

July 20, 2020

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020. Pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, the 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: Mike Davenport, Vice President/President Pro Tempore; and Members Sherell Fuller, Dan Nicholas, Terry Pavesich and Rick Pavinato. Member Joanna Vazquez Drexler arrived at 6:36 p.m. and Nancy Kupka, President, arrived at 6:46 p.m. All Board members participated virtually.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Resources; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; Jim Kolodziej, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Janice Schwarze, North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

The following were physically present at the Administrative Service Center: Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Pavesich moved and Member Nicholas seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2020 Business Meeting and the June 15, 2020 Closed Meeting.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Nicholas, Pavinato, Davenport and Fuller voted AYE. The Vice President/President Pro Tempore declared the motion carried.

2. CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SELL \$10,300,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND

Vice President/President Pro Tempore Davenport announced that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposal to sell \$10,300,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto. Mark Staehlin, District Controller, explained that the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Bonds were as follows: operating reserves have fallen below 3% and a 3% minimum is required by Board Policy 4.20; the expectation that Federal, State and local funding will be impaired over the next several years; and the understanding that more families will be seeking fee waivers, due to unemployment, which will affect the District's ability to collect fees and increase the need to serve students.

Vice President/President Pro Tempore Davenport asked for additional comments from the members of the Board of Education. Vice President/President Pro Tempore Davenport stated if the funds were not needed the funds could be used to pay the debt back down. He also noted that, according to the financials, the District is over \$900,000 over budget.

Vice President/President Pro Tempore Davenport asked for oral testimony or any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds. There was no testimony. Vice President/President Pro Tempore Davenport announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Bonds.

Member Pavinato moved and Member Nicholas seconded the motion that the Hearing be finally adjourned.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Rick Pavinato, Dan Nicholas, Terry Pavesich, Joanna Vazquez Drexler, Mike Davenport and Sherell Fuller voted AYE. The Vice President/President Pro Tempore declared the motion carried and the Hearing was finally adjourned.

3. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Thiele read comments submitted to the Board via the online Public Comment Form, regarding the District's published return to school Hybrid Plan, in the time allotted by President Kupka. He noted, of the comments received, 82 respondents requested the split for the Hybrid Plan be based on year in school instead of alpha and two supported the alpha split

Public Comments submitted via the on line Public Comment Form are attached. Dr. Thiele stated the Board had the opportunity to read all of the comments.

4. DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN (RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN)

Dr. Thiele explained the District's return to school plan, which involved input from over 300 people, contains three options: Full In-Person Learning; a Hybrid Plan that reduces the number of students in the building and includes Remote Learning; and Fully Remote Learning. Dr. Thiele stressed Remote Learning in the fall will be very different from last spring. He stated administration is recommending the Hybrid Plan, which allows families to choose Fully Remote Learning. Dr. Thiele reviewed aspects of the Hybrid Plan including: student schedules, student attendance, grading, adherence to guidance from the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (ILDH) and the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), how the first day of school will look and supports available to students and staff. He also stated the District planned to continue to provide meals on a "to go" basis for students in need. Dr. Thiele pointed out the District could go to a Fully Remote Plan if new guidelines make in-person instruction not possible, there are a large number of illnesses or there is a lack of available staff.

Dr. Thiele shared since March the Education Foundation has been collecting funds for a family support fund and providing gift cards to District 99 families in need and they are continuing to accept donations.

The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the Hybrid scenario and Fully Remote scenario for returning to school in August. The majority of the Board was in favor of the school year

starting with the Hybrid Plan. The Board directed administration, with members of the DGEA, to continue to work on the Hybrid Plan and to also further develop a Fully Remote Plan.

Dr. Thiele noted, if health conditions shift or there is new guidance from health professionals, administration may recommend the Fully Remote Plan.

5. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT – DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN (RETURN TO SCHOOL)

Dr. Thiele read a letter submitted by Chris Blum, Support Staff Association President, expressing support for the Hybrid Plan.

Val Hardy, DGEA President and South High teacher, accompanied by Mike Tompkins, DGEA Vice President and North High teacher, expressed concerns and raised questions about the Hybrid Plan and stressed the need for collaboration between administration and the DGEA.

Nicole Proimos, South High English teacher, implored the Board, on behalf of herself and 31 other teachers, to vote no to any plan that is not full remote learning.

Cinda Lester, South High parent, raised questions and concerns about the Hybrid Plan.

Dr. Thiele read comments, submitted to the Board via the online Public Comment Form, after the Hybrid Plan was presented to the Board, in the time allotted by President Kupka. He stated all the comments will be forwarded to the Board.

Public Comments submitted via the on line Public Comment Form are attached.

6. END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

Mark Staehlin shared the District is short approximately \$850,000 in revenues due to reduced revenues from food service, interest and the effects of COVID. On the Expenditure side, he noted there was an increase of 14% in tuition over last year and there were additional costs related to COVID. Mr. Staehlin stated, since total Operating Funds are below 3%, which is required by Board policy 4.2, the District is recommending issuing Working Cash Fund Bonds.

Dr. Thiele noted the net cost to the District last year attributable to the pandemic was \$650,000. He shared the Hybrid Plan would be the most expensive scenario and would cost the District approximately a \$2-\$3M for the school year.

7. MASTER FACILITY PLAN PROGRESS

Dr. Thiele stated the southeast corner of North High is behind schedule and will likely be completed the end of September, instead of by Labor Day as originally planned. He also stated the project continues to be on budget.

8. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Freedom of Information Act requests are posted on the District's website

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Member Pavinato moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which includes: A. Personnel Report - Transfer of Position-Classified; Appointments-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Resignations-Classified; Retirements-Classified; C. Financial Pages; D. Closed Session Minutes and Verbatim Recordings; and E. Ratification/Approval of the July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023 Athletic Trainer Contract.

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

10. **RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE \$10,300,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND, AND DIRECTING THAT NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION BE PUBLISHED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW**

President Kupka stated in view of the current financial condition of the District, the Board of Education would consider the adoption of a resolution declaring its intention to issue working cash fund bonds pursuant to Article 20 of the School Code and directing that notice of such intention be published. President Kupka then read the resolution by title.

Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$10,300,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Davenport, Fuller, Nicholas, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried and directed Secretary Gniadek to record this in full in the records of the Board of Education of Community High School District Number 99, DuPage County, Illinois.

11. **COVID-19 RE-OPENING PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION**

This item was tabled. No Action was taken.

12. **APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENSATION 2020-2021**

Member Davenport moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve a 2.9% increase on the base salary of the Superintendent's contract, from \$237,130 to \$244,007, and a \$10,000 403b contribution.

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

13. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS - FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Dr. Thiele stated there was no opportunity for the Policy Committee to meet so administration reviewed the following policies and is bringing them forward for First Reading:

- 2.125 Board Member Compensation; Expenses
- 2.160 Board Attorney
- 2.220 School Board Meeting Procedures
- 4.180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery
- 5.35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act
- 5.60 Expenses
- 7.70 Attendance and Truancy
- 7.90 Release During School Hours
- 7.190 Student Behavior
- 7.340 Student Records.
- 7.345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security
- 8.10 Connection with the Community
- 8.30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- 8.110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

Dr. Thiele asked that he be forwarded any questions on the policies. He stated, if there are any policies the Board would like discussed by the Policy Committee before the next Board meeting, that could be arranged. He stated the policies would be up for approval on August 17.

President Kupka noted Members Pavinato and Fuller are on the Policy Committee if any one has any comments.

Dr. Thiele stated there have been significant changes to Title IX at the federal level and PRESS will be coming out with changes to Board policy 2.260, which will need to be approved by the Board by August 14. He noted the Board will likely be asked to waive First Reading of this policy and vote on it at the August 3 Board meeting.

15. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Cinda Lester, South High parent, addressed additional questions to the Board.

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

No report.

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

No report.

18. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Pavesich reported the Foundation passed new by-laws.

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

No report.

20. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Kupka announced the following meeting dates:

August 3, 2020	Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
August 17, 2020	Regular Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

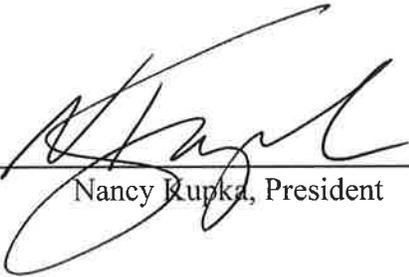
21. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Member Pavinato expressed concern about the amount of construction noise and traffic around North High.

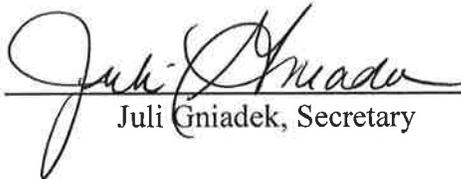
The Board thanked the principals and administration for their work to make the graduation ceremonies meaningful.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller 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 10:55 p.m.



Nancy Kupka, President



Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 20, 2020

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

NICOLE Proimos - faculty @ D&S

- Valerie Hardy DGEA Pres.

- Michael Tompkins DGEA VP

Cinda Lester Parent

~~Barbara Pearcey~~ decided not to stay + speak
submitted comments online

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Name	Comment
Jennifer Holik	<p>I want my boys to be able to attend school as normally as possible. NO MASKS. I refuse to let them wear one and make themselves sick. Masks do not work and only allow the person to rebreathe their stuff which can create fungal infections, viral infections, and bacterial infections. There is zero reason except politicians giant power playing egos to require a mask.</p> <p>I want them in school with their peers with teachers. I want sports opened up so they can socialize and exercise and do what teenagers are supposed to be doing.</p> <p>If you force the mask issue I want to know what accommodations you are going to make for the kids whose parents are smart enough to know masks don't work and the numbers are all faked and manipulated to serve the agenda playing out. I pay taxes so my kids can attend school AT SCHOOL with NO MASK.</p>
Tom Burns	<p>I want to personally thank the superintendent, his team, as well as the teachers and administrators that have worked tirelessly on the challenges of keeping our children's education needs met. Over the years I have always had the utmost respect and appreciation for their leadership and always putting students first.</p> <p>I am writing today though to express my concern about the reopening of schools for in-person learning.</p> <p>While I have no doubt every care is being taken to protect the students, teachers, staff and ultimately families, I have major reservations about the realities of the situation. I am not aware of one respected epidemiologist that sees how opening schools to in-person learning can be achieved safely. With exception of places that have controlled spread and infection rates, it's been shown that schools are prime environments for spreading and creating spikes in infections.</p> <p>I am painfully aware that every day students are away from learning that they are losing ground--not to mention missing out on the milestones like graduation ceremonies, sports, dances and other events that they've worked so hard to achieve. And on a personal note, my son struggles in certain academic areas that have me doubly concerned of a prolonged absence from traditional learning. I am also aware that in-person learning is key for parents that work or rely on the daily meals to supplement their situations.</p> <p>All of this literally breaks my heart and pains me to feel that even with the very real implications of the hardships I listed above, I think reopening schools is potentially worse.</p> <p>As a family, we have taken the pandemic seriously from the start and continue to practice every precaution to prevent ourselves from getting sick and/or spreading the virus to others. I can't say that I have the same confidence of others in the community. How can the school manage those that either refuse to take precautions or are irresponsible? That's quite a wild card.</p> <p>Secondly, I have seen nothing from the Secretary of Education, or any federal agency tasked with public health that even hints at a solid plan driven by science or logic that begins to address my fears. I have even seen reports that regular required vaccinations are down by as much as 70%.</p> <p>To me, this seems like a recipe for disaster and based on the best information available, I am against reopening of in-person learning until there is a vaccine or this country can truly slow, contain and manage new infections.</p> <p>Thank you again for keeping the community informed and allowing a forum for me to express my concerns and offer input.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing more about the district plans and the day when we can safely return to the mission of educating our children.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Ericka Graham	Opening the schools would be detrimental to students and staff that have underlying medical problems. I have children with Asthma and I refuse to send them to their deaths from exposing them to someone who may be a carrier of Covid 19.
Peter Martinets	With the establishment of a workable e-learning experience, would recommend full e-learning for at least the 1st semester until we have more conviction around the safety of our students and teachers. Putting material amounts of people back in the building seems ill advised at this juncture until we have a better handle on the virus and is an unnecessary risk to the students, faculty and staff of District 99.
N/A	We should not go back based on alphabetical order. Students should be allowed to go to highschool with their grade level and experience it as normal as possible. Students will be happier and the experience will be more enjoyable. So much of our highschool experience has been stripped away and going to school with our grade level is one thing that would enhance what is left of our experience.
Julia Grippo	I am a student and DGS and would just like to comment on online learning. I had not learned one thing during online school at the end of the 2019-2020 year and feel as if I was robbed of my education. I understand that online learning was the only option but, reopening and having in person, and actually learning, for the 2020-2021 school year is actually an option and I hope you decided to go that route for at least 3 days of the week so I can actually get an education. Thank you.
	Hello, I am a student at DGS and wanted to address how we may go back to school this school year. There is talk about us going back based on our last name which I think is not the best route. I understand that you guys might not necessarily see the importance of who we sit in a classroom with. However, to students like me, being able to experience high school, especially our senior year, with the same people in our grade level that we have always been going to school with. It doesn't affect you guys but it greatly affects your students and I guarantee that this decision will greatly affect our experience in your school and how enjoyable it is. Please consider this when making your decision in how we go back!
Morgan Turner	Please reconsider the decision of doing an alphabetical schedule as it would be disheartening to seniors who can't spend their last year of highschool with the people they spent the last 3 years with.
Daniel Katovich	I here are many empty stores within the malls of 75th/Lemont rd. Can these be employed towards offering extra space and social distancing for the students this fall?
Grace Reichert	I am going to be a Senior this year and I feel that I am having my last year of high school education taken. During the E-learning of last school year I wasn't held accountable nor did I learn anything. All assignments were busy work and weren't actual learning. I am a visual learner and I found it very difficult to learn without being taught by my teachers. Since the plan is to have online classes this year. I won't be learning as much and as well as I would if we were in school. I understand the state has the control of what we are allowed to do but if we have the option we should have in school learning for more than two days a week and they should be alphabetical it should be by grade. I want to see my friends my last year of high school and with the plan I won't be receiving that at all. Please consider the students and our learning. Thank you.
James R. Hoffman	I believe it is imperative to resume classes in-person. I understand that public safety is a key concern. However, the education of our youth has been interrupted far too long. Long lasting affects of substandard education and learning will have significant consequences for this generation. If any persons feel the need to quarantine to protect themselves that is their right. The larger group must be allowed to return to classes and participate in extracurricular activities. The CDC has written that approximately 40% or more of those infected are asymptomatic. An additional 40% have mild symptoms. The UK has studied several thousand children between 3 days old and 18 years old and found the disease is well tolerated. We may be close to a vaccine but even if one was approved today, logically it will take several months to a year to produce enough and many months more to administer it. We must move forward! This isn't Polio, Typhus, TB or Cholera. All of which are far more contagious and deadly.

