

Community Comments

Dear District 57 Board and Admins: My husband I are the proud parents of four wonderful children, three of which are enrolled in D57 schools currently and one who will be attending in two years. Both of us have attended 17 years of private Catholic school education each so you can understand that making the decision to send our children to public school was difficult. However, we chose to move to Mount Prospect and ultimately send our children to public school because of the high quality education and community offered by D57. Unfortunately, the district has fallen short and will continue to fall short if we don't have better options. You will fail our children. At the onset of the pandemic, I supported a remote option as that was necessary as we learned about this virus. Then I championed a hybrid mode, similar to that which was offered, however, forcing my children to potentially lose the teachers they loved so dear was not an option and ultimately my children stayed home. This wound up being a blessing because the limited instruction hybrid students are receiving is subpar. If children that are hybrid are allowed to zoom in to their class when staying home, the district has the ability to allow the hybrid portion at home zoom in to class to have more instruction time. I'm not even addressing the full day option which should also be a choice at some level as it can be done safely and teachers are now able to be vaccinated. Awaiting children vaccinations is preposterous considering they're not even allowed or tested on those under 16 years of age. That would be an excuse to stay at home because of fear or preference, both at this point would call for termination at any other job. Not offering better in-person options sets our kids up for failure allowing them to fall further behind especially as compared to other districts in school with more instructional time. Is any of this ideal? No, but a pandemic doesn't care about what is ideal. We have to adjust as needed. I understand teachers shouldn't have to teach virtually and in person at the same time, however kids shouldn't have to stare at a screen all day either. There is a reason the AAP recommended no more than 2 hours of daily screen day for children pre-pandemic. That didn't just change because of remote learning. Kids are the ones who are still developing and are going to have long lasting damage because of this both neurologically and emotionally. People in all occupations have had to adapt and take on more work and do things they didn't sign up to do. It's time you put our children first and allow options that help them grow past this setback and learn to adapt instead of hide in a corner, otherwise you have failed them.

I wanted to express my gratitude for the accommodations the school and board have made and considered during this ongoing pandemic. While we all recognize the difficulty of remote/hybrid learning - i appreciate that the school and board have worked to keep things as consistent as possible for our students. I am horrified by the idea of more upheaval. The calls to return to school at any cost are going to be loud but do not reflect my belief nor the belief of any families I am in contact with. We have been happy with the decisions so far as they have put our children's health first and worked to maintain as much consistency as possible. We all want this pandemic to end so let's continue to do the right things and follow CDC's 6-feet of social distancing, remaining masked in public, and keeping areas well ventilated. Please continue to work to avoid scenarios that require more class/teacher change ups - especially this close to the end of the year. You have been doing a fantastic job with this awful situation so far and there are many who support the decisions you've made.

I would like to start by reminding the D57 School Board of how they came to have the power they currently hold. To sit in the seat you have now, you were elected by the people of the community to represent OUR values, views, and desires for the public schools in our district. Basically, you are here to serve us, just like the district administrators and teachers. Our taxes help pay for their salaries, infrastructure, and spending. They made that clear when they presented the referendum in 2018. I therefore want to remind you, who has served all of you – the board members, the administrators, the teachers, the union leaders. WE have served you – the healthcare professionals, the factory workers, the

retail workers, the grocery store workers, the delivery men and women, emergency workers, and so on. We have continued to provide face to face healthcare whether it be for COVID care, stroke, or a broken bone. We have manufactured your retail products including masks and hand sanitizer. We have stocked your shelves, sold your produce, delivered your Amazon, Target, and restaurant purchases. We have responded to your emergencies without hesitation. I encourage you to think about what WE have done for you, have you really done your BEST for us? I do not think so. When the pandemic started, healthcare workers were hailed as heroes. They were given discounts for everything from food to oil changes and even Rothy shoes. Honestly, we did not want any of it. It is our calling, our profession, and our honor to take care of sick people. We understand that adequate care occurs in-person, and although we created a telemedicine system, it was not for us, it was for the community. We gave you a choice in how you want to get your healthcare. Education has always been very similar to healthcare in my eyes. Teachers, like those in healthcare, are selfless people. They are people that are here to serve their communities. They put in extra hours many times without recognition for the betterment of others. I think we can all agree that remote education is not the best we can do, so why have we put education on the back burner? Why are we moving so slowly without seeing the detrimental consequences remote learning has had on some of our children? We should be in a crisis mode; meeting weekly to overcome our current situation. All healthcare workers ever wanted was for our kids to be supported and educated. Let me be clear – we do not want babysitters as some continue to say – we want teachers to do their job so we can do ours. It was the fall of 2020 when a father in healthcare cried to you about being a failure to his daughter because both him and his wife work and could not be there to assist her; and here we are in a continued situation where parents need to figure out how to support their children during a full day of remote learning or 4 hours of hybrid at home. Which brings me to my next point, which is directly related to my situation. Our son was accepted into the early intervention program the day quarantine started in March 2020. He began Circle of Friends in August 2020. He was considered to be about 6 months behind globally. Therefore, with his birthday being in August, he was going into school as a 2.5-year-old expected to learn on a hazed over computer screen with poor connection. This was going to be his first experience with school. I was happy to hear that he would at least have two days a week face to face but this was quickly overshadowed by the hell of remote learning. As some of his 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old cohorts listened attentively with minimal support, I watched my son crawl on the floor, hide under a table, play with light switches and so on. My parents had to do it on Thursdays for us, as we were working. It caused them so much stress that I withdrew him from that day and signed him up for a Parent’s Day Out program. I did not ask Westbrook for more time because I wanted to be fair to other families. However, when we were told that the general population was going to increase from 0 days to 2 days a week, I asked how things would change for the IEP Circle of Friends population. I was told it would not. They would not be given even a day extra. The only way to do that would be to meet for formal IEP meetings. We met once unofficially and three times officially – every meeting almost two weeks apart. Taking a total of about two months. Our argument was that Tyler was not meeting his first IEP goal of paying attention when doing elearning, therefore making this type of learning worthless. It took three meetings to collect the metrics that the IEP team thought were sufficient to prove their case that he did not need more time. These metrics included 7 minutes of table time; the team was satisfied that with my supervision and prompting he paid attention for 7 minutes! Well, I kept my own data and of the 85 minutes of remote learning a day, he only paid minimal to complete attention for 30 minutes. Many of these minutes came in spurts and required everything from verbal to physical restraint by me. By the fourth meeting, we were tired of the “game”, the time off of work, the emotions, and the stress we were creating for our son. We were done meeting. It was suggested by the team that he start a program similar to Parent’s Day Out. Luckily, he was in one so we unenrolled him for an additional day and increased his time at PDO. There is something important to mention here though. Westbrook suggested that he start a new program – how does that make sense in light of the mitigation efforts? Tyler would now be exposed to an additional environment with a different group of children with differing protocols. This would actually create more risk. This is when I realized that Tyler and his return to school was either not a priority for Westbrook or the district did not really understand COVID and risk mitigation. To be clear, as our general population was given the option to increase face

