

Return to School Survey Comments for the Board

(It is difficult to distinguish between comments at times as some people responded in multiple paragraphs. We have alternated colors for different people's comments as best we could)

Dear BOE,

I hope this email finds you all well.

I recognize that our community circumstances continue to change on daily basis.

As we quickly approach the start of the school year, the DuPage County Public Health Department does recognize an uptick of cases within our neighborhoods.

Neighboring School Districts & Downers Grove South High School have made decisions to begin remote or enter a hybrid model that supports a density reduction during in-person instruction.

I wanted to reach out to inquire on the district's thought process with regard to consideration of a hybrid model. I firmly believe that we need to proceed with caution and diligence for the health and safety of our students and staff. Even one loss of a staff member or a child would be an unacceptable result of a hasty district decision.

By alternating student attendance days, we are lessening our children to exposure and allowing parents to cross check for symptoms over extended periods of remote time. There is science to support every opinion out there-- however, our community and BOE is responsible for the safety and well being of our students and staff. To err on anything less than cautious is wreckless and does not uphold the oath taken as elected school board members.

I believe our BOE and administration will find that a hybrid option may make the most sense to serve our students, and to place less stress on our teachers. Not only would it allow for teachers to perfect this new form of modality- but it will also lessen the density within the school building. In addition, it will provide continued safety and lessen exposure for our community.

I want to continue to applaud the board and administration for their hard work during this time. I have three additional points that I would love for the board to review and potentially address:

1. Looking at the latest DuPage County COVID-19 dashboard (<https://www.dupagehealth.org/610/DuPage-County-COVID-19-Dashboard>), coronavirus disease continues to have minimal impact on those under age 20, despite what recent media reports try to portray. Coronavirus disease in DuPage County appears to affect those under age 20, 0.4% (396.3 case rates per 100,000 in this patient population). In addition, the most recent recovery rate is shown to be 94.1% according to this dashboard. I want you to consider this as other school districts are changing direction and moving towards a full remote learning plan to start the year.

2. There has been an increasing amount of attention to children being trafficked. With masks being required (and for the record, as difficult it will be for children to maintain proper mask procedures, I think masks should be required), what precautions and processes are in place to make sure the right

child is taken to the right car as it will be harder to identify with masks covering their faces. I'd really like to see some update to this.

3. I strongly think it is of the best interest to start the year in person. If things change and when we hit the new flu season and see an expected uptick in flu or coronavirus cases, students and teachers will have had 2-3 months of in person learning to develop those relationships and build that chemistry so that if we have to move into a remote situation, everybody will be more successful.

Thanks again!

Please agree for in person learning (with e-learning option for some parents). I have the child that has special education program at school and e-learning doesn't work for him. I don't want him to stay far behind other kids. I see now that kids do sports, everybody go for family parties, go shopping or do other different activities - I don't think it would be dangerous for kids and teachers to meet at school with masks and social distance. In person learning would be great for kid's social and emotional health and long distance educational goals. Thank You for help.

Please allow kids to come back to school and do in person learning. I have 3 kids and they cant wait to go back to school. One is starting Kindergarten this year. He is overjoyed to be on the bus and start school! I believe it's the best thing for childrens health both psychological and emotional to be in school. They need social interaction and be with their peers! Kids have strong immune system and they will do great despite all the restrictions. My daughter didnt like e-learning. It was very isolating experience for her. I pray that this wont happen again! Please let our school district be the shining example of in person learning! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS!

I am looking forward to hearing about additional options for parents who are concerned about sending their children back to school full time, or even at all. Every family has different situations and risk tolerance levels, and I feel that there should not be a one size fits all approach for our entire district.

I would love for my kids to still go to school full time. The kids need to meet their teachers to establish a relationship and to make sure they didn't lose too many skills from remote learning. My kids thrive on a daily routine and the spring really hinder their educational growth. Please keep the plan you have in place. I feel very comfortable that it will keep my kids safe while getting their essential education. I know that a majority of 66 parents are happy with the plan put in place.

