

## Community Comments 11/18/2021

Your First Name.	Your Last Name.	Your Public Comment
Erin	Rohlena	<p>Thank you D57 school board for your hard work this year. I'm sure this has been a particularly challenging time to be on a school board. Please continue to prioritize our students' (and entire community's) safety. There is a loud minority who wish to unmask the kids, and I hope you will remember that they are the minority. Our kids are doing ok this year... they are back in school, and as vaccines become more available, their quarantine times will be less and less. Of course we look forward to being done with masks, and continuing back to "normal". If parents say, "my kid, my choice", they need to remember that they have the choice of homeschool. I am so thankful to see my children back in school this year-- taking the bus, making new friends, even starting some new sports this winter. In the coming months Covid metrics will hopefully continue to improve, and I hope mask requirements can stay in place until that point. And of course, when the time comes, ONLY vaccinated individuals should be able to remove their masks within school district buildings.</p>
Sarah	Deitch	<p>Thank you again for your dedication to our students and community..</p> <p>Just a quick note to say thank you for all you are doing. It is truly a thankless job. No choice you make is the right one for everyone. So thank you for signing up for the job that I'm certain I wouldn't be able to do..</p> <p>One question--do you know if/when it might be possible for the Kindergarteners to get back to doing center based learning? My K loves school, but says how boring it is that all they do is sit in their desks. Certainly there is a way given that they are masked and some are getting vaccinated that they can get into centers again. I'm so thankful that she goes to the Kindergarten Enrichment program in the afternoons to do the play based, center based learning that she does not get at Westbrook. We've known for years that Westbrook leans super heavy on academics for Kindergarten and steers away from play based learning, but it is way more apparent in these Covid years in the name of safety.</p> <p>Thank you again.</p>
Lindsay	Mulligan	<p>Dear President Kowalczyk and Members of D57 School Board,</p> <p>On behalf of all like-minded district parents, I would like to submit the following requests that are representative of multiple conversations within the D57 community:</p> <p>We submit a request to this board to decline membership renewal to the NSBA for 1 year.</p> <p>We submit a request to this board to use these dues (HS Dist.211 paid over \$5k in 2020) instead to promote mutual collaboration, cooperation and inclusivity for all parents in the district.</p> <p>This act of faith would demonstrate your support of all district parents, especially to those who are willing to put in the time and effort to better our local community and find solutions that work for everyone.</p> <p>The following details our rationale for such a request:</p> <p>U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has been asked to return to Congress after a whistleblower revealed that he may have perjured himself during prior testimony regarding National School Board Association's letter requesting federal assistance to address local school board discourse.</p> <p>The timeline between when NSBA's letter was submitted, the Biden Administration's awareness of the letter, and timing of the responses the FBI took has called NSBA's mission and objectives to local school boards across this nation into question.</p> <p>In recent days, an internal federal Memo Confirms National School Board Group 'Actively Engaged' with White House While Drafting 'Domestic Terrorists' Letter.</p> <p>This memo asserts that the NSBA's Organization of State Association Executive Directors were notified on September 14 about a White House meeting, and that on September 17 that state association executive directors were notified that "a letter requesting federal assistance" would be sent.</p> <p>This revelation calls into question the authenticity of NSBA's objectivity, its underlying motives &amp; its depth of vulnerabilities within the Association.</p> <p>Clearly, violent threats to any citizen is not only dangerously inappropriate, but can be chargeable offenses. The issue is not about holding dangerous and inappropriate behavior accountable, the issue surrounds two very important questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Documented evidence supporting the claims that violent threats to school board members are rampant across the country and require federal intervention because lives are at severe risk.</li> <li>2. Defining "harassment" at school board meetings and whether or not certain behavior is something other than legal 1st Amendment rights.</li> </ol> <p>This recent revelation, noted above, suggests that NSBA is vulnerable to manipulation and this should give American parents great pause and sufficient reason to sow mistrust among school boards. Labeling parents who speak up against their local school board's decisions as "domestic terrorists" does not, nor should it, sit well with anyone. Such a label demands sufficient evidence to warrant such a label, not to mention, full transparency in all government interventions.</p> <p>We should especially listen to our fellow Americans who immigrated from other countries where this type of behavior dominated everyday life.</p> <p>"As someone who was born in the Soviet Union, I am ... disturbed, very disturbed, by the use of the Department of Justice as a political tool, and its power as the police state to suppress lawful public discourse." Rep. Victoria Spartz, R-Ind., said in a House Judiciary Committee oversight hearing. "The FBI is starting to resemble the old KGB with secret warrantless ... surveillance, wiretapping and intimidation of citizens."</p> <p>As D57 parents calling the NSBA's recent conduct into question, let us be clear. We strongly reject all actions that are violent in nature. We absolutely do not condone life-threatening behavior against any individual, nor would we tolerate the existence of abusive harassment. If this is happening in our community, and specifically, to any board members or school administration or staff in our district, we will be the first to defend you 100%.</p> <p>What we do not want to see hampered, is D57 parent's confidence in their 1st Amendment rights when they choose to speak in opposition to this board.</p> <p>That being said, we do not believe that this board has signaled opposition to hearing dissent. However, we do expect this board to fully reflect its own stated mission to serve constituents through all facets tied to this body of elected representatives.</p> <p>Your vote tonight to not renew NSBA membership for 1 year would send a clear message locally and would add to the already strong message being sent out across the nation.</p> <p>26 state school board associations across multiple states have distanced themselves from NSBA.</p> <p>Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post Contributor, writes:</p> <p>The national grassroots organization Parents Defending Education says the states that have distanced themselves from the NSBA's letter include: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.</p> <p>Out of these, 12 states — Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wisconsin — have taken further action to withdraw membership, participation or dues from the NSBA.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>