

3:14 PM (9
minutes ago)

Cathy Peach <peachc@wilmette39.org>
to D39

To: Board of Education of Wilmette District #39
From: Cathy Peach President of the Wilmette Support Staff Council Local 1274
Re: Pivot to Remote Learning

Dear Members of the Board,

The Wilmette Support Staff Union requests the consideration of the Board of Education to pivot the district to remote learning during the time period between the end of Thanksgiving break to the beginning of Winter Break, November 30 through December 18 .

The surge of positive Corona Virus cases, travel and gatherings during the Thanksgiving Holiday, and the follow up need to quarantine set the stage for a situation in which managing in person learning safely will be difficult.

The increase in positive cases in Suburban Cook County should cause all of us to think about how we can mitigate the spread in the community. Evidence shows that the current surge in cases can be attributed to social gatherings and traditionally Thanksgiving is a time when families gather. Having remote learning on the school days following this holiday will give time for the district community, staff and students alike, to quarantine while still teaching and learning.

The district has put in great effort and planning to keep the students and staff healthy during the beginning of the school year. Making a decision to plan ahead for this situation now will help to keep this on track. It will also make the transition to remote learning smoother and more effective for teachers and families.

The District #39 support staff, teachers and administrators have been working very hard to keep students engaged while keeping everyone safe. I think we all agree that in person learning is best for student's academic and social emotional learning, but these are unprecedented times. That is why the Support Staff Council of District #39 recommends the consideration of the Board to plan ahead and pivot to remote learning during the time between the end of Thanksgiving break and Winter break.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Peach
President of WSSU

Lindsay Rattay <lindsayrattay@gmail.com>

9:02 AM (6
minutes ago)

to Kari, me, cesaretj, stonee, steenm, panzicaf

Hello,

I want to start by thanking you for all the hard work you have put into this school year. I have two kids at Romona, 1st grade boy and 4th grade girl. I have seen first hand the benefit of in person learning from my kids. This summer I was really on the fence of homeschooling because of all the regulations for in person school but I see the tremendous benefit that my children have had by going in person. My 1st grade boy's attitude has completely changed. He hated remote learning and it was hard to get him to finish the zooms let alone the seesaw activities. My daughter while she was self sufficient doing remote learning has Central Auditory Processing and being in person has been tremendously helpful. Side note: My kids teachers are amazing, we have Ms. Winter and Ms. Pilotte.

I know you put together metrics at the beginning of the school year but I was wondering if you will be willing to pivot and take a different approach considering we are in school now and we dont see many outbreaks from the schools. I know that every kid who feels sick has to get a covid test and the vast majority are not coming back positive. Do we take in to count our village and the surrounding not just our region the Government has put us in?

Again thank you,

--

Lindsay Rattay

Brian Novelline <bnovelline1@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 25, 10:10 PM (10
hours ago)

to PublicComment

Dear Kari,

I appreciate all the work that you and the Board are doing to provide our community with the best outcome for our children.

However, I am troubled that the last Advisory Team call on Friday 10/23 puts us on a path to move to full remote in the near term. I know that the metrics have gotten less favorable over the past two weeks in the community, but everything I am hearing is that the transmission in the school has been very limited - [NY Times article low transmission](#)

My concern is that a myopic focus on the Covid virus does not take into account the broader impact of the mental health and reduced education outcomes for our student population. If there is no/limited transmission in the schools, then what does the community gain by going remote based on an arbitrary level of Covid cases in the area?

Let's address the actual problem of teacher absences with a call for more parent volunteers. I urge you to focus on solutions and not the challenges. I think the community strongly supports in-person education, so it should be willing to help address these challenges.

Thanks,
Brian

From: Rucha <ruchapateldpt@gmail.com>

Subject: Schoolchildren Seem Unlikely to Fuel Coronavirus Surges, Scientists Say - The New York Times

Date: October 24, 2020 at 1:19:45 PM CDT

To: cesaretj@wilmette39.org, fabesl@wilmette39.org, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, poehlinga@wilmette39.org, publiccomment@wilmette39.org, steenm@wilmette39.org, sternwee@wilmette39.org, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>, stonee@wilmette39.org

Very true at the younger levels

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/22/health/coronavirus-schools-children.html>

- Rucha Patel, DPT

From: Laura Hemmer <lbb00@hotmail.com>

Subject: In-Person Learning with Increasing Area Transmission and Emerging Evidence

Date: October 24, 2020 at 10:13:36 AM CDT

To: "cremasck@wilmette39.org" <cremasck@wilmette39.org>, "stonee@wilmette39.org" <stonee@wilmette39.org>, "cesaretj@wilmette39.org" <cesaretj@wilmette39.org>, "steenm@wilmette39.org" <steenm@wilmette39.org>, "panzicaf@wilmette39.org" <panzicaf@wilmette39.org>, "fabesl@wilmette39.org" <fabesl@wilmette39.org>, "sternwee@wilmette39.org" <sternwee@wilmette39.org>, "poehlinga@wilmette39.org" <poehlinga@wilmette39.org>

