



**Mount Prospect School District 57**  
**701 W. Gregory Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056**  
**847/394/7300**

**<http://www.d57.org>**

### **Notice of Meeting**

The Board of Education of Mount Prospect School District 57 will hold the following meeting:

October 19, 2020	Special Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Fairview School
	Multipurpose Room
	300 N. Fairview Avenue
	Mount Prospect, IL 60056

- The meeting will be held in the Multipurpose Room at Fairview School. Up to 50 people may be in attendance including the Board of Education.
- The public will have an option to virtually view this meeting live. If interested in doing so, [Click Here to Join](#).

By order of Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President, Board of Education, School District 57, Cook County, Illinois.

Virginia Webster  
Secretary, Board of Education  
School District 57  
Cook County, Illinois

Dated: October 16, 2020

Please post in your building.



**MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL DISTRICT 57  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Administration Building - 701 W. Gregory Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056**

**AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING  
October 19, 2020 7:00 PM  
Fairview School (Multipurpose Room)  
300 North Fairview Avenue**

Call to Order and Roll Call

Communications

- Board President Report

Community Comments

Board Discussion

- Lincoln Return to School Hybrid Model
- Return to School Task Force

Community Comments

Closed Session

Board Action may or may not take place following Closed Session

Adjournment

## BOARD SUBMISSION FEEDBACK

Thank you, for all your hard work in educating and keeping our children safe. My family and child are in favor of progressing into a hybrid learning model as long as D57 feels it can accommodate it. I feel my son would benefit from in person activities and some social interaction with his peers. However, I wish to keep the safety of not only my son and his peers in mind, but also staff as well. Thank you.

At the Board meetings, you only hear from parents who want to get their kids out of remote learning as soon as possible and into the classroom full time, even if that means we can't achieve 6 feet of distance. Because the people with this viewpoint are the only ones who show up for the meetings, it looks like they represent the vast majority. But I do not believe that's the case, based on my own opinion and many of the people I know, as well as the comments I see on social media. I, like many others, have been pleased overall with my son's remote learning experience. Of course I would prefer to be back to normal. But given our current reality, I think his teachers are doing an amazing job and he is learning and engaged for the most part. I look forward to sending him back for hybrid, and I am happy with the plan presented. I DO like the idea of starting with a half-day plan for 3 weeks, to give him time to get used to how different school will be (such as wearing masks). I think it would be a difficult adjustment for everyone to return with full days immediately. I'd rather see them ease into that. I say this as a parent who has safety concerns about the approach the speakers are advocating for. And I want to make sure you know there are many who are supportive of the direction the District and Board have been going up to this point. Thank you for everything you do.

Dear board of education members, this is my seventh year at Lincoln, and certainly the most eventful one. Thank you very much for taking the time to process the plan that was presented to you and to ask such critical questions. I wanted to take the time to answer some of the questions that were directed at the Lincoln teachers, so you can have a fully rounded picture when you make your decision about a hybrid learning plan for Lincoln. One question that was asked about teachers was how do we feel about live streaming. I feel that remote instruction is truly the best instruction that we can provide to students at this time. Splitting our time between in person and live stream students will be a significant challenge, but if the board is looking to send students back to school, this is probably the only viable way. I am happy that the district proposed a plan providing a full remote teacher for those families who choose to keep their students home. I do feel that is the only equitable way to teach students who are fully remote. A second question that was asked about the Lincoln staff is how would we feel about the mask free lunch time involved in phase two. I can only speak for myself, but I do feel that the data from the survey showed clearly that Lincoln teachers are very concerned about mask free lunch time. The phased in approach is not going to help settle those

