

Monica Roque

From: Greg Brucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 7:55 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; John Bowes; Matthew Best; Scott Thomsen; ksequiera@djUSD.net
Subject: Public Comment for FRIDAY 7/17
Categories: Yellow category

Hello School Board Trustees and Administrators,

I have written to you a few times recently expressing my grave concerns with doing anything but distance learning as we start the school year. And I stand even stronger in that position now. Given the steeply rising covid cases in California and specifically our county, it is not safe to return to classrooms yet.

In March, we shut down and sheltered in place when we had a small fraction of the cases we are seeing now. And we didn't start distance learning until a month later. The numbers of cases didn't peak until around May. Given this new wave, it is hard to believe we won't see, at least, the same timing for this wave growing, peaking, and declining. And we are just more than a month away from the opening of school.

But we are not in safe territory, now. In my opinion, as a teacher and parent in the DJUSD, it would be reckless and deadly to force us back into in-person classrooms in our schools. The health and well being of our community would be put at extremely heightened risk. Many will die. Many more will get sick and as we are learning, potentially permanently harmed. So, please move us to distance learning, now, so we as DJUSD faculty and staff, can all start to create plans for how to support the families and students in need, while also giving us teachers as much time as possible to plan for the year with a completely new Learning Management System.

When we look to move back to in-person classes, I encourage you to enact a phased re-opening, such as Boulder, Colorado has created for their community. In a prior email, I sent a link to that plan. In moving through phases, we must look to the numbers of covid cases, and through a lens of science, to determine when it is safe to progress to further in-person activity.

Having said all that, there is rightful concern for many families surrounding how they can work while supporting students in distance learning or taking care of younger children. This is the case for our family too. Laura had to sacrifice many of her work hours in Spring to be home while I taught, and I was doing pulling double duty as a teacher and primary at-home parent of two young children. Given how hard it was for us, I can only imagine how hard it must be for solo parents, parents who are essential workers, and parents trying to work from home. Honestly, it is not our job as a school district to fix the deep failures of the state and federal government when it comes to supporting families and people through this intense national emergency. The schools cannot be and should not be the grand fixer of society. Many other countries chose to protect peoples' jobs and pay their salaries, while they sheltered in place, when ours simply let people suffer. Given this, I encourage you to begin work directly with local and state officials to help create a plan of action that can

alleviate working families' very real concerns about how to manage life while distance learning and sheltering in place.

Finally, we also must do more for the students in our schools that are most at-risk due to many factors. I encourage you to think about how the open spaces on our campuses can be used to help support at-risk students via socially distanced and PPE protected in-person work in very small groups, as appropriate. This would not only be for students with IEPs and 504s, but for students who need social-emotional support. We also must consider how to ensure we are reaching every one of our students, via access to technology and support systems. Students with families living in poverty need our help to make sure they don't get left behind either.

There is much to do to help get us started in August, and I beg of you to decide, today, to move to distance learning, today, for the health and well being of our teachers, students, families, and our community. I don't want anyone else to die, nor be harmed, due to poor decisions, or inaction, by elected officials. The more we take seriously the need to shelter in place, the more that individuals take seriously the need to wear masks, socially distance, and not gather, the sooner we will be able to return to in-person classrooms events. Trustees, all of our lives are in your hands. The lives of our children and students are in your hands. The lives of our community are in your hands. Please move us to distance learning, today, to prevent mass harm and save lives.

Thank you,

Greg Brucker
Parent of 2 DJUSD Students
DJUSD Music Teacher - Emerson, Da Vinci & Harper Jr. High Schools

Monica Roque

From: Emily Ault [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 7:36 AM
To: Joe DiNunzio
Cc: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Re: Public Comment 7.17.20 meeting

Categories: Yellow category

Hello Joe & Board,

I just wanted to follow up and pass along that my daughter, a DHS rising senior, told me a few days ago that “the only way distance learning can work is if everyone is meeting (as in synchronous) and we have grades”. She and her friends struggled to feel like school mattered once grades were taken out of the picture. I know we want kids to want to learn for learning’s sake, and that’s probably the case for many younger kids, but many HS kids need motivation that grades and accountability (seeing their teachers and classmates regularly for “class”) offer.

