

Submitted February 9, 2021

Comment 1

I thought I would send one more, farewell public comment. The decisions made by SD54 administration and the Board of Education have made it impossible to continue our lives in Hoffman Estates. We have moved to a neighboring state, to a school district that allows in-person learning as an option for those interested. By "in-person" I mean 5-20 kids in a classroom, interacting with their friends and teacher; full day, 5x week "in-person"; masks on if social distancing is not possible "in-person"; extracurricular activities and sports "in-person", take the school bus every morning "in-person". One might wonder if this School District cares less about the "health and safety" of its' 9,166 student body or its many employees? Does it throw "abundance of caution" to the wind and let the chips fall where they may? I believe the complete opposite to be true. Here, the educators and school administrators have quickly determined that kids need to be IN school. They realized that the young generation's education, safety, mental well-being and life altering opportunities were at stake. After speaking to the principals at both schools my kids now attend I see sheer determination to do WHATEVER is necessary to allow kids the choice best for them. This sheer determination is missing in SD54 teachers, administrators and the BOE. You are not doing what is best for the kids you serve. You are doing what is safest and least likely to cause liability issues to the district. Shame on you. I will continue to observe the changes in SD54 from a distance now, and to support those parents fighting for their kids right to a QUALITY education - not the joke of "2-days-a-week-plus-an-alternating-Wednesday-of-Zoom-in-a-classroom-with-maybe-more-sometime-in-the-future" education. Thankfully, I will be able to watch my kids thrive - something YOU are taking away from thousands of kids in SD54.

Margaret Jablonski - former Lincoln Prairie parent