to face time from 0 to 2 days, our IEP population had no increase in their face-to-face time. Many districts including CPS have realized that IEP children and young learners need to be prioritized. This includes Kirk which our district feeds into. They have seen kids for hybrid face to face for much longer than us with no COVID transmission within the school. Any illness was traced back to the community. In fact, they are so pleased with their statistics that they are going back full time in-person on March 1st. You may object by saying well those kids need it, they have profound delays. I am aware of that but it only further proves my point, their delays make it that much harder to mask and social distance and yet they are ready to make it work. Why aren't we? In conclusion, my suggestion is that D57 get the IEP children back to school full-time starting March 1st. They can be used as a trial group and as you see success with their return, you work to get the general population back subsequently BY April 1st. And in the meantime, your community will continue to serve you, not only in the ways mentioned previously but also with scheduling and injection of the vaccine doses that all essential workers, including teachers, deserve.

I was concerned by the survey that the task force had put out. Particularly the series of questions that forced me to rank the importance of the various CDC guidelines. It seemed like the questions are aimed at gathering data meant to support the idea that parents are not too concerned about 6 feet of social distancing. As a parent of children during a pandemic, it is my firm belief that ALL of the CDC guidelines mentioned in the survey should be followed - regardless of whichever I consider "most" or "least" important, I see them all as necessary. Forcing parents to rank them is not going to lead to any meaningful number. The board and the school have done a fantastic job making difficult decisions to keep our kids and community safe while offering some options that are reasonable considering that we are in a pandemic. Please keep up the great work! Keep our kids and community safe! Keep the rest of this year as consistent for our kiddos as possible - that consistency is all they have left.

Dear D57 Board, I want to thank you for the tireless work you have been doing to keep the students and staff safe--as well as the Mount Prospect community as a whole as we know that schools are also related to community virus spread. We support the current model and will continue to keep our daughter remote. As a parent and also as an educator, I implore you not to change the schedule again for the sake of consistency and finishing this school year. In addition, I realize that some people are trying to compel you to open in full. I continue to remind people that high risk children DO exist, and doctors and specialists do continue to recommend that high risk children not go into physical school under certain conditions. These same people have expressed on social media earlier in the pandemic that children like mine were EXPENDABLE because they were fewer in number and, therefore, didn't count. Nevertheless, this Board and administration have continued to allow me to protect my daughter, and for that, I am thankful.

The task force survey closed on February 5th. Why aren't the results and plan shared ahead of the 2/18 meeting so a vote can occur? This is inefficient and slowing progress toward a plan for full-day in-person school. Please advise.

I am writing in hopes that you will consider allowing the children of District 57 return to full day in person learning. Although the hybrid model has been an improvement, I feel that the asynchronous portion of the day is not robust enough. This is not the fault of the teachers (they are beyond amazing)! It is because a learning grid cannot replace the experience of working under the guidance of a teacher alongside classmates. Children are able to quickly finish assignments, and are left wondering what to do with the rest of their time. I realize that if the children return to full day, 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained. I feel that other mitigation efforts (masking, hand washing, physical barriers) are enough to

provide a safe environment at school. We, as a district, have now had the opportunity to watch many other districts and parochial schools safely and successfully return to full day school. The CDC and WHO state that schools are not contributing to the spread of Covid in the community. I fully understand that some teachers and support staff may be hesitant to return to the class full time, but I am hopeful that many will be fully vaccinated within the next couple of months. In addition to the introduction of the vaccine, local positivity rates of Covid are lower than they have been in several months. If we cannot get the children back full time now; then when? What is the magic solution that we need to return to full day in person learning? I fear that this hybrid model will spill into the next school year if we do not plan and take action now. I feel compelled to advocate for my children because they deserve the same education that children of other local districts are getting. They also deserve the outstanding education that we moved to District 57 to obtain. I can only assume that when you ran for a seat on the board, that you had a strong drive to help maintain/improve the quality of education in District 57, and to be the voice of parents who want to same. Please hear my plea, and consider it when deciding the educational model for the remainder of the 2020/2021 year. Thank you for your time.

I am writing today as a parent to a first grader and preschooler at Westbrook. I would like to request for you to please make full day in person learning a priority. Asynchronous for half day has not been ideal for my daughter and other families as well. 30 minute activities take about 5 minutes. To me it is reminiscent of the spring which I don't think we want to go back to. If we are continuing asynchronous learning, this has to evolve. Please consider full in person days or a change to the structure of the asynchronous part of the day. Also, please consider bringing the preschool and kindergarten children in first. With snow days and holidays, my son has had maybe 1 week that he's actually been there for 2 days. In My opinion, the priority for the district should be getting these youngest learners off of the screen and into the classroom.

Thank you for all the tough decisions you've made during this school year. I really appreciate the consistency you've tried to maintain. I know some people are extremely vocal and demanding about returning to full-time in-person learning, but please do not allow yourselves to be bullied by them. While I understand that people want to be back to normal, it's not something that can be forced and its the parents who want to force it who make me feel unsafe. I would love for my 8th grader to have a great finish to her middle school years, but not at the expense of anyone's health or safety. Please keep doing what you're doing and persevere. Thank you for your time and work.

I am writing you ahead of Thursday's meeting. I have two daughters and one of them is currently participating in the hybrid option. It is nice to have her back in person but still feels far from enough. Our other daughter has severe disabilities and is now attending St Paul. At the beginning of the school year, we were faced with the extremely difficult decision to forego all of her services (she qualified for the max amount of services in PT, OT, speech and a class aide) for guaranteed in person learning at a private school. She is not able to learn anything via computer. We are SO thankful we made that decision. She hasn't missed a day of school yet this year! I'm sure she has lost ground from all of her lost therapies but she is thriving from a social aspect. Now we are faced with looking ahead into fall of 2021. We NEED these kids back in school full time. I have been very quiet up until now. I have empathy and compassion for the teachers and didn't feel comfortable pushing them until vaccines were available. That said, once they are fully vaccinated, it should 100% be up to the parents as to if they want their kids in the classroom. With numbers trending the way they are, we should be planning for kids to be in person full day as soon as vaccinations are complete for all staff in the school. As tax payers, I can't wrap my head around not having this choice. We need a clear and concise plan for the third trimester and fall that involves full day in person learning. This community is going to crumble without it. Thank you for your time.