Additionally, one idea to help with teachers who struggle with the technology piece is to hire/ask for community volunteers to act as tech points of contact for a cohort of teachers. They can call on this person to walk them through challenges (remotely) via phone, screen share, etc.

I look forward to hearing the plan and being an active part of the execution/solution.

Best,
-Emily Ault
[REDACTED]

On Jul 16, 2020, at 4:27 PM, Joe DiNunzio <jdinunzio@djusd.net> wrote:

Ms. Ault:

Thank you for your email. We appreciate and value the feedback you have offered regarding the opening of the 2020-21 school year.

We recognize the need to make thoughtful, informed decisions based on the best information available to us and we are committed to listening to our stakeholders to understand their needs and concerns.

The Special Board of Education meeting on Friday, July 17, 2020, is scheduled to start Open Session at 8:30 a.m. The agenda for the meeting is available [here](#). Your public comment will be reviewed by the Board and included as part of an attachment to the agenda item.

The session will be broadcast through Davis Media Access / Channel 17 as well as through the web at www.djusd.tv.

Regards,

Joe DiNunzio
President
On behalf of the DJUSD Board

From: Emily Ault [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 12:13 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education <boe@djUSD.net>; John Bowes <jbowes@djUSD.net>
Cc: Kelly Wilkerson [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment 7.17.20 meeting

Hello DJUSD BOE Members,

Please see attached letter for public comment for the 7.17.20 meeting, regarding Fall 2020 instruction plans.

Best,
Emily Ault
Davis High School Parent

Monica Roque

From: Erickson, Cindy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 6:53 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Online only for fall- public comment for today's school board meeting

Categories: Yellow category

Dear Board members,

Please consider spending your time and energy on making a **viable** distance learning program for Davis students.

Please do not send students, teachers, and staff back to in-person learning during this surge in the pandemic. My daughter is a rising 2nd grader, and while she may be at lower risk for getting a serious illness, she and her peers are very good at spreading germs! It's not just teachers lives at risk - it is the families of every student in Davis, who would be bringing those germs home.

I might be comfortable with classes held outdoors, with 6-feet distancing. But a group of kids inside together in those stuffy classrooms? Crazy!

I'm a single older mom who will be working from home as a community college math professor. It is not easy working from home while my daughter is home trying to learn too. And I understand the importance of her education. But to put our heads in the sand and say, "it'll be okay, they're kids" seems very short-sighted to me.

Give us a better online option!!

Cindy Erickson
North Davis Elementary School parent
Cosumnes River College math professor
[REDACTED]

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Monica Roque

From: Karen Word [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 5:04 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Comments for board meeting

Categories: Yellow category

Hello,

I am writing with a comment on item VI.a. COVID-19 Response Update on tomorrow's agenda.

Summary:

My son is a student at Patwin elementary and we are interested in pursuing a distance learning option. I would like to see distance learning offered through our neighborhood school, with the community that my son is connected to. I believe that in-person instruction should be abandoned through the end of 2020, allowing staff at all schools to focus on providing the highest quality distanced instruction possible under the circumstances.

Two things concern me with respect to the current prospects, as I understand them:

1) In the survey, it indicated that students who select distance learning would 'probably' (or something like that) be able to return to their assigned school when the threat of COVID has passed. We do not want to lose our place in our neighborhood school, and I would like to have a stronger assurance that selection of a distance learning option will not surrender our place.

2) I have heard that distance learning, provided through DSIS, has not traditionally included a teacher-led curriculum for K-6 students. I would strongly prefer to have a teacher-led curriculum rather than homeschooling. The external reinforcement and community connection of even asynchronous teacher-led instruction is extremely valuable. We don't need a ton of zoom meetings, but opportunities for interaction of some kind are key.

It seems to me that both of these would be resolved if distance learning were offered through the neighborhood schools. Given the current case count and trajectory in the state, in-person instruction seems to me to be unreasonable and unsafe. Children of essential workers need childcare, but schools should not be opened simply to serve as childcare. Separating instruction from childcare would also be less vulnerable to schedule disruptions by extended quarantine for illness or exposure, which is bound to occur.

