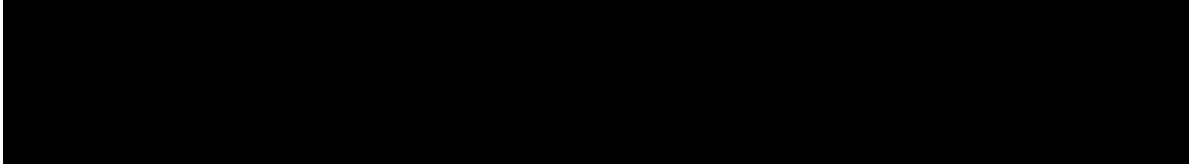


January 15, 2021 Special Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:52 PM and Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:53 PM

ary and instead work together with LSCs, parents, community organizations, and the Chicago Teachers Union to create a plan that

6	<p>Please halt in person learning. It is not benefiting anyone! Over 30 schools have confirmed Covid cases since Monday. That's insane and only going to grow fast. Teachers and students are not irreplaceable. We are in the middle of a pandemic that CPS callously does not care about the thousands of it's employees. And that is plain and simple. The public knows the lies and rhetoric that the mayor and Janice Jackson are lying about. They need to halt the in person learning and come out on top of this whole fiasco. Restore every teacher's account and apologized. Then we can all move on from this dark time, And continue to teach our students safely. This time period will forever be remembered as a dictator move from the school board. They are no better than the one who is going to stand trial for impeachment.</p>
7	<p>The Chicago Public Reopening Plan is flawed and doesn't keep teacher, staff and children safe.</p>
8	<p>Please delay the opening of schools. It is not the right time and it is not safe for students, their families, and staff.</p>
9	<p>Please delay the opening of Chicago public schools. There is no reason to put so many families at risk right now when the vaccine is here.</p>
10	

10%, we are at the highest risk of transmission in schools, per CDC guidelines:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

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| 12 | Please delay the reopening of Chicago Public School Buildings. It is not safe. |
| 13 | Please delay the school reopening plans as it is not safe for students to return at this time. |
| 14 | Please delay the return to in-person instruction for Chicago Public Schools. It is unsafe. Protect all children, staff, and families. And stop punishing teachers who are working remotely instead of returning to unsafe buildings. |
| 15 | Please stop this unsafe opening. The number of cases in buildings in just 4 days is insane |
| 16 | Delay the reopening of Chicago Public Schools. |
| 17 | Please delay opening our schools. There have been covid cases in schools already and it's going to get worse when we open schools to thousands more. It is not worth losing a life when we are so close to getting teachers vaccinated. Too many lives have been taken already...please do the right thing for our children, families and teachers. Thank you. |
| 18 | Please delay the reopening of Chicago Public School Buildings. It is not safe. |
| 19 | Why are you ok with putting students and families lives at risk? Not all cos schools are equipped to open. Furthermore everything being started by the district is contradicting what we see. In policy we were told and we removed all carpets in our classrooms but the mayor's social media account show classrooms with carpets in the room. |
| 20 | Why is CPS still planning in- |

On 1/6/21, WebMD Health News reported:
(<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20210107/new-covid-super-strains-could-disrupt-life-again>)

Ashish Jha, MD, dean of the Brown School of Public Health, projected on Tuesday that as the new strains take hold in the U.S., they could cause an additional 10 million new infections by the end of February and as many as 150,000 more deaths.

A new report (<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mrc-global-infectious-disease-analysis/covid-19/report-42-sars-cov-2-variant/>) from Imperial College London found that a greater proportion of children were infected with the new strain, compared to the older version of the virus. It's not clear yet if its mutations make it better at infecting children, or if younger people were just more likely to be exposed to it because kids have continued to go to school there, even as many adults have stayed home.

Because the virus is becoming more potent, we will need stricter measures to control its spread.

In recent days, some public health experts, like former CDC Director Tom Frieden, MD, who now leads the nonprofit Resolve to Save Lives, said it might be a good idea for people to wear more protective masks -- like surgical masks or N95 respirators, though these still may be in short supply across the country.

