you can't make the wrong decision – you are giving the two best options for all families. I ask that you keep these comments in mind as you vote for Spring 2021 and as you plan for Fall 2021. Thanks

My son's 5th grade teacher sent home his MAP scores last month. It compared this Winter with last Winter. The results were very disappointing, to say the least. He Math scores decreased by 6 pts and his Reading scores decreased 1 pts. I don't think this is the only child that scored this way. Our kids have not been academically challenged for the last 12 months. It makes me concerned, not only for him, but for our district. How will our schools rank? How will our property values be affected. These kids need to return to a full day of school ASAP, without an Adaptive Pause. We have to get back to the classroom!

- Dear 57 Board & Administration, I'm not even sure if I should write this to the entire group; however, I am hoping someone/s can reply and let me know that regardless of the plan voted

upon for the remainder of the school year, that a full remote option will remain. I am very concerned to hear about a new "full reopen plan." I feel like I am beating this drum over and over again: children with high risk status according to the CDC, who are at higher risk for complications if there were to catch COVID *need to be provided* a remote option at this time. My daughter has Type 1 Diabetes. Early studies are showing diabetics can be 3x more likely to have complications with COVID. Additionally, my daughter has to take her mask off when she needs to ingest carbs--not when it's convenient, not at lunch only--whenever she's getting low blood sugar or else her life is in danger. That means in class, in the hall, on the bus, or going down to sit with the nurse--something she would do in the pre-COVID era. I recognize that 40-something-% of our community wants a full reopen according to the survey. But over 20-something-% of our community is content with full remote. Please do not minimize us. I feel like all I'm doing anymore is defending my daughter's humanity and health to people who dismiss high risk kids because there aren't that many of them. I already have to deal with this on our neighbors' Facebook page. I am also greatly concerned to hear that Member Maye would consider a full reopen plan without acknowledging us. It does not make me comfortable to hear that this is a platform he's standing on to run our village either. Our elected leaders need to consider our whole community; not just the loudest ones we want to rally to vote for us. Again, thank you for your time, and I hope someone can reply and ease my concern that despite what is voted on, that full remote will continue to exist for the remainder of the year. Thank you.

- Dear BOE, Based on the task force data, keeping the current model satisfies the preference of 48% of the community. Implementing Full-Time in Person (<=6ft) with a Full-Remote option satisfies the preference of 65% of the community: Full-Remote (22.1%) + Full-time in-person with less than 6ft (42.5%) = 22.1%+42.5% = 64.6%. A supermajority would be great to achieve compared to not even satisfying a majority. A proposed path forward to get us to the full-time model 5 days per week: 1). Email a non-committal note to parents asking: "Will you send your child back to full-time in-person 5 days a week if physical distancing is 4ft or more? Note, that per the task force, physical distance will not be less than 4 ft." Do this right away for planning! 2). Determine if any classes have more than the max number for 4ft. 3). Reach out to those parents from classrooms exceeding max students and ask for volunteers to switch teachers. Many of the parents, including us, have children that adapt to change quite well especially if it means a better educational product. It's not really a big deal. 4). Implement immediately (i.e., no adaptive pause after spring break). Again, this will signal that you are serious about your commitment to the full-time model (the best educational product) and this is an early effort to test out the model before fall. If you are hesitant about full-time in-person with 1-2ft less than 6ft physical distance, publicly admit and state that but also please still fulfill your obligation to the community which is to vote to move to the full time in-person 5 days a week. Only a vote to implement that model will satisfy your obligation to the community, begin to heal the wounds in the community, potentially prevent exodus to private schools, ensure our children have the education they deserve and move D57 forward in a positive way. On a personal note, regrettably, as of today, our children have been registered at a private school. If we don't go back to full-time in-person in March then expect to not have my family enroll in the Fall. Our children's development and future is too important to risk for the statistically insignificant

incremental safety gains we'd get from an additional foot or two of social distance in a classroom. Thank you.