I realize that these are difficult times and difficult decisions. I am grateful for the effort invested by the board and the DJUSD staff in getting us through this so far.

Thank you for considering my comments!

Best,

Karen Word

Monica Roque

From: Katharine Desjarlais [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 11:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

During the spring some teachers did the bare minimum and others went above and beyond. How are you going to ensure that all children, not just a few lucky ones, receive awesome teaching this fall?

Do you have plans to delay the start of school to allow teachers to better prepare for distance learning?

Does the district have plans to teach parents how to use the new platform and perhaps more importantly how to effectively support their students in distance learning without creating more stress and tension for students and families?

Will there be town halls at the school levels to allow parents to provide feedback and suggestions?

Katharine Desjarlais

Monica Roque

From: Elaine Lau [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Fall 2020; DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Dear DJUSD:

I am the parent of two children at Willett Elementary, and I write to implore you to allow for the possibility of partial on-campus learning for the youngest students if the covid case #s are low to nonexistent in relevant demographic groups in Davis. While we are very grateful to the Willett teachers who were so dedicated this past spring with distance learning (DL), DL just doesn't work well with younger children. If there is one group of students for whom even very partial on-campus, socially-distant options should be strongly considered, it is Kindergarteners and possibly 1st graders.

I am a PhD biologist with research experience and publications in viral function. I have looked at the research, which is quite limited at the present and of varying quality, but I expect additional data to be forthcoming as schools around the world open. Possibilities to open should be considered every few weeks, and decisions made individually for schools and for each grade. At present, young children do not appear to be drivers of COVID transmission but they should still be masked and socially distant at all times and treated as so. Please do not wait for a vaccine because it could take longer than advertised – possibly years for an effective one, if at all.

I also implore the board to think creatively for safe possibilities that balance critical needs and health of teachers, with younger students especially. Please allow parents to help teachers feel safe. For example, Willett kindergarten has a large yard and separate entrance away from the rest of the school. Kids can wear masks. My 5 year old, incoming K, kept his mask on at a socially distant, 3 hr Explorit camp this week, even though he doesn't particularly like them otherwise. BTW, Explorit has excellent and thoughtful protocols for their socially distanced camp, and could be used as reference.

There are enough parents who would be willing to volunteer an hour or two a week to make it happen. I would. Even an hour a week, in person, in a smaller pod group in the yard, masked and socially distanced, is better than no hours at all. This hour would make a huge difference if everything else is online, even if it's just for the first two months of the school year before it gets cold and rainy.

Parents could:

- have shifts to kindly remind students to keep masks on or to keep socially distant, so teacher doesn't have to.
- Chair/table/supply movers to/from outside/inside.
- Finding and sourcing PPE for teachers (masks, faceshields, gloves) and disinfectants.
- Cleaning the classroom. Cleaning the kindergarten bathroom.

I ask the board to please be flexible, to try to balance the needs of the youngest children, for whom the benefits of in-person are the greatest and the risks the lowest, with the utmost effort to protect teachers and staff. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elaine Lau

Monica Roque

From: Carlton Larson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 8:47 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Fall 2020
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Dear DJUSD,

I am the parent of a rising third-grader and kindergartner at Willett Elementary. As you consider options for the fall, I would encourage you to think creatively, and with maximum flexibility, with the overriding goal of bringing our youngest students back onto campus, at least for a few days a week. There is no question that quality distance learning is exceptionally difficult with these students; they also pose the lowest risk of transmission to teachers and staff, especially if they are all wearing masks.

Our outdoor school areas could be used (Willett kindergarten has its own dedicated playground), as well as a "pod" system, in which interaction with other students is minimized.

Some school buildings are safer than others, and all should not be shut down just because there are problems with some. Similarly, there are very different health risks with different grades. Decisions should be made on a grade-by-grade basis.

Obviously, there are many challenges associated with the Covid environment, but the risk can be substantially reduced through intelligent countermeasures (including an on-line option for those families that desire it). We don't close down schools to prevent children getting colds and flu from other students or to prevent biking accidents en route to school; this health risk needs to be evaluated with the same careful approach to costs and benefits that we apply to all other risks of school attendance.