Cc: Micah Hemmer <micah.hemmer@gmail.com>, Laura Hemmer <lbb00@hotmail.com>

Dear Dr. Cremascoli and School Board Members:

Thank you for the continued care, thoughtfulness, and diligence that you and the Reopening Advisory Team have executed in achieving some in-person schooling for our children. However, obviously COVID-19 rates are increasing dramatically in Illinois and it is now time to add another layer of protection to ensure this vital in-person education can continue. Specifically, D39 needs to implement a testing strategy for its in-person students and staff who are asymptomatic and are without recent known exposure. This week, a perspective in The New England Journal of Medicine, one of medicine's most prestigious journals, stated, "we believe that increasing routine screening using rapid tests in schools should rank among our most urgent national priorities."

(<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2028209>)

Rapid testing has suffered from complaints of a lack of specificity and sensitivity. However, as a frontline physician who routinely relies on information provided from COVID-19 tests administered to patients, I fully appreciate the utility of this type of testing in the school environment to identify asymptomatic virus carriers. Tests with high sensitivity and specificity are demanded in the patient-care environment where patients present with symptoms, are asymptomatic but undergoing high transmission risk aerosol-generating medical procedures, or who have had a known exposure. On the other hand, in schools, where the in-person attendees are primarily children who are without symptoms or known exposures, the transmission risk is thus much more trivial (as I noted in my 6/30/20 email to you) and the necessary testing scenario is very different. Since asymptomatic and presymptomatic transmission accounts for a considerable amount of COVID-19 transmission, rapid testing can serve to identify potential virus transmitters. Since false negatives are possible, the need for the other safety precautions currently in place is unchanged when the virus is prevalent in the community. The utility of rapid, inexpensive, frequently administered testing in a variety of environments is explained nicely in a July NPR report. (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/07/22/893931848/rapid-cheap-less-accurate-coronavirus-testing-has-a-place-scientists-say>)

Simple, rapid, low-cost tests that do not require a laboratory for analysis are now available. A model for D39 could be LaGrange District 102, which implemented testing earlier this school year. (<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/26/917185895/how-a-chicago-dad-developed-a-coronavirus-testing-program-for-his-sons-school>)

In the future, when community transmission is again under better control, this testing should offer further benefit in helping to relieve some of the strict distancing and cohorting currently required of children (especially at the elementary level). With the added layer of infection mitigation provided by negative test results, there could be some easing of the

currently inflexible social distancing requirements to allow some small group work in class and to allow students to play with a larger cohort outside during recess as much as allowed by ISBE and IDPH. This would aid the District in offering more of the comprehensive educational and social-emotional learning components normally afforded by top-notch schools.

In addition, to gain the benefits of testing to the fullest extent, this testing must be mandatory and frequent for in-person school attendees. Dr. Paul Sally had to recently note that New Trier cases of COVID-19 in students were not associated with school, but from outside reckless social activities, and that contact tracing proved difficult. It is likely that the families who are not abiding by health-agency recommendations to control virus transmission will be the same families who do not agree to school COVID-19 testing. Although the CDC has recently noted that school testing should be voluntary (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-testing.html>), the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board wrote that this is not consistent with the law and that “Schools should test away, putting the health of students and teachers first.” (<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-10-16/cdc-school-testing-guidelines>) Any family electing to avoid testing can choose remote learning.

Finally, please consider the upcoming need to re-evaluate metrics used in determining if pivoting to remote learning is necessary, as more evidence-based information on school safety emerges. Preliminary evidence, from multiple sources, is continuing to support the safety of in-person learning and indicating that schools are not drivers of COVID-19 transmission. Dr. David Rubin, the director of the respected PolicyLab at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a pediatrician at the University of Pennsylvania says, “...there’s a pretty good base of evidence now that schools can open safely in the presence of strong safety plans, and even at higher levels of case incidence than we had suspected...”(<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/22/health/coronavirus-schools-children.html>) The Infectious Diseases Society of America reported in a media briefing this month given by experts that indeed schools are not superspreading locations. (<https://www.idsociety.org/Podcasts/videos/idsa-media-briefing---covid-campus-how-are-schoolsand-studentsfaring/>) More information supporting these statements, with links to the emerging research, can be found through a recent news report (<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/21/925794511/were-the-risks-of-reopening-schools-exaggerated>).

As a leader within the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health stated, “We are failing. Kids out of school...is a national emergency, and it is not being treated as such.”(<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/10/is-the-slow-approach-to-reopening-schools-failing-kids/?fbclid=IwAR1As4XHs8lPpBoCD3bmPF-20krj7sqST2I-TI5gIV9Vc0iy7WU-n97SYss>) Please do not let this emergency return to our D39 students. We are controlling the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our schools with great success. The risks for children being out of school are gravely higher.