Dear D57 Board of Education, Unfortunately, I could not attend last night's meeting, but I did submit my comments, concerns and questions and was able to stream last night's meeting. While I await your response to my questions from my previous email, I feel obligated to write you again. First, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Brian Maye! You listened to parents concerns, science, and data. It was truly refreshing to see someone on the board use their own voice and not be afraid to speak their opinion even if it may differ from others. This is the example we should be setting for our children. Brian was respectful and well-spoken as he has always been. His opinion clearly differed from others on the board and the fact that myself and other community members witnessed those board members immediately jump on the defense and make unprofessional comments was disgraceful. Brian owned up to past mistakes and is trying to move forward. This is the example we should be setting for our children. Stand up for what you believe in and think for yourself. I feel this board is so concerned with pleasing each other, going with the flow or administration, that each board member has simply forgotten to focus on their own thoughts and opinions because it's comfortable and easy to be part of a like-minded group. A vote should have been called for last night. You have all the information you need to make a decision. Why wait? Again, this group think decision making is what is making us complacent and not allowing us to move forward. Furthermore, this like-minded/group think board approach makes it hard to come up with solutions that challenge the group consensus, which means group members keep hearing arguments only in one direction. Brian Maye gave a different opinion and was met with such defensiveness. Please remember, diverse opinions and embracing them make for improved and overall better solutions than what was originally presented. I feel based on this, I am confident we will see changes to the board with the election coming up to build more diversity. On the topic of diversity, after last's night board meeting, I feel I need to advocate not only for my own children, but the most vulnerable children in our community, children with special needs. Where is their representation? There is not a single parent or staff member on the task force that represents this population. That is frankly, negligent. This is why more and more stakeholders are losing trust in the administration and the Board. There is an open seat on the task force currently. If the board decides to continue work with the task force, I implore you to fill that seat to represent ALL our children in the community. The fact that I even need to make a request like that to people who assure us their advocating for our children is mind-blowing. I am hopeful that you will be as objective as possible and put your own personal opinions aside and listen to the people who elected you as well as ALL the science and data whether it aligns with your opinion or not. Our children's fate is in your hands. Please, let's work together to give our children the education they deserve and TRY to get our kids back in school. Thank you again for your time and I look forward to your response.

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<https://illinois.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/illinois/recording/d4b9e4fb24374478bb568fe74>

909de71/playback I was surprised to hear of the suggestion for decreasing the 6 foot distance. Please watch minute 17 from this IDPH weekly update, although the entire update on schools begins with minute 13.

- Dear District 57 Board Members, I am not one to typically speak out, but I feel that I no longer have a choice. I cannot stay quiet and must speak out for my children. I have a daughter in 5th grade at Fairview and a daughter in 7th grade at Lincoln. We opted for hybrid for a number of reasons. Thus far my daughters have not been able to actually spend much time in school. When Lincoln switched to the two full day schedule and my daughter was scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays, we were first hit with a half day of school on Friday, and then the following Tuesday was a snow day. Obviously the snow day was not anyone's doing, but are half days truly necessary anymore? My 5th grader was in school for a week before her teacher needed to teach from home due to COVID symptoms in his household. She had the choice to go into school and continue to learn on Zoom, which she did most days simply because she wanted to be around other children! Her teacher was out for a week and a half, she was so excited when he came back because in her words, "I learn so much better when I can see the teacher in person." However, her excitement was short lived, because less than a week later, we received an email that her teacher would again be out due to COVID symptoms in his household. She was crushed. This time she didn't even want to go into school to simply stare at her teacher on a computer screen. It broke my heart to see her start to get some energy and excitement back into her life and then it all be taken away again. I want to thank Brian Maye for what he said at the board meeting last night. I was getting so discouraged until I heard him speak up for our children. What he said was true. The board has failed us. Time and time again. The board has failed our children. Our future. There was no reason for anyone to get upset with Brian's "tone." His tone was where it needed to be in order for him to truly be heard. I can completely understand if some parents are not willing to send their children back to school and would prefer them to learn remotely. They have that choice. Those of us who need our children to be back in school full-time should also have that choice. We were in fact given that choice right before school started and for some reason that was never truly explained that choice was taken away from us. That is not right. I cannot understand why it seems as though the board is only listening to those that chose remote learning. As was mentioned several times in the meeting last night, there are many organizations who say that our children should be back in school and that it is safe for them to be there. Many schools are making it work and it is time for District 57 to make it work too. Stop asking for more and more research and stop hemming and hawing. You have a responsibility to our children and I implore you to finally step up and do what is right - allow the children who want to go back to school full time have that choice. One last request would be to not do an adaptive pause after spring break. By doing so you are encouraging families to travel over spring break and punishing those who are not traveling. Why should my children have to stay home from school an additional 2 weeks because other families are opting to travel? That does not seem logical. How about you simply mandate that those who do travel (which I have a feeling is the minority) stay home for those two weeks. Let the rest of our children get right back to school and back to some semblance of normal. Thank you for your time.