Please consider a district wide hybrid model where the students still attend school while minimizing days of exposure. It should not be an all or nothing scenario for parents to choose as this unprecedented time has motivated school districts to realize that full day instruction is not the safest avenue. I also please request the consideration of a half day model as eating/drinking/socializing without masks has been highly discouraged by medical personnel. Thank you.

I'd like to encourage the BOE to consider moving our children into a 4 day hybrid rotation with a deep cleaning day. We continue to face increasing cases of COVID, along with varying scientific evidence supporting all avenues of opinions. With much unknown, we can only form safety hypothesis that

change on a daily basis. The #1 priority of our children and staff should be safety and wellness. We need to reduce the classroom density & limit exposure of children. A hybrid model will also allow parents to monitor for symptoms during remote days. I encourage the district to move forward with a more sound plan that correlates with neighboring districts and the ever-changing state of our county.

Both of my children (kindergartener and 3rd grader) are excited to get back to school. It was a little upsetting to see my son in the PM class as my husband and I both work and with childcare its easier for him to be in the AM, however, I understand the need for lower class sizes.

As the cases in our area continue to rise I feel that sending our children to school in person would be a bad idea at this time. The statistics are much worse for our area than they were when we originally shut down in March. I understand that I have the right to keep my children home, but am afraid that their education will be less than the children that attend in-person learning. This inequity is one of my biggest concerns.

I would be much more open to a shortened school day without in person lunch as a nice compromise between safety and in-person connection.

Bottom line is that if there is an in person option I will feel forced to send my children in order for them to “keep up” with the other in-person students. Unless a very robust remote option is offered my children will be punished for staying home. Also, if/when a case of COVID is confirmed in one of our district buildings will all parents be notified so that we can make a well informed decision as a family?

I do NOT support in-class learning. My children need in person learning because they need a true instructor with a true routine who is available and can better understand their learning needs. Developing a relationship and trust cannot be done through emails or zoom. Also I'll have three kids in the district and one child at home, their learning environment is everything, it's not fair for them to have to adjust and possibly be behind with the curriculum because they cannot get a quiet space to understand the school work. I feel like the classroom itself creates positivity in the faculty and the students, everyone is all in and ready to learn when they are in person. Thank you.

I strongly urge the Board to consider a hybrid or all remote learning option for at least the first 30-45 days of the school year. Alternatively, a half day option in person and remote the half of the day. There are more cases and deaths reported daily now than there were on March 13th when we closed. Do not treat our children, staff and faculty like guinea pigs. The survey that went out following the last board meeting really didn't give us the option to choose hybrid or remote — just the option of not attending. Hope our school district can come up with a better option than 5 days in person.

My children need in person learning due to the fact that this is how they best learn. The spring was a disaster and I feel as if they learned nothing. Remote learning was not a success and I feel as though their education was hindered. In person and direct instruction is vital for their education. They need the social aspect of school as well!

Please consider an amazing full remote option for all students. Thank you!

I truly hope you consider other options for families besides the 5 days a week in person. I feel this is highly irresponsible and it is giving us no options other than homeschooling.

Thank you to all who have worked so diligently to come up with a plan that meets the needs of staff, students, and district families while also keeping health and safety in mind. I support students returning to the classroom as long as significant health and safety measures are in place. In the event that District 66 chooses or is forced to go all remote, I ask the Board to consider a few things. Please consider continuing BACC as an all day program so working families can continue to provide their children a safe environment where they can continue to learn. I am sure there are many families like mine which have 2 full-time working parents, with no family nearby to help out. Full remote implementation without support/childcare would mean having to not only find a caregiver (potentially with little notice) but find childcare that will assist with E-Learning AND be affordable. Even if families have the ability to work from home, these parents will not be able to help students in the same capacity as non-working parents. You will end up with an achievement gap in students with access to in-home caregivers/full-time E-Learning assistance and students who have to fend for themselves while their parents go to work. Another consideration I would like the Board to make in the event of full remote implementation is prioritizing students with IEPs, 504 plans, and your ELL's for in-person learning. These are the highest risk students who should be receiving all day, in-person instruction as much as the State will allow. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I know these are not easy decisions to make.

