

December 14, 2020

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020. Pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, the Board President determined that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the Open Meetings Act is not practical or prudent because of the disaster.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following Board members answered present: Nancy Kupka, President, Mike Davenport, Vice President; and Members Dan Nicholas, Rick Pavinato and Joanna Vazquez Drexler. Members Sherell Fuller and Terry Pavesich arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; Jill Browning, Director of Communications; Janice Schwarze, North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; Student Board Members Zoe Boyd and Sam Bull; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

The following was physically present at South High School in the Commons of the classroom addition: Hank Thiele, Superintendent.

There were eight visitors. A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.

1. **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Student Board Member Bull reported the students he spoke to and surveyed after the second semester schedule was released were happy to be able to be back in school. He shared Fine Arts has been doing a lot of recording, the National Honor Society held a food drive on Saturday and over \$8,000 in gift cards were purchased for the Giving Tree.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Nicholas seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2020 Business Meeting, the November 16, 2020 Closed Meeting, the December 7, 2020 Workshop Meeting and the December 7, 2020 Closed Meeting.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Nicholas, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler, Davenport, Fuller and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

3. **RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

4. **RECOGNITION**

Dr. Thiele congratulated Janice Schwarze for being named Illinois Principals Association DuPage Region High School Principal of Year, which also makes her a candidate for Illinois High School Principal of the Year.

5. RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING SURVEY FEEDBACK

Jill Browning stated 3,295 people responded to the survey. She shared key takeaways, which include: students find In-Person Learning and the Monday schedule valuable; teachers/staff find Monday's schedule valuable and loved seeing their students during In-Person Learning, but do find it a challenge to teach students in-person and remotely at the same time; and families want students back in-person and are concerned about their students' academic and emotional well-being.

Gina Ziccardi reported on schedule changes planned for second semester as a result of the feedback, which include an increase in In-Person Learning, with all students being in-person four days a week, and no planned Fully Remote weeks. Ms. Ziccardi also shared other changes being looked at for second semester, including extending 3rd period once a month, a tool to schedule students into resource periods or office hours, and adopting "Paper," a chat based tutoring program.

6. RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Dr. Thiele presented information on the new proposed schedule, where students are in-person four days a week, with a Fully Remote option still available. He provided the four parameters for when school can run in the Hybrid Model: community positivity rate or new cases in an acceptable range (9% positivity rate or less than 125/100,000 cases for Hybrid Learning and 12% positivity rate or less than 200/100,000 cases for Cohorts, based on a rolling 14-day average), no outbreaks, the ability to follow-up on illnesses in 24 hours and an adequate number of staff and students. The Board discussed four options, using the zip codes where students reside, to determine community transmission rate and the consensus of the Board was to use the zip codes that have greater than 5% of District enrollment. Dr. Thiele stressed teachers, staff and administration want students learning in-person when it is safe to do so.

The Board discussed the metrics Dr. Thiele presented and shared their opinions on when students should return to In-Person Learning.

The Board took a break from 9:13-9:19. When the meeting resumed, all Board members were present.

President Kupka stated the Board is updated on In-Person Learning at every meeting. Dr. Thiele stated if the Board would like an update before January 11, the next scheduled Board meeting, President Kupka can call a meeting at anytime.

Student Board Members Boyd and Bull expressed their appreciation of the administration's efforts during this time.

7. STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORTS AND CHAT-BASED TUTORING WITH PAPER EDUCATION COMPANY INC.

Gina Ziccardi provided an overview of academic supports already in place for students and ones added in the Fall of 2020. She reviewed course repeat and credit recovery options, noting these are handled on a case-by-case basis using the best option for each student.

Ms. Ziccardi introduced Paper Inc., a chat-based online tutoring system that is available to students 24/7. She shared the District is proposing a 17-month contract with Paper, Inc., to provide tutoring to all District 99 students, with Title 1 and local funds being used to cover the cost.

8. 2020-2021 DISTRICT GOALS

Dr. Thiele stated the Goals were delayed because administration was working on returning to school. He shared once the Board approves the Goals, administration will start tracking progress and provide reports to the Board. Dr. Thiele noted approval of the Goals is an Action Item later in the meeting.

