



**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Virtual via Webex  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

<b>I. CALL TO ORDER</b>	
A. Roll Call	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	
C. Oath of Office	
<b>II. ITEMS FROM THE PRESIDENT</b>	
A. Approval of the Agenda	
B. Announcements	
C. Election of Officers of the Board of Education	
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A. Recognition: Board of Education	
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C. Student Mid-Year Progress Goal Report	
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A. Finance/Facilities Committee	
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- XIII. **REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**
  - XIV. **SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - XV. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
  - XVI. **GOOD AND WELFARE**
  - XVII. **ADJOURNMENT**
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*\*PUBLIC COMMENTS is intended to provide individuals an opportunity to address the Board of Education. Those who wish to do so are asked to complete a Public Comment Card, available at the back of the room. In the interest of fairness, the Board requests each speaker to limit his or her comments up to three (3) minutes.*

*ANY PERSON with a disability who needs accommodation for participation in this meeting should contact the Superintendent's office at 248-489-3338 at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting to request assistance.*

*ALL MEETINGS, with the exception of closed sessions, are open to the public. Regular Board of Education meetings and most premeetings of the Board of Education are cablecast live on TV10.*

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The official minutes of the Board of Education are stored and available for inspection in the Lewis Schulman Administration Building of the Farmington Public School District.

**III. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY.**

The Board has received communications regarding return to learn, the superintendent search, and the Board vacancy. Communications are acknowledged and, when appropriate, a response is provided. A list of correspondents can be found in the Board packet, which is available on the FPS website.

**III. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY.**

**A. Correspondence.**

1. Bushey: COVID 19 Schools
2. O'Mara: Superintendent Search Proposal
3. Walker: Trustee Application Submission
4. Steele: Return to In-Person Learning
5. Walsh: Concern About Policy on Students Eating in Class
6. Wiland-Harkenrider: Concern for Return on January 11th
7. Wiercinski: Return to Learn Jan 11
8. Fried: Agenda Item
9. Eisenberg: Return to School
10. Jones: Reconfirmation of Return to School Plan
11. Danko: Please Return to School
12. Katz: Steve Goldberg for Farmington Hills School Board
13. Butler: Not Safe or Beneficial to Return
14. Hale: Letter to the Board of Education
15. Ward: Board Meetings
16. Blanchard: Board Vacancy
17. Dinkins: Returning High Schoolers
18. McLane: Decision
19. Fried: Open School Board Position
20. Danko: Do Not Delay School
21. Mattison: Return to In-Person Learning
22. Regnier: Special Meeting January 8th
23. Raleigh: Return to In-Person Learning
24. Carlson: Send the Kids Back to School
25. Cox: Return to Learn
26. Wilkins: What's Best for You?
27. Cox: One More Thing
28. J. Cox: Return to School
29. Daniels: Return to School
30. May: Comment on Special Meeting
31. Golusin: How Dare You!
32. Jerrell: Return to School
33. Shubitowski: Emergency Meeting
34. Bristow: Delay of Return to School
35. Hone: Frustration and Disappointment
36. Tuzzolino: Elementary Return to School
37. Ferguson: Make a Plan and Stick to It
38. Mayled: Emergency Meeting

39. Gallivan: Thank you Mr. Rich
40. Varga: Return to Learn
41. Gold: Back to School Decisions
42. Butler: Worrisome Chart
43. Rottet: Board Meeting
44. Campbell: Emergency Meeting
45. Whitehead: F2F Learning Plan
46. Neathamer: Do Not Change the Return to School Plan
47. Clevio: Emergency Board Meeting
48. Gedrich: Return to School
49. Trachsel: Return to F2F
50. Ferrante: Board Meeting
51. Buckhave: Board Meeting
52. Smith: Board Meeting
53. Allen: Returning to School
54. Montanheiro: Return to School
55. Daniels: Response
56. Zoma: Open the Schools
57. Hedo: Return to School
58. Bell: BOE
59. Skrzycki: Friday Meeting
60. Mason: Hello
61. Neathamer: Response
62. Golusin: Response
63. Tuzzolino: Response
64. Holmes: Special Meeting
65. Pouliot: Return to School
66. Baltrusz: Please Let Our Children Return
67. B. Peura: Return to School
68. M. Peura: Return to School
69. Bockstanz: Return to School
70. Taulbee: Please Don't Delay
71. Carlson: Email
72. Lytle: Return to In-Person Learning
73. D. Cohen: Special Meeting
74. Wagner: Frustrated Parent
75. Weber: Return to In-Person Learning
76. Burr: Vote for a Return to In-Person Learning
77. Race: Return
78. Lashbrook: Return to School
79. Weber: Return to In-Person School
80. Ferrante: Response
81. Daniels: Response 2
82. Sanchez: Please Let the Kids Return to School
83. Axe: Board Meeting
84. A. Cohen: Special Board Meeting

85. Urbance: Please Continue as Planned
86. Olson: Return to School
87. MacDougall: Vote to Stay with In-Person Learning
88. Shunia: Our Last Chance
89. Lashbrook: Response
90. Butler: Governor's Statement
91. Carey: Return to School
92. Wilder: Vote for Return to School
93. D'Agostino: Wait
94. Brewster: Open Board Position
95. Richards: School Reopening
96. Karki: Keeping Teachers Safe
97. Boulanger: Return to Learning
98. Williams: Return to F2F Instruction
99. Return to School Petition
100. Karlichek: Return to In-Person Learning
101. Thies: Return
102. Farmington Youth Assistance
103. Ahmann: In-Person Learning
104. Peura: Thank You
105. Tuzzolino: Steven Goldberg - Letter of Recommendation
106. Carlson: Steven Goldberg
107. Reisdorf: Return to Learn
108. Walker: Steven Goldberg - Letter of Recommendation
109. Bennet: MASB Executive Search Services
110. Chang: Steve Goldberg for School Board
111. Childers: Urgent Concerns Regarding Gill Elementary
112. Rusak: Steve Goldberg for School Board
113. McCauley: Mask Wearing/Hand Sanitization
114. Musial: Return to School
115. Hodges: Steve Goldberg for School Board
116. BCI: Open School Board Position
117. Bachrouche: Board Candidate Donald Walker
118. Khalil: Donald Walker for Board Trustee
119. Gaddis: Donald Walker for School Board
120. Murphy: Message in Support of Donald Walker
121. Turner: Donald Walker Recommendation
122. Boswell: Donald Walker for School Board
123. Ohm: School Board Interviews
124. Hamilton: Support for Donald Walker
125. Foster: Support for Donald Walker
126. Warren: Letter of Recommendation
127. Rogers: School Board Candidate Donald Walker
128. Butler: COVID
129. Butler: Education Statement
130. Walker: Walker Selection

## 131. Wallis: Decisions



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Tonight's Special Board Meeting

1 message

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**Andrew Cohen** <cohenea@us.ibm.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:15 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Dear Board Members,

The decision to have a last minute meeting tonight to reassess the current return to school plan is NOT prudent or openminded on the part of the board members that requested this - it is RECKLESS. By allowing the return to school plan to proceed on Tuesday, you OWN what comes from that - new class and bus schedules have been rolled out, teachers urgently have prepared new lesson plans and so many hybrid families all across our community have made their own personal plans and sacrifices to ensure they will be ready to send their students back to school on Monday.

If you are want to consider pausing the return to school because teachers are now approved for the vaccine ask yourself this: **How does it make ANY sense that you were ok for the return to school to proceed BEFORE teachers were approved but now with the teachers approved for the vaccine, it justifies a pause?**

PLEASE do the right thing - trust your district's approved mitigation plans and the NEED for so many students', teachers' and families' health and wellbeing to be back in school.

**VOTE NO** on this motion.

Thank you

Andrew Cohen  
GTM Manager, IBM/NetApp Strategic Partnership  
IBM Cloud and Cognitive Software  
Voice Mail: T/L 372-3169 734-913-3169  
[cohenea@us.ibm.com](mailto:cohenea@us.ibm.com)  
Cell (domestic US): 248-892-5263  
Cell (international): 248-496-2741



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

# Returning to School

1 message

**Stacey Allen** <sheshesls@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:20 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

This is completely unacceptable to have the vote to return to school on 1/25/2021 on the agenda for tomorrow's board meeting. Board members have already discussed this, move forward. Please understand your role as a board member. It was said no vote was needed and asked everyone/anyone for a motion.....silence. Then and there was your chance to speak up and it was SILENT. Just because there was confusion on how to run a meeting, we should not be the ones to be impacted. The ones who are ready to go back ARE READY to return. Our choice. Such a blow to these teachers, children, and parents who are preparing for next week. We all deserve better. Please consider your actions that will impact everyone physically and emotionally.

Stacey Allen



Just in case you missed just one of the many notifications we have received in order to get prepared for next week



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## Comments on Board meeting this evening

1 message

**Michelle Axe** <mikilynnaxe@yahoo.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 9:27 AM

To: zach.rich@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net

Cc: boardofed@fpsk12.net, robert.herrera@fpsk12.net

Farmington Board of Education,

Words cannot express how incredibly disappointed and disheartened I am with the Farmington School District after hearing that a special meeting would be held today to discuss postponing, YET AGAIN, the return of elementary students to in person learning. I have many issues with this:

1. The board voted on Tuesday to send students back to school. With less than week to go, we all started making plans and shifting schedules to get ready for this. My son's virtual class has been spending most of the week preparing for going back to in person learning (what that will look like, what to expect, how to prepare, etc.) and taking time away from his current learning. I've spent time and energy reading all of the protocols and preparing for all of the different measures that need to be taken to start school up again. The fact that many families are preparing their students and their lives to go back to in person school on Monday, just three days from now, and there is a potential for a decision to be made this evening that will potentially change that is unacceptable.

2. My second issue is why we are even going through this AGAIN? Nothing has changed in the world of COVID since Tuesday of this week. Our district has gone back and forth so many different times as to when students will be starting in person learning, with no clear measure of why. This is hard on the parents, hard on working parents' schedules, hard on our children's emotional expectations, and super disruptive to our student's learning. I fully understand having to adjust our safety measures when new information on COVID has become available, but NOTHING has changed this week to warrant yet another upheaval of planning. Many other districts around us have figured out how to implement a safe school day, yet our district keeps waffling back and forth and I can't quite figure out why. You have had more than adequate time to plan for a safe return to school and to execute this plan. I hope to hear some VERY compelling reasons at this meeting as to why we are back in this position.

3. If the proposal to the board is to start elementary students alongside middle and high school students on January 25, I again think this is faulty planning. I certainly understand waiting for the middle and high schoolers to finish a semester in order to make a change and go back to in person school. But the elementary school day is totally different and waiting for that time doesn't make a transition easier for them. I would think that staggering the amount of students and teachers starting back to school in our district would make the most sense. Looking at issues such as transportation and busing, distributing breakfast and lunches and many other logistical issues, I would think it makes sense to start the elementary schools first and have a couple of weeks to then work out any problems that arise before the rest of the students go back. I do not see any benefit, as far as safety goes, to starting the whole district at the same time. And since I have two high schoolers and an elementary school student, I would be the first to advocate for them all to be on the same schedule if I thought that was best for them.

1. There have been rumors that another reason for pushing back this start date is that teachers have threatened to strike or quit if they're forced to go back and are waiting for vaccinations. I certainly hope this is not the case. Vaccinations are slowly becoming available but there is no concrete schedule or timeline for teachers to become vaccinated in the two step process that is required. Waiting on this is yet another false deadline. I do believe in keeping our teachers and students safe. Again, other districts have figured out a way to do this. I know this time is hard on everyone, but we've had plenty of time to make plans and start this transition. Many others are required to go back to work, including many people who put their lives on the line to do what needs to be done to continue running our country.
2. We need to teach our children that we can't live in fear. We need to invest in them and their future. We need to show them that they matter and that their education matters. Just as much as going out into the community to play sports, their education is important to their overall well being. Our school board needs to get back to the business of putting our students and their educational needs first. The board needs to get back to the ultimate goal of educating our children and not being swayed this way and that by bullies or by the loudest voices. I for one, as a parent in this district for the last 11 years, am starting to lose all faith that this board and this district can provide what is needed for our students. The students themselves see this as a joke as well. Farmington Public Schools used to be one of the top districts providing extreme quality education. I would love to see us get back there some day soon and this constant changing of plans will not get us there. Farmington Public Schools has the resources and the means available to do what is best for our students. I hope you decide to do the right thing in this matter, take a stand for our students and give them the option to start back in school.

1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Comments on Board meeting this evening

Thank you for your time,  
Michelle Axe  
Mother of two sons at FHS and one son at Beechview



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Please let our children return!**

1 message

**Mark Baltrusz** <mabaltrus1@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:49 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net

Dear Members of the Farmington Board of Education,

We are writing to you after being informed of the special meeting on Friday 1/8/21 regarding returning to in person learning.

I will not go into details of why our children need to be in school, that has been covered multiple times over the past months. I am writing to express the opinion of my children and myself. They were overjoyed to learn that they were going back and to have that pulled out from under them is just another crushing blow delivered by this district. They are not receiving the education they deserve and I have great fears for the districts' NWEA scores next year. Many schools in our area have been back to school for some time and there have been no outbreaks. This includes some right in our own city, Our Lady of Sorrows, which from what I understand has teachers from FPS working there and other private learning groups. With that said, I would also like to point out that it is public knowledge that any covid cases that have been reported at a school were neither contracted nor passed at the school.

During the last meeting many parents wrote in for public comment expressing their desire to stay virtual. I am confused by this because they will still have that option, even when children return to in person. If we would have seen this on the agenda for that meeting we would have written in expressing our opinion as well.

The canned response posted all over social media from Zach Rich is that part of the reason this meeting is being called is because the governor announced that teachers will be moved up in line for the vaccine. Why should this change anything? They were planning on going back without it as of Tuesday night!

With limited doses, what will happen if the entire teaching staff is not able to be vaccinated within a couple months? These are just a few of the questions that I would like answered.

In closing PLEASE listen to the families in need and let our children return to school. Before the damage to their education and mental health is completely irreversible.

Sincerely,  
Mark and Daniele Baltrusz



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**FH School Board of Education**

1 message

**M Bell** <mfbell419@aol.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 6:25 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Rich &amp; BOE,

I'm a father of 4 students in the Farmington Public School District. I am completely disappointed in your collective lack of common sense. These kids need to have face-to-face learning and socialization. You're decisions have been absurd. Other districts are returning to in-person learning, yet you continue to delay. You're latest tactic to reference the need for teachers to get vaccinated while the vast majority of our country has to actually go to work in person shows how out of touch with reality you are. You claim to 'understand' our frustration, but you actually do not.

You do realize that even the U.S. Center for Disease Control recommends that kids return to school, right?

The norm is kids going to school (in person). So let's get back to that now, much like other reasonable school districts in our area.

And to you specifically, Rich, you had no problem posting a comment on social media about Betsy Devos that read "once again proving that she does not have our students' best interests at heart." It is clear YOU do not have our student's interest at heart. Your insincerity and hypocrisy knows no limits.

And do not bother sending me your 'cut and paste' response. Save it.

Another parent disgusted with your decisions,

Mark Bell

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[Mfbell419@aol.com](mailto:Mfbell419@aol.com)





FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

## Fwd: Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education members to interview six applicants on January 12 for the open Board seat

1 message

John Blanchard <blancj@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:51 AM

I John Blanchard of 29600 Minglewood Ln, Farmington Hills, MI 48334...  
Object in the strongest possible terms. These are elected positions so an election should be held.

John Blanchard  
248 561 8457

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021, 8:50 AM Farmington Public Schools <no\_reply@fpsk12.net> wrote:

### Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education members to interview six applicants on January 12 for the open Board seat

On Tuesday, January 12, Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education members will be interviewing six community members who have submitted applications for the open seat on the Board of Education. The interviews will be held virtually.

Those who would like to view the interviews can use the following link <https://oneoakland.webex.com/oneoakland/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6c4762c7ceea3026e6250cc2c425f04d> or watch it LIVE on TV-10 or on the Video on Demand Site on the District's website.

Each interview will be approximately 25 minutes in length:

- Introduction
- Questions from Board members
- Concluding statement

Following the interviews, there will be public comment and then a vote for appointment. The following community members have submitted an application and will be interviewed:

- Interview Time - Name
- 5:30 pm - Steven Goldberg
  - 6:05 pm - Janail Silver
  - 6:40 pm - Donald Walker
  - 7:15 pm - Doron Eisenscher
  - 7:50 pm - Kevin Hammer
  - 8:25 pm - Kathryn Marvin

It is expected that the new Board member will be sworn in at the Tuesday, January 19 Board of Education meeting.

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Farmington Public Schools | 32500 Shiawassee St, Farmington, MI 483362338 | 248-489-3337



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FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to school - 1/8 meeting

1 message

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**Kevin Bockstanz** <kbockstanz@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 8:37 PM

To: zach.rich@fpsk12.net

Cc: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, Caitlin Bockstanz &lt;caitlin.bockstanz@gmail.com&gt;

Mr. Rich and members of the board,

Thank you for your efforts, your time and your dedication to the Farmington public schools. I know this is a tough role and it's impossible to make all parties happy. This especially applies to the times we are in today.

While I appreciate your work, I am disappointed in the announcement that the return to school plans are in jeopardy. It is completely irresponsible to ask these teachers to again change direction over the weekend. The teachers have done enough and this is not acceptable to even introduce the possibility of a change. This is stressful for teachers, families and the community. The impact goes way beyond the students and the Farmington district. I have listened to the board meetings and have been very patient as the board has worked to navigate these difficult times. The Friday 1/8 board meeting that has been scheduled is absolutely the wrong direction. Just the announcement of this meeting has angered citizens and further damaged the image of this board. The fact that the board is planning to revisit the plan is unacceptable. These children need to be in class. The federal government recommends they go back to in-class learning. The state of Michigan recommends the children return to in-class learning. The Michigan Governor's office recommends they go back to in-class learning. When the decision to return was made, there was no timeline for the teachers to get the vaccine. In fact, the decision was made at a time when the vaccine wasn't a factor in the decision. I don't see how the recent changes to vaccine eligibility changes anything. As a board you have chosen to ignore the recommendation of the federal and state government all year. You have ignored the successful in person learning in other districts and the success of private and charter schools in our own neighborhoods. Now just days before my children finally returning to school you make a plan to take this away from them. You have disrespected the work of the teachers and ignored the plea of thousands of tax paying parents that need their children to return. This is unacceptable. It's embarrassing to the community and the school district. Honestly, shame on you for not putting the children first. The data and recommendations of professionals speaks clearly that there is a safe way forward with in-class learning. I applaud the hard work of the district administration and the teachers that have already dealt with more than is fair. I fear that further delays to return will further hurt these precious children and cause irreparable damage to the district, the schools and the community. Please consider that this poor image and lack of leadership also drives away the best educators and administrators.

I ask that the meeting be cancelled and the plans to return to the classroom proceed as planned. I also ask that the board review the current plans and push the district to provide a plan for full day school to begin in early-mid February. If proceeding to get the kids back in schools isn't the first choice and priority of every member of this board, you should rethink your decision to serve on this board and consider resigning your position. At this point the decision should be a parents decision and offering an in-class learning experience is the only way to show that this board has truly put the students first.

I am available to discuss any time and look forward to your response. I hope that you will realize there is no other decision than to allow these kids to return, please give them the opportunity to succeed and grow. Their future and our future depends on it.

Kevin Bockstanz  
(313)350-8892



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to Learning

1 message

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**Margie Boulanger** <mmboulanger@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 2:55 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Dear Board Members,

My son Elijah is a student at Longacre Elementary School. It is his first year of school. He is funny, smart and kind. He is excited to go to school. Eli has learning disabilities. He has an IEP and requires speech therapy, occupational therapy, and resource room. He is struggling so much with virtual school. We have been counting down the days when he can return to the classroom and receive the much needed support he would receive. I have taught children virtually and in-person in the past and I know first hand that virtual just doesn't meet the needs of all students. Eli is one of those students. I have been patient because we were told that we would return to school soon. Many districts have been in school since September. I pulled my daughter out of Longacre which I never would have done given the option of in-person learning. She is now in-person at a local private school. They are being cautious, wearing masks, and following CDC guidelines. They have had little to no issue. I know that virtual is an option for some children who need it. I have no issue with this and respect the right for other families to have this option. However, where is my option? I have looked into private schools for my precious son and have been met with reluctance. They do not have the resources they say. My son is suffering and I need to advocate for him. It is unacceptable to not give people the option to have in-person instruction. I would even go as far to say as detrimental to some. The governor is now encouraging schools to put into place a mitigation strategy. The return to learning that you already decided on does meet this initiative. I also want to urge you to keep in mind that you made a decision. A decision to return to school part-time on January 11. Many families and children were counting on this. I don't think its fair to change this especially knowing what the governor is urging and that is a return to learning by March 1st. Please give my child a chance to get the support he so desperately needs. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely, Margie Boulanger and Eli



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**open position on the board and other concerns**

1 message

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**Zachary Brewster** <ew0201@wayne.edu>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 2:48 PM

Dear School Board Members,

I write to express my sincere hope that the School Board honors the will of the voters by selecting Steve Goldberg to fill the vacated position on the board. Members of the board are clearly aware of the vote counts in the recent election. To disregard the fact that Mr. Goldberg received over 2,100 more votes than Mr. Walker and Mr. Hammer would be quite unfortunate and would reflect poorly on a board that is by many accounts struggling to maintain the support of its constituents. I also would like to take this opportunity to express my concern regarding the board's repeated decision to delay the return to in person instruction. As a parent of two (9 & 11) I am extremely concerned about the long term impact that these decisions are going to have on my children. While I understand that the safety of students and teachers is paramount to all other considerations I am not at all convinced that the threat to safety in our district exceeds that of the vast majority of other districts in the state that have returned to in person instruction at least for a period of time since the pandemic began in March. Thanks you for your time and public service. Best, Zach

Zachary W. Brewster, PhD

Associate Professor of Sociology

Wayne State University

Detroit, MI 48202



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Delay of return to school

1 message

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**Melissa Bristow** <melissab919@icloud.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:00 PM

To: zach.rich@fpsk12.net

Cc: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hello-

I am writing to you today because it has come to my attention that the Farmington Board of Education has scheduled an emergency meeting to delay the return to in-person schooling. You, the board of education just met on Tuesday and voted to have our children return to in-person learning. School administration, teachers, staff, parents, and children have all received notice and planned for in-person learning on Monday January 11. You have had plenty of time for discussion and YOU VOTED ON IT 2 DAYS AGO!!! I have been very understanding with this entire situation. We are in the midst of a global pandemic. I get it. I would have been completely understanding if you had voted to delay the return, but I cannot sit back while the Farmington Board of Education plays this back and forth game. You cannot hold a meeting on Tuesday vote for return, then schedule an emergency meeting for a Friday to discuss what is supposed to occur in 3 days. This is absolutely unacceptable. I have a job outside of the home, my husband has a job outside of the home. It takes much time and effort to organize and facilitate our child's schedule and your utter disregard for this situation is shocking.

Work Smarter, Not Harder-  
Melissa Bristow



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Board Meeting Friday night**

1 message

**Erika Buckhave** <ebuckhave@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:05 PM

Reply-To: Erika Buckhave &lt;ebuckhave@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Good afternoon,

After finding out on Tuesday night and preparing our third grader to return face to face, I found out through social media today that there is an emergency board meeting thrown together for FRIDAY night at 5:30 to possibly delay this. I am appalled at the idea that after SO much delay in getting the kids back to school and the planning that goes into it, that there is a possibility that this may again change. Three days before this planned change??? How in the world are teachers or students supposed to adapt and adjust on the dime? They have been doing it since March but it doesn't make it right. The idea of them being resilient only goes so far!!

We are parents of three children who all attend Farmington Public Schools and have owned homes here since 2004. At a time when a School Board should show effective leadership, you have done everything but. Instead of the focus being on what's best for the students and teachers of this district, it's been on the infighting amongst you all.

I truly hope you reconsider this meeting or at the meeting decide to stick with what has been decided upon. I am aware of many, many families who have pulled their children from our schools and either sent them to private schools or neighboring districts. If your inability to lead continues, I worry about the future of this district. We CHOSE Farmington for its great teachers and schools. I pray you can begin to work together, stop the flip flopping and get back to the business you were ELECTED to do.

Sincerely,

Mark and Erika Buckhave



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Vote for a return to in person learning!**

1 message

Allie Burr &lt;allieanng@hotmail.com&gt;

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 1:26 AM

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

**Dear Farmington board members. I am contacting you to voice my extreme disappointment and disgust with the motion to consider postponing a return to in person learning. I am a mother of a 2nd grader in Forest Elementary. This past year has brought an emotional, physical and mental toll on my sons health, and this is due to the indecisiveness, and ineffectiveness that this board has thus far shown. My husband, being a resident doctor at Beaumont hospital and frontline worker, is appalled at the disregard for our children's health by this board. I implore, and beg each of you, to finally make the parents and students and numerous teachers and staff of this district proud by allowing our children back in school. Please vote against a delayed start to in-person learning. Our community's future is at stake. Poor and disenfranchised families are suffering, as those with wealth and resources can enroll their children in private schools and can afford childcare and quality education. A good education is the bedrock of a healthy and successful society, and by continually postponing in person learning you are contributing to the disruption of our very own community. I hope**

**I can be proud of the decision you make at this meeting, and that I won't have to finally remove my child from his great teacher and this district.**

**Alexandra Burr**



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Covid 19 Schools**

1 message

**Michelle Bushey** <paymi501@yahoo.com>

Sat, Dec 26, 2020 at 9:00 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, jessica.cummings@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, kathy.smith@fpsk12.net, kelly.coffin@fpsk12.net, jennifer.kaminski@fpsk12.net, bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net

Good morning-

As your preparing for schools to open, here's a study to support schools opening. There is nothing healthier than providing our children with the education they need and that's effective.

<https://www.wilx.com/2020/12/25/msu-study-covid-19-isnt-spreading-in-schools/?fbclid=IwAR0egb-CdictDyfuUEaS7oEYmmrmwkA5HkumxwTsrILVMBLMbeUmCrAD4TI>

I can't wait for January 24 when my child goes back to school for the first time in more than 10 months. I'm also looking forward to some kind of a freshman orientation that the students never got.

Have a great day!

Michelle Bushey



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

**LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is planning to “strongly encourage” that Michigan public schools reopen for in-person learning by the beginning of MARCH**

1 message

**KAREN BUTLER** <karen.butler@fpsk12.net> Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 1:05 PM  
To: FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, ROBERT HERRERA <robert.herrera@fpsk12.net>, KELLY COFFIN <kelly.coffin@fpsk12.net>, BOBBIE GOODRUM <bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net>, MARGARET HENDRICKSON <margaret.hendrickson@fpsk12.net>

MARCH.

Please heed that without vaccine availability, much success in virtual learning, and still largely unprotected staff, that we are not ready to go back yet.

Karen Butler  
4th Grade-Kenbrook

please excuse lower case and typos!! 😊

live, laugh, love, leave a legacy, and let the little things go...and they're mostly little things!



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

**Fwd: The Morning: A worrisome chart**

1 message

**KAREN BUTLER** <karen.butler@fpsk12.net>  
To: FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:38 PM

Thank you for reconvening and discussing decisions on safety for students and staff.

Karen Butler  
4th Grade-Kenbrook

please excuse lower case and typos!! 😊

live, laugh, love, leave a legacy, and let the little things go...and they're mostly little things!

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **karen wc butler** <[sfbwildcards@gmail.com](mailto:sfbwildcards@gmail.com)>  
Date: Mon, Jan 4, 2021, 6:44 AM  
Subject: Fwd: The Morning: A worrisome chart  
To: KAREN BUTLER <[karen.butler@fpsk12.net](mailto:karen.butler@fpsk12.net)>

**This suggests the rest of the world may now be at risk of a new Covid-19 surge.**

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **The New York Times** <[nytdirect@nytimes.com](mailto:nytdirect@nytimes.com)>  
Date: Mon, Jan 4, 2021, 6:27 AM  
Subject: The Morning: A worrisome chart  
To: <[sfbwildcards@gmail.com](mailto:sfbwildcards@gmail.com)>

[View in browser](#) | [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

**The New York Times**  
**The Morning**

January 4, 2021



By David Leonhardt

**Good morning. A simple chart shows why the new coronavirus variants are so worrisome.**



A patient was transported to a hospital in London on Saturday. Hollie Adams/Getty Images

# The virus is still winning

This simple chart shows why the new variants of the coronavirus — first detected in Britain and South Africa — are so worrisome:

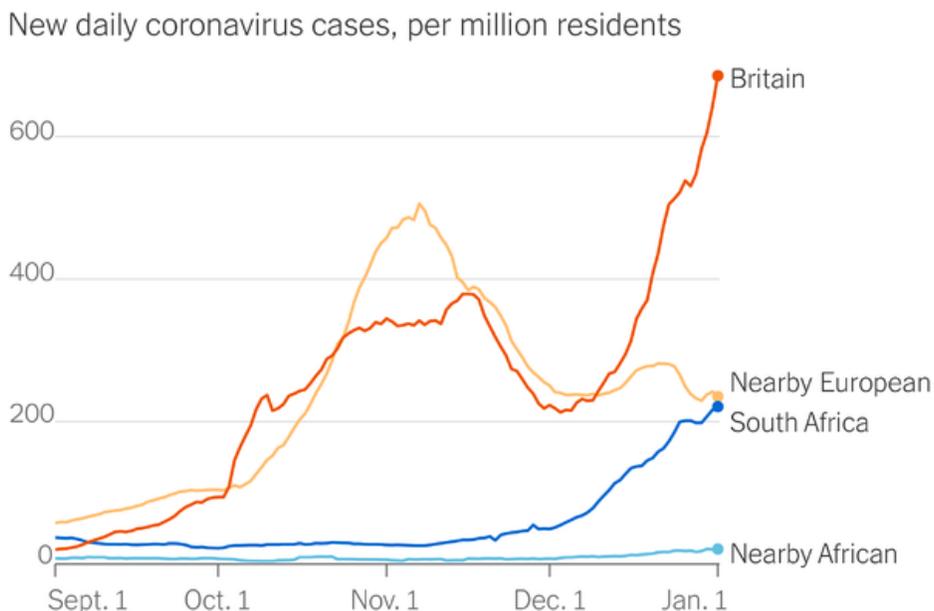


Chart shows rolling 7-day averages. "Nearby European" is Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. "Nearby African" is Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

By The New York Times | Sources: Local and national governments and health organizations, World Bank

The chart compares the spread of the virus in each of those two countries with <sup>28</sup>

the spread in a group of nearby countries. As you can see, cases have surged in Britain and South Africa since the variants first surfaced — while holding fairly steady in the rest of western Europe and southern Africa.

The new variants may not be the only reason. Britain and South Africa differ from their neighbors in other ways, as well. But there is no obvious explanation for the contrast besides the virus's mutations.

**This suggests the rest of the world may now be at risk of a new Covid-19 surge.**

The variants already seem to have spread around much of the world. [More than 30 other countries](#), including the U.S., have diagnosed cases with the variant first detected in Britain, which is known as B.1.1.7. Scientists say that it could soon become [the dominant form of the virus](#).