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

Nolan Chaidez	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid? 2. If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 20 students each, do all 100 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days? 3. Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay? 4. What if a substitute teacher teaches in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? DO all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? 5. What if a student in our classes test positive? Does every other student and teacher now have to quarantine? Will we be notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get mysterious "may have been in contact" emails all year long? 6. What is the stress going to do to our teachers? How does it affect their health and well-being? How does it affect their ability to teach? How does it affect the quality of education that we are being provided? 7. How will it affect students and faculty when the first teacher or student dies from COVID-19? What are the procedures to deal with it? 8. How is alphabetical last names going to be easier rather then doing it by grades? An example would be Seniors and Juniors Monday and Tuesday followed by Sophomores and Freshman on Wednesday and Thursdays and leaving Friday as a day for students to contact teachers with questions or concerns about that weeks lessons?
Taylor Horazy	I feel like we shouldn't go back to school alphabetically but rather by grades. It's my senior year and I understand it's going to be different, however I want to go back to school with students in my grade. This way it can be "normal" and see those I might not see outside of school.
John Barry	Will your ultimate decision be based on a complete scientific picture... or only the scare tactics we see from the media and democrats. In your opinion, do you believe the long term effects of staying home vs. going to school are worse and should be a big factor? I do!
Jenna Boone	please let our classes stay together when we go to school!! I would like to spend my senior year with my CLASS and not just A-L or M-Z I want it to be class of 21 and 22 one day and the other classes another day
Sandra Rosalia	I do not believe that students should return to classes. Especially Band. I feel Band should be taught virtually. I here is too much risk to families and too much unknown to have that many kids in one building
brynn dvoracek	I am very glad that there is a possibility we can have school in person and that our district is doing everything they can to keep us safe. Obviously at the moment I do not know the reopening plans, but I do know that the class of 2021 would appreciate if we were all able to stick together and have our entire grade go to school at once so we can finish our last year of high school together. Thank you!
Jenna Boone	please do NOT to alphabetical days!!!!
MaryAnn Coates	If you are planning on having students and staff come back to in person instruction, I hope the district office has ALL of their staff back. Also school board meeting should meet in person if school is planned to be back in session. Public comments can be done remotely. But all school board members and district employees making presentations should be in person!
Bill Kramer	If the plan has students returning to the physical building on some sort of alternating basis (not sure how this is safe), please issue more parking permits taking into account of the alternating basis of student attendance such that the phenomenal number of students that were denied parking permits previously may safely get to school without being crammed onto a bus where social distancing seems impossible.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

George Tomecki	<p>As a family physician on the front lines of the pandemic novel Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2), I am writing to express my deep concern about District 99 reopening in the fall.</p> <p>I strongly believe that reopening the school to in-person instruction before there is an effective vaccine to prevent COVID-19, is an unnecessary potentially life threatening risk.</p> <p>Anything less than complete remote learning presents excessive danger to students, faculty, and staff. All of the plans put forward seem like dangerous half-measures. Many seem to be advocating for hybrid models, rotating students and staff through odd schedules in an attempt to maintain small numbers of people in the building. These numbers have NOT been chosen based on data or science but by educated guesses of what "might" decrease transmission. No matter how few students or teachers are present for in-person instruction, there is still too high a risk of infection.</p> <p>No one can guarantee that students will stay 6 feet apart, not touch common surfaces (doors, railings, lockers, etc), and then not fiddle with their masks and self infect by touching their faces. A study of medical students in 2015 showed that the average number of times adults touch their face was 23 times per hour (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25637115/). The holes in most masks (other than N95) are 30-60 times bigger than the virus and are a window to the respiratory system.</p> <p>I have noticed that this Board of Education meeting is being conducted via Zoom and not in person. Keep in mind that if you did not think it was safe enough for you to meet in person, then why would you think it is safe enough for our students to meet in person.</p> <p>E-Learning seemed to work out well for the last 3 months of the spring semester and will work just as effectively in the fall.</p> <p>Lives that you are responsible for are at stake.</p> <p>George Tomecki MD</p>
Nancy DeLoach	Please provide a 100% online option for students who need or prefer to avoid in-person learning.
William DeLoach	New cases in our state have spiked in the last three days and are trending up. Is this new information adequately considered in your recommended plan? Thanks for your consideration.

