

December 7, 2020

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in workshop session at 6:31 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 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; and Members Sherell Fuller, Dan Nicholas, Terry Pavesich, Rick Pavinato and Joanna Vazquez Drexler. Mike Davenport, Vice President, was absent.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Janice Schwarze, North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

The following was physically present at the Administrative Service Center: Hank Thiele, Superintendent.

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

1. REPORT ON COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION METRICS

Dr. Thiele stated metrics are still in the substantial level and the DuPage County Health Department is concerned about a spike in the coming weeks. Hank Thiele shared, though the numbers are decreasing, they are still above the threshold where it is safe to return. He announced at the next Board meeting results of the feedback surveys will be presented.

2. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Thiele stated over the course of the day Public Comments advocating for a return to in-person learning for second semester were submitted via the online Public Comment Form; the comments are attached. Keri Norris, Kate Benton and Amy Romanu addressed the Board in support of a return to in-person learning.

President Kupka thanked those who provided comments.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned to Closed Session for the purpose of self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).

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

President Kupka announced the Board would not be taking any Action after coming out of Closed Session.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 6:54 p.m.

4. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

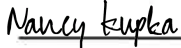
The meeting was reconvened in Open Session with the following members of the Board of Education in attendance: Nancy Kupka, President; Michael Davenport, Vice President; and Members Sherell Fuller, Terry Pavesich, Rick Pavinato and Joanna Vazquez Drexler.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the six members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

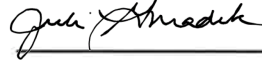
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Nancy Kupka, President

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Juli Gniadek, Secretary



BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 7, 2020

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Heri Norris
Kate Benton
Bob Benton
AMY ROMANU

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

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Michael Cappello	<p>Hello! I am writing this to let you know how truly important it is to have our children back in school the maximum hours possible. This entire semester was a significant challenge given the fact that the social and interpersonal portion of school was absent. When the COVID numbers were at a low, the decision was made to go remote. As other school districts started to return to in-person learning, we continued remote learning. The 2 weeks of hybrid learning our children in District 99 represented 6 days for a total of 13 hours in-person for freshmen and two days less for the other classes. Local high school districts, similar in size, such as Hinsdale high schools, Lyons Township, and York have been back from remote for months. They may be at 25% capacity, but it seems as if we challenged ourselves to also think different, we could provide a similar model and a welcome experience for our children. All local private schools have been in person since August. My 8th grade daughter who attends St. Joseph School has been in school, five days a week, full days, with lunch and recess. There have been zero transmissions in school. Yes they are a much smaller school however they are K-8 grades, with young children who have a very hard time following all of the restrictions and yet they are doing it. High school is comprised of young adults, much more capable of following the guidelines, and you yourselves said they did a great job the two weeks they were there in hybrid form.</p> <p>Many children are struggling with learning in a new and different way. They cannot quickly ask their teacher a question in between classes without scheduling a Zoom meeting. They cannot socialize with their peers or enjoy any of their high school experience.</p> <p>Many are also struggling emotionally. This emotional toll is being referred to as the next pandemic by many experts in pediatric medicine and behavioral health. They sit on a computer from 8:00 until 3:20, with some breaks, Monday through Friday and then have homework to work on after school. There are currently no sports or activities. These kids need to interact, even if it's from a 6 foot distance and only for a little bit while in school. Remember only a year ago when the world was saying that our youth was spending too much time on screens. It isn't healthy they said. They need personal interaction they said. Now this is all they know. While contracting COVID is a possibility while being in any public setting, including school, depression and anxiety are all too real events that are emerging as a result from children throughout the country who are not in school.</p> <p>We all recognize how difficult this is for everyone and the responsibility you have to protect our children, not only from the coronavirus, but also from the social and emotional detachment that is creating a disparity of experience for our children compared to others locally and to many others throughout the nation. We know you all have a difficult job with tough decisions to be made. The CDC, IDPH, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Dr. Fauci all have stated that children need to be in school in some capacity. Take pride in the processes you have put forth to protect our children from contracting or spreading the virus while they are in school. Take pride in knowing that District 99 has great programs and great students. Take pride in having the courage to allow our children to take advantage of your plans and to be able to experience what the District has to offer.</p> <p>We all thank you for listening and taking our questions and concerns into consideration when developing plans for our children's future. We all wish you and your family the best in the holiday season and in 2021.</p>
Jennifer Klemz	<p>In the matter of Hybrid Learning for 2nd semester at D99, I am urging the board to move forward with plans to get our students back to in-person learning. My son is severely struggling and at some point in 1st semester was failing 4 classes with D's in the rest. The few days he went to DGN for hybrid classes were the happiest I had seen him all semester. He has verbally confirmed that he cannot work under this remote model and struggles every day to engage in zooms and complete assignments. This being his Junior year, he should be focused on college prep, not whether or not he will even have enough credits towards graduation. I implore the board to move forward with In-person learning in January.</p>