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very real concerns. This very board of education recently approved a half day plan for the elementary students for the very reason that mask free time is unsafe. Whether students are in elementary school or middle school, this fact holds true. At Thursday night's meeting, many board members brought up the possibility of jumping right to phase two starting November 30th. I would like to propose the opposite idea. I believe that the board should vote to implement only phase one of the district's plan, continuing with phase one after winter break. First, I would like you to imagine the day of a middle school student under the phase two plan. Students will arrive at school in the morning and be required to report directly to their classroom, the classroom that they will stay in for the entirety of the day. Students will sit in their desks for seven hours, with the only chances to stretch their legs being if they need to use the restroom, and possibly a lunch recess if the weather is nice. By the end of the day, these students will no longer be able to focus on the teaching that is occurring. The in person time will be wasted because the kids will be itching to move. Next, please imagine the day of a student under the phase one plan. Students arrive at school and are still required to report directly to their classroom, however, this will only be their classroom for about three hours. Students will participate in classes in the morning, and at the end of three hours, they will have the opportunity to go home. At home students will be able to stretch, move, stand up, and be mask free. Students will be able to eat their lunch without the fear of getting sick. Teachers will be able to teach without the added fear of getting sick. I also would like to challenge the idea that a phase two model is better for students' education than a phase one model. The students will be receiving the same amount of in person time under a phase one model as a phase two model. Four half days of learning is equivalent to two full days. In addition, the way that the phase one model is set up allows students to access all of their teachers. What I mean by this is that we would rotate which classes are in the morning and which are in the afternoon each day, so as an in person morning student you would see more than just your morning teachers throughout the week. Finally, as I mentioned before, students will not be fatigued by sitting in their same desk for seven hours by the time they reach their classes at the end of the day. Phase two has the added concerns of who is going to supervise mask free children during their lunch. Every teacher I have talked to is uncomfortable with being in a room after students have eaten their lunch without masks. I cannot even imagine being told that I was required to be in a room with the students while they are mask free, but if teachers are not going to be required to supervise students' lunches then who is? This issue can be avoided completely by having students stay at home for lunch. In summary, phase one provides a better learning environment for all students, allows teachers to feel assured that the safety of everyone involved is taken into account, and parallels the plan approved by the board for the elementary school students. I ask you to please consider why it is ok to put the middle school students and middle school teachers at higher risk when students this age are more capable of getting to and from school on their own, making their own lunches, and logging themselves onto their next class. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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I apologize for the late comment. I will keep it brief. My daughter will continue to participate in remote learning. My request is, please do not change her core teachers. My daughter is having a successful experience with remote learning because of all of her teachers' enthusiasm, creative effort and dedication to teaching their students. My daughter has developed a very positive relationship with her teachers and they are all a perfect fit for her academic needs. In addition, my daughter finally feels comfortable participating (in class) during Zoom. Please don't make her start all over again. It's not fair to her or her teachers. Please consider my request to not change my daughter's teachers just because she will continue with remote learning. Thank you for your consideration, and for you time and effort.

Hello, I have sent this right after the last meeting and I am resending this again today after the LMS proposed hybrid model meeting. For K-5, why a different process, why wasn't K-5 given a bit more time between the proposal and vote? I am sending today is to state that •I do not agree with the plan reviewed and voted on September 24, 2020. •I feel this proposed solution for the choice and changes to be implemented for full e-learning or hybrid will be more disruptive to the students and working parents. •I ask that the board reverse the vote to move forward and instead remain as is with the current e-learning structure in-place now. •I ask that the D57 Administration, along with a new task force, come together to discuss other viable options that offer an option to families that could be a blend of both hybrid (including virtual), or full virtual, with no change to school hours, teachers, classmates and without asynchronous learning. •I also ask that Covid protocol prior to entering the school building be a mandatory check-in for all students and staff to include a temperature check and answer a series of questions. Do not leave it up to people to self-certify, there needs to be a check-in. Thank you,

Good Morning Dr. Aumiller and D57 Board, This message is in response to Dr. Aumiller's email to me and cc'd to D57 Board at 8:15 am on October 16th. Just to clarify, I am a parent of a 7th and 4th grader, not a student myself. I have lived in the community for 11 years and volunteered to support the last two referendum campaigns. We chose to live in Mount Prospect largely because of the reputation of the schools and community. We have been very happy with that decision and our experience but are disappointed with how D57 has handled and responded to COVID. Dr. Aumiller - With the knowledge that SHIELD is available and can provide essential data while preventing the spread of COVID, why would D57 NOT assess and consider the system? D57 Board - Apparently Administration does not want to explore this option. However, I am not sure why they have made this decision. Mr. Parisi expressed interest in SHIELD and exploring the plan during our phone call on October 13th. As the Board of D57, why would you not want to explore and assess this plan? How can you and Administration

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conclude that it would not work without first objectively reviewing the costs, benefits, and feasibility? Would this not be a part of the Powers and Duties of the School Board (<https://www.d57.org/Downloads/Section%20219.pdf>)? Again, I ask that the D57 Board request a hybrid plan that includes SHIELD testing and temperature screening in addition to parent self-certification. Please explore this option before deciding not to "go down that road".

Hi there! I attended the meeting last and intended to speak, but I couldn't stay until the second public comment time slot. So, here is what I planned to say, with a couple modifications to avoid repeating what every else said: Having had children in D57 since 2007 and volunteering through the various PTAs and PTOs, other MP organizations and working in MP, our family is very invested in the community. D57 schools are an vital piece of that community and I am concerned they are in jeopardy. For families for whom in-person school is the best fit, we need to solve the problem of returning students to the classroom full time, ideally with urgency. I appreciate the logistics are challenging. However, as we should demonstrate to our children, we can do hard things. The dialogue has been opened with parents; I ask you to please allow that dialogue to continue by enlisting a panel of parents to problem solve with the administrators. Administrators are adept at navigating mandates, teachers unions...frankly all the things the rest of us don't even know exist. Administrators are not, and should not be expected to be, experts in microbiology or infection control or public health. There are district parents that hold degrees in health sciences and applied mathematics. There are parents who have been working safely outside their home during most, if not the entirety, of this pandemic. These parents are offering their knowledge and creative problem solving skills free of charge because they care about our community and know how important it is to have our children back together at school. Please allow these parents to assist our administrators in efficiently circumventing the obstacles and getting our students back to the classrooms and back to full engagement in their studies and social-emotional development. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Hi there! Me again. I had some thoughts after last night's board meeting, and I wanted to share them with you. It is evident that you are steadfast in your position of 6 ft of distance between everyone. As Gerry mentioned, it's simple math and that makes the goal of returning all students to Lincoln unattainable. Would you reconsider that distance? Perhaps students could be 3-4 feet from each other and the teachers could have 6 ft at the front of the room? I believe you should inform parents that distancing will be less than 6 ft. Can we transfer the responsibility of deciding what a safe distance is from the board to parents? If parents feel the risk of coming within 6 ft of another is too great for their child/family, they may select remote learning. If parents feel the benefit of