The B.1.1.7 variant appears to be between 10 percent and 60 percent more transmissible than the original version. One possible reason: It may increase the amount of the virus that infected people carry in their noses and throats, which in turn would raise the likelihood that they infect others through breathing, talking, sneezing, coughing and so on.

[As I've explained before](#), the biggest factor that will determine how many more people die from the virus isn't likely to be the precise effectiveness of the vaccines or even the speed of their rollout. The biggest factor is instead likely to be how much we reduce the spread of the virus over the next few months, through a combination of mask wearing, social distancing and [expanded testing](#). Those efforts can cut caseloads — and, by extension, deaths — more rapidly than a mass vaccination campaign can.

But the U.S. was struggling to hold down new infections even before the variants appeared, and they will probably make the job more difficult. “I dismissed the news initially because viruses mutate all the time and there have been too many baseless ‘mutant-ninja virus’ doomsaying headlines this year,” [Zeynep Tufekci](#) wrote in The Atlantic last week. “However, as data on the new variant roll in, there is cause for real concern.”

My colleague Apoorva Mandavilli, in a piece explaining [what scientists do and don't know](#) about the variants, writes that they may end up “exacerbating an

unrelenting rise in deaths and overwhelming the already strained health care system.”

In recent days, the number of Americans [hospitalized with Covid-19 symptoms](#) has risen to more than 123,000, up from about 95,000 a month ago and 50,000 two months ago. The virus is still winning.

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## THE LATEST NEWS

### THE ELECTION



President Trump at the White House last week. Anna Moneymaker for The New York Times

- In a phone call, President Trump pressured Georgia’s secretary of state to [change the vote totals in the state](#) to overturn his loss. “I just want to find 11,780 votes” Trump said. Georgia officials rebuffed Trump’s demands.
- The president suggested on the call that the Georgia officials could be prosecuted if they did not do his bidding. But it was Trump’s attempt at coercion that may have violated the law, [lawyers told The Times](#).
- During the call, Trump [recited a number of falsehoods](#) that have circulated on social media involving <sup>30</sup>dead voters, voting machines and

shredded ballots. [Listen to parts of the call here.](#)

- Senator Ted Cruz of Texas was once on the receiving end of Trump's false claims of election fraud. Now, [Cruz is perpetuating](#) those falsehoods.
- In an [op-ed for The Washington Post](#), all 10 living former secretaries of defense — including Dick Cheney and James Mattis — said the election results were definitive and cautioned the military not to get involved in Trump's effort to overturn the election.
- Both Trump and President-elect Joe Biden [will campaign in Georgia today](#) before tomorrow's Senate runoff elections. Democrats must win both seats to win Senate control.

## THE VIRUS



A chaplain prayed last month with a patient in a Covid-19 unit at a hospital in Los Angeles. Jae C. Hong/Associated Press

- An [outbreak at a convent](#) near Albany, N.Y., has infected nearly half of its roughly 100 residents. Nine sisters, all older than 80, died of Covid-19 in December.
- India [approved two virus vaccines](#), one made by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and the other by Bharat Biotech, an Indian drugmaker.

- Oregon set aside \$62 million of its \$1.4 billion in federal coronavirus relief funds for Black residents, in recognition of the pandemic's disproportionate toll on them. Now one Mexican-American and two white business owners are [suing the state](#), arguing that the program was discriminatory.
- An inflatable holiday-themed costume [may be behind an outbreak](#) at a California hospital. An employee wore an "air-powered" costume on Christmas Day, and within days 44 staffers had tested positive.
- Scientists [are debating vaccination tactics](#): Is it wisest to hold back supplies for quick second shots, or to delay the second inoculation to give as many people as possible the partial protection of a single dose?
- One year ago today, Stat News published [an article](#) by Helen Branswell with this headline: "Experts Search for Answers in Limited Information About Mystery Pneumonia Outbreak in China." Today, Stat has published a [Q. and A. with Branswell](#) putting the last year in perspective.

## OTHER BIG STORIES

- The 117th Congress convened for the first time on Sunday and [re-elected Nancy Pelosi as House speaker](#). Democrats control 222 of 435 seats, the slimmest majority either party has held in two decades.
- More than 225 Google engineers and other workers [have formed a union](#), a rarity in Silicon Valley. Members said their main goal was to protect employees who speak out on matters like diversity and sexual harassment, rather than to negotiate contracts.
- The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange [cannot be extradited to the U.S.](#), a British judge ruled, giving him a victory against the American authorities who accused him of conspiring to hack government computers and releasing confidential documents.

## MORNING READS



Desiree Rios for The New York Times

**From Opinion:** “I’m a miracle. I will make it. I have to make it.” Toby Levy, a Holocaust survivor, [reflects on living through the pandemic](#).

**Lives Lived:** Brian Urquhart joined the United Nations at its creation in 1945. He spent the next four decades directing peacekeeping operations, leading U.N. forces into war zones including Congo, Kashmir and Cyprus. [Urquhart died at 101](#).

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## ARTS AND IDEAS

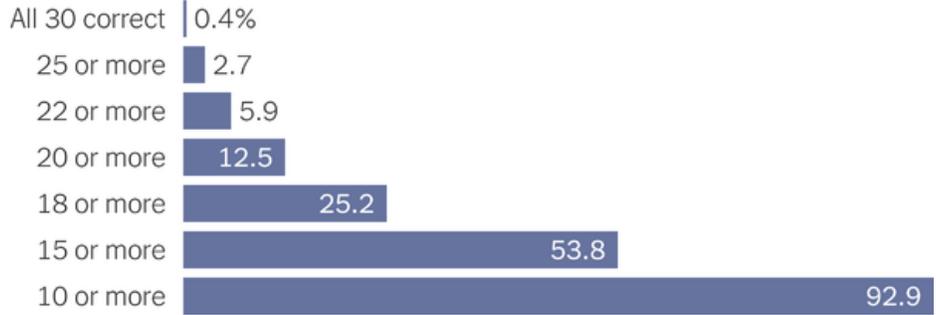
### Results from the Great 2020 News Quiz

Several hundred thousand readers took our year-end news quiz, and we wanted to report back with some results. As we wrote at the end of the quiz, it wasn’t meant to be easy. Anyone who finished it — regardless of score — should feel good. (If you haven’t taken it yet, [we encourage you to do so](#).)

The median score was 15, or exactly half<sup>33</sup> of the quiz’s 30 questions. So if you got more than half right, you did better than most Times readers. Only 0.4 percent

— or about one person in 250 — got every question right.

How readers fared on the 30-question year-end news quiz



By The New York Times

The single hardest question turned out to be the one that asked you to name the countries that bordered Armenia or Azerbaijan. Only 8.5 percent of respondents got it right.

The other more difficult questions were the ones about the author who had the most Times best sellers this year (9.4 percent correct); the Covid-19 death toll in Sweden (10.8 percent); the Black-white wage gap (11.2 percent); and the identity of a speaker during Trump’s impeachment trial (15.3 percent).

The easiest question was the one that asked you to identify a man whose 250th birthday was celebrated in 2020 (96 percent correct). After that came questions about the identity of a woman in Louisville (89.1 percent); the coronavirus advice that experts have since retracted (84.4 percent); the identity of a boy band (82.7 percent correct); and a protest in China (74.8 percent).

Thanks to everyone who took the time to play. We’ll be publishing more quizzes in 2021.



**PLAY, WATCH, EAT**

**WHAT TO COOK**



Andrew Scrivani for The New York Times

Leeks, parsnips and a few spices [make this simple soup](#).

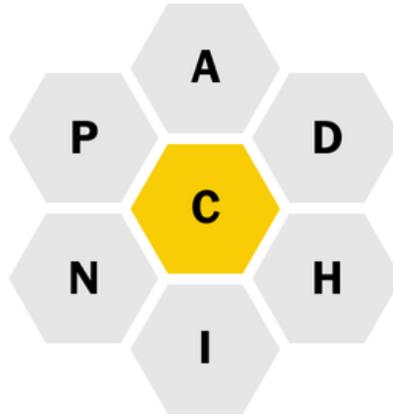
## STREAM

It started as a TikTok meme and became “Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical.” And it could have lessons for Broadway, [our reviewer writes](#). The show is streaming until 7 p.m. Eastern tonight.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

Nicolas Cage hosts the history of swearing. Lorde writes a book and Julie Mehretu takes over the Whitney. Here are some things Times critics [are looking forward to](#) in the first half of 2021.

## NOW TIME TO PLAY



The pangram from Friday's Spelling Bee was *promontory*. Today's puzzle is above — or you can [play online](#) if you have a Games subscription.

Here's [today's Mini Crossword](#), and a clue: Rihanna's beauty line (five letters).

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***Thanks for spending part of your morning with The Times. See you tomorrow. — David***

P.S. A nightly email from Steve Kenny, The Times's senior editor for nights, keeps the newsroom (including the Morning team) informed of what happened while many of us were asleep. The Times put together a [collection of "late notes" that tell the story of 2020](#).

You can see [today's print front page here](#).

Today's episode of "[The Daily](#)" is about the U.S. Senate runoffs in Georgia.

*Lalena Fisher, Claire Moses and Tom Wright-Piersanti contributed to The Morning. You can reach the team at [themorning@nytimes.com](mailto:themorning@nytimes.com).*

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Not safe nor beneficial to return to in person learning yet.

Emergency room physician Cleavon Gilman compares working in a hospital amid the pandemic to **war**. "You can actually die at your job now, and that's never really been an issue before," he says. "Health care providers are walking into a war zone every day where we can be killed by this virus, and even serve as a Trojan horse to bring it home to our family and to kill our loved ones."

**We are at War.** We are at war with a virus that we still cannot control nor completely understand. If, in war, you knew a bomb was coming, you would go to the deepest, safest place to stay alive. Covid is like a silent, invisible bomb. We are asking that you give the students, staff and families of Farmington schools the same amount of safety and shelter.

Staff love being in classrooms with the students we've invested our lives to serve. But not during a war.

But first- let's celebrate - Yes! CELEBRATE- despite this unprecedented year. We have many reasons to celebrate- what has been going, in many ways, phenomenally virtually well this year: ALL of this is currently happening!!!

**Students and staff virtually ARE connected, constructive, collaborative and we ARE getting it done!**

- A safe virtual learning environment - well established routines, technology issues now minimal.
- Teacher and students seeing, interacting with each other, viewing full faces with all the range of emotions visible, throughout most of the 6-7 hour school day.
- Wonderful, strong, warm positive relationships - developed and currently maintained with families and students.
- Knowledge of student and family dynamics, internet, siblings etc.
- Numerous daily contacts with ALL students with many ample time(s) to reach social, emotional and academic needs.
- Successfully delivering a full grade level curriculum of all subject areas weekly.
- Minimal independent work time
- Multiple large, small group and individual instruction throughout the week
- Differentiation for a vast array of needs are being met.
- Socialization activities are connecting kids as friends, classmates and learning teams.

**Students and staff virtually ARE connected, constructive, collaborative and we ARE getting it done!**

**What we should be doing: maintaining virtual learning as it is currently is being done- and done well.**

**We should not be going back. FACTS:**

- "It could and likely will get worse in the next couple of months, or at least maintain this very terribly high level of infections and deaths that we're seeing," Fauci told ABC on Sunday.
- **Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of Great Britain, says restrictions will last at least seven weeks, with schools closing until February half-term.**

- Covid continues to threaten safety- we are still more than THREE times above the "less than 3% rate" FPS set for acceptable levels to return.
- **Covid's new strain is highly contagious -50 to 75 % more transmittable.** it is only a matter of time before the new strain severely affects Michigan. In California, **800,000 in 1 county contracted Covid in 2020, half of those cases occurred in December alone.**
- **Doctors warn they are at 'breaking point'**
- **Hundreds of thousands more deaths possible in vaccine chaos**

FPS closed for many strong reasons in March and again put a halt in November- currently-Covid increases and strains are even more serious than those two prior times.

**FACTS: SCHOOLS SPREAD COVID: Symptomless cases in schools could be a key driver in spread of Covid-19. Up to 70% of school children infected with coronavirus may not know they have it until after a positive test result. UP infected:** Children were especially hard hit: 1,388 school children got COVID-19 in the second wave, compared to 149 in the previous seven months.

**"Schools do contribute significantly to the production of covid." Oxford University. Students do carry and can spread the Covid virus. Cases will continue to rise if you keep schools open.**

#### **Farmington School Reports Coronavirus Outbreak, State Says**

Ongoing outbreaks continue to be listed at 9 schools in Oakland County including Farmington Schools maintenance, Royal Oak Tribute, January 4, 2021. Oakland County data.

**With all the research, data and scientific information, if the Farmington Board of Education still okays that some students return to school, what will that really mean for students?**

Instead of the celebrations of learning, social and connections mentioned, the opposite can be true: Disconnected, different delivery of lessons, possibly depressing, less personal time for learning .

**Going back will, in many cases, mean:**

- **Severing relationships**-for many classrooms, half the students will now be with a new teacher who doesn't know them, their families, their learning style or needs.
- A number of weeks to establish new procedures routines that will take from instructional time.
- **Teacher and student will only be in contact 2.5 hours** per day, a third of our current time.
- **Slashing instructional curriculum time.** Standards that are currently being met with integrity, detail and consistency will now have to be taught two to three times a week in shorter sessions, repeated for the next set of students, curriculum **cut in half.**
- **Independent student work time will greatly increase,** leaving far less teacher student interaction support time.
- **Small group instruction possibilities are little or nonexistent** due to less contact time and need to deliver curriculum with instructional hours cut in half.

- **Differentiation/ individual instruction most likely impossible**, without eliminating instructional time elsewhere.
- **Socialization as students knew in the past is impossible**- distancing, inability to interact may be disappointing, depressing.

**We are not ready to go back yet safety-wise.**

The new virus strain has, in one month, devastated Britain -they have shut down schools.

**We are still over three times higher than the bar or parameter set this fall from the Farmington Public School school board - that would hope for a safe return.**

Going back half days leads to a halved, watered down, lesser curriculum than we are currently able to deliver. **Why compromise safety and cut our learning in half?** Board members have voiced- not being able to live with themselves if we have even one death due to Covid from our school district... and voiced- with a number of families who are Frontline workers, can we in good conscience send students back to a classroom? The Board is, in fact, asking their students, their staff, their community- to enter rooms that can very well be contaminated from the first moment someone walks in, despite the district's valiant efforts to mitigate risk. This week, the state **received less than half the doses of vaccines** than it expected. Regarding the new strain of Covid: "We might not all have the same density as L.A., but what's happening in L.A. can and will be coming in many communities in America."

Students and staff virtually ARE connected, constructive, collaborative and we ARE getting it done!

**What we should be doing: maintaining all learning as it currently is being done- safely- remotely.**

We watched in disbelief and disaction as Europe became contaminated and the US was just starting. Please acknowledge and KNOW:

Students and staff virtually ARE connected, constructive, collaborative and we ARE getting it done!

**Please: Please- tell your community that we have learned from that lesson by keeping schools closed until it is safe to the level you determined this fall -less than 3%.**

Sincerely as a parent and educator,  
Karen Butler

Citings/Resources:

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/02/symptomless-cases-schools-key-driver-spread-covid-19?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/02/symptomless-cases-schools-key-driver-spread-covid-19?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/04/world/europe/uk-lockdown.html>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/489690264/CPS-Reopening-Letter>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/30/health/coronavirus-mutant-colorado.html>

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/04/los-angeles-coronavirus-surge-hospitals?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/04/los-angeles-coronavirus-surge-hospitals?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

<https://patch.com/us/across-america/teacher-who-had-heartwarming-classroom-video-dies-coronavirus>  
[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/02/us-coronavirus-covid-cases-death-toll-holidays?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/02/us-coronavirus-covid-cases-death-toll-holidays?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)  
[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/02/hundreds-thousands-more-us-covid-deaths-likely-vaccine-delay?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/02/hundreds-thousands-more-us-covid-deaths-likely-vaccine-delay?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)  
**Michigan Schools: Education in the COVID Era** [newsletters@update.mlive.com](mailto:newsletters@update.mlive.com)  
<https://www.freep.com/story/news/health/2020/12/27/covid-19-health-care-workers-frustrated-by-carelessness/3974072001/>  
<https://patch.com/michigan/farmington-mi/farmington-school-reports-coronavirus-outbreak-state-says>  
<https://www.michiganradio.org/post/er-doctor-says-he-walks-war-zone-every-day>  
<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/01/04/coronavirus-michigan-upper-peninsula-pandemic-hot-spot/3993080001/>



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Emergency Meeting on January 8, 2021**

1 message

**NICOLE CAMPBELL** <nicole.campbell@fpsk12.net>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:57 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Dear Board Members,

I feel compelled to write to you today in regards to the emergency meeting being held on January 8th. I am a graduate of NFHS and am the parent to 2 graduates of FHS with another child graduating in 2022. As you can see, I am also a teacher (of over 20 years) in Farmington Public Schools. I have invested a lot of my life into the Farmington Public Schools and community.

I am extremely disappointed in the plan to hold a last minute, emergency meeting about delaying our return to school on January 11, 2021. You had the opportunity to make this decision at the board meeting held on January 5, 2021 and yet, you did not. Instead, you gave the green light to staff and families to start preparing for the change to hybrid learning. Employees spent countless hours, on top of their normal duties of educating students and running buildings, to make the changes necessary to allow that to happen in less than a week's time. Families also spent time trying to arrange new schedules for their families to adjust to their needs in working within the new parameters for hybrid learning. These have been massive undertakings in order to fulfill the needs and wishes of our community and staff. The fact that you would attempt to change this now feels like a large slap in the face to all who have been frantically preparing for this transition. For the duration of this school year, I, personally, have been confused and frustrated trying to figure out the "right way" to deal with educating our students. I am still uncertain as to how comfortable I feel in an in person setting, but knowing that all of the mitigation factors are in place and that they exceed the recommendations has helped me to trust that we are attempting to be safe and at least try. As I listened to the board meeting on Tuesday, I was comfortable with the thought of waiting for our elementary students going back on January 25th with the secondary students, mostly because it actually would be easier for our families to coordinate schedules over the expanse of grade levels and schools. When the decision was made to go ahead for the January 11th start, I started making my plans for that schedule, as did the rest of our community. To change it now would be disrespectful to all of those that have put the plans in place for our start on January 11. Families and teachers would all be sent scrambling, the students will be confused and anxious and the trust in you would be irreparably damaged. The waffling of decisions needs to stop unless there is a compelling reason that the community is unaware of.

You have been asked to make decisions for all of us that are not easy and I respect that you have done your best to make them to keep us safe and healthy. I also am aware that there is no decision that will make everyone satisfied. Please have the integrity now to make a decision and stick to it so that the anxiety of the plan moving forward will be eased. As a parent and staff member, this has been most difficult to not be able to make a plan and move forward with it with any certainty, and always feeling like I am waiting for the rug to be pulled from beneath me.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Respectfully,

Nicole Campbell

--

Nicole Campbell

PE Teacher

Gill Elementary

Office phone (248) 888-6293



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Return to School - Please Read**

1 message

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**Danielle Marie Carey** <daniellemariecarey@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 1:14 PM

Dear FPS Board of Education,

I am writing to you as a mother of 2 children - PreK (Early Childhood Center) and 1st grade (Beechview). I wanted to reach out regarding the return to school plans.

First, we are overly pleased with the amount of preparation and dedication we've seen from our Beechview and Early Childhood teachers in transitioning to a virtual style of teaching. It's been a tough year but they have engaged the children and connected with them in so many ways both academically and emotionally. That being said, it has been tremendously difficult to keep up with various class times, school work support, caring for a 3 year old all while we have two full time working parents at home as well. I know some family situations can and might even prefer this but it isn't working for us.

My husband and I listened through 5+ hours of the Board Meeting on Tuesday and like many of you, were invested in understanding the detailed information and planning surrounding the Monday start date. We are pleased with the details - The plan is sound. It's evident how much time and money has been put into the preparation of welcoming students back. Some of you even mentioned that every detail was proven to be carefully considered. Then on Wednesday, our teacher introduced the plan. She showed the class PPE protocols and even introduced new teacher arrangements for those staying virtual. We proceeded to inform our son of the new plan Wednesday evening after teachers rolled out the details so we could start preparing him. Now we are devastated to hear this might change tonight.

Today's class was exceptionally heart breaking. The children did a 'Feelings Exercise' and many exchanged how excited they are to go back to school. This is so emotional for the teachers, for us parents and most of all the children. Please honor the plan, the choice, the preparation and the overall emotional well being of every life it's touched.

Sincerely,  
Danielle Carey



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Send the Kids Back to School**

1 message

**Stefanie** <stefaniemcarlson@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 9:09 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

That email that was just sent out from the superintendent is so bias. And unethical. What is wrong with you people.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 7, 2021, at 1:20 PM, Stefanie Carlson <stefaniemcarlson@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> For the mental health of my family..... PLEASE stop stringing parents and children along this ridiculous decision making process and send the kids back to school! PLEASE. The governor has opened the schools and you need to do so as well. My children are losing so much.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Send the Kids Back to School

1 message

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**Stefanie Carlson** <stefaniemcarlson@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:20 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

For the mental health of my family..... PLEASE stop stringing parents and children along this ridiculous decision making process and send the kids back to school! PLEASE. The governor has opened the schools and you need to do so as well. My children are losing so much.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## Emergency Board Meeting / School Instruction Update January 7

1 message

**Kate Clevio** <kateclevio@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:24 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net

Dear School Board and Superintendent Goodrum,

– **NOT FOR public comment** –

But still feedback/opinion about what the board is doing/not doing for our children.

My son is currently in 3rd grade in the district.

We have opted to remain virtual for as long as the option is available, so it may seem at first that I may not be so invested in the return to school plans.

HOWEVER this back and forth process has GOT TO STOP, for the sake of every teacher, student, and parent in the district.

There are clearly enough families who would send their kids to school almost no matter the circumstances. Statistically speaking, there could be a similar number of teachers who feel the same.

Match them up. At this point, even if schools are mixed up.

Give them full days of school with extreme mitigation and safety processes in place.

OR

Offer a few full-days per week

SO THAT parents who need to go to a physical work location or struggle to do work-from-home with kids in the house can have fully useful time blocks in order to do that.

Do not expose the kids, families, and most of our teachers every day for just 2.5 hours in order to be able to say that we have offered in-person school, or that 2.5 hours is helpful for most working families, or that 2.5 hours with so many special rules is great for any child's mental health.

People who want to schedule play dates have been, and are completely able to do so. From what I have seen on social media, most people sending their children for 2.5 hours ultimately are doing so as a glorified "play date" or "parent break" - both of which can and should be facilitated privately in a way that does not risk all of our teachers, causing further disruption to virtual students.

Several parents I know who work from home see no value, only more inconvenience in the logistics of 2.5 hours of school. Even parents who are confident in their children's ability to follow social distancing rules, whose kids are doing worse with virtual, whose kids are relatively isolated due to family situations and certainly need socializing and such. It helps full-time and part-time working families SO LITTLE it's not worth the effort or time.

While I'm sure some people would see some small mental health and socialization gains from 2.5 hours, the cost to the teachers and REST of the virtual program students is that they too, are being ping-ponged back and forth several times now. And if there are outbreaks, or all schools are closed again, as just happened in several other countries and states, it will ping pong students again, and cause further stress.

**My point is the stress caused VS the exposure risks VS actual gains that the "in-person" parents are likely expecting VS the monetary costs of in-person school for 2.5 hours per day does not balance out.**

If the district has in-person elementary school, it should be a longer day.

Parents who sign up should sign something that they are committed to going absolutely no matter what (and not change based on the numbers, aside from state mandates).

Parents who sign up for virtual should be held accountable to the same, not that they can send kids for a few weeks while numbers are down, then go in person, etc...

with the exceptions being major job or health situations.

Make the pay-off worth it for all students,

OR

Just call it virtual for the rest of the year and save the stress and expense of maintaining in-person classrooms and juggling students and staff over more closures and tracking outbreaks with many people who - let's be honest - refuse to take any precautions outside of classrooms anyway.

Let the teachers focus their efforts fully to one mode of teaching and getting better at it for the 6 months that remain. Let them actually TEACH instead of plan, replan, switch gears, teach the same lesson differently, cleaning rooms, etc. LET THE TEACHERS FOCUS ON ONE MODE OF INSTRUCTION.

I have rambled but hope my thought process is coming across.

The district needs a solid plan that both in-person and virtual students and teachers can RELY ON for the rest of the year.

2.5 hours for 50% of the district or less, on a constantly-changing basis, is personally not worth the tax money for the materials involved for safety protocols, nor the risk to the teachers who the virtual students ALSO NEED TO BE HEALTHY.

I'm baffled at nearly every single step this district has taken through this situation, when we have access to information from multiple other countries, counties, states, and countries, it seems Farmington repeatedly chooses the path of "don't finalize a decision or change it quickly because some people change their minds based on weekly covid numbers."

No one is happy about this entire situation, but at nearly a year later, the district should have solidified a plan for CONSISTENT AND functional in-person scheduling and a CONSISTENT virtual teacher for those who wish to remain remote for a while. And NOT ALLOWING parents switching between the two options based on weekly fluctuations in covid numbers, or based on if their particular student is "liking it" or not. It's all been actually very predictable and following the path of many models that have been widely circulating for over 6 months now.

**THANK YOU ALL THOUGH, for your efforts.**

I know it's not easy. Especially this year. Especially with whatever other things are going on that keeps causing the rotating board members.

I understand everyone is coming at this from completely different angles, but going halfway at everyone's ideas is not working for the community.  
It should not be impossible to do that.

We need solid options that the kids can rely on for the remainder of the year.

Thank you.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## Special Meeting

1 message

**Cohen, Dana, PhD** <Dana.Cohen@beaumont.org>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 9:46 PM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, TERRI WEEMS <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

I really can't believe that I am having to write this e-mail. With all the trials and tribulations this school district has experienced this year, I have never been more embarrassed to call myself a member of this community. And to think you're boasting about a new year with a new board and a fresh start?? Clearly that is not in the cards.

And, PLEASE, Mr. Rich, don't send me your canned reply. I've seen it several times already from various people so I know why you called this Special Meeting. I think it is completely asinine.

The plans you voted on (and approved) were developed assuming NO vaccination. It is excellent news that teachers will be vaccinated soon, but again, these plans met the approval of the board assuming NO vaccination. And, it will take months to roll the vaccine out to teachers. Suggesting a delay to January 25<sup>th</sup> makes absolutely no sense at all. Only a small fraction of teachers will have their first dose by then.

At a time when kids (and families) are stressed like never before, you are adding to that stress unnecessarily and voluntarily. You should really be ashamed. Please, do the right thing. Stop messing with people. Enough is enough.

Dana Cohen, PhD, LP

Clinical Director, Center for Human Development (CHD) Evaluation Services

Director, Approved Autism Evaluation Center (AAEC)

Assistant Professor, OUWB School of Medicine



**Beaumont**  
CHILDREN'S

**OU**  
**WB** School of  
MEDICINE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY WILLIAM BEAUMONT

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1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Special Meeting

Nothing in this message is intended to constitute an electronic signature unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this message.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Return to learn (one more thing)**

1 message

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**Lindsay Cox** <lindsayjayecox@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:53 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Just to add to my previous email, are you aware that it is a law that schools districts prioritize K-5. It was part of the new legislation that passed in the fall. Farmington is one of only 2 districts (besides Southfield) that has not followed through on this law.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to learn

1 message

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**Lindsay Cox** <lindsayjayecox@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:26 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hello board members!

So, let me just get this straight. Not only was this voted on in December, but it was also DISCUSSED in extreme detail TWO DAYS AGO. Mr. Rich, was there a reason that you did not file a motion then to vote again? Instead, we went off and told our children that they would be going back to school, to only now tell them again, for what, the 4th time, that the board went back after 2 days and decided not to? Teachers and buildings have been working tirelessly the past few weeks, working overtime, to prepare schedules, lessons, transitions, safety plans, procedures, for nothing? I want my child to go back, however, regardless of whether or not we return next week, this is a GIANT slap in the face for teachers, staff, and building administrators who are frantically preparing and pouring their heart, energy, and time into making this transition as smooth as possible for their students. I have always given you the benefit of a doubt, stood up for this board when no one else would, but this, this is ridiculous. What has to happen in order for ours kids to go back? Vaccinations? You can't force a vaccine on someone. We will be first in line when we can, but, not all staff will want the vaccine, nor can they get it, and even if they can/do, it won't be effective before 1/25. So, what will change in 2 weeks? NOTHING. We have a SOLID mitigation plan that has been newly approved by the health department. Do I need to enroll my child in a different district? I love our school, and adore our teachers and our principal, I am sickened that this is the decision I have to make, not because of the pandemic, not because I think that schools aren't doing everything humanely possible to keep our kids safe, but because our board is living in a state of what if. We cannot continue like this. Parents can CHOOSE if they want to send their kids back or not, why can't we have the same choice? If they don't want to send them back, they don't have to, how is this any different?

We cannot continue down this path. We are one of the only distracters in Oakland County that hasn't gone back. Please, don't make me tell my 2nd grader AGAIN that she isn't going back. Please don't make me pull my child out of FPS.

-Lindsay Cox-



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to School

1 message

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**Cox, Jason** <Jason.Cox@citizensbank.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:57 PM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

My wife and I have a 7 year old at Forest Elementary School. We have been following along now for months waiting for her to get the opportunity to go back to school. You appear to have the processes in place so we feel safe in sending her back to get the in person education she deserves and needs. You voted on this and approved a return to school for January 11<sup>th</sup>. You had another meeting with returning to school was not on the agenda but it was added anyway. You discussed and reaffirmed you had done what was needed to be done. You attempted a vote but didn't need one because you had already voted in favor to send them back.

You have an options for parents that do not want their kids back at school.

I appreciate the difficult position you are in however you are not alone. There are a number of school districts that are back in school with less precautions that you have taken and are doing great.

It is time to trust the work that has been put in by everyone. These kids and teachers will be safe.

### Jason M. Cox

Mortgage Loan Officer

NMLS# 407181

#### Citizens Bank, N.A.

1000 Haynes Street

Birmingham, MI 48009

(Office 248-901-1333

☎ Cell 734-674-6774

☎ E-Fax 855-590-9449

Website [lo.citizensbank.com/jcox](https://lo.citizensbank.com/jcox)✉ Email [Jason.cox@citizensbank.com](mailto:Jason.cox@citizensbank.com)

1/7/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Return to School

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FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Wait a couple of weeks before sending teachers back

1 message

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**Makayla D'Agostino** <fpsdagostinom11@stu.fpsk12.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 2:36 PM

Hello Board,

I am a student in your district and I'm asking you to rethink sending teachers back before getting vaccinated. Because for one and the most important reason, it's not safe. If you ask me, it's a stupid decision. You should be safe and wait for them to be vaccinated so you don't run the risk of them getting covid. Keep the teachers healthy and safe.