Hello Board Members, I have tried to stay out of the fray during this whole Covid-19 time. A while back I wrote a short letter thanking you all for all that you were doing. Your job is not an easy one and I wanted to acknowledge that. Again, I thank you for your hard work--these meetings last a long time and I'm sure are very tiring. Unfortunately, I can't stay silent any longer. I had given the board the benefit of the doubt this whole time. I recognize that you all want what is best for the kids and were trying what you thought was your hardest. But I've gotten to the point where enough is enough. First, I want to applaud Brian for speaking out--speaking from his heart, speaking his frustration. I agreed 100% with everything he said. To those board members who felt attacked by his words, I have to say, I did not feel this was his intention. He was admitting failure. If anything, he was being introspective. In fact, one could argue he was equally "attacked" by the other members after his comment. The comment saying his reason for speaking out was political was completely inappropriate and completely out of line. Personal attacks at a time like this is uncalled for. Second, it seems to me that the board is basically talking in circles. Get more data, perform more surveys, have a meeting, ask for more data, do more surveys, have a meeting...and on and on. I feel that all baby steps have been evaluated and reevaluated. All except sending our kids back to school full time. Now discussing live streaming as the next baby step? There is SO much data out there now, even in our own community and the surrounding communities, that schools can be back in person safely. What makes MP different? Why wouldn't we be as safe? Our administrators have said in the past that we are prepared with safety measures in place. Why don't we trust them? Third, the data provided by the task force seems a bit misleading. While choices of how parents want their kids to finish off the school year seem to be clear, I think some important data is missing. As a parent of a full remote student, I think it would be important to know WHY people are choosing that option. I know a common reason people chose remote was that it was easier than the hybrid option. With working parents or parents with other children, the hybrid schedule was just another complication in their life that they didn't want. Additionally, some parents seem to have chosen to stick with remote because they didn't want to cause another disruption in their kids lives. If it was working well enough for them, why change? And finally, like us, we ended up remote because my son wanted to stay with his teacher who was a remote teacher. So to give the impression that families chose remote as maybe a safety or health option isn't entirely true. If the hybrid schedule didn't seem so unappealing and we knew we could stay with our teacher, we would have chosen to go to hybrid. Fourth, from an outsider's perspective reading between the lines, the task force seemed defeated and seemed to have their hands tied. It did not appear that the task force had a very fair representation of parents (in person and remote) to provide for a more fair analysis and recommendations regarding moving forward. I could be wrong, but that was the impression I had after the meeting last night. Listening to Jill speak made me sad. She seemed the most defeated. And finally, the board's job is to work in the best interest of the community and the students. Our current model is not accomplishing that. Clearly these are unprecedented times. These decisions are not easy. But there is clear data showing that sending the kids back full time is the right move here. With only about 3 months left in the year, let's get moving on getting them back in. Pull the band-aid off, trust the experiences of the schools around us and trust the dedication of our teachers and staff to keep kids safe. While our

family will not go as far as to move out of district, I imagine many are considering that option just to get their kids into a school. We have not fully discussed plans for the fall, but if the schools are going to do anything other than full in person, we will have to consider other options (i.e. private). Yes, one could argue, why change with so little time left in the school year? But our kids are quick at adapting. Their brains are so malleable. Even 1 month in the school building with their teachers and with their friends would do SO much for them-academically, socially, emotionally, etc. I can think back to my son getting off the bus last year and just being all happy and bright-telling me about his day. We don't see that same light after a day of remote learning. It makes me sad. All of this makes me sad. Thank you for your time.

Dear Board, It became very clear last night that the Task Force created by this board, did NOTHING that wasn't already being done. More data and research about a pandemic we all already know about. Your carefully chosen Task Force provided more reasons why we should hide and bury our heads, while our children and families and ultimately our whole community suffers greatly! This board has done nothing since last year, but stick to the very strict guidelines that they voted on back then. This board HAS FAILED our children and our community. I'm sorry to tell you that this isn't as hard as you would like everyone to believe. There needs to be only 2 choices...remote or FULL IN-PERSON. Those that aren't comfortable with the "risk" involved, whether they are teachers or parents, can stay home. Put that in a survey and MOVE FORWARD with those that are "brave" enough to do so. You may still be able to save this district. You may still be able to help this village heal and survive. Thank you,

- Please open schools to offer full time learning this SPRING. Those who are uncomfortable can stay Remote. No one is saying to take that away. I do not support an adaptive pause after Spring Break. Most importantly, school must open for full time in the FALL. This is only hurting our kids. DO SOMETHING!