In the event a decision is made to go on-line, it should be authorized for three-week periods only, and then continually re-evaluated with the goal of getting as many students back to school as quickly and safely as possible.

Thank you for all that you do to help our students prosper.

Carlton Larson

Monica Roque

From: Tahnee Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 6:42 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment CORRECTION, Disregard earlier one. Please use this one.

Categories: Yellow category

Please note corrected statistics in this comment. Please disregard the earlier version and distribute this one. Thank you.

My name is Tahnee Sweeney, I am a parent with students in DJUSD, and a teacher. Even if a state order is made on Secretary of Education Tony Thurmond's recommendation that most California schools begin the year with Distance Learning due to the surge in COVID19, my comments pertain to our duties moving forward to ensure schools are safe for return after the virus is contained. We know, The Board of Trustees, and our cabinet do not at any point want to be in the position of having passed the buck of accountability for the safety of Woodland students, the educators that serve them, or all of our families to another agency who will in turn pass it on. Our colleagues in the medical field have appealed to us not to put the medical infrastructure under so much strain that it breaks. We invite the Board and look forward to our colleagues on the Cabinet to join WEA, an affiliate of California Teacher Association and the National Education Association to say the buck stops with us, we will not contribute to further spread of the virus. CDC has stated physically reopening schools poses the highest risk to COVID19 virus spread. We cannot allow students and educators to return to campuses until COVID19 is contained, until our county has gone 14 days with no new cases, and mitigations to prevent spread are in place. According to the CDC, due to lack of testing available to the population we know that if 10 new cases are reported in a day that is a subset of actual cases in Yolo County. According to the CDC, not every case is captured through testing. According to MIT, the actual number of cases in a region is 12 times higher, and the death rate 50 percent more. If there are 10 cases there are really closer to 120 cases. If there are 4 deaths reported in Yolo County in a day, there have been closer to 6 deaths. As a teacher, I cannot break the trust I have with Guardians and Parents by taking actions to communicate that it is safe for their child to be in a classroom at this time. As we all teach students, broken trust is a difficult thing to repair and it makes it harder to keep everyone safe. The American Association of Pediatrics, and the School Superintendents Association joined National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers in stating, COVID19 must be contained before children and educators return to campus. When objective data indicates it is safe to return, there are hundreds of mitigations we are mandated to ensure are in place to protect students, educators, their families, and our community. Our schools are far off from being prepared for that: our school air systems are not capable of meeting CalOsha COVID19 guidelines, at my site paper towel refills have been discontinued for dispensers so they do not work, there is no plan to ensure the level of safety daycares currently have of having students in cohorts of ten with hourly cleaning, just to name a few of hundreds of risks that must be mitigated before a physical reopening. We are all committed to working hard for that day, but it is not August 19.

Monica Roque

From: Callie Garritson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 6:37 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment - "Why are the working parents so mad?"

Categories: Yellow category

"Why are working parents so mad?"

This is the question I keep being confronted with, but it misses the point. We're not mad at the teachers that want to work in a safe environment.

We're upset because there are catastrophic downstream effects of closing the schools that are being ignored by those that offer closure as the only solution.

I am not upset because *my* kids might have to stay home for a while. Or that their Spanish Immersion curriculum will be blown to smithereens. My kids will be alright. We have wi-fi and a roof over our heads. For now anyway.

I'm upset because closing schools means women will have to quit their jobs. You know, the career they gave up for a while to start their family but clawed their way back into only to be making the same salary as they did 10 years ago? The job that allows her family to afford to live in Davis versus a surrounding community? Oh, and the job that provides the family's health insurance? That job. let's not act like women's job are optional.

I'm upset because closing the schools will contribute to a permanent widening of the socio-economic divide. Let's remember that lots of parents are back at work right now. We are not all at home in our pajamas managing email inboxes and Zoom calls. If parents are working out of the house to earn money to pay rent, who is teaching the children in a distance learning model? Who is keeping them safe?

I'm upset with the narrative that in-person school isn't really that important anyway. When my 5 year olds were five minutes late to kinder which happened a lot, I would get two automated voicemails and a personal call from the office to verify their attendance, interrupting my work three separate times. So apparently, it was very important to be on time every day, and we strove to be compliant. Now all of a sudden it doesn't even matter if kids attend school? Of course it matters.