I am writing to share my worry about the rumor I've heard that all students might return to in-person learning after the spring break holiday. I understand and agree that getting our children safely back in school is of the utmost importance and look forward to that time. However, I think it is equally important for families to have a full-remote learning option available, at least until our community reaches herd-immunity and the majority of our community has received the vaccine. Several of our family members are immunocompromised or suffer from co-morbidities. We have been extremely careful regarding with whom we socialize or have contact throughout the pandemic. We have only socialized either outside (when it was warm), or more recently not at all except with one other family with whom we chose to "quaranteam". Our oldest is not happy about this, as one of his best friend's family does not take the virus as seriously as we do, so we will not allow in-person play dates or socializing. With vaccination programs underway, we are so close to the end and can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Why rush it and put members of our community at risk? In order to safely return, I would expect that ALL teachers and staff should be fully vaccinated first. It has been a very difficult year for all, but I firmly believe in the resilience of our kids and have confidence their education and social/emotional development will soon be back on track. My request is that a full-remote learning option will be on the table and offered as a viable option to parents through the end of this school year. Thank you so much for your consideration and all your efforts to keep our community safe.

I haven't ever written this board before but I have never felt so compelled to provide feedback on our current and future school year decision making. I understand what uncertainty COVID has brought to the board and educators in having to make tough, unprecedented decision trying to balance safety and education. It's not a position any of us envy nor expect to be perfect. The spring 2020 school year has brought about many challenges couldn't have been planned for. Decisions had to be made and outcomes were acceptable. Heading into Fall 2020, I was taken back by the lack of communication and understanding the community needs. Yes, surveys were sent and hallow questions asked but never once did I feel there was an intent to solve a difficult problems in good faith. Things felt very rushed and we saw other neighboring school districts display a much more sound approach. That being said, it is behind us. Looking forward into the final trimester of 2021 but more importantly, next school year as a whole, we simply can't accept these options. The kids, parents, and community is suffering to band-aid this all together. We have enough data and local case rates are stable enough that we need optionality for full day in person and full day remote, hybrid just isn't working. I respect the notion that we tried but it is unequivocally not sustainable. Parents need to be able to make full, committed decisions now that science, local data, and safety needs can/have been met. Any other outcomes are not only unacceptable but a direct cause of what is irreparable damage being done to the children's education and mental health. Up to this point, and including this response, the community has remained calm and been steadfast in the board's decisions. That time is slowly coming to an end. This all can be planned for with proper focus on the critical items that may not all be black and white. I implore you to begin focusing on solutions, logistics, and statistics rather than the easy way out of extending a failing option as hybrid. With expanding vaccinations, make practical, realistic decisions with an eye to the future. We have time to rally around these options TOGETHER and make plans that set everyone up for success. Let us be a part of the solution with you but first, you need to put these options on the table.

Good morning Board Members, I am a parent of a first grader at Westbrook who has been successfully enrolled in hybrid since 1/19. I write to you again today, to please give these students not the education they deserve, but the education they have the right to! We are now approaching one year since D57 students have had a normal school day. One year! This has gone on far too long. We are tired! Parents are tired of fighting for something that we shouldn't have to fight for. The #1 reason we bought our home, was because of D57. And now, the conversations my husband and I are having are asking, do we sell and

move to D25? Do we pull him and enroll him in private? What is school going to look like when our 3 year old daughter starts Kindergarten? We shouldn't have to be having conversations like this! Does anyone think about the financial burden D57 has put on parents by not being open 5 full days? As 2 working parents, we are now forced to incur the additional cost of finding somewhere for our child to go after he is done learning for 2.5 hours a day. It's infuriating thinking about the amount of tax dollars this school district gets from us and now we have to pay more because his school can't take him for more than 2.5 hours a day. There are so many reasons this whole situation is maddening, but nothing makes me angrier as a parent, than to see the education my child is being robbed of! Especially when we are sending our 3 year old daughter to daycare in Arlington Heights where she gets to eat breakfast, lunch, and snack and play with her friends for up to 10 hours a day. She has been back in daycare since June, wearing a mask and not social distancing. They have had 3 separate cases that never spread to any other staff member or student in the classroom because of the precautions they take daily. The 6' social distancing is not practical nor is it really 100% necessary when everyone is already wearing a mask and constantly washing their hands and cleaning surfaces. These kids need their teachers and their peers in person. If I as a parent, understand the risk, and am willing to send my child to school with a mask and sitting 3' from his peers instead of 6', then that option should be given. You have given parents that want their children to remain remote the option to do so. So why is it so difficult to give the rest of us the option to have our children in school all day? We know the risks! Please give these kids the option be learn from their teachers in person 5 full days a week!

Thank you again for your hard work throughout this school year. Special thanks to the Administrators, Teachers and Staff of all the D57 schools for their efforts as well. I am writing you today with a few comments and concerns. I hope the board will consider doing an adaptive pause for the 2 weeks after Spring Break, as I am sure many families will travel. Having 2 weeks of remote learning in place will ensure the safety of teachers and staff, as well as other students and families. Also, in regards to the Task Force Survey, a question was asked about eliminating the 6 foot distancing. I am strongly against that. Many of us who chose hybrid learning did so with the assurance of 6 foot distancing between students. My Lincoln student has been enjoying being back, with these safety guidelines in place, and I fear with adding more students and taking away the 6 foot distancing, some families will be forced to return back to remote learning. Thank you again for taking the time to read these comments and concerns.

I want to commend the board and district administrators for prioritizing overall student well-being when so many have chosen to perceive educational decisions with a political lens. Please know that there are a great many in this community who understand the sacrifices that teachers are making to provide students with the best education possible during a pandemic, and we value the consistency remote learning has provided. While it would be nice to wave a wand and return to the educational practices we left a year ago, it is more important for students' (and teachers'!) emotional and physical health to finish this school year by continuing the practices the district has implemented this semester. As more are able to get vaccinated, the outlook will be very different in the 2021-2022 school year, but at this point, it is not in the students' and staff's best interests to rush to full in-person learning.

I wanted to share that I feel as though the school and admin is doing the best they can under these very hard circumstances. I do not believe the schools should fully reopen, unless they can reopen, following CDC guidelines and only teachers and staff, who are comfortable returning should be required to do so. I understand staff can be vaccinated, but at this time, it is still unknown if vaccinated folks can carry Covid home to their families. Thanks for doing everything for keeping all families safe.

I have an 8th grader at Lincoln and a 5th grader at Lions Park. I have always loved our schools and teachers. I sent my daughter to kindergarten at St Rays and moved her to Westbrook because I thought D57 would be a better fit for my kids and I was right. Unfortunately, I am very disappointed with the lack of planning to get our kids back into school full time. I realize what a crazy year this has been and everyone has had to adjust and do things differently. We are almost a year into the pandemic, vaccines are out and we now need to start planning for our kids being in school full time and anything short of that is unacceptable. Hybrid is not working - kids have way too much time on their own and they need to be with their teacher all day.