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Rhonda J. Rowe	<p>As a parent of a soon to be freshman I feel that until COVID-19 is under control and a vaccine available, there should NO I be any in-person classes. Risk of transmission is too dangerous in an indoor setting as per the Dr's suggestions from the CDC. Even if the students don't show sickness, they may be carriers to us parents and/or grandparents. Why put ourselves in that predicament? Thank you.</p>
Julie E Scheffer	<p>I would like to know if more parking permits at Downers Grove North will be available if all students are not in attendance on certain days. If less students are attending on certain days, it makes sense to open up parking permits to allow the wait list kids to park at school. If full in person attendance occurs during the year, then the wait list kids would lose their spot - this should be a form signed by the family so they understand that they may lose their permit.</p>
Lisa Lamar	<p>Just idea I am sure it was brought up AM & PM sessions split up for the school year half days for the students 8-11a & 12-3pm no lunches involved school is conducting in a half day school day one hour between for clean up and break for teachers</p>
Renee Maley	<p>I strongly believe that online schooling is NO I equivalent to in school learning at all. Students do not get the hands on learning and group work that they need to grow. This is not helpful for any type of student and is a ripoff of actual learning. I also think that although going to school based off last name is very sad, I understand that we must be split up. I think that's a better alternative to online school but no student wants to see any of this happening. A block schedule with shortened days would be ideal but I know it's quite hard.</p>
Max Soja	<p>I think it would make more sense to split the school by grade level with freshman & sophomores in one group and juniors & seniors in the other instead of doing it by last name.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Saskia Krebbers	I he students should not be split up by their last names on days designated for in-class learning, the students should be split up by grade as it is especially unfair to the seniors to all be split up on their last year together.
Milia Saei	I feel that it would be more beneficial to divide the days by grades rather than last names. Please make that happen because I would really love to spend my senior year with all of my friends. I think it would be really great if it was fresh/soph and juniors/seniors. That way, teachers would not have to reteach the same lesson over and over so everyone would get the same information, and students are able to see all their peers, giving them a “normal-ish” school year.
Sara Sheikh	I feel that it would be more beneficial to divide the days in which students go to school by grade rather than last name for a numerous amount of reasons. First being that teachers will have to reteach lessons on two different days meaning one class may get more information than the other and may result in unfair testing if something is forgotten to be said that day. Another reason is that seniors and other grade levels will be separated for their final year without their friends making an already difficult situation even worse. Please consider separating the days by class and if not possible then by first name instead.
Aaron Marrs	The split should be by grade level rather than alphabet
melissa duffek	it would be more fair to have the senior class together on our last year so it should be juniors and seniors together and freshman/sophomores together since they have more classes together. splitting by alphabet will make classes to small and some of us rely on friends to drive us to school and now they can't drive us
Nina Pinto	I believe it would make more sense to split the school by grade level having freshman/sophomore in one group and juniors/senior in the other instead of doing it by alphabet.
Linda Burns	Could we do video schooling? Like a WEBEX? The teachers can be teaching and the kids are tuned in live and can type questions. Best of both worlds!
Riley Vondrasek	The separation should be by grade level and not done alphabetically.
Jenna Hubert	I believe that for the 20-21 school year, that students should attend in person learning if their parents feel comfortable. I state that if the parents feel comfortable because knowing high school students, many will say “I’m not comfortable” Just so they do not have to attend school in person. Also, I believe that if a blended schedule occurs, it should not be based by letter of last name. That limits people of course, but it Also limits The students on socialization.
Saskia Krebbers	I he students should not be split up by their last names on days designated for in-class learning, the students should be split up by grade as it is especially unfair to the seniors to all be split up on their last year together.
Gail Tan	if businesses aren't letting their employees go back into offices, then why would schools consider it? We have the means to use online and video teaching! Take advantage of the videos! Make them mandatory! Why put our kids and their families at risk. This has not gone away. It in fact has increased. We need a vaccine before you start making these kind of snap decisions!
Abbey Qualtier	No alphabetical order school days for students.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Adam Hricik	Reopening the schools will increase the spread and circulate to the more vulnerable because High Schoolers will be moving about the community more often and exposing older teachers more at risk. Once infected they will spread to classrooms full of kids who will then change periods and infect another class room full of kids. Covid-19 Infections on the Rise in Kids and Teens With School Approaching. Updated 7/16/2020 with data from the states showing children make up 6.4% of those infected, though information isn't included on almost 1 million cases. The numbers are rising, epidemiologists say, as testing has become more available. CovKids Project has tracked 769 pediatric intensive-care unit admissions related to the virus across the U.S. since mid-March, and 66 deaths in those younger than 20. Some of the severe cases have resulted in a condition similar to Kawasaki disease, which can cause heart and circulatory problems. Since most are asymptomatic they will move about and spread and spread until it comes home to parents, grand parents, or others in the community who are vulnerable. They will then go to work and spread threw their place of work and so on. The numbers are no better from when the schools closed in March, so please explain how you can reopen? If anything things are worse because in March the pandemic was just starting and numbers started to surge at the end of March or beginning of April after school was closed.
Diana Giovan	Hi, I am going to be a senior and all of my friends are the second half of the alphabet while I am the first half. This means my entire senior year of high school will be completely ruined because I will never be there with any of my friends. Everyone I know is completely devastated and confused on why this is happening. It would make much more sense for the school to be split up into freshmen and sophomores to be group A and juniors and seniors to be group B. Please make this possible for the sake of me and many others who don't want their last year of high school to be ruined more than it already is. Thanks.
TINA BHARGAVA	I think it is important to have at least SOME in person teaching. I saw that complete remote learning last year basically resulted in no to very little learning for my kids. I hope this does not happen again.
Lauren Elizabeth Norkus	I'm a student at Downers Grove South high school, and I'm doing TCD this upcoming school year. Will TCD students still be able to attend the classes TCD has to offer at the building in DuPage?
Megan Mosebach	As a new senior in high school, I find it upsetting that I won't be able to share the little time I have at school this year because of coronavirus restrictions without many of my friends and classmates due to the last letter of my name determining who I go to school with. I believe a better alternative would be to do the days of school by grade level. This way I could enjoy the few days I have at school each week with people my age and make this year as similar to previous years as possible while staying within coronavirus retractions. Thank you and I hope you consider this alternative as it would benefit all students in all grade levels.
Kailey Ferguson	Hello, I would like to speak on the behalf of most my DGS peers and say that we do not want to be split up by last name alphabetically. I would rather be split up by class.
Andrew Janowiak	I do not believe the alphabetical reopening system is at all the correct way to go about reopening in person schooling.
Holly Kaczmarek	We should not do alphabetical days. I believe that splitting the days freshman and sophomores together and then junior and seniors together would be more beneficial.
Eleanor Cash	I don't think we should have the day be done by alphabet.
Abby Fredricks	I do not think doing the groups based off of the alphabet would be the best way to go. I know myself and many others would preter the groups to be based on their classes or other ways instead of A-Z.
Maxx Palenik	Go by class in order to keep friends together, if we split it up it should be Freshmen/Sophomore and Junior/Senior.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Katherine Rabig	As a rising senior at Downers Grove South High School, it is heartbreaking to know that this year will not be the way any anyone expected it to be. Due to the new schedule that is in place for this year, I do not believe that it is fair for any of the students. Since homecoming and football games will probably not be happening in the fall, splitting up students by last name is an upsetting way to be starting and possibly finishing the 2020-20201 school year. Me, being a now senior, it will not be the same without seeing my friends and being able to spend time in our newly updated school. I hope you consider this response to the Board Meeting as a call to look for a new positive way we can have the 2020-2021 school year be safe and fun for the students.
AJ Taylor	When we go to school it should be separated by class not last name. So freshman and sophomores one day and juniors and seniors the other day.
Quinn kavanaugh	I think that when students are at school the ones there should be decided by class rather than by the first letter of your last name
Johnathon Camfield	I understand due to health concerns the choices that were made, but I have talked to countless people who have agreed with me on preferring our school days being split up by class instead of last name. I think that there are ways to ensure the safety of students by splitting us up by class. Masks are already required which is understandable, and if all students wear masks then there should be no problem with us being split up by class instead of last names.
Wally Agbedanu	Is it not ironic that we are having a virtual meeting to discuss if hundreds if not thousands of students will have to meet and interact without a real way to enforce social distancing. Is it not ironic that for this meeting we not discussing in person while we are willing to send children to an area where them, their parents, grandparents, and teachers are all going to be at higher risk of catching the infection. We have seen whats happen when a simple cold or flu takes out a tenth of the student and teacher body. This is insane to even consider bringing students back to school.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Anne Zavell	<p>I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. From my earliest days in kindergarten I wanted to be a teacher. My parents even bought two old school desks and my sister and I would play "school" at home. In 8th grade, I got to be a "teacher for a day" and I loved it. I babysat a lot. I never wanted to be anything else. I love school and everything about learning. I started teaching summer school in June 1987, a mere two weeks after graduating from college and never looked back. In the 33 years since then, I feel I've successfully mastered the art of teaching. I consistently receive "excellent" reviews and I've mentored many young teachers over the years. I even earned an Ed.D. in Disability and Equity in Education in 2019 so that I can have a second career after I retire from active teaching in 2022. I have a website and a consulting business.</p> <p>My focus for the past 27 years has been at-risk and high need special education students. When I say high need (because all special education students are not the same); the students usually have diagnoses such as ADHD, Autism, Depression, mild Learning Disabilities, Trauma, and can be Medically Fragile. I run a resource program designed to support their needs and help them be successful in their general education classes. Many of my students call me "mom" because I am their "school mom". I maintain contact with them for years and years after they graduate because I become a friend that continues after high school. I get calls from college for help on papers. I get calls just to talk. I've been a reference for many resumes. Sometimes I don't hear from a former student for a number of years, but then the phone will ring and it will be a student calling just to update me on his / her life. I strive to be "that" teacher. The one that makes such a difference in a student's life that they remember me fondly forever.</p> <p>Across my career, I have experienced students dying, students' parents dying, colleagues dying. I was teaching on the day Laurie Dann murdered first graders; on the day of Columbine and Parkland and every other school shooting that has occurred. I was in the classroom on 9/11 helping students through it when I was worried sick about my own sister living in NYC. I have seen how teaching has had to adapt to the advent of school shootings and Live Shooter drills. I have had to keep students safe (and quiet) while we were in a situation which required a school-wide evacuation. Everything I do in the classroom considers the social and emotional health of my students.</p> <p>I'm prepared in the event of a school shooting (and how sad is that?) I'm not prepared to play roulette with Covid-19 and the lives of my students, their families and my colleagues; let alone my life and that of my family. I never thought it would come to this. Who knew we would have a global pandemic?</p> <p>Do I want to return to my classroom? Yes, of course. I would love to return to normal. The problem is we are not living in "normal". The spring was at best, crisis education. I did the best I could to meet the needs of my students. Sometimes I talked to them daily. My entire day flew by as I tried to assist the over 70 students I see daily in my resource with an extra focus on the 20 students on my caseload for whom I case manage their IEP's. It wasn't ideal, but it worked.</p> <p>I totally recognize that I am lucky and privileged. I am not a single parent. I do not have young children. I am an employee in a school district that is taking this seriously in a state with a governor who is also taking it seriously. I have not been told what to expect yet. I am still waiting. But I'm 55 years old and I</p>
Kyle Fenner	Students should attend school with their grade level and not by the first letter of their last name.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Megan Fogarty	<p>As we have to limit the number of people in the school, I think the best way to do this would be to have freshman and sophomores go on two days of the week and juniors and seniors on the other two days of the week. Diving us by last name wouldn't work as well in my opinion only because some classes are mixed between grades. It's more likely that juniors and seniors would be in the same class as well as freshman and sophomores.</p> <p>I also think that If we are still doing a lot of e-learning, Fridays should be a catch up day as they were before. This was very helpful and it took a lot of stress off of the students.</p> <p>One other thing that is important to me is that the teachers are clearer with due dates. This might be more difficult depending on the class but If we were to go every other day to school, it would make the most sense that we have the homework completed by the time we get back to class. Assigning homework online was difficult only because with so many assignments to keep track of, it's hard to map out what assignment is due and when. It'd be easier if teachers could make a homework schedule that we could look off or something along those lines.</p> <p>The last and final thing I wanted to mention is that the seniors are very upset that they will be missing everything they've been looking forward to since being a freshman. I don't know what the plans are for any of the bigger events and there probably won't be any plans until we see where this virus goes but all I ask is that the board tries to make it memorable. I think there are some ways around certain events and I just hope that the seniors get to experience as much as they can. Thank you for considering everything I said.</p>
Kathy McGuire	<p>I thank you Downers Grove Teachers! You are all essential working HEROS for all of us! If its one thing we learned through this ordeal is that our kids need you so much! Our prayers are with you !</p>
Jenna Majchrzak	<p>I think that separating days by grade level, such as upperclassmen and underclassmen is much more convenient and beneficial for the school. upperclassmen share similar classes with each other and underclassmen tend to share classes with each other. Therefore it's more similar to how school schedules used to flow. The proposed plan of alphabetically separating the school population is more difficult and complicated than needed. Also regarding sports if that is still a possibility, varsity athletics is right after school. Since varsity usually is made up of upperclassmen, it would be most convenient to have all upperclassmen together so they are on the same schedule. Lastly, the students would want to be together with all of their friends. School is supposed to be a safe friendly environment for students to be with their friends for support and help, and the school environment is would be drastically less spirited and positive if people within grades were separated.</p>
Peter Martinets	<p>With the establishment of a workable e-learning experience, would recommend full e-learning for at least the 1st semester until we have more conviction around the safety of our students and teachers. Putting material amounts of people back in the building seems ill advised at this juncture until we have a better handle on the virus and is an unnecessary risk to the students, faculty and staff of District 99.</p>
Madison Brennan	<p>While it is true that students need to social distance and wear masks at school socializing will be inevitable and in which the alphabetical groups will separate many people which is unfair to the students, especially the seniors, who are spending their last year together. I have talked to 20+ people about this and all of them were upset to hear this awful news. The virus has already taken away so much time from the students' high schools experience and doing this will only further the separation everyone already has felt being away from each other and school for so long. I believe that what would make the students happiest and benefit the most, assuming two groups is the only way, is to separate into upperclassmen, juniors and seniors, and underclass men, freshman and sophomores. This will keep each class together and make the students feel as together as they can be at this time.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Angelina Hernandez	I am a junior at Downers Grove South High School and my comment is regarding the possibility of having alphabetical school days during the 2020-2021 school year. Please do NOT pass this reopening plan. While this would in fact limit the amount of students in the building at a time, it is a horrible, flawed idea in every other aspect. Alphabetical school days would limit the social outreach for the students, specifically the freshmen. How difficult would it be to only be able to make new friends with students who have a last name in the same half of the alphabet? Splitting up each class within themselves is absolutely traumatic and you will be ruining friendships and relationships that students have worked hard to uphold during their time at DGS or DGN. I believe if you would like to limit the amount of students in the building at each time you should either have classes AS A WHOLE come at different parts of the day or split up the student body by underclassmen and upperclassmen. That way, each individual class still has a sense of class unity while keeping social distancing in mind. Please do NOT keep me away from my friends. Let us all have a school year that is as normal as possible despite the current global circumstances. Do not pass the alphabetical reopening plan. Thank you for your time.
Eva	If it is possible, a lot of people I know, including myself, would not like alphabetical school days. I think that would throw students off even more to not be surrounded by their usual classmates at school. So, if possible, I think having school days by certain grades would be better for everyone! Such as freshman with sophmores on certain days and juniors with seniors on the other days!
Lily Vincent	We do not want to go back by Alphabetical order instead re-open by classes so we can all be with our friends.
Jennie Amidei	I am wondering at what point (if school go back in person) will a shut down be decided. Is all the time, money and energy put in to providing in-person learning worth it if there may be a shut down soon after starting.
Angelo Ognianov	I don't agree with the alphabetical list of going to school. I think going everyday would be better
Ema Paskevicius	I would not like to go back to school in an alphabetical last name pattern.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Jen Pirog	<p>I expressed my discontent with the way the Spring semester was handled with Ms Schwarze a few months back and the lack of work my daughter received during the pandemic. I'd like to note that my feedback simply said you should have done more and she didn't respond, which I find quite disappointing. While I understood there were certain constraints, such as children having to work because their parents were laid off, lack of internet, etc, as well as guidelines provided by the state to follow, guidelines are just as the word states, "guide lines." It is a guide to help you navigate, but by no means do guidelines prevent you from doing more. Compared to other schools both private and public, I feel DG North lacked basic educational standards and expectations. My 7 year old from St Mary's in 1st grade had more daily work to do than my Sophomore in HS. Benet HS and Hinsdale Central had significantly more daily work in comparison to what my daughter had. That's embarrassing. Right now, I'm embarrassed to be part of this school district and the school district should be embarrassed that a 7 yr old was doing more work than a 15 yr old. By not implementing some sort of standards aside from if you were passing prior to the pandemic, but don't pass during the pandemic, you get to keep the grade you had prior to the pandemic, you've taught kids that if there is a reason they cannot work, they don't have to and it's without consequence. Zoom classes should have been mandatory and daily instead of optional and once a week, unless a student submitted an exception request as to why they could not attend. Having a student on an IEP, you've taught my daughter who already struggled with focus and getting her work done that it didn't matter what kind of work she submitted it, as long as she submitted it. And if she didn't submit it, there were no consequences. I realize the "no consequence" was part of a guideline by the state, but that should not prevent a teacher from following up with parents on a student's progress to help improve where the teacher knows the student could and should be. And I don't want to hear that teachers didn't have time to contact parents. They weren't teaching students in person or by zoom for 8 hours a day or at least not in my daughter's case. At the end of the day, this message is to state that DG North needs to do more, much more for the upcoming school year if remote learning is going to be part of the plan. And if the state isn't implementing some sort of expectations, the school should be speaking up and telling the state what you feel is effective learning. Remote work/learning will be more of a standard way of life in the future, which means we need to do a better job of preparing students for this realism of what adulthood at work looks like. Students need to be able to learn to manage focusing on a task while outside of their normal comfort zone, completing homework and tasks at more than a mediocre level and the same or very similar expectations should be set for remote work versus in classroom, as this is no different in real life when working from home or working in office. I have worked from home for almost 5 years and I'm held to the same standards, if not higher ones, while working from home. If I were to have behaved the way my daughter (and possibly other students) did this Spring, I would have lost my job. Knowing this is future state for the near or indefinite future, we need to do a better job of preparing our children for the real world and provide them with tools and resources to keep them focused and engaged, regardless of their environment. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Angelo Ognianov	I don't agree with the alphabetical list of going to school. I think going everyday would be better
Nikoletta Stavrou	Would you consider meeting two full days a week instead of half days. I believe students will get more out of two full days instead of two half days.
Joshua Hoering	<p>How are presymptomatic and asymptomatic contractions of COVID-19 being addressed through the plan to reopen schools? There are serious risks in our community considering a total of 9,917 (as of 7/17/2020) cases have been reported by the DuPage County Health Department.</p> <p>How are the district's current policies on vaccines (which medically address viruses) associated with and aligned with COVID-19?</p>
Alexander Soja	I feel that it would make more sense if we spilt the class time at school into class instead of last names. Making it freshman and sophomore together and then juniors and seniors together. This would allow students to be surrounded by their age group and friends and overall feel more comfortable in school. The more comfortable we are in school the better we pay attention and learn.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Lily Ross	In the school plan it stated that we would be going back to school based on our last name. Due to the fact that the class of 2021 will already have such a questionable last year as a mustang, I think it would be greatly appreciated if we could go to school with our entire class. While my last name corresponds with schedule B, all of my best friends have last names that correspond with schedule A, meaning that I will not go to a single day of school my senior with them. It would be heartbreaking for me to not be able to spend my last spirit week, and every school day all the way down to the last, with the people who made my high school experience so amazing. I really hope you can reconsider this aspect of the plan for the class of 2021. Thank you!
Leanne Howard	I work in Healthcare and from what we are seeing Covid will always be here. Just like the flu, there is a vaccine for flu but no cure, same will happen with Covid. It will take a toll on our children's growth in learning if they are not back in school learning. It will cause a rise in depression and loss of knowledge. If anything let us parents that need school to resume sign a waiver that we are aware of the risk but feel our children education is important to excell. Home schooling is not an option as my child has ADHD and needs to interact with other children and learn in classrooms, not at home staring at a computer. Please resume in school learning.
Delaney Durbin	Please consider organizing the separate schedule based on grade level as opposed to an alphabetical structure. I believe this will make the learning experience more authentic and comprehensive for every student, as well as help students who might have a more difficult time focusing outside of school. Giving students the opportunity to work with their peers is invaluable, as I'm sure you all remember from your time at school. Thank you for how you have handled this uncertain and unprecedented time, we are all so grateful for your efforts.
Emmitt Thulin	Please reconsider the plan to separate students by alphabet and instead implement a structure broken up by grade level. Going into the senior year there is going to be so much that will be different and keeping grade levels together is the least that can be done to accommodate for the other losses the incoming seniors will be faced with. Thank you for everything that you have done in planning and preparing for this school year. I hope that you can take these comments into consideration.
Blythe Braun	Attendance should be split up by class not alphabetically
Wilson Stein	Please separate students by class, not alphabetical
Jake Morgan	School should be based on class not alphabetical
Victoria Sanchez	start of senior year has already been stolen, splitting by alphabet would separate the senior class, please separate by class!!
Annika Paskiewicz	I think that if we split up numbers of students so we aren't all there at once, it should be split up by grades and not alphabetical
Elijah Carter	I would rather be split up by class then to be split up by last name if we were to be split up. But if it allows I would rather we have a normal year for our last high school year if we were permitted to do that.
Nora Long	I think that the days should be broken up by class. It's bad enough we won't get a normal final year of high school, it would make it so much better if we were able to be with our classmates and friends all together.
Cole Fulton	break up school by classes not by alphabet
Amelia Carlson	I he days should be split up by grade, not by last name. It will be easier with classes and the nature of the school day. Please don't ruin my senior year like this.
Madeline Schallmoser	I his upcoming school year will undoubtedly be a very difficult one, especially for incoming seniors and freshman. Separating the school by alphabet will break up classmates and will make the transition to high school much more difficult for the class of 2024, as well as rob the class of 2021 of countless traditions and experiences we have been looking forward to since freshman year. Dividing the school by grade will foster a much more positive and welcoming learning environment, making students feel as comfortable as possible in an already confusing and frustrating year, and will make what little in school learning we have as effective as possible.
Alyssa Miller	I am a student at Downers Grove North and I believe that the school should be separated by class, not last name. It would make it smoother learning environment during this strange time.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