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being in school is worth the risk of being less than 6ft from another child, they may opt to send their child to school. The six foot rule and masking is safer (like wearing a condom and using bcps to avoid conception), but it is redundant. I am a dentist and spend a lot of time around unmasked people, zero feet away. The American Dental Association just released this statistic: <1% of dentists have been COVID+ This bolsters my confidence that people can be within 6ft of each other, especially if both people are masked. Thanks for reading this.

P.S. I apologize if my analogy was too crude.

Sorry for all the comments today. One more thing from last night's meeting... Regarding lunch at Lincoln... Could the kids be sent home? If the current schedule is maintained, there is an hour and a half...plenty of time to go and return. Is lunch mandated? A few years back, I was talking to my friend who had children in D64. She had to pay to have her kids stay for lunch. Could we implement that as a way to reduce the number of kids in the building? Technically lunch is not educational and is more in the realm of childcare. I appreciate that this will be met with public disapproval. Another idea...can tents be erected and kids eat outside? Heaters/fire pits could provide warmth in winter. I am envisioning the tent at the golf course or a ski resort. I realize inclement weather and fire and propane create a different set of problems, but the outdoor air greatly reduces the risk of viral transmission while the kids are unmasked. Thanks for reading this. Thank you for all your time and energy and I imagine, sleepless nights.

Good morning- I just want to start out by saying, thank you for all your hard work. Thank you for also keeping our teachers and students safe. I appreciate that you are adhering to the IDPH guidelines. Personally, I believe that keeping our children at six feet distance and wearing a mask in school is extremely important. The reason that I am writing to you today is pertaining to the subject that was brought up at yesterday's meeting, a parent task force. I would strongly suggest that the board members look toward a focus group for parents instead of a task force. As a parent of a first and third grader who is very involved in both their schools, I feel that there is a division right now between parents. Those that are all for full day in person learning and those that feel more comfortable in remote. I am very apprehensive about a task force of about seven parents all basically with a very strong opinion going to one side. (This being the parents who push the hardest for their own needs) I understand that everyone wants what is best for their family. But I strongly believe that this could be achieved by having small focus groups of parents along side administrators. I was a part of the summer focus group and I really appreciated it because there all sides of the issue being discussed. I felt as a parent, I was heard by Dr. Aumiller and Dr. Gorr. I know this is just another project by administrators to take on but not something that would need to be done right away. It could be positive for the school board, administration, and parents to have

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more understanding of where we are as a group on a given situation. But also not take away from the final decision making of the school board. Thank you so much for all your time. We really appreciate all you do!

Thank you for taking the health guidelines established by the CDC seriously and not deferring to what the district could legally get away with based on the language in the ISBE "guidelines". I am grateful my children attend a school that prioritizes their health and safety. You have worked hard to hear the various concerns of our community members. While I do not fully agree with every decision that has been made, it is clear that you have done the best you could with the situation. The hard work you put has not gone unnoticed. Keep up the fantastic job and thanks again for keeping my kids safe while offering consistent curriculum.

I just wanted to say thank you for everything you are doing for our community. Taking so much time from your own families and lives during this time is something that deserves such thanks! Please know how much each and every one of you are appreciated.

I just wanted to share the following perspective... I think, given our scenario, things are going well. Clearly it's not perfect, but that's what happens when you encounter a once-a-century situation. I applaud where we are at. My son has an IEP and things are at times a struggle. That's the reality, and we will do our best just like the teachers and district are doing. Yes, we should be doing absolutely everything we can to do to return as much normalcy as possible. But let us not lose site of the fact that in about a month numbers will be higher than they are today. Ensuring we have a plan that will work with the ebb and tide of this for the remainder of the school year will be important. Thanks again!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to D57 students and the community. I am a high school teacher and I know first-hand exactly how hard everyone is working behind the scenes to make the best decision for our students. I also know exactly how dedicated our D57 teachers are to their craft and the passion for educating our students shines through every single day. I see it. I hear it. I feel it. Please know that your endless hours of difficult decisions and time spent away from your own families while putting all of your energy into what's best for D57, is not going unnoticed. Those that appreciate you all may not be the loudest, but we SEE YOU making this world a better place and helping our students thrive and feel loved . . . we are SO VERY grateful.