Hello, Unfortunately, our family will be unable to make it to the board meeting tomorrow. However, we want to express our concerns about the upcoming plans for the district. Like so many others, we moved to Mount Prospect for its outstanding schools. We love these schools and this community! However, we are becoming disheartened watching many surrounding districts and private schools give their students a full day of in person learning. We believe that we have dipped our toe in the water in order to see how hybrid learning could go. We see now, that it is possible and safe to have our children and teachers in the building. Hybrid learning should not be the end all be all, especially since the asynchronous portion of the day is mostly busy work. We are teachers ourselves and recognize the huge impact our teachers have on our children. Seeing that the vaccine is more widely available and many teachers have taken advantage, it's time to give our children the chance to get back in the buildings. We ask that students have the choice between full day in person learning or remote. Let's give our children the education that they deserve. Thank you for your consideration.

Our kids need to return to school for full days. Our community is losing respect for our teachers and schools. Our kids are suffering. Other districts have returned to full days. What is our hold up?

Dear District 56 School Board, As we are approaching the remaining trimester of the school year, we wanted to reach out with both concern and hope for not only closing out this year, but moving forward as we think about next year. When this school year started, my husband and I told our kids this year would be different; however, as they understood that this was temporary, they pressed on and engaged with their teachers. And it was temporary, as we have transitioned to the next phase of learning in a COVID era. However, what makes me fearful is that we cannot tell them that this new structure of school is temporary. We know this school year has brought on challenges that are forcing districts across the country to navigate uncharted waters- do you open, and if so, what should it look like? At this point, however, we should be ready to move on, as we understand how to make the classroom work. Our children attend both Lions Park and Lincoln. Like many parents in the district, we have been able to experience both levels of decisions that the Board has made. And like so many, I have concerns about the 2.5 hours of academics our children are getting per day on the elementary level. Two and a half hours is not enough time to work with students on writing, provide support with math, develop relationships and work on social/emotional growth for our students. While the amazing teachers our kids have are working incredibly hard to make this time work, the time allotted is not comparable to other school districts in the area. It forces the teaching of Social Sciences and Science, two areas that one could argue are incredibly needed and important at this time in history, to be student driven outside of school without any time for debriefing and enrichment from the teacher. Moreover, the Lincoln schedule in its current form allows those who want in-person learning only two days in the building with very little of the middle school experience; the time spent in the classroom pales in comparison to our neighboring school districts, districts in which our students will ultimately compete against as they go on to the high school level. The formative skills and development that occurs in middle school have been delayed; when our students get to high school, they will not be as confident with things like changing classes or navigating in a busy hall

with older students, they will fall short in coping skills and handling situations like speaking in front of their classmates in a classroom setting, and they will struggle with knowing how to talk in person with their peers and teachers. Our students will be academically and socially behind their classmates who have been in full time this year, whose school districts recognized the need to push and forge ahead. My hope was, by this point, we would have a plan as to how we can transition into longer days by the end of this school year, and a plan for being fully in-person this fall. We had hoped that the survey would be guiding the conversation towards growing the school day, rather than being given one that was heavily biased towards maintaining a hybrid day. However, this has not been the case. As community members, we want our children in. We get that this year may not be possible to do a full day; however, we want our children to have a school day that reflects the academic rigor and support of our neighboring districts. The time in the building needs to be increased; if that means the schedule needs to change again to accommodate this, parents are fine with this. We also want a plan to return to the building in full capacity (for those that choose to do so- we understand not every parent can, or feels comfortable doing so) this fall. School districts in the area are having these conversations now, so why aren't we? This year, we challenged our children to do the unknown, and they did. They plugged in Chromebooks at night, and wore masks. They worked on reading with a person through a screen. And they received an incredible effort from their teachers to make it work- if you've ever eavesdropped on the chaos of a Zoom conversation of a 2nd grade class, or heard a teacher take an awesome simulation that was traditionally done in the classroom and adapted it for students virtually, or heard the celebrations from a middle schooler when she heard that her principal was willing to take a risk and allow a sport to occur- you know how hard those in the buildings are pushing themselves to make this year work for their students. But they can only do so much. What our students need now are decisions on extending the school day to allow for more rigor and connections, and the promise that students will return in full next fall. And it is your responsibility to ensure that this is happening. Like so many members of the community, my husband and I are both teachers. We teach in a nearby district, and with the exception of an academic pause, have been in since last fall. We understood the fear some teachers had early on, and saw, once in the building, how that fear dissipates. We have also seen how our students have reacted to being in: they are engaged and talking, developing those relationships with each other and us that they have needed and missed over the course of this past year. They are spirited and connecting, as being in is fulfilling a need they may not have realized they had. Those that are in on a more regular basis are seeing their grades get better, as they are able to be in person with their teacher. And they are doing so while wearing masks, spraying and cleaning desks as they leave the room, and using hand sanitizer. Yes, it looks different, but those differences were quickly recognized and moved on from shortly after the first day in. Even the most engaged student during remote learning has said that being in is what school is- the building is much more than about the education, and what students learn outside of academics is incredibly valuable. By having limited time in the building, and the threat of not being fully in person next fall, you are denying our students both of those chances to grow. While I am fearful that I am already taking up too much of your time, I am not going to write about the CDC guidelines; you've seen them, and I know plenty will reiterate them. I am not going to remind you that most- if not all- staff and community parents (even teenage siblings) will be vaccinated by the start of this fall. Rather, I am sad that this discussion has become very one-sided, that teachers are being used as pawns against the community in the Board's decision making process, creating further divisiveness rather than a culture of support as they continue to work and nurture our students in capacities they could have never imagined. And I am fearful of what is happening to this district, the lack of recognizing the need for academic and social emotional growth in our students and developing a schedule accordingly, and the inability to see down the road as to what our community needs to make the buildings work. Thank you for your time.

Will more days of the week in person be added for kindergarten? My daughter doing hybrid is only getting 5 hours a week of actual in person school. This is terrible and I feel like she is craving more. She

will not be able to adjust well to 5 days in person next year and full day with first grade at this pace - even we are even allowed back at that point.