In the survey, I voted for full-time school. Now I feel like we'll be lucky to get a hybrid option. If we go full distance learning there will be kids that never ever, ever come back. And what is the distance learning plan for the immersion programs?

COVID has exposed what so many of you have known for a long time - that the schools are responsible for too many things with too little money. I don't envy those charged with making this decision. I am interested in being part of the solution.

Districts across America have figured out how to offer a choice of distance learning or in-person school. Doing so is not revolutionary. I ask you to keep in-person learning as an option, even in a hybrid model.

Thank you,
Callie Garritson

Monica Roque

From: Monique Garcia Gunther [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 6:22 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Yellow category

Originally sent in June to fall2020 committee. Please see below.

From: Monique Garcia Gunther [REDACTED]
Date: June 14, 2020 at 9:03:05 AM PDT
To: Fall2020@djUSD.net
Subject: Creative ideas for fall reopening - outdoor classrooms

Hello,

I am a supporter of outdoor classrooms at all age levels. My children are at Emerson and DHS. I hope we can take advantage of our CA weather and conduct classes outside much of the 20-21 school year. Data has shown that being outdoors is preferable to indoors (to avoid catching covid) and we are fortunate enough in CA to have this option . We have space on fields to put up tented temporary classrooms. I am confident our Parent community could support with funds to purchase large tents and coverings (or donate). I know teachers in support of teaching outside because of the many other benefits to learning . I am happy to help with fleshing out this effort as a volunteer (and djUSD teacher substitute.)

Thank you - creativity is key to get our kids back safely in a safe classroom environment - that is critical to so many. Learning outdoors can be a big component of this!

Monique Garcia Gunther
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Meg Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:39 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: John Bowes
Subject: Public Comment - for 7/17 meeting

Categories: Yellow category

Board members and Superintendent Bowes,

I write as the mother and step-mother to four DJUSD children, two of whom will be seniors at DSHS this coming year, and two of whom have graduated. I recognize the many privileges from which my family benefits, as one with older and self-sufficient kids; two incomes and the ability to work remotely; and a home with sufficient personal space, high-speed internet and the necessary electronic devices.

The many inequities in our town and society were laid bare by the emergency closures of schools in March. Without care and planning, these will be exacerbated and more indelibly entrenched when we return to online schooling this fall. Solving the monumental challenges of creating an environment that results in actual learning in an equitable environment will require creativity, flexibility, and care on the part of all of us -- the district, parents, teachers and staff, and students.

I strongly urge the school district to focus on mitigating damage for students and families who struggle the most with distance learning and/or with being able to have an adult home with the child(ren). In this, and in the recommendations below, I echo Emily Ault and Kelly Wilkerson's letter of public comment.

I also hope the district will be innovative and plan for safe small group experiences to enhance the online learning environment. Please consider:

- Providing support hubs at school sites for small groups of students who require in-person help to succeed. Smaller groups could meet under safer conditions (6' distance, masks, outside).
- Offering in-person care and support for the children of school employees so they can work unimpeded from home. Open up the classrooms in one elementary school and hire young adults to supervise the elementary-age children of 3-4 households. Assign each small group to a single classroom.
- Planning for occasional small group instruction at school sites if health conditions allow. Build several outdoor classrooms at each site. Allow teachers to submit plans for learning experiences under safer conditions (groups of under 10 students, 6' distance, masks, outside). These could include club meetings, science labs, Socratic seminars, CTE demonstrations, etc.

This is a job beyond the capability of the school district alone. We need to make it clear to our community, city, county, and state that we need help:

- We need to ask local officials to work with providers to provide free Internet service to all low-income households. As an example, SCUSD and the City of Sacramento have both created agreements with Comcast that will provide families and households with free access to Comcast's low-income access program; I work with the individuals involved in creating these agreements and would be happy to connect DJUSD and/or the City of Davis with them.
- We need to ask community partners and local officials to solve the problem of child care for working parents,

especially for essential workers. For example, "pods" of families, in which the parents can share / rotate duties of child-care and online school oversight, can help distribute the burden. I'm seeing some crop up organically and by chance in online groups and among existing friends -- but this "every man for himself" approach further privileges those with connections and further disadvantages those without, who may be among the most in need of help to begin with. DJUSD already has info about all the students in our town, and it, with the City or other partners, could help match and mix groups of students to ensure all families have options, and moreover that "pods" are inclusive and equity oriented.