9. SCHOOL REPORT CARD

Ms. Ziccardi stated School Report Card data is incomplete due to the impact of COVID and that District 99's Summative Designation, which is Commendable, was carried over from last year. She also noted some data was impacted by the Illinois State Board of Education's guideline of "do no harm" during second semester and no administration of the SAT test in the spring.

10. 2021-2022 CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

Tracy Sebastian, South High English Chair, and Chris Bronke, North High English Chair, presented the proposed Black American Literature senior course, which celebrates the richness of Black American culture and will connect historical works with contemporary works. Patrick Fardy, South High CTE Chair, and Melissa Damewood, North High CTE Chair, presented INCubator for Entrepreneurs, a year-long course that replaces the semester Entrepreneurship course. They shared the course brings students together with mentors from the community to develop their own product or service and explained at the end of the year students present their business in an attempt to receive seed money to start the business.

Dr. Thiele stated the two curriculum proposals were up for approval later in the meeting.

11. MASTER FACILITY PLAN PROGRESS

Dr. Thiele reported Phase B is being closed out and the project is on pace to have over \$1M left in the contingency going into summer. He shared the Plan is on schedule and under budget. Pictures of the South High auditorium and Commons and the North High Commons and outside patio were displayed by Dr. Thiele.

12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Dr. Thiele reported the District had Freedom of Information Act requests this month and they are posted on the District's website.

13. 2020 TAX LEVY REQUEST

Mark Staehlin stated the request is for a 4.26% increase, it includes a CPIU factor of 2.3%, which is a given, and a projected 1.96% increase for new construction. He shared the impact on a \$300,000 home will be an increase in taxes of approximately \$41.

Mr. Staehlin stated the Board will be asked to approve the Levy later in the meeting. He noted in March/April the District will have the final data and know the District's exact tax revenues for the next fiscal year.

14. 2020-2021 PROPOSED AMENDED BUDGET

Mr. Staehlin stated there were two changes made to the Budget, the first was in Cash and Investments and how early taxes are reported. The second change had to do with breaking Fire Prevention and Safety out of Capital Projects and placing it in a separate column, even though it is paid out of Capital Projects. He stated neither of the changes affect the Revenues or Expenditures.

15. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020-2021 PROPOSED AMENDED BUDGET

President Kupka opened the Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 Proposed Amended Budget. She stated the budget has been on public display for 30 days, as required by law, and this is the final opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the Budget before the Board takes Action on it later this evening.

No one addressed the Board.

Member Pavesich moved and Member Pavinato seconded the motion for the Board of Education to close the Hearing on the 2020-2021 Proposed Amended Budget.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler, Davenport, Fuller, Nicholas and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried

16. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Pavesich moved and Member Pavinato seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which includes: A. Personnel Report - Appointments-Certified; Leave of Absence-Certified; B. Personnel Report - Retirement-Certified; C. Financial Pages; and D. IGA with Downers Grove Township regarding Prairie Restoration Project.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler, Davenport, Fuller, Nicholas and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

17. APPROVAL OF THE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PAPER EDUCATION COMPANY INC.

Member Nicholas moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the contract with Paper Education Company Inc. in the amount of \$173,356.20 USD and that the administration be approved to sign and otherwise execute any related documents pertaining to this contract.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Nicholas, Davenport, Fuller, Pavesich, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

18. APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 DISTRICT GOALS

Member Davenport moved and Member Pavesich seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2020-2021 District Goals as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Davenport, Pavesich, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler, Fuller, Nicholas and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

19. APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

Member Vazquez Drexler moved and Member Fuller seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Curriculum Proposals for Black American Literature and INCcubator for Entrepreneurs as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Vazquez Drexler, Fuller, Nicholas, Pavesich, Pavinato, Davenport and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

20. APPROVAL OF THE 2020 TAX LEVY

Member Vazquez Drexler moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Certificate of Tax Levy, the Certification of Certificate of Tax Levy, and the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Law as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Vazquez Drexler, Davenport, Fuller, Nicholas, Pavesich, Pavinato and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

21. APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 PROPOSED AMENDED BUDGET

Member Pavesich moved and Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2020-2021 Amended Budget as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Davenport, Fuller, Nicholas, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

22. OLD BUSINESS

None.