Good morning board members, I am a parent to a 1st grader at Westbrook and felt the need to share my thoughts on last night's meeting. Last night's board meeting was brutal to watch! I'm so disappointed that we are once again, delaying a decision. You need to decide immediately what the next step is. The education of these children cannot be continually delayed because you need more data or more time. You saw the survey results, so it's time to respond. You should be immediately implementing 5 full days in person with 4' between desks. Keep remote an option as always, but do what these kids need. I don't understand the constant delay! I see no problem with 4' between desks and it keeps the 6' for the teachers. If its lawsuits you are worried about, I will sign whatever you need me to sign stating I understand the risks involved and take full responsibility. I'm sure most parents wouldn't hesitate to sign. It's appalling how long this has gone on for! Everyone keeps saying how the fall is so far off, but it isn't. Because you can't make a decision in a timely manner, we enrolled our son in private school for next year. And you know there will be many more. I hope and pray we don't have to send him because we love D57, but as his parent, my job is to get him the best education possible. He is

NOT getting the best education possible! So if you aren't going to do what is right and get these kids back where they belong, then we have to send him where his education is actually a priority! As far as the adaptive pause for Spring Break, give me a break! We are grown adults with children during a global pandemic. You honestly think, I'm going to send my child to school if we go out of the state? Most of us aren't even allowed to go to work if we do! My son stayed home sick 2 days last week because he had a runny nose and a cough. We followed the proper protocol and went to the doctor, had him tested and kept him home. Thankfully he only had to be remote for 2 days but those 2 days were sooooo bad! It took 30 minutes for him to get frustrated being remote again. 30 minutes! He was disengaged, angry, said "This is dumb! I don't like school!". Why would you make these hybrid kids go remote for 2 weeks? They just got back in school! You could very easily communicate something to parents stating the district has decided not to do an adaptive pause with the understanding that if you and your family should decide to travel to any of the states on Chicago's travel ban, you are required to self-quarantine for 10 days. That would be a much better approach than to punish EVERYONE! Please put these kids first. You all keep saying you want nothing more than to have them back. Then do it already!

I am writing you today to plead with you all to please consider a return to school for our children. There is no logical reason, at this point in time, that we need to keep our children out of school. Why not give teachers time to get vaccinated, if they choose, and return to school after Spring Break? This is a logical way to protect our teachers and give our children the education that they have the right to! Every recommendation states 3 feet of social distancing with the exception of the CDC guideline. We followed the science in the spring when we closed schools. It's time to follow the science now and get our kids back to school. We cannot simply follow science when it is convenient for us. According to the Task Force last night, if we bring students back they can be socially distanced by 4 feet and teachers will have 6 feet of distance. If we, as parents, are comfortable why are you making that decision for us? Parents should be given the choice between full time remote learning or full time in-person learning. Please consider that our children's mental health, social skills and education as a whole are on the line. Please also know that many families will need to make hard decisions regarding the upcoming school year and we will need to know what the district is planning for the fall. If that doesn't include a choice for our families, many families will be enrolling in private schools or leaving the district altogether. It is time to move forward.

- I am writing to express my opinion and disappointment about last night meeting. I was there with many other parents to support the plan for full day in person for our kids at school with less than 6 ft social distancing rule. We all want this to happen as soon as possible. We are tired of listening all over again about pros and cons. Every meeting is all about the statistics, data. How about us parents and our kids? We know it can be done, it's possible, we've heard it last night. Let's do it, let's be positive that it will work. Please listen to those parents-us who are in need for a change now, not in the fall. Now. Please send survey for 2 options for full day remote and full day in person and start from there! But let's not wait any longer, do it as soon as you can.

We've heard it last night other schools, districts can do it. I believe we also can do it. All we want is our voices to be heard. Thank you for all you do this is a very difficult time for all of us.