Sincerely,

Laura Hemmer, M.D., FASA
402 Maple Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091
(children in 2nd and 5th grade)

Sat, Oct 24, 7:29 AM (2
days ago)

Nilesh Kumar <nileshkumarmail12@gmail.com>

to me

Hey 7bscience.com ,

I'm reaching out to you because we have introduced a new traffic enhancement plan. This will help you to increase the **web traffic** with **guaranteed results**. We have prepared the plan reducing the marketing risk which will help every sector.

Would you be willing to test and review? I can provide the deliverable for you to review.

Thanks,
Nilesh Kumar

From: Lionel Girardin <lionel_girardin@yahoo.com>
Date: October 23, 2020 at 6:42:13 PM CDT
To: "cremasck@wilmette39.org" <cremasck@wilmette39.org>,
"publiccomment@wilmette39.org" <publiccomment@wilmette39.org>,
"cesaretj@wilmette39.org" <cesaretj@wilmette39.org>, "stonee@wilmette39.org"
<stonee@wilmette39.org>, "steenm@wilmette39.org" <steenm@wilmette39.org>,
"panzicaf@wilmette39.org" <panzicaf@wilmette39.org>
Subject: PLEASE KEEP THE IN PERSON LEARNING GOING
Reply-To: Lionel Girardin <lionel_girardin@yahoo.com>

Hi

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for all the measures that you have taken to keep out community safe. You have put in place a GREAT system to protect ourselves from that virus and I commend all of your actions and those accomplishments. Thank you !!

I also want to share how **beneficial these two days a week have been for my son** [REDACTED], currently in 6th grade with Ms. **Alperstein**. By the way, Ms. Alperstein is doing a great job, face to face and remote with the kids. This is such a blessing! Being able to interact with his friends, even through a mask, is SO IMPORTANT for [REDACTED]. The e-learning days are difficult for him as he needs the interactions with others to develop. I think that keeping them home is detrimental to their health and to be honest, I don't think that much learning is happening remotely. Like many other parents in the district, I am lucky to work from home. But I do not have to be on zoom that much. While the zoom usage is necessary, it is a lot of screen time for him ! When the day is done, it's again through video games that the kids are able to engage again. I am sure we will have to pay later for this crazy amount of time in front of a screen.

I also read that there is no definitive answer that the school experience constitutes a spreader event. I read an article recently stating there is no evidence of that. Also, it still appears that somehow kids get the virus a lot less and in our district we have seen only 1 case (at least at Highcrest).

My final thought is that while the general Illinois numbers may not look good, here in Wilmette we have been able to keep things under control. A lot of Wilmette residents work from home these days, so we find ourselves in a bit of a unique situation where the virus is less likely to be transmitted.

PLEASE KEEP THE IN PERSON LEARNING GOING

Lionel Girardin
God Bless

From: Kelly Gruner <kellygruner@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Schools Going Remote

Date: October 23, 2020 at 11:44:31 AM CDT

To: stonee@wilmette39.org, cesaretj@wilmette39.org, steenm@wilmette39.org, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, fabesl@wilmette39.org, sternwee@wilmette39.org, poehlinga@wilmette39.org, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Dear Dr. Cremascoli and School Board,

I am just following up on the email I sent the other day. Since our 7 day rolling average is currently at 2.47%, per the Northwestern Covid Dashboard, I thought it fitting to share this article in support of not shutting down our schools.

[Are the Risks of Reopening Schools Exaggerated? - NPR](#)

I would like to add that I am a firm believer that the mental health of our children should be our concern at this point. The students already have stress brought on by the uncertainty of Covid, as does everyone, and they can not process it. Stability, social interactions, and education within the school will give them the much-needed structure during these uncertain and changing times.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gruner


On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 4:57 PM Kelly Gruner <kellygruner@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Cremascoli and District 39 Board Members,

I am writing to you to express my concern about schools shifting to remote in the very near future. I have a 3rd grader and 6th graders. My 3rd grade does not thrive in a remote learning environment. The first few weeks of school were incredibly difficult. He can not focus or learn with that many hours on zoom or alone doing work. As a parent, it is also very hard to help him unless I sit next to him the entire time. We constantly experience Zoom issues which add to my son not being able to follow lessons or learn.

As of today, our 7-day positivity rate is 4.5%, which I understand is higher than it was a couple of weeks ago but still far below the level where we are advised to shut our schools. The amount of cases in our schools is minimal and there has not been any spread to others in the school. The schools are doing an excellent job of containing the spread. If the levels are very low within our schools and its proven Covid is not being spread within the school then why are we shutting down?