23. NEW BUSINESS

None.

24. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Allyson Passarelli, speaking on behalf of the DGEA Executive Board, expressed the DGEAs support of using the CDCs metrics in providing clear guidelines for returning to In-Person Learning. She expressed the DGEAs appreciation for the efforts of the Board and Dr. Thiele.

Dr. Thiele stated 22 comments were submitted via the online Public Comment Form, with nearly all of them encouraging the return of students to school second semester and requests to continue supporting our students. The Public Comments submitted via the online Google Form are attached as well as a comment submitted by an individual who was unable to stay until the Public Comments portion of the meeting. Dr. Thiele shared approximately a dozen people were not allowed to attend in person due to Tier 3 Mitigations and the limitation on the number of people allowed in the room. Those individuals were provided information on how to view the meeting online and provide Public Comments online.

Rick Bennema, Keri Norris, David Leatherwood, Jim Devitt and Hemaxi Mistry addressed the Board in support of a return to In-Person Learning and stressed the emotional toll of Fully Remote Learning.

President Kupka thanked those who provided comments.

25. REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK OF DUPAGE (LEND)

Dr. Thiele reported the State is looking at the State testing requirement for graduation.

26. REPORT ON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN DUPAGE COUNTY (SASED)

No report.

27. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Pavesich reported the Foundation is donating gift cards for families that need help. She also shared the Foundation received a \$1,000 donation from ASBO in honor of Mark Staehlin receiving the Monarch Award.

28. REPORT ON ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (IASB)

No report.

29. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Kupka announced the following meeting dates:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 11, 2021 | Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. |
| January 25, 2021 | Regular Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. |

30. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the seven members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

 5147E2EAD418460
 Nancy Kupka, President

DocuSigned by:

 7F5B487A3AD84F37
 Juli Gniadek, Secretary



BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 14, 2020

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

1	RICH BENNEMA	(1)
2	Jim DEVITT	(4)
3	David Leathwood	(3)
4	Keri Norris	(2)
5	Chloe Sheppard (621830)	
6	Amy Lavery	
7	Hemaxi Mistry	
8	Dharmesh Mistry	(5)

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

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Brian Vlk	<p>Our son is a senior at South High School. He will be completing the worst semester of his academic career at the end of the week. He desperately wants to get back to school. His mother and I support, and pray, for this 100%. Sheryl and Brian Vlk</p>
Anthony Addante JENNIFER NIELSEN	<p>I'm mental health of my child is suffering without in-person education. Private schools are operating in-person education with few issues. It's now time to give parents a choice and allow our children to return. 2 weeks of pause has turned into 10 months. It must end now. Please find a way to get our kids back to in person learning. Please look for ways to get the kids in person, instead of reasons to keep them remote. It is time for District 99 to put the needs of the students at the forefront of decision making and these students NEED to be learning in person. Other districts have found ways for the students to be in person and I have confidence that District 99 can as well.</p>
Ann Pogorelec	<p>After reviewing Dr. Thiele's plan to return to in person learning, I urge the board to ask the following questions: How did you determine the metrics to be used to return? It seems to me that large zipcodes (Bolingbrook) are being included to determine if it is "safe" to return. However only a small percentage of Bolingbrook attends District 99. Why have other high schools like Hinsdale and Wheaton been in person and Hinsdale plans to increase the amount of in person time in January when we have been remote? What metrics are they using? Has Dr. Thiele been in communication with other area Superintendents. I ask this because he has given me inaccurate/incomplete answers in regards to why Hinsdale can be in person and we can't. How are teachers being handled that don't want to return? Are we taking a similar approach to the Glenbrook district? Our 2 days of in person learning were disappointing when we found that my son was sitting in a classroom zooming with his teacher. I urge the board to recognize what a failure remote learning has been for so many students. It has failed students academically and has caused so much psychological harm. I also urge the board to listen to health officials like the American Academy of Pediatrics and Dr. Fauci and get our students back to in person learning. I urge the board to consider the fact that there is no proof that any schools with in person learning have been super spreaders. Finally, I ask the board to ignore personal opinions and vote on the facts. Please vote to return in person however I also ask you to vote against any metrics being used that will keep us remote and use the same school of thought that other districts are using.</p>
Lora Dominow	<p>What is the plan to get our students caught up academically to their peers that have been able to go to school, in a hybrid model, since August? We are clearly behind private schools and many public high schools, and in our neighboring states. Will district 99 students have to catch up on their own or will the district provide students and families with a plan to get them to where they should be?</p>
Billy Anderson	<p>It is time for the kids to be back in school. Elementary school kids, private catholic High Schools and other public schools have been in school all year with ZERO outbreaks in Illinois. I understand the plan as it stood last semester, but now is the time to stand up and do the right thing. Send the kids back to school</p>