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Lori van de Wetering	<p>Next week when the plan for January is announced, I hope that it includes a return to in person learning. Without sharing sources (because I know you've seen them all) I have learned that 1) masks are effective as little as 1 foot apart 2) schools have not been shown to be super-spreaders 3) mental health and academic progress are declining due to remote learning.</p> <p>I am learning of more and more local schools that either never went fully remote or are returning to in person learning. Please do the right thing and bring our students back to in person school.</p>
Jennifer Stephens	<p>My name is Jennifer Stephens. I have a Freshman and a Senior at DGN. I use the words AT DGN loosely as they have spent the past three (five) months in our home, remotely learning or attempting to learn. I have watched their enthusiasm and motivation for school continue to decrease as return to school dates keep changing and get pushed back. I am worried about their academic, social, and most importantly mental well-being. They need to return to school IN PERSON, FULL TIME. It's up to the administration and the school board to make it happen, and it can happen. It is currently working at schools in Dupage County, as well as across our state and country without widespread outbreaks.</p> <p>I understand that we are in a pandemic. I am a registered nurse at a busy academic medical center. I know these times have been incredibly challenging. I have seen it firsthand. The way that I do my job has changed several times since March. It has required flexibility, creativity, and of course personal protective equipment (PPE). The only PPE I wear on a daily basis is a regular mask and goggles. I work with COVID positive patients. Unless I am doing an aerosol generating procedure, I wear that same mask and goggles. We have at least thirty staff members, and our work environment does not allow us to remain socially distant at all times. We care for thirty patients a day and not one of our staff members have tested positive from exposures at work. I am bringing this up because PPE works. The students need to get back in the classroom, full time. You have distributed the right PPE for the students to safely return. They want to get back to school and will wear the PPE. They need to get back to school. The experts say in person learning is best. It's up to you to make it happen.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jennifer Stephens</p>
KATHY STOPKA	<p>It is very important that we get our students back in the classroom full time next semester. Our students are suffering. Their grades have dropped, they are not being prepared properly for college, they are missing out on so many important milestones in their lives. Our students are being isolated in front of a computer screen for hours on end, day after day. Their mental health is being sacrificed. They are suffering from depression and anxiety. All of the medical professionals acknowledge this and say getting our children back into the classroom should be a priority. This age group as well as the majority of the teachers have a very small chance of contracting COVID 19, and if they do the vast majority will be just fine. You cannot continue to make our children suffer for a virus they have a 99.99% chance of recovering from if they even contract it. Enough is enough, they have not been in the classroom since March (the 4 days you allowed them to visit school hardly counts). It's time to get them back to school. You say you are following the science. I don't know which science you are following. The CDC, WHO, etc say our kids need to be back in the classroom. You kept the students home because of "rumored" parties after Halloween. There were no cases of COVID 19, so how is this using science? Other schools in the area are back in the classroom. Hinsdale was never not in the classroom in some way. The Hinsdale board and superintendent have worked tirelessly to find ways to keep their students in school. So have numerous private schools and many public schools. Please do your jobs and put our students first - get them back in the classroom full time!!!!</p>