We fully support the in person school plan. Kids need to be in school to learn. They will not learn as much remotely, especially if all guardians/ parents in the home work. I believe my children will suffer academically and socially if the district decided to move to a fully remote plan. I know this will be a year unlike any other, but I trust the plan as is will keep my children safe. We have to at least try! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication! This impossible task is not lost on us.

What is the plan for when flu season begins and there is a potential for a shut down? I believe the district should have a plan of action for this scenario so parents and teachers aren't scrambling again.

I fully support in person education! Thank you for everything you have been doing to ensure the safety of everyone. We appreciate it!

While I respect all parents decisions and am favor of having the option of in-person and remote options, I personally would like to send my child to school as I cannot teach her the way she needs to be taught. If guidelines are being followed, I feel confident in the schools ability to provide in person classes for those that choose that option.

I DO NOT think the kids need to be in school for in person learning 5 days a week. How do we know what the teachers are doing after school, before school, weekends? How do we know if other parents are going on trips, seeing friends and family who can possibly be infected. There is no control over that. And then you risk those students and/or teachers infecting the classroom when school is in session.

If in person is necessary, I believe we should do a hybrid model. School for 5 days a week with students not socializing with each other is essentially the same thing as remote learning. Many districts are

starting with remote learning and then will reassess. I believe we will benefit from remote learning, if not remote, then some kind of hybrid option. But 5 days in person learning is not necessary during a global pandemic.

The idea of kids eating lunch and having to take their mask off and sit in isolation is just so sad and risky! There is not enough data yet about children and Covid due to the fact that the children have not been exposed to many people since they have been out of school. Now they are finding that children spread Covid just as much as adults. It seems with the increased number of cases and new findings, the safest way to start school for the students and staff is remote.

Why have you not looked at a blended/hybrid model? It seems that many surrounding districts are either starting the year off blended/blended or remote. I don't feel it is safe to send my children back 5 days a week! I'm writing in hopes that you will decide on significant changes to the first draft of the school reopening plan.

The plan originally proposed does not keep our students, faculty or administrators safe and would create a transmission vector that would also endanger their families. Maintaining the rigorous sterile technique required for safety in a closed environment for 5 hours daily would be challenging for adults, but for young kids it's silly to even attempt. Any parents in your group will recognize that at the start of each school year, every family comes down with whatever colds and sniffles they managed to miss over the summer, and Covid spreads even more easily.

Spot checks and self certification rely on symptomatic expression of the virus, and I'm sure you're aware that many people with Covid are asymptomatic, particularly children. Relying on these methods to keep infectious kids at home is insufficient. Also, recent studies refute the assertion that kids don't spread the virus readily.

The only way we'll know whether your plan works is to try it, and failure means kids, staff, faculty, and family members get sick. Some of those sick won't show any effects, some will have a persistent annoying flu, some will require hospitalization and some will die. Some survivors may have life long side effects — we still don't know the extent of that danger.

As I'm sure you accept, any in-person learning will carry a risk. As you make this decision, I'd like you to quantify the risk you're willing to accept. I would like each of you to personally consider how many hospitalizations you'd accept. How many student deaths, faculty and staff deaths, parent and extended family deaths you're willing to accept. I know this sounds hyperbolic, but these are the actual stakes in your decision and you must each be ready to risk those lives for the educational gains of an in person or hybrid learning approach.

My kids do need to return to fall. They do better with teacher instruction. The online is nice to a point and then their attention span dwindles. They need to see their friends. Social emotional learning is so important. Parents that work full time cannot teach full time also. There needs to be some sort of balance. Thank for considering.

I fully support the board's plan for 5 days a week of in-person instruction. Our children's mental health and developmental needs are just as important as their physical health, and to meet these needs effectively, they need to be in school! I believe the board has kids' best interests in mind, while taking all the precautions necessary to keep them physically safe. I trust that the board will continue to develop and follow a plan that aligns with IDPH and CDC guidelines, and other expert sources, with kids' best interests in mind. Parents who have significant concerns about the plan and don't agree with these guidelines have the option to keep their kids home. I hope that the opinion of this minority does not shift the board's planning in a completely different direction just because some of these parents may be more vocal about their concerns. As the district's survey indicated, the majority of parents support in-person instruction, and in-person instruction is what the experts recommend.