John Mielke	Please split up the schedules by class (senior, junior, etc.) not alphabet
hope tschosik	the people should be broken up by grade level not by alphabet
Savannah Toth	Split up students by class, not alphabet.
Emily	split up students by class, not alphabet
Abbie Folkening	Split up students by class, not alphabetical.
Grace McTigue	I think it would be best to split up students by class and not by alphabet.
Elijah Chen	I've heard that upon the return to the school year, classes will be separated by last name in order to reduce the amount of students in the building at a time, however, I would prefer to have students organized by class. I understand this may be difficult to do as certain teachers only teach certain levels of classes (i.e. teachers who only teach English 1 and whatnot), however I would really like to spend my senior year in school with my friends, and the vast majority of my friends are upperclassmen. If we were sorted by last name, I wouldn't see half of my friends whatsoever during my last year in high school (or at least the first half of the last year), and after that it's "Goodbye, off to college"
Finnea Loftus	School should be broken up by class not by the alphabet.
Lillian Johnson	I feel it is best for our days to be divided up by class instead of alphabet because it doesn't make sense to have half of a class together. There should be options available for younger students taking higher level classes, but the idea should be to separate by grade. Thank you so so much!!
Tressa Rapach	As a student at North, I would prefer for school to be broken up by class instead of by alphabet. This way, we will have an opportunity to learn at the same pace as everyone in each of our classes because we will be in class and online at the same time. Additionally, a learning environment is most effective when everyone is in attendance, so missing half of the class each day will create more challenges than if days are broken up by classes.
Benjamin Schaub	I believe that the schedule should be broken up by grade, not alphabetically.
Ryan Stopka	Don't separate students by alphabetical order. It would be better for the students if instead of alphabetical organization, the school used grade level to separate the students. For instance, freshman and sophomores can attend school the same days as the first half of the alphabet kids and the juniors and seniors can attend the same days as the last half of the alphabet kids. This works because the amount of students in school would roughly be the same. Please discuss changing this policy
Renee Boone	If students must be broken up in school, they should be broken up by class, not by alphabet. First of all, if broken up by class, students will be around their friends, making school a much more enjoyable experience. Second, I am going to be a senior, and I believe that it would be much more beneficial to my education to be surrounded by students at the same education level.
Alexis Saba	I believe the school should be separated based on grade level so that we can perform at our best with people our age.
Jessica Spahn	I know it's a hard situation all around but please please please if we go back to in-person part time, do not break up the school by alphabet.
Jillian Anthony	Hello, I am going into twelfth grade at Downers Grove North. I am concerned that you will split the school's schedule not by grades but by alphabetical order. I believe that this is an ineffective way for students to learn due to the fact that there is no certain way of knowing that this method will make all classes a perfect 50-50 split of students on a certain day. There may be some classes with four A-M students and 16 N-Z, so it will be difficult for teachers to keep these different groups of students on the same page.
Ebi Hadi	The school should be broken up by class, not alphabet

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Jackson P Travers	I he separation of students in in-school classes this year, if safe, should not be alphabetically but instead by class so that it is easier for teachers to manage courses and would make for a much more organized school year for all staff and students.
Ethan Peters	With all due respect, why is the Board hosting a virtual meeting about safety when going back to school online instead of in person? Supposedly thousands of students are to return to school in the fall, so how is that safe in comparison to a meeting about the matter? How is it safe for students to be around thousands of their peers when you don't think it's safe to host a meeting with a handful of parents, administrators, and board members in person?
Julia Latocha	I believe that schools reopening should be separated by grade, as not only would it allow for easier scheduling for teachers, but also allows students to be with one another and be able to make the best of and normalize such a crazy time and year.
Paige Larsen	Split the school by class and not by last name I want to talk with more classmates and have more people I can ask questions to and bounce ideas off of rather than ending up with only a few people i can communicate with
Justin Berghorst	If block scheduling occurs in the fall, it is important that it be scheduled based on grade level, not alphabetically. If done by grade level, it will cause the least disruption to normal learning; however, if groups are assigned alphabetically, teachers will likely have to teach material multiple times, and it will further complicate the learning environment during these already tough times. Something else to consider while making this decision is that locker assignments are typically done alphabetically. Thus, if block scheduling is assigned by grade level instead, it will be more manageable to try to maintain social distancing to the highest degree possible in the hallways. Thank you for your consideration.
Allie Emmet	Students should be divided by class not alphabetically when administrators are making schedules for what students come in when.
Claire Creedon	School should be broken up by class instead of the alphabet.
Emmitt Thulin	Please reconsider the plan to separate students by alphabet and instead implement a structure broken up by grade level. Going into the senior year there is going to be so much that will be different and keeping grade levels together is the least that can be done to accommodate for the other losses the incoming seniors will be faced with. Thank you for everything that you have done in planning and preparing for this school year. I hope that you can take these comments into consideration.
Austin Davis	My brothers, who cannot drive, will be attending school next year so this scheduling works really well for me. It would be very difficult for my parents and I to adhere to two separate schedule blocks (junior/senior, freshman/sophomore)
Kelly Alexander	I am hoping to see an option of students during 100% online learning. Especially those with medical conditions which could become life threatening with COVID 19.
Garrett David Dobbertin	The school should be split up by classes, not alphabetically
Annelise Richardson	Classes should be organized by grade level and not alphabetically.
Emma Klonowski	Days should be broken up by class not by alphabet
Austin Davis	My brothers, who cannot drive, will be attending school next year so this scheduling works really well for me. It would be very difficult for my parents and I to adhere to two separate schedule blocks (junior/senior, freshman/sophomore)
Collin Lally	Should be broken up by class. I'm a senior and I would like to see my friends and classmates and not have to only see them on weekends.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

William Pletcher	<p>We as parents of an incoming sophomore do not think any in person learning environment will be safe enough and will effectively mitigate the transmission risk to not only our child but to our family. We are borderline high risk in our household due to asthma, cardiovascular issues, and other health concerns. This coupled with the exorbitant amount of people who not only doubt the seriousness nature of Covid and the effectiveness of lessening transmission by simply wearing a mask but also feel it is an infringement of their personal rights to wear a mask seriously heighten the transmission risk. These types of views are passed on to the children, students, and the behavior will be reflected. I completely understand the school and district staff will do everything they can to ensure everyone complies with mask wearing and social distancing rules but in our thinking this is well out of the realm of control. Too many parents, and I assume staff as well, do not want to wear a mask or will wear it incorrectly completely negating the purpose. We strongly oppose any type physical activity which will induce heavy breathing and any type of eating at the school. I did ask our pediatrician for his thoughts and of course he supports children getting back to their routines but correct mask wearing is paramount to reducing the spread and he stated he highly discourages full day classes along with eating and physical activity at the school. Due to our concerns and the risk our family would be subjected to if any of us were to contract Covid we will not be sending our child to attend in person classes at DGS and we need an online option that will meet the state's guidelines and also give our child the same challenging and rigorous course work with which he is eligible and very capable of handling.</p> <p>We thank you very much for your work and efforts during normal times not to mention during these extraordinary times. We are very lucky to reside in district 99 and appreciate all that you do. We also thank you for accepting and considering our comments and look forward to the board meeting and reading the school's plan.</p> <p>Will Pletcher</p>
Andrea Rheintgen	<p>If District 99 High School Schools open, even on a hybrid plan and a student tests positive for Covid-19, what are your plans? Will you advise every parent that their kid was exposed? Will you advise parents based on the classrooms that the infected kid was in? Will you then have the exposed kids quarantine for 14 days? I think transparency is extremely important.</p>
Barbara Percy	<p>I feel strongly that our students need to return to school this fall five days a week, for in person learning at the school. These teens need the structure, the consistency of going into the learning institution each day; they desperately need the daily social interaction with peers as well as teachers. The increase for these young people in depression, anxiety, drug abuse and overdoses, anger issues within family units, have all drastically increased since the school closures and social isolation began. While the schools did their best to implement remote learning, the majority of students do not learn without the daily, in person, face to face interaction with their teachers. How can there be any kind of teacher student relationship when they are only physically in class one period, one day a week? That relationship is so important for these students to develop.</p> <p>The physical, in person, daily plan could be adopted to start the school year, and if necessary, could be moved back to the hybrid model, although I doubt this will need to be done. This age group is at the lowest risk for Covid; with little to no symptoms if they do contract the virus (I am at high risk due to multiple health issues, but still feel the students need daily at school learning). The positivity rate (which includes the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths) is at 3% for Dupage County. Although the governor's executive orders, including phases, were all declared null and void after April 8 in the final decision made in the circuit court of Clay county for the entire state of Illinois, the governor's goal was to be below 20% for the positivity rate; again, we are at 3%.</p> <p>If the board decides to begin the school year with the hybrid model, I feel there needs to be a plan to move forward into daily, in person instruction within the school itself.</p> <p>Regarding the grading policy for the hybrid plan, it does not seem plausible to expect the same grading system to be used as when the students had 50 minute periods, 5 days a week, of in person learning in class. These students now have one 50 minute period of in person instruction, 1 day a week, while the rest is remote learning of only 30 minute periods each. This is putting an extreme amount of stress on these students, as they are being required to have the self motivation to do a lot of the learning on their own. I would like to see the grading system be reconsidered if the hybrid model is adopted.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

<p>Barbara Pearcy</p>	<p>I feel strongly that our students need to return to school this fall five days a week, with modifications, for in person learning at the school. These teens need the structure, the consistency of going into the learning institution each day; they desperately need the daily social interaction with peers as well as teachers. The increase for these young people in depression, anxiety, drug abuse and overdoses, anger issues within family units, have all drastically increased since the school closures and social isolation began. While the schools did their best to implement remote learning, the majority of students do not learn without the daily, in person, face to face interaction with their teachers. How can there be any kind of teacher student relationship when they are only physically in class one period, one day a week? That relationship is so important for these students to develop.</p> <p>The physical, in person, daily plan could be adopted to start the school year, and if necessary, could be moved back to the hybrid model, although I doubt this will need to be done. This age group is at the lowest risk for Covid; with little to no symptoms if they do contract the virus (I am at high risk due to multiple health issues, but still feel the students need daily at school learning). The positivity rate (which includes the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths) is at 3% for Dupage County. Although the governor's executive orders, including phases, were all declared null and void after April 8 in the final decision made in the circuit court of Clay county for the entire state of Illinois, the governor's goal was to be below 20% for the positivity rate; again, we are at 3%.</p> <p>The use of masks alone should be totally sufficient for safety. The use of masks and shields seems excessive and too restrictive for these young people. If the board decides to begin the school year with the hybrid model, I feel there needs to be a plan to move forward into daily, in person instruction within the school itself.</p> <p>Regarding the grading policy for the hybrid plan, it does not seem plausible to expect the same grading system to be used as when the students had 50 minute periods, 5 days a week, of in person learning in class. These students now have one 50 minute period of in person instruction, 1 day a week, while the rest is remote learning of only 30 minute periods each. This is putting an extreme amount of stress on these students, as they are being required to have the self motivation to do a lot of the learning on their own. I would like to see the grading system be reconsidered if the hybrid model is adopted.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Shannon May</p>	<p>To all board members: you have having this meeting via ZOOM. Why? Because it's not safe to be in a room together? Nothing further, thank you.</p>
<p>Maria Wilcox</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is there a possibility to convert most teachers to Gen Ed, keeping students all day in a couple of spaces so contact tracing can be accomplished if need be? 2) can teachers be behind a large hanging plexiglass so they don't wear masks so students can read lips and hear the teacher? 3) can students wear visors instead of masks since CDC added their last statement that you can wear them without masks if more than 15 min closer than 6 feet. Seems everyone is moving toward plastic barriers. Plus you can exercise and eat with masks on, and going without is a huge risk.