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Dear D57 Board of Education and Administration, Thank you very much for all your hard work. I cannot imagine being in your shoes and I think you have handled everything so well. I am writing in to express a few thoughts. My daughter is in 6th grade at Lincoln. Remote learning has been going very well for her! The teachers are really doing an amazing job. She is learning a lot and working hard. It is great how the teachers are also offering "Office Hours" for students to be able to connect with them, get a little extra help etc. Also my daughter joined the school Chorus, which she is loving!!! The staff at Lincoln are all doing an amazing job. One of the teachers she really has connected with is her Advanced ELA teacher Ms. Felsenthal. My daughter has this class periods 1/2 and practically leaps out of bed to get ready and be on time for this class. I truly hope she doesn't have to lose this teacher/class due to any changes with hybrid/Math cohorts. Please consider this when making your decisions -some students are very invested in this class. I have watched all the board mtgs and written administration before, with my support of all you are doing. I know there are a lot of people who agree with me -I hope they are writing in to you all too as much as everyone else. I personally feel the half day hybrid would be a great first step for the students and staff to begin Nov 30. I think jumping right to full day Nov. 30 would be too soon for the teachers and staff especially. Myself and my daughter are very worried about the maskless lunch specifically. I saw from the data the teachers are as well, and I don't blame them. Thank you again for all your time and efforts to keep the students and staff safe.

Dear Board of Education and District Administrators, I want to thank you for your time spent thus far on getting District 57 students and teachers back into the schools safely. I am writing this letter, admittedly very sleepily, after watching last night's board meeting. For what it's worth, in my professional past life I was a 'public servant' (although not in a school district setting). I have attended long evening meetings like the one from last night, often times in an administrative role. In watching last night's meeting, I found myself empathizing, reliving moments where my work, my integrity and my motivations were questioned. It was painful. Last night was probably pretty painful for administration, hearing some of the public comments. I want to say that I empathize. I am not here to question your motives- I believe that you have the best of intentions and have been put in an extremely difficult position to balance a whole lot of strong opinions. In writing this letter, I'd like to offer you an alternative way to view the Parent Task Force proposal. It seemed like those board members who are opposed to forming a task force were a bit apprehensive; perhaps fearing that a task force would make things feel even more out of control and put the already-stretched-thin administration on constant "defense" mode. I hear those concerns, and I can empathize. However, I feel like you might be missing an opportunity here. The Board has an opportunity, in creating a task force, to outline a very specific mission statement. You have the power to shape a new committee, and then use those resources to your advantage. Even if you are not necessarily on board with all of the most vocal of the public commenters, you have an

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opportunity to allow a space to vet ideas out and bring you some research to consider. You have an opportunity to also bring in members with other viewpoints that maybe aren't quite as vocal. There are plenty of parents, like me, who are willing and interested to help take some work load off of the administration, if it means finding ways to safely return. Maybe you could direct the task force to find opportunities for volunteers to make this transition back to school better. For example: When faced with budget shortfalls to make certain elements of a back-to-school plan happen, a task force could help you build a volunteer squad to make up for some of those shortfalls. Knowing that the teachers expressed a great concern for the mask-less lunch periods, perhaps those short mask-less periods could be staffed by volunteers that are managed by the Task Force, instead. Maybe you could ask the task force to research some outside-the-box opportunities for school spaces that would allow more kids to return and keep the board recommendations for 6' distancing. I don't know, perhaps a local parent is in real estate and knows of a vacant space in town that could be inexpensively leased for extra classroom space until the district no longer feels the need to maintain 6' distance. I realize that some of these ideas are pretty outlandish and can seem rather "pie-in-the-sky". Perhaps some ideas will be too far-fetched, but I feel very strongly that we have to TRY, and a task force is one opportunity to form some unity. If you set the parameters early, and give them a specific mission statement, then you have an opportunity to PIVOT, rather than build a wall between the community. I won't bore you with the reasons why my kids need to be back in school. You've heard a lot of heartfelt stories from plenty of parents who are struggling with this new normal, and/or watching their kids struggle with it. My kids are struggling in their own ways, and I am very concerned. I sincerely hope that we can find ways to work together to find ways to safely return to more in-person school. Please consider forming a task force that would truly be beneficial for the district. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Good afternoon, First I want to say that I am grateful to everyone at District 57 for how you are navigating what is not an easy time for anyone. I work in education too, and I know how much boards, principals, superintendents and teachers are going through right now. I know you have the best interests of the students in mind and are also trying to appease many different groups of people. So thank you for all you are doing. I have two children at Lincoln, one in sixth and one in eighth. After seeing the plan at the board meeting, I do have a couple of questions and/or comments that I want to put out there before you vote on Monday. First, I am very apprehensive about sending my kids back right after Thanksgiving when I know many people will be traveling and around family that may or may not have been socially distancing or wearing masks and then having them come back right after a two week Winter Break in a similar manner. Second, I am also concerned about totally changing middle schoolers schedules in the middle of a quarter and having the relationships they have already formed with teachers and classmates be changed a number of times (from fully remote to 4 half days to 2 full days) over a short period of time. Third, having been a middle school teacher for 15