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David Leatherwood	<p>Community District Board 99 and Dr. Theile.</p> <p>The CDC and the WHO agree that the safest place for students is in school. The Board and administration have an obligation to put kids back to school. As Dr. Theile and the Board realize, science class without labs is not science, English class without in person presentations and discussions is not English, Band without performances is not Band, and the list goes on and on. Remote learning does not provide our students with a quality education, and saying otherwise is disingenuous. Moreover, we are putting our students behind other students in our state, the country and the world. the recovery rate for people under 70 who contract this virus is 99.95%, and 99.998% of students fully recover. It is not acceptable that one person decides the future of our students. The board voted 7-0 for hybrid in August and it is the duty of the administration to make sure that happens. Further, all of the science and data dictate that students should be in person full time. The Administration should make this happen for the the start of second semester.</p>
Paula Duellman	<p>Again I am stating my vote for In Person learning for my student at DGN. This first semester has been horrible for her. She is an A student and struggling academically and EMOTIONALLY with this continued remote learning. I wanted in person to start in Aug , then again in Sept and in Oct. This boards actions to not provide appropriate amount of in person learning hours has been shameful. Our children continue to fall behind their peers in neighboring towns and other states!! In person is essential and not just 2 half days a week. Open our schools!!! Let parents be parents and kids be kids! Your job to provide an education for all</p>
Kate Benton	<p>I am voicing my strong objection to the "adaptive pause" for Transitions 99. These students have the most needs and are least likely to benefit from remote learning.</p> <p>Other Dupage county school districts are open. I request a formal vote to lift the adaptive pause and return the students of T99 to school immediately.</p>
Robert Benton	<p>As District 99 moves toward a re-opening of the two high schools in Downers Grove, keeping them open will certainly be a challenge. Has the board considered implementing some local COVID testing?</p> <p>If not, why not. The community is entitled to a public response to this question.</p>

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Wendy Fredricks	<p>Please put together a plan that gets our kids and teachers back in school in person. My hope is that we can be back in school full time for academics and allow our students to participate in their winter sports.</p> <p>I filled out my survey and hope the feedback you received represented everyone's perspective. I hear a lot of people stating their kids are bored and don't have enough work, but for my girls, it is exactly the opposite. The teachers are all doing the best they can to ensure the material is taught so that students don't fall behind. Having said that, you can't make students pay attention, be able to attend, be able to focus, show up, etc from a remote location. These are not adults and do not executive function at that level. Attention issues also make it impossible for some to succeed at the same level (including honors/AP students who suffer because of ADD related issues) Many are suffering (including my own girls). Challenges of remote learning are very present and for sure impacting many. My girls both have a full load and are taking honors/AP/rigorous classes. To accomplish those classes, school has almost become a 24/7 situation. The only way to alleviate that is to be back in person where the instruction time can be more effective (invoking all senses, 3-dimensional, with collaboration). I hope that the plan for next semester continues to provide students with at least the same amount of synchronous learning (we like the block schedule) and as much in person as possible (in person just allows students to absorb/learn more in a shorter period of time). There have been many technical issues (especially for math) this year which has added anxiety and stress for many high-achieving students (ie: Pearson, the parent company that many math courses including Calc BC use for assessments went down all Wednesday and part of Thursday (in addition to AWS being down, impacting cloud services to many systems/functions including Pearson). Students had to take a test and some quizzes over the Thanksgiving break in order to keep up with the schedule. It is an AP class, so to succeed takes more work in this remote setting. With Pearson and AWS being down 2 days, it impacting many students' ability to have a relaxing break. My senior is top 2% (and sophomore top 8%) and is very dedicated to her success, which has come with increased stress in this new environment. The amount of work is excessive to be able to achieve the same results that one was able to achieve with less time in person.</p> <p>I also hope that there is some ability for these students to participate in their sports - my senior has been a varsity dancer for 4 years, and is captain this year... and is missing her only chance to act in that role and experience what she has worked pretty much her entire life to achieve (as are many). This fall we were so appreciative of what DGS was able to do, and hope that this winter can still provide some of that.</p> <p>Being remote and isolated is causing academic, mental, emotional, and physical issues. Focusing and motivation are severely degraded. Technology issues (and the difficulty of usability) cause stress and frustration.</p> <p>Other districts are clearly telling teachers they expect them back to teaching. I am a teacher in Darien and have been in person 4-1/2 days a week for the past several months. We are still in person. Please support our kids by putting in-person learning as a priority. The (large) majority want this.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I would like an explanation as to why so many students are getting free passes on assignments, multiple test retakes, and watered down curriculum. One student was told they had 10 missing assignments, they will forgive one assignment with everyone turned it. Due dates are non existent. Last meeting you told a board member that they are getting an education. From where others sit this are far from an education. Is this happening to pad the impact of failings rampant in this district? To make teachers, admins and so forth look better? What does this mean for the blatant cheating going on in pretty much every students day? I would hope the board and admin understand that it's a joke. There is zero learning, application, retention happening. This is not on the teachers. You have tied their hands. Schools need to return full time starting from the first day of the new semester with a remote option for parents that have medical concerns, high risk family members. . Stop bending over backwards to accommodate teachers outside the legal options they have. Other districts have public announced this coming with the new semester. Open up full time. You won't know how successful it can be (since you don't look at any other district) until you do it. I am begging you do not let them lose an entire year. You have got to see it, each one of you.</p>
Debbie Jensen	<p>Bring our children to school where they belong. Other districts have done it with no problems. I've stopped emailing because they go unanswered, but stop ignoring parents and give our children the education they deserve.</p>