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

<p>Jacqueline Cavanaugh</p>	<p>I would like nothing more than to be in person addressing the present school board. I am not there. Neither are they. Is it safe for them to be? If not, will it be for all the students? Even with a plan in place what about the teachers? What about the strain on the kids and parents? I want NOTHING more than to send both my children back to school and provide stability and structure to their lives. They need more than a stressed out parent who is trying to work, homeschool, and also provide social emotional help to them during these turbulent times. But YOU know as much as I do that this isnt the answer. Safety for out children is. YoUR safety is staying home to talk to us but you want to send school teachers, many of whom are across a wide range of ages and have their own health concerns, to teach kids who many not understand social distancing. What about busing? One of my sons in district is a special needs student and goes to a therapeutic school. Smaller busses means closer sitting? No way to be 6 feet apart. Are you abusing separately? Bo waybto help every single child or save every child so how are you going to pick which family you are going to not save and which family may lose. I have an autoimmune disease so if my son gets sick and comes home with covid from another child I could die. How do YOU make THAT choice? But that is what each of your teachers is ALSO living with. Just to teach our children. I don't want to go back to homeschooling. Dear GOD, I love our teachers. Bless them and all they do. But are we ready for all the dangers that come with reopening? I know how these kids need to be with other kids, I see my boys... but YOU go and be together and decide if it is worth it. And then let me know if I will live through it.</p>
<p>Jenny Kay</p>	<p>Board Members,</p> <p>As the community depends on your decision to help us all remain safe, I implore you not to cave to the parents of students who do not want the added responsibility that comes with virtual learning. I fully understand that in person learning has its benefits but is somebody's life in the community worth the slightly better experience from in person learning? We are lucky to live in a community (I'm from Woodridge) where we have the resources to support virtual learning for everyone, why not use them and keep our community safe? Nearby districts such as Plainfield are postponing in person learning for six weeks to see what happens elsewhere, let's do that and not be the district that opened to soon. Lets not be the Florida and Texas that obviously reopened too soon. Also, I believe sports and extracurricular activities should be cancelled for the fall. Are these really a must even if you decide for in person learning? Look at Lake Zurich and York High School as prime examples of opening back up too soon.</p> <p>Finally, what about inequalities that will exist from a student that attends in person learning to one that has increased health risks and cannot attend in person learning, The child attending school may receive a better education, however the one strictly at home has much more of an opportunity to cheat on tests, etc. from the confides of their house.</p> <p>Education is important but so is being alive! Let's postpone in person learning for six weeks and see where we stand at that point. Let's not be the crash test dummy and stay safe!</p>
<p>Maryann</p>	<p>Please arrange for a full day for these students. Use I roy School district A, B Model, or another. A 1/2 day has been a non-learning day in these students' mindsets since kindergarten. Students need a full day in to be in a learning mindset. Sack lunches can be Picked up on students' way into the buildings, or hot lunches can be delivered. Ask for volunteers to help with deliveries each day as needed. If an opera house, and hospitals everywhere can safely distribute meals everyday so can District 99.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Christine Rapp	<p>is highly diverse, a one size fits all will not work for our present situation battling a deadly pandemic. The school cannot maintain a controlled environment that is Covid-19 virus-free due to many factors. The first factor is the ventilation system of a school that is over 50 years old. There is the inability to properly “disinfect” the entire environment and not just “removing” or wiping away the air borne virus that landed on surfaces. Other than talking or coughing, the simple act of flushing the toilet sends microscopic particles of the virus from an infected individual into the air, landing on surfaces that students can touch. The second factor that cannot be controlled is that an asymptomatic person who has Covid-19. The nurse who performs the temperature check can unknowingly send the contagious student into the building thus spreading the disease to other students. Our most valuable resource, our teachers may unknowingly contract the disease and pass the virus to the students. The students have at least 6 different teachers in a school day, thus increasing the risk exponentially. If the teacher interacts with just 60 students a day for 5 days a week, then the teacher has 300 opportunities per week to contract the virus and 1,200 opportunities per month.</p> <p>The school’s current curriculum embraces the constructivism model of teaching. Placing students in groups also increases the risk especially if a student does not follow the guidelines. Teachers can advise a student to follow the policy but can’t control the outcome if the student is positive for the virus. Students who congregate before or after class increase the opportunity for Covid-19 to spread. The Lake Zurich High School is an example of this occurrence. The school does not have authority to manage this issue. Congregating in the hallways of the school is another risk.</p> <p>Many of our citizens and students are not fully knowledgeable about the virus and may not practice safe distancing along with mask use over both the nose and the mouth. Many parents send their students to school even though they are sick. There are many who reason that they could not contract the virus and if they did, it would be no worse than the common flu. The school does not have the work force to enforce safe distancing and mask use. Even if a student disregards the guidelines, the act was performed and cannot be undone.</p> <p>Today we have the opportunity to take preventive measures to save the lives of our youth and our teaching staff. I am proposing that the parents have the right to decide whether their student(s) attend class in person. I would like to propose the option for students who need to have direct contact with their teachers attend class. Those who do not need this contact can attend class through Zoom. This proposal gives the students who have a disease state or mental health issue that puts them at risk, an ability to stay safe at home but attend class on Zoom. For those students who need more class instruction time, the teachers can provide more one-on-one time.</p> <p>I am a licensed medical professional who has kept abreast of the scientific journals around the world ranging from the first SARS epidemic to the physics of air borne particles such as the Coronavirus.</p> <p>I hope you will consider giving parents the right to choose along with the input of the school team.</p> <p>Best regards, Christine Rapp</p>
Chris McGrath	I am a teacher at North High, a resident of Downers Grove, and a parent of three. While I respect our current situation and the seriousness of the COVID virus, I am ready to go back to work and will accept whatever decision the board of education makes about re-opening schools.
Nancy Fielding	Board members and Dr. Thiele, I implore you to continue remote learning only for District 99. While students learn best in-person, in the midst of a global pandemic, with cases rising and many unknown factors about this virus, it is imperative to prioritize the health of students and faculty. To open schools now is to treat our children like guinea pigs in a science experiment. There are too many uncontrollable factors, and too many teens who may not comply with mask and distancing rules. In addition, we are asking teachers to take on many new responsibilities: to ensure that their classroom space is disinfected appropriately, to enforce rules about masks and distance, and to pivot to a combination of distance and in-person learning. This is too much to ask of teachers, with little time to prepare. Thank you.
Jim Haack	I am a teacher at Downers Grove North and am also a parent of a student attending as well. I am ready to get back into the building and I am comfortable with the safety measures are school is taking. I feel that the Hybrid model was well thought out and will work for our building.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Britni Mitchell	As an employee of 10 years for District 99 and an individual with an autoimmune disease, I found relief in the district's hybrid plan and will not hesitate to return to work as expected.
Pam Brandt	What are the plans for the large groups in the Music Department (the 4 concert bands, 2 orchestras, choirs & 3 jazz bands, etc)? thank you
JOANN PURCELL	As a staff member for 17 years and as a mother of 2 current students, I support the reopening plan as presented.
Maryann	Please arrange for a full day for these students. Use I roy School district A, B Model, or another. A 1/2 day has been a non-learning day in these students' mindsets since kindergarten. Students need a full day in to be in a learning mindset. Sack lunches can be Picked up on students' way into the buildings, or hot lunches can be delivered. Ask for volunteers to help with deliveries each day as needed. If an opera house, and hospitals everywhere can safely distribute meals everyday so can District 99.
Wendy Fredricks	Agenda is not yet available, but I want to ask that the senior class not be split up - my daughter relies on her peers in her honors classes to accomplish her work and splitting up based on last name will disrupt her ability to work with several peers she collaborates with in her classes. Also, seniors will have so much disruption, please keep them on the same schedule so that they are able to see their peers and friends and not be on opposite schedules as them. I have the same comment for the other classes (I also have a sophomore), but it is especially important for the seniors to have something to connect them together in this difficult year.
Bridget Haack	Being a parent of a student in District 99 and a wife of a teacher in District 99, I feel that with safety precautions in place, I am comfortable with them returning at the start of the school year. I feel in person contact is essential to overall learning even in a smaller capacity to start this year.
Farrah Velazquez	Good Evening ladies and gentlemen of the District 99 community. I am a member of the English and Fine Arts departments at North High School, and this is my 9th year in District 99. I would like to publicly state that I believe the District has taken proper precautions and is being thoughtful in action regarding our return to school. As long as the state of COVID in DuPage County and the state does not worsen exponentially before we are set to return on August 12, I am ready to return to work in the building, and I plan to do so.
Scott Gollan	Although I would like to see more time allocated to in-person instruction with respect to the proposal as currently written, I support any effort that will get students back to school.
Arielle Williams	I believe the the reopening plan should be separated by grade level instead of last name so students have a more resources and classmates to assist with the transition of blended learning.
Bennett Allendorfer	I would like to request that the students are organized by Grade Level, not Alphabetically. My peers and I would like to spend our last year with our grade as a whole

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Dr. Thiele/Board Members:

As you are well aware of Dr. Thiele/Board Members, you are ultimately responsible for the health and well being of the students who attend DGS and DGN in District 99. I have been a public educator for 20 years myself and you and I know that a school's number one job is safety. These are unprecedented times and I wanted to personally thank you as a citizen who grew up in Downers Grove, as well as a fellow educator for being an excellent communicator and leader during this unique time in our country. I graduated from DGS in 1995 and I am very proud of our school community and proud of all of your team's dedication and hard work. My oldest daughter is presently going to be a sophomore at DGS and will directly be impacted by the "Boards" decisions today. With that being said, I would like to implore your attention for a brief moment.

I am writing to express my concern about District 99 reopening in fall. I am begging you to do everything in your power to prevent schools from reopening to in-person instruction until there is an effective vaccine with which to respond to COVID-19. I've seen a variety of reopening plans from different schools in different districts trickle out as the summer wanes. All of these plans seem like dangerous half-measures. Anything less than completely remote learning presents excessive danger to students and staff. Many seem to be advocating for hybrid models, rotating students and staff through odd schedules and attempting to maintain small numbers of students and staff in the building. I do not see these plans resulting in an environment that will be safe enough for those that must be present in the building. No matter how few students or teachers are present for in-person instruction, there is still too high a risk of infection.

I will reiterate: Please do everything in your power to prevent schools from reopening to in-person instruction until there is an effective vaccine with which to respond to COVID-19. Lives are at stake. While I know teachers and students belong in the classroom for learning to be truly effective and opening schools ultimately helps our economy, our children are not "guinea pigs" for COVID-19. Teachers and administrators will be able to teach confidently if they know that the health and well-being of students, colleagues, and our families is being taken seriously. The district cannot say that teachers will be able to teach effectively in-person during a global pandemic, nor can they say students will be able to learn effectively in-person during a global pandemic. The danger of infection and the resulting anxiety surrounding it will be too great in my humble opinion.

I strongly believe that reopening the schools to in-person instruction before there is an effective vaccine to prevent COVID-19, is an unnecessary potentially life threatening risk. Other surrounding suburban school districts are taking the lead and adopting the stance that anything less than complete remote learning presents excessive danger to students, faculty, and staff.

Good evening, School Board and members of the community present tonight.

My name is Demetrios Pappageorge, and I have been lucky enough to teach in this fine district for 18 years. I must go on record to state that I trust our administrators, have seen their intelligence and sensitivity in action, and I know their hearts. Not only do I believe that they have reached the best decisions possible for our faculty to return, but also they have done what is best for our students and their families. There is overwhelming evidence to support that in-person teaching is better for the education process, and it is better for social/emotional well-being, and indeed physical health as well. Their plan is incredibly balanced and also allows for the varying needs of our D99 families. Finally, having done an incredible amount of research and reading actual studies from legitimate sources, I am thoroughly convinced that going back to in-person teaching is the right thing to do. Barring a seismic change in current conditions, I plan to be back in the classroom in August and urge my fellow teachers to do the same, and I urge the D99 School Board to approve this plan. Thank you for listening!