Also, even if we shut down schools many sports will continue since those are governed by the State. How is it possible that my child can play sports indoors but can't go to school? Please trust that you as a district are doing a great job at keeping everyone safe, which shows in our numbers.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gruner

From: Michele Coffey <michele.coffey@gmail.com>

Subject: School and COVID

Date: October 23, 2020 at 9:43:13 AM CDT

To: Erin Stone <estone33@yahoo.com>, cesaretj@wilmette39.org, Mark Steen <msteen@pobox.com>, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabesl@wilmette39.org>, sternwee@wilmette39.org, poehlinga@wilmette39.org, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Good morning school board and Kari,

I'm writing to express my appreciation for continued in person learning even though the positivity rate is going up. I feel the teachers, staff and students are doing the absolute best they can to contain issues at school. I have two 2nd graders at McKenzie where a child tested positive in another classroom. From my perspective, everything was handled just as it should with the class quarantining for two weeks and staying out of other activities. Unfortunately, this is going to continue happening but learning to live with it and pivot each classroom when needed is the best way to keep our children in school.

My hope is that we stay on this path for as long as we can since we aren't having any major outbreaks in our schools. My 2nd graders are thriving and happy each morning they walk out the door.

Thank you again for staying the course!

Michele Coffey

From: Rachel Heiligman <rheiligman@gmail.com>

Subject: Thank you

Date: October 23, 2020 at 9:07:04 AM CDT

To: Kari Cremascoli

<cremasck@wilmette39.org>, sternwee@wilmette39.org, fabesl@wilmette39.org, steenm@wilmette39.org, cesaretj@wilmette39.org, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, poehlinga@wilmette39.org, stonee@wilmette39.org, PublicComment@wilmette39.org

Cc: Dana Nasiakos <nasiakod@wilmette39.org>

Hello Dr. Cremascoli and board members

I understand that with positivity rates going up, there are likely many parents that are pushing to move to remote learning.

I wanted to write to thank all of you for diligently working to stick to our plan in keeping our kids at school as long as the metrics allow for it. Despite the alarming rise in positivity rates, we continue to feel very comfortable and safe with sending our son to school. The fact that there have been no outbreaks/spreads within the school environment reinforces our confidence in the staff at McKenzie who are doing a fantastic job. I hear the same from my friends who have children at Romona, Central and Harper.

I will add that I myself am immunocompromised due to ongoing chemotherapy treatments. Despite this, I continue to feel very strongly that my child be in school while it is still considered safe to be there. I do not take this pandemic lightly.

Since returning to school, my son has been so happy (he's a happy kid anyway, but there is a difference). The social/emotional regression that occurred during E learning has pretty much resolved. In addition, he tells me daily how much easier it is for him to learn in person.

Obviously there are larger forces at play beyond my personal experience and opinions. I understand that. I just wanted to share my huge appreciation for our districts commitment to reopening our schools for our children. Also, my gratitude for the ongoing work and time commitment put forth by the administration and board members throughout this process.

Sending positivity to all of you. Stay safe and healthy.

Rachel Heiligman

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rucha <ruchapateldpt@gmail.com>

Subject: Great school experience!

Date: October 23, 2020 at 8:05:20 AM CDT

To: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Cc: cesaretj@wilmette39.org, fabesl@wilmette39.org, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, poehlinga@wilmette39.org, publiccomment@wilmette39.org, steenm@wilmette39.org, sternwee@wilmette39.org, stone2@wilmette39.org, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Hi I just wanted to write and say how well school has been going. we are at Central and my kindergartener and 3rd grader are very happy. The school has been doing a great job of all protocols and Becky is just fantastic! Thank you all so much for all your hard work and the hard working teachers and staff to make the best of in person for our students! Happy families! Everyone is so thrilled at how well everything is going and no one is scared of the schools causing a spread. Thanks again!

- Rucha Patel, DPT

From: Maja Kos <majabkos@gmail.com>

Date: October 20, 2020 at 8:08:43 PM CDT

To: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>, stonee@wilmette39.org, cesaretj@wilmette39.org,
Lisa Schneider Fabes
<fabesl@wilmette39.org>, steenm@wilmette39.org, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, sternwee@wilmette39.org,
poehlinga@wilmette39.org

Dear Dr. Cremascoli and D39 School Board,

I am writing to urge you to implement a weekly COVID-19 Saliva Screening for in-person students and staff at D39. As you may know, New Trier is finalizing its plan to roll out this type of screening starting in mid-November. The New Trier page that outlines the plan can be found [here](#).

New Tier lists the following among the goals of the screening program: "reducing school closures and quarantines and allowing for more in-person instruction" and "identifying potential cases of COVID-19 in the school population early, reducing transmission."

A similar program at D39 could help keep students and staff safe by identifying cases early and reducing the threat of in-school transmission. Furthermore, by curbing potential transmission, the screening program could lower the likelihood of needing to pivot to all-remote instruction down the road.

Thank you for considering this important measure.

Kind regards,

Maja Kos (mother of a WJHS 7th grader)

Dear Members of the Board,

Please see the note below [REDACTED].