Good evening fellow board members & admin, I'm writing to express my concern in regards to D57 taking a teacher centered approach vs. student centered approach. Or perhaps that is my understanding, and I am happy to be challenged! I was happy to see that half the staff were able to receive the first dose of the vaccine. Finally, we have science working in our favor, and in addition time for full-vaccination by spring break. We finally will have our beloved teachers and staff protected from COVID-19. Yet, I still gather there is hesitation due to resume full-day school due to the guidance of six feet distance. This is a guideline not a hard fast rule. Many other districts in the area and out of state have changed this guideline to make it possible for much in needed in-person instruction. Distance, vaccination, and masks are the proper mitigation tools to ensure safety for staff and students. There have been many studies and data collected (that I'm sure you are privy to by other schools) that indicate transmission is low to non-existent in the school setting. So, this leads me to think we are in a favorable place to open schools in the spring. But, yet, here we are again with roadblocks. I understand in an adult's mind it is only eight(ish weeks), but in the world of a child eight weeks is huge! I 1000 percent believe this will help them to reacclimate to full-time school, address academic loss, and cultivate their social and emotional development (and loss by the pandemic). As a mental health professional, I have seen an uptick in referrals and inquiries in the community for outpatient mental health for their children. And, here, we are in the place to safely support our children--we must act now. We should never be complacent or take the easy way out when it comes to our students. I acknowledge this will take a lot of extra work on administration and staff to pull this off (and please know we are grateful). If there is anything we have learned through this treacherous time is that we need to be flexible and amendable. To note, in the thread of partnership we were able to put together a list of at least 50 parent/guardian volunteers to help out with lunch. My understanding is other districts have had to spread students out or eat outside, so extra help could be a key component. I'm sure you've heard, I don't envy your position. But to be honest, I do. As a parent, I feel so powerless at times. However, you as a board and administration have the opportunity to be an agent of change. Thank you for your time and service.

First, I would like to thank the Board and Administration for making hybrid happen in January. Now that we've successfully been at it for a month, I think it's a natural progression to move to full day instruction. My children come home from in person school wanting more. They want to be in their classrooms and learning more. The asynchronous time for Elementary students is just not the same as being in a room with a teacher. If full day in person instruction just cannot happen yet for Elementary, then we need to try to lengthen the hybrid hours in person, at the very least. Regarding Lincoln, the deep clean day seems extreme. I think instead, the hybrid learners should alternate an extra day of instruction each week. For example, one week Hybrid A should attend on Monday's & Thursday's while Hybrid B attends on Tuesdays, Wednesday's and Fridays. The next week Hybrid A gets Wednesday instruction while Hybrid B gets 2 days. I know this has been a year of tough decisions, but the Administrators make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to make these decisions and figure out solutions to these problems. Each child in our district deserves full day in person instruction. While I'm thankful for hybrid, I just do not think it is enough. We need to do better.

Thank you to the BOE members for your support of our return-to-school hybrid model. The return-to-school was not taken lightly and I am satisfied in the rule-based approach that was taken to reopen schools. I was disappointed in the Task Force Survey that was sent out to parents which seemed very slanted to simply ask parents whether they care about social distancing guidelines. I am concerned that the Task Force would survey parents OPINIONS vs. follow guidelines and rules published by public

health professionals in their recommendation. I hope that the Board will base any further re-open strategy on PUBLIC HEALTH recommendations (IDPH, CDC, etc.) vs. parent suggestions/opinions. No one likes that their child has not been in 100% full-time school for almost one year. I am concerned with my children's learning and social health, but that does not mean that PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY should be compromised. Our district needs to continue to support following CDC/IDPH re-opening guidelines and adhere to these recommendations. Thanks again to the BOE for valuing feedback and siding with guidelines and recommendations from public health experts.

Hello D57 school board. Thank you for your time and service to our schools and community. Thank you for making the decisions that allow our students to choose to be safe. While the pandemic has persisted throughout the year, new strains and variants of the COVID virus add a layer of uncertainty still. While many think that the virus has "gotten old", and it's just time to move on, we need to ensure that we don't have slips that set us back. Prudence dictates that we should continue to be vigilant in preventing the spread of the virus when we can. The science will be our guide out of this ordeal.

I would like to begin by saying I support our schools and our district. Now Please support our kids! Now it's your turn to open your eyes wider and see how schools being closed have affected our kids and our families. Kids are not thriving like the other kids in our community that are full time in person. Parents are out of work due to remote and hybrid learning. You have listened to the parents on the one side and followed the science. I need you all to follow the science and let our kids back full time as it shows it is safe and support the other side of parents. This has gone on way too long. Let's work together and find a solution. Please be open to going to full time in person this spring. Let's make it possible for our kids. We need to put everything on the table and get it done. I will always support this district. This is the reason my family and I moved here. Lets move forward with open ears, heart, faith, and love not fear for our kids.

I understand that many parents are anxious to get their kids back to school and return to normal. For my family, we feel the benefits of remaining in a remote learning model outweigh the benefits of returning to school in person. I understand that others have different views but will be looking to keep my student home. To the extent that is not an option, I will unfortunately have to explore enrolling my student in another school to protect her and our households.

Does the board or district have any concerns about jeopardizing the district's legal immunities under the Tort Immunity Act if it were to pursue options that knowingly violate the guidelines set forth by the CDC and IDPH (such as the less than 6 foot option floated in the task force survey?). If there are concerns, should these options even be considered or suggested in the future as they would ultimately be for naught?

To all the board members I would like to please ask that you to think of what is best for our students in your decisions tonight. We have elected you to these positions to have the authority and ability to make decisions for our district on behalf of our community. I appreciate taking parents opinions into account but that has clearly given too many differing opinions. I am writing to you to please offer a full day/5 days a week in person option for our students. The independent time for my 2nd grader leaves him with too little to do and he has very little motivation to participate in his independent work. My preschooler now has less interest in remote learning after his in person days. Both of my children are so excited after being at school in the mornings but then we struggle and argue over remote learning. My sister's children

have been in person full time 5 days a week since Aug in private school and they have successfully managed to allow the children to eat lunch without partitions and without having to quarantine entire classrooms. We can see from other schools that it is possible to have full in person learning. I feel like we have failed our children over the last year. please consider giving our children the chance to learn to their full potential.

To the board, I please implore you to start planning for full in person class this Spring and more importantly for the Fall. The new CDC guidelines should provide confidence that once teachers have the opportunity to be fully vaccinated they will no longer be required to quarantine for simple exposure. Our teachers, parents and most importantly students have suffered enough and we need to find a way to support full day in person for the fall and still have a remote option for those still fearful. The current hybrid model is not sustainable and my children are struggling to succeed based on non guided learning after their 2 and half hours in the classroom. We should not be waiting to plan for the Fall! If smaller private schools in our area can be in person with less space and less resources we can surely find a way to get our kids back into the classroom for full day. Waiting for all parents and children to be vaccinated is not the answer and it will cripple our children's development at all grade levels. Please put yourself in the shoes of our students and do the right thing. Please get our children back in person full day while still providing the full remote option for those still concerned. The choice should be for the parents to decide and not hang on the decision of a selected few.

