

**Speaker Comments**  
**Special Meeting Convening as ESA**  
**January 12, 2021**

Name	Affiliation	Topic	Comments
	Student		No Comments
	Parent		No Comments
	Community		No Comments
Kathryn Reboholz	Staff	In person Learning	<p>Thank you. Below is a transcript of what I presented at today's meeting.</p> <p>Hello. My name is Kathryn Reboholz, and I am an educator at School of the Arts. If the district moves forward with its current plan, I will be expected to return to in-person learning during Phase 3.</p> <p>I am extremely concerned about the way that the Rochester City School District has gone about planning and informing teachers, staff, students, and families with regards to hybrid learning. Not only are they beginning hybrid learning during the highest peak of COVID-19 in our community so far, but it does not seem that they have taken into consideration the input from teachers (81% of whom indicated that they did not feel safe returning to in-person instruction) and families (70% of whom have elected to keep their students in remote learning, and whose education will be negatively impacted by the hybrid transition).</p> <p>One area in which communication from the district has been lacking the most is in regards to training for staff returning to in-person instruction. The government continues to tell us that schools are safe places for students to be. I first believe that this is only true while community spread is low, and that therefore even in the safest conditions, returning to in-person instruction while the numbers in our area are as high as they are is forcing teachers, students, and families to take on a huge physical risk. However, even when community spread is low - SCHOOLS ARE ONLY SAFE IF THEY ARE MADE TO BE SAFE, and this means that staff needs to be fully trained in all safety protocols.</p> <p>The district is currently calling a half-day remote training that teachers received in SEPTEMBER to be their training for returning to hybrid learning. As educators, we know that people do not learn best when they are panicked and anxious,</p>

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			<p>nor do they learn best without reinforcement of the information. At the time of this training, not only were educators stressed and focused on how they were going to begin remote learning the next week, the information from this session has never been reinforced or returned to.</p> <p>Many state guidelines have changed since this training, and the training was missing many specifics regarding how guidelines should be followed. Some of the items missing from this training include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>• How to use the specific</li><li>• cleaning products provided (many staff arrived to their buildings this week to find cleaning products with no instructions, or specifications to determine which type of cleaning product they had received)</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>• How to ensure students are</li><li>• distancing while getting on and off the bus, or in the hallways and other common areas</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>• What specific protocols</li><li>• to follow if a student displays symptoms in school</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>• How students and staff will</li><li>• be tested for COVID</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>• What the responsibilities</li><li>• are of the staff to ensure that students are following all health and safety guidelines (including consequences for not following guidelines)</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the specific protocols</li> <li>• are if a student does not or will not wear a mask</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• What protocols should be</li> <li>• followed in shared bathrooms (sanitizing, etc)</li> </ul> <p>It is irresponsible and dangerous of the district to not provide further, updated training to educators and staff returning in-person. Now is not the time to expect teachers to figure it out in the moment - our health, and our students' health are at stake. Lives are at stake.</p> <p>The district must PAUSE in-person hybrid learning at least until staff have been FULLY TRAINED in ALL health and safety aspects of their job, if not also until community spread in our area has decreased. Schools are only safe if they are made to be safe.</p>
Lianne Dupree	Staff	Safety Protocols	<p>To the Board of Education,  I am a grandparent who has four grandchildren attending Rochester City School District. I have been monitoring and following their education for years to make sure they receive the best education possible.</p> <p>The concern I have now is RCSD students, special education or otherwise, attending in person classes while this pandemic is going. We are still uncertain when it will end and how many more will contract it. It is not only at this time putting the students at risk but also the teachers. Are these school buildings equipped with the proper ventilation systems and filters to ensure continuous air flow throughout the entire school? Are the classrooms setup in a manner that will ensure that each student is properly distanced from other students and the educators are protected as well? I chose not to send my grandchildren back to school and to continue remote learning because there is no guarantee of safety by in person learning. They are just starting to include educators as those eligible to receive the covid-19 vaccine. Children are not eligible yet for the vaccine, so I can not fathom the urgency of returning these precious children, special education children at that, into a classroom that might do more harm to them than good.</p>

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			<p>Please consider your staff as well. They too have family and loved ones they want to go home to each day. Not having to worry about if they may have contracted something that can harm their families or themselves.</p> <p>I am going to say one more thing then I will close. I contracted covid-19 in mid November 2020. I thought I was doing everything right and by the book since learning about this virus, frequent hand washing, social distancing, staying away from large crowds, not touching my face, sanitizing everything, ect.</p> <p>But I still caught it and after battling what I thought was the flu or a bad cold I was hospitalized for days with tons of medicine given to me and placed on oxygen. Only by the grace of God am I alive to tell you no one should go through what I did. It is worse than the flu. Ten times worse. I am just getting over the side effects of it.</p> <p>You won't take info into consideration unless it hits home in a way that someone you really love catches it. Or a trusting parent child who sent their child to school becomes sick and blames the school.</p> <p>My sister, who is a nurse in D.C months ago caught covid and had some memory loss that stopped her from properly performing her job for awhile.</p> <p>I'm covid free now. But have to wait three months to get the shot if it's available to me then.</p> <p>I appreciate your time to listen to what I had to say.</p>
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