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## **Board of Ed Members: Despite Misleading Petition Comments, We Support Superintendent's Reopening Plan**

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**Categories :** [Letters to the Editor](#)

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To the editor:

As part of the leadership and most veteran members of the Board of Education, we are compelled to set the record straight. False and misleading comments were disseminated in a petition following our meeting on Tuesday night.

Let us be clear. We unequivocally support Dr. Addley's plan to reopen schools safely. Our position has never wavered. This is inciting division when we need to come together. Truth and civility must return to unify our community in the best interest of children.

The vote held during our meeting on Tuesday evening reflected a difference of interpretation from other

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Board members on procedure and language, and not a vote against reopening of schools.

The four of us support the authority given by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to the superintendent to make the decision regarding the reopening of schools.

CSDE advised districts that decisions on which models to use to reopen schools rest solely with the superintendent and does not require a board vote.

The headline for the morning of Sept. 23 should have been “Schools on track to open on September 29.” Anything else lacks an understanding of the complicated and vital work that has occurred.

Darien Board of Education members:

—Katie Stein

—Duke Dineen

—Mike Burke

—Deb Ritchie