I urge you to require a full day in person school option for the 2021-2022 school year. Communicate this requirement now to the administration and the community so that plans can be made and some level of unknown can be known. Thank you.

We NEED to go full day. We are failing our kids. I am a teacher in CPS and we have 2 pods. Pod 1 goes Monday/ tues, pod 2 Thurs/Fri and everyone is home Wednesday while they clean. It can be done. We will be teaching remote and in person simultaneously..... It can be done. 6 feet distance is without masks. With masks you can be 3.5 to 4 ft apart. We have been catering to those living in fear all year. It is time to cater to the other side. Those that choose to stay home can stay. I am forced to keep my son home because we can do 2 hours a day as working parents. I also refuse to let my son lose out on instruction like those going hybrid are doing. We are taxpayers and deserve a choice. You are denying us and our children their rights.

Dear D57 Board of Education, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my comments. The hybrid plan has been put into action and this is wonderful. Also, receiving emails from the principals and administration saying what a success the hybrid model has proven to be gives myself and other parents hope. It is everyone's overall goal to get our children back in school full-time. We need to focus our attention on next steps and making plans for full day in-person learning for those that choose this spring and next year. We can't change the past, nor is it useful to dwell on it. But we can change our approach moving forward and learn from past mistakes. We didn't have a solid hybrid plan at the start of this school year. This caused our district compared to our neighboring districts to be delayed in getting our children back in the classroom. We cannot be delayed further. We are approaching a year since our children have not been in school full-time. This has hurt our children academically and social-emotionally. If we continue to allow fear instead of science to dictate our decisions and planning, we risk widening the gap of educational attainment and hurting our children's overall growth, mental development and well-being. The great news is the vaccine is now available. Per Dr. Aumiller, "approximately half of our district staff members have already received their first vaccination or secured

appointments.” This was written on 2/12 and it is safe to assume more appointments have been made and vaccines given. Furthermore, the CDC has released new guidelines. Once someone has been fully vaccinated, they will no longer have to quarantine due to simple exposure to COVID. Also, in settings like school, where everyone is wearing a face covering, there really is no measurable difference in risk between being 3 feet and 6 feet apart. That is why there is no official guidance from any relevant public health body that mandates 6-foot distancing at all times. It is important to note this applies when there is no large spread in the overall community. These facts are extremely important to help us plan for opening our schools safely and mitigate risk of spread NOW. There will never be a zero-risk scenario. With all the data and research we have attained this past year, there is no reason to wait on fully re-opening our schools. This is our next step. As an elected board member, you are responsible, “in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure ALL students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework.” This framework doesn’t get thrown out because of a pandemic, you adapt, you listen to science, you try, you learn from past mistakes, and you correct them moving forward and you grow, that is what we should be doing and showing our children. The needs of ALL students are not being met through remote learning/hybrid learning and your organizational framework needs to evolve to the times we are in. We need to make a thoughtful re-opening full-day plan with option to stay remote and put it into action just as we did with our hybrid plan and make adjustments as necessary. We need to keep moving forward. Otherwise we live in a world of complacency. Thank you for your time and efforts! I would like to ask the Board: 1.) What steps is the board, the D57 Admin and parent task force taking to plan for a full-day learning option? 2.) Can this plan be ready to be put into place by the 3rd trimester? If not, why? 3.) Can the board vote on officially changing the 6 ft. rule as science has proven this is not the magical number to reduce the spread of coronavirus as long as our community metrics are in the orange and green phase? (This is how neighboring districts have already successfully opened as well as private schools in our area). Thank you!

I am a local high school educator who lives in the community and I have been watching the decisions regarding in-school models in D57 and neighboring districts. I am becoming increasingly concerned regarding the inequity of preparedness of students that will feed into Prospect High School due to the difference in the D25, D59, and D57 models. District 25 students have an option to attend school full-day in-person for 4 days a week. District 59 has also moved their model to 4 days a week with almost 4 hours per day of in-person contact time. While the District 57 plan includes only 2.5 hours per day 4 days a week and only 2 hours on Fridays in-person contact time. That is 6 hours less a week of in-person instruction when compared to the D59 model and 10+ hours less a week of in-person instruction when compared to the AH D25 model. Our D57 students deserve better and our community deserves better. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent and the School Board to provide the best education possible for our students and as of today D57 has fallen short. The numbers tell the story. They tell a story of mediocrity. The disparity in contact hours when comparing D59 and D25 with D57 is substantial. This disparity of in-person learning between the 2 other neighboring districts that feed into Prospect High School is unnerving and as an educator I am greatly concerned this will create an unlevel playing field in terms of preparedness for our D57 students. Our students deserve more than to be working to play catch up to their peers because D57 could not come up with a better solution or was unwilling to create a better option for in-person learning. The pandemic has exposed leaders that are merely reactionary and those leaders that are willing to think outside of the box and to think of how to serve both the in-person and remote learners with the best possible strategies. Outstanding leaders and districts have reached for the stars as they have developed, revisited, and revised plans based upon changes from the governor, CDC and IDPH to best provide for their student body and the community. We expect the D57 Superintendent and the D57 School Board to do the same. We ask each of you to ignore your own biases and create a plan that BEST serves both the in-person and remote learners so that the youth of Mount Prospect develops the skills necessary to become strong, courageous, and confident leaders in our community. We ask that the District 57 School Board and the Superintendent recognize now before our students fall

further behind that District 57 is falling short when it comes to providing the BEST possible education for our students choosing in-person learning. District 57 is lagging behind our neighboring districts and you owe it to the students and the community to do better. Thank you for your time and we encourage you to strive to be the best District 57 can be.

I thought this was vital information so I am leaving a second comment here. The CDC has made updates to guidelines that should improve the teacher shortage in regards to quarantine. I have copy/pasted the excerpt and provided the website where it came from: Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria†: Are fully vaccinated (i.e., =2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or =2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

In thinking about the spring and what school will look like going forward I wanted to share our families experience with hybrid so far. I greatly appreciate all of the planning that has gone into going back to school. With the elementary hybrid model, the independent learning is very difficult to manage with my 3rd grader. She is not a good independent learner and my husband and I are both working all day and are not able to offer much help. It would be very helpful to offer more support in the mornings for children learning at home before they go to school. Please don't misconstrue this comment as a desire for 2 full days in person. I would MUCH rather have half days and manage the independent learning than two full days in school and three remote. I have another child at Lincoln and am really disappointed with the switch to two full days. Yes, it is more convenient for me as a working parent, but for her it has been hard to go back to being enthusiastic about remote learning 3 days a week. She was so thrilled to go to school for 4 half days, was getting up and dressed every day and just had more purpose. Since that model was implemented she has been in school 2 days when you take into consideration days off/half days and snow days. If we are not able to move to mostly full days in person (with appropriate metrics and funding/staffing for safety measures) I would be a proponent for keeping the elementary at half days and not moving to 2 full days. Thank you for all you do! I know these are not easy decisions and everyone cannot be pleased.