- I have a 2nd and 4th grader at Lions Park. My family fully supports full in person learning and we are fine with 4' distance between students. My family has been stressed by this past year as many families have. I have an ADHD 4th grade son, who learning disabilities do not "check a box" for an IEP, so he is stuck on a 504 (another story for another day) so we do not qualify for extra hours. But it is impossible for me to help him. We he was full remote, he spent most of his day watching "school approved" video sites like BrainPop and Epic. Sure, he learned a lot about random things, but he was not engaging in his actual classwork. His teacher would never know he was not paying attention because he has "looking at her" the whole time. I had to move him to in-person learning. Now that we are in hybrid, asynchronous learning is a joke. There is no one there guide him in his favorite subjects so they are just work. Over the past year our relationship has completely broken down. I am no longer able to give him support or guidance with school without anger or tears. We no longer do "extra" work at home. I was a stickler about 20 min of reading a day, even throughout the summer. I haven't asked my kids to pick up a book in the last year. It's just not worth the fight anymore. Just yesterday he spent most of the morning crying so uncontrollably he could barely breathe. When I tell him he doesn't have to do the work, he refuses to give up because he knows he supposed to. My 2nd grader is in the exact opposite camp. She completes her assigned work within 30 min each day. But she greatly needs the social interaction with her peers. I was very discouraged by how the data of the survey was displayed. You have two distinct groups that have two very different needs. You have to remove the remote learning data when you look at the numbers for what your community wants for in person learning. The remote group will stay remote. Those 25% are represented in both models. The only group numbers we need to look at is in-person. Out of the rest of the parents who cared enough to respond, 62% of them want a very clear change. For the group who choose 6' full or staying hybrid as the best possible choice, there will most likely be a portion of those parents who would still choose 4' because 6' or hybrid was "preferred choice" NOT their final decision. The 62% will most likely grow! Why do we keep linking what the remote learning families want with what is best for the in-person students? You have done a great job supporting remote students. Now support in person students. Our school model is so broken. Hybrid is like putting a Band-Aid on a broken leg and hoping it holds it together until it heals. I appreciate that you tried to find a solution that most could get behind, but it's not working.

Good morning, What we witnessed at last night's board meeting was an absolute shameful representation of inaction. Parents all across this community asked you for help in coming up with solutions to get our kids back to school full time or at a minimum fix the current hybrid model for the spring. Families in this community are hurting and seeking solutions. I realize these are difficult times but difficult decisions have to be made and for the betterment of the community as a whole. The solution I heard was inaction, no changes, a complete failure. Your role is not to listen, ask questions and do nothing. When the task force presented status quo options, the response should have been not good enough go back and figure out how to

improve the model for the spring and we are getting the plan for the fall. Instead, I heard nothing but weak question after question until 10PM. Then I realized, the six foot rule has paralyzed the task force and the administration. All I heard the past several board meetings were questions, fear and doubt. As a result of the poor decisions, the community as a whole doubts you and you fear and are paralyzed by something that is smaller than you. I ask this, what will you do with all the research collected and the more research you asked for at the board meeting last night. Why would you ask how not going to school impacts the mental health of children? What sorts of ignorant questions are these and what will you do with the research....of course it impacts their mental health, inconsistency in teaching, lack of socialization and parents see it at home each day. I am now convinced, you will do nothing unless pushed to do it and I thank all of the parents for speaking their minds and pointing out shortcomings of the district compared to our surrounding communities. Several other communities have compromised the six foot rule. You will have to compromise the six foot rule its the only "unlock" for our district. If you do nothing to improve this situation, many families will solve this problem on their own by moving out or enrolling in private schools. The result for this community will be more catastrophic than the virus itself. This charade has gone on long enough, you took the mission, complete the mission! Go back and compromise the six foot rule and do it now before its too late. Make your instructions heard that this is the only solution now go fix it.

- Hi. This was on page 1 of the Daily Herald this morning. In light of the lengthy meeting last night, I thought I would share the article in full. Your collective decisions won't please everyone. Every school district, school, classroom, teacher, family and student situation is different. Thanks for the things you do. All kids back in schools by Biden's 100th day? That'd be April 30, and suburban districts say that's a tall order By Madhu Krishnamurthy (mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com) Getting students back into schools for full-time instruction is an ambitious goal school administrators have been struggling with since the start of the pandemic. Several suburban superintendents weighed in this week on President Joe Biden's pledge to reopen a majority of K-8 schools for in-person learning five days a week by the end of his first 100 days in office, which is April 30. They say that while it's a good idea in theory, there are practical and logistical challenges. Among the hurdles are parents' hesitancy with sending children to school amid a pandemic, space constraints, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines requiring 6-foot social distancing in classrooms and monitoring of transmission rates. "If we were to adhere to all the guidelines, could we offer five-day, in-person instruction for every student? The answer is, no. We don't have the space," said Fred Heid, superintendent of Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300. "The president and his team are very well-intended, but the reality of what they are trying to accomplish and what it actually means in terms of the logistics, it's almost impossible." Roughly 70% of District 300 families have opted for in-person instruction for the second semester. Students in prekindergarten through fifth grade now attend school in person four days a week, while students in sixth through 12th grades attend two days in person and three days remotely. Starting March 1, middle and high school students will be split into two groups rotating between attending three days in person one week and two days in person the following week. Elementary students will begin attending five days a week beginning March 22. "Physical space limitations become