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Amy Laverty	<p>Hi there! I am a parent of a DGS Freshman and I am writing to you today to give you feedback on the semester for my daughter who has been mostly remote and a small portion of Hybrid learning. I have seen a complete and total disengagement at this point from school, she has not been the motivated and eager-to-learn student I have previously known over the last 10 years. It is with great sadness that I actually have to write this letter to explain how detrimental remote learning is for my student. All students have different needs and varying degrees of social and emotional parameters. I, for one, work in mental health and I have seen the damage done because of schools not being able to provide a Hybrid or In-person option. I would love to go on about how remote learning has been detrimental to my daughter's academic career but her grades prove that point and her lack of desire to strive for better grades has diminished no matter what I do to keep her engaged. This is a tough year for all and we only ask that you look around, keep your eyes and ears open to the community at large and read the multitudes of literature that indicate children and teens are safe in school when the proper precautions are taken. The risk is low and I have family members who are out of state who have gone to school EVERY DAY ALL DAY and they are thriving. The data is glaringly obvious that our children's health is not at risk and the damage is going to be irreparable. We do not want to be complacent and I am asking that you take notice of the data and other districts that are offering hybrid or in-person learning options. If you have any questions please call me, email me, or I will meet on a Zoom to talk with you. This is no longer a pandemic because of a novel virus but also an epidemic relating to lack of reason and our kids are the pawns in this game. Please stop the game so our children can thrive once again.</p> <p>Thank you, Amy</p>
Anonymous	<p>Our children need to be in school and more than the previous hybrid plan. I do not understand how other surrounding districts are able to figure this out and D99 is not able to. Please look at the surrounding schools and model a hybrid plan after those schools where it's working. Schools are NOT super spreaders. These kids have already missed out on 1/2 their school year. Don't let them miss out on the next half of their high school year. I understand some people do not want to return, they have a choice to remain remote. Let the parents and kids who want to go back, return. Also, please do not split grade levels by alphabet. Think about the seniors who have lost so much already, now not being able to go to class with their classmates, graduate with them, etc. If there needs to be a split, split by grade level. I understand classes are mixed, but I'm sure it can be figured out where you allow the seniors to go to class with their classmates.</p> <p>Dr. Russell, district 58's superintendent, is looking at the schools, number of cases in the school, staff available. He is not looking at DuPage numbers b/c the cases in the schools are what's important. D58 is on a hybrid plan and it's working. The kids are happy to be back and learning live with their teacher and classmates. Dr. Thiele seems to be looking at the DuPage numbers only which is not fair. The schools put safety measures in place with face masks, shields and social distancing. The schools are not super spreaders. Please don't let our kids fall even more behind. They deserve more and deserve to be heard and return to school for an education.</p>