Javier Deleon

Demetrios Pappageorge

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Jason Matthiesen	<p>Once the facts stopped matching the narrative given publicly by the media etc, we must maintain some semblance of truth and normalcy. I implore the board to consider the damage partisan politics can play in this scenario. Tempered judgements should rule. Infections will happen however deaths are down and even rare for the age groups spoken about tonight. Our children deserve the highest level of respect and intelligence given to them irrespective of political strife.</p> <p>Whether the students zoom in or the teachers need to zoom in for precautions, we must attempt a swing for the fence. I feel the community and the student base are fully capable of navigating this unprecedented time. THANKS to anyone who reads this.</p>
Thomas Barr	<p>Please address what TCD students should expect.</p>
George Tomecki	<p>As a family physician, I would like to add to my previous comments recommending e-learning as the safest option and not reopening school to in person learning.</p> <p>A brand new 59,000 person study out of South Korea shows: 10-19 year olds catch and transmit the coronavirus at a rate similar to adults.</p> <p>https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/10/20-1315_article</p> <p>These facts should not be ignored. 100% e-learning is the safest option!</p> <p>What will happen when the students and teachers test positive for COVID-19? Quarantine and e-learning? Why wait until people are sick or dead before doing the right thing?</p> <p>Why not do the right thing from the beginning, start e-learning in the fall, and not endanger lives!!!</p> <p>George Tomecki MD Family Physician</p>
Carrie Drobnik	<p>I am going to be a senior this school year at DGN, and I can understand that no matter what plan is created, some people will disagree with it. Certain people have not yet grasped the idea that this school year will look like no other year has in the past. I would guess that the Board of Education's goal is to please the most amount of people for the start of this year. Many nearby high schools released their "Hybrid" plan earlier this week. One of them talked about having certain students go Monday and Thursday and the others attend Tuesday and Friday. I am unsure with how students are planned to be divided for this rotation. For the best learning environment, I STRONGLY suggest dividing students by grade level. While a grade level split may not reduce class sizes, it limits other issues. If you split the students in any other way, then the majority of classes will need to be held twice. This adds even more stress on the teachers that already have to accommodate virtual and in-person learning. There are the exceptions of electives that have all grade levels in them, but electives can be moved around easier than core classes. An alphabetic split is NOT wanted by students, and would create larger issues. I suggest having freshman and juniors on the same day, and sophomores and seniors on the other. The sophomores, juniors and seniors have already been together since freshman year and it is only fair to keep them as one. The phrase "We are ONE DGN" would not be the same with only 1/2 of your class, would it? You certainly do not want students to go through high school only knowing only half of their class, and not even recognize the other half when it comes to graduation. A split in any other way than grade level would also be very unfair and confusing to incoming freshman. Freshman come to high school from many different middle schools, and they need to get to know those in their class. No one is sure of what high school will look like in a year, but for now it is best to keep the students with who they are most comfortable around, those in their own grade. Thank you and I hope you take this comment from a student's perspective seriously when you are figuring out a plan for the student's high school career.</p>
Charlie O'Neill	<p>I think that instead of dividing up the student body alphabetically, we should be divided between upperclassmen and underclassmen so that we are still only exposed to half of the student body, but we are not excluded from learning among our classmates.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Jennifer Kilpatrick	Remote learning is a joke for almost all students. Very little, if anything, especially with children of special needs with an IEP. This won't work!!! We'll lose more every minute they're not physically on school and accountable!!
Dawn Nelson	While I agree in person learning is crucial, the health and safety of our students and their families is just as important. The proposed hybrid schedule exposes the entire student body to each other's potential germs by not isolating the same group to the same 5 day environmental exposure and for what - 6 to 7 hours of in person learning a week? It's just not worth the risk especially for this age group while our numbers are on the rise. E-learning until there is a vaccine, please!!!
Samantha Bachara	As a student, I personally believe that it is not beneficial nor safe to go back to school in the fall, even if it is only a couple days a week. The back and forth is too much change for students and it is a lot to handle. Also, even though safety measures are going to be implemented, it is going to be very difficult to keep students safe. If we were just to do remote learning until we can safely all be back in school together, students can be comfortable and keep up better. We have learned from the previous experience of remote learning and we know how we can do better and students know how they can learn the best in that capacity. This hybrid plan also puts a burden on parents especially if they have children in different grades and schools. Many of my fellow students agree with me on this point and do not feel comfortable returning to school in the fall. I would like to urge everyone to think of these points when deciding whether or not we reopen in the fall.
Matthew Jablonski	Why is the grouping based on how students' last name ends and not begins?
Albert Miranda	According to DuPage County Health Department, not one person under the age of 20 has died from Covid-19 in DuPage County. According to the CDC statistics, Covid-19 does NOT present a danger greater than the common flu in children 14-19 years of age. There are numerous studies both in the USA and abroad that demonstrate that Covid-19 is no more a threat to school age children than the common flu. Our schools have never been closed for the flu. Five day a week normal school hours should be offered and parents, children and teachers should be given the choice whether or not to attend. Accommodations, modifications, "hybrid" learning, etc could be offered to those who do not wish to attend in person learning. What actual science, statistics and/or clinical studies were used in devising this "hybrid" plan? Have you considered the negative effects of having our children only attend school for 8 hours a week?
Michelle Bodi	I am wondering when and where it will be acceptable for my colleagues and I who have children to change prior to picking them up? Will we have an outdoor changing/locker room/tent? In our cars? In the parking lot? Is there a place we can wash our hands OUTSIDE and change our clothes after caring for everyone else's children before we care for ours?
John Miller	Will the remote learning days actually follow a live remote schedule with your classroom teacher? For example if my child has a class at 10:00AM I expect them to be on the computer live with their teacher and classmates. Last Spring was horrible. It has to be live remote learning or it is a waste of time.
Alex Hoffman	How will the hybrid schedules affect students who are undergoing a program at the Technology Center of Dupage or taking the early bird gym class?
Noël Goudreau	Students are getting 2 hours of actual teaching time per week per subject. How does this engender true learning, particularly of difficult concepts such as physics? I am very concerned that students cannot learn in this short amount of time. Expecting 13-18 year olds to functionally teach themselves math, sciences, languages, literature is not realistic. Moreover the grading scales are the same. For students in their junior year, this is particularly concerning given junior year is so important for college entrance.

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

Deandra Powell	I am a parent of a fifteen year old Junior at DGS high school and a nine year old 4th grader. I also work as a Substitute teacher for District 68. I am against the idea of having kids return to school because of the health risk of Covid. However, I am a firm believer in not stalling education. Parents should have the right to options to say whats best for their children. Schools should open as scheduled with the option of in person instruction for those who voluntarily send their kids to school. Remote learning should be offered to parents who choose not to. I have underlying health concerns that has me in the high risk category and in danger of the kids bringing it home to me which may have devastating results. Furthermore, teachers should also have the option to return to the classroom voluntarily, and should not be penalized if they choose the remote option of teaching. Not forcing the decision on anyone is the best approach when it comes to our health being at risk. Its a start, but whatever the outcome there will be noone to blame for decisions made. Most importantly, our kids wont lose anymore time and have to graduate late, or make up time lost from school. Those in remote learning needing additional help should be provided tutoring. Thank you for allowing our voices to be heard as all of our health and lives are at stake.
Cassandra Allen	You want our children in the school but this meeting is online? Please make make sense!!!
Allen Horstmann	What about the Cook County travel advisory in place, parents that work in Cook County or teachers who live in Cook County are suppose to self quarantine if coming from Cook to other counties... How does that work.
Anne Dolin	My question is if you decide to do hybrid, can you switch to remote learning at any time? Also, if you do online only, after 9 weeks, do you have to go back to in person?
anonymous	I thank you for working on these options. Based on the recommendation set forth of an A/B schedule, my high school student will see each subject teacher just once a week and really have limited classroom time with approx. 2 days of in classroom days according to the plans I've read. While we understand that spacing out the student attendance is important, is there a way we can allow students to have more interaction with their teachers and be present in school more? 2 days seems inadequate for optimal learning. Thank you.
Cherie Spinosa	I commend all who have worked so hard to create a plan under these trying circumstances. Thank you to all involved for their efforts. While I find a hybrid plan to be reasonable in general, I strongly feel students should be given more in-person time than is proposed. In reviewing my senior's schedule, she will have one hour per week of in-person time for each of her classes. This falls very short of what I feel would be necessary or beneficial to her. Her classes include AP drawing and painting, for example. How can she possibly learn and gain the experience she needs to attend art school in the future in one hour per week? I don't understand how that will work. Please consider increasing in-person instruction for the sake of all of our students. Thank you, Cherie Spinosa

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Greg Hensel	<p>Good Evening,</p> <p>My name is Greg Hensel and I am a teacher in the Fine Arts Department at South High. I'm writing this comment in regards to the the District ReOpening Plan. As stated by many, I do not envy the task of our school and district administrations. They are working tirelessly every day to construct a plan for our students. A plan that was constructed to give the best educational experience possible, given the current global climate. As someone who leads a large group of students whether it's organizing a concert, field trip or overnight trip, I can relate that there is never a decision that will please 100% of the "audience".</p> <p>I want to see my students. I want to make face to face connections with them and interact with them on a daily basis. I love my job, but I don't want to die. What is the protocol in our return to school plan once a student tests positive with COVID-19? Exactly how many positive tests until we are forced into full-time remote learning? How many deaths? What about a teacher that brings the virus home with them to an immune suppressed family member? These are questions that MUST be answered before reopening school.</p> <p>I do not feel comfortable with this plan. I do not feel comfortable with the lack of transparency involved with the creation of this plan. I do not believe 1 hour of in-person time with each of my students is worth the risk. I do not believe we are putting our students in a safe environment when we have the option to remote learn.</p> <p>Like many teachers, when the pandemic began we were not ready to teach as effectively as possible in remote learning. We got by and did the best we could given the circumstances. Give us time to prepare. Give us an opportunity to show you that this can be done effectively while keeping our students and staff safe.</p> <p>I believe that we can keep our students safe in remote learning. I believe that teachers will go above and beyond to make remote learning the best experience possible, given time to prepare. I believe that we have the responsibility and opportunities to be leaders in our state. I believe in District 99 to do the right thing. Commit to full time Remote Learning until we can confidently say that we have a plan in place that keeps EVERYONE safe.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Greg Hensel</p>
Krystal Johnson	Will there be a zero tolerance mask policy during the school year? If so who will have the responsibility to enforce any and all mask policies?
Angela M Vocalino	It is our wish for my child to resume a full schedule at school, are there circumstances where that would be allowed?
Colleen Sullivan	I thank you for this comprehensive plan. I apologize if this question has been answered already as I am submitting this prior to the meeting. I am hoping to have clarification on the use and availability of face shields. Are the parents responsible for purchasing these shields?
Krystal Johnson	Will students have the option to only attend E learning and not in person instruction ?

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

Marcia Ublies	<p>Will all students be required to wear masks? My recommendation would be that everyone wears one. Also, I am highly concerned about the "self-certify" language in the re-opening plan. What if someone isn't honest about having a fever or perhaps they are unaware. Can another measure be utilized to ensure that the student doesn't have a fever? If no one is wearing a mask and someone comes to school unaware that they have a fever, or asymptomatic, this could result in entire classes, their respective teachers (which would affect the hybrid schedule) and corresponding families having to quarantine. I appreciate the effort and thought that everyone is putting into this. Thank you for your time and consideration. Marcia Ublies marciaublies@yahoo.com</p>
Eric Hurst	<p>Why is the amount of learning time for remote classes reduced 50% as compared to in person classes from last year? Why can't all of the classes be done remotely and in full length whether in person or not? This plan will drastically reduced the ability of students to learn and retain information and relies on too much "independent learning" as opposed to instructed learning process. Most important part of school is to learn and to reduce this learning time in half will only be a detriment to the kids long term.</p>
Julie Casey	<p>The independent learning portion of the proposed schedule is more than I expected, and seems more than other high schools' plans that I've seen (York, Naperville schools, etc.). I'm also disappointed to see that Late Start has been extended. How does our in-person and/or synchronous time compare to other high schools in DuPage County?</p>
Maggie Camporese	<p>Dear D99 Board of Education,</p> <p>As the decision on whether or not to open our doors at the beginning of the school year is literally the most important professional decision we will ever make, all District 99 stakeholders - the students, parents, staff, administration, and tax paying community members at large - all deserve to know a precise answer to the following question:</p> <p>What is the exact number of student and staff COVID-19 positive tests, mandated quarantines, hospitalizations, and deaths before the district recognizes the proposed hybrid learning plan no longer is worth the continued risk and will therefore revert to full scale remote instruction?</p> <p>If the district is unable to answer this question directly and without providing exact numbers, then the proposal must be reworked immediately so that there is a clear benchmark for how much inconvenience, fear, and loss we, as a district and community, are willing to accept as collateral damage for the sake and risk of in-person learning, and our parents and students can make the best choice for their family and situation.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

My comment directly relates to the District ReOpening Plan and I would like it read at the Special Reception of Visitors.

We have a number of questions relating to the ReOpening Plan:

Will in-person classes be recorded, or streamed live (via Zoom or google meet)?

If we opt out of in-person learning, will our children have access to the recorded/livestream remote learning for that in-person class, in real-time?

Will students who are sick (or otherwise not in-person) have access to the in-person classes?

The language for not attending in-person classes is different for "those with documented medical reason" than "those unrelated to a medical reason." The difference is those with medical reasons will "receive instructional supports" and those without medical reasons will "need to be disciplined enough to stay on top of their studies."

Is this 'penalizing' students who don't have what you determine to be a 'valid' medical reason for choosing to stay home?

What are the accepted "documented medical reasons" and who determines their validity? Does "a global pandemic" qualify?

Are the "documented medical reasons" only for students, or for immediate family members who live in the home with the student?

If we choose the in-person option for our children, and change our mind based upon our students, or other concerns, how will the transition work?

Cinda Lester

What are the procedures if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Per IDPH's Guidelines for tracing, a positive test result means that individual should be isolated and anyone they have had contact with is asked to self-quarantine at home. Our understanding of this would demand or dictate that any student or staff in a shared space (ie. classroom, hallway, etc.) would therefore be requested to quarantine at home for 10 days minimum and/or have a negative test result.