problematic in classrooms but also lunch areas,” Heid said. “We already use gyms and multipurpose rooms to create that safe space. We established a cap of 20 students per classroom so we can maintain social distancing. Even if I had empty classrooms, we don’t have the staff. There’s not enough teachers. ... And therein lies the problem. That’s where the CDC and others fall short in their understanding of the actual logistics.” Of 849 school districts statewide, only 30% allow full in-person instruction, while 47% offer blended learning and 22% are in full remote mode. A majority of suburban schools are split between hybrid and remote learning options, often switching between the two based on spikes in COVID-19 rates. While social distancing and space are the primary concerns, parents’ unwillingness to send their kids to school while the virus is raging ultimately is the deciding factor for many districts. “The majority of our parents have opted to keep their children home,” said Colleen Pacatte, superintendent of Gurnee Elementary District 56, where less than 40% of families have chosen the hybrid option. “It’s an individual preference.” District kindergartners through fifth-graders learn in person five hours every day one week and remotely the following week, and middle schoolers spend a half day every day in school. Classrooms in some schools can accommodate only 12 to 14 students, Pacatte said. Schaumburg Township Elementary District 54 on Wednesday began offering in-person learning five days a week to the 52% of students whose parents preferred it in a recent survey. The other 48% have elected to learn remotely. District spokeswoman Terri McHugh said in-person learning isn’t feasible for the entire student body due to space limitations. Other challenges include staff members having medical complications that require them to work from home, and employees having to temporarily quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure or just taking normal sick days. Changing CDC guidelines for schools, such as required monitoring of community transmission rates, also make it difficult for all students to return to a five-day, in-person schedule. Elmhurst Unit District 205 has begun moving elementary students from a hybrid model to fully in-person classes, Superintendent David Moyer said. The youngest learners returned to classrooms this week. Second-graders are slated to follow Monday, and third- through fifth-graders will make the move the week of March 1. An online-only option also is available. Starting March 15, high schoolers are expected to attend classes in person four days a week. Expanding in-person learning opportunities for middle schoolers is more problematic due to the size and number of classrooms, among other logistical concerns, Moyer said. Though one school could accommodate students returning five days a week, the other two would need to remain in a hybrid model until district officials and local medical experts determine whether a full in-person schedule is feasible. Moyer said the only way to “get as many kids back in school as often as possible” is to reduce the recommended 6-foot distancing guidelines to 3 feet. “When you do that, you’re going to have more quarantines. That’s just something people have to accept,” he said. • Daily Herald staff writers Eric Peterson and Lauren Rohr contributed to this report.

- First, I want to thank you and also the task force for the incredible amount of work and thought you have put in throughout this crazy time. I know there are so many variables to consider and no easy answers. So I’m sorry to ask for another thing to consider, but here it goes. I have three children, two of whom are in D57- a 5th grader and a kindergartener (both hybrid). My 5th grader loves the fact that he is in person everyday, even though he finds the asynchronous

portion of the day boring because he doesn't have enough work to do. My daughter lives for Tuesday and Thursday when she gets to go in school, and she's okay with Fridays because she at least is doing remote with her teacher and classmates. But Mondays and Wednesdays are really hard for her. It's difficult for her to see those as real school and she needs a lot of help to stay on task. It's boring to her and she often loses focus and doesn't want to complete the assignments and would rather play with her little sister. And I totally get it- she's 5! I just hate that we went to hybrid and she gets two days less instruction time, but I wouldn't go back to remote because going into school is the highlight of the week, and she gets so much out of it. I am imploring you to consider allowing our youngest kids, who are already half day and therefore would not need a mask less lunch, to come back to school 5 days a week. Two days are not enough, and kids at this age cannot work independently, nor should they be expected to. I know my daughters in person class has 10 kids as does the Monday/Wednesday group. Of course I cannot speak to the number of kids in the other kindergarten hybrid classes. Please take this into consideration and allow this group of kids back full time, even if it isn't feasible yet for all elementary kids. They are trying to learn to read at this age, which should be a very hands on experience. Not to mention that socialization is vital as well. Thank you again for all of your hard work, and I look forward to your response.