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We appreciate the proposed hybrid model for it's ability to return our kids to school most days of the week. While we feel that it is still unnecessarily conservative, it represents a big step in the right direction. It will lead to even more evidence of the safety of in-person learning, and this should drive administration to fully re-open within a short period of time.

My concern, along with many other parents, is the genuineness of the plan. Hank has assured us repeatedly that there are no staffing issues or opposition from the teacher's union that has factored into his decision to keep the schools fully remote. If this is the case, why include the caveat about staffing in the plan? We suspect that there ARE staffing issues and/or WILL BE staffing issues due to teacher opposition to the new hybrid plan. If this is the case, you must take your lead from Glenbrook district 225. Send a clear message to the teachers union, it's time for the teachers to return to the classroom or take medical leave! No more excuses. We don't want babysitters in the classroom while our kids do remote learning from the high school. The kids have sacrificed enough!

I will end my remarks with a reminder to the board and administration: any effort to limit, postpone, or cancel in-person learning for ANY REASON sends a message to the students. The message is that risk of the virus is more important than all of the educational losses, and social/emotional and/or behavioral repercussions of full remote learning! With a 99.997% survival rate for youth, this will be a very tough decision to defend. There is NO EVIDENCE of risk to the teachers or the community, no evidence of any kind that in-person learning is risky or resulting in spread of the virus. While many of the repercussions of remote learning are hard to quantify, the VERY TANGIBLE educational impact is very likely to be seen in the next few months with first semester grades and upcoming test scores. Illinois students are paying a very high price for Covid-19, much higher than students in other states and around the world, and our students will be at an educational disadvantage for years to come Home-owners may also pay a price as the rating of the school district will likely decline with the test scores.

Kate Benton

Administration of D99 will ultimately be held responsible for decisions that were made, especially those that were totally unnecessary, unjustified, unsupported by the science, and damaging to our kids. What's happening here is almost criminal. Students in district 99 are not getting access to "free and APPROPRIATE" public education. Adults have not acted in their best interests.

Enough, District 99. Enough.

Kate Benton

Kids need to be in school. Your job is to educate the students of D99, period. Parents can make the choice to send their kids or not. Schools are the safest place for kids to be right now. Spread is not happening at schools. If Dr. Thiele's model doesn't work, then make him change or get a Superintendent who can get a model that works. If other similar size districts are finding a way, then District 99 can too. The metrics need to be focused on the majority of the population in D99 which is Downers Grove and Woodridge. Including other zip codes does not fairly represent the population at D99 schools. Having remote only classes is not stopping the spread of Covid. We need to learn to live with it and educate the kids of D99. They are suffering academically, emotionally and socially from the inability and unwillingness of this administration to put kids first and get them back in the classrooms.