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years and now coaching middle school teams in CPS, I know the three weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter Break are difficult. Students will already be nervous coming back and then excited for a break and then worried about that break in the same breath. This is not conducive to teaching or learning. Finally, I am super concerned about my son's supports in advanced classes and my daughter's supports for her IEP. My son is finally learning at his level and is excited about both math and English. When he heard that he may not have advanced English, his first comment is that he wouldn't be learning anything and that he didn't want to go to school. He LOVES to read and is so curious about everything. I would hate for him to feel like he's taking a step back. My daughter also has formed a bond with her case manager this year. Last year she did not have a relationship with her assigned case manager and it made a significant difference in her success. I worry about that person changing when the schedules shift and that relationship being broken. She is doing really well right now and I don't want to see that change! Personally, at this point, I would be much more comfortable sending my kids back at the semester in mid-January after all the traveling is done. I know that won't solve everything I listed above, but at least it will help with some of the major concerns. I am super concerned about having to make the choice to keep my kids out till March, especially when it seems arbitrary at this point to send them back just for three weeks in a schedule that is just going to change again. That's not good for teachers or students or parents. In talking to my neighbors, many of them feel the same. Please consider holding off starting the middle school in person learning till even the second week of January; it's really not that much more time considering all the time off. It would also be one semester fully remote and one semester with a choice (and we'd have a better idea what is going on with case numbers and in the political arena). With cases rising and the constant changes proposed in the current plan, it just makes more sense for everyone. Thanks for reading and for all you are doing. We do appreciate you.

To District 57 School Board, After watching the Oct 15th D57 school board meeting Return to School plan for Lincoln middle school, and reviewing the material presented, I want to share my concerns. I do not feel that the school board needs to rush to a full day hybrid. There are many intricacies that will need to be worked out over the short 3 week time frame during half day hybrid. Please allow the school administration and teachers that time to learn on the job, to troubleshoot issues and navigate how to best function in this new environment. My main hesitation with the full day hybrid is lunch. Minimal information was presented on how lunch will be executed in a lower risk fashion. It was mentioned that having lunch in the classroom might be the only option. If kids are spaced 6ft in a classroom, and then will be maskless while eating, **WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO LOWER RISK?** Will air filters be utilized, will there be any barriers? These are the specific details that must be answered prior to returning to school. During the meeting it was stated that Lincoln doesn't have an extra gym, and no PE waiver has been considered. D57 has it's partner school district 214 to look to as a model for moving forward. D214 is not having in person PE in order to free

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up space for lunch periods. Please explore this option to be able to safely serve your student population. It seems to me that having a larger space with the ability to distance 10 + feet should be the first avenue to investigate. We appreciate the thought put into the plan, and look forward to being able to return to school in the lowest risk manner possible. Lunchtime is a major issue that should be addressed prior to asking families to commit to stepping foot back in a building. Thank you,

If remote will continue with different teachers rather than live stream, in case of a lockdown and going back to fully remote, will the newly hired staff laid off? \*Does District have enough budget to accommodate new staff and keep them? \*Considering the districts opened up earlier started to go back to fully remote (ex: Deerfield School District), will the remote students keep changing teachers?

Board of Education Members, Thank you all so much for your service to our district during this challenging times. I think you continue to make the best decisions for our district that put forth the values of SAFETY and EDUCATION first. I would like to submit comments based on several topics in last weeks board meeting. 1. On the topic of MAINTAINING 6FT OF SOCIAL DISTANCE: I am very proud that our board has put safety as the #1 value of this district. Many of the other local districts have chosen not to do this and have taken a more liberal stance of 6ft "when possible." I 100% agree with the district's decision to stand by the 6ft minimum spacing in the classrooms. As a safety professional who has worked with many public health professionals in my career, these minimum measures are critical to safety within our buildings. Nothing less than 6ft should be considered until further guidance is updated by IDPH. 2. On the topic of PARENT TASK FORCE: I agreed with many of the concerns raised by BOE members on Thursday. The scope and purpose of the task force would need to be extremely clear as would the guardrails of their work. If one of the goals of the task force would be to develop a full-time back-to-school plan, the guardrails of social distancing and other IDPH and internal procedures (such a security/safety procedures) would need to be established and followed. Also, I would be highly supportive of a task force that includes public health experts and safety/health professionals. Doctors and nurses expertise usually differ from public health and safety professions and might not align with the needs of the task force. 3. On the topic of LINCOLN RE-OPENING: Personally, I would be supportive of a solution where the remote learners do not need to change teachers since my child will be choosing the remote option until the spring. That doesn't seem to be on the table right now, but I am very disappointed that my child will not only be changing teachers, but changing to BRAND NEW teachers to the district who will have to pick up lesson plans mid-way through the year. It doesn't seem fair to put the remote students at this type of disadvantage to the other students that will continue with teachers that have Lincoln experience. Maybe the new teachers