- We need to ask our community foundations to raise money for outdoor classrooms to hold safer small-group learning experiences in all weather. We are so fortunate to live in a part of the world with mostly clement weather. Outdoor classrooms can be a very real part of the solution.

We are looking for creative leadership that partners with the community to implement and model best practices for remote instruction. We are also requesting transparent communication and collaboration between DJUSD leaders and our staff and parent communities. We are all committed to the same goal: safely and effectively educating our children. I am ready to roll up my sleeves to help.

- Meg

--

Meg Arnold



Monica Roque

From: Molly Eleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:22 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Yellow category

Dear Board

Please please do not put money before lives. We can not possibly have children returning to school. Yes we will all suffer, yes we will struggle to get it all done, yes we are all overwhelmed, yes the mental health of all will suffer. I strongly believe that we would all rather feel all of that rather than the pain of standing at a funeral, loosing on teacher or one staff member or one child to this pandemic is to much. It's not worth the risk. Please do not put money before lives.

- Molly
Davis parent of two children

Monica Roque

From: Spencer Elliott
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Yellow category

Thank you for taking my comment. As we prepare for this upcoming school year, whether we choose a hybrid or online-only format, I ask the district to consider a structured plan for families without a stay-at-home parent. Online school, while safer when it comes to contracting Covid19, is inherently less equitable when it comes to student learning. Once again, the “have nots” will face hardships that the “haves” will be able to minimize or avoid; subsequently, the achievement gap widens. What’s our plan for students with working parents who are unable to assist their children? To be clear, I’m not talking about “child care.” Rather, we need people specifically responsible for implementing each child’s distance-learning curriculum. As many parents learned last spring, this isn’t necessarily a simple task.

Spencer Elliott
DJUSD Parent and DJUSD Teacher

Spencer Elliott
English Teacher
Head Track and Field Coach
Davis Senior High School
[REDACTED]
sellott@djUSD.net

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Monica Roque

From: Jolanda Blackwell
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:41 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: RE: Public Comment for 7/17 Special Meeting

Categories: Yellow category

Oops! Please disregard the second part. It just repeats itself.

Jolanda Blackwell
Science Teacher
Frances Harper Jr. High School
4000 East Covell Blvd.
Davis, CA 95618

**"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."**

— Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

From: Jolanda Blackwell
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:40 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education <boe@djUSD.net>
Subject: Public Comment for 7/17 Special Meeting

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

Please decide TODAY to start the school year using a distance learning model. Davis teachers are an incredibly hardworking, creative group BUT we need time to collaborate, plan, and create. Every day that we delay is a lost opportunity for us to move forward and design a learning experience that will feel good about and meet the needs of all of our students. And once you do make that decision, please give us access to Canvas. The clock is ticking ...

Thank you for your hard work and service,
Jolanda Blackwell
Science Teacher
Harper Jr. High

Is it not possible for them to make a decision tomorrow? We are an incredibly dedicated, hardworking, creative group of teachers BUT we need time to collaborate, plan, and create. Every day we delay is a lost opportunity for us to move forward and design a learning experience that we will feel good about. The board NEEDS to make this decision THIS WEEK as well as give us access to Canvas THIS WEEK!!! The clock is ticking ...

Jolanda Blackwell
Science Teacher
Frances Harper Jr. High School
4000 East Covell Blvd.
Davis, CA 95618

**"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."**

— Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

Monica Roque

From: Tahnee Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:25 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

My name is Tahnee Sweeney, I am a parent of two DJUSD students. I am also a teacher. Even if a state order is made on Secretary of Education Tony Thurmond's recommendation that most California schools begin the year with Distance Learning due to the surge in COVID19, my comments pertain to our duties moving forward to ensure schools are safe for return after the virus is contained. We know that as a Board and cabinet you do not want to be in the position of having passed the buck to be accountable for the safety of students, the educators that serve them, or all of our families to another agency who will in turn pass it on. Our