

Summary of Public Comments

02.08.22

Below is a summary of comments that were received through our Public Comment form specific to the Feb. 8, 2022, board meeting as of 5 p.m. on Feb. 7. A total of 23 comments were received regarding the following topics. Some respondents commented on several topics together.

- **Black History Month Proclamation 2022**
- **Masks/Vaccines**
- **Tax Abatement**
- **Superintendent Performance**
- **Director Resignations**
- **Redistribute SRO Funding**
- **Electric School Buses**

Black History Month Proclamation 2022

Several comments supported the proclamation and need to support equity and antiracism. Want students to learn accurate history. A couple comments were against the proclamation saying it encouraged black students to be victims, and that white children have it harder getting jobs than their peers of color, but supports students learning about pivotal Black people who contributed to our country.

Masks/Vaccines

About half the comments support masks in schools and half support removing masks. Supports say students and staff feel comfortable wearing masks, safety and health of students is top priority, layered approach (2 masks) would mean students can continue to learn in classrooms, support the district and state in the use of masks in our buildings to help combat illness, and wearing masks and getting vaccinated is the best way to stay safe. Those supporting removal of masks say some students have already tested positive for COVID, cases usually mild, masking is futile, parents should have choice, has negative impacts on mental health and social-emotional development, and wrong to fire staff who aren't vaccinated.

Tax Abatement

Comments were not in support of the tax abatement. Some were not in opposition to building, but don't want tax abatement because building isn't for low-income housing. Said action doesn't fit with equity lens and further marginalizes members of community. Might be in favor if tied to low-income housing.

Superintendent Performance

Some comments did not approve of the superintendent's performance, saying district has low graduate rates, higher dropout rates, safety issues, high absenteeism. Some comments do not agree with decision to not have SROs in schools, saying violence on campus has increased. One comment supports the superintendent and school board for standing up for safety and students, keeping kids in school, and supporting staff safety by following health guidelines.

Director Resignations

A couple comments mentioned that Directors Bethell and Heyen resign.

Redistribute SRO Funding

A couple comments supported cancelation of the SRO contract but want to know how the funds are being spent currently. Comments mentioned overcoming barriers to success, culturally responsive mental health counseling and antiracism are the areas that should be invested in with those funds.

Electric School Buses

One comment supports the grants for the electric school bus and CTEC programs, very good for the school district.