Thank you for your time last night - I know it was a long night for everyone. I am writing to applaud Brian and say THANK YOU for speaking so honestly last night. As a parent, it was the first time I felt understood since this Covid nightmare began. For the board members that found his tone disrespectful, I don't agree. I thought he was extremely respectful and transparent with how he felt even if that opinion isn't popular amongst board members. There is an important piece of information that I didn't hear highlighted. There was talk about how almost half the community chose the remote option. That might be the case. HOWEVER, the majority of parents I have spoken to that chose that option, only chose that option because the hybrid is essentially impossible for two working parents. The scheduling on top of so much asynchronous learning means the remote option was the only viable answer. The surveys have NEVER ASKED THAT QUESTION. Please, please create a survey that asks parents directly if they want their children in full-time school. We need to see that answer to get a true consensus of what this community wants. I also think the survey needs to emphasize to staff and parents that the full time in person model would be AFTER vaccinations. Otherwise the answers aren't going to be clear. I know as a parent, I am wanting space for teachers until those vaccines occur. Thank you for your time.

Dear D57 BOE, Thank you for your tireless efforts. Your job is not easy and the pay is terrible. Thank you for staying the course. Bryan Maye, thank you for putting into words what I feel and what so many parents are feeling. The needs/wants of the families selecting in-person school are not being met. For our family, the benefit of an education and social development outweighs the risk of contracting an illness at school. Do we not value our health? Of course we do. Are we afraid of microbes? Of course. However, after a year of reading information about SARS-CoV-2, the risk to our family seems on par with other illnesses that have been present all along (strep,

staphs, herpes zoster, other respiratory viruses with possible secondary infections, E. Coli, etc...all can affect morbidity and mortality). I agree with Bryan. If the BOE instructs the administration, teachers and staff to open full time, they have the ability to do it. They are intelligent, highly educated problem solvers. Parents are capable of researching and deciding if 4 feet from another child is safe enough for their child and family. I do believe the remote option should persist for families for whom the benefit of in-person instruction does not outweigh the risks. Thank you for listening.

- Thank you for the thoughtful meeting last night. I know that this could be a very hard decision. I respectfully ask that you vote for a 4-5 full day school week for our kids THIS spring. It's helpful to end the year on this note to be able to implement it again in the Fall. Many of us are comfortable with less than 6 feet distance. I'm not sure why we HAVE to follow cdc guidelines when the academy of pediatrics says 3 feet is ok. Let us parents choose. Please! -As a side note, a comment was made that kids of parents who want 6 feet may then be forced to go back to remote and lose face to face. What percentage is that? Is it the majority of families? I want to point out that I know a few families who were forced to choose remote BECAUSE hybrid was not full day. Due to their schedules, a half day was not feasible. Those kids are losing out on face to face now. Please consider them too. -Lastly, remote is always an option. We rightfully have made this a permanent option for families who are more fearful. This choice has never been removed. We are not judging or forcing them to return. Remote families have what they are comfortable with. What about the other families who have children suffering with a year of inferior education. Our kids matter too. Please consider them. I'm a psychotherapist. I can't tell you how flooded I am with the emotional toll of these types of decisions. Children are suffering. Suicide is up. Suicide among younger children is up. Here is where we can work together to turn that around and help many suffering kids. The pandemic of inferior education and lack of any social contact is worse than the Covid pandemic. Please step up. I know you are listening to remote families needs, as you should. Please listen to ours. I've only ever heard one board member entertain those of us who desperately want full days of school. Thank you sir for stepping up against the conformity syndrome. That very hard to do. I also think that we ignored some details from the parent task force. It was my understanding that there were parents who disagreed with their decision. At least one, maybe three people, who felt forced to quit instead! That's not right. I would like to know what happened there. Thank you for your time. People do get emotional, especially when the livelihood of our children are involved. I know this can happen though and it can happen safely. We stair stepped it with hybrid. We can stair step it again. Lets end the school year with great success so the Fall can be even better!