I appreciate all you are doing and understand this decision is not easy. Many of us are asking for the District to start full remote and ease into the year with a hybrid option after evaluation of the state and country's numbers. As educators, the number one objective is what is best for the student. At this time, we also need to consider what is best for your staff. We all want to be back in school, however, there is a new normal and we need to adjust accordingly. We need to stay a united front and approach the school year with calm. To be blunt, this plan's lack of pace has been laughed at by many. Time is being wasted for your dedicated staff as well as for parents to plan. We can work together to come up with a full remote option and plan that fits our community better. Please do not base your vote tonight on your personal beliefs or to please parents that are tired of their kids being home. I, as well as many others, want to continue to stay proud of where our children receive their education. Please base your vote tonight on the science and data that has been gathered during this pandemic.

I am in support of students returning to an in-classroom setting. I feel that there is no real correct way to do this and the plan that was presented was reasonable. As with any major, and many times relatively minor, decisions, there is no way to get 100% satisfaction.

Our family has been mindful of social distancing and my children, Prairieview and Lakeview students, understand what is going on and why there are the safety precautions put in place. They are ready and truly want to go back to school. The safety measures may be difficult, however, for younger students to follow at Ide. Perhaps a half day model should be considered for the Ide students similar to what is being proposed for the kindergarten class.

As for families with working parents, there will be many that are required to go into a workplace to do their jobs and there are also many that are able to work remote. Even with a remote work option that many employers are offering their employees, the option is still limited in the sense of supporting the students at home. I completely understand that school is not a daycare. If a hybrid model is put out, I would ask that it be considered to have full days a couple of days a week with "homework" or remote learning assignments on the other days so that it may be easier for working parents to arrange for childcare. Partial days, even the full days, with multiple drop off and pick up times at the three different schools will doable but difficult for working parents to schedule into their workday.

I do agree with families that a remote option should be available for kids who have health concerns.

Looking forward to a remote learning option for my kid. Every family's situation is unique and I am sure parents and the district are thinking what is best for the kids. Our unique situation with immunocompromised elderly members and a soon to arrive newborn in the family, doesn't allow any outside exposure to keep the newborn and the high risk elderly members safe.

Looking forward to an optional for parents who would need to go with remote learning.

Thanks for everything that you all do!

We are in full support of a safe in person learning experience for our boys. My boys will be home alone most days if it was full remote learning. We would not be able to support them and help them. My husband and I both work making this remote learning difficult. Spring elearning was very difficult for them as well...they needed our help and seemed frustrated. We understand the risks of being at school however sports and in person teaching is key in their development. We understand these are hard times..we are both dentists and struggled with opening safely as well. We appreciate all the work everyone has put into this. I do think having both options ...in school and remote learning is a great idea.

Thank you for all of your countless hours of work put into this plan!! It's clear you have the students, teachers and staff's best interests at heart. I purposely moved into this district because of the small, close knit schools. I am even more grateful for that decision during these unprecedented times. I am 100% comfortable with your well thought out plan to return to in person learning. Every question I had, and some I hadn't even thought of, has been answered. I remember thinking last spring "oh, how I hope they'll be able to go back in the fall" and you have made that possible. THANK YOU!!

We are planning to send our daughter back to school but what if after she starts we do not feel the environment at the school is safe? Could she be transferred to the remote option?

2020-2021 School year should operate as remote learning. I know there are lot of pros and con for e-learning. I do understand that school is following CDC guideline but it's very difficult for students wearing mask full day in school as well as getting in and out from the bus. Wearing mask full day is not good for health because you are NOT inhaling fresh air and exhaling air stays with the mask which you intake.

School should be 100% e-learning for everyone just like in person school schedule so student can stay focus. Google class is great but it should be more like live class session. D2L(Desire to Learn) is one the great service that shows who is online and you can also keep track for posting and submitting assignments.

What will happen to band this year? I didn't see much about it in the phase 2 plan. My child is in band at PV. Those renting band instruments were encouraged to keep their instruments over the summer, which we pay for monthly, so I think it's important to know whether band instruction will continue (and how it will continue) this year so parents can make a decision about whether or not they should continue to rent the instruments. Thanks!