Amy Rogers

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
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<p>Concerned Parent</p>	<p>Stop looking at numbers and start listening to the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Fauci and the many other physicians that have said the kids need to be back in school. My physician said last week that kids are suffering and should be back in school full time. Passing periods should not even be an issue if they have on a mask. They pass people in the stores, restaurants, malls, etc. They have friends over and don't have masks on. Come on, this is taking a toll on our kids and if you think they will just settle back into school like these 9 months didn't happen you are sadly mistaken. It will take months for these kids to get back in to learning the way they use to know how. For the remote parents, those parents that don't want their kids in school, wake up parents, a majority of your kids are the ones at the party's and hanging out with the kids that want to go back to school. I doubt that you have been keeping them home with no friends and constantly wearing a mask. You want your kids to stay home, keep them home. I want my kids in school where they can get the education they deserve. So much harm is being done to these kids as they sit at home. They are not learning. They are not being challenged. Get the kids back in school with their masks, leave the face shields at home, no other school in the area use them. I have asked other physicians with kids in area schools and she said the mask is what is needed. If the face shield was needed we all would be wearing both. Current Hybrid plan is not enough time for in person learning. Needs to be everyday. The longer you keep these kids out of school, the more you are taking from them.</p> <p>Hello. I would like thank the Administration for all your efforts in developing the 2nd semester plan, and the Board for all the time you devote to our community. Based on all I have learned and read, I believe the plan appropriately minimizes covid risk to students, staff, and families. The only concerns I have relate to the metrics, and I spent a considerable amount of time this weekend developing an understanding of them. My two recommendations are that you:</p>
<p>Lori van de Wetering</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. incorporate a trend into your decision, for example, positivity and cases per 100,000 are trending in the right direction for X number of days. 2. Run the numbers for each zip code individually then weight the averages. 60515 and 60516 are trending in the right direction, below 9% for the 7 day average, and close for the 14 day average. How many students actually live in Bolingbrook (or example)? If it's a very small number then the metrics of Bolingbrook should not carry the same weight as the Downers Grove zip codes. <p>My two seniors are eagerly anticipating returning to the school building for their last semester of high school. We're doing our part. Thank you.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>I would like to thank the administration for putting together a hybrid plan to get the kids back in person. While I appreciate their efforts, I firmly believe the plan is set up to fail with the metrics and 8 zip codes used for the dashboard. Taking the Bolingbrook zip code as a hole does not make any sense when a small number of students live in Bolingbrook. It represents almost 25% of the total population for the metrics. My suggestion is to eliminate the Bolingbrook zip code or take a percentage of each zip code based on the number of students that attend D99. Are other schools using 9% positivity rate or nothing at all? D58 is not using a positivity rate to determine in person or not, why is D99? Also, the hybrid plan has the students attending each class once per week in person. That is not enough. The students need more. How are other districts able to figure it out and D99 can't? The seniors have already missed out on an entire semester, college visits, Homecoming, football games, in person clubs, sports, the list goes on and on. Now you are splitting their class in half. Let the seniors attend school together and graduate together. Figure out a way to split by grade level. Students are suffering and depressed. They need to be around their peers in school and now you are taking 1/2 of them away. Board members - I ask that you challenge the hybrid plan as presented by questioning the 9% positivity rate, challenge the splitting of classes and challenging the minimal in person time. The kids need and deserve more.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