Sincerely,  
Makayla D'Agostino



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Return to school**

1 message

**Jill Daniels** <jilldaniels928@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 9:06 AM

To: TERRI WEEMS &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: ANGIE SMITH &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, ZACH RICH &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, Cheryl Blau &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, Mable Fox &lt;Mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;, Claudia Heinrich &lt;Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;

Thank you for your response.

I'm very glad to hear someone on the board is listening to the overwhelming majority of the community. 63% of parents put their kids in for face to face schooling at Gill Elementary. We want to go back. Give us the option. The parents who want to be online have that option and always have. Give us the option we would like and deserve to have!

The rest of the board should continue with support of face to face schooling like they had before the vaccine was available. It does not make sense that you would be in favor of in person schooling before the vaccine was available and now you are not.

I will say it again... NO MORE EXCUSES!! SEND OUR KIDS BACK!!!

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021, 12:08 AM TERRI WEEMS <terri.weems@fpsk12.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I greatly appreciate your concern and disappointment. Tomorrow's discussion is not one that the board is entering into lightly. There are varying thoughts and opinions, and I understand that there are members who would like the opportunity to discuss this matter again and formally decide on the plans for returning to school next week. The Michigan Open Meetings Act requires that we have these discussions in the open during a public meeting rather than privately.

I have been a proponent of children learning in person, under a safe mitigation plan, since the school year began. I can not be certain of the direction the Board will take tomorrow, but I promise you that I will read every email that I can before tomorrow's meeting and take into consideration all feedback. I sincerely look forward to an outcome that is best for our students.

I appreciate your patience with us. Thank you again for your email.

Most Sincerely,  
Terri Weems  
Board of Education

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:59 PM Jill Daniels <jilldaniels928@gmail.com> wrote:

I was just notified of the board meeting that is happening tomorrow night at 5:30pm the FRIDAY before school is supposed to start. I have been silent until now about going back to school. I have a kindergartener who hates schoolwork because of online schooling. He already hates school and it's his first year here. He is very smart but cannot be challenged the way things are in the online schooling right now. His mental and emotional health is being hurt because of your decision to not allow the parents to decide whether or not to send our kids back. There is no reason why we shouldn't have that decision. The parents who want to keep their kids out of school have that decision but we do not. I also think it is completely unacceptable to have had a school board meeting on Tuesday to then call a special meeting on the FRIDAY before school starts to then crush our kids. So I know have to tell my son that the adults in his life that he is supposed to trust are going back on their word AGAIN! I am so frustrated with this school district and I haven't even been in it for a year. The science and data support that Covid is not mainly transmitted in schools. Many many school districts surrounding us have been back in school since September without issue. Please let our kids go to school! You have had AMPLE time to make a plan, get resources and extra teachers. There are NO excuses at this point. Send our kids to school!

Very frustrated parent,  
Jill Daniels

55





FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Return to school**

1 message

**Jill Daniels** <jilldaniels928@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:42 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net

Thanks for your response.

The fact that the vaccine is available should not keep our students out of schools. You were planning to put kids back in school in November without a vaccine available. Let's think of the students' health for a moment. Plenty of school districts surrounding us have been in school since SEPTEMBER and have been fine without a vaccine. What will be the next excuse in two weeks? That the teachers then need to have the second vaccine before coming back to school? If they don't want to be teachers then they should quit. Our students mental and emotional health should be put first.

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021, 5:06 PM ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. I understand your concerns regarding the special meeting called for tomorrow night and its sole item of voting on delaying the start of in-person schooling. This was not a unilateral decision or a power play on my part. I asked if any board members wanted to make a motion and, when nobody made one, I moved on. Following the Tuesday Board of Education meeting, the Governor announced that teachers will be able to receive the COVID vaccine earlier than previously anticipated. I received requests from multiple board members that we reconsider our back to school plan. Pursuant to our bylaws (1002), "Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or any three (3) Board members by providing not less than 18 hours' notice to all Board members. The notice to Board members and the public shall be consistent in manner and form with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act." Tomorrow was the earliest time to do that while allowing 18 hours' notice as required by Michigan law. I realize that this does not give much time for families to rearrange plans and, depending on the vote, may result in a disappointment for students who are looking forward to being in the classroom come Monday.

Best,  
Zach Rich  
FPS Board President

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:59 PM Jill Daniels <jilldaniels928@gmail.com> wrote:

I was just notified of the board meeting that is happening tomorrow night at 5:30pm the FRIDAY before school is supposed to start. I have been silent until now about going back to school. I have a kindergartener who hates schoolwork because of online schooling. He already hates school and it's his first year here. He is very smart but cannot be challenged the way things are in the online schooling right now. His mental and emotional health is being hurt because of your decision to not allow the parents to decide whether or not to send our kids back. There is no reason why we shouldn't have that decision. The parents who want to keep their kids out of school have that decision but we do not. I also think it is completely unacceptable to have had a school board meeting on Tuesday to then call a special meeting on the FRIDAY before school starts to then crush our kids. So I know have to tell my son that the adults in his life that he is supposed to trust are going back on their word AGAIN! I am so frustrated with this school district and I haven't even been in it for a year. The science and data support that Covid is not mainly transmitted in schools. Many many school districts surrounding us have been back in school since September without issue. Please let our kids go to school! You have had AMPLE time to make a plan, get resources and extra teachers. There are NO excuses at this point. Send our kids to school!

Very frustrated parent,  
Jill Daniels



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to school

1 message

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**Jill Daniels** <jilldaniels928@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:58 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

I was just notified of the board meeting that is happening tomorrow night at 5:30pm the FRIDAY before school is supposed to start. I have been silent until now about going back to school. I have a kindergartener who hates schoolwork because of online schooling. He already hates school and it's his first year here. He is very smart but cannot be challenged the way things are in the online schooling right now. His mental and emotional health is being hurt because of your decision to not allow the parents to decide whether or not to send our kids back. There is no reason why we shouldn't have that decision. The parents who want to keep their kids out of school have that decision but we do not. I also think it is completely unacceptable to have had a school board meeting on Tuesday to then call a special meeting on the FRIDAY before school starts to then crush our kids. So I know have to tell my son that the adults in his life that he is supposed to trust are going back on their word AGAIN! I am so frustrated with this school district and I haven't even been in it for a year. The science and data support that Covid is not mainly transmitted in schools. Many many school districts surrounding us have been back in school since September without issue. Please let our kids go to school! You have had AMPLE time to make a plan, get resources and extra teachers. There are NO excuses at this point. Send our kids to school!

Very frustrated parent,  
Jill Daniels



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**DO NOT DELAY SCHOOL**

1 message

**Kara Danko** <kara.a.danko@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 12:56 PM

To: ZACH RICH &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, TERRI WEEMS &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, boardofed@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Emergency meeting! Is this a joke? You better not do this AGAIN to my children! You said they were going back my children are so happy! They were jumping for joy and had tears in their eyes, they were so happy! Now I see an emergency meeting tomorrow! Their teachers told them we will see you on Monday! You told them they could go to school on Monday! Please! Please! Please! I am begging you let them go back! The PARENTS are choosing to let them go back! Why oh why would you AGAIN take that away from them! In November they were told they were going back, teachers told them... not me! I wasn't going to do that to them. Their teachers told them in November they were going back... BOE said NOPE.... my kids were crying then.... now again teachers on the meetings saying we are going back next week! The BOE said yes! You said yes they could go back! Now a surprise meeting! These are small children you are messing with! My kids are 4,6&8 and teachers said they could go back to school! PLEASE I AM BEGGING YOU! PLEASE DO NOT TAKE SCHOOL AWAY AGAIN! I am begging you as I sit here crying that you might shatter their hearts again! PLEASE do not do it! Let the parents who want the kids in school send them to school! Schools are not super spreaders! Please let them go back to school!

Kara Danko

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Please Return to school!**

1 message

**Kara Danko** <kara.a.danko@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 2:21 PM

To: zach.rich@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net

We are begging you please let the children return to school next week! My 3rd, 1st and preschool children need to be in school. My 3rd and 1st grade children are desperate to go to school! Please please please open the schools next week! All of the experts say schools can be open. Schools are not the super spreaders! Please listen to all the experts! They say kids need to be in school! So please stop punishing the children and open the schools! FPS remained closed when all schools around us were open. Please I am begging you do not do this again to our children!

Kara Danko

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Returning high schoolers to on-site by last name.**

1 message

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**Cindi** <cindistriplets@yahoo.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:28 AM

Good afternoon,

I have heard an upsetting piece of information, that I do not know if it is inaccurate or correct. I am hoping someone from the board can clarify.

I was told that the previous planned chosen way of students' days of attending high school has changed. Earlier this school year, my four high school students looked at MiStar, and knew which days they would be at NFHS. They were excited with going to school with some friends, and accepted not being at school with others. They have looked forward to returning to on-site classes, with the information that was given.

Now I hear that the days students will be in school has changed to front and back part of their alphabetical last name. . PLEASE tell me this is not true. I am so tired of my children having to be flexible, to be understanding, to adjust, to the many changes in these past 10-11 months of school. If the district is changing the days of week students are going back, it is another emotional change, that is not always for the better.

They do not need something else to have to be resilient about, when they have looked forward to who they thought and planned on returning to school with. This may not be an issue the board thinks it is important to students, but after speaking to several students and parents this morning, it is.

Please do not add an additional change they have to accept in regards to school. These kids have had to repeatedly adjust and accept so much. They have done so with grace. Please do not add something more for them to have to adjust to, which they have no control over.

Respectfully,  
Cindi Dinkins

On Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 9:20 PM Yael Eisenberg <[yeisenbe@gmail.com](mailto:yeisenbe@gmail.com)> wrote:

Farmington School District is the only school district in our area that didn't return at least elementary students to school in 10 months. Why would any stakeholder think it is ok to not even offer in person instruction to children in the district in 10 months? West Bloomfield, Walled Lake, Birmingham, Waterford, Novi, Bloomfield Hills, all these districts around us returned students to in person learning this fall. Only our board was so special, they decided they know something no one else does. Our children are suffering because of the dysfunctional board and administration. That is obvious to us, the parents.

It's time to stop making excuses, and do what is best for our kids. They need to be in school; that is obvious. You have an obligation to at least offer that option. Time to wake up, as enrollment in the district is plummeting.

Respectfully,  
Yael Eisenberg



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**MAKE A PLAN AND STICK TO IT**

1 message

**Christine Ferguson** <cwimer6154@aol.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:03 PM

Reply-To: Christine Ferguson &lt;cwimer6154@aol.com&gt;

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" &lt;Mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" &lt;Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;

What an absolute disaster this is. Why on earth wouldn't you have just made a motion on Tuesday instead of waiting until 2 days before the new plan starts to make another decision? My son's Canvas page already switched to his new teacher this morning and we've made arrangements for next week's new schedule and you want to pull the rug out from under us AGAIN? Come on. Everyone knows routine and consistency are what is best for our children so make a plan and stick to it, please, for the sake of everyone in the district. I understand we are in unprecedented and uncertain times, but we've been doing this for almost a year now and this board of education can't seem to find it's way out of a paper bag. The district may be divided on opinions about whether to go back to school or stay virtual but I can say with certainty that we ALL AGREE that we need more consistency with decisions so we can manage our lives accordingly. Get it together.

Cheryl, Mable and Claudia - I voted for all three of you in this last election and I was hoping I could count on some strong, capable women to help right this ship. Please speak up and do the right thing for the kids. Make a plan and stick to it.

My opinion is to send the kids back for those who choose to go. My son is struggling and needs the structure of school. Please keep the start date of 1/11/21 as planned.

Sincerely,  
Christine Ferguson  
Parent of 3rd Grader at Kenbrook Elementary



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**BOE Meeting 1/8/2021**

1 message

**Rick Ferrante** <rickgferrante@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:42 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

To the Board of Education,

First off, you should stop reading all the union backed template comments to keep schools virtual. Those parents have the option to keep their kids home if they so choose. I am so disappointed in this school board. Has anyone thought about the mental toll this is taking on our young children and their families? Other districts have successfully reopened and even extended their face to face learning. This should have been taken care of during the last meeting, two days ago. Now, I have to tell my kindergartener that she may not be going back to school after all. She was so excited to see her teacher and classmates. It's one thing when this board messes with parents, now the kids think they're going back. Have you no shame to break the hearts of the little kids who are filled with excitement to go back to school? Broken hearts, promises, and dreams. That's all on you now.

Rick Ferrante

Sent from my iPhone

**Re: BOE Meeting 1/8/2021**

1 message

**Rick Ferrante** <rickgferrante@gmail.com>

To: TERRI WEEMS &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: ANGIE SMITH &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, ZACH RICH &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, Cheryl Blau &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, Mable Fox &lt;Mable.fox@Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;

Good morning Terri, Zack, and the rest of the Board,

I appreciate your responses. My biggest concern is that this is just another delay tactic. My wife works at a hospital and did receive her first COVID-19 vaccine. Unlike the yearly flu vaccine, considered a trial drug. What happens when some teachers opt not to receive the vaccine? Are we going to pause F2F again? Not to mention the likeness of all teachers getting vaccinated

Along with my wife, I have been working since this pandemic started. Physically going to and from work. I'm a Quality Engineer for a medical device manufacturing facility. As you can imagine setting is impossible. The key is masks. The safety measures that have been presented for the school district far exceed what is capable where I work. While there are risks, that's why it should send their child back as well as giving the teachers the option of F2F or virtual as well.

Please do not punish our kids or teachers any further based on fear.

Thank you for your time,  
Rick Ferrante

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 12:31 AM TERRI WEEMS <terri.weems@fpsk12.net> wrote:

I greatly appreciate your frustration.

It is customary for the Board President to respond to all Board correspondence as the President is the only person authorized to speak on behalf of the Board. A significant amount of correspondence following the announcement of the meeting on Friday, so it may take some time for a formal response.

While I can not speak on behalf of the President or the Board of Education, and individual board members do not usually respond to emails, I feel compelled. I greatly appreciate your concern and disappointment. Tomorrow's discussion is not one that the board is entering into lightly. We have several new board members with varying thoughts and opinions, and I understand that there are members who would like the opportunity to discuss this matter again and formally decide next week. The Michigan Open Meetings Act requires that we have these discussions in the open during a public meeting rather than privately.

I have been a proponent of children learning in person, under a safe mitigation plan, since the school year began. I can not be certain of the direction the school is taking, but I promise you that I will read every email that I can before tomorrow's meeting and take into consideration all feedback. I sincerely look forward to an outcome.

I appreciate your position and I truly sympathize with the anxiety this may have caused for you and your family. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Most Sincerely,  
Terri Weems  
Board of Education

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:42 PM Rick Ferrante <rickgferrante@gmail.com> wrote:

To the Board of Education,

First off, you should stop reading all the union backed template comments to keep schools virtual. Those parents have the option to keep their kids home if they so choose. I am so disappointed about the mental toll this is taking on our young children and their families? Other districts have successfully reopened and even extended their face to face learning. This should be a celebration, two days ago. Now, I have to tell my kindergartener that she may not be going back to school after all. She was so excited to see her teacher and classmates. It's one thing when you think they're going back. Have you no shame to break the hearts of the little kids who are filled with excitement to go back to school? Broken hearts, promises, and dreams. That's all on you!

Rick Ferrante

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

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## Agenda item

1 message

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**Cheryl Fried** <clfried62@yahoo.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 11:25 AM

Hello,  
Can you please give me clarification of the agenda item for tomorrow's meeting "Censure Removal". What is being proposed here and who has proposed it?  
Thank you,  
Cheryl Fried

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Open School Board Position**

1 message

**Cheryl Fried** <clfried62@yahoo.com>

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 3:39 PM

Reply-To: Cheryl Fried &lt;clfried62@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

Hello board members,

I was surprised to hear that you are taking applications and then interviewing candidates for the open school board position. Considering we just had an election, wouldn't it make the most sense to bring on the candidate that had the 3rd most votes from the election? This is the closest you could come to letting the community decide on a candidate. It seems like a waste of time and resources to do it any other way. There are obviously other issues that are more pressing and need your attention. Please let me know your reasoning behind this.

Thank you ,  
Cheryl Fried



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Theresa Gallivan** <theresa.gallivan@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:17 PM

Thank you to Mr. Rich for calling the meeting scheduled for Friday Jan 8th. I hope that the motion passes.  
Thank you again Mr. Rich!!!!

From,  
A teacher teaching from home and knocking it out of the park everyday for students, :)  
Theresa Gallivan



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to school

1 message

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**Melissa Gedrich** <mgedrich2@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:27 PM

To: terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net

This back and forth is ridiculous and unfair to everyone.

Transportation messages have gone out, teachers have told their students the news, parents have told their kids, Schedules have been changed. Plans are in place. Kids are excited!

Come on Farmington Hills.... give this a try already!!



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Back to school decisions**

1 message

**Sarah Gold** <sarahegold@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:35 PM

Reply-To: Sarah Gold &lt;sarahegold@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;,

"Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" &lt;Mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;,

"Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" &lt;Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;

I am completely disgusted with the decisions this school board are making. Make a decision and stick with it! You gave us the option to choose to have our kids either stay virtual or to go back to in person. We've all submitted our preferences. Those not comfortable with face to face learning will keep their kids home. Those who want face to face learning are tired of being jerked around. It's not fair to the parents, teachers or the kids. Kids are full of emotions and are so excited everytime they get told they are going back only to be shattered and heartbroken when they are told that they will be staying virtual. It's almost like they are being teased over and over again. This needs to stop. On the 5th you decided that face to face learning can begin on the 11th. It's irresponsible of you to change your mind last minute. All of the preparations have been made. Stick to your plan and let our elementary kids go back to school on the 11th.

Sincerely,

Sarah Gold - An extremely frustrated parent of a kindergartener, 1st grader, 3rd grader, &amp; 6th grader.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## How Dare You!

1 message

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**Lela Golusin** <lg1281@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:21 PM

Reply-To: Lela Golusin &lt;lg1281@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" &lt;Mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" &lt;Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;

Im so disgusted and disappointed to hear about the meeting, I cannot even type. Mr. Rich, who do you think you are? Do you even HAVE KIDS?!

There are always two sides to a coin. You MUST respect our choice to allow our kids to be in school. How can you continue to deny us for nearly a year? Where you all not listening to the plan explained at the meeting Tuesday?! They are safer in school then anywhere else with the plan in place. We have told our kids they are going to school three times. How dare you deny us! You have teachers in place, buses, mitigation and everything needed to be safe but what you dont have is respect for the parents who dont align with your thinking. Parents can remain virtual- nobody stripped them of their right- but we are being stripped of ours. SHAME ON YOU. Your neighbors are successful and were doing what- listening to Rich ask how they are going to have a 4 min snack behind plastic partitions, 6 feet apart? Get a life!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FPS is a joke, a circus show of ignorance.

Truly disappointed. Spend your time expediting the vaccine to your teachers who don't want to come back to work but certainly have no problem living normal lives while working from home.

Lela Golusin



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## Re: How Dare You!

1 message

**Lela Golusin** <lg1281@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:09 PM

Reply-To: Lela Golusin <lg1281@yahoo.com>

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Thank you for the cut and paste reply you sent to all the enraged parents, Rich. We all got the same email. Insulting to our intelligence. Nothing in the statistics has changed since Tuesday. This Board should be embarrassed. We already got emails from our teachers to get rolling Monday. Wasting time and efforts.

Gretchen has zero to do with FPS. There is no guarantee-ZERO- if and when these vaccines come TO THE TEACHERS and certainly no guarantee the teachers will take it. Then what? My kids are to stay home for over a year? IF they do get a vaccine, the second dose is 28 days later. Now were 2 months down the road. Unacceptable. Simply Unacceptable. What if all the teachers decide its just easier to do virtual and refuse the vaccine? What. Then?

We have an enraged community here.. Tax payers... tax payers who pay the teachers salary yet we have zero voice. But the virtual path parents get a choice. Sounds fair.

I beg you to reconsider. Our children are behind socially, emotionally and educationally.

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:21 PM, Lela Golusin <lg1281@yahoo.com> wrote:

Im so disgusted and disappointed to hear about the meeting, I cannot even type. Mr. Rich, who do you think you are? Do you even HAVE KIDS?!

There are always two sides to a coin. You MUST respect our choice to allow our kids to be in school. How can you continue to deny us for nearly a year? Where you all not listening to the plan explained at the meeting Tuesday?! They are safer in school then anywhere else with the plan in place. We have told our kids they are going to school three times. How dare you deny us! You have teachers in place, buses, mitigation and everything needed to be safe but what you dont have is respect for the parents who dont align with your thinking. Parents can remain virtual- nobody stripped them of their right- but we are being stripped of ours. SHAME ON YOU. Your neighbors are successful and were doing what- listening to Rich ask how they are going to have a 4 min snack behind plastic partitions, 6 feet apart? Get a life!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FPS is a joke, a circus show of ignorance.

Truly disappointed. Spend your time expediting the vaccine to your teachers who don't want to come back to work but certainly have no problem living normal lives while working from home.

Lela Golusin

January 5, 2021

Dear Farmington Board of Education Members:

I am writing this as I listen to the public comments during the Jan 5, 2021 meeting. To say it is frustrating to hear many FPS teachers weighing in on wanting the return to face to face to be delayed is an understatement. Beyond that, when I listen to board meetings I do not understand and have not understood since day one why both groups (remote v. In person learning) cannot be accommodated.

My office went remote March 13, 2020 and has remained that way to this day. We did not miss a beat. Our interactions went from in person meetings to Microsoft Teams or Zoom meetings with little issue. Why would this model not work for schools? Instead of wasting time and money on new platforms, Canvas, that the teachers and students are struggling with the teachers could be set up in their classrooms or their living rooms for the digital presentation. The dual gradebooks have been a disaster. Canvas can sync to MiStar yet five months later it still is in "test". The regular schedules should have been maintained as the 1.5-hour block is inefficient and leads to kids zoning out. The comments that kids cannot take all that screen time must not be witnessing the endless hours that kids spend digitally on TV, TikTok or the like or video games. I think that we who did not grow up in the digital age underestimate the stamina of children.

Those families that want to can be face to face need to be given that opportunity and those that want to stay remote could stream the live classroom. It appears all thoughts and plans are to appease the full remote contingent and nothing for those of us that want to be in person.

I get it. This is a tough decision but there are schools in our district that have been hybrid since August and districts all around us that have been hybrid or full face to face. Our kids are losing ground and the district is losing students to other districts and private schools. If I had the resources, I would have moved my child to Mercy for her last two years of High School. I am sure that I am not alone in that predicament. I do not say that lightly as this is my third and last child to go thru the FPS school system.

I hope that the Board sticks to the plan to have secondary students return to the buildings Jan 25, 2021 because what is more disruptive, returning to school and schoolmates that they know and have known for years or continuing with this uncertainty and isolation of remote learning.

Sincerely,

Melinda Hale  
Farmington Hills, 48336  
Parent of FHS Junior



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to school

1 message

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**hedoml80** <hedoml80@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 6:13 PM

To: ANGIE SMITH &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, TERRI WEEMS &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, boardofed@fpsk12.net, ZACH RICH &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, clausia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hello,

I am writing this regarding the need for another meeting about return to school. This is absolutely ridiculous, you all have voted, you should stick to that. K thru 5 and 6th thru 12th need to return NOW. We all have waited long enough for you all to fight and argue and act like children. You all have had months and months to get it together and come up with a good plan to get these kids back. Majority of the other districts have. Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington has been back since Aug, 5 days a week and are doing fine. Southfield Christian has also been back and fine, along with every other private school. MAJORITY of people are back at work including myself, I work in 2 different hospitals with 100s and 100s of people of all ages and am fine. The CDC, including the health dept has said transmission in schools is low and not a problem. People will always be gathering, you cant stop that, so what you gonna do? Never let the kids come back? It's crazy to say you want to wait for the vaccines for the teachers, when is that going to happen? It still may be a while. I have said it multiple times and I will say it again, you all should be ashamed and embarrassed of yourselves. The damage to these kids both academically and mentally is sad. For the people who are saying virtual is working or the kids are learning obviously have to say that because that couldn't be further from the truth. Virtual is a joke. The kids are not learning, instead are stressed and falling behind. Yea I am sure you have a select few who are fine but the majority are not, mine 3 children included and all the parents kids I know. I dont care about politics, the left right or whatever. I care about one thing only, the well being of my 3 kids! Again, they have waited long enough, let them go back. Who wants to teach in school let them who wants to stay home let them teach virtually. If I had a choice I would leave the district, but I cant just move and private schools is to much especially with 3 and one entering HS. Hopefully you start really thinking about the kids and stop with all your political beliefs and personal agendas and open the schools.

Thanks

Maria Luisa Hedro

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8+.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Elementary Return Special Meeting - 1/8/2020

1 message

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**Lisa Holmes** <ldholmes0904@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:14 PM

Dear FPS BOE –

I am sending you this letter to you all individually and to the general Board email directly and will be submitting a shorter version to be read for public comment. I have always been a strong proponent of Farmington Public Schools and this Board of Ed so I am beyond upset that I even have to consider writing this letter to you.

Less than 48 hrs ago the change to Elem. return to school wasn't even on your agenda, it was added and then not a single member could bring a motion to the table to change the plan. It seemed that while maybe your comfort level wasn't 100% in support of the plan to return on 1/11 you respected that approx. 50% of the elementary population was supportive of all of the work that had been done to keep our kids safe and return them to the classroom under 'different' circumstances.

I know that the decision to return these elementary students was difficult for many families. **The fact that NONE of you had to make the decision personally and NOW you chose to revisit this reprehensible and disrespectful to those of us that did.** We were asked to make a commitment for the rest of the school year starting January 25 almost 2 months ago. I really can't believe that you are going back on these recommendations with so little notice. These decisions don't just affect the students that are going Hybrid but the ones staying virtual as well.

As the message was posted that there would be a meeting called to possibly vote on pushing back the date our Students and teachers were working hard to balance and adjust to what their new normal would be on Monday. This process takes more than a flip of the switch, FPS Administration has said it takes a week to switch over Canvas and MiStar and now you expect them to re-do it in 60 hours over a weekend when the changes were just made hours ago. Students have learned of and met their new teachers and classmates and heard of plans of what Monday will bring for them. Teachers have spent hours planning how to conduct these first hours and have busted their butts since you did not make a change on Tuesday.

Parents have rescheduled their jobs, daycare and even in some cases how they will feed their students based on the decisions you didn't change on Tues. In considering the push of returning to the classroom have you considered staffing for Y-care? Have you considered those students that expect and NEED the breakfast and lunches they were expecting to get on Monday.

I understand that not every parent or person feels the same way about students returning to the classroom but that's why we were given options. Options that by changing your minds and pushing off return you're telling many parents that their decision is wrong.

Also, with the motion of returning Elementary to the classroom on Jan 25 you're also not listening to what our administration (and Gov.) has suggested. You're not allowing Special Education students to return as soon as possible and you're not putting K-5 students first. When FPS Admin proposed this plan it was to roll back in slowly. To allow time for adjustments and kinks to be worked out and to focus on the highest needs. We have been told that Jan 25 is the best time to bring back secondary as if they waited longer it would mess with hours of requirements for graduation, and mess with the semester. So if you're listening to that will Elem. Still go back on the 25<sup>th</sup> or will we have to wait until Feb.

If the plan is to wait for vaccines to become available for teachers please note that while there were some spaces opened up and some teachers were able to gain appointments after the release date of Jan 11. But, per the Oakland County Health Dept, as of 11am on 1/7 there were no more slots available, and no more expected to be added until February - and that is the first dose - that takes 3 weeks to gain some immunity and a 2nd dose will be necessary 3-4 weeks after first. So we're looking at the end of February before our teachers could possibly return to the classroom fully immunized? IF they choose to receive a vaccine - is the Board planning on making that mandatory?

Please don't go back on your decision that was made earlier this week. Give our students and teachers the chance to prove to you what neighboring Districts have been doing since September. Respect parents and their opinions about what's best for their children.

75

Thank you for reading,

1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Elementary Return Special Meeting - 1/8/2020

Lisa Holmes



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Frustration and Disappointment

1 message

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**sarah hone** <sarahjhone@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:01 PM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "caludia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <caludia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Good afternoon,

I am so beyond frustrated with watching the board meetings and the decisions that are being made. In times of distress we need consistency at the very least. I am so thankful that I am the parent of two middle schoolers right now and that I do not currently have any elementary school aged children. The way they have been pushed around and ill informed is such a disgrace. These parents need to PLAN, these teachers need to PLAN and these kids need stability. They were going to start, then didn't, now they are going to start again BUT wait, maybe not.

ITS GOING TO BE FRIDAY TOMORROW! Teachers need to know before Friday night WHERE they are supposed to be on Monday! I feel so bad for everyone involved. You guys didn't even inform the teachers of this last minute meeting. Teachers are on Meets right now, telling kids that they will see them on MONDAY and now....maybe not. These kids are going to trust anyone and it's your fault. You make the teachers look like idiots. The parents are going to have to find last minute care for their children. It's crazy! There is no reason for these last minute calls. In December parents were on social media more than a week before questioning the call to go back. How do you not look at the covid rates and know the trend? Parents had in the back of their heads that it wasn't going to happen. Then I think that we just a day or two before hand they found out. Now, seriously, there was a meeting just the other day! Very unorganized I might add (I tried to dismiss that because of all of the changes) but what has happened between now and then in just a couple of days to change the plan to return?

I don't care what the decision is, like i stated, I don't have an elementary student at this time BUT this is not fair to anyone. Things needs to change! Things need to be better planned out!

I am not threatening to take my kids out of the school. I am just hoping and praying for LOTS of change in the near future!

The things that have taken place in the last few months are unacceptable especially the last couple of meetings. Please make sure that teachers know what's going on. Maybe send an email out to the entire district that an emergency meeting is being called. That way at least they could know not to get the kids excited that they will see each other on Monday. So sad!

-Sarah Lott



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to School

1 message

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**Elizabeth Jerrell** <elizabethjerrell@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:24 PM

To: zach.rich@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Dear Board Members,

I do not understand what is going on with this board. You all spoke about the return to learn on tuesday and decided that the elementary students were able to return safely on January 11th. I watched the complete meeting because I wanted to be informed as to whether we were going back or not. I have a kindergartner at Gill and she is very excited to return. We started preparing her because of the Monday start date.

My family moved to Farmington Hills because the school district was great 6 years ago, now that our child is ready to utilize the schools the district is in shambles. It's extremely disappointing and discouraging.

The fact that you did not vote on this at the last board meeting and now want to vote on the Friday before they return, is completely unacceptable. What changed? I remember you all speaking about the fact that this mitigation plan was in place before we had a vaccine so that is not the case. What about the teachers in this district? They have put so much effort into making sure that they have plans in place for Monday. What about the students? They are completely discouraged everytime there is a chance to return to school and it is ripped out from under them. Lastly, what about the families? This adds additional stress to a family in an already extremely stressful time. I feel as though you do not care if the students return or not. I hope that you pull this meeting, I do not see a reason to keep it.