I wanted to write a note of gratitude for the teachers, administration, and for all the staff at Lincoln, where my children are, and throughout the district. In the last month there have been multiple changes in teachers, schedules and routines, and I know there are more to come in the next few months. I have truly been impressed by the grace and flexibility shown throughout this time and wanted to publicly state how much I appreciate that for our kids in whatever environment they are learning in right now. Even though this is a difficult time for everyone, I am grateful that we have teachers who go the extra mile to check in with their students academically and emotionally and continue to support them whether they are in the building or learning from home.

Dear BOE and Administrators: 342 days. 8,208 hours. And counting....All learning time that has been lost and continues to be lost. This is time and learning opportunities that will not be regained. Our children have suffered and sacrificed enough in these 342 days. We can not have another day go by that our children are not in school for full days. As community members, as taxpayers, we deserve a choice to send our children into school full time. Remote families have a choice, it is time that we get our choice. Stop living in fear and stop teaching our children to be scared of school. Stop teaching them how to do the least amount of work to survive. Stop teaching them to hate school. Start teaching them how to problem

solve by showing them that schools are safe and learning can be fun and is possible inside the schools. Start teaching them how to work hard to achieve a goal. Start doing what schools are intended for - teaching and learning. What steps are being taken to ensure that a full-time (5 full days) of school will be an option? I have heard BOE members say that full day/full time is a goal - when will it be a commitment? When will we see steps being taken that show a commitment to getting the district to full day option? The hybrid curriculum is not enough, particularly for elementary. My child is finished with school before 1:30pm and this includes the time I spend teaching the material in Social Studies as the lesson plan provided by the district might as well be non-existent. I am confident the remote families are getting a full curriculum in all subjects, but hybrid families are being punished and receiving a lesser education. That needs to change. You need to ensure that all children are receiving an equitable education. More needs to be done. Our district is falling behind, families are leaving because other neighborhood districts and schools have demonstrated how to bring children and staff back into the classroom safely. It's time that D57 follows. Hybrid cannot continue. Our children do not deserve to suffer any longer.

Many schools in our area and across the nation have re-opened successfully with less than 6 feet of social distancing. I implore the Board to reconsider this recommendation by the CDC. Our students should be back in school full time. It's especially detrimental to our middle school students. The two full days a week do not provide the in-person consistency that they need to succeed. My 8th-grade daughter seemed to improve both mentally and academically when she was attending 4 half days per week. Since the transition to the 2 full-day schedule, her mental health and grades are rapidly declining again. We are hoping the Board will provide families an option for 5 full days of in-person learning this year. However, if they don't, I would ask for a return to the 4 half days for Lincoln. The two full days do not provide the consistency needed for students to be successful.

Dear School Board Members, Please address the new recommendations from the CDC and ensure they are adhered to in District 57, at all schools but especially at Lincoln where the building is very old and there is more risk to students and staff (small rooms, small windows, old ventilation system, etc. plus older kids spread more than younger children). External Metrics The CDC document indicates 2 external metrics as very important (percent positivity and new cases per 100,000 people in the last 7 days). They CDC advises that schools follow both of the external metrics and go by the color of the most concerning metric. Internal Metrics Recommendations for internal metrics in the CDC document include consistent mask wearing, at least 6 feet of social distancing, and upgrading ventilations systems. The CDC did not say that it is safe to ignore "external metrics". Internal metrics are important. However, to keep students and teachers safe both the CDC external metrics and internal metrics need to be followed. Please don't look for loopholes. Look for ways and options to keep everyone safe. Asymptomatic Spread If the school is not regularly testing students, teachers and staff - there can still be asymptomatic spread in the school that can impact vulnerable teachers, students, or vulnerable family members living with them. Even if all teachers get vaccinated there could still be an impact on students and vulnerable family members. New Variants Please factor in the new variants that are in 40 states (including Illinois). Some of the variants are reported to be more contagious and possibly more lethal. Based on what the researchers are saying, it appears that the vaccine might provide partial protection against some variants but might not protect against other variants. There is still some Spread of Virus even with Masks and Social Distancing Please keep in mind that while schools are not considered super spreaders- there is still some spread of the virus in schools, even with mitigations. Research shows that masks help but they don't contain all of the viral particles that are released when people breath, talk, cough, or sneeze. Viral particles can build up in a room over a short period of time (simply from breathing and talking) to a level that could infect someone. While the numbers have been improving significantly, experts say precautions need to continue to be taken to provide as much protection as possible and to prevent a surge from the variants. Long Term

Effects Please keep in mind that doctors are concerned about long term effects for both children and adults. This is not just long-haul syndrome. They have also found some serious medical issues in kids who had mild Covid symptoms but weeks or months later go to the doctor with more significant issues. All of these kids tested positive for antibodies which means they had the virus. Doctors have indicated concern that these medical issues could have long term health impacts. Children are Impacted Sometimes people say “Oh, children are not as affected as adults”. But if it is your child or family member it matters a great deal. And do we really stop and look at how many children are affected? Here are some statistics to think about. • Over 1,222,023 cases of coronavirus were diagnosed in children 0-17 years of age • 11,882 kids were hospitalized with coronavirus • 866 kids were in the ICU (intensive care unit) • 178 kids died of coronavirus. • Over 2000 kids contracted MIS-C • 32 kids died of MIS-C Kids that did not have pre-existing medical conditions have been hospitalized and Died A significant percent of the kids who were hospitalized did not have pre-existing medical conditions. Kids without pre-existing medical conditions were also admitted to the ICU and kids without pre-existing medical conditions have died. MIS-C MIS-C is an inflammatory condition that occurs weeks or months after coronavirus. Kids can get MIS-C even if they had mild symptoms with coronavirus or were asymptomatic. Many of the kids who developed MIS-C did not have pre-existing medical conditions. Thoughtful, Caring Approach There was a comment about what neighboring districts are doing. Please know that parents and residents of Mount Prospect appreciate the board’s thoughtful approach. If we were just going to do what neighboring districts chose to do – we would not need a board. We could just use a computer program or algorithm. We appreciate the caring, thoughtful approach of the board which places a priority on safety for all students, staff, teachers, and family members. Safety and Quality Improvements At previous meetings, board members indicated they would like to see the task force present research and ideas for making the classrooms safer as well as ways to improve the remote option/experience. As parents and community members, we look forward to hearing about the research the task team has found for improving safety and quality. What if it was your child or family member? Please factor into your decisions what you would want if you had a vulnerable family member or student with a condition that could make them more vulnerable. Most people would want the true remote option to continue. Please do not put any family in the position of needing to decide between getting their child an education and potentially putting the child or a family member’s health and/or life at risk. Thank you for continuing your commitment to a true remote option for families that need it. Concerned Parents P.S. Respectfully, please consider giving yourselves some time to think about the research, the various options presented as well as an opportunity for parents and community members to provide input/feedback. It is difficult to provide feedback regarding options that have not been presented yet. If you wait to make any final decision for a week or two that would allow for some transparency regarding what the options are and what research they are based on. Please see attached links. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/16/health/covid-children-inflammatory-syndrome.html?campaign_id=154&emc=edit_cb_20210216&instance_id=27178&nl=coronavirus-briefing®i_id=133967362&segment_id=51770&te=1&user_id=021f41d9c93092c7763bfb9d03e3bdc https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7006a5.htm?s_cid=mm7006a5_w