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can be assigned to the in-person learners as they will have the ability to connect with them face-to-face and build relationships better than the remote students. I was also surprised to see that live-streaming was being proposed as the district had spoken unfavorably about this method for months. I feel like my Lincoln child has just adjusted to the remote environment and it will be difficult for him to transition to a new way of teaching where his teachers will be even more out of control in a remote setting when the teachers are balancing in-person and remote students. It really seems like an impossible task to ask of the teachers. I know that the BOE had requested to understand teacher feedback on this model and I am looking forward to that discussion tomorrow night. Again, I really do support and appreciate each of you. You raise excellent concerns and really understand the complexities of our district. Thank you for your service to our district.

Dear D57 Administration and Board Members,

A few points to clarify from last night. One big issue we would like to clarify is that the task force proposed is not meant to be a substitute for the voice for all the parents in the community. We think taking the steps to administer focus groups and surveys are a great asset to the decision-making process. The individuals involved with proposing the task force are not arrogant enough to believe they can speak for every families' individual needs. The purpose of this task force is to help the administration bring in expert guidance in the form of healthcare professionals and expert public health guidance. While we appreciate the work Sara Tyburski has done regarding her research of the current metrics, we appreciate the limitations one faces when this is not their area of expertise. Because of this, we have proposed working with the administration, the board, and parents to help research how to accurately portray the real risk present to our students and staff.

Last night the board and administration felt the task force would replace the voice of all parents and that is not what is wanted by any means. We simply would like to assist in obtaining information to help the board and administration make accurate and informed decisions regarding back to school safety.

Another clarification I would like to make is regarding my question about whether full time in person school would be in an option if enough families chose remote. (Mr. Maye asked this question at the 9/24 meeting with no response). We have not surveyed the parents (specifically elementary) since the beginning of the school year about attending full time in person in the current climate. If we were able to get an accurate picture of who is willing to return, then perhaps offering equal remote and full time in person access would be attainable with the district's current guidelines. We are not sure why this was not considered as a viable option. Also, what steps are being made to plan for a full in person returns if/when the metrics determine we can do so? It would be helpful to have all the steps in place so we are not in the position in a couple of months of having to wait for more planning, more teachers, etc. Having everything ready to go would be beneficial as to not lose any more precious time in the classroom.

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Lastly, I would like you to think about the points I brought up regarding safety and risk. There are well documented studies stating the importance of children being in the classroom and the low risk the classroom presents to them. I know this point has been brought up countless times, however it appears no one is addressing it. Again, I hear the word safety being thrown around, but I'm not sure if everyone really understands the true definition of safety in this situation.

We understand you are being bombarded with emails. There are 2200 students in this district. We do understand the enormous task of undertaking getting the children back into school. We appreciate you have heard our voices and have been more transparent with your data and thought process. It really is helpful. We do respect our administration and board, however we would like to have that respect returned by listening to our viable thoughts and ideas.

Again, I would like some of these questions answered and please if you decide against a task force, explain why you would not want outside expert guidance to help shape the decision-making process. This year is slipping away from us in terms of full time in person school, please don't let this go on longer than it needs to.

I appreciate your time and effort.

Please put in meeting records: Virus isn't "well-scienced" As in video: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AW8zjzPhS-s> Go to: <https://www.fda.gov/> And search for: Cdc 2019-novel coronavirus Second; select: "CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel" <https://search.usa.gov/search?query=Cdc+2019-novel+coronavirus&affiliate=fda1> pg 39,last p >2nd sentence Why are you doing this?! The virus isn't even defined properly scientifically!

I am sorry that you are under so much pressure from vocal parents to reopen, but during this surge in Covid cases, I beg you to refocus your efforts on improving remote learning. My seventh grader spends 4 hours and 50 minutes in front of a screen five days a week, barely speaking a word. Teachers can't endlessly lecture and expect their students to be engaged. My son has mentally checked out and is falling behind swiftly. I have seen virtually no evidence of Social-Emotional Learning. How about using P.E. to teach SEL rather than anatomy and soccer rules?

Board of Education and Administration, I listened to the board meeting last week. I was happy to hear that there is a proposed hybrid plan for Lincoln. My 8th-grade daughter is really struggling with her remote learning experience. It is vital for her to be back in-person in some capacity in order for her academic success and her mental well-being.