Your partner in education,

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wilmette Public Schools District 39
www.wilmette39.org ~ 847.512.6030

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nancy Potisuk <potisukn@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Fwd: Resolution 2 Child Safe Gun Storage Laws
Date: October 20, 2020 at 11:05:20 AM CDT
To: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Louella called and I asked her to submit the request via email to forward to the Board of Education.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Louella Levey <louellalevey@gmail.com>
Subject: Resolution 2 Child Safe Gun Storage Laws
Date: October 20, 2020 at 10:55:06 AM CDT
To: potisukn@wilmette39.org

As a [REDACTED] a resident in our School District, I request that you send a copy of my email to our School Board members.

I urge our School Board to instruct their delegate to the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) Delegate Assembly meeting on November 14 to vote YES on Resolution 2 - to support and advocate for legislation which strengthens child safe gun storage laws.

Thank you for your attention!

Louella Levey

[REDACTED]

Wilmette

From: Cindy Levine <preslwv20@gmail.com>

Subject: Email communication to D39

Date: October 27, 2020 at 2:50:43 PM CDT

To: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>, Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabesl@wilmette39.org>

Cc: Wendy Zun <preslwv21@gmail.com>, Louella Levey <louellalevey@gmail.com>

Hello Superintendent Cremascoli and President Schneider-Fabes,
I am reaching out about this email communication you received prior to the Board meeting last night.

While this email is from a member of the LWV, I did want to correct the public record that Louella Levey was communicating with you as an individual resident and she was not communicating in the name of the LWV-Wilmette. Importantly, while we believe our members should be active and engaged community members, only the co-Presidents speak for the League in an official capacity.

This reference in the meeting packet, and therefore the public record, would indicate that Ms. Levey is speaking for the LWV, which is not accurate. Can you correct that for the public record, by perhaps simply including her email, but eliminating the district reference to the email as "submitted by the League of Women Voters"?

Thank you for your attention to this.
Regards,
Cindy Levine

In NYC Schools, Only 18 Positive Coronavirus Tests Out of 10,676 - The New York Times

1 message

Rucha <ruchapateldpt@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 5:42 PM

To: cesaretj@wilmette39.org, fabesl@wilmette39.org, panzicaf@wilmette39.org, poehlinga@wilmette39.org, publiccomment@wilmette39.org, steenm@wilmette39.org, sternwee@wilmette39.org, stone2@wilmette39.org, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

It's not the students/ schools for outbreaks. It's the irresponsible community gatherings, like in Deerfield. Schools and students are low risk.

This can be passed to metrics.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/19/nyregion/schools-coronavirus.html>

- Rucha Patel, DPT



remote learning success

2 messages

Kamen, Rebecca A <kamenr@newtrier.k12.il.us>
To: Kari Cremascoli <communications@wilmette39.org>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 9:06 AM

Dr.

Cremascoli and board members,

During these difficult times, my husband and I would like to acknowledge our daughter's remote team for their outstanding work. I cannot imagine how much time all of them have put into creating a close community with their students. Besides learning a lot, our daughter has formed strong relationships with her teachers and peers. Her teachers include Ms. Neuman, Ms. Shoemaker, Mr. Chap, Ms. Meyer, Ms. Clark, Ms. Peterman, and Mr. Kohring.

Thank you again.

Rebecca Kamen and Jeff Yasumoto

(Can you forward this to the board of education?)

Communications Wilmette Public Schools 39 <communications@wilmette39.org>
To: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 2:10 PM

requested forwarding to the Board as well.

[Quoted text hidden]

From: Mary Rita Kropp <kroppm@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Community spread-BIRTHDAY PARTIES
Date: October 17, 2020 at 1:11:27 PM CDT
To: Cindy Anderson <andersoc@wilmette39.org>, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>
Cc: Cathy Peach <peachc@wilmette39.org>, Jenny Rosene <rosenej@wilmette39.org>, Erin Stone <stonee@wilmette39.org>, Jon Cesaretti <cesaretj@wilmette39.org>, Mark Steen <steenm@wilmette39.org>, Frank Panzica <panzicaf@wilmette39.org>, Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabesl@wilmette39.org>, Ellen Sternweiler <sternwee@wilmette39.org>, Amy Poehling <poehlinga@wilmette39.org>

Hello all,

I am writing this morning because I am extremely troubled by the news I've been reading about rising Covid cases in our community, and, at the same time, what I've been hearing from students in school (and Wilmette adults) about upcoming birthday parties.

While I never thought in a million years this would be a major concern, here we are. In the past 2 days, I've personally heard of three different birthday parties being held in-person for school-aged children in our district. One is a 5-person sleepover, with party at Funtopia.

As you know and have experienced, we have all been working extremely hard to provide a safe return to school, both in-person and remote. This type of behavior from our community is disheartening. This situation is going to get worse quickly if our families don't take the same precautions that we, as staff, take every day to keep children safe and keep the virus from spreading.

I'm imploring you, Kari, to send a letter to all of our parents. A very simple, SHORT, straightforward communication that states that these decisions put our students, our district staff and our entire community in danger from increased spread of the virus.