Thank you for committing your time and effort to a safe return to school and learning. I am proud to be a member of this community and school district. My family appreciates your extreme level of effort, time, research, and collaboration required to create a model that is student, staff, and community centered. I look forward to the first day of school. Thank you!

Just so that the board is aware that a 250,000sf, 50 loading docks warehouse is proposed to be built in Lemont Road, Woodridge side. My children and neighbors all went to CCSD66. The proposal narrowly passed the Woodridge Plan Commission and now heading to the Village board. The warehouse will significantly increase the semi-truck traffic along Lemont Road and will impact the daily school buses crosses the Lemont Road/Plainfield Road intersection. Since the Prairiewood and Lakeview schools are connected with the Southern DuPage Regional Trail, I have seen students crosses the intersection to/from schools. District 66 board need to be highly aware of this development. If built the 50 loading docks warehouse will be there for the long term and will impact safety of the students for long term. If you are aware, we had a 15yr old boy killed by vehicle when crossing 75th street in Woodridge few weeks ago. Please look into this warehouse issue immediately. Thanks

Very disappointed that there is no hybrid option. No choice but to choose remote learning.

Will there be BACC on SIP days still? If there is outdoor PE and kids can take off their masks, where will they put them if they do not have pockets, will lanyards be given out or should we buy them? When is supply dropoff if we are choosing in person learning. Did the teachers union and teachers approve the plan and if not, when will they? If they've not approved, is there a possibility that due to teacher concerns the district would have to choose all remote?

I am incredibly proud to be a part of District 66. Thank you to all parties involved that have spent countless hours preparing for the safe return of our students to our buildings. Thank you for following ISBE and health department guidelines and for thinking outside the box to make this happen. My children are ecstatic to start school in a few weeks! Although the school year will be different in many ways, we are determined to make it a great one and can't wait to see what our kids will accomplish!

First, I would like to commend the board and administration for moving forward with in person learning. As a healthcare professional, I have seen firsthand the effects of this novel virus. Following the international clinical research and evidence published on this virus, I feel that the steps set forth by the district are well within best practices for providing a safe educational environment for our children. Given that the future is uncertain, could you please elaborate of the contingency plan for transition to full remote learning, if need be, let's say if the local situation dictates such a move? In addition, if our children are unable to attend school (for a variety of reasons, let's say regular illness) could they participate in the districts remote learning program during their absence?

As a family who have been vigilant for the past five months, making sacrifice after sacrifice in order to ensure our safety and our community's safety during this pandemic, I am extremely disappointed in our district's remote learning plan. We should all be so proud of the work our schools did in the Spring meeting the challenges of remote learning -- talking to many other families, including some in the supposed "best districts in the state," it is clear to me that District 66 was more prepared for a remote

learning environment and provided an overall better experience than many of our neighboring districts. I went into summer break feeling so happy about the district we chose to send our children to and the way they handled everything thrown at them this spring. Which is why it frustrates me that this newest remote learning plan does not build on any of that excellent work done by our professionals. Instead, it feels to be punishing those families who are choosing to stay home for their own physical safety by providing something that will be much less engaging or appropriate for a remote learning experience than they received in the Spring.

Can you really tell me that it will be best for the social-emotional well being of our students (something our district does a great job usually putting front and center) to watch a live stream of a classroom that they can't engage in, with peers and teachers they are missing dearly? Can you really tell me that our children who are remaining at home will receive the same engaging education as their peers when they are told that questions they may have will be answered at the teachers convenience within a day while the teachers prioritize the students whose families feel more comfortable sending them to school? Are they really getting as well-rounded an education when specials -- a strength of our district -- will be offered "when appropriate"? Why is there not an option to have teachers run remote classrooms that will tailor an educational experience directly to those wishing for a remote education? It feels like these children are instead being cast aside and punished for not choosing to walk into the school doors with hundreds of strangers every day. As a parent, I feel like we are being bullied into having to decide to send our students into an environment we do not feel is physically safe by being offered an alternative that we don't feel is emotionally safe or educationally sound. I expect so much more of our district, one that we have had no complaints about for our entire 5 year experience.