Liz Jerrell



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## Reconfirmation of return to school plan

1 message

**Amy Jones** <amy@amyjonesadmin.com>

Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 1:34 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net

Dear FPS Board of Education,

I am writing to encourage you continue to reconfirm the hybrid plan for secondary students to return to in-person learning for second semester for the following reasons:

- The FPS administration team has created a robust plan to allow students to return to school.
- The December 18, 2020 MDHHS order specifically allowed high schools to re-open.
- Daily case numbers in both Oakland County and the state of Michigan are significantly lower than when the decision to halt the return to in-person learning was made, and are continuing to decrease.
- Numerous agencies and experts have recommended that students can return to in-person learning safely. Here are just a few resources:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6950e3-H.pdf>
  - <https://www.businessinsider.com/anthony-fauci-close-bars-school-instruction-coronavirus-infections-health-2020-11>
  - <https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2020-12-16/cdc-most-coronavirus-infections-in-kids-not-linked-to-school>
  - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-surge-schools-reopen-rethink-quarantines-11608247643>
- Oakland County currently has the highest vaccination rate in the state ([https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_103214\\_103272-547150--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214_103272-547150--,00.html))
- It has been nearly 10 months since our kids have been inside a classroom. Many of them are struggling to learn in an exclusively online setting, and are disconnecting from their education. [This article about the failure rate among online learners at Jenison HS](#) is eyeopening: 25% are failing at least one class. I'm curious to know what the current failure rates at FHS and NFHS are, compared to previous years.

The students who have opted for the in-person option understand the associated obligation to adhere to necessary guidelines. On behalf of my son, a senior at FHS who desperately wants to return to school for his last semester of high school, I'm asking you to give our kids the opportunity to successfully return to in-person learning instead of assuming they will fail to take the necessary precautions.

--



**Amy L. Jones**

Jones Administrative Solutions

248-245-1520 | Amy@amyjonesadmin.com

amyjonesadmin.com

33039 Tall Oaks Street, Farmington, MI 48336

"You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it." - Joyce Meyer



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Keeping Teachers Safe

1 message

Arya Karki &lt;fpskarkia69@stu.fpsk12.net&gt;

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 2:54 PM

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, "bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net" &lt;bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net&gt;

Dear Members of the Farmington Schoolboard,

I'm a ninth grader at Farmington High School. I moved to Michigan in third grade, and though the transition was hard for me, I was eventually able to feel at home in my new community thanks to my teachers. Every year since then, I've had the most wonderful teachers I could ask for. They made coming to school every day exciting. It was obvious how much each and every one of them cared for their students.

Of course, the feeling was mutual. I, as a student, care for my teachers as well, and I know that any other student would agree with me on that. The teachers and staff at my schools have helped my friends and me through many difficult times. Now, I think it's about time we help them in return, and if this isn't a difficult time, I don't know what is.

All I'm asking is that you give the teachers a choice—whether they want to go back in person, or continue to work from home for just a bit longer. It won't be forever. As I'm sure you know, teachers are now able to get vaccines. However, there just hasn't been enough time for all of them to be able to go in and get them. If they were given just a little more time, they'd be able to come back to school without the fear of getting ill.

It's just not fair that students should get the choice of whether or not to return to in-person school, and teachers should not. COVID-19 has been shown to affect older people more severely than the young. Many of our teachers are at a higher risk level than students. Even if they were to somehow remain healthy, this puts their family members in danger. There are a lot of teachers who have children, if not parents to take care of. Other families get to choose what levels of interaction they're willing to risk, but teachers are forced to endanger their entire families.

When put in this position, the only other option that teachers have is to quit their jobs, which isn't any easier for them. Every teacher I've known has put an incredible amount of love and devotion into their job, and to give it up means they lose all of that. Not to mention the financial insecurities they may face without a reliable source of income.

We've been able to manage in online school for months now. Of course it's not ideal, but in times like these, we don't really have much of a choice. There are arguments that children will be disappointed to have to stay away from the school environment that they need, but I'd like you to ask yourselves what is really more important. Is it the disappointment of having to wait a few more weeks before having to return to school? Or is it a *life*?

I'm missing my school and my friends more than ever now, but I'm willing to stay home to protect the safety of others. Who deserves that safety more than our teachers?

To the school board members, I'm asking you to please reconsider your decision to send teachers back to school without a choice. Teachers have always put so much into helping others. They deserve something, if even just this small change, in return.

Sincerely,  
Arya Karki



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## regarding return to in-person learning

1 message

**Emily Karlichek** <emily.m.karlichek@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:47 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, robert.herrera@fpsk12.net, bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net, DIANE BAUMAN <diane.bauman@fpsk12.net>

Cc: Mark Gregory <mkdesigninc@gmail.com>

Hello,

I just received the email about the cancellation of tonight's meeting. I was in the process of submitting my public comment, and wanted to pass along portions of it. I wanted to make the board and district leadership aware of my concerns, at least to say I tried. I am not asking you to not provide the in-person option, but in a strange way, I guess I'm hoping you're unaware of how unprepared we are to go back from a logistical and safety standpoint at the school level. My child attends Kenbrook and I have serious concerns about a return to the building, which I have shared with my son's teacher, principal and social worker, with very little response or action.

We all know we are still at a level E risk, for which OCHD advises for this risk level a pause of in-person of at least 14 days to review mitigation and possibly include testing, which also has not been even mentioned as a precaution for a return. There were 2 cases at FPS as of 12/21 per state reporting, in the maintenance department; what is the status of those cases? Maintenance staff travel between buildings, and not knowing the status of that outbreak is very concerning as we prepare to put our children in buildings with potentially exposed staff.

It is abundantly clear that we are NOT where the district itself said we needed to be, on any level, to safely phase into face-to-face learning, but it's happening anyway. That said, I am very concerned at the lacking level of preparation for a safe return, or at least the safest possible if we are going to ignore the science and send children and faculty into this high-risk environment. The Moving Forward Learning Plan, which was presented to and approved by the board in December for a possible January return, stated the district would have:

- Enhanced ventilation efforts – *the last update on the planned return was Dec. 15 and makes no mention of air quality or ventilation efforts other than air purifiers in the classrooms*
- Cleaning processes for buildings with Quality Assurance Checks – *the Dec. 15 update stated 85% of custodial positions had been filled; we have no updates on the state of our custodial staff or efforts to replace the facilities director*
- Facial coverings – *we received no direction from our school or the district on if children need to provide their own masks, how many they need, what kind they need, wash frequency advice, or training our children in wearing them for long periods of time*
- Social distancing procedures – *my school's return plan has all bussed children coming in through one door, all others through another, with no distancing or lineup procedure; distancing and temperature checks have been omitted from their entry plan*
- Temperature checkpoints – *these have been omitted from my school's return plan*
- Signage – *these have not been shown to parents, so we can't tell our kids what to look for*
- Designated areas for quarantine – *these areas in our school have not been shared with us, so we do not know where symptomatic staff and/or children will be quarantined in relation to classrooms, common areas and travel paths*

I have listened to nearly every board meeting in the past year, and as discussions went on, several key points were raised repeatedly as considerations for a return to school:

- Partnership with families and understanding of their various challenges
- Quality of education, equitable access and effective delivery
- Health and safety of teachers, students, staff and families
- Mental and emotional health of students

Rightfully so, these discussion points were continuously raised. However, now they seem to have all been chess pieces for argument, not actual focuses for planning and execution. I want to believe that is not the case. I love our district and would choose it again and again. But, seriously - I'm hurt, I'm frustrated, and I'm scared what the impact of opening the schools now will be with families having little to no ability to prepare thoroughly for the many aspects of a return.

My school sent out their return plan on Wednesday of this week, January 6. They gave families LESS THAN A WEEK to prepare for their child's first steps into the building in almost a year. This is honestly appalling and disrespectful. Our families come from all walks of life and have various situations they are managing as best they can, and our school district cannot prioritize giving them access to information more than a few days ahead of time? The district has been planning for months and months what a return would look like, and to not inform families with standardized, high quality and timely information is a massive failure, especially with all the free resources available to schools through the county. This puts all families, but especially the most vulnerable, in an even more difficult position. You can't expect parents to all successfully pivot around adjusted dropoff and pickup procedures and timelines, purchase classroom and PPE supplies, and have their child prepared mentally and emotionally, in only a few days. Many families don't have the budget or transportation to react to supply needs that quickly. Many adults need time to process expectations and then have discussions with their children. If we have younger children (or even older or special needs children), we need time to teach them new routines - to teach, practice, coach and practice some more. Students will come to school without the information, emotional preparation, skill sets and supplies needed to learn, and to keep themselves and others safe from the high risk of transmission of this very real virus. They will be overwhelmed, embarrassed and in danger. If our students mess up when learning to raise their hand or walk in class, that can be coached; if they don't wash their hands or wear their mask or distance properly, people could die. Additionally, while some things may seem like common sense around masks, hand washing and distancing, not all families have had the same pandemic experience, and not only do I want my child prepared, but I want the children he is exposed to also to be prepared to keep him safe. It's not enough to leave it up to parents to know how to prepare their child for a pandemic classroom; the district MUST empower families with standardized, age-appropriate information and guidance. Every family is different, but we all need to be on the same page to keep one another safe. This isn't something the district can assume or hope is happening in homes.

Over the past year, the district has successfully adapted to using a virtual platform for almost every aspect of learning. Now, my school's return plan requires a paper form to be filled out and sent in with each child every day, and they expect parents to print these daily or their child will not be let into the building. How is that equitable? After moving everything to a virtual space successfully, now when we plan to return, parents – some without internet, computer or printer access – are expected to do this in order for their child to have access to their education? We've picked up 3 supply packets this year with no more than 100 pieces of paper total, and gotten by with our own supplies at home all year; it's a gross showing of the lack of empathy for parents and a shocking shortfall of resources that this is an expectation.

Finally, student mental health is a topic brought up by parents both in support of and opposed to a return to face-to-face at this time. Only after I asked multiple times for resources to coach and prepare my child for the return was I sent a couple videos to share with him, and I had to beg for my school to send this information to all families. This is too little, too late. If we expect our kids to not only take on new schedules, new teachers, and a new learning style for many, but also hygiene routines, new procedures for every activity in school, and a totally different learning space than they have ever experienced, then we have to prepare them for that. Our district has amazing social workers and professionals who are charged with supporting the mental and emotional needs of our students, and the district needs to do better. Once again, student needs are a constant bargaining chip, but they are obviously not a part of the holistic approach to serving the student population as we look toward phasing in to face-to-face learning.

It is hugely disappointing that our families are perceivably an afterthought in almost every aspect of the return to in-person instruction, and we are not being given the information, tools and support we desperately need to make this transition as smooth as possible.

I had hoped to include this in my public comment: Teachers will begin being vaccinated next week, and in a couple weeks most will have had their first round. In 1 or 2 weeks we will see the data on the impact of the holidays, and we know for a fact a large number of families in the district traveled and hosted guests from in and out of state. In a couple weeks we'll know more about the new strain of COVID-19, and how we should react to it. With a couple extra weeks, the district can provide all the critical information, resources and support to families, supplemented by enhanced and complete specific school plans. We've come this far and we are so close to having a safe return, if we can just give it a couple more weeks. I urge the board to delay the return to in-person learning for elementary students to at least January 25, 2020.

I know that the return is happening and there's nothing I can do about that. But YOU, our leadership, CAN do something about *how* we do it. You can use the little time you have left before opening those doors to try and get families up to speed on what to expect, and how to prepare their children, for the health and safety of everyone. I don't say these things to minimize in any way all the work that has been done this year to manage COVID learning and support families - but sometimes, it's just not enough, and without feedback you'd never know. This will be such a jarring and stressful experience for our kiddos - yes, they're strong and resilient, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't do everything we can to make it as smooth as possible for them. Please do all you can, as efficiently as you can, to prepare them and their families so we can minimize the negative impacts and the risks involved.

Thank you for your service to our school community and for reading my email.

Best,

-----  
Emily M. Karlichek

1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - regarding return to in-person learning

248-882-4027 (cell)

[emily.m.karlichek@gmail.com](mailto:emily.m.karlichek@gmail.com)

LinkedIn Portfolio: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/emilymkarlichek>

***"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill***

***"Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside of them was superior to circumstance." Bruce Barton***



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Steve Goldberg for Farmington Hills School Board**

1 message

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**Jason Katz** <jkatz@katz2law.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 2:26 PM

Dear school board members:

I'm writing to express my support for Steve Goldberg for the open school board seat. By way of background, I am a Farmington Hills resident and both my daughters have gone through the Farmington Hills public school system. Steve is incredibly bright, hard working, and organized. He is a dedicated father and is committed to helping and improving the Farmington Hills school system. I would urge you all to select him for this important position. He won't let you down.

If there is any other information you need from me, please do not hesitate to call.

Jason Katz

(248) 910-9423

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FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Return to School**

1 message

**Deanna Lashbrook** <deavoa@icloud.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 1:01 PM

To: TERRI WEEMS &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: Board 1 &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, Board 2 &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, Board 3 &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, Board 4 &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, Board 5 &lt;Mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;, Board 6 &lt;Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;

Ms. Weems-

Thank you for your response. I am certain you have received many emails.

Please note- that for my family, there is no anxiety. I am a full time remote employee, so I am always here. My son, is an easy going kid who doesn't do drama. And while I believe he will learn more in person I enjoy having him home.

My response to this situation is strictly based on how our board is representing our district.

The key word in your response is IF. The board did not opt to vote on delaying the start Tuesday, the opportunity was given. To adjust that position 2 days later without great reason is inappropriate and only serves to further tarnish the image of our district and cause hardship to many of our families. This decision to even bother meeting again on it definitively shows that either due diligence was not done prior to the Tuesday meeting or facts were ignored. It also specifically confirms most people's belief that our board is not open or honest at the meetings and does things in secret behind the backs of our district. Not to mention the absolute inability to commit to a decision.

I will say it again- The ONLY option is to leave the return plans as they are. Any other decision will be another embarrassment to our district. Not that anyone will be shocked at that. I hear regularly from out of district families that they saw us in the news, AGAIN. Please, do NOT do this.

-Deanna Lashbrook

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 8, 2021, at 12:07 PM, TERRI WEEMS <terri.weems@fpsk12.net> wrote:

I sincerely appreciate your comments.

I have been a proponent of in person school, for students who need it, IF it can be done safely. However, if the board decided to hit the pause button on Tuesday, I would have supportive of mycolleagues decision. I am very disappointed at the prospect of a last minute change.

I am not certain what information will be shared or discussed tonight, but as a proponent of children learning in person (safely), I will take into consideration all feedback we are receiving and I will encourage my colleagues to do the same. I sincerely look forward to an outcome that is best for our students.

I appreciate your position and I truly sympathize with the anxiety this may have caused for you and your family. Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Most Sincerely,  
Terri Weems  
Board of Education

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 7:51 AM Deanna Lashbrook <deavoa@icloud.com> wrote:

Good Morning, I would like to start by saying I have supported and defended every return to school decision our board has made, whether I agreed or not. Mainly because I truly believed our board had our children's best interests at heart.

85

Personally I am blessed to have the ability to keep my elementary child home as needed, with little or no notice. Many other families are not. I want to understand why, when we just had a significant discussion on whether or not to vote on delaying the return to school, we are now having a special meeting? I listened to the meeting on Tuesday and the questions of whether or not our elementary schools were prepared and whether or not it was "safe" to go back on Monday Jan 11th were asked. Both answers were YES. Now, after parents, teachers and students have prepared themselves to go back, you want to vote, on a FRIDAY night whether or not you should delay a MONDAY return.

This inability to commit to a decision is definitely one of the reasons that Farmington Public Schools look so bad against surrounding districts. If you had decided to vote on this delay Tuesday, I would have absolutely supported whatever decision was made. The opportunity to vote was brought up and no one opted to. I cannot in any way support this meeting or this vote. The decision was made, even having this meeting is making our district and board look indecisive and wishy washy. Any information you try to pass off as "new" specifically means that the necessary due diligence prior to Tuesdays meeting was not done or information was ignored. This includes the fact the immunizations are becoming available to teachers.

I am severely disappointed in our boards decision to have this meeting and this vote. The ONLY answer at this time is to leave the return to school as it is. Any other decision is yet another embarrassment to this district.

-Deanna Lashbrook  
10 Years in the district, 3 children, 1 in Elementary.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to School

1 message

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**Deanna Lashbrook** <deavoa@icloud.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 7:51 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

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-Deanna Lashbrook

10 Years in the district, 3 children, 1 in Elementary.



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to In-Person Learning

1 message

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**Evan Lytle** <evan.lytle@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 9:41 PM

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

At the announcement today that there will be another board meeting to discuss in-person learning, I was immediately concerned with the prospect that you will be retracting your decision to return to in-person learning.

Please, please, please don't do this. Our children need to return to school. I have full confidence that the facilities and faculty are properly equipped to accept our student into the schools and to maintain their safety. As a household with a nurse and a physician, we understand the risks of COVID-19 but we are more concerned with the social and emotional development that our children are missing out on. We are hopeful that you will weigh the risks of keeping our children home bound and decide to move forward. Thank you,

--

Dr. Evan Lytle DO  
Michigan State University  
Ascension Providence Hospital Department of Neurosurgery



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Please vote to stay with in person learning January 11**

1 message

**Angel MacDougall** <macdougallmom@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 11:26 AM

To: terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net

Good morning:

This is beyond disappointing that the Board of Education has called this meeting to change what was decided just a few days ago. Many of us parents are only asking for the choice to send our kids to in person learning. We respect that some families choose to stay remote, but we want to be given the same respect to make the choice best for our kids and family.

After listening to the last few board meetings and hearing all that our district and staff have done to prepare for in person learning this makes no sense. How is it possible that all of our neighboring districts have been back in school including parochial schools within our district and you cannot give us the same option?

I respectfully request that you vote to stay with the return to learn plan for January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!

Angel MacDougall

2 students at Power MS

1 student at Longacre Elementary



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Hello**

1 message

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**Kristy Mason** <lilyrate37@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:02 PM

I would like to comment on how you guys now want to delay in person for elementary school. This is just ridiculous these poor kids have been threw enough and these teachers have been working very hard to get their classrooms ready. Also if you guys are doing a delay now because they announced how teachers can get vaccinated that's just ridiculous. Since Oakland county is no longer taking appointments for the vaccine since there is a huge shortage. Also people can't even get their 2nd shot until February or so. So if you guys want to wait until all teachers are vaccinated then these kids can forget about going back at all this year. This is very sad. Lots of kids need in person and can not handle online only. Also so sad how Farmington School District is losing kids because of this back to fourth stuff. Tons of school district are back and Farmington have never even gone back at all. Really making think twice about our district. Just so sad. Stop going back and fourth. All these kids are excited about going back. Parents have arrange all their plans with kids back to school and their work schedule. How do you even think it's possible to give everyone a 48 hours notice???? This is again ridiculous.

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to in person learning

1 message

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**Neesha Mattison** <neesha.mattison@gmail.com>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 12:56 PM

Hello,

My name is Neesha Mattison and I am a Kindergarten teacher in our district as well as a parent of a 2nd grader. I am writing to ask you to please pause in person learning. I love my job. I love my students and I want nothing more than to go back to "normal". I want my 7 year old back in school. It has not been easy being mom and teacher to him. But as much as I want normalcy, we are not there yet. Covid numbers haven't gone down and the repercussions of the holiday season, traveling, etc have not been determined yet.

One argument I keep hearing is that students and parents need the choice to go back in person or stay virtual. They should have the right to choose. What about the teachers? We don't get a choice in this. We either go back when we don't feel it's safe to do so or we lose our jobs. That is our "choice".

Teachers are just now able to be vaccinated. Give us time to do that and build up the antibodies. Let us protect ourselves, our personal families, and our students.

Thank you for your time,

Neesha Mattison



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Comment on BoE Special Meeting for Tomorrow (8 January)**

1 message

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**Dustin May** <dustinmay2@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:16 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you regarding the agenda item scheduled for discussion in tomorrow's special meeting. Based on the agenda, it appears you will be discussing the return to learning plan which was just discussed and affirmed TWO DAYS AGO at the regular board meeting. Please do not reconsider this plan. Stick with the plan as you agreed to on Tuesday. This is completely irresponsible and should not even be a discussion at this point.

This board is disappointing and making me reconsider having my child in FPS.

Dustin May



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Emergency Board of Education Meeting 1/8/21 5:30 p.m.**

1 message

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**Mayled, Mary** <mmayled@plastipak.com>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:16 PM

Dear Board of Education,

Please advise what has changed since Tuesday that requires this emergency meeting?

We have the right to know.

We are paying for a proper, quality education and our children are not receiving one with the current structure.

This return to in-person instruction has been delayed for far too long.

Do not continue to disappoint your electors or their child further.

Thank you.

Mary



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

# Please explain the decision on in person schooling

1 message

Scott McLane <scott.p.mclane@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:42 AM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net

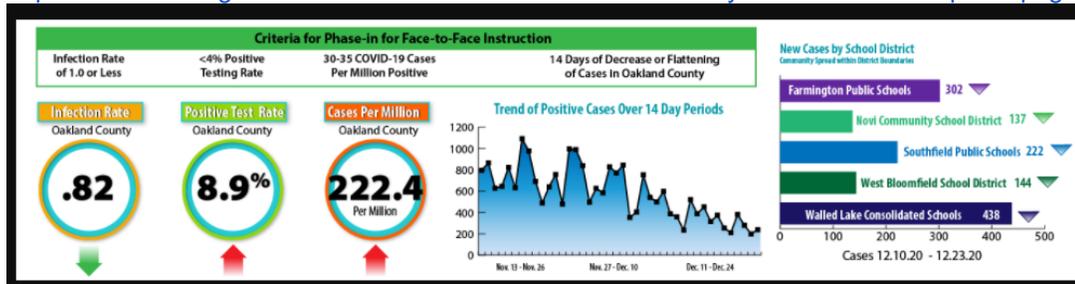
Hello,

when we had to make our decision on hybrid or fully virtual for semester 2, it was communicated that we would only return to in person based on meeting data based criteria indicating it was safe to return to in person learning.

That criteria is still posted on the FPS Moving Forward to Learning website. It appears to me that we still do not meet 2 out of the 3 requirements to return to in person learning, yet I'm hearing that it was decided last night to return to in person learning starting Monday for primary and January 25th for secondary students.

Are we no longer following the criteria that was laid out when we were required to make a decision as parents?

<https://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/cms/lib/MI01808718/Centricity/Domain/1550/snapshot.png>



Thank you

Scott McLane



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Return to school**

1 message

**Adriana Montanheiro** <montanheiroadriana@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:29 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hi I'm so sick of this board for making decisions and not sticking to it . We got to decide if we wanted our kids to go full virtual or hybrid and I think the parents that choose hybrid for our kids should have it . The board is not listening to us and keeps changing its mind doing more damage to our kids and district. Many students have left the district which only harms our district! Please do the right thing and go ahead with the plan for hybrid.

Adriana Motanheiro

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**DO NOT CHANGE THE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN**

1 message

**Kristina Neathamer** <kdrake13@hotmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:16 PM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Our Teachers have planned, in some cases saying goodbye to students transitioning to other teachers.

Our Schools have planned and prepared.

Parent have planned and changed schedules to make pick ups and drop offs work.

BUT most importantly...

OUR CHILDREN are ready. They have been told they will see friends and teachers on Monday. They are excited, MANY of them NEED this. IT WILL BE DEVISTATING to tell them once again, our Board of ED has changed their minds AGAIN and no they will not be able to go to School on Monday.

We know a vaccine is going to be available...teachers can still sign up and get it...but it will take weeks likely longer for them to become vaccinated. You discussed this on Tuesday...The Mitigation plans in place are enough while they get vaccinations in place. Several Other school districts are and HAVE BEEN back successfully.

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE PLAN.

The families who want to stay remote are able. Please allow the families that want/need to have their kids in school able to.

Thank you,  
Kristie Neathamer  
Mom of 5th and 7th graders in FPS  
734-625-2006



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: DO NOT CHANGE THE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN**

1 message

**Kristina Neathamer** <kdrake13@hotmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:02 PM

To: ZACH RICH &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" &lt;angie.smith@fpsk12.net&gt;, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" &lt;Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" &lt;Mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" &lt;Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net&gt;

Thank you for your quick response.

Hopefully you are doing the follow up research on when and how teachers can get their vaccinations and not delaying based on the release of this group from our governor. There are already backlogs and waitlist for teachers to get an appointment, some not until February, some can't even get a date, then there is a 3-4 week wait for the second shot and a 2 week wait for full effectiveness. HOW does waiting until January 25th change any of the circumstances that we will have on Monday January 11th? It does however break the hearts, souls and spirits of children who have been told "all the precautions are in place, it's safe you can go to school if you follow all the new rules".

On Tuesday the overall BOE was in agreement that the precautions in place were safe even WITHOUT THE VACCINATION.

It could be May before many of these teachers are fully vaccinated and that is assuming they want to and choose to get vaccinated at all.

I will again repeat...

**DO NOT CHANGE THE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN**

Loyal Parent of 2 children that want and NEED to be in school F2F,  
Kristie Neathamer  
734-625-2006

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**From:** ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:22 PM**To:** Kristina Neathamer <kdrake13@hotmail.com>**Subject:** Re: DO NOT CHANGE THE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. I understand your concerns regarding the special meeting called for tomorrow night and its sole item of voting on delaying the start of in-person schooling. This was not a unilateral decision or a power play on my part. I asked if any board members wanted to make a motion and, when nobody made one, I moved on. Following the Tuesday Board of Education meeting, the Governor announced that teachers will be able to receive the COVID vaccine earlier than previously anticipated. I received requests from multiple board members that we reconsider our back to school plan. Pursuant to our bylaws (1002), "Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or any three (3) Board members by providing not less than 18 hours' notice to all Board members. The notice to Board members and the public shall be consistent in manner and form with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act." Tomorrow was the earliest time to do that while allowing 18 hours' notice as required by Michigan law. I realize that

this does not give much time for families to rearrange plans and, depending on the vote, may result in a disappointment for students who are looking forward to being in the classroom come Monday.

Best,  
Zach Rich  
FPS Board President

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:16 PM Kristina Neathamer <[kdrake13@hotmail.com](mailto:kdrake13@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Our Teachers have planned, in some cases saying goodbye to students transitioning to other teachers.

Our Schools have planned and prepared.

Parent have planned and changed schedules to make pick ups and drop offs work.

BUT most importantly...

OUR CHILDREN are ready. They have been told they will see friends and teachers on Monday. They are excited, MANY of them NEED this. IT WILL BE DEVISTATING to tell them once again, our Board of ED has changed their minds AGAIN and no they will not be able to go to School on Monday.

We know a vaccine is going to be available...teachers can still sign up and get it...but it will take weeks likely longer for them to become vaccinated. You discussed this on Tuesday....The Mitigation plans in place are enough while they get vaccinations in place. Several Other school districts are and HAVE BEEN back successfully.

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE PLAN.

The families who want to stay remote are able. Please allow the families that want/need to have their kids in school able to.

Thank you,  
Kristie Neathamer  
Mom of 5th and 7th graders in FPS  
734-625-2006



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Please keep decision to return to school

1 message

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**Gretchen A. Olson** <olsongra@trinity-health.org>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:53 AM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Respected Board,

I am writing to ask you very sincerely NOT to reverse the decision to have the elementary children return to school this Monday. This decision has downstream consequences in the community, not just for the students and teachers, but also for the parents, employers and caregivers in our community who are directly affected by this decision. Changing that decision at this late date is going to cause more undo chaos in an already chaotic world.

I ask this with the utmost respect for our teachers and staff and with continued concern for their health and safety.

Health of teachers is always top of mind. My husband is a teacher with health conditions so I live everyday with concern for him as well. However, study after study has concluded that spread does not occur easily in elementary schools and that has eased my mind.

I am confident in the safety protocols put in place for elementary. Those who are less confident have made their choice to remain virtual and I respect that. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE CHOICE. Teachers with health conditions should have been given the choice to teach virtually without penalty from day one.

And yes, the vaccine is available to teachers, but that will take some time given the lack of vaccine that seems to be available. Two weeks will not give ample time for vaccinations. We have to be confident in the safety measures put in place. There is data that they work.

Thank you for your consideration.

### Gretchen A. Olson

Sr. Learning Strategy Consultant  
Orgnaization Effectiveness

olsongra@trinity-health.org

**Call me on Teams!**

20555 Victor Parkway  
Livonia, MI 48152

trinity-health.org | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

-



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FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

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## Superintendent Search Proposal

1 message

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**Kevin O'Mara** <kevin.omara@schoolexeconnect.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Mon, Dec 28, 2020 at 8:04 PM

Good evening,

Please see attached.

We look forward to the next steps.

Take care,

Kevin

Dr. Kevin O'Mara

President

School Exec Connect

[www.schoolexeconnect.com](http://www.schoolexeconnect.com)

@execonnectil



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 **Farmington MI Proposal.pdf**  
556K



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Return to school, teachers want to be back. Stop this insanity**

1 message

**Brent Peura** <bmpeura@hotmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:01 PM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

My 2nd grade teacher email.

Melissa

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**From:** TRACEY.VLAHOS@fpsk12.net <TRACEY.VLAHOS@fpsk12.net>**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 12:57 PM**To:** bmpeura@hotmail.com <bmpeura@hotmail.com>**Subject:** Important note about Monday

Dear Parents,

You are receiving this note because your child is scheduled to return to in person learning on Monday. More information will be coming from myself and Mrs. Henry.

For now I want to make you aware that I will not be at school on Monday. I am in quarantine until then. I will be on the smart board live with the students with the assistance of our wonderful building guest teacher Mrs. Schulman. She will be in the classroom with the students. I can not wait to see the kids in person in school when I return on Tuesday!

Thanks very much,

Mrs. V



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to school

1 message

**Melissa Peura** <melissapeura6@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:58 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

I cannot believe this board represents our community. You are disorganized, lack planning, and leadership. I have been impartial to the board over the years, closing schools, switch configurations, and have been patient during the pandemic. As a school community we are the laughing stock, people have left the district bc of this. OLS, Mercy, Novi they are all back in school at this point. If you prolong the return to school based on the new recommendations for immunizations for teachers, only shows me you are making decisions on a whim. One, teachers will not be fully protected from COVID for 6 weeks after their first injection, so this should not hold up the return to school. Second, do you even know if teachers are going to get vaccinated as it is not mandatory. Making decisions on returning to school based on vaccine rollout is not good planning because there are so many factors that are unforeseen. Just move ahead with in person learning for goodness sake and if it doesn't work out go back to online. But I'll say this if you never try, you will never know. The community of parents willing to send their kids to school are exhausted from your inconsistent decisions. Lastly the part that is the saddest is I think most of you do not even have kids currently in school and have no idea how hard this is on teachers, students and parents alike. Please show courage and leadership moving forward.