It has been a joy to see happy children in the building, excited to see teachers and their peers. That joy is turning to fear as the numbers go up, and precautions are tossed aside by parents now that kids are "back to school." It has also been heartbreaking to know that many students are learning remotely, missing their peers, their families making a sacrifice that allows us to be physically distant for in-person school. We are all in this together, but we need all stakeholders to get on board. Our success as a district in managing this pandemic depends on it.

Sincerely,
Mary Rita Kropp
Romona paraprofessional
Wilmette resident

From: Lisa Schneider Fabes <lsfabes@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Remote e-Learning Committee -- Help Needed

Date: October 12, 2020 at 9:48:47 PM CDT

To: Alexandra Eidenberg <alexandra.eidenberg@insurancepepl.com>

Cc: Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabesl@wilmette39.org>, Lorilin M <lorilinmeyer@gmail.com>, Amanda Ault <amanda.ault@gmail.com>, Brandy Russell <brandyne.russell@gmail.com>, Debra Manhoff Theilig <dmanhoff@gmail.com>, Diane Fornell <dianefornell@hotmail.com>, Eliza Fisher <eliza.jin@gmail.com>, Vicky Alkhovsky Barnes <valkhovsky@gmail.com>, Kristen R Westman <k.westman@sbcglobal.net>, venessa fawley <vmv71@yahoo.com>, Lorenza Amigo <Lorenzaamigo@gmail.com>, Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Hi Alexandra and remote learning committee,

Thank you for your email/letter highlighting your recommendations for improving remote e-learning and your commitment to an on-going partnership. I will make sure all board members receive a copy of this email. I will also talk to Dr. Cremascoli and get back to you shortly.

Be well,

Lisa

On Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 9:29 PM Alexandra Eidenberg <alexandra.eidenberg@insurancepepl.com> wrote:

Hi Lisa! How are you? Thank you for your hard work during these challenging months.

Recently, the remote families formed a committee to collectively work together and communicate our needs to the district. We have been listening and gathering information from over a hundred D39 remote learning families. As we learn from the remote families there have been 4 common themes of needs that keep arising, and an ongoing thought that everyone wants direct and honest communication.

We have prepared the attached letter that outlines our immediate needs. We are hopeful that together we can accomplish these items and schedule a follow up town hall meeting.

We are looking forward to your follow up and can't wait to work together soon.

Thank you for your time and all that you do. Talk soon.

Alexandra Eidenberg

President, The Insurance People "Your Advocates That Care"

October 12, 2020

D39 e-Learning Communication & Needs

TO:

D39 School Board

Erin Stone

Jon Cesaretti

Mark Steen

Frank Panzica

Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Ellen Sternweiler

Amy Poehling

D39 K-4 Principals

Rebecca Littmann, Central Principal

Aaron Dubnow, Harper Principal

Dana Nasiakos, McKenzie Principal

Cindy Anderson, Romona Principal

Kelly Jackson, Highcrest Middle School Principal

Kate Dominique, Wilmette Jr High Principal

D39 Superintendent

Kari Cremascoli

Administrator for Student and Special Services

Kristin Swanson

Dear D39 Leaders & Educators:

Today we write to you as concerned parents who are noticing gaps in the Remote e-Learning environment that are causing distress to our children and teachers. We are confident that together we can collaborate to resolve these issues promptly. We understand that in-person student and staff safety is of utmost importance and that certain financial and human resources needed to be allocated to meet state requirements. District 39's focus on in-person students while not addressing some key needs of remote e-learners has created substantial and distressing inequities.

We understand how overwhelming planning and implementing both models has been and acknowledge that these issues could have easily been glossed over. This is where the power of collaboration between Parents and the District is key, and we are excited to work with you more.

Below are the key items of concern that we'd like discussed and addressed immediately to ensure a more optimal remote learning environment:

1. All remote teachers need two computer screens. The larger class sizes make it impossible for teachers to view their entire classroom at once without having the need to scroll. This ensures they are able to engage with every student in the classroom effectively.
2. District 39, including Dr. Cremascoli and the principals from all D39 schools, need to communicate with remote families regularly and meaningfully. More is more, and we will all benefit from honest, direct, and clear dialogue.
3. The process for executing and implementing IEPs in the classroom needs to be adjusted and revamped. The rollout of paraprofessionals in the virtual classroom has been abysmal—negligent at best and unlawful at worst. District 39 needs to be in contact with remote families with IEPs in order to hear feedback in real time. We suggest the formation of a parent committee that can alert District 39 to what is happening in the classroom, as well as give guidance and recommendations on how to improve the delivery of these vital services.
4. Teacher technical training is needed. Many teachers are still struggling with tech, an issue which is compounded by such large class sizes. In the remote e-Learning environment teachers are coordinating new curriculum, remote models, and technology. The teachers need help acclimating to the online environment to be effective educators.