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Abigail Manak	<p>As a student and high school senior, I am very disappointed on how the district 99 school board is handling Covid-19 and precautions. By continuing remote learning, students are struggling, not learning enough material, and having little social interactions.</p> <p>The struggles of technology issues, minimal meetings within class periods, and multiple distractions, it is almost impossible not to be frustrated as a student. Having eighty minute periods is a strain on the average 28-48 minute attention span of teenagers. With this lack of attention span, teachers cannot get through the recommended material. In multiple classes I am short of essays, novels, and textbook chapters.</p> <p>Student's mental health is struggling with the little to none social interactions. I am unable to have the school clubs, programs, and retreats that better my mental health. It is frustrating and disappointing. Especially when it is safe to move forward with in-person learning, as long as social distancing and masks are properly done.</p> <p>I ask that the school board looks at the spread of Covid-19 in schools, not the county. Schools are not super spreaders and are essential to the lives of nearly 5,000 D99 students. We are unable to learn, succeed, and see peers because the superintendent refuses to look to the school and students. As a senior, I have never been more disappointed in the school I attend.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As a parent in the district, I find it incomprehensible that this logic for keeping schools closed continues. Every single professional expert has blatantly said to open up. My child has never failed a class ever. He is now failing 3. He is a senior and this impacts his merit scholarship money. Do not tell me it's on him. Do not tell me to contact the teacher. Straight A student to a failing student and the ONLY thing that has changed is remote learning. The teachers are telling him they will forgive assignments. This is one semester before college. You are setting him up for life long failure and already have seen money from colleges slip right through his fingers. Guess who got the money. Hinsdale students. Wake up. One more comment, it is time for Nancy to resign. She is out of touch. She has no grasp of her duties. She leads by her personal bias every single meeting and in fact does not follow science but her own made up experience of a world apocalypse we have yet to see. She needs to get in her own lane and act like a board member not someone on a health and wellness committee she works at as a nurse. It does not belong here. Her comment "I work with covid patients all day" is irrelevant to the issues facing the board. I know of many doctors, not nurses, that are parents that have first hand knowledge as well. Guess what, they fully support returning. They are parents, not an out of touch board president. Not one death under 20 in dupage county from covid. Yet thousands of students being damaged every day. Destroyed. 10 months. Open the schools.</p>

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Amy Romano	<p>Hank Thiele and the board have manipulated the data to their advantage to keep the students out of school. The board and Hank used the following excuses: The wrong PPE for faculty was ordered three times, and once it failed to meet the states guidelines.</p> <p>The equipment needed..microphone, masks, gloves were back -ordered</p> <p>The construction at DGN & DGS was not completed enough to allow students back in the school, therefore there was not enough space to properly social distance the students.</p> <p>Hank meets with the Health Dept on Friday and Mondays to determine if the students should be back In school. The data that is presented on Fridays and Mondays is not enough for Hank to make an educated decision because the numbers are not in real time. If the DuPage Health dept is not using accurate data, why are you making a decision off their data?</p> <p>Hank and the board have not put the students first. Hank dazzles you with charts and graphs but does a poor job of executing his plan.</p> <p>This year, we have been blessed with amazing teacher, last years teachers did a poor job with the pandemic.</p> <p>I want to thank Hank and the current board for showing our family that the public education is broken and students do not come first. District 99 is not the place to send your child to HS, look into private and catholic schools who are organized and put the students first. Look at Hinsdale HS, LT and other schools that have come up with a successful plan. Currently, the wrong people are in the wrong seats and that needs to change.</p>
Amy Rogers	<p>Please review the metrics and see that the spread of Covid does not come through exposure at school nor have there been outbreaks attributed to schools. Your job is to educate the kids of this community. Our kids are suffering and there are plenty of similar size high school districts in the area with students attending in person classes right now. They are reviewing the same metrics the Board is, yet seem to believe those metrics don't support the remote only option. Parents can make the choice for their children as to whether they want to send them to school or not, but you are not giving parents that choice. Kids need to be in the school for their classes for their academic, emotional and social well being. Do the job you were elected to do and get these kids back in school! It's what the community wants, that you represent, and the metrics support that model.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Education is an essential sector and school reopening should be prioritized. With the right protocols in place, research shows it can be done safely. Europe has largely kept schools open during their latest surge and many countries have bent the curve during this period. While there is no perfect solution, there is also a cost to our school remaining "closed." I thank you for your consideration.</p>
Hemaxi Mistry	<p>I am a CSD 99 parent and just like everyone else this year, it has been the most challenging year as a parent of a remote learning teenager. My student was a distinguished honor until last year. This year she is not at all motivated and her grades are suffering. My student feels totally isolated socially and emotionally from peers as well as class teachers. The eighty minutes period is taking toll on her ability to focus. She has suffered from headaches almost every evening due to straining her eyes glued to the screen for most of the day. The teachers are unable to do justice to the course material remotely, which then forces our students to do catchup by watching online videos or self-study. Further aggravating the screen time issue. She most certainly wants to be back in class with her peers. I urge Mr. Thiele and board members to please bring students back in school. We have focused too much on administration, staff and teacher's safety and needs. It is high time we really focus on the students for whom schools are.</p>