Melissa Peura

4 children currently in FPS Longacre, Power and FHS

Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to school

1 message

**Brent Peura** <bmpeura@hotmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 2:59 PM

To: "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Everyone wants to be back in school. You are disrespecting teachers by changing your mind. This is from my 5th grade teacher sent at 3. My 2nd grade teacher sent the same information. My understanding these 2 teachers are looking forward to being back. There are no appt for COVID immunizations in Oakland county. Please do not delay returning these kids to school

Melissa

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**From:** [DOREEN.SWIFT@fpsk12.net](mailto:DOREEN.SWIFT@fpsk12.net) <[DOREEN.SWIFT@fpsk12.net](mailto:DOREEN.SWIFT@fpsk12.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 2:53 PM

**To:** [bmpeura@hotmail.com](mailto:bmpeura@hotmail.com) <[bmpeura@hotmail.com](mailto:bmpeura@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** Fifth Grade News

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

As you know, we are planning to return to school on Monday, January 11. According to the information we've received, your fifth grader plans to be attending in person classes in the morning. In the afternoon, your student will attend specials via google meet and work on asynchronous school assignments. This change makes a new schedule necessary and some new routines will need to be established at school and at home. We will be working to establish the new routines and schedules at school and know you will be doing the same at home. Some of the routines relate to safety protocols and have been emailed to you from Mrs. Henry. We will be strictly following the safety guidelines at school.

Fifth grade students returning to school have been placed into two small groups of about 10 students, 5C and 5D. Both groups will be a mix of all three homerooms and will continue to receive instructions from all three fifth grade teachers. We believe that creating these cohort groups will allow us to safely provide quality instruction to all students. Students will meet with their homeroom class on Friday mornings and continue to maintain their homeroom teacher.

**Your child has been placed in the in-person group 5D. Group 5D is meeting in room 23.** Students will line up outside in the morning by homeroom teacher. Upon entering, students will go to their assigned locker, then head to room 23 for morning meeting and an optional breakfast. Here is a link to the detailed schedule we shared with students and is posted on Canvas.

[Remote Learning Schedule](#)

Students were also wondering about what materials to bring to school on Monday. We have taken the supplies we requested at the beginning of the year and divided them into one of three categories - leave at home, leave at school, or take back and forth. Please review the table below as you and your fifth graders begin packing that backpack:)

## Keep at home

- Home links packet (completed home links will come in to school)
- Supplies for art and other specials

## Take Back and Forth

- Charged chromebook and charging cord
- Headphones or earbuds
- Math Journal
- Reader's Notebook
- Writer's Notebook
- Science Notebook
- Expanding file
- Mask
- Backpack
- Independent reading book

## Keep at School

- Extra mask
- Pencils
- Box of crayons or colored pencils
- Blue pen
- Highlighter
- White board marker

At this point in time we are asking students not to bring the following items: snacks (students will have breakfast available upon arrival), items to decorate their lockers, fidgets/toys, any other unnecessary personal items.

To help prepare students for this transition, we met with students returning to in person learning on Thursday afternoon during small groups to go over the new schedule and groupings of students. At the meeting we introduced the new schedule and groupings of students. We also spent time addressing students' questions and concerns.

If you or your student still have questions please let us know. We are thrilled to be able to offer parents a choice and still maintain the relationships students have established with all 3 fifth grade teachers.

Have a great weekend! We are looking forward to seeing you in person Monday morning.

The Fifth Grade Team



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**1/11/21 Return to school in person**

1 message

**Michelle Pouliot** <mpouliot16@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:14 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hello,

PLEASE do not delay our return to school. It has been shown that kids in school are not how this virus spreads. It has been proven that when taking precautions and wearing a mask you protect yourself and others and you can remain safe. MANY other schools have remained in person or are returning to in person because it is safe to do so. There is no reason to delay a plan that you felt was satisfactory just days ago. FPS and the BOE have been in support of the hybrid plan for months now so what has changed suddenly that this plan is no longer acceptable when you were previously convinced it was the best plan? The roll out of vaccinations should not change a previously acceptable plan that was considered safe prior to the vaccination. Those that don't want to return don't have to, but let those that want to return do so. Myself and many others go to work daily in jobs where we work closely with people and children, we follow the safety recommendations and stay safe. If we can do that then so can the teachers and our children.

Michelle Pouliot



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**julie race** <jrace2089@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 7:08 AM

Dear Board of Education - I am a special education paraprofessional who works at Visions Unlimited. I am begging you to please not reverse your decision to return to f2f on January 11. Many of our students are not good virtual learners. They are struggling at home trying to learn. They are also struggling socially and many are reverting back to old behavior issues. Please give our families a choice of what is best for their child. You MUST be fair to these people. They NEED our help. We have lots of staff at Visions who chose to be f2f and it was working quite well in our building before we were forced to return to virtual. Please let us help our students and their families by allowing f2f learning to resume. After all, isn't that our job, to help those we serve??? Thank you.

- Julie Race



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to In-Person Learning

1 message

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**ANNA RALEIGH** <anna.raleigh@fpsk12.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:14 PM

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as a mother of a Gill Elementary student, a Resource Teacher at FHS, and a 20-year resident of Farmington Hills. I implore you to, yet again, **put our lives and health first and delay return to in-person learning by at least 1 month** to allow for teachers and community members who are at high risk to be vaccinated and be better protected from the virus. My son has asthma, and my husband has a heart condition. Neither have had a chance to get vaccinated yet.

I know the central office administrators have painted a very rosy picture of our preparedness, and I know they and countless others have worked extremely hard to put these measures in place, but I would like to remind you that the **cases are still very high**, health authorities are warning of a probable surge, and even with the best efforts, **it is our lives and health** you are dealing with here. I would like you to ask yourself: **if you sent as back now, and teachers, staff, or students died as a result, how would you feel knowing that you could have prevented this tragedy by simply delaying return to in-person by only a few weeks?**

We, as a Farmington Family, can get through a few more weeks. We have been working non-stop supporting our students and each other. We can fill in learning gaps. We can't restore shattered health or bring our loved ones back from the dead!

Thank you for your time and consideration, and thank you for leading in this very difficult time!

Sincerely,

--

Anna Raleigh  
Resource/English Teacher  
Farmington High School  
(248) 426-1146



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

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## Special Meeting January 8th

1 message

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**Adam Regnier** <aregnier1977@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:11 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Cc: Colleen Regnier <colleen.regnier@gmail.com>

I demand a response from Zach Rich immediately regarding his reasoning for the proposed delay of in person instruction.

Adam Regnier  
Citizen of Farmington MI  
Parent  
Tax Payer

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

## Returning to School Petition!

1 message

FPS F2F Petition &lt;fps.f2f.petition@gmail.com&gt;

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:01 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, KIM BUCKLEY <Kim.buckley@fpsk12.net>

Dear Farmington Public School Board of Education:

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose any change to the January 11th return to in person learning start date. We respect the teachers and staff that have put in countless hours and immeasurable effort in creating an environment for our kids that is as safe as possible in the current climate. We respect that the families who choose to keep their children in the virtual learning path have the option to do so and we are demanding the same respect to choose whether our children return for in person learning.

This petition, in less than 24 hours has received 367 signatures from families in the district. These are the same families that were understanding when the school year began virtually, despite prior school board votes to the contrary. These are the same families that were understanding in November when the return to in person learning was paused one week prior to starting. We are tired of being understanding. Our children, our teachers and our staff deserve better.

Three days ago, exactly zero board members opposed the return to in person learning for K-5, evidenced by exactly zero board members making a motion that would alter, pause, change or move the January 11 start date. Nothing has occurred within those three days that would provide any support to make a change. In fact, most of our neighboring school systems are returning to in person learning within the next week and have also successfully had in person learning earlier this school year.

- January 4 - Walled Lake and Novi
- January 5 - Oxford
- January 11 - Birmingham, Huron Valley, Waterford, South Lyon
- January 19 - Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Troy, Clarkston, Lake Orion

What makes FPS any different?

Sometimes, the most vocal group is not necessarily the majority group. WE stand together, despite the intent of whoever attempted to destroy the online petition last night. WE are the ones who have a horse in the game, WE are the ones who have the most to lose, so WE are the ones who should be able to have a choice.

Sincerely,

Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Parents, Guardians and Caretakers of FPS Students

Please see attached, or, click this link.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oJ6BLp4FVQHCqRx04cwgK2uivRas0dLZFB9\\_HJakhgc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oJ6BLp4FVQHCqRx04cwgK2uivRas0dLZFB9_HJakhgc/edit?usp=sharing)



**Petition for FPS (1).pdf**

405K



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## School Reopening

1 message

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**Gwenyth Richards** <fpsrichardsg09@stu.fpsk12.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 2:52 PM

Dear FPS School Board Members,

I'm a freshman at Farmington High School this year. So far, the entirety of my high school experience with the exception of advanced classes in middle school and the occasional visit to pick up a book has been virtual. I won't say this was an easy transition, there were many difficulties faced along the way, but it was ultimately worth it to keep myself and those around me safe, and the teachers at Farmington worked extremely hard to keep the school experience in a remote medium.

I understand that many are still struggling and still don't resonate with the virtual format, but it's just as dangerous to go in person as it was before, and teachers are in danger, especially those who have to go into work before receiving vaccines. They have a tough job already, and the difficulties would be exacerbated from teaching both in person and remotely, and being at high risk of infection. Even once they do get vaccinated, many of their family members won't be and they will be forced to put loved ones at risk or lose their jobs. I highly recommend you give teachers and all employees in the district a choice to work from home, and that this choice be one that they can make without making huge sacrifices. I, along with many others in the community, hold safety at a higher regard than the convenience that may come from in-person education.

Thank you for considering,  
Gwenyth Richards



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Board of Education Meeting for Friday 1/8/2021**

1 message

**Nicole Rottet** <nicolerottet@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:45 PM

To: "Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net" <Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, "Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net" <Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>, "Mable.fox@fpsk12.net" <Mable.fox@fpsk12.net>, "angie.smith@fpsk12.net" <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, "terri.weems@fpsk12.net" <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, "zach.rich@fpsk12.net" <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>

Dear Board of Education Members:

This is getting to be altogether too much. The teachers and children have been through enough. This constant will they/won't they is so very frustrating for parents, their children, and teachers. Do you know how many times some of us have discussed this with our children... you can go back! Oops never mind. Now you can go back! Or maybe not.

Now there is a plan. Many children are loosing their teachers... but maybe not, ENOUGH. For those of you without children, you have no idea what we are dealing with. I implore you to stop.

You made a decision on Tuesday to not change this for the I don't even know anymore time, just let the kids who want to go back go. Let the teachers who want to go back go. Other districts have done it with success and this back and forth just furthers your appearance of weakness in the eyes of the public. You can't please everyone!

Please just stop.

Sincerely, Nicole Rottet

-3rd and 5th grader at Longacre Elementary School



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**PLEASE LET THE KIDS RETURN TO SCHOOL!!**

1 message

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**Suzanne Sanchez** <suzanne.smoot.sanchez@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 9:12 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hello Board of Education,

I am writing this email because of the emergency vote to take place tonight about the return to in person learning Monday. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE allow our kids to return to school. For those kids and families that want to stay remote and feel safer that way, they have the choice to do that still EVEN if you move forward to the return to in person plan. NOT moving forward deprives the kids that want and NEED in person learning that choice.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY OUR CHOICE TO CHOOSE WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR KIDS AND FAMILIES.

Please vote to return to in person learning Monday!!

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Thanks!

Suzanne



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Fwd: Regarding the emergency meeting on Friday, January 8th 2021**

1 message

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**Andrew Shubitowski** <andrew.shubitowski@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:36 PM

Forwarding as I think I missed a few folks. My apologies.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Shubitowski** <andrew.shubitowski@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 2:34 PM

Subject: Regarding the emergency meeting on Friday, January 8th 2021

To: <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>, <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, <jessica.cummings@fpsk12.net>, <kathy.smith@fpsk12.net>, <kelly.coffin@fpsk12.net>, <jennifer.kaminski@fpsk12.net>, <bobbie.goodrun@fpsk12.net>, <cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>, <claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net>

Cc: Krystn Shubitowski <krystn.shubitowski@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

I hope you all are doing well and have the time to read this email among the flurry of emails you are probably receiving as a result of the emergency meeting you've called to order tomorrow evening.

I'd love to understand the logic and reasoning for changing the decision that was rendered earlier this week to head back to in-person learning. Most of our neighboring school districts have, at some point in time, returned to some form of in-person learning. We seemingly have not been able to execute on doing so. Can you enlighten my wife and I on exactly how we have come to the decisions to not do the same?

My feelings aside, do you understand the impact that you are making on people's lives by being so indecisive? To quote my daughter's convo with her teacher (2nd grade at Longacre), "I am so glad I get to come back to school on Monday! I am not doing well virtually, so it's really good that I am coming back in person."

I know we all have to roll with the punches during a pandemic but there doesn't appear to be any actual strategy here. If I were to haphazardly change direction like this at my job, I would quickly be relieved of my responsibilities and be looking for a new gig.

Assuming you take your responsibilities as a board member as seriously as I do within my place of business; I look forward to the responses to my inquiries. Specifically, why you all are seriously lacking a strategy that hasn't seemed to baffle any of the other surrounding districts?

Thank you for your time,  
Andrew Shubitowski



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Our last chance

1 message

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**Sean Shunia** <seans610@yahoo.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 11:53 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net

Dear Angie, Terri, Cheryl, Claudia, Mable,

This is the first time I have ever emailed the board. I beg each one of you, I have a special education child, he has regressed so much over the last year without in person learning.

We understood in the beginning we really did, but when do u all decide to have faith in us? As a Parent we have done Everything my wife and I work and come home. We protect ourselves, our children, we don't go anywhere, we don't go on vacations, we protect our grandparents we have done Evrything to get our children back into school.

Virtual learning isn't a viable solution to all children. Please I beg of you continue forward with the return on Monday for K-5. The district has been ready for months. As Doctor Koffin and Dr Hendrickson both have said the district has exceeded all safety protocols more then surrounding districts that have been open this whole time. They have said multiple times the district is prepared and ready.

It's heartbreaking knowing Novi has been in person this whole time, Northville, Walled Lake all started this week full time. Livonia starts Monday, As a parent I'm at the edge of the cliff, my kids regressed are depressed asking a 5 and 6 yr old to learn online for this long has been challenging, they are not developed. They don't have the capacity for this. We're asking for a chance just like the families in these districts are getting right now.

Please keep in mind, I know there is a vaccine but if the reason to push it back is to vaccinate all Teachers that won't happen over nite this will take months at that time we will be into summer. The districts around us have made this work along with private schools this whole time without the vaccine. The cases at Beaumont continue to decline.

Please if they push it back just like they have done the last 4 times there is no doubt in my mind it will continue to push it back until fall.

I don't want to make the decision to either hold my son back a year or move my 3 young children to another district, but if they don't go back, we're at a point where now we have to decide if we trust this district to further keep are children or plan ahead to move into a district that has supported their children with the option of in person this whole time for Fall of 2021.

Please when you vote tonight, close your eyes, think in your mind if you had a child in K-5 in school right now what would u do? What would you do if you had a special education child needing that in person development? What would u do knowing they haven't had in person in almost a year and you're watching your child continue to regress.

Thank you for your time and I hope you all really read this understand many families are at their breaking point we have followed the rules we are asking for a chance, I beg of you.

I also realize there is one Board Member that I have not put on this email thread. In my mind this person isn't an advocate for my child and has no idea what these families with kids are going thru nor has the experience.

Thank you,

Sean

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Friday meeting**

1 message

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**Nancy Skrzycki** <ngiopsl@yahoo.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 6:55 PM

This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. Zach Rich did not get what he wanted so he is holding a special meeting to try to change the decision made and reconsidered. He has no right to change this.

All of you on the Board should be embarrassed at how incompetent you are. Tuesday no one made a motion to change. Leave the children and the teachers alone.

Get rid of Mr. Rich. He is toxic for the district. You can't just keep voting until you get what you want.

Everyone in Farmington will remember all of you come election time. Hopefully there will be a recall effort before that.

Shame on you

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Special BOE Meeting Friday 1/8

1 message

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**andreamsmith@bellsouth.net** <andreamsmith@bellsouth.net>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:12 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

To the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education,

I am done sitting quietly, hoping you'd finally step up and follow through with the plans that have been made. And made. And made. And walked away from time and again.

I placed my confidence in each of you that I voted for. I trusted that you would actually do the job you were elected to perform. However, at this point, I have no doubt that if FPS were a public company, you'd long since have been fired for gross incompetence. The inability of this group to behave as respectful adults toward one another, and work together for the good of the school families you serve, as you have been elected to do, is an embarrassment.

It doesn't matter how often or loudly we keep repeating, "Kids are resilient! They can do it!" when the adults in positions of authority continually prove they can't be trusted to keep their word. Our youth see you, community leaders. They hear the messages you keep sending, that the impact these yo-yo decisions you keep making, and the upheaval caused in their lives, is inconsequential you. Your complete disregard for the time, planning, and preparations the teachers have made, as well as the adjustments to work schedules and child care situations families have made, to be ready for this transition, is disgusting and unacceptable.

As stakeholders, we are entitled to and owed a comprehensive explanation of the circumstances that changed so dramatically between Tuesday and Friday that it created the need to call a special meeting to discuss further delaying a return to in person learning. Furthermore, that explanation and ensuing discussion should occur at a time well in advance of the Friday evening before the intended Monday morning return to school date. It demonstrates a lack of integrity and underscores the disrespect this board has repeatedly shown toward our educational community. This planned Friday evening meeting should be removed from the schedule.

In person learning should begin on Monday, January 11, as previously decided at the Tuesday, January 5 meeting. And it is my sincere hope that all of you find the fortitude to stand firm in this.

Andrea Smith



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Return to in person learning (UNCLASSIFIED)**

1 message

**Steele, Paul A CIV USARMY PEO GCS (USA)** <paul.a.steele.civ@mail.mil>

Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 10:44 AM

To: "mable.fox@fpsk12.net" &lt;mable.fox@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Ms. Fox,

I am writing to you today as the concerned parent of three current FPS students. My wife and I have been advocating for the option to have students return to in-person learning since before the beginning of the current school year. As you know FPS had originally planned to offer a hybrid option at the beginning of the year, which was changed just prior to the start of school. Subsequent dates have since been proposed for returning to in-person learning, which have all been postponed. I am hoping that the current dates (Jan 11 for Elementary and Jan 25 for Secondary) will not be delayed once more.

There have been several studies and reports recently stating that in-person learning at schools poses little risk for the spread of COVID for both students and staff. There have also been several studies outlining the real harm to students, both socially and academically, caused by the lack of in-person learning. I understand that due to either existing health issues or concern for their own safety several parents will opt to remain fully virtual. I only asking to have the option to return to in-person based on my own comfort level for my children.

When you next vote on this topic I hope that you will take into account the many students, parents and staff members that desperately want to return to in-person learning.

Thank you,

Paul Steele

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Please don't delay our start. We've lost too many**

1 message

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**Jaime Taulbee** <jaimetaulbee@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 8:52 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

The amount of families that have pulled their kids from this district is disturbing. You know, if FPS were in person, you wouldn't lose the families that want remote learning, because they would still have that option. But when you don't give us a choice, you lose those that have to have that option of in-person to other schools and communities. Can't they see the damage this is doing to our community? And after this blow, you can probably count on more than 2 hands how many more will be withdrawing and never come back. Do we really matter? Because we truly feel we don't.

Again, sincerely,  
Jaime Taulbee

P.S. If this is all resting on vaccinations, Oakland County distribution is already booked. They don't have enough. It takes up to 29 days to build antibodies. So how long do we wait before anyone feels safe? Do you mandate it for your teachers, which is another can of worms? And even if it was available Monday, everyone can't run out and get it in one day. So you see, the delay just continues to get pushed back until eventually, the school year has ended, your mitigation teams efforts have been wasted, countless families have withdrew from our beautiful district, and these poor kids have lost out on 18 months of crucial in-person learning



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

**(no subject)**

1 message

**Rosalind Thies** <fpsthiesr98@stu.fpsk12.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:47 PM

Dear board members,

I am a freshman at Farmington High School. I went to Alameda, Hillside, and Power. My favorite thing about the Farmington Public School District is the staff. They all work so hard and care so much about me and my classmates. My teachers have always been so kind and helpful, and I am very grateful to them all. As they have cared for me, I care about all of them, and it is my duty to beg you to keep them safe. Teachers and para-pros are some of the most important people in the students' lives. Now, you are asking them to risk their own lives and the lives of their families to teach in person. I say asking, but the only other option is to quit their job, which I can assure you many teachers will do if you do not change your minds.

Teachers are allowed to get vaccinated at the time, but there are only so many slots and many are not able to get an appointment for a few weeks, yet you want elementary staff to go to work in just three days. I ask that you hold off for just a little longer. We have had classes online for months, and I'm sure we can all handle another month. Yes, it's a little harder for everyone, but we are all learning and getting more used to the ways of an online class. And we are all safe. As I recall, my teachers have always said their first goal was to keep us students safe and that the second was to help us learn. I've never seen a teacher try to continue teaching when the fire alarm or tornado siren goes off. It is your duty to keep the students and staff safe, which means not going in. The instructions by the government were to work from home if you have any possible way of doing so, and all the staff have been doing their jobs from home. I understand you plan to have precautions, but that can't keep everyone safe. Staying at home can.

I would also like to address the situation from an inside view. My mother is a elementary school staff member, and she is very upset about going back. She has an appointment to get vaccinated in three weeks, but you want to send her in sooner. Now, should you continue with the plan to send elementary school staff back, my family has two options. The first is that my mother would quit her job. The second is that she would risk her life to go into work. In that case, my father and I would have to leave so we don't get sick. We would have to live somewhere else, probably until the end of the school year or until she no longer has to go into work. We are all incredibly anxious and stressed about the situation.

You are holding peoples' lives in your hands. Think of how you would feel if you were in the place of a staff member. After all, you don't want to hold the board meetings in person. Why is that? You wouldn't feel safe in person, would you? Yet you wish it on others? I can't think of a good explanation for that.

If arguing hasn't worked, I suppose I shall resort to begging. Please look at the situation, weigh the options, think logically, and have compassion. You are leaders and it is your duty to do the right thing. Please, vote to not send anyone back to school yet. Just be patient. We all want life to be normal again, but is it really worth sacrificing others' lives? I dislike this situation and online school just as much as anyone, but I still want to continue school online. The decision you have to make is not about the good choice, because there isn't one, but about the right choice. You know what the right choice is, so make it.

Thank you,  
-Rosalind Thies



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to face-to-face

1 message

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**Andrea Trachsel** <altrachsel@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:37 PM

Re: Face to Face Learning

I am writing this letter this afternoon to express my disappointment in the way everything has been handled with regards to Face-to-Face Learning through the Farmington Public Schools.

Starting last summer, we were all sent surveys asking for feedback and I have to wonder why when it seems that our opinions do not matter anyway, with no regard for what the majority of the parents within the Farmington Schools district were asking for, which was some sort of Face-to-Face Learning with virtual learning for those that wanted that, even if it was just at the Elementary School Level.

When the final decision was made to be 100% virtual, parents were put into a position where they had to scramble to find tutors and nannies, make arrangements with their employers and find a desk or in my case 2 desks. Not everyone has the ability to work remotely, and both my husband and I happen to be two of those people. From the beginning it seems no consideration for working parents was given, they were just told to figure it out.

Then we were told that they would start back ½ days on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Once again with no regards to the parents of children who work full time jobs. I try to wrap my head around what difference it could possibly make going to school the 2 full days like was originally planned, it literally makes no sense, especially with neighboring districts proving it is possible. Nevertheless, the kids are the priority and I made plan a to make a half day schedule work (with much added expense by my husband and I), because at least my kids would be able to have some Face-to-Face education. My kids were excited to go back. My 2<sup>nd</sup> grader was excited to see her friends, my kindergartener was just excited to make new friends, only to be told Sorry Not going to happen.

Again, we were told that the kids would go back on January 11<sup>th</sup>, only to be possibly delayed until the 25<sup>th</sup>. One more huge disappointment. And I am the one that must tell my kids, ONCE AGAIN, that they do not get to go back to school, I'm the one that gets to continue to pay a tutor out of my pocket, I'm the one that gets to play teacher to my kids on my Days off while the Teachers at FPS are still getting their full salary. And let me add, I do respect that fact that the teachers are doing the best they can, and I respect everything that they are doing, but let's be honest my kindergartener and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader are not able to accomplish virtual school independently, so I have to take on the extra load. I do not want to hear the "you're the parent, it's your responsibility" line either. I am not a teacher, and if I was, teaching your own children is not easy or ideal. The majority of all other school districts are open, so please tell me why we cannot be offered some type of face-to-face learning. For the parents that do not feel comfortable I totally understand however they have the option to continue to do virtual. I want to be given an option!!!

I would also like to know what information is going to be used at this meeting Friday January 8<sup>th</sup> that is different from what was covered at the scheduled board meeting on Tuesday? Has something changed because I do not think it has? The CDC and the health departments are both on the same page, of bringing the k-5 children BACK to school. Science has proven that the school transmission of COVID-19 is not happening. So, why the continued delays? If our mitigation steps are above and beyond the requirements for the State, why the continued delays? It is my job to parent and make the decision to or to not send my children to school, it is your job to put in place the steps to keep them safe, which has been done.

Also, if the meeting on Friday does produce a delay until at least January 25<sup>th</sup>, please tell your teachers not tell the kids that they will be returning to school until it is ground in stone, literally ground in stone. I am not telling mine anything about the 25<sup>th</sup> and I would ask that the teachers respect this. I do not want to have to explain to my kids ONE MORE TIME why they are not going back to school... AGAIN. And at this point I fully expect for there to be another delay.

I am angry at the way all of this has been handled, I am angry that you made us think that we actually had an opinion when the reality is we NEVER DID, I am angry that I have to keep explaining to my kids why they can't go to

1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Return to face-to-face

school when other kids can, I am angry that I have to do MY full time Job as well as yours, I am angry that the long term wellbeing of our kids is not being taken into consideration. I am just ANGRY.

I am writing this today, not because I expect anything to change, because I know it will not. I am writing because I am a parent of two school age children and pay my share of property taxes, so I believe my opinion matters and my voice needs to be heard.

Sincerely

Andrea Novack



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Elementary to Return to School In-Person Comment

1 message

**Francesca Tuzzolino** <fmtuzzolino@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:01 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Cc: Francesca Tuzzolino &lt;fmtuzzolino@gmail.com&gt;, Carmen Tuzzolino &lt;carmen.tuzzolino@gmail.com&gt;

Hello Farmington School Board Members,

After a long meeting on Tuesday, I am disappointed to find out a special meeting is being scheduled to potentially delay the start of elementary students. There hasn't been a drastic change in Covid cases. It's not fair to the students, teachers and staff that have prepared to start on Monday and then in 48 hours have the decision revoked. This back and forth is unnecessary and this time there is no substance to back up the decision to remain virtual. It is a law that school districts prioritize K-5. It was part of the new legislation that passed in the fall. Farmington is one of only 2 districts (besides Southfield) that has not followed through on this law.

When the board first approved return to school, vaccinations weren't an option. This shouldn't be a reason for any delays because we had voted YES to return when it wasn't available. The idea to postpone until teachers are vaccinated is absurd and the second dose isn't available immediately to take. Should our kids never return to school this year?

Our neighboring districts and private schools have proven that in person learning is possible and successful. The school board should also listen to parents and kids who want to return in-person. The CDC and Dr. Fauci has said for kids to return to school. Our government has allowed high school students to return in person. The Oakland County Health Department has approved our plans and given us the green light to return. Why is Farmington too afraid to follow through on what was already approved? No one talks about the increase of suicides, abuse or mental health issues that is caused by remaining virtual. Parents should have a CHOICE. Parents who don't believe we should return can choose to keep their kids virtual. They shouldn't have influence over families that have chosen to be in person. Each family has their own situation and being 100% remote doesn't work for everyone in the district and the kids are hurting the most. Some kids are striving virtually and others are falling behind. My daughter has fallen behind in reading who is in second grade. Her teacher is amazing but being remote isn't helping her progress. I've hired a reading tutor for my daughter; however, when she enters third grade I'm afraid she won't pass and be held behind. Nothing can replace in person interaction between a teacher and a child. Even if it's only 2.5 hours four days a week, I feel my child will gain so much more than the current virtual schedule. However, this is a choice that each family can make so for those who don't want to return can remain virtual. I am begging to be given a choice to be in person that was removed from the Fall. My daughter isn't the only student that's fallen behind.

We have already lost students to private education. That is also not being discussed by the School Board and should be a huge concern. This is a loss in money for the district. If you continue to delay in person learning, how many more students are you willing to lose? I am seriously considering taking my three children out of public schools and into private schools for the fall.

Data has shown schools don't spread COVID and there isn't any scientific data that others write about that proves otherwise. COVID will never go away and as a society we need to learn how to live with this virus.

From Tuesday's board meeting, I felt more comfortable choosing to send my children back to school after hearing again our mitigation plan. The Oakland County Health Department complimented our district for having a robust plan in place. Better than those who have been in person. ~~We~~ We need to take the leap of faith and go back in person or we will never go back because people will always be afraid. We teach our kids to face their fear. As the school

board, I ask to lead by example and follow through on what has already been approved before the holidays and on Tuesday. Nothing drastic has changed to cause a special meeting for another discussion. Our district has done their due diligence, a plan is in place and It's time to let the elementary students return to school in person for those families that have chosen that option.

Deeply Concerned Parent,

Francesca Tuzzolino  
[22806 Fox Creek](#)  
[Farmington Hills, MI 48335](#)  
248-417-8226



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Re: Elementary to Return to School In-Person Comment**

1 message

**Francesca Tuzzolino** <fmtuzzolino@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 7:12 PM

To: ZACH RICH &lt;zach.rich@fpsk12.net&gt;, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Cc: Carmen Tuzzolino &lt;carmen.tuzzolino@gmail.com&gt;, Francesca Tuzzolino &lt;fmtuzzolino@gmail.com&gt;

Hello Zach Rich,

Thank you for the canned response! When the school board voted to return in person, the vaccination wasn't even an option. The fact that the Governor is allowing teachers to receive it as soon as Monday isn't a reason to cause a delay. It's more of a reason to celebrate and perfect timing to return back to school. Two doses are required and the second dose isn't administered until 21 days for Pfizer or 28 days for Modera. In that time frame, the earliest elementary kids will return is April. This is absurd. There is a law that you and the other members are not following that was passed in the fall to prioritize K-5.

The school board members had the opportunity to discuss this on Tuesday. This is poor leadership on your part and the current board members to call a special meeting. We've already received emails about starting on Monday and teachers have already discussed this with their students. This last minute meeting is irresponsible. The vaccination announcement is not a legitimate reason to remain remote especially when the school board voted to be in-person when the vaccination wasn't even in the picture.

Those of us parents who want to return should be provided a CHOICE. CDC and Dr. Fauci have said for kids to be in school. There is recent scientific data that proves kids don't spread COVID through the schools.

Citizens are leaving this city and pulling kids out of our district. The board's decision to continue to remain remote will have long lasting effects for the city as a whole, which will lead to significant reduction in enrollment and taxable funds.