We respectfully ask that the above concerns be addressed as soon as possible, and that a new town hall-style meeting be scheduled between D39 families and leadership as a follow up to how and when these issues will be solved. The webinar on October 1st was not well received by the remote learning community. Our real concerns and questions were ignored. An open town hall meeting would go a long way toward reestablishing trust with remote families and be a great first step towards the collaboration we know the District wants. We suggest hosting the meeting the week of October 26th or sooner.

In partnership with you,

Remote e-Learning Families

From: **THOMAS CREAGAN** <ThomasCreagan@lmtc1.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 12:52 PM

Subject: Re: Lake Michigan Technology Consulting - a local company dedicated to helping schools with E-Rate and Technology

To: stonee@wilmette39.org <stonee@wilmette39.org>, panzicaf@wilmette39.org <panzicaf@wilmette39.org>, fabesl@wilmette39.org <fabesl@wilmette39.org>, cesaretj@wilmette39.org <cesaretj@wilmette39.org>, poehlinga@wilmette39.org <poehlinga@wilmette39.org>, sternwee@wilmette39.org <sternwee@wilmette39.org>, steenm@wilmette39.org <steenm@wilmette39.org>

Hi Wilmette Board, Happy Friday. I hope you are doing well.

My Name is Thomas Creagan and I would like to introduce myself and let you know that I can be a resource for your school.

I am an E-Rate consultant (#17025278), and my main goal is to help schools maximize their E-Rate budget. I can help schools effectively plan, implement, and manage their technology programs and projects.

Reply to this email and we can continue the conversation about how and when I can be a resource for you.

Not too sure what E-Rate is? Allow me to explain the technological & financial benefits of this Federally funded program. Thank you.

Take care,

Thomas Creagan
Technology Consultant, Founder - Lake Michigan Technology Consulting
Phone: (773) 428-8935
USAC (E-Rate) Consultant Registration Number: 17025278

From: THOMAS CREAGAN

Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:39 PM

To: stonee@wilmette39.org <stonee@wilmette39.org>; panzicaf@wilmette39.org <panzicaf@wilmette39.org>; fabesl@wilmette39.org <fabesl@wilmette39.org>; cesaretj@wilmette39.org <cesaretj@wilmette39.org>; poehlinga@wilmette39.org <poehlinga@wilmette39.org>; sternwee@wilmette39.org <sternwee@wilmette39.org>; steenm@wilmette39.org <steenm@wilmette39.org>

Subject: Lake Michigan Technology Consulting - a local company dedicated to helping schools with E-Rate and Technology

Hi Wilmette Board of Edu members, I hope you are doing well.

My name is Thomas Creagan with Lake Michigan Technology Consulting...I wanted to reach out to introduce myself to you.

I am an ed-tech consultant focused on helping schools with E-Rate and technology purchasing.

I hope we can get to know each other as I am local to the area and have recently started this company to help schools. I was at CDW for 4 years selling to schools on the west coast...but decided I wanted to be on the other side of things....and help local schools close to home.

Thank you for reading my email and feel free to reach out if you would like to chat.

Take care,

Thomas Creagan
Founder & CEO, Lake Michigan Technology Consulting
Phone: (773) 428-8935
Email: ThomasCreagan@lmtc1.com

From: Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabesl@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: E Learning Frustration
Date: September 21, 2020 at 3:51:06 PM CDT
To: Robin McShane <rsmcshane@gmail.com>
Cc: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Good afternoon Mr. and Mrs. McShane,

As a working mother of three, I personally understand the challenges you face. As a Board, we share in your desire to expedite the return to in-person instruction. We want to bring all students back as quickly as is safely possible. We take all stakeholders perspectives into account - along with analyzing a variety of metrics each week. The District's website has an explanation of the metrics used and links to the data.

I hope you saw the email Dr. Cremascoli just sent. She announced that "it has been determined that the best path forward is to accelerate the return of PreK-1st grade students with targeted support during the week of September 28th."

I wish we could expedite the shift to in person instruction even more, but I hope this helps with your kindergartener.

Best regards,

Lisa Schneider Fabes
District 39 Board of Education, President

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 10:45 AM Robin McShane <rsmcshane@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello again,

I am writing to you again with three weeks of e learning under our belts. My kindergartener and second grader have certainly gotten more used to this learning format but I am more confident now than ever that this is not an ideal or effective form of school for small children. Working from home can be difficult for many adults; staying focused on your job while trying to ignore the distractions of home is difficult. Imagine how that is for young children, especially with a younger sibling in the house. It is constant chaos no matter how hard I try. While writing this email I have been interrupted with questions of finding a reading book and confusion of not knowing which page to be on in a math workbook. Add that to two different e learning schedules, which my young children have a tough time managing independently.

I received the village of Wilmette e-news email on Friday and read that the village's test positivity rate is 1.9%. I find it incredibly difficult to understand why our students are not in school with numbers like this? The library is open, restaurants are open for indoor dining, stores are open, doctors and nurses are doing their jobs - WHY are our children not in school? Especially considering that both students and teachers have an e learning option. Everyone who has opted for in person learning needs to be in person.