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Shannon Wilczak	Hello. My honors student WAS a straight A student, now struggling to get B's. If it wasn't for partial credits for work not turned in, he would be struggling even more. My student also has a 504 for ADHD and a seizure disorder, while he is getting zero supports: He has lost motivation and cannot focus in front of a screen all day! He was interested in pursuing a career in chemical engineering. Yet he has lost out on most of his education in honors Chem, and lost interest in the field. What is happening to our kids is NOT OK! We have honors students who USED to love school failing to engage or even care. We have an unprecedented amount of students needing mental health intervention as well as suicides. My student is far from alone in his struggles. Our kids NEED to be IN SCHOOL! Other districts are making it happen! Including Hinsdale. There has been little to no virus spread in these schools. Maybe the board and Dr. Thiele can meet with these Supers to figure out how to make this happen, but enough is enough! Our children are being damaged! Most pediatricians and health officials (including the CDC) agree these kids need to be IN SCHOOL! We NEED to figure out how to make this happen, for the sake of our children. Our future leaders! Our kids need to be back in school now! Thank you for listening
Erin Gee	This has been a tough year on all of us. My biggest concern is no longer for my class of 2020 DGS grad, who is doing fabulous away at college, nor for my 8th grader, who has been back in hybrid class for a much greater length of time than my DGS junior. It is the current high school students, my junior included, who are being harmed everyday they are kept out of in-person learning. There is no reason to force them to remain at home. Fauci, the CDC, any physician you speak to, have all said that the students need to be in the classroom. Not at home where they are becoming angrier, more depressed, more isolated, and less educated. The educational, emotional, and social harm being done to these students today will only be realized in the future. Their jobs, as high school-aged kids, is not only to get an education, but to learn who they are and who they want to become through in-person interactions with other students and teachers. It is apparent that this board and superintendent have no concern for the students' overall well-being. COVID transmission has NOT been found to be a problem in schools. You have zero excuse for keeping the doors closed. Open them up. Full day in-person learning. Anything less is piling more damage on our kids.
Elizabeth S Knowles	need to talk about the changes you are making
Anonymous	After watching the board meeting / workshop tonight, it's obvious that Dr. Thiele is going to present a hybrid plan that looks great on paper and then we will remain remote b/c of the county metrics. Board members - It's time to vote against Dr. Thiele. Arlington Heights board just voted against their superintendent's recommendation because they care about the students. The students will remain hybrid. Board member Rick asked Hank why are we not back when other districts are back. Rick - you are on the right track. We should be back just like every other surrounding school district. Time to go back to the drawing board to get the kids back to school 2nd semester no matter what the county metrics are. The metrics should be the school cases. Schools are not super spreaders. Every health official has stated the kids need to be back in school. Why doesn't D99 get that or make it happen? Why are we the only surrounding district not going hybrid? It's a shame and embarrassing at the same time. Board members - do your job and vote for what the students are parents want, a return to school. Do NOT allow Hank to keep using the disclaimer "as long as the metrics allow." Time to represent the public and make Hank and the administration do their job to get the kids back into the classroom in January and more than 2 half days.
Amy Lavery	I am now appalled at the level of neglect related to our children's lives in this board meeting! Please do not use the metrics to continue to say it is "high risk" when we absolutely know without a doubt the kids are almost no risk! Please read the facts! The other districts going back to hybrid or in person learning are putting D99 to shame and we need to step up for our kids. One more statistic on depression, failing classes and hopelessness should not be acceptable. Thank you.
Christie Nutt	Just wanted to send a follow up to the meeting ... The kids need to get back to in person learning. The metrics need to be reevaluated as I'm sure these were decided on early in our school year. There are so many schools returning to in person and D99 needs to step up and make it happen for these kids. These kids are suffering behind the scenes and the board hears and sees what is going on so I'm not sure why this is happening! We need to do better!