

MEETING: BOE Special Meeting 9/9/2021 6:30 PM

Comments are listed in the order submitted via the electronic form.

Name: Maggie Vandermeer

I am writing about the decision you made at the August 17 board meeting to switch board meetings to Thursdays. At this time when women's rights in this country are egregiously under attack, to witness a decision being pushed by male board members who did not even have the facts straight in order to steamroll over a female board member's access to time with her kids was unbelievable in its non-sensical cruelty. The message you are sending to girls, women, and especially mothers in this district is that their school leaders will prioritize the concerns of men over those of women and mothers and that if, as a woman, you want to work or volunteer in your community, if you want to have a voice at the table, you will have to sacrifice that which is most dear to you.

And now for the facts. Your decision to move to meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays does NOT in fact eliminate conflict with feeder district board meeting dates. Both Districts 67 and 68 meet on the 3rd Thursdays of the month, and District 74 meets on the 1st Thursday of the month. This is counter to your claim that Lincolnwood meets on Tuesdays. In fact, your decision now, ironically, means that Dr. Farzaneh will NOT be able to attend board meetings in HIS feeder district. So while Mr. Nowik got his way and can go to District 72 board meetings, other board members cannot. I would also point out that District 72 only recently changed their board meetings to Wednesdays. In other words, any district at any time may change their meeting dates, thus it is folly to think that you can prevent overlap now or in the future.

Furthermore, the argument that meetings can't happen on Mondays has not, it turns out, prevented both Districts 73 and 70 from meeting on Mondays. And in fact, their meetings, when they both fall on the 3rd Monday of the month, conflict with each other. Other districts also have meeting dates that conflict with each other. Districts 69 and 71 both have meetings that fall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. And, as already stated, Districts 67 and 68 both hold meetings on the 3rd Thursday. The point being that it is already impossible for anyone to go to any and all of the feeder district meetings. So the idea that you are clearing the way for future board members to attend any feeder district meetings is untrue and actually not possible.

As it turns out, the least used day of the week for board meetings in feeder districts, besides Friday, is Wednesday, which is the day Board Member Manrique requested. Even though it also means less time with her children. It was a compromise she was willing to make to accommodate Dr. Farzaneh's work schedule.

It was horrible to watch all but two board members vote for a poorly-researched and inhumane proposal. and I've heard from many women who felt the same. I am especially blown away that this cruel decision was made without anyone actually looking at the meeting dates of other districts.

In conclusion, please fix this error of logic and ethics. It's simple. Mr. Nowik can still go to the D72 board meetings on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month and D219 board meetings can occur on the 1st, 2nd, and/or 4th Wednesday of the month. This creates NO conflict with feeder district meetings (while, again, your current schedule has created more). It also

accommodates Dr. Farzaneh's work schedule and Ms. Manrique's parenting schedule. It's a win win and quite frankly, if you choose not to, despite the above information, you will be solidifying a choice that is sexist and non-sensical.

Sincerely,

Maggie Vandermeer