Dear D57 Board, Please adopt the strategies of the surrounding school districts and private schools who are successfully educating their students by allowing children in the building. I can only truly speak for my child. He does not learn well from a face on a screen. Our family is exhausted and our frustration stems from the district’s refusal to offer the quality education to which our children are entitled. I do not like to complain without offering solutions. I have emailed many ideas during the course of the year and they have been ignored. I have nothing more to offer. Please, choose to allow children in the building and provide a complete education.* Thank you for listening. *I do not wish to take away remote learning for children for whom it is a better choice.

To members of the board: I am writing to provide feedback about the current hybrid learning model. I have a first grader and a second grader both enrolled in hybrid. Although I am so pleased they are receiving some in-person learning, they are ultimately not receiving enough learning. There typically isn't enough independent work to fill their remote time at home, nor is it the quality they would receive in-person or even full remote. At the same time, I wouldn't want them overloaded with independent work because I believe that would cause them stress and anxiety if they couldn't finish in time. Ultimately, having independent work at home as a significant portion of their school day is far from ideal and doesn't work well. My second grader also struggles with the 8 am start. Both of my children are often bored and are only excited about the in-person portion of their school day. I can't stress enough that the current hybrid model is not enough school. District 57 needs to offer parents the option of full in-person or full-remote. The Covid numbers are trending way down as the number of people getting vaccinated is rising. It's unfair to our children to continue to offer only hybrid or full remote. Full in-person needs to be offered as an option before the end of this school year so we can be ready for full in-person in the Fall. We simply can't continue this way. Thank you.

I feel we were misled about the quality of education we should expect for the hybrid learning model. The remote portion of the day is in need of more content if students will not be returning to full days this school year. There is not nearly enough content to keep students engaged and learning for half of a school day and it reminds us of last spring. The second grade science and social studies has consisted of brief videos, many from YouTube. I thought the remote teachers would be recording lessons that would be shared with the hybrid students, therefore having the same experience as those students that are full remote. We need to strongly reconsider full time in person learning if the hybrid curriculum is not improved. 2) We're happy with the safety precautions being taken at the schools. However, I do notice that parents are becoming more relaxed about wearing masks at pick up and drop off. It was very clear that masks would be required at all times while on school property. Parents need to be reminded that this system will only work if everyone does what is best for the community. Principal's need to enforce the wearing of masks by all. I see staff walk by parents who aren't wearing masks everyday and the staff does not say anything about needing a mask on while on school property.

Thank you for all the tough decisions you've made during this school year. I really appreciate the consistency you've tried to maintain. I know some people are extremely vocal and demanding about returning to full-time in-person learning, but please do not allow yourselves to be bullied by them. While I understand that people want to be back to normal, it's not something that can be forced and it's the parents who want to force it who make me feel unsafe. I would love for my 8th grader to have a great finish to her middle school years, but not at the expense of anyone's health or safety. Please keep doing what you're doing and persevere. Thank you for your time and work.

Dear D57 Board of Education, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my comments. The hybrid plan has been put into action and this is wonderful. Also, receiving emails from the principals and administration saying what a success the hybrid model has proven to be gives myself and other parents hope. It is everyone's overall goal to get our children back in school full-time. We need to focus our attention on next steps and making plans for full day in-person learning for those that choose this spring and next year. We can't change the past, nor is it useful to dwell on it. But we can change our approach moving forward and learn from past mistakes. We didn't have a solid hybrid plan at the start of this school year. This caused our district compared to our neighboring districts to be delayed in getting our children back in the classroom. We cannot be delayed further. We are approaching a year since our children have not been in school full-time. This has hurt our children academically and social-emotionally. If we continue to allow fear instead of science to dictate our decisions and planning, we risk widening the gap of educational attainment and hurting our children's overall growth, mental

development and well-being. The great news is the vaccine is now available. Per Dr. Aumiller, “approximately half of our district staff members have already received their first vaccination or secured appointments.” This was written on 2/12 and it is safe to assume more appointments have been made and vaccines given. Furthermore, the CDC has released new guidelines. Once someone has been fully vaccinated, they will no longer have to quarantine due to simple exposure to COVID. Also, in settings like school, where everyone is wearing a face covering, there really is no measurable difference in risk between being 3 feet and 6 feet apart. That is why there is no official guidance from any relevant public health body that mandates 6-foot distancing at all times. It is important to note this applies when there is no large spread in the overall community. These facts are extremely important to help us plan for opening our schools safely and mitigate risk of spread NOW. There will never be a zero-risk scenario. With all the data and research we have attained this past year, there is no reason to wait on fully re-opening our schools. This is our next step. As an elected board member, you are responsible, “in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure ALL students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework.” This framework doesn’t get thrown out because of a pandemic, you adapt, you listen to science, you try, you learn from past mistakes, and you correct them moving forward and you grow, that is what we should be doing and showing our children. The needs of ALL students are not being met through remote learning/hybrid learning and your organizational framework needs to evolve to the times we are in. We need to make a thoughtful re-opening full-day plan with option to stay remote and put it into action just as we did with our hybrid plan and make adjustments as necessary. We need to keep moving forward. Otherwise we live in a world of complacency. Thank you for your time and efforts! I would like to ask the Board: 1.) What steps is the board, the D57 Admin and parent task force taking to plan for a full-day learning option? 2.) Can this plan be ready to be put into place by the 3rd trimester? If not, why? 3.) Can the board vote on officially changing the 6 ft. rule as science has proven this is not the magical number to reduce the spread of coronavirus as long as our community metrics are in the orange and green phase? (This is how neighboring districts have already successfully opened as well as private schools in our area). Thank you!