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Although I am happy to hear that there is a hybrid plan being proposed, I am concerned about having two phases to the plan. Three weeks seems like a very short time to run phase one. It seems disruptive and unnecessary to transition between two phases in such a short time period. I would urge you to choose one of the phases and commit to one for a longer time period. It would be most beneficial to students, staff, and families if there were only one transition to hybrid learning. I was also extremely disappointed to hear that the proposed plan would not start until November 30th. The administration says that they will have to hire more teachers before the hybrid plan begins. Whether the hybrid plan was to start on November 9th or the 30th, I question whether or not the district will be able to find qualified people for these positions. I would implore you to push for a November 9th start and make the plan work with the staff that we currently have. During the presentation on Thursday, it was shared that 62.4% of families surveyed wanted a hybrid option, while only 37.6% wanted a full remote option. Although it would be ideal to have teachers dedicated to both remote and in-person learners, the survey shows that the majority of families want hybrid. Therefore, the BOE should be trying to accommodate the majority with a solid plan, while still offering a safe alternative to the remote families, even if it's not the most ideal. As it stands right now, the majority is being penalized in order to accommodate the remote learners. The remote learners could still have a remote option with live-streamed classes. There has to be a way to make this work with our current staff. Could support staff could be used to monitor the Zoom students with guidance from the classroom teacher? Could this be a temporary solution while the district hires additional staff in order to eventually have dedicated remote teachers? 62.4% of our families are asking for an in-person plan. For us, it is imperative for my daughter's learning and mental health. There has to be a way to serve the majority, while still offering a safe and effective option for our remote learners. Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback.

Board of Education Members, Thank you all so much for your service to our district during this challenging times. I think you continue to make the best decisions for our district that put forth the values of SAFETY and EDUCATION first. I would like to submit comments based on several topics in last weeks board meeting. 1. On the topic of MAINTAINING 6FT OF SOCIAL DISTANCE: I am very proud that our board has put safety as the #1 value of this district. Many of the other local districts have chosen not to do this and have taken a more liberal stance of 6ft "when possible." I 100% agree with the district's decision to stand by the 6ft minimum spacing in the classrooms. As a safety professional who has worked with many public health professionals in my career, these minimum measures are critical to safety within our buildings. Nothing less than 6ft should be considered until further guidance is updated by IDPH. 2. On the topic of PARENT TASK FORCE: I agreed with many of the concerns raised by BOE members on Thursday. The scope and purpose of the task force would need to be extremely clear as would the guardrails of their work. If one of the goals of the task force would be to develop a full-time back-to-school plan, the guardrails of social distancing and other IDPH and internal procedures (such a security/safety procedures) would need to be established and followed. Also, I would be highly supportive of a task force that includes public health experts and safety/health professionals. Doctors and nurses

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expertise usually differ from public health and safety professions and might not align with the needs of the task force. 3. On the topic of LINCOLN RE-OPENING: Personally, I would be supportive of a solution where the remote learners do not need to change teachers since my child will be choosing the remote option until the spring. That doesn't seem to be on the table right now, but I am very disappointed that my child will not only be changing teachers, but changing to BRAND NEW teachers to the district who will have to pick up lesson plans mid-way through the year. It doesn't seem fair to put the remote students at this type of disadvantage to the other students that will continue with teachers that have Lincoln experience. Maybe the new teachers can be assigned to the in-person learners as they will have the ability to connect with them face-to-face and build relationships better than the remote students. I was also surprised to see that live-streaming was being proposed as the district had spoken unfavorably about this method for months. I feel like my Lincoln child has just adjusted to the remote environment and it will be difficult for him to transition to a new way of teaching where his teachers will be even more out of control in a remote setting when the teachers are balancing in-person and remote students. It really seems like an impossible task to ask of the teachers. I know that the BOE had requested to understand teacher feedback on this model and I am looking forward to that discussion tomorrow night. Again, I really do support and appreciate each of you. You raise excellent concerns and really understand the complexities of our district. Thank you for your service to our district.

Dear Board of Education and Administrators:

We all have fears. What is important is knowing how to manage the fears and how we teach our kids to overcome fears. While difficult, we should not be imposing our fears onto our children. I strongly feel that the BOE and Administrators are doing just that...imposing the fear of C-19 onto our children. By choosing to keep the schools closed full time, you are teaching our children that the schools are not a safe place, that being with their friends and teachers are not safe. You are also encouraging them to be lazy, how to do the minimum amount of work to be rewarded with a good grade, and that it is acceptable to be mediocre. That is not acceptable to me. What do I fear the most? I am most afraid for our future. I am fearful that our children are not getting prepared for the future. The future of our children lies in your hands, and you are failing them. You are failing to provide them an education where they can thrive. What is being offered is not an education. This is not what school is to look like. Yes, I understand school will not look the same for many years, but what are we doing to get us there? Hybrid? Failing to provide all core lessons in person for elementary school (Science and Social Studies IS CORE and not being taught in person at Fairview or Lions...WHY???) is unacceptable. Failing to provide full in-person instruction to those families that want it is unacceptable. Eliminating accelerated instruction to those children who have been placed in these classes because of fear of exposure is not acceptable. You are not only imposing your fear onto these children, but also punishing them by holding them back. You are failing our children. I am not teaching my children to live in fear. I am teaching my children how to manage the fear: wearing masks,

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washing hands, sanitizing, cleaning, etc. When you are going to start sharing that message as representatives of the school?