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Anonymous	<p>I feel it is very important the Board of Education finds a way to get our students back in school. I have been emailing with questions and concerns yet Dr. Thiele only responds with the same general letter that gives many excuses. Are you aware as a Board that he is responding that District 58 can go back since they don't change classes? That is not true. My daughter attends O'Neill Middle School and changes classes multiple times per day. Is he even talking to Dr. Russell and getting information on how they handle class period changes?</p> <p>I'm sure he would use his default response that we just can't compare.</p> <p>Many districts, including the one I teach in, are being creative and finding solutions on how to make all this work. The difference between those districts and District 99 is they have a Board, Administration and teachers who value in school learning. They are listening to the experts who say that kids are safest in school. What we have here in District 99 is a superintendent that insists that "the metrics" are keeping us home instead of people dedicated to getting these kids back in school. This new plan is only going to work if you actually let the kids show up. This Board needs to reconsider the metrics Dr. Thiele is creating, look at how other districts are allowing their students in the school, and get committed to getting these kids back in the classrooms to see each other and their teachers.</p> <p>Regarding tonight's review of the proposed hybrid learning plan, I believe is strikes a compromise between those that would like the schools open full time and those who would prefer them remote full time. It does appear that the district reviewed parent suggestions from a recent survey and made necessary changes.</p> <p>I would prefer that the district commit to the hybrid plan without basing it's implementation on the metrics cited. I personally would prefer the board to commit to a hybrid plan without basing it's implementation on metrics that apply to a population of approximately 250,000. I believe basing whether the district is in remote or hybrid based on the number of confirmed cases within the school population (students and teachers) is a better indication of COVID spread and risk for the district.</p> <p>It would send a poor message to the students if we have to switch back and forth between hybrid and remote based on a 1/4 to 1/2 percentage point positivity rate among 250,000 people since this metric is largely out of the students, parents, and teacher's control. For this reason, I encourage the board to remove the metrics provision from the plan.</p> <p>If the district intends to keep the metrics, the local metrics are better than basing them on DuPage County metrics or Illinois metrics, they are very broad. The board should carefully review the analysis done by Mr. Rich Bennema. He made several good suggestions.</p> <p>A recent analysis I did showed that the 60440 zip code (which comprises a small percentage of the D99 students) when included in the analysis raised the 14 day positive rate for the other 7 zip codes by a little more than 1/2 of 1 percent (from 9.37 to 9.9 %)</p> <p>Please consider excluding that zip code or weighting the positivity rates based on the percentage of students from D99 from each zip code.</p> <p>District 99 should follow the example of many private schools this fall and commit to the hybrid plan and pivot to remote when high transmission required it. Very few of these schools experienced anything approaching a COVID outbreak this fall.</p>
Robert Benton	

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Erin Gee	<p>I am asking you to think rationally. Dr. Fauci, the CDC, the AAP, and every physician, especially the mental health docs, agree that the kids should be learning in-person. Transmission has not been a problem in any school that takes proper precautions. Based on my current experience as a hospital-based RN with a 100% direct patient care position and as a part-time university professor with 100% in-person class and lab time with my students, D 99 has all the precautions already in place to safely allow kids back in school. And I'm talking about full time in-person school. You can't possibly know if or when the damage done to our students emotionally, educationally (because let's be honest here, they are way behind schedule, in addition to the lessons that just don't translate even sort of adequately over Zoom, like math and science), physically (stuck sitting in front of a computer screen for a full class day, followed up by homework assignments all evening— can't be good for their fitness or their vision), and socially. On a basic level, the "job" of a high school-aged kid is to interact with peers and other adults. In person. Have you forgotten this? Countless research prior to the pandemic has outlined how important in-person interactions and communications are, especially as teens are trying to develop into their adult selves. Social media as a means of peer interaction can be misleading and isolating at best, toxic at worst. The total effects of the harm being caused by remote learning will not be uncovered until long after these kids are out of your hair. But the lingering effects will continue to hamper them.</p> <p>There is a reason that the crooked politician running this state hasn't come out and said schools must close, it's because none of the sources he claims to follow would back that up. And he would never take the kind of liability onto himself that forcing school closures would bring. He puts the onus on you to do it. Don't. Increase the in-person learning hours to full time. Allow an option for those who feel they need remote for their circumstances. Follow metrics for our immediate area, but do not use them as an absolute decider of whether to open the schools or not. Look at school transmission rate. I think we all are aware that it is non-existent this past Fall. You've caused us to miss out on so many weeks of in-person learning already. Open up. Full time.</p> <p>The children of D99 deserve a chance to get into the classrooms next semester! Please consider all of the data and research articles that clearly state schools are ESSENTIAL and schools should be open. The metrics for DCPH are very specific and the findings are absolutely glaring that positive case rates for children under 20 years old are low, deaths for children under 20 years old are almost non-existent and schools ARE safe! Please consider the hundreds of parents and children who have signed a petition to open our schools for hybrid option or full in person learning. The science is not inconclusive...it is glaringly obvious that a large number of children are failing and struggling with remote only. Please find ways to hire subs or teachers and there is plenty of space to make it work. Do not rely on tired excuses when other districts and an entire diocese of catholic schools are in person (teachers come to school everyday) or hybrid at minimum. The district needs to step up, offer an option and get kids back in school. No more excuses, let's make it work! Thank you!</p>
Maria Borchichi	We totally support back to school in person ASAP
Amy lavery	I just wanted to add I fully support the data analysis and information submitted to by Rich Bennaema. Please hear our voices and our children's in order to return to in person learning . Thank you!
Carrie swenson	This schedule is not addressing the high dependability for students to seek help, the survey says students are not using these. Additionally, your metrics are setting up a system that returning will not happen. The metrics used are including daily positivity from daily hospital covid numbers for in patient persons, not a community risk. Multiple positives that can not be a community risk more than once. The Governor stated today it is up to the superintendent and district which includes the board members sitting here. The CDC guidelines specifically state this is not enough time in class and we should be moving to a more full schedule at this point. This is not even a start. The metrics are ridiculous and hardly addresses the concerns of the community as a whole.
Carrie swenson	Why are students turning cameras off? The fact that this question is brought up with no insight is concerning. They are disengaged, they are doing things they shouldn't be because they don't care anymore. They are sleeping, playing video games, anything but engaged in learning. It's not hard to see this and the reasons why. Social services are lacking and continued use of antiquated interventions are not working. Home visits? I know of two students that never got a call back when they did reach out. It's very frustrated to hear this lack of acknowledgment and lack of solution.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form December 14, 2020 Board Meeting