Will this be required in Dist99?

How and when will parents be notified of a positive test result?

What information will be shared about the positive test / person?

The School? Grade? Class? Date? Symptoms? Name?

If a student or staff tests positive (or even shows symptoms), will the class, parents, school be shut down immediately?

What does the self-certification document / agreement say, regarding symptoms?

If a student has allergies, and sneezes - that is a symptom. Do they now have to stay home for 10 days?

What access to in-person learning will they have if in quarantine at home, without actually being sick?

What proof will be required for students or staff to safely return to school?

Under what circumstances will the entire school(s) be shut down, due to COVID-19 (other than the state returning to Phase 3, or other government-mandate)?

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Haley Hurst	<p>Why can't we have a full day of in-person learning? Why does it have to be split into a half day on two different days? It could be a full day on both of the scheduled days while the other half of the alphabetical split goes for two full days on different days. For example, A-L can do a full day of in-person learning (periods 1-8) on Tuesdays and Thursdays while M-Z can do a full day of in-person learning on Wednesdays and Fridays leaving Mondays for remote learning for everyone. While A-L does in-person learning, the students who are M-Z could be doing remote learning at the same time as they are doing in-person learning and vice versa. It could be as simple as broadcasting the lesson live to the students who aren't having in-person learning that day. We could be all together but split at the same time, why can't that happen? I feel that if we go periods 1-4 one day and 5-8 another, it will not be enough learning for anyone. That is one day a week for all your classes and that is no where near enough learning. Having half of those two days being independent learning will help even less than remote learning will because there will be no instruction at all. There should be no reason why we can't have a full day of in-person learning AND a full day of remote learning where the classes are as long as they would be on a normal day of school. Making a plan for remote learning could be very simple if classes were a normal period length because then the lesson plans would be the exact same as a normal in-person day with the exception of having to be broadcasted online. The only difference there should be with remote and in-person learning should be that one is in the classroom and the other is live from home. The plan could be simplified and much more effective then it is right now, there is no need for this much complexity. If we go to school in-person, we have already been in contact with people so what's the sense of having both groups of students go to school on the same days possibly sitting in the same desks when you can have the two groups go on different days with less contact and time to clean before the next day of school. It makes much more sense to go a full day of in-person two days a week to maximize learning than to split one day into two days which significantly decreases the learning.</p>
Lisa Kasko	<p>I see shields will possibly be required. I highly suggest ones made by instashieldusa.com. They attach to a baseball cap or visor and wrap around the sides of the head. They are only \$2.99 each directly to the consumer. (I have no affiliation with this company.) I use these in my in-person voice lessons and they are comfortable and non-restrictive. Ball caps and visors would have to be approved daily wear in order for them to be used. Thank you for allowing the suggestion.</p>
Ellen Paul	<p>This is not the way to educate students. They need to be in the classroom with a teacher in front of them. 2 half days of in-person education is a joke. E-learning is a joke. Students should be in the classrooms every day - even if they can only be there 1/2 days. You are cheating the kids, simple as that. This is not a school "reopening plan" - it's E-learning with a couple of field trips to class. District 99 should be aiming higher. Sad.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Claudio Borchichi	<p>What we noted in the virtual learning on our kids</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Parents became teachers: we are not trained to be teachers, we are full time workers outside home (never stop working since the pandemic started); that means that the kids were self-educated most of the time, and that's not acceptable.2. Disengagement: we noted that the students are isolated, received inconsistent and unclear directions, objectives and goals. Most of the time they did not know what they have to do, and when their assignments were due.3. Lack of academic guidance: no reference materials, un-conclusive answers from the teachers, insufficient time on video-conference to respond kid questions. <p>Why we believe the kids need to return to school</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teachers should teach the kids: Live classes in-person or via video conference every day following a normal schedule.2. Engagement: students needs routine (a daily schedule with daily deliverables and teachers follow-ups) and clear directions following an organized daily schedule.3. Guidance: the teacher needs to recommend books and resources for the students to follow; otherwise the student use internet searches (e.g.: google) which are biased following commercial oriented algorithms; which are not the best academic resources. <p>After reviewing the proposed hybrid-plan we consider that two reduced-time days a week are insufficient. The in-person and independent learning should be simultaneous and following normal class schedule; broadcasting the class live as it is done at other education venues.</p>
Jennifer Holik	<p>So now that you have all of these insane rules and restrictions - are you going to start hiring new mental health professionals to deal with the fallout with our kids? They have already been damaged on some level since March and now with this you are going to send more over the edge. Kids need social interaction and to be AT SCHOOL with peers and teachers. Not this hybrid which is going to throw everyone off.</p> <p>I do not agree with contact tracing or cloth face masks to let the kids breath in their fungal, virus, and bacterial stuff all day long. You are going to create a whole group of kids that get more sick from this than any flu and a virus that is not what the media and the governor have hyped it up to be! You are going to create kids that live in fear of being in trouble if they don't conform. Kids that as teens are already seeking their identities and peer groups and you are contributing fear and restrictions which is not going to end well for them. Many will become more isolated which is not a good thing as a teen.</p> <p>Are you ready for the lawsuits that will come because you got so many kids sick physically and mentally? And face masks on top of it. You do realize that kids are kids and these masks are not going to be washed daily and they will be thrown on the floor or in a backpack or wherever and germs will spread anyway. It is going to be a rare kid that makes sure his masks and shield are always clean. Kids are kids and they already know this is stupid. These kids are already hanging out together all summer with no masks. No distancing. No stupid rules.</p>
Dawn Larson	<p>While I appreciate all the effort that has been put into this plan, and I do promote more in-person class learning, this plan is still not providing adequate time for learning. Classes are "meeting" 110 minutes a week compared to the 238 minutes a week prior to the stay-at-home order. The teachers have a full-day schedule but this will consist of them teaching the same material twice a week (once to the A-L last name students and a second time to the M-Z students.) Unless the half-day of "independent learning" that students have 5 times a week consists of significant, meaningful activities/projects for all courses, our students will be learning less than 50% of what they should be learning. This is where we ended up in the Spring when we moved to remote learning and it seems that trying to accommodate in-person class learning is leaving us with the same result.</p>
Bill Kramer	<p>Expecting kids to wear face shields while in the hallways seems excessive and beyond what any other school district plans to require.</p>
Svetlana Cole	<p>I am looking for remote learning plan, I am one of the parents who want my child to learn from home. Please advise.</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Julie Rimbault	I am very concerned about the amount of independent learning time set in the schedule. Can you please elaborate on what "independent learning" will look like?
Jennifer Hall	The Health & Safety guidelines state that "If there is a circumstance where individuals are closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes, we will document that encounter and notify those involved." On its face, this guideline would not include all students that have a class with the student or teacher testing positive for COVID-19. Is this the intent of the guideline? Isn't safer and more pragmatic to inform all individuals who shared a classroom or a bus ride with the individual regardless of the 6 ft 15 min contact? Thank you for your response.
Cinda Lester	<p>Additional questions:</p> <p>What happens when a teacher is out due to a non- Covid related event? Will the sub teach the online course that day? In-person? In the event that there is no sub, where do the students go during that hour?</p> <p>What is required from a student who is quarantined due to Covid symptoms. Is it sufficient to bring a doctor's note if the student finds out that his symptoms are from strep throat, or do they have to wait for a negative Covid test?</p> <p>Are there class size limits (obviously less than the 50 persons mandated by the state), or is it solely based upon the square footage of the classroom?</p> <p>What are you using to sanitize? Are your cleaning products are hospital grade that include bleach? EPA approved could mean anything like Green cleaners that do not kill COVID.</p> <p>What type of wipes - ideally Clorox type - are kids to use to wipe down their desks?</p> <p>What happens to kids with a 6th period lunch? Where do they go for that hour?</p>
Michael Pacer	<p>As a district 99 employee I feel that I am am prepared to return to in-person school as it is laid out in the return to school plan. I feel that an in-person start to the school year is imperative to the developing of appropriate rapport with students and establishing a learning environment that is conducive to collaboration and knowledge/ experience acquisition.</p> <p>I also support beginning the school year with activities including sports as it is laid out in the IHSA return to play plan.</p>
Jalina Farmer	I believe while the plan that has been made for students is safe and has been thought through carefully, I want to voice that some students feel that being divided by grade level would be better than being divided by the letter of last name. I feel that, while being divided by last name is the logical thing to do, as a student, experiencing my last year of high school, I feel that I wouldn't get the full experience of my high school experience without the presence of all my senior friends and classmates side by side with me. It is imperative to be able to experience this memorable year of our education, all together like how it's supposed to be, despite this time of uncertainty. A suggestion that I was thinking about is if it was possible to be able to split students by grade level, as previously said, I propose that seniors and juniors be placed together on schedule A and freshmen and sophomores be placed together on schedule B. I hope that you take this into consideration.
Dorraine Fenner	I am wondering who will be disinfecting the lever on the spray bottle students are spraying their desks with? Isn't this similar to sharing items without sanitizing? Should students use hand sanitizer after using the disinfectant spray?
Vanessa Brennan	Is it possible to have freshman sophomore one day and then junior senior another day, as opposed to A-L and M-Z??
Nancy Cremer	What is the difference between independent learning and remote learning.
Charles Schultz	in the proposed plan it said you can choose not to go in person to the school during the hybrid schedule what is your plan to provide the same classes to students that do not feel safe attending school in person
Nancy Cremer	Who will be providing face shields mentioned in the plan?
Rita Craig	Does the school board unanimously support the presented plan?