Extremely Disappointed Parent/Citizen,

Francesca Tuzzolino  
248-417-8226

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:17 PM ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. I understand your concerns regarding the special meeting called for tomorrow night and its sole item of voting on delaying the start of in-person schooling. This was not a unilateral decision or a power play on my part. I asked if any board members wanted to make a motion and, when nobody made one, I moved on. Following the Tuesday Board of Education meeting, the Governor announced that teachers will be able to receive the COVID vaccine earlier than previously anticipated. I received requests from multiple board members that we reconsider our back to school plan. Pursuant to our bylaws (1002), "Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or any three (3) Board members by providing not less than 18 hours' notice to all Board members. The notice to Board members and the public shall be consistent in manner and form with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act." Tomorrow was the earliest time to do that while allowing 18 hours' notice as required by Michigan law. I realize that this does not give much time for families to rearrange plans and, depending on the vote, may result in a disappointment for students who are looking forward to being in the classroom come Monday.

Best,  
Zach Rich  
FPS Board President

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:02 PM Francesca Tuzzolino <[fmtuzzolino@gmail.com](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Farmington School Board Members,

After a long meeting on Tuesday, I am disappointed to find out a special meeting is being scheduled to potentially delay the start of elementary students. There hasn't been a drastic change in Covid cases. It's not fair to the students, teachers and staff that have prepared to start on Monday and then in 48 hours have the decision revoked. This back and forth is unnecessary and this time there is no substance to back up the decision to remain virtual. It is a law that school districts prioritize K-5. It was part of the new legislation that passed in the fall. Farmington is one of only 2 districts (besides Southfield) that has not followed through on this law.

When the board first approved return to school, vaccinations weren't an option. This shouldn't be a reason for any delays because we had voted YES to return when it wasn't available. The idea to postpone until teachers are vaccinated is absurd and the second dose isn't available immediately to take. Should our kids never return to school this year?

Our neighboring districts and private schools have proven that in person learning is possible and successful. The school board should also listen to parents and kids who want to return in-person. The CDC and Dr. Fauci has said for kids to return to school. Our government has allowed high school students to return in person. The Oakland County Health Department has approved our plans and given us the green light to return. Why is Farmington too afraid to follow through on what was already approved? No one talks about the increase of suicides, abuse or mental health issues that is caused by remaining virtual. Parents should have a CHOICE. Parents who don't believe we should return can choose to keep their kids virtual. They shouldn't have influence over families that have chosen to be in person. Each family has their own situation and being 100% remote doesn't work for everyone in the district and the kids are hurting the most. Some kids are striving virtually and others are falling behind. My daughter has fallen behind in reading who is in second grade. Her teacher is amazing but being remote isn't helping her progress. I've hired a reading tutor for my daughter; however, when she enters third grade I'm afraid she won't pass and be held behind. Nothing can replace in person interaction between a teacher and a child. Even if it's only 2.5 hours four days a week, I feel my child will gain so much more than the current virtual schedule. However, this is a choice that each family can make so for those who don't want to return can remain virtual. I am begging to be given a choice to be in person that was removed from the Fall. My daughter isn't the only student that's fallen behind.

We have already lost students to private education. That is also not being discussed by the School Board and should be a huge concern. This is a loss in money for the district. If you continue to delay in person learning, how many more students are you willing to lose? I am seriously considering taking my three children out of public schools and into private schools for the fall.

Data has shown schools don't spread COVID and there isn't any scientific data that others write about that proves otherwise. COVID will never go away and as a society we need to learn how to live with this virus.

From Tuesday's board meeting, I felt more comfortable choosing to send my children back to school after hearing again our mitigation plan. The Oakland County Health Department complimented our district for having a robust plan in place. Better than those who have been in person. We need to take the leap of faith and go back in person or we will never go back because people will always be afraid. We teach our kids to face their fear. As the school board, I ask to lead by example and follow through on what has already been approved before the holidays and on Tuesday. Nothing drastic has changed to cause a special meeting for another discussion. Our district has done their due diligence, a plan is in place and It's time to let the elementary students return to school in person for those families that have chosen that option.

Deeply Concerned Parent,

Francesca Tuzzolino  
[22806 Fox Creek](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)

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1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Re: Elementary to Return to School In-Person Comment

Farmington Hills, MI 48335

248-417-8226

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Francesca Tuzzolino

Mobile: 248-417-8226

Email: [fmtuzzolino@gmail.com](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)

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Francesca Tuzzolino

Mobile: 248-417-8226

Email: [fmtuzzolino@gmail.com](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Please continue as planned with return to school on Jan. 11**

1 message

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**Sarah Urbance** <sarah.urbance@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:21 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Dear Board Members,

I'm writing to you ahead of this evening's meeting to request that you proceed as planned with return to school on January 11. I believe that with the mitigation plans in place, including masks, reduced class sizes, partitions, and half days, the benefits of time in-person with peers and teachers now outweigh the risk of virus transmission. As teachers, administrators and support staff are able to receive the vaccine over the next few months, the risk will slowly continue to decrease. However, based on the limited availability of the vaccine and the need for multiple doses, any delay to in-person school based on vaccinations would effectively be a cancellation of in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. A two week delay will not significantly reduce risk and the continued uncertainty of plans is eroding the mental health of students and parents. Please stick with the current start dates of January 11 for K-5 and January 25 for 6-12.

Thank you,

Sarah Urbance, parent of Natalie Urbance - Grade 3 Farmington STEAM Academy and Ryan Urbance - Grade 6 Farmington STEAM Academy



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**RETURN to Learn**

1 message

**LeeAnn Varga** <vargaleeann@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:22 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

I just learned of the special Board Meeting concerning pushing back in person learning yet again at the 11th hour.

I cannot express how disappointed I am at the Board - hours have been spent on a mitigation plan (WITHOUT the promise of a vaccine), students, parents, and teachers have been prepped for the second time, schedules adjusted in homes and schools, and the excitement in children has been built - now to have the goalposts changed yet again.

Do you go to the store? Doctor appointments? Gotten your haircut? All of these activities involve being in the same space as other people and not always with the luxury of 6 feet apart. Going to school is no less dangerous and probably safer than all of these things because so many safeguards have been put in place! And anyone who disagrees can continue to choose the virtual option which has not ever changed.

There are too many disappointments in this Board to name - where once we took pride in our district after having been living here and raising kids here for 23 years, we are now ashamed and seriously considering moving our last child out of the district.

Please do the right thing for our kids,  
LeeAnn Varga



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Frustrated Parent**

1 message

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**Nikki Wagner** <wagner628@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 10:03 PM

I can't even begin to explain the frustration I am feeling regarding the board of education and your decision making process. I have a 3rd grader at Forest who is struggling with doing school remotely. She was so excited in the fall when we learned that elementary would return to school in November only to learn a few days later that it was delayed a week and then a few days after that we learned that they would not return until January 11th at the earliest. After the board meeting on Tuesday, we were thrilled to tell her that indeed she'd be returning to school on January 11th. She did a practice morning routine Thursday morning to make sure she could be ready by 8am to leave for the bus Monday and I also gave her a new backpack. The look of pure excitement in her eyes to be able to have this fresh start in school was priceless. If you decide to delay in person learning yet again for these elementary kids, you will have lost my faith and trust and my daughter will be crushed. I have a family member who works for a school district that has successfully been face to face 4 full days with ALL students since the beginning of the year. We are highly considering the possibility of enrolling our daughter in his district. Please stop messing with the livelihood of not only the students but the teachers too. The teachers have been working tirelessly during all of this and we appreciate them so much. I can't imagine the amount of stress they are under with your inability to make a decision and stick with it. A once highly regarded district is now the laughing stock of Oakland County. I am ashamed of Farmington Public Schools.

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Nikki Wagner



FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

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## Trustee Application Submission

1 message

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**Donald Walker** <donjphd@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 12:39 AM

To: FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

I want to inform you I have submitted my application for the trustee position. Could someone please confirm receipt of my submission. Thank you very much. Be well and be safe.

*If you can't serve, you can't lead ~*

**Donald Walker**  
**313-467-3561**





FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Concern about policy on students eating in class**

1 message

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**THERESA WALSH** <theresa.walsh@fpsk12.net>

Fri, Jan 1, 2021 at 9:49 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Dear Board Members,

Attached is a letter of concern I have about students eating in class. I was told this was a district policy and I feel it is very unsafe. I am hoping you will read this letter, discuss the issue and change the policy to keep our students and staff safe upon return to in person learning.

Thank you for your consideration,

Theresa Walsh

[BOE Letter about students eating in class](#)

Jan 2, 2021

Dear Farmington Board of Education,

As I am preparing my learning plans to return to school on Jan 11, 2011, I've realized that our district has an unsafe policy in place and I'm asking you to reevaluate this policy. The policy I'm referring to is that all students will be given a bag of food that is to be eaten in class daily.

I am concerned about all of my students removing their masks to eat and the likelihood of spreading germs. Currently, our entire state is shut down to indoor eating at restaurants, bowling alleys, theaters, etc. The health experts have determined that social distancing is part of the safety equation, but that mandatory mask wearing is the key to keeping Covid 19 contained. Our school's policy of feeding all children during the 2.5 hour school day is in direct conflict with this health and safety standard.

When we return to in-person learning, I will have 14 students in both the AM and PM sessions. Although the desks are 6 feet apart, the room is filled from wall to wall with students and desks. If all of the students remove their masks to eat, this creates a highly contagious environment. One sneeze or cough and germs will spread instantly around the room, while everyone is exposed. After they've eaten, they will have germs on their hands from touching their mouths and everything they touch will then be contaminated. In addition, there will be a much higher need for bathroom breaks, which is another breeding ground for germs.

Considering that students will be at school for only 2.5 hours, I think this food can be sent home with students to eat in the privacy of their own homes. I am hoping that you'll discuss this issue at your upcoming meeting and consider changing this policy for the safety of our students and staff. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa Walsh  
Forest Elementary  
3rd Grade



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Board Meetings

1 message

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**Allison Ward** <allisonward2011@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 8:57 AM

Board of Education:

Now that kids will be returning in person, should we expect to see the board meeting in person? If not, please have all cameras on at all times, so we can see who is talking and know that their full attention is on the meeting taking place. If we are expected to contact our service provider to get our kinks worked out for the bandwidth for classes, than the board should be expected to do the same.

Thank You!

Allison Ward  
Concerned Taxpayer and FPS Parent



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Fwd: Return to In Person Learning**

1 message

**Jennifer Weber** <jweber5755@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 10:08 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cherly.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Good evening,

I am writing to you to first implore you NOT to pass the motion made by Zach Rich to delay Return to In Person Learning. I have submitted several public comments since August and all have said the same thing....kids need in person school for their emotional well being, kids need in person school for social interaction, kids need in person school for their full academic success. I understand that not all FPS parents feel this way, and parents who want their kids to remain 100% virtual have that choice and that choice will remain in effect for them through the end of the school year. As a parent who prefers in person learning for her children, please give me MY choice and allow my kids to return to school.

Secondly, please help me understand what happened between the late hours of January 5th and mid-day January 7th that prompted the Board President to make this motion. This action makes me question the ability of this Board to effectively lead. A competent School Board does not waste their staff's time who have been working around the clock to change student schedules, implement safety protocols and welcome kids back to school. A competent School Board should not consistently frustrate parents and upset students, who are relying on information that the school district has been providing them related to return to in person school timelines. A competent School Board does not flip flop their decision and change their course of action at the last possible minute.

Please show me that this newly comprised Board of Education is competent by NOT passing this motion to delay in person learning.

Kind regards,  
Jennifer Weber  
36437 Saxony  
Farmington, MI 48335  
586-663-0355



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Return to In Person School

1 message

**Jennifer Weber** <jweber5755@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 8:06 AM

To: TERRI WEEMS &lt;terri.weems@fpsk12.net&gt;, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net

Good morning,

The Board President has responded to parent emails stating that the reason for the delay is that now certain Board members do not want to return kids to school until teachers are vaccinated. This realistically cannot be done in 2 weeks. The coordination and logistics of vaccinating thousands of teachers across the state of Michigan could take months and mean that our kids will not return at all this school year. This result would be unacceptable! This was never part of the deal for hybrid return to learn. The district has spent countless hours on safety, scheduling, etc to return these kids to school NOW. Other districts and private schools (2 large ones within our district) have been safely educating students in person for months. There is no reason that hybrid learning cannot take place in our district starting Monday January 11th, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY, vaccinating the staff.

Families in Farmington Schools right now are enraged. I have been part of this district for 13 years and despite the constant turmoil over these years, have tried to stay supportive of this district. I honestly just can't anymore. Please do what's right for students and families and do NOT pass this motion to delay in person learning.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Weber  
36437 Saxony  
Farmington, MI 48335  
586-663-0355

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Weber** <jweber5755@gmail.com>  
Date: Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 10:20 PM  
Subject: Return to In Person School  
To: <cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net>

Good evening,

I am writing to you to first implore you NOT to pass the motion made by Zach Rich to delay Return to In Person Learning. I have submitted several public comments since August and all have said the same thing....kids need in person school for their emotional well being, kids need in person school for social interaction, kids need in person school for their full academic success. I understand that not all FPS parents feel this way, and parents who want their kids to remain 100% virtual have that choice and that choice will remain in effect for them through the end of the school year. As a parent who prefers in person learning for her children, please give me MY choice and allow my kids to return to school.

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Please show me that this newly comprised Board of Education is competent by NOT passing this motion to delay in person learning.

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Kind regards,

1/8/2021

Shared Email System Mail - Return to In Person School

Jennifer Weber  
36437 Saxony  
Farmington, MI 48335  
586-663-0355



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## F2F Learning Plan

1 message

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**Maggie Whitehead** <maggie.whitehead@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 4:01 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Hello Board Members,

I am writing this email as both a mother of two elementary school children in Farmington schools, and a teacher working in another district.

Up until today, I have been 100% understanding with the difficult decisions that the school board members and superintendents have had to make. It's been incredibly difficult for our family to all have to work and learn from home, but we've accepted that it's what we have to do, and we've made the best of it. I have also understood all along that the proposed return to face to face learning might not happen on January 11th, and I accepted that. Again, I'm a teacher, and I fully understand the complexities of public school districts and these decisions.

However, with all that said, I am absolutely livid that this plan - a plan which was voted on and which we have prepared for - may YET AGAIN be changed and at the very last minute at tonight's meeting. My kids have prepared to be in the building on Monday. We have been flexible this entire time, but we can only bend so far before we break. Enough is enough. The world is an incredibly unstable place right now, and we can not take any more instability. PLEASE stick with the plan and send the kids who have chosen face to face learning back to school on Monday as planned.

Enough is enough. No more delays. Speaking as a parent and as a teacher, do not do this to our students. Do not do this to your staff. Stick with the plan, and send the kids back on Monday. A plan was made, and it's time to follow through.

Respectfully,  
Maggie Whitehead



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Return to Learn Jan 11**

1 message

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**Melissa Wiercinski** <melwiercinski@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed Fps <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 4:09 PM

Dear Board of Education,

I'm writing to you to consider these three things...

1. Push the return date back til we wait at least two weeks past the Winter Break as so many folks seemed to have traveled and visited with family and friends.
2. If that isn't doable can you consider a WAVE start - sending grade levels into the elementary schools slowly as it would help with establishing patterns with our youngest students without the "big kids!"
3. Receive an update how our "guest teacher" situation stands as staff are concerned who would fill in if they are sick.
4. Maybe consider starting us back when we are in a Level C in Oakland County?

Wishing you well in all of this,

Melissa Wiercinski  
IB Coordinator and Interventionist at Wood Creek

Sent from my iPhone



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## Concern for Return on January 11th - please read at board meeting

1 message

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**ELLEN WILAND-HARKENRIDER** <ellen.wiland-harkenrider@fpsk12.net>

Sat, Jan 2, 2021 at 3:50 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, CHRISTOPHER DEYONKE &lt;christopher.deyonke@fpsk12.net&gt;

Happy New Year to everyone on the Farmington Board of Education.

I am a veteran elementary educator in the Farmington Public School district, and I'm writing to express my deep concerns with the plan for elementary schools to return to in-person hybrid learning on January 11th.

We begin 2021 with COVID vaccine on the near horizon which will enable a return to health and safer activities among our families and friends, and within our communities and schools.

I urge you to delay the return to in-person learning until COVID infection rates settle down for good, and until the vaccine can be administered to all teachers to ensure their safety. As I'm sure you have heard, a new and highly contagious variant strain of COVID 19 was recently discovered in the UK. This mutant strain, called COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7., now accounts for 70% of hospitalized COVID patients in the UK.

This strain has migrated to at least a dozen other countries, including Canada and the United States, and has shown itself to be much more easily spread than "regular" COVID. It is very likely just a matter of time before this new strain of COVID reaches our state, our communities and our classrooms.

In Google meets with my kids, I hear them excitedly talk about trips, family parties, overnights with friends and cousins, etc. so I know for a fact that the community has not minded social distancing warnings. These exposures are going to be brought into the classrooms across our district. I realize that numbers have recently declined in Oakland county, but they are still well above the original FPS District metrics for safe face to face instruction. In addition, exposures resulting from holiday travel and activity have yet to show up in county tallies.

Over the past months we have developed strong and effective teaching routines and supports. Connections are being made, learning is happening and relationships have been formed! Canvas has become a powerful - and safe - tool for learning this year. Students have access to their teachers for learning over four full days per week, instead of the hybrid-planned 2.5-hour half days, where the kids would be asynchronous for more hours each week and would also be vulnerable to viral exposure from classmates.

I implore you to wait until the COVID infection rate has stabilized at a lower rate, and until the forthcoming vaccine can be administered widely enough to further contain the spread of this virus! We are very close to getting to the other side of this pandemic. To me, the potential dangers of a forced return to the classroom are not worth the risks to student and teacher health and lives -- especially since a return to community health through the vaccine is so close.

Thank you for your consideration!

**Ellen Wiland-Harkenrider**

*5th Grade Teacher, Hillside Elementary*

141

*"Children will become what they see; so we must work to be what we want them to become."*





FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Please vote for return to school!!**

1 message

**Tricia Wilder** <wilderfamily707@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 1:16 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk.12.net

Dear School Board Members:

I am writing to plead on behalf of my two children in FPS, one Junior and one 8th grader. Our children desperately need to go back to school. I believe the health risks at this point are up to the families that are willing to go back. We should have the choice as Parents of a public school to decide whether our children can return to the classroom. The research shows that schools are not the main method for the virus spreading throughout the community. Our children are suffering beyond comparison with the health risks that are being weighed in. The number of students failing classes right now should be enough evidence to show that our children are not thriving in this environment. The number of teenagers suffering with mental health issues and contemplating suicide has skyrocketed. This is unacceptable! I do not believe we should wait for vaccines for all of our teachers in order to return to school. This is not fair to our children. Why have so many other districts been able to return with hybrid and we have not?? The people in our district deserve to have options. Please consider all the evidence out there for the need for returning to the classroom.

Thank You

Tricia Wilder



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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## what's best for you?

1 message

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**Laura Wilkin** <laurawilkin0@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 1:51 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Board,

I write this email to you, in full tears, mid-panic attack and a sense of uncertainty. How do I explain to my 2 STRUGGLING children that there are people who DON'T support THEIR want to return to school?

I have been quite, as a person in my community, I've gone one with my life, following the rules, listening to other people make a decision on what THEY think is BEST for ME, but not once have they asked, "what's best for you?" When it comes down to it, my children's education, stress, anxiety. lack of personal interaction, comes down to a decision by 6 people who have not ONCE asked, "what's best for you?"

Not ONCE has anyone asked my family, "how are you doing?" or "what do you want?". So i'm going to ask my self,

**How is your family doing during this time?** My family is struggling. I am a full time worker outside of the house, my husband works from home. My husband does not have the time required to help my children during school. Why? you ask, Because my children are behind. Forgotten about during 3 months (March-June) when the school ENSURED us that they had the best plan of action. My 1st grader only having a limited amount of time in school, and is now expected to sit and listen with no sense of what school is? my 4th grader who walked out of 3rd Grade and into 4th grade testing at the highest she's ever tested, ADD (SPECIAL NEEDS MAY I REMIND YOU), I'll add to that as well, now? I bet she'll fall in her testing because she has NO HELP! The family dynamic I spent 10+ years building, RIPPED TO SHREDS. My kids can't even stand looking at dad, or eachother. But me? As the mom who cannot help them at all, I've been depressed, to the point where I sit and cry at night because I don't know how to help ANYONE in my family.

**What do I want?** I want HELP!!! I want my children to get the help they deserve, the experience they require, They NEED HELP!!! I don't know how many times i have to say this, THEY NEED HELP! MY FAMILY NEEDS HELP! We aren't getting help, we're getting a slap in the face because it feels like 6 people cannot take a step out of the way THEY personally feel about something and look at the way OTHERS feel.

One of the descriptions of a school board member is as follows: "Represents public education serving as a liaison between the school district and the community". As a member of the community, you have FAILED ME!

Laura Wilkin

South Farmington Bombers  
Director of Bombers Softball  
10u Bombers Head Coach  
(Cell) 567-204-6665





FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Open the schools!**

1 message

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**Heather Zoma** <heather81580@yahoo.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 5:57 PM

Can you please explain to me how every school district around Farmington has opened up and are following protocols and are doing perfectly fine, while FPS has not given these kids a chance of going back??

My twin 5th graders have not seen their friends or teachers in 10 months. Yet all of their other friends that don't go to FPS are all in school and mind you, are thriving. Keeping them home is mentally exhausting to the children and to the parents.

This school district CANNOT force the children to stay home and virtually learn(not that they're learning much), just because a few teachers don't want to go back to teaching F2F. I've talked to many Farmington district teachers that want to go back. Does their opinion matter?

This is an embarrassment. All other school districts are laughing at you for not giving these children a chance at going back, while my children are at home crying.

The board has already set a date to return and have protocols on how to keep everyone safe, so why the last minute meeting 3 days before opening up?

The uttermost responsibility of the board is to act in the best interest of the children.

I hope you have a heart and do the right thing tomorrow.

Heather Zoma



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## In person learning

1 message

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**Eileen** <dejerz@aol.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 5:14 PM

Good day,

I read about Governor Whitmer's announcement today and understand the canceling of the board meeting, however, I still do have a couple questions. My husband and I have chosen to keep our young daughter home for continued online learning. It is very difficult to see her upset about the changes, at the idea of missing her teachers and many of her friends (she's in Kindergarten). After reading an article on in person learning, I see that there is still much concern regarding the new variant. It also gives a suggestion start date as being by March 1st. I'm sure the Board has already considered all of this, but wouldn't it be possible to wait a few weeks before returning to in person learning? This would allow time for educators and school staff to become vaccinated, if they should choose to do so, while also allowing time to see how much of an impact the new variant and recent holidays may have on our districts cases. I appreciate your time and thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Eileen Ahmann

Sent from my iPhone

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**Board Candidate Donald Walker**

1 message

**POLLY BACHROUCHE** <polly.bachrouche@fpsk12.net>

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

I sent the following email in December when Mr. Walker had not yet applied. I want to make sure it is shared now that he has applied. Thank you!!!

It is my understanding that Donald Walker has applied for one of the open seats on the school board. It isn't my nature to write to the School Board, but I feel compelled to write on Mr. Walker when he wanted to learn more about the IB programme for his daughter, then in 5th grade. I was impressed and pleased that he was thinking ahead about options and opportunities for her earlier this year when we met up in August on google, arranged through a mutual friend. As he was running for the school board, Donald was interested in my perspective as a long time resident (appreciated).

Long story short -- I believe he would be a valuable addition to our school board. He is an involved parent in our community, a teacher, and a CTE teacher at that. He is genuine, he cares, he is a good listener and absorber of multiple perspectives. I found him to be objective, fair, level-headed and committed. His background in education and CTE would be a tremendous asset to the school. Donald is a new member of the TV 10/technology committee. At a recent meeting Donald was able to provide great insight into this area and brought his experience at Specs Howard and ex-Schools.

Take care,

Polly

Polly Meyers Bachrouche, PhD, LPC  
Counselor -- Farmington High School  
Last names beginning with Om-R  
Adjunct Counselor -- North Farmington High School  
Email: [polly.bachrouche@fpsk12.net](mailto:polly.bachrouche@fpsk12.net)

**Oakland Community Health Network: non-emergency 248-464-6363**  
**Common Ground: support 24/7 by phone, text and online chat <https://commongroundhelps.org/>**  
**National Suicide Prevention Hotline: call 1-800-273-talk (8255) OR text HOME to 741741**  
**Nurse On Call (Health Dept) 1-800-848-5533 [noc@oakgov.com](mailto:noc@oakgov.com)**



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## Open School Board Position

1 message

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**Cheryl Willette** <caw1946@hotmail.com>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 5:38 PM

January 11, 2020

Members of the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education

Dear School Board Trustees,

We are members of the Beloved Community Initiative and concerned residents, parents and taxpayers of the FPS community. We share a deeply vested interest and concern about the leadership of our school district. As such, we feel that Donald Walker is the best candidate to fill the vacant School Board position.

We in the Beloved Community believe the recent school board and superintendent resignations, and the election of new board members, offer an opportunity for our district to begin healing the divisions of the past and building a cohesive and forward-thinking board to lead us into the future our students and employees deserve.

We urge the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education to appoint this community leader who understands the complex demands of a rapidly changing world. What has always been done is not working. Donald Walker is an educator with 30 years of experience in both traditional and CTE--Career Technical Education. Currently, Director of Multimedia for the Detroit School of Arts, and a Specs Howard Hall of Fame Inductee, he has proven himself to be a skilled communicator who welcomes diverse perspectives and has demonstrated experience at moving from issues to solutions.

We recognize the many challenges facing this Board. Most critical among them is addressing diversity, equity and inclusion leading to success for all students. We believe that Donald Walker's qualifications make him uniquely suited to deal with these issues. He will bring wisdom, much needed diplomacy, the ability to listen thoughtfully, and proven experience at a time when it is sorely needed.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Willette

Rev. Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns

Tanji Grant

Louis Johnson  
Dr. Sekeita Lewis-Jonson  
Tom Shurtleff  
Colleen Tavor  
Amber Kish  
Sue Ross  
Bruce Fowler  
Khaya Davidson  
Rev. Sharon Scott  
Jim White  
Karen Bartos  
Kelly Goldberg  
Neli Kelly  
Kelli Carpenter-Crawford  
Shannon Kelly  
Sreela Datta  
Deacon Mark Springer  
Michelle Stone Artt  
Laura Hedgecock  
Lisa Matthews  
Susan L. Genschoreck  
Aasiyah Khan  
Afeefah Khan  
Jan Dabish  
Tera Shamey  
Antonio Foster  
Autumn Foster  
Steven Artt  
Jiby Kuriakose  
Afroz Khan  
Danielle Ware  
Pastor Eddie Jusino

Chris Talwar

Gillian Talwar

Dr. Philip Kuriakose

Jeff Pavlik

Becky Burns

Rosie Burns-Pavlik

Debra Hemmye

Michael Bridges

Asim Khan

Ayyub Khan

Amy Gerhart

Dr. Andrew Gerhart

Isabelle Gerhart

Jonathan Butcher

Shana Butcher

Cheryl

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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## Donald Walker for School Board

1 message

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**Albert Boswell** <arboswell@sbcglobal.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 12:57 PM

I would like to highly recommend Donald Walker for the open position on the Farmington School Board. I have known Donald and his family for close to twenty years. He is a remarkable human being with a heart to serve. He truly understands the importance of improving student achievement. I don't believe anyone interviewing for this school board vacancy surpasses him in skills or an appetite to uplift and improve our school district.

Donald Walker knows about defining problems and setting a course to resolve them. If chosen for the position I faith he will be a huge asset for our community and schools.

Sincerely,

Albert Boswell  
25333 Wykeshire  
Farmington Hills, 48336

Sent from my iPhone

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**Covid rampant. The worse is yet to come**

1 message

**KAREN BUTLER** <karen.butler@fpsk12.net>

Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 6:50 AM

To: FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

Cc: Pratt &lt;dpratt@mea.org&gt;, "Herbart, Paula" &lt;pherbart@mea.org&gt;, ROBERT HERRERA &lt;robert.herrera@fpsk12.net&gt;, KELLY COFFIN &lt;kelly.coffin@fpsk12.net&gt;, BOBBIE GOODRUM &lt;bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net&gt;, MARGARET HENDRICKSON &lt;margaret.hendrickson@fpsk12.net&gt;, Whitmer &lt;Gretchen.Whitmer@michigan.gov&gt;, rtelman@middlecities.org, pspadafore@gomasa.org, dhecker@aftmichigan.org

Make the right decision NOW before we become the next horrific irreversible statistic. **Stop in person learning.** Be proactive ..NOW.

NYT today

Below is a three-point summary of where we are now, with help from my colleagues covering the story and from a couple of charts. I'll warn you up front: The situation is not good.

1. The new variants are scary. Scientists are still learning about new versions of the coronavirus, including variants that emerged in Britain, South Africa and Brazil. The evidence so far indicates that they “are much more infectious than the Italian strain, which has been circulating here since February,” my colleague Donald G. McNeil Jr. told me. “That’s a game changer.”

Behavior that may once have been only moderately risky — say, airplane travel — may now be more so. The variants seem to be one reason cases worldwide are spiking:

By The New York Times | Sources:  
Governments and health agencies

2. The mass vaccination campaign in the U.S. is off to a terrible start. The Trump administration promised that 20 million Americans would be vaccinated by Jan. 1. Instead, fewer than three million were — and only about nine million have now had their shots.

The Deep South has the country's lowest vaccination rates. But this isn't just a Republican failure: California, Virginia and some other Democratic-run states have also been slow. (Here's data for every state.)

Vaccinations will probably accelerate in coming weeks, especially because President-elect Joe Biden and his team seem much more focused on the problem than President Trump. Goldman Sachs forecasts that about one quarter of Americans will have received their first shot by April 1, half by June 1 and three quarters by mid-autumn. The coming

vaccination speedup is the one good piece of good news right now.

3. Things are likely to get worse before they get better. The virus is spreading so rapidly that hospitals are struggling to keep up. About 130,000 Americans are hospitalized with Covid symptoms, more than double the number two months ago. The strain on hospitals raises the possibility that many patients will not receive the best available treatments.

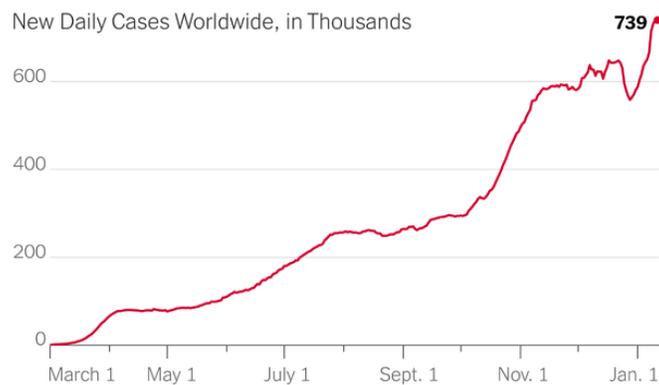
Los Angeles has recently had to ration oxygen. And Esteban Trejo, an executive at a company in El Paso, Texas, that provides oxygen to temporary hospitals, told Kaiser Health News, “It’s been nuts, absolutely nuts.”