I hope that you take the perspective of parents and students into account when making school calendar decisions, not just the teachers. Thank you!

Robin and Tom McShane
■■■ (second grade), ■■■■ (kindergarten) and ■■■ (two's preschool)

On Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 9:17 AM Robin McShane <rsmcshane@gmail.com> wrote:

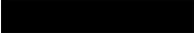
Dear Wilmette 39 Board,

I write to encourage you to stick to the current calendar, moving toward more in-person learning options in District 39 with no further delays. Even improved remote instruction is a poor substitute for in-person learning; our family was glad that you offered us an in-person option and like 75 percent of the district families we opted for it. I have an active kindergartener and second grader - sitting in front of an iPad for hours a day is taking away from their love of school and overall happiness.

I also request more frequent, streamlined communication from the Board and the administration to keep parents informed, and for you to adopt an open and transparent process of monitoring health and safety concerns, as well as academic progress, during COVID-19.

Thank you for all of your hard work this year!

--

Robin McShane


From: Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabesl@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: Full time in person school
Date: September 21, 2020 at 3:53:33 PM CDT
To: Katherine Papadakis <katherinepapadakis@icloud.com>
Cc: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Good afternoon Ms. Papadakis,

Thank you for your email.

As a Board, we share in your desire to expedite the return to in-person instruction. We want to bring all students back as quickly as is safely possible.

I hope you saw the email Dr. Cremascoli just sent. She announced that "it has been determined that the best path forward is to accelerate the return of PreK-1st grade students with targeted support during the week of September 28th."

I wish we could expedite the shift to in person instruction even more, but I hope this helps your family.

Best regards,

Lisa Schneider Fabes
District 39 Board of Education, President

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 10:40 AM Katherine Papadakis <katherinepapadakis@icloud.com> wrote:
Hi Lisa,

I understand there is a petition that I haven't seen to have the kids go back full time in person. I fully support this and you may add my name to the list.

Thank you,
Katie Papadakis

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lisa Schneider Fabes <fabes@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: Just shy of 300 signers asking the Board to implement in-person immediately
Date: September 21, 2020 at 4:45:41 PM CDT
To: Dan Johnson <dan@progressivepublicaffairs.com>
Cc: Kari Cremascoli <cremasck@wilmette39.org>

Hi Dan,

Thank you for your email and petition.

The Board of Education wants to bring students back to in person instruction as quickly as is safely possible. I hope you saw the email Dr. Cremascoli just sent. She announced that "it has been determined that the best path forward is to accelerate the return of PreK-1st grade students with targeted support during the week of September 28th." While I realize this doesn't help all children, we will continue to charge the Metrics Reopening Advisory Team and administration to evaluate how we can expand upon/accelerate in-person instruction even more.

Best regards,

Lisa Schneider Fabes
District 39 Board of Education, President

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 8:42 AM Dan Johnson <dan@progressivepublicaffairs.com> wrote:
Hi Board members,

The attached 297 people signed this petition over the last four days -- this is the text of the petition. (You can read it online here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKZrQY9iqcVCNWA-oZzU2ciAFaWb61B4yIOEJ40hJes7BEKQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

To the seven members of the District 39 Board of Education (our neighbors elected to the school board who volunteer their time and have the exclusive authority to set the calendar).

We are in Phase 4.

Kids should be attending school in-person every day unless parents choose not to.

We need to end forced remote learning during Phase 4. All public health officials with expertise specifically authorize District 39 to hold in-person classes. Given that in-person learning is permitted in Phase 4 by public health experts, the District is negatively impacting our children's learning experience for no public health reason.

It's time to end it.

Especially before MAP tests when the District expects parents to become proctors during Phase 4.

Parents can not be teachers, especially to more than one child at different grades.

Whatever the original logic was for establishing a six week ramp up period to get to daily in-person learning no longer holds. Public health agencies will determine whether it is safe for schools to conduct in-person learning in our region. They have the expertise. Every other New Trier feeder school has figured it out. Why do we need more time?

There isn't any rational reason left to "stick to the plan."

The job of the district is to safely implement in-person learning with social distancing and standards for hygiene. The training of staff is complete. All that remains is the training of students to learn to comply with revised rules. But the delay to in-person learning delays the students' ability to learn how to comply with the new health requirements.

The six weeks of forced remote learning during Phase 4 has delayed the ability of students and schools to implement safe in-person learning. Meanwhile, students are suffering academically.

This failure is particularly acute for the youngest students who both need the daily practice to learn routines for safe in-person learning and disproportionately fail with remote instruction.

Students with IEPs and any sort of special needs are particularly hurt from the district's forced six week remote instruction plan.

It is time to end the forced remote instruction plan and begin daily in-person instruction immediately -- before MAP testing. Call an emergency board meeting while we are in Phase 4 and do the right thing for the kids.

Thank you for your volunteer service,
Dan

Dan Johnson
[REDACTED]
Wilmette, IL 60091