Harvard's Marc Lipsitch said: "The U.K. has decided to close schools, and I think we might find ourselves there in not too long. "

(<https://www.vox.com/22220301/covid-spread-new-strain-variants-safe-grocery-store-n95-masks-vaccine>)

1/14/21

The advantage the new variants carry seems to be that in any given situation where people are gathered, they'll infect more people — an estimated 30 to 70 percent more people in the case of the B.1.1.7 variant first identified in Britain, which has now been identified in 50 countries. (1/13/21 <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/01/global-covid-rise-continues-50-nations-report-b117-variant>)

B.1.1.7 is already believed to be circulating at low levels across the US. (1/13/21 <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/01/13/956504515/u-k-variant-could-drive-a-new-surge-in-the-u->

33	Please delay the opening of CPS schools until it is safe. At this point, the plan is flawed and will put students', families' and staff's lives at risk.
34	Make staff return to buildings voluntary
35	Please delay the re-opening! It is unsafe and not based in science.
36	I'm the mother of former CPS students and the grandmother of current CPS students. I strongly oppose CPS' rush to reopen schools when Covid-19 is surging. It is ill-conceived and poorly justified, and puts students and staff at risk. You cannot even claim to be doing it for the most at-risk students, since the parents of the vast majority of poor students and students of color have chosen to keep their children at home. Seriously, what are you thinking? Oh, that's right. The process has not been transparent. I have long opposed an elected school board because I believed an appointed board would be more professional. Today I'm writing to my state senator and representative to support an elected school board. You are anything but professional.
37	Delay the reaping of CPS. It is not safe. 33 plus schools already have cases. Allow teachers to be vaccinated. Safe reopening or no reopening!
38	Make staff return voluntary or delay opening until vaccination is possible for all teachers
39	Delay reopening until it is safe.
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January 15, 2020

Dear members of the Chicago Board of Education, Dr. Jackson, Chief McDade, and Mayor Lightfoot,

Yesterday, I gave a brief statement during the public comment section of the special Chicago Board of Education Meeting. I wanted to submit a written statement as well, to supplement my two-minute comment.

As a parent of two kindergarteners at New Field Primary School in Rogers Park, who will be remaining home as CPS fully reopens in February, I have been closely following the recent developments related to the reopening plan. Over the past few weeks, I have attended many different meetings on the CPS reopening plan, trying to get all the different sides of the story. This included our school's LSC and TownHall meetings, the CTU meeting, and the City Council Committee on Education meeting earlier this week that hosted CPS representatives (which some of you also attended). I have also spoken with many CPS parents about their hopes, frustrations and fears related to the reopening.

Many of the parents I spoke to have not been paying much attention to the plan, as most of them assumed that due to high COVID positivity and death rates, the recent extension of the Chicago Stay-At-Home order and a [new, more contagious virus variant which is expected to become the dominant form of the coronavirus in the United States by March](#), there is no way CPS school would actually reopen.

As we near the Feb. 1 reopening date, and as some of our youngest students have already

Reopening schools right now will rattle this much needed stability with changes to schedules, mode of instruction, staff shortages and potentially dire consequences resulting from COVID spread in schools. No matter how much money CPS spends to prepare schools for safe reopening, the human factor is always going to be the biggest disruptor of this plan. Current positivity rate in Chicago is 10%. That means for every 10 children, educators and staff returning to school, one of them is likely to be COVID positive. In our children's classroom, which is an inclusion classroom, 15 children, two teachers, one student teacher, one speech therapist, one occupational therapist, and potentially four specials teachers are slated to return to school next month. Based on the current positivity rate, two of those people may be COVID positive and the only thing we can hope for is that they are NOT asymptomatic and if they are among the student population, their parents have the means to keep them at home instead of sending them to school like they often do due to lack of childcare. Personally, this is not a risk I am willing to take, but I also have the means to keep our children safe at home and engaged in school activities without having to worry about paying our bills and putting food on our table.

Many other families do not have that luxuti a ctmmi3B I [(amam 0.816 -.9(uta6(h)10.5(.)-6.6(B)1.9(86(a)16 -.9