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Lois Graham	If the 12 of you will not meet together in the same room, why are you expecting our students to come to school under the same risk. Are you willing to stand by the number of students and teachers who will die if we return under your plan.
Lois Graham	Remind your board members that we can see them and when they are on their cell phones (off screen) we can see that. I hanks for taking our concerns seriously.
Sara M.	Some of the other districts are offering live streaming of classes to all students -so the group that is remote receives the same instruction that in person kids do. Is there a reason we can't do that? Kids would get instruction led regularly. Can we do this?
Barbara Percy	This is actually my third submission to the board. As I have stated previously, I firmly believe the best thing for these young people's mental and physical health is to be in school five days a week with modifications. However, if the board decides to adopt the hybrid plan, I feel that one of the most important changes to the remote learning for the fall is the accountability that is required of these students. Requiring the students to login to each class period, on time, with attendance being taken will build in that accountability. I am assuming, and hope the teachers and board agree, that the students then need to be required to remain logged in, on video, for the entire class period. This will allow the teachers to actually instruct the students everyday for the entire class period, with possible class work time built in if the teacher chooses to do so. I believe that requiring the students to be visible and logged in for the entire class period is so important to give the students structure, keep them engaged and help them to interact with their teachers (as building a teacher student relationship will be difficult as there will be only one in person class period a week). It also will help the students, to a small extent, remotely interact with peers during the class period with video on for all students.
Janine Patera	The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that students be physically present in school.
Rita Craig	I heard Dr. Hiele state that everyone who stepped forward to be a part of the planning process was included and that is not true. I volunteered and was never contacted nor have any of my questions been addressed.
Rita Craig	Not all staff live in the community. What if their community has a higher risk?
Karen Monroy	The current COVID-19 positivity rate for the area encompassing the 60516 zip code, in which Downers Grove South High School resides, is 5%, and that is with taking measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. With a five percent positivity rate, opening the school for the fall semester is too much of a risk to take. We need to protect the health of the students, the teachers, the administrators, and all of their families. Perhaps, after the fall semester, when the spread of the virus is under control, we can consider in-person learning.
Rita Craig	Relating to certified symptom checks, are there any consequences or ability to even know if a certified student is sent to school sick. Students come to school all the time after taking a fever reducing medication, they they will not be detected by a temperature check. How will the school handle this?
Rita Craig	Why will District not provide the same remote learning to students that opt out with a medical reason to students that don't have a formal medical reason? What exactly will be provided to those with a medical reason that won't be provide to other students that chose to opt out of in person learning?
Cheryl Hoger	I tuned in late...will bus services still provided with hybrid plan?
Jennifer Morrison	<p>I am concerned with some areas of the reopening plan.</p> <p>1. Requiring students to wear face masks and face shields. I do not understand the need to require both when nowhere else except maybe a hospital that works with Covid patients do people wear both. I have mentioned this to doctors and nurses and they are baffled why a school would require both. I feel it also instills fear in students by making them wear a face shield as well. I appreciate the school taking precaution with things but requiring both I feel will bring a negative feeling for students to school.</p> <p>2. I am concerned with how little in person schooling they really have. I feel Monday's should be alternating in person classes. Group A one week, Group B other week. I am concerned with the remote learning</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Rita Craig	When will staff that has indicated they would need Accomodations to work in the suggested hybrid model be contacted?
Karen Monroy	The current COVID-19 positivity rate for the area encompassing the 60516 zip code, in which Downers Grove South High School resides, is 5%, and that is with taking measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. With a five percent positivity rate, opening the school for the fall semester is too much of a risk to take. We need to protect the health of the students, the teachers, the administrators, and all of their families. Perhaps, after the fall semester, when the spread of the virus is under control, we can consider in-person learning.
Lisa Mangelsdorf	Can you clarify what it means that families can switch at any time over to full remote learning?
Eileen Logan	<p>Thank you for all the hours you have spent working on the best and safest way to educate our children.</p> <p>Why can't ALL classes be recorded? All teachers present daily lessons every day. Use the Monday model all week. Or perhaps record with Group A in front of them on T/TH and Group B in front of them on W/F? All students have 5 class periods (same class) per week and 8 periods /day. This way, if a student is ill (Covid or otherwise), instruction is still available and they see their teachers every day. If a student or teacher has been exposed, they can still use this model to teach from home. Remote learning with no daily interaction was an absolute disaster.</p> <p>Second, what is the criteria to shut schools back down (certain percentage of cases)? I am an educator and I want nothing more than to be back in school, but want to make sure we do this safely and much more learning takes place than it did in the spring.</p>
Rita Craig	When will special education staff be informed of plans and expectations?
Rita Craig	All this time, money, effort and stress could have been put toward making remote learning valuable and engaging. Remote learning, which will be needed even in this hybrid learning plan. Was this considered? And if so, why was that not the course of action?
Rita Craig	When hospitals can not procure enough PPE and maintain levels to provide for their staff, how does the district plan to do this?
Kinga Makenas	The plan is solid proposed plan the board should accept it
Cheryl Hoger	As much as I appreciate Nancy's comment...we need to be aware of our children's social well being as well. You noted you are older...do you still have children at DGN? We have been month's in preparing our children on social distancing and sanitizing their hands. You are hugely taking away from our children to 100% veto hybrid learning. They need social interaction. Board please know our society is aware. Our teachers will be brilliant enough to protect our children...they need physical interaction with their teachers and friends.
Christina Coyle	Nancy, I know that early documentation was looking more at the elderly and now there has been a surge in the younger people (19-29). Is there any good documentation for the school aged kids?
Rita Craig	It will take time away from instruction, relationship building and planning to implement all these safety protocols, changes in procedures (going to the bathroom during class time), monitoring behavior, etc. Of the 8 hours a week for in person instruction, how much of it will actually be spent learning?
Mark Streff	<p>Hank....not sure why the board doesn't look at dupage county statistics on covid. I he "issue" is the "danger" of someone contracting this and I'm sure dying.....Current deaths for the age group being discussed for ALL of DuPage county =1.</p> <p>DuPage county is just shy of 1 million people. Nancy should look at these stats as she was saying things that ARE NOT TRUE. Currently kids are THE LEAST vulnerable. Statistically speaking.</p> <p>People would hear her and just ASSUME what she says is true. Nobody challenged her.</p> <p>Please forward this to her.</p> <p>Lastly district 99 I assume would only have students return to school with no masks if Governor Pritzker moved Illinois to phase 5??</p> <p>https://www.dupagehealth.org</p>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Keith Makenas	After reading the proposed plan and hearing it, my family believes it's a solid plan and we thank everyone for their hard work putting it together!
Jennifer Sickel	I am DEEPLY concerned with the level of education my children can receive when they will only be meeting with their teachers in person a total of ONE day per week because they will only be in class for half a day on their in person days. Why can't they be in class the entire day? This is going to hurt our children's progress in school so significantly that they will never be able to catch back up to their grade level. This plan is so much worse than I even imagined.
Pam Harkness	I am a parent of children who attend DGN and I'm employed as a paraprofessional at DGS. I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful community. Im concerned that the wrong people are making decisions forvour children. The Hybrid option provides optimal learning opportunities while addressing health concerns and allows for emergency remote learning when appropriate. I feel several members of this board are not considering the social and emotional issues that will arise if we continue with remote learning! I believe children are recovering from this virus and I have faith that the adults will be responsible enough to take precaution . Please do not deprive our children of excelling both academically and socially. Both are equally as important
Thomas Barr	Please address what TCD students should expect.
Carrie Redpath	I he ISBE return to instruction document clearly states that ISBE urges schools and districts to plan for and implement the transition to in person instruction through the lens of equity. We, as a diverse district, owe it to the students of our community to provide equitable opportunities for learning - and the admin team of 99 have provided a comprehensive and well thought out plan that provides learning for all in a safe environment. I urge you to consider the positive and meaningful impact that even limited face to face learning has on our students, and also consider the lack of equity and lack of opportunities that a remote only option would create. Please allow District 99 to move forward with the hybrid planning tonight and allow teachers to begin collaboration and planning for their students and their new way of learning.
Will Pletcher	Michael your house fire analogy would be more accurate if the house was a 2000 resident apartment building where all of the apartments had open doors and the fire was spreading from apartment to apartment by the residents. Not an isolated house which would be contained to the one single house. I understand what you were trying to say but this is a big miscalculation of how community spread actually works.
Pam Brandt	Is there any adjustment to how study hall and resource center periods managed? Is there a possibility to have study halls at the end of the day? Is there a way to avoid having too much "downtime" inside school with study halls, etc?
Deborah E Andrews	I just want to affirm that I agree that in person learning is best, HOWEVER, during this once in a lifetime pandemic (we hope), I don't think a few more months of online learning will kill anyone. BUT, seeing as this virus is easily transmitted via the air by symptomatic AND asymptomatic people, even a few days in person can literally kill someone. I feel that opening online first, with intentions of moving toward hybrid in October is best for everyone.
Erin Reichert	Mike nailed it! It is all about safety compared to risk. We have to try on August 17th with the Hybrid Plan because if we just continue the Remote Learning the risk to our children's well-being, learning and mental health could cause a bigger long-term affect. The Hybrid Plan is well thought out and follows the guidelines required for the safety of our students, teachers and faculty. If we don't start with trying to get back to normal, I fear we never will.
Steve Strauch	I feel that the Board should show a level of faith and confidence in our students that they will do the right thing. Our students are capable and motivated to abide by the parameters agreed upon to make our community of students safe. It is unrealistic to assume a risk free environment, rather risk management should be the goal. As well, teachers and face to face learning are the best way to ensure that our students remain on track. We can pivot, adjust and work together to continue the wheels of education turning for our kids. We need to give them an opportunity to rise to the occasion. Tell students what you want them to accomplish and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.
Amy Balicki	I thank you for all of your hard work in trying to figure out what is best for our students. I am glad the plan doesn't involve ONLY remote learning. I appreciate you getting kids back into the classroom. I would support even more in person learning.

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form
July 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

Diana Boukal	Well said Nicole. I agree with everything stated by her tonight in regards to starting the year remotely.
Scott	How can the board possibly consider reopening when we have more cases now in the state then we did in the spring and we needed to be shut down. Keep remote learning only and keep our community safe!
Rita Craig	Paraprofessionals are frequently forgotten and it appears that includes the union that many pay dues to. It was embarrassing that there was no one was at this important meeting to represent us. I do not know where the letter that was read came from. I know nobody that was asked for input to generate that letter. What I do know is that I have only heard that paraprofessionals in this district do not feel safe or heard in the proposed hybrid plan.
Deanne Pettit	I want to see as much in-person as possible. Each level of need will have it's own challenges. My son is an incoming freshman and is in advanced math and gifted science. How is he supposed to continue along this path online? I do not think it will help him develop to his full potential.
Rohit Rajput	Hello. I am a student at DGN going into 11th grade. I believe fully remote learning is the safest option that can be taken. I would love to be in a classroom but not during the current time. Thank you!
KATHY STOPKA	Why don't we just make it easy - if you want your child to go back to school you can sign a waiver releasing the school from any liability if you are not comfortable sending your student back to school then agree to 100% online learning.
August Johnson Balicki	I am going to be a senior at Downers Grove South high school, and I looked through the proposed re-open plan for schools and I believe that it makes sense except for the fact that it sorts students by alphabetical order rather than grade level. The social aspect of a school for any age is as important now as ever, and I believe that students will thrive and enjoy school more if they are around their peers that they most relate to and likely spend the most time with. The logistics of the plan otherwise are great and well thought out, I would just like the sorting to be done by grade level (maybe grades 9 and 10 attend school on the same days, and grades 11 and 12 attend school on the same days).
Melissa Theisen	As both a parent and a certified school staff in special education for another district I would like to thank the District for all of their hard work and dedication in developing this plan that balances community and student safety, learning equity, social emotional needs, and overall education of our students. As a comparison this is the most completely presented plan that I have seen presented to a community on the initial presentation with the most thought out answers to specific procedural questions that I have seen thus far. I realize that many of the questions asked are still in process of being determined, but this is not unique to District 99 as ALL districts are still trying to determine the answers. In my opinion, the hybrid plan is invaluable to students and one that should whole heartedly be initiated at the start of the year in order to foster relationships, engage student learning, and balance student's emotional and social needs. As we have seen by the American Academy of Pediatrics, they are also recommending some in person school due to the increase in social emotional concerns and concerns with depression and anxiety that has been on the increase with students.

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form

July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Bob Blair-Smith II	<p>Our Son Adam found last Spring's remote learning pivot to be at minimum supportive of his learning preferences and at most, transformative in a very positive way. "Independent learning," as I have seen articulated in the Option 1 option plan and the Option 3 full remote learning seems to offer the best and safest way to head into the School year with all the uncertainty surrounding infection rates and repercussions of COVID-19. I hope that the administration, families and staff all learned in the abbreviated Spring term that MANY possibilities had been uncovered in the sudden need to transform learning at District 99.</p> <p>For example, a stretching of the limits of Google Classroom to increase non-live student participation with accountability to subject mastery, and flexible assignment load and completion of work expectations clearly communicated without daily deadlines and classroom structure that doesn't benefit each and every student the same way. For our son, who is a 504 plan participant (for ADHD), it helped him raise his grades during the Spring term. As his parents , we were pleasantly surprised with his initiative and ability to focus in specific times throughout the week while giving himself needed breaks at suitable times. His active initiative and mastery of the assigned on-line weekly tasks, plus being able to consume the reading and curricula at a pace more flexibly than he could do while being in the classroom, indicates Adam is especially able to achieve academic results in remote learning. He did so while also collaborating socially and academically with peers (also remotely).</p> <p>Finally we'd like to voice our support for starting the year with two suggestions which we hope can be an option for families like ours : 1) Start the year with full remote learning , 2) Independent student-buyin on pacing where needed/chosen by the student. We'd like to see student-structured "soft" due dates and left teachers set "firm" due dates for completing the broader course progress deadlines are in each course. F students would have the final say in regards to when they listen to lectures or complete minor homework assignments, while teachers would manage the due dates of tests and quizzes, with the exception that the student should have the window of at least 24 hours to complete these tests/quizzes.</p>
Joe Lovelady	<p>I think students should not be wiping down desks. Someone should be hired to wipe down the desks. You can use some of the budget you had for after school activities. If you are not having full day in school learning, your grades should be on a curve. Remote learning is a poor way to teach. School should be a full day if you are doing in school learning.</p>
David Peleckis	<p>I'd like to speak for some of the student athletes at our school. For many of us, athletics is our future, and the school has been the only place to work on our fitness. I'd like to see the school providing a way for us to continue our athletic careers, as cancelling sports and closing the gym destroys futures. Whether it be for personal goals, or for a future career, I believe the weight room should be available, and school sports of any form should as well. I believe in staying safe, however some compromise doesn't seem impossible.</p>
Nicole S.	<p>How will any of these plans effectively prepare our kids for "objectively" measured things like AP tests?</p> <p>Are we still planning to teach PE courses aside from classes like Health and drivers Ed? If so, why? That seems like a ridiculous reason to increase the level of risk to students, teachers and others in the building.</p>
Rita Craig	<p>The classroom I work it also is not big enough to allow for social distancing. Yet unlike this meeting, I will not get a choice</p>
Melissa Theisen	<p>Now that the plan has been released, is there consideration for getting the pulse of the families in the District by completing an additional survey? I he people that share views during the Board meeting tend to have strong opinions and may not be the balance of the community.</p>
Rita Craig	<p>Lots of regard and consideration for teachers. What about paraprofessionals and working with the NEA?</p>
Sandra Rosalia	<p>How sad disgusting and disturbing to hear you are voting to put my family at risk- terrible</p>
Rita Craig	<p>What about all the other people that make the school run?</p>
Rita Craig	<p>I sat here all night, on a camping trip with my family, hoping to learn something about my future. Hoping to feel better. I don't. I'm a para at DGN. All I feel is that I don't matter.</p>

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July 20, 2020 Board Meeting

Eileen Logan	Dear Dr. Thiele and Board Members, After listening to the meeting and reviewing the plans, I am wondering why we cannot have our children attend 2 full days, not half days and obviously online on Mondays. Please allow our kids to meet their teachers, meet their classmates. Kids are all over DG are not following protocol with wearing masks and social distancing. I don't see why kids cannot attend school on an A/B schedule. I vote no to remote learning only.
Rohit Rajput	Hello. I am a student at DGN going into 11th grade. I believe fully remote learning is the safest option that can be taken. I would love to be in a classroom but not during the current time. Thank you!
Cherie Spinosa	I commend all who have worked so hard to create a plan under these trying circumstances. Thank you to all involved for their efforts. While I find a hybrid plan to be reasonable in general, I strongly feel students should be given more in-person time than is proposed. In reviewing my senior's schedule, she will have one hour per week of in-person time for each of her classes. This falls very short of what I feel would be necessary or beneficial to her. Her classes include AP drawing and painting, for example. How can she possibly learn and gain the experience she needs to attend art school in the future in one hour per week? I don't understand how that will work. Please consider increasing in-person instruction for the sake of all of our students. Thank you, Cherie Spinosa