The recent data on cases and deaths is noisy, because diagnoses artificially slowed during the holidays, says Mitch Smith, a Times reporter who follows the numbers. Still, deaths have already hit a record this week — more than 3,000 a day, on average — and the recent explosion of cases suggests they may be heading to above 3,500 and perhaps to 4,000.

Below is a three-point summary of where we are now, with help from my colleagues covering the story and from a couple of charts. I'll warn you up front: The situation is not good.

**1. The new variants are scary.** Scientists are still learning about [new versions of the coronavirus](#), including variants that emerged in Britain, South Africa and Brazil. The evidence so far indicates that they “are much more infectious than the Italian strain, which has been circulating here since February,” my colleague Donald G. McNeil Jr. told me. “That’s a game changer.”

Behavior that may once have been only moderately risky — say, airplane travel — may now be more so. The variants seem to be one reason cases worldwide are spiking:



Graph shows 7-day rolling averages.

By The New York Times | Sources: Governments and health agencies

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## Joint Education Statement 1-8-21

1 message

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**KAREN BUTLER** <karen.butler@fpsk12.net>

Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 6:52 AM

To: dpratt@mea.org, dwotruba@masb.org, rtelman@middlecities.org, pspadafore@gomasa.org, dchecker@aftmichigan.org, "Tunick, Lori" <ltunick@mea.org>, CHRISTOPHER DEYONKE <christopher.deyonke@fpsk12.net>  
Cc: Whitmer <Gretchen.Whitmer@michigan.gov>, ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, ROBERT HERRERA <robert.herrera@fpsk12.net>, KELLY COFFIN <kelly.coffin@fpsk12.net>, MARGARET HENDRICKSON <margaret.hendrickson@fpsk12.net>, FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>, BOBBIE GOODRUM <bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net>

"From your statement: "..wish to safely reopen.."

"Everyone has a part to play by masking up, maintaining social distance, limiting gatherings, and not letting our guard down against this pandemic that has claimed the lives of too many family and friends."

People are not social distancing.

Most have totally let and kept their guard down.

Families are not limiting, but increasing gathering with larger and larger groups. Neighbors are together. Families and people are getting on planes and traveling: domestically and internationally.

In 1 class alone, 4 families were in Florida last week..the Holiday surge will just be starting NOW.

Then they're sending their student to school -who may very well be carrying the Covid virus.

We are being told students must eat snack- in classroom. Video below shows spread- with mask. These students will be without.

Vaccinations are delayed. Thousands cannot get into the system to make an appointment.

Then the press today, after saying it's safe to go back, talks somberly with remorse about the very serious concern of a even more contagious strain.

What??? You can't say it's safe going back at the same time strongly concerned about a newer or highly contagious strain. Top that off with people not able to get vaccinations.

You are saying educators are expendable. In our district, we were told to "take a leap of faith". Be patient for vaccine.

In other words- enter buildings, risk exposure, long term health horrors, death, while leaders making the decisions stay locked in our Ivory towers. Administrators invited into our rooms response: "We can't yet, we are still in lockdown."

Yet leaders opened the floodgates and pushed staff in.

Where is YOUR patience until all are more safe/ virus is at <3% ?

Practice what you preach.

Your "...wish to safely reopen.."?

Not granted. Not yet.

It is a grave mistake to request return, and and even greater mistake for leaders of our educational organizations to approve it. CA is 1 in 10 positive Covid. We are 2/ 3 weeks behind.

Reconsider. Now.

See other email sent today from NYT.

WORSE BEFORE BETTER.

Karen Butler  
4th Grade-Kenbrook

please excuse lower case and typos!! 😊

live, laugh, love, leave a legacy, and let the little things go...this is NOT little- THIS IS THE BIGGEST DECISION of your and our lives.



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**Steve Goldberg**

1 message

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**Sarah Carlson** <scarlson806@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:41 PM

Sarah Carlson  
29059 Forest Hill Dr.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

January 8, 2021

Dear FPS School Board Members:

I am proud to recommend Steve Goldberg for the open position on the Farmington School Board. I have gotten to know Steve Goldberg through his involvement with Prouds Dads club at Hillside Elementary and as an I-9 basketball coach. He has always impressed me with his positive attitude, commitment to children and strong work ethic. All attributes that would make him an ideal board member.

As a mother of a 12-year old son who attends Warner Middle School, I have become deeply concerned about the future of our district caused by the recent news about our school board. As a businessman with decades of experience, I believe Steve Goldberg would be a breath of fresh air bringing new ideas, a calm demeanor and logical thinking.

Steve Goldberg ran for a six-year term for the FPS School Board during the last election and received 11,862 votes. He finished in third place and was very close to earning a seat on the board. He remained positive about the entire experience and was proud to finish so strongly in his first race. Nearly 12,000 Farmington voters have already shown their support of Steve Goldberg, making him the logical choice to fill the third seat.

In closing, my vote remains with Steve Goldberg who always puts children first, to fill the vacancy on this year's board. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Carlson  
Farmington Hills Mother

Steve Chang  
33954 Cotswold St  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

January 10, 2021  
FPS School Board Members  
Zach Rich, Terri Weems, Cheryl Blau, Mable Fox, Claudia Heinrich, Angie Smith  
Farmington Public Schools  
32500 Shiawassee St  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to express my recommendation and your consideration of Steve Goldberg for the remaining open board seat. As you know, Steve ran for the six year term in November and the citizens of Farmington and Farmington Hills supported him with 11,862 votes.

Perhaps more important than that is what I know of Steve's character and the dedication he would put forth to the school board and ultimately to the students of our district. I've known Steve for six years and he has always been involved with his son's elementary school from volunteering with the PTA, being the Proud Dad's Club president, offering his home long-term for the Lego Robotics Team and countless other examples.

Steve Goldberg has a business background, but not a need to make business connections via the Board or within the district. The only horse he has in this race is that of the betterment of our school district. I'm confident he can do this with his background and thought leadership. With two young kids of my own in this district, I fully support Steve Goldberg.

Thank you,

Steve Chang

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## Urgent Concerns Regarding Gill Elementary

1 message

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**Joseph Childers** <jdc2586@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 12:59 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net, robert.herrera@fpsk12.net, CHRISTINA SULIMAN <christina.suliman@fpsk12.net>, BRIAN DAVIS <BRIAN.DAVIS@fpsk12.net>, chala.hannon@gmail.com

Hello,

I am writing concerning my son Noah Childers, who is a newly enrolled student, and had his first day today at Gill Elementary. Upon dropping Noah off, I informed several staff members that he was new, and that today was his first day, however no one acknowledged this, or even responded to me at all! Instead, I received dubious looks, as if I had said or done something wrong. A pit entered my stomach having left my child with such rude people, but I tried to not take things personally and assumed the staff were busy receiving kids, or just having a rough day.

When I arrived to pick Noah up at 11:00AM, I was told that Noah had gotten the bus home. This was upsetting to say the least, since I'd received no confirmation that he'd be riding the bus or any instructions regarding a bus schedule. I asked a staff person to call the bus driver but he was not successful in doing so, and suggested I drive to the dropoff location near my home. As I was driving, I received a call from the office and was told "The bus driver confirmed Noah did get off of the bus".

So my child of 8 years old, was dropped off to no adult, at an apartment complex, and allowed to walk in the street to get home, about an 1/8 of a mile. I ask, is this the level of care that you would want for you child? No other child was dropped off to no parent, and I was not contacted by the bus driver or any other Gill personnel to be informed of the situation. Thankfully when I returned home, Noah was safe, but this has been the largest scare of my life concerning my child, and no other child, be it their first day at a new school or not, should be treated with such carelessness and negligence.

I truly hope Gill investigates this incident thoroughly and takes this opportunity to make whatever adjustments are necessary, to improve your transportation and safety standards.

Sincere regards,  
Joseph Childers

# Foster

**Dear FPS Board Members,**

We are writing this letter of recommendation regarding Donald Walker, a candidate for the Farmington Public School's Board of Education.

There is a great pride in knowing that the Farmington Public School District has such a high standard and is deeply passionate about the education of students. With such a responsibility to uphold, it is extremely important to carefully choose board members who will help strengthen the educational environment, which is exactly why we believe Donald is the perfect choice.

Looking at the election from the outside and then attempting to put ourselves in the present board members' position when choosing a candidate, there would be a series of characteristics that we personally would look for. First and foremost, we would ask what the character of each candidate is. When it comes to the character of Donald, his integrity and selflessness have truly been an incredible model. He is a man of compassion, and tremendous action.

As it relates to his professionalism, his extensive resume speaks volumes to this. His many years of experience in the Detroit Public Schools Community District and Farmington Area Community organizations provide him with both corporate and local knowledge of what is going on in the ever-changing world around us. This specific set of experiences has allowed him to engage on a personal level with the individual as well as the whole.

We can assure you wholeheartedly that Donald is the man for this job, and we are certain that a great number of community members can also attest to this. We greatly appreciate your consideration and encourage you to contact us if there are any questions regarding this recommendation.

**Sincerely,**

**Antonio and Autumn Foster**

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Farmington Hills Community Servant Leaders

PAMELA J. MONVILLE  
Deputy Court Administrator

# State of Michigan



MARY SCHUSTERBAUER  
Chief of Youth Assistance  
(248) 858-0055  
FAX (248) 858-1493

## *The Circuit Court for The Sixth Judicial Circuit- Family Division County of Oakland*

December 2020

Dear Sponsors, Volunteers, Staff and Community Partners,

At this time of year, we are usually sending out invitations for you to join us in a gathering to celebrate another year of strengthening youth and families through community involvement. But, of course, this year has been different in many ways.

While we cannot gather in person, we still want to celebrate last year's accomplishments that were made possible through our unique tri-sponsorship model. Your investment in families in your community is an investment in a healthier Oakland County.

We could not be prouder of the strength of our volunteer corps and the creative programming they sponsor year after year. These opportunities, coupled with the Casework services provided by our Staff, help keep families growing and thriving in order to avoid the need for court involvement.

You have been our partner! As you read through the enclosed stats, please feel pride in the role you have played.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Schusterbauer".

Mary Schusterbauer, Chief  
Oakland County Youth Assistance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Smith".

Grant Smith, Chairperson  
Oakland County Youth Assistance  
Coordinating Council

# Reflecting on 2019....

 5,053 families were served through Youth Assistance Casework services

 School Districts and Municipalities maintained their important role in tri-sponsorship by investing \$1,307,371.00 in cash and in-kind contributions to the 26 local Youth Assistance offices

 Volunteers dedicated 42,234 hours to strengthening families. Independent Sector estimates that the average value of a volunteer's time is \$27.20. Thanks for investing \$1,148,765.00 worth of your expertise to creating a healthier county

 Youth Assistance Boards raised \$806,837.00 in cash and in-kind donations to support prevention programs for youth and families across the county

 44,908 children, youth, and adults participated in Youth Assistance community programs

Some highlights:

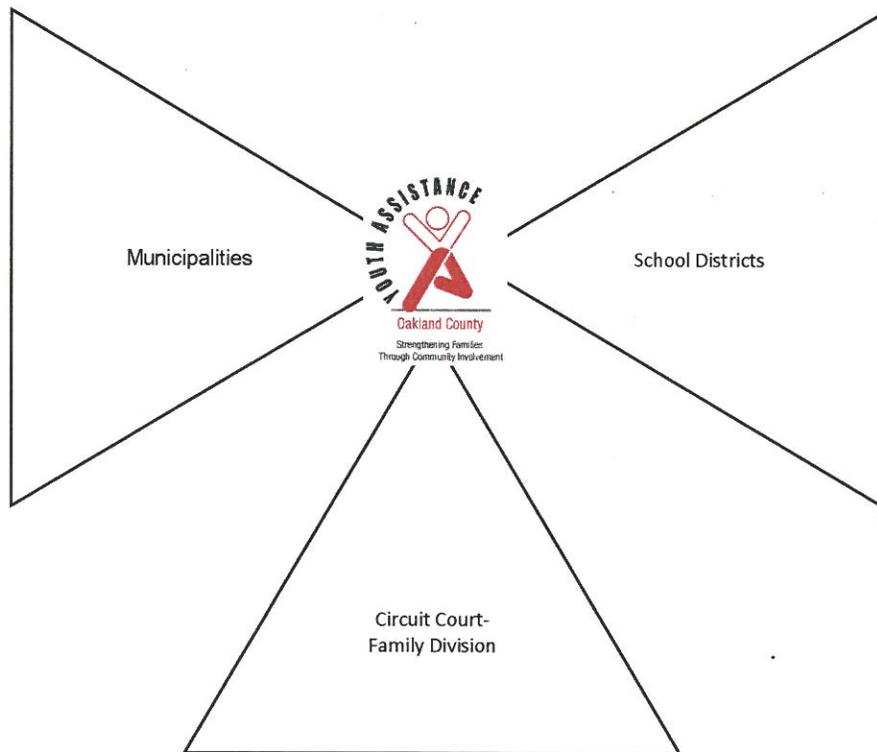
- ❖ 2620 adults and 3876 young people attended Family Education programs
- ❖ 5764 youth were given an opportunity to participate in Tutoring, Recreation, Skill Building, or Camp experiences
- ❖ 1336 young people were honored for their volunteer commitment to organizations all across Oakland County

 Mentors were matched with 111 young people

*Still We Celebrate...*

Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

Oakland County





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## Donald Walker for school Board

1 message

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**Burke Gaddis** <burke.gaddis@att.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 10:32 PM

I am writing this letter for my support Donald Walker for school Board. I am a 20 Year resident and have put 3 daughters through the Farmington Public School system.

I have known Donald for over 10 years. His dedication to his craft and to education would be an asset to our board. As he showed in his campaign he is very intelligent and would represent us very well.

Donald is a proven leader who will use his knowledge and skills to help unify the district. Please consider Donald Walker for school board.

Sincerely,

Burke M. Gaddis  
Director AT&T  
Former Board member Farmington YMCA  
Former Harison High School Girls Basketball booster President

Sent from my iPhone



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**Letter of Recommendation/Support: Mr. Donald Walker, Jr. for Non-Partisan Farmington Hills Public School Board Member)**

1 message

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**Bro. Kyles O. Hamilton, Sr., JD** <misterkohs@comcast.net>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 1:11 PM

Dear Board President and Esteemed Members,  
Good afternoon.

I have had the honor of knowing Donald Walker, Jr. for over 30 years. I know Mr. Walker to be man of lofty character and deportment.

Mr. Walker, is a long time resident and home owner who has raised his family in the City of Farmington Hills; therefore, he uniquely understands the challenges and opportunities school board members face.

Mr. Walker was employed by the Detroit Public School system at Detroit School of the Arts and Specs Howard School of Media Arts where he worked as an instructor and mentor to hundreds of teens and young adults.

In 2020, Mr. Walker was honored by his fellow instructors, administrators and peers who elected him to the Specs Howard School for Media Arts' Hall of Fame.

An educated (a bachelor's and terminal degree) man himself and product of the nearby Southfield Public School system, Walker knows and values the tangible and intangible benefits of providing a quality K-12 public school education to the children of Farmington Hills.

Mr. Walker has many ideas and a well reasoned platform to improve the quality of education and services provided to the citizens of Farmington Hills while bringing that rare ability to work in concert with others without being either difficult or disagreeable.

During several candidate forums, Mr. Walker constantly impressed voters and supporters with his subject matter knowledge, command of the issues while offering residents thoughtful, articulate and easy to understand solutions.

For all the reasons above and more, it is with tremendous enthusiasm, I highly recommend and support Donald Walker, Jr. to fill the Non-partisan Farmington Hill Public School Board member vacancy.  
Respectfully submitted,

Kyles O. Hamilton, Sr., JD  
(248)756-0072  
[misterkohs@comcast.net](mailto:misterkohs@comcast.net)



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## Steve Goldberg for Board Trustee Vacant Seat

1 message

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**russandami@aol.com** <russandami@aol.com>  
Reply-To: russandami@aol.com  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 3:51 PM

Amelia Hodges  
31955 Merton Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

January 11, 2021

Farmington Public Schools Board of Education  
Zach Rich, Terri Weems, Cheryl Blau, Mable Fox, Claudia Heinrich, Angie Smith  
32500 Shiawassee Street  
Farmington, MI 48336

### **RE: Steve Goldberg for Board Trustee Vacant Seat**

Dear FPS Board of Education Members,

Please accept my recommendation and preference to select Steve Goldberg for the vacant trustee position on the Farmington Public School Board of Education on January 12, 2021.

I have known Steve and his family since the 2014-2015 school year. Our children attended Hillside Elementary together from kindergarten through fifth grade. Steve and his wife were very active in school, in the classroom, and with the Hillside PTA and Hillside Proud Dads Club. He knows what is happening in our schools through his contact with families, teachers, and staff, as his child is a current FPS student. Steve has observed what works, what does not, and what could be improved upon.

In addition to being an active parent in the school, Steve brings his 30 year business experience to the table. He would bring a diversity of perspective, experience, and skill set that would enhance the Board of Education. He has experience tackling issues both planned and unplanned.

Steve has demonstrated his interest and commitment to the FPS community by his active participation at school, and most recently by running for a School Board position in the November 3, 2020, election. Steve earned the backing of 11,860 residents who voted for him two months ago. I believe he would have a positive impact on the FPS School Board moving forward.

I thank you for your consideration in the selection of Steve Goldberg to the School Board vacancy.

Sincerely,  
Amelia Hodges



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## Donald Walker for Board Trustee

1 message

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**Naomi Khalil** <naomi.khalil@detroitk12.org>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 10:31 PM

Board Trustees:

It is my honor and privilege to endorse Donald Walker for Board Trustee of Farmington Public Schools. As an educator of more than 20 years, Donald knows first-hand the variety of issues that a school district can face. Having worked both at the classroom level as well as at the district level, Donald has the ability to examine issues and innovations from multiple vantage points in the educational system as he looks for solutions that will increase equitable outcomes for all involved. Donald is courageous and will not just look for the solution that will please the majority, particularly if a better solution that centers students and their needs exists. He prioritizes the needs of those most marginalized by both society and traditional schooling, while advocating for a redistribution of resources and an equity centered approach in all district functions. Donald is a true leader for justice and values the integrity of voice and action in all he does. A loving husband and father, Donald leads from a place of humility and collaboration, truly believing that he is best when in service to others.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Donald is the right choice for FPS and will truly help bend the arc of justice to help FPS be its very best!

Naomi Khalil

Deputy Executive Director

(she/her/hers)

[Why Pronouns Matter](#)

“The more I live, the more I learn.”

-Alan and Marilyn Bergman

**Detroit Public Schools Community District  
Office of the Equity, Advocacy and Civil Rights**

[3011 W. Grand Blvd., 14th Floor, Detroit, MI 48202](#)

O/M (313) 873-4274  
[naomi.khalil@detroitk12.org](mailto:naomi.khalil@detroitk12.org)



[detroitk12.org](http://detroitk12.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

How are we doing? [Click here](#) to take a quick survey and let us know.

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## MASB Executive Search Services RFI Response

1 message

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**Jay Bennett** <jbennett@masb.org>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 9:51 AM

Please accept the attached PDF document as an official and affirmative response to the Farmington Public Schools Request for Information issued December 18, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jay

### **JAY D. BENNETT**

**Assistant Director | Executive Search Services**

**Michigan Association of School Boards | [masb.org](http://masb.org)**

[1001 Centennial Way, Suite 400 | Lansing, MI 48917](#)

**P:** 517-327-5928 | **C:** 517-402-6760 | **F:** 517-327-0775

[TWEET](#) | [FB](#) | [INSTA](#) | [WATCH](#) | [INFO](#)



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 **A proposal for services for Farmington Public Schools.pdf**  
387K



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## RE: FPS Board of Education Special Meeting Scheduled for January 8, 2021 is Cancelled

1 message

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**Mark McCauley** <mccauleymr@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 2:20 PM

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Cc: "hirokoshiyama@hotmail.com" <hirokoshiyama@hotmail.com>, "McMillinT1@michigan.gov" <McMillinT1@michigan.gov>, "snydern@michigan.gov" <snydern@michigan.gov>, "Bergman.constituent@mail.house.gov" <Bergman.constituent@mail.house.gov>, "senjmoss@senate.michigan.gov" <senjmoss@senate.michigan.gov>

Hello FPS BOE Members,

As a rational sovereign citizen and resident of Farmington Hills who has independently studied covid19, I completely reject the mandate for schoolchildren to wear masks and make frequent use of hand sanitizer.

These actions impose definite, measurable health risks and cognitive impairments and are unacceptable when weighed against the nearly-zero protective value that these actions purport to provide.

I do not consent to a Governor mandate that will harm children, and will reconsider my decision only if those mandates become ratified into Law via established Constitutional processes.

I have no concern or reservation whatsoever for resuming school in a normal (conventional) fashion as soon as that option is made available.

**I expect the district to make school options available to my children which do not weaken their immune systems and reduce their blood oxygen.** If such an option is not made available, I will further support and actively seek to hold FPS District Board Members directly liable for any medical damages done to FPS schoolchildren as a result of instituting these irrational, unwarranted and unlawful policies.

Sincerely,

Mark R. McCauley

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**From:** FPS-LISTSERV <noreply@fpslistserv.com>

**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 4:20 PM

**To:** mccauleymr@hotmail.com

**Subject:** FPS Board of Education Special Meeting Scheduled for January 8, 2021 is Cancelled



Dear FPS Families,

Following the press conference of Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan's Chief Medical Executive, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, held today, January 8, at 1:30 p.m., where they both stated that it was safe to return to school with mitigation protocols in place and set the expectation that schools should be back in-person no later than March 2021, the Board of Education has decided to cancel the Special Meeting that was scheduled for this evening at 5:30 p.m.

This means that the District will move forward with the return to in-person learning on:

- **Monday, January 11** for Elementary students, Early Childhood students, and Special Education specialty self-contained program students.
- **Monday, January 25** for middle and high school students.

Based on research done across the country and across the world, schools can be lower risk environments for students and staff when they implement strict infection-control measures.

We apologize for any unnecessary concern this may have caused to our students, families, and staff members. We do not take our duties to serve this community lightly.

We look forward to Monday and the start of bringing our students and staff back for in-person learning.

Thank you.

Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education



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This message was sent to [mccauleymr@hotmail.com](mailto:mccauleymr@hotmail.com).

To forward this message, **please do not use the forward button of your email application**, because this message was made specifically for you only. Instead use the [forward page feature](#) in our listserv system.

To change your name, delivery preferences or **change lists to which you currently subscribe**, visit your personal [preferences page](#).

Or you can **Unsubscribe completely** from all lists and all future mailings. **(WARNING: Unsubscribing cannot be undone and you will not be allowed to resubscribe using the same email address without District intervention)**

**Note: Messages sent to this account are not read by a human and will not get a response.** This account was designed for outgoing mail only.

POWERED BY [PHPLIST](#)





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## Message In Support of Donald Walker for School Board.

1 message

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**toinemurphy@gmail.com** <toinemurphy@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 12:57 AM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Cc: Christine Murphy <manauisc32@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this message as our support and hope that you vote Donald Walker onto the school board to fill the open seat.

I want to offer these comment for my wife Christine and I who have been residents for over 20yr in Farmington Hills and parents of two kids one who is graduate of North Farmington and the other a rising 8th grader at Warner.

I've been active in each of my kids schools over the years and have a good pulse of the type of leadership needed at the table to get our district back to and beyond the academic standards of the past while embracing inclusion of our cities great diversity.

I've known Donald for 15th years and he has a strong package around education and leadership both on paper and in the flesh!

Donald is the type of person who will listen and seek to find the solutions that will move our district forward by forging ways to work with those how may have differences. He is fair minded, focused on the goal of FPS students and families first!

I thank you in advance for reviewing this communication in support of Donald Walker!

Toine, Christine, Alyssa and Brianna  
Murphy! Proud FPS product and student!

Sent from my iPhone



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## Return to School

1 message

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**jmusial jmusial** <jmusial@umich.edu>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 2:22 PM

To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Cc: robert.herrera@fpsk.12

Dear Farmington Public Schools Board of Education,

I am a parent of a FPS student.

I do not believe that it is safe to return to school especially without access to the vaccine. In fact, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, we continue to teach remotely because it is unsafe to have in-person instruction.

Should FPS students return to school, I would recommend that all central office employees move their offices' inside the high school buildings. This would be a sign of leadership and they would also have skin in the game.

Respectfully,  
Joseph Musial, PhD  
Behavioral Sciences  
University of Michigan-Dearborn



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## School Board Interviews

1 message

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**Danielle Ohm** <danielle.ohm@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 1:02 PM

To: ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, TERRI WEEMS <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, mable.fox@fpsk12.net, claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, ANGIE SMITH <angie.smith@fpsk12.net>

Cc: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Greetings Farmington Public School Board Members,

Tonight you, our elected board members, face the difficult task of selecting a colleague who will set aside personal and political agendas and do what is necessary to ensure success for all Farmington Public School students. With a global pandemic, partisan divides, declining enrollment and measures of academic achievement, and a history of less than professional behavior on the part of both past board members and staff, what would be a tough job under ordinary circumstances has become a monumental task that I do not envy. Our students, families, educators, and community members are in desperate need of leaders who will build bridges and unite us around a shared vision of high-quality schools for every student in the Farmington/Farmington Hills and there is, in my mind, no better person to fill the vacant board seat than Donald Walker.

If selected as a board member, Donald will exemplify dignity and professionalism while working diligently with teachers, parents, community members and staff to create learning environments that are safe, compassionate, and encouraging. In addition to bringing dignity and professionalism, Donald will bring a passion for education and most importantly his desire to listen to and learn from our community making him a much-needed asset to our board in a time when so many feel voiceless and unheard. I feel strongly that as the board moves to interview and select a superintendent we need board members that understand that the ideal candidates will be those individuals that will focus on student achievement, building relationships between families and educators, and building a safe, positive, and above all equitable culture of learning and I think Donald Walker is the perfect person for this task. With Donald on our board we can work together to be a district of transformation and return to the district's tradition of educational excellence.

Danielle Ohm

FPS Volunteer and Community Member

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**Thank you**

1 message

**Melissa Peura** <melissapeura6@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 5:41 PM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, terri.weems@fpsk12.net, boardofed@fpsk12.net, zach.rich@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net

Despite the governor news release, I just want to thank you for making the right decision. Farmington needs clear consistent messaging from the school board and that started hopefully tonight by canceling that meeting. Be courageous as you move forward, united & consistent in decision making and listen to your community. Again thank you for reconsidering this issue above. The community thanks you.

Melissa Peura

Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



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## Return to learn

1 message

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**Sean Reisdorf** <sean007r@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 7:55 AM

To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

We start back to school but as of this morning Oakland county still does NOT have a plan to vaccinate efficiently

According to the Oakland County website, school districts are supposed to schedule our appointments

However, as of today I have yet to see ANYTHING broadcast about FPS assisting faculty and staff

I really, really hope that no one gets sick!!!

Lastly... no that you have MANDATED faculty and staff MUST return back to the classroom the school board should also then start meetings in person WITH open seating for the community!!!

--

Thanks

Sean

January 12, 2021

William Rogers  
35466 Valley Creek  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing in support of Mr. Donald Walker for placement on the Farmington School Board. I have known Donald for several years and during this time period I have found him to be an honest hardworking individual. I have had various conversations with him regarding the school system and do believe he is innovative and intuitive, and would be an asset to the Board. In addition his background in IT could provide thoughtful insight regarding the various forms of technology that could be beneficial to the school system.

I have lived in Farmington Hills since 2001 and my daughter who is now a junior at U of M came up through the Farmington Hills School system. This being the case I have grown to have an understanding of the school system. Pros, cons, good points and bad. I do believe that Donald is an excellent candidate and would prove to be very valuable to the school board.

Sincerely,  
*William Rogers*  
William Rogers

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## Steve Goldberg for School Board Seat

1 message

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**Kathryn Rusak** <karusak@hotmail.com>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 1:26 PM

Dear FPS School Board Members:

I am writing to express my recommendation of Steve Goldberg for the open seat on the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education.

I came to know Steve in recent years through our volunteer efforts supporting Hillside Elementary School. During that time, I served on the PTA board as Membership Chair (2018-2020) and Steve was deeply involved with Hillside's Proud Dad's Club. His dedication to the school, and energy to serve, was palpable during his son's years at Hillside. As I got to know Steve even better through his campaign efforts this past fall while he ran for a six-year term on the Board of Ed, my respect for him grew. Steve is an accomplished business professional who understands the value of listening before responding thoughtfully. Steve's ability to accept feedback with a calm and measured response and the right dose of inquisitiveness is impressive. Not many can master the skill of being a trusted and inspiring team member, and leader.

Aside from my personal observations of Steve's character and commitment to Farmington Public Schools, I strongly believe he should be appointed to the open board seat based on votes alone. In the recent 2020 fall election, Steve garnered 11,862 votes when he ran for a six-year term on the BOE, beating 2-year candidates (Walker and Hammer) by over 2,000 votes each. While Steve fell short of winning a seat on this board by the slim margin of just 1,490 votes, the Farmington Public School voters made their preferences clear in awarding him nearly 12,000 votes. While I respect the interest of current candidates Eisenscher, Marvin and Silver, if their call to serve Farmington Public Schools was so strong, they would have (should have) vied for a seat during the fall election.

Board Members, you have all pledged to do what is best for Farmington Public Schools, and the right path is not always easy to discern. You voluntarily stepped into the spotlight, despite mounting challenges (in the middle of a pandemic!) to do the hard work of repairing damaged relationships, and rebuilding trust, within the district; to provide the best educational experience possible for our children. This work will take time and perseverance. Steve's strengths will complement your own. I believe he can help bring stability and confidence to the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education at a time when strategic direction and civility are needed most. Please honor the will of the 11,862 voters who cast their ballots in favor of Steve Goldberg last fall and appoint *him* to open board seat in question.

Thank you for your consideration of my message; I wish you peace and clarity with the decision before you. FPS families are counting on you!

Respectfully,

Kathryn Rusak  
Parent of 3; two children at Hillside and one at Power.



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## Donald Walker Recommendation

1 message

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**James Turner** <james\_turner\_us@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: James Turner <james\_turner\_us@yahoo.com>  
To: "boardofed@fpsk12.net" <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 11:55 AM

Dear Farmington Public School Board of Education,

I am writing to recommend Donald Walker for the Farmington Public School Board of Education seat.

My name is James C. Turner and I moved my family to Farmington Hills over a decade ago in large part because of the excellent reputation of the public school system. I have two sons who are products of our school system and I am aware of the challenges we face as a community to educate our children during normal circumstances. During this COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that we have the right people on the Board of Education. Mr. Walker is perfect for this position. He has the insight and temperament desperately needed to help you all guide us through these uncertain times.

Education is a business with a human product, and as facilitators in the business of education, leaders must strive to give good customer service, even when they are challenged. This is what Donald Walker will bring to the leadership. He has been serving students and education in a variety of ways throughout his career. But his strongest characteristic is his willingness to provide good customer service to the students and staff he has worked with and worked for throughout his career.