Board Members, I want to thank you for the opportunity to present with my fellow Task Force members tonight. I feel compelled now, at midnight, to send an email to you- not as a Task Force member- but as a simple parent whose work on the Task Force has concluded (at least for now?). I was almost compelled to speak these comments during the second community comments section tonight, but I ultimately worried that I would overstep on my comrades, and I deeply respect each and every one of them. So, please know that this email is coming from me

personally, as a parent who is struggling - and not from the Task Force. Consensus is such a difficult process, isn't it? And so much more so during a pandemic. I think that tonight's heated discussion among yourselves is very much reflective of the same conversations that the community is having. It's very difficult to find consensus in normal times, but a year into the pandemic, it's even harder to reach. I want to remind you that you actually have an opportunity now, to find some middle ground- to reach that elusive "consensus". It was noted a few times throughout the meeting, and it's not so complex, really: The CDC released its new guidelines on Friday- please lean on them! Here's the link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#indicators> These new guidelines provide a much clearer path to returning to full in-person learning than we have had in the past. What was once intentionally vague, is now spelled out clearly: If the community reaches a point where the Covid spread is "moderate", then K-12 schools can open for full in-person instruction, and the 6' distancing moves "to the greatest extent possible". I know- I can hear you thinking, "oh there's that vague language again..." Except this time it's not nearly as vague, because at the "substantial" and "high" levels, the guidelines spell out that it is "required". When you compare that language, it becomes clear to me that this difference in language was intentional, and meant to ensure that school are always striving towards that goal. These new guidelines even spell out which learning model schools should use- hybrid for the higher levels, and full in-person for the low to moderate levels. Hooray-Look at that! It's all there- isn't it nice to have some guidance for a change? Given that D57 is able to meet all the other standards for safety, I believe that you can confidently say that providing 4' (or more, if possible) for students is meeting the CDC guidelines. This is great! I truly see this as an opportunity for the Board to find consensus, in leaning on these new guidelines. Obviously, as I said above, I cannot speak for the Task Force on this item, because we never had a chance to really discuss the new guidelines- they came out just as we were finalizing our recommendation. For what it's worth, it's my personal opinion that if given the opportunity to really digest that new guidance, the group might have been able to lean on these guidelines to give you a stronger recommendation tonight- I know that I personally would've pushed hard for that. I regret that we didn't have that chance, and I regret that I cannot in good faith send this message to you from that role. However, I don't think that you need the Task Force to come to this conclusion- you can do it on your own. With the trends going down, it truly is possible that we will enter the Moderate "yellow" phase before the end of the year. As a parent, I strongly encourage you to consider directing staff to make plans for a full in-person return at that point, and after staff has had proper time to obtain their vaccinations. I don't want to forget the teachers' feelings here, because I know that they're exhausted and nervous and don't want to switch to another model again. I can empathize, truly. However, I would argue that, after teachers have a chance to re-acclimate to full-time, they'll enjoy a schedule that is much less demanding than the current model. Thank you all for volunteering your time as Board Members, and thank you for your consideration. It's my hope that the community can embrace these guidelines, hope for better numbers soon, and safely return to school full-time when we reach the "moderate" levels.

- I was unfortunately unable to make it to the meeting tonight but I wanted to give my feedback on what I heard. First and foremost, kudos to Brian Maye for standing up for the community. I

really feel as though he is speaking for both sides. Those that want full time in person are not trying to take away the remote option, they want what is best for their children. The hybrid model is not working and I think the best option for spring is exactly what Brian and many parents that spoke tonight have suggested; an option of full time in person and in person remote. I do also want to point out that the way the percentages from the survey are being lumped together are not really showing the big picture. You can't lump the 22% that voted hybrid and 22% that voted full remote in to one and say that the majority wants to keep the current model because that really wasn't the question. Forgive me if i am not exact on the percentages. They are 3 separate options and the majority of 44% wants full in person. Why are we constantly going in circles, why can't we just make this happen? Let families choose between full remote and full in person starting in March,

Hello, I have sent this before, hybrid and asynchronous is not working for grade school. There is not an equal level of education within the grade school classes. How could hybrid virtual time be in asynchronous and virtual have teacher instruction? Why would this disadvantage be allowed? There needs to be focus and an action plan set in place to change the hybrid asynchronous model. Too many excuses, I understand reasons, what is the change going to be? Thank you,

Dear Mr. McCluskey and Ms. Rothrauff, I appreciate your response to Mr. Maye at this evening's meeting. His behavior was disrespectful to the board, the task force, and to the people that do wish to abide by the guidelines established by the CDC and IDPH. (48% of the respondents, of which I am a part.) It felt to me that he did not understand the presentation that was painstakingly put together by the task force. More strongly, I feel that he's far more preoccupied with his own reelection than the safety of our community. That was disgraceful grandstanding. I am grateful that our board has taken a conservative approach throughout this pandemic. My family and I appreciate your service to our community. Thank you,

While I think it's fantastic that kids feel so passionate about returning to school, I hope the board continues to make recommendations about school opening based on safety guidelines provided by the cdc.