Anonymous	<p>In discussion about counselors and teachers and incorporating parents in the Paper program, counseling etc.... you do realize these are sometimes 16,17,18 years old children. How much strain on the family unit are you going to put. There are daily battles with children, young adults. Parents can not always use these resources that look good on paper, but in reality are just another excuse for an argument from a disengaged student. I really don't think the guidance or social work departments are doing a good job at DGN, I have many friends at DGS and it is might and day.</p>
karen fletcher	<p>We are putting our kids at a disadvantage - they need to be in school - look at the cases in the school - not only those in the community that are inaccurate and inflated - 9% is so LOW - if we have no outbreaks in school - get them nad keep them in</p>
Carter Wilson	<p>Rick Pavinato made a brilliant suggestion on today's board meeting. To have the board of elected members vote on parents' behalf if threshold numbers are exceeded. Hank should not have unilateral power to make this decision...it is not a "day to day" issue in any way. Looking only at the community COVID infection numbers (or some arbitrary representation of the community as proposed) is not the whole story. EG If the community numbers go up, and there is no outbreak at school. Or the converse: if the community numbers have not hit the threshold, but the school is experiencing an outbreak. We need to hold our elected representatives responsible for decisions such as this. THE BOARD SHOULD VOTE.</p>

Disclaimer: Kids should have the option to see in person

Rad's * Im Chloe Sheppard, Senior @ DGS, Im currently here because students feel like you dont care / will (not gonna listen)

11-11-20
Kids R miserable
Resource?

There has been a massive increase of kids that are being sent to places mental health in patient services, rehab centers and more. Suicide hotlines have been so flooded people are being turned down from those hotlines. If you claim to be doing such a great job then why are so many kids struggling so bad. You are letting kids slip through the cracks because we cannot be here in person. You cant see all those who are in pain or suffering. You cant help kids behind a screen who struggle asking for help.

90% of students note on live learning Davenport
Dont respond cause dont feel heard

You are also telling kids to reach out to their friends during the pandemic is great. It helps a lot of kids. But do you really know how what these kids are saying. In the past 3/4 months Ive had to talk to friends of killing themselves, people are miserable tons of people I know and I am friends with have expressed that they R feeling depressed, anxious, suicidal, self harming, etc miserable, and shame of

* Kids feel like you don't care
What does that say about you
this is aimed at board

this isn't just normal kids, this was straight
A people, people ~~en~~ who were known for being
successful & miserable kids want to
back in school

x.5 * Open the school

- Teachers

- Pritzler said today it's up to
the school districts

- Kids are too depressed to get out
of bed.

What about all the stu-
dents that are being in abusive households
& relationships you are allowing them to
suffer.

Teachers / miserable

You are failing everyone.

* Hard to reach out to teachers
hard / depressed

I have a huge project to do, sadly I cannot read my statement to you. I have paper.

Students are struggling and so are teachers.
Do the right thing and get us back in school