Mr. Walker has consistently demonstrated himself to be the kind of citizen that makes this community proud. From the work he has done with our students, to the volunteer efforts that he is a part of, Mr. Walker has proven himself to have a humble demeanor and he stands out as an exceptional leader.

He simply wants to make this community a better place for us all.

I believe in Donald Walker, and I sincerely hope that you will find Mr. Walker worthy of joining your team in doing the work of creating a strong educational culture for our students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James C. Turner  
[24780 Ivywood Dr](mailto:james@jamescturner.com)  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(313) 289-2828  
[james@jamescturner.com](mailto:james@jamescturner.com)





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**Re: Steve Goldberg - Letter of Recommendation**

1 message

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**Francesca Tuzzolino** <fmtuzzolino@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 9, 2021 at 6:16 AM

To: angie.smith@fpsk12.net, Claudia.heinrich@fpsk12.net, ZACH RICH <zach.rich@fpsk12.net>, Mable.fox@fpsk12.net, Cheryl.blau@fpsk12.net, TERRI WEEMS <terri.weems@fpsk12.net>, Carmen Tuzzolino <carmen.tuzzolino@gmail.com>  
Cc: boardofed@fpsk12.net, Francesca Tuzzolino <fmtuzzolino@gmail.com>

Dear Board Members,

My apologies for not including Mable Fox in my Letter of Recommendation. It was an oversight on my part and not intentional. Please see below and attached the revised letter of recommendation for Steve Goldberg to fill our next seat.

Francesca Tuzzolino  
[22806 Fox Creek](#)  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
248-417-8226  
[fmtuzzolino@gmail.com](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)

January 8, 2021

FPS School Board Members  
Zach Rich, Angie Smith, Terri Weems, Cheryl Blau, Claudia Heinrich, Mable Fox  
Farmington Public Schools  
[32500 Shiawassee St](#)  
[Farmington Hills, MI 48336](#)

Dear FPS School Board Members:

I would like to inform you of my recommendation of Steve Goldberg for the open seat on the School Board. With over 30 years at Blue Cross Blue Shield, holding director level positions, he also obtained a master's degree in business and a BA in Finance. As such Steve Goldberg provides a unique skill set to the current school board. Steve Goldberg has also been involved in many school groups and events. I had the pleasure of knowing Steve Goldberg when he coached my son's basketball team through I-9 as well at Hillside Elementary as our kids are in the same grade. Steve Goldberg has always been an active member in the community and put kids first.

As a citizen of Farmington Hills, I have lived here since I was two-years old, so my heart belongs to our beautiful city. I remember when our District was top notch and over the years we have diminished. As a parent of three children, I want to express my deep concerns with our public education system. As a business professional, I received my master's degree in Business Administration and took tons of courses for leadership. One of the main consistent themes is to create a diverse team. This does not always mean those from different races but people with different skill sets. Boards that have a diverse background become the best ones. Steve Goldberg's business acumen would greatly complement the skills of the other board members. He is experienced in working with different types of constituents that might not agree but be able to find a common ground to move things forward.

Steve Goldberg ran for the six-year term and received 11,862 votes. He was awfully close to winning one of the seats. Those that ran for the two-year term in this past election did not come close to obtaining the number of votes that Steve Goldberg did. Donald Walker received 9,713 votes and Kevin Hammer received 9,288 votes. The others who applied I would not consider because if they genuinely wanted to be on the school board, they should have run like others did. Steve Goldberg not only received 2,100 more votes than Donald Walker or Kevin Hammer, but he was also the closest to winning his race than others were in their race. Steve Goldberg was 1,400 votes short while the other two that ran for election were at least 5,216 votes short of winning.

I feel the empty seat should be filled by the person who came in third place - Steve Goldberg. The voters of Farmington Hills spoke up during this election and clearly thought highly of Steve Goldberg. Any other candidate for consideration does not seem possible. I ask each of you to respect the voter's decisions this past election and choose Steve Goldberg to fill the empty seat.

Steve Goldberg has zero political ties and honestly wants to put our kids first. I recommend Steve Goldberg to you without reservation. If you have any further questions about his background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other 11,861 people who voted for him less than two months ago.

Sincerely,

Francesca Tuzzolino  
Concerned Farmington Hills Citizen

Thank you in advance for understanding!

Francesca Tuzzolino  
248-417-8226

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 7:49 PM Francesca Tuzzolino <[fmtuzzolino@gmail.com](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)> wrote:

Francesca Tuzzolino  
[22806 Fox Creek](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
248-417-8226  
[fmtuzzolino@gmail.com](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)

January 8, 2021

FPS School Board Members  
Zach Rich, Angie Smith, Terri Weems, Cheryl Blau, Claudia Heinrich  
Farmington Public Schools  
[32500 Shiawassee St](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)  
[Farmington Hills, MI 48336](mailto:fmtuzzolino@gmail.com)

Dear FPS School Board Members:

I would like to inform you of my recommendation of Steve Goldberg for the open seat on the School

Board. With over 30 years at Blue Cross Blue Shield, holding director level positions, he also obtained a master's degree in business and a BA in Finance. As such Steve Goldberg provides a unique skill set to the current school board. Steve Goldberg has also been involved in many school groups and events. I had the pleasure of knowing Steve Goldberg when he coached my son's basketball team through I-9 as well at Hillside Elementary as our kids are in the same grade. Steve Goldberg has always been an active member in the community and put kids first.

As a citizen of Farmington Hills, I have lived here since I was two-years old, so my heart belongs to our beautiful city. I remember when our District was top notch and over the years we have diminished. As a parent of three children, I want to express my deep concerns with our public education system. As a business professional, I received my master's degree in Business Administration and took tons of courses for leadership. One of the main consistent themes is to create a diverse team. This does not always mean those from different races but people with different skill sets. Boards that have a diverse background become the best ones. Steve Goldberg's business acumen would greatly complement the skills of the other board members. He is experienced in working with different types of constituents that might not agree but be able to find a common ground to move things forward.

Steve Goldberg ran for the six-year term and received 11,862 votes. He was awfully close to winning one of the seats. Those that ran for the two-year term in this past election did not come close to obtaining the number of votes that Steve Goldberg did. Donald Walker received 9,713 votes and Kevin Hammer received 9,288 votes. The others who applied I would not consider because if they genuinely wanted to be on the school board, they should have run like others did. Steve Goldberg not only received 2,100 more votes than Donald Walker or Kevin Hammer, but he was also the closest to winning his race than others were in their race. Steve Goldberg was 1,400 votes short while the other two that ran for election were at least 5,216 votes short of winning.

I feel the empty seat should be filled by the person who came in third place - Steve Goldberg. The voters of Farmington Hills spoke up during this election and clearly thought highly of Steve Goldberg. Any other candidate for consideration does not seem possible. I ask each of you to respect the voter's decisions this past election and choose Steve Goldberg to fill the empty seat.

Steve Goldberg has zero political ties and honestly wants to put our kids first. I recommend Steve Goldberg to you without reservation. If you have any further questions about his background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other 11,861 people who voted for him less than two months ago.

Sincerely,

Francesca Tuzzolino  
Concerned Farmington Hills Citizen



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**Vacancy on the FPS board - letter of recommendation for Goldberg**

1 message

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**Cindy Walker** <caw2571@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 9:08 AM

**Dear FPS School Board Members:**

I would like to recommend Steve Goldberg for the open seat on the School Board.

I met Steve because our sons became friends when they attended Hillside Elementary school together years ago. He has always struck me as a responsible, engaged, and caring parent and I think he is the clear choice for FPS to fill the vacancy on the School Board.

The need for someone with Steve's corporate (non-academic) experience and business acumen is painfully obvious, given the ongoing situation with the board over the past year. An outsider is sorely needed to add a level of strategic thinking, project management, and team problem solving that is critical to the board's ability to effectively function as they should be.

The number of votes he received during the past election makes him the obvious choice to fill the vacancy. Steve received 2,100 more votes than Donald Walker or Kevin Hammer. He was also closer to winning his race than others were (only 1,400 votes short while the other two were 5000+ votes short). The voters of Farmington Hills spoke via the election and you should honor that. You need to respect the voter's decisions and choose Steve Goldberg to fill the empty school board seat.

I hope you do the right thing and add the much-needed diversity in expertise onto the board by electing Steve Goldberg.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Walker  
Concerned Parent and Farmington Hills Resident

Note - Letter is attached in PDF format too.

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 **Steve Goldberg for School Board - Letter to the FPS Board.pdf**  
107K

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**Fwd: Donald Walker selected to fill the open seat on the FPS Board of Education through 2022**

1 message

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**Cindy Walker** <caw2571@gmail.com>  
To: FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 10:25 AM

Is there a reason you didn't go with who the voters wanted, based on the number of votes in the original election?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Farmington Public Schools** <no\_reply@fpsk12.net>  
Date: Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 10:19 AM  
Subject: Donald Walker selected to fill the open seat on the FPS Board of Education through 2022  
To: Farmington Public Schools Recipients <recipients@farmingtonmi.parentlink.net>

## Donald Walker selected to fill the open seat on the FPS Board of Education through 2022

On Tuesday, January 12, the Board of Education conducted interviews with six community members who applied for the open Board position. The applicants were:

- [Doron Eisenscher](#)
- [Steven Goldberg](#)
- [Kevin Hammer](#)
- [Kathryn Marvin](#)
- [Janail Silver](#)
- [Donald Walker](#)

After Board discussion, five of the six Board members selected Walker as their top candidate. Board trustee Claudia Heinrich had Walker as her second choice to Steven Goldberg.

Mr. Walker will be sworn in at the January 19 Board of Education meeting and serve out the term ending in 2022.

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Farmington Public Schools | [32500 Shiawassee St, Farmington, MI 483362338](#) | 248-489-3337

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**decisions**

1 message

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**carrie wallis** <carriewalliscpa@hotmail.com>  
To: FPS boardofed <boardofed@fpsk12.net>

Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 10:47 AM

Dear School Board,

After you had a meeting with the attorney that represents the district, it appears that you were all advised to come to an agreement in order to avoid being sued by Bob Herrera. It would appear then that there was enough evidence to cause you to settle. Based on this, I assume there was evidence against Angie Smith to cause the censure decision.

By quickly lifting the censure on Angie Smith, I must assume that you now do not think the evidence was there to come to a settlement with Bob Herrera. If this is the case, you do not trust the advice then of the council you've hired.

As a community, I think we are tired of the board's actions causing us to lose superintendents, costs of attorneys, costs to pay settlements and negative publicity. Not to mention - what qualified candidate would ever want to work for us?

I am amazed by the continuing drama by the board. Why did you even entertain a vote to remove the censure on Angie Smith? If you made a decision to place the censure, you should have explained and delayed this vote until the community had more input. This cycle is not in the best interests of the community or students.

Carrie Wallis



FPS boardofed &lt;boardofed@fpsk12.net&gt;

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**Letter of recommendation**

1 message

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**donald warren** <thewarrencrew5@gmail.com>  
To: boardofed@fpsk12.net

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 3:51 PM

Good Afternoon Farmington Hills School Board members

My name is Donald Warren, my wife and I have been residents of Farmington Hills for over 23 yrs and our three children have been in the schools system from K-12. I realize the climate has changed since my children graduated from FH schools but the bottom line is we all want the *BEST* education and positive scholastic experiences for our children. That's why I would like for the school board to consider Donald Waker as the next FH school board member. Over the last 6 years I have worked with Mr. Walker in various community services activities and he has been a great team member, hard worker and always willing to give back to the community.

I feel Mr. Walker would be a great asset to our School Board Leadership with his educational background, career experiences and his listen first approach when confronted with difficult issues is a key characteristic of a true problem solver. I think Mr. Walker will bring new ideas to our community that will benefit all of our students throughout their K-12 experience and his efforts to help our young adults navigate their upcoming college career and also provide guidance to those students who decide to choose a different path other than college is pivotal.

Thank you , I have faith you all will make a good decision that will *POSITIVLEY* impact our school system and community.

--

*Donald and Patti Warren*

**VI. DISTRICT UPDATES**

**A. RECOGNITION: BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**Presenter:** Diane Bauman, director-school and community relations

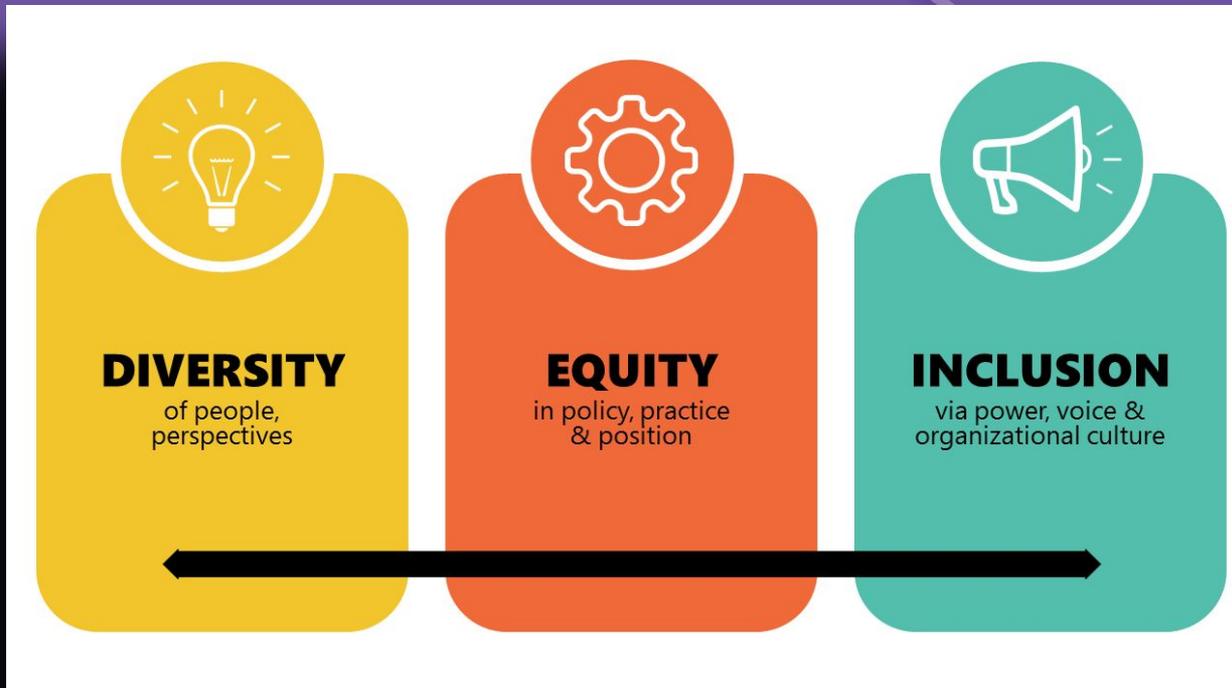
**B. DEI UPDATE.**

**Presenter:** Bobbie Goodrum, assistant superintendent-diversity, equity, and inclusion

**C. STUDENT MID-YEAR PROGRESS GOAL REPORT.**

**Presenter:** Kelly Coffin, assistant superintendent-innovation and strategic initiatives and Margaret Hendrickson, director-curriculum, instruction and assessment

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Update



# DEI Updates

## Midwest & Plains Equity Technical Assistance

- Leading Equity Focused Initiatives
  - Geared towards Superintendents and Chief Diversity Officers
  - 4 days of training
  - Partner Districts
  - Community of Practice Sessions in March and May
- Equity Oriented Educator
  - 7 Member Team: Admin and Teacher Leaders
  - 3 days of training
  - Consultation remains available
- Equity Oriented Strategic Planning
  - Same team as EOE
  - 3 days of training
  - Postponed our participation until March

# DEI Updates

## US2 Educational Equity Audit

- District Self-Assessment
- Schools Self-Assessment
- Stakeholder Surveys starting early February
- Focus Groups scheduled March - April
- Final report provided during the Summer at the latest

# DEI Updates

## Minority Student Achievement Network

- MSAN Intersectional Social Justice Collaborative for Middle and High School Students
  - 14 student participants representing our middle and high schools
  - 4 sessions so far (2 hour sessions)
  - Speakers have included Dr. Betina Love and Jahmal Cole
  - Year long program
- MSAN Reckoning Series with Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, CEO of Disruptive Equity Education Project

# DEI Updates

## Farmington Area IDEA

- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Acceptance
- IDEA Chapters at each of our elementary and secondary schools
- District club includes representatives from the Diversity Clubs at all our secondary schools and Mercy High School
- Planning for a Virtual Diversity Conference in April
- Recently participated in a combined meeting with Student Round Table where we discussed intersectionality and personal and social identity

# DEI Updates

## Other

- Collaborated with Farmington Community Public Library and MCMR for the MLK Day Celebration
  - Student Panel
  - Book Club
- Began the P3 Initiative - Promoting Protective Policies in Schools
- Pretty Brown Girls and Dream Kings
- MDE SEL Network
- RP Training

Thank you for your time!

[bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net](mailto:bobbie.goodrum@fpsk12.net)

**January 19, 2021**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

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**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. SCHOOL OF CHOICE OPTIONS 2021/2022**

**Presenters:** Bobbie Goodrum, assistant superintendent-diversity, equity, and inclusion and Khris Alexander, executive assistant



**MEMORANDUM**

**FROM DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, DR. BOBBIE HAYES GOODRUM

PH: 248.489.3309

FAX: 248.489-3314

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Bobbie Hayes Goodrum

SUBJECT: Schools of Choice – 2020/21 School Year

DATE: January 15, 2021

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**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Our Intra-District School of Choice program has provided our resident families with choice within the District. Requests for Intra-District School of Choice have been the first placements to be made.

The District also has accepted applications from employees who wish to have their non-resident children attend school within our District. "Employee" is defined as being "regular" part time or full time; excluding substitutes, non-faculty coaches and contract services. This enrollment option has been placed second. Employees can apply at any time and their children are placed in schools with open seats in the applicable grade level, except Farmington STEAM Academy.

Lastly, the Section 105 School of Choice program was established by the State of Michigan to provide additional options to families regarding the education of their children. Under the auspices of this program, if a family feels that their child(ren) will benefit by attending a participating school district outside of their home district; and, further, if there is space, then the family should be allowed this choice according to State guidelines. Section 105 is derived from a section within the State School Aid Act that specifically describes the School of Choice program and its process. Thus, under Section 105, a pupil may transfer from one local school district to another local district within the same county or Intermediate School District (ISD). This choice option has been the last option to be placed. Any building or grade level that has been closed to Intra-District School of Choice would be closed to Section 105.

Please note: There is also a Section 105c School of Choice program. Section 105c allows enrollment of students who reside in school districts located in contiguous intermediate school districts (**Lapeer County, Genesee County, Macomb County, Wayne County, Washtenaw County, and Livingston County**). Farmington Public Schools does not currently participate in this option.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Currently, there are a total of **319** Section 105 School of Choice students enrolled in grades K-12 and **63** PA 227 (employees' non-resident children) students enrolled in grades K-12 for the **2020-21** school year.

The total foundation allowance received, for students participating in both programs for the **2020-21** school year, is approximately **\$3,258,078**.

## **2020-21 ANNUAL REVIEW**

In accordance with District policy 2001 and the annual review process, the Schools of Choice committee<sup>1</sup> reviewed enrollment projections and current data related to our various Schools of Choice options and placements to determine options for the **2021-22** school year.

The committee presents the following recommendations:

### **Intra-District School of Choice (resident) [same as 2020-21]**

- Kindergarten through fifth grade open at all elementary buildings, except FSA, for purposes of Intra-District Schools of Choice not to exceed 2021-2022 staffing levels/ratios.
- Sixth through eighth grade open at all middle school buildings, except FSA, for purposes of Intra-District Schools of Choice not to exceed 2021-2022 staffing levels/ratios.
- Grade 9 spaces open at Farmington High School and North Farmington High School for purposes of Intra-District Schools of Choice not to exceed 2021-2022 staffing levels/ratios.
- Grades 10 - 12 closed to **Intra-District School of Choice**.
- Waitlist any Intra-District School of Choice **LATE applications** (applications received after the deadline.) If space is available in August, additional placements would be made.

### **PA 227 (non-resident employees' children) [same as 2020-21]**

- After placement of Intra-District kindergarten through ninth grade students, kindergarten through twelfth grade spaces opened for PA 227. Employees would be permitted to apply for enrollment at any grade level, at any building (except FSA), and outside of the application period. Placement would be based on space availability and not to exceed 2021-2022 staffing levels/ratios.

### **Section 105 School of Choice (reduced number of spots from 2020-21)**

- After placement of Intra-District and PA 227 students, remaining kindergarten through eighth grade spaces, not to exceed 2021-22 staffing levels/ratios, to be opened for Section 105.
- 20 spots open K-3rd grade. Waitlist, if applicable, maintained for up to 40 seats for 4th-8th grade only.
- Grades 9 - 12 would be closed to Section 105 School of Choice.
- All school of choice letters will include designation of the School Feeder Path.

**Recommended Timelines:**

**Elementary and Secondary Intra-District (Farmington Public Schools' Residents)**

- February 1, 2021      Application and Guidelines available
- February 19, 2021    Applications due online by 11:59pm
- March 5, 2021        Lottery, if necessary
- March 12, 2021       Placements announced to families

**Farmington STEAM Academy** is not included in the Schools of Choice Program.

Farmington Public Schools will accept **Section 105 Schools of Choice** applications from **Oakland County Intermediate School District** residents beginning:

**Monday, March 1st, 2021 through Friday, March 19th, 2021**, until 11:59 p.m. for openings in Kindergarten through eighth grade for the **2021-2022** school year.

**Parents/Guardians must provide proof of residency in their own name. No residency affidavits for non-residents of Farmington Public Schools.\***

**Section 105 (Oakland County ISD Residents)**

- March 1, 2021        Application and Guidelines available
- March 19, 2021     Applications due online by 11:59pm
- April 12, 2021      Lottery, if necessary
- May 14, 2021        Placements announced to families

**Recommendation, 20 spots K-3rd grade, 20 seats up to 40 4th-8th per grade level**

**CONCLUSION**

If the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces actually available for open choice options, lotteries will be held.

In closing, we respectfully present this recommendation for your review and feedback.

***\*Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis due to the Pandemic***

**Planning Meeting Members:** Chairperson, Dr. Bobbie Hayes Goodrum, Assistant Superintendent, Diversity Equity and Inclusion; Khristian Alexander, Executive Assistant; Kathy Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Talent Development; Jeff Danzinger, Director of Human Resources; Chris Suliman, Principal, Gill Elementary School; Christopher O’Brien, Principal, Wood Creek Elementary; Ken Sanders, Principal, East Middle School; Polly Bachrouche, Counselor, Farmington High School; Allyson Robinson, Principal, Power Middle School; Donna Reuter, Supervisor, Student Information; Diane Bauman, Director, School & Community Relations; Kendra Montante, Communication Specialist; Julie Zatsick, Human Resources; Beth Hulett, PTA President; Dr. Jacqueline McDougal, Executive Director, Special Education; Steven Vercellino , Principal, Forest Elementary

**X. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. RECONFIRMATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY PLAN (EXTENDED COVID19 LEARNING PLAN).**

**Presenters:** Kelly Coffin, assistant superintendent-innovation and strategic initiatives; Bobbie Goodrum, assistant superintendent-diversity, equity and inclusion; Margaret Hendrickson, director-curriculum, instruction, and assessment

**MOTION:** I move that the Board of Education reconfirm the Instructional Delivery Plan (FPS Extended COVID19 Learning Plan), as presented.

**XI. ITEMS FROM THE TREASURER**

**A. Expenditures.**

**MOTION:** I move that the Board of Education approve the expenditures as outlined in the expenditure printout dated January 19, 2021, as follows:

General Fund	\$9,284,567
General Fund - Athletics	\$27,558
Debt Fund	-0-
Capital Projects – 2018 Bond Fund	\$1,758,460
Capital Projects – 2020 Bond Fund	\$3,640
Nutrition Services Fund	\$146,353
Benefit Stabilization Fund	\$1,326,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,547,328</b>

## January 19, 2021

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

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**XII. CONSENT AGENDA.** I move that the Board of Education approve the January 19, 2021 Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting
  - 2. January 12, 2021 Special Meeting/Board Vacancy Interviews
- B. Personnel Items

### **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

**Hewitt, Laura**  
Kitchen Helper  
Farmington High  
Effective: 12/14/2020

**Jackson-Kleid, Janin**  
Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective: 12/9/2020

**O'Sullivan, Patrick**  
Teacher  
Kenbrook Elementary  
Effective: 1/11/2021

### **NEW HIRES**

**Beson, Amelia**  
Teacher  
Warner Middle  
Effective: 1/25/2021

**Brennan, Jillian**  
Teacher  
FSA, Gill, Hillside Elementaries  
Effective: 1/4/2021

### **RESIGNATIONS**

**Casbar, Sue**  
Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective: 1/12/2021

**Porter, Sarah**  
Paraprofessional  
Farmington Early Childhood  
Effective: 1/8/2021

### **RETIREMENTS**

**Burnham, Dennis**  
Journeyman Carpenter  
Facilities Management  
Effective: 3/1/2021

### **OTHER**

**Finch, Kassandra**  
Kitchen Helper  
East Middle  
Effective: 12/16/2020

**Guyton, Nichole**  
Kitchen Helper  
North Farmington High  
Effective: 12/11/2020



**7. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES.**

**Superintendent’s Evaluation and Succession Planning:** Chair Rich stated that the committee’s work will be presented under IX. Action Items B. Appointment of Interim Superintendent.

**8. EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

**Presenters:** Kelly Coffin, assistant superintendent-innovation and strategic initiatives and Margaret Hendrickson, director-curriculum, instruction and assessment

Dr. Coffin and Mrs. Hendrickson presented an overview of professional development that has occurred and will continue for staff, students and parents in three phases. Phase 1 began in August 2020, and Phase 3 is set to occur in February. The FPS Instructional Framework informed by the National Standards for Quality Online Learning was reviewed along with the Learning Plan Design that is guided by six areas focused on a student-centered approach and safe and accessible learning environments. Teacher and student voice play a prominent role in the development of PD as well as the importance of a cohesive storyline and technology integration.

Board discussion occurred and questions were answered.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Public comments were read aloud and given virtually. No action taken.

President Rich requested a brief recess at 9:18 pm. The meeting resumed at 9:28 pm.

**10. AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA.**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Blau and supported by Smith to amend the agenda to add Return to Learn Plan as IX. Action Item C.

Board discussion occurred.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**   **Ayes:**     Rich, Weems, Heinrich, Blau, Fox, Smith  
                              **Nays:**     None

**MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

**11. CENSURE REMOVAL.**

**Presenter:** Zach Rich, Board President

President Rich read a prepared statement recommending removal of the censure of Board Trustee Smith.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Weems and supported by Fox that the Board of Education remove the censure and corresponding resolution restrictions imposed on Board Trustee Smith at the November 16, 2020 Special Meeting.

Board discussion occurred.

It was moved by Trustee Hienrich to table this item. No support received.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**   **Ayes:**   Weems, Rich, Blau, Fox, Smith  
                          **Nays:**    Heinrich

**MOTION PASSED 5-1.**

**12. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT.**

**Presenter:** Zach Rich, Board President

President Rich stated that Oakland Schools ISD recommended that the Superintendent's Evaluation and Succession Planning committee (Rich, Weems) appoint an internal candidate. This committee reviewed potential internal candidates and recommends Dr. Bobbie Hayes Goodrum.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Blau and supported by Smith that the Board of Education appoint Dr. Bobbie Hayes Goodrum as the interim superintendent effective January 23, 2021.

Board discussion occurred.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**   **Ayes:**    Rich, Weems, Heinrich, Blau, Fox, Smith  
                          **Nays:**    None

**MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

**13. RETURN TO LEARN PLAN.**

**Presenters:** Kelly Coffin, assistant superintendent-innovation and strategic initiatives; Bobbie Goodrum, assistant superintendent-diversity, equity, and inclusion; Margaret Hendrickson, director-curriculum, instruction and assessment

Trustee Weems voiced several questions.

Dr. Coffin gave a brief review of the current status of District readiness to return to in-person learning and responded to Treasurer Weems' questions.

Board discussion occurred.

Dr. Goodrum, Mrs. Kaminski. and Mrs. Hendrickson provided input pertaining to mitigation strategies and secondary planning.

Further discussion occurred.

It was moved by Blau that the Board of Education approve the return to in-person instruction to begin January 11 for elementary and January 25 for secondary. President Rich pointed out that the Board already voted to approve the return to learn plan via the action item, Reconfirmation of Instructional Delivery Plan (Extended COVID 19 Learning Plan), at the December 15, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion withdrawn.

**14. CONSENT AGENDA.** It was moved by Weems and supported by Smith that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda dated January 5, 2021.

- A. Approval of Minutes  
1. December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**   **Ayes:**   Rich, Weems, Heinrich, Blau, Fox, Smith  
                                  **Nays:**     None

**MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

- 15. REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES.** None.
- 16. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Dr. Herrera thanked central office staff and everyone that has been involved in creating the return to learn plan. He is pleased to welcome our elementary students back to in-person learning on January 11 and assured families that staff will do everything possible to keep staff and students safe and allow for in-person learning to begin for those that have made that choice.
- 17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ADGENDA ITEMS.** MASB Board of Directors applications are due January 13, 2020. Appointment of a candidate would need to occur at the January 12 Special Meeting.
- 18. GOOD AND WELFARE.** Board members spoke on topics of personal interest.
- 19. ADJOURNMENT.** The Board of Education January 5, 2021 regular meeting was adjourned at 11:12 pm.

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Terri A. Weems  
Farmington Board of Education  
Secretary



**6. DELIBERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT.**

President Rich reviewed the deliberation and voting process.

Round 1 – Board members will vote for their top TWO candidates in order. Board members must vote for two different candidates. Board members will email their choices to the executive assistant for an initial tally. The selections of each Board member will be read aloud for the public. If one candidate receives four 1<sup>st</sup> place votes, the candidate is affirmed. If one candidate does not receive four 1<sup>st</sup> place votes, the Board will deliberate and move to Round 2.

Round 2 – Board members will vote for one candidate from the candidates identified in Round 1. Board members will email their choices to the executive assistant for an initial tally. The selections of each Board member will be read aloud for the public. If one candidate receives four votes, the candidate is affirmed. If one candidate does not receive four votes, the Board will have further deliberations to determine whether they can get to consensus and then move to Round 3. Rounds will continue utilizing this same process until consensus is reached.

The Board proceeded to deliberate and vote on the appointment of a trustee to fill the position originally vacated by Pam Green effective November 20, 2020.

The Board ballot results were as follows:

**Round 1**

Blau	Walker, Eisenscher
Fox	Walker, Eisenscher
Heinrich	Goldberg, Walker
Rich	Walker, Silver
Smith	Walker, Eisenscher
Weems	Walker, Eisenscher

The Board reached a consensus. By a vote of 5 to 1, Donald Walker was appointed to the seat originally vacated by Pam Green on November 20, 2020.

**15. ADJOURNMENT.** The Board of Education January 12, 2021 special meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

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Terri A. Weems  
Farmington Board of Education  
Secretary