Board Members...I pulled up the oath you take when sworn into office. No where did I see that your responsibility is to look out for the teachers. Your responsibility falls into ensuring that we have quality administrators, teachers and curriculum for the students of our district. Your responsibility is the students. Please, do not make your decisions based on what the teachers are feeling or what they fear. Base your decisions on the education you want for the children of our district. Base your decisions knowing that our district has provided better opportunities for our children in the past and challenge the administrators to meet or exceed the expectations of the parents and community. Your oath states:

"I shall assist 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"

Do you truly feel our current structure and environment of remote learning and the hybrid models presented are meeting this statement? Do you truly believe our children are attaining their MAXIMUM potential, especially when accelerated programs have been or will be eliminated? If you believe children in our district are attaining their maximum potential, explain your logic, as I am not seeing it in my household. My children are not achieving their maximum potential with the education being provided. I challenge you to be honest with yourself.

Regarding metrics: I will only bring up one covid metric as it has been made abundantly clear that the only metrics that will be considered are the ones discussed on Thursday. I want to discuss 6 feet of social distance. One BOE member asked the community commenters to share their opinion of the 6 feet of social distance. I will reiterate what other parents have commented. IT'S A RECOMMENDATION, NOT A MANDATE! If children are masked, the 6 feet of distance does not need to be maintained. This means as our children sit in their desks actively learning and engaging in in-person instruction with their masks on, the distance with which they sit and interact can be shortened. You can accommodate 3-4 feet distancing which should allow additional kids in a class. This would result in Lincoln potentially having more than 10-12 kids in a class (I am guessing about 20 by my rough estimation with 4 feet of distancing), and maybe, just maybe, eliminate the need for additional teachers to be hired.

What impact, if any, would reducing the distancing in a class have on staffing?

WHY is the Board and Administrators are set on the 6 feet of distance? Please do not tell me it is an IDPH recommendation. I refuse to accept that safe and overused answer.

Why won't the board and administration revisit this topic and make a change?

Let's be honest, the majority of the kids in the district are safely participating in outside activities whether it be sports, playing at the park, attending friends' home. They are more than likely not wearing masks and are probably not practicing social distancing at the 6 feet recommendation. Yet, they are participating safely and under the supervision of adults. The adults understand the risk and accept the risk. School will be a safer environment with masks on than playing basketball indoors maskless. Please.

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Reconsider. And if you won't, help me understand the reasoning for being so set in the decision.

We have many educated parents and community members within our district that are able and willing to offer their assistance and guidance. I am trying to understand why we are not and have not utilized any of these resources with a task force. Between health care workers, legal expertise, buildings and grounds, engineers, educators from other districts, we have experts in whatever field you need at your disposal. A task force working collaboratively with the Board and Administrators, with set parameters and objectives, would provide a much needed perspective. An outsider's view is sometimes needed to help see outside the box and create solutions. I urge you to reconsider forming a Parent/Admin task force who can help achieve the goal of keeping schools safe and getting students back in the classroom full time.

Moving on to the Reopening of Lincoln. While I believe anything less than full-time in-person learning is not successful, I do have a few questions and some clarifications:

Based on the presentation on the Lincoln reopening plan, the following was communicated:

Lincoln start/end times would remain approximately the same 7:45am - 2:50-ish.

Busses would be able to service Lincoln and Fairview/Lions and Westbrook. Is this accurate?

At Lincoln there would be a 45 minute break in the afternoon for lunch and transportation under Phase 1.

Fairview/Lions have an 8am start time when the hybrid model begins. They have also allotted a 2 hour window for lunch and transportation in the afternoon, making me believe that they need 1 hour for transportation for the elementary schools.

What am I missing or not understanding with the transportation and timing of the start/end days? I have children at Lincoln and Fairview and on the surface, timing seems tight even if I am not utilizing the bus, but rather driving. And why do the elementary schools need 2 hours for transportation/lunch/cleaning up vs. Lincoln needing only 45 minutes. I am clearly not understanding something.

Continuing with the Lincoln Plan, specifically Phase 2:

If this is the plan we will be moving forward with, I would prefer skipping Phase 1 as I do not see the benefit sending my daughter for half days for 3 weeks.

For Phase 2: What is the benefit of having Cohort A attend Monday and Thursday and Cohort B attend Tuesday and Friday? Why not have A attend Monday and Tuesday and B attend Thursday and Friday? Wouldn't grouping them together eliminate the need of a deep clean after each school day? I feel there are too many changes with the learning methods - in-person, learning via live stream, learning remote, back to in person then live stream. The kids deserve some sort of consistency.

Lincoln gets the opportunity to have all classes taught in person, specifically all Core classes. Why is this not being offered to Elementary schools? Since when is Science and Social Studies not important and not Core? Why is STEM taking a "back-seat" for

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elementary? Is there any thought of reconsidering the reopening plan for elementary and offering all core classes in person? It is so important to have all core classes have a real teacher teaching (not a video recording). I feel there are mixed messages being sent to our children about what is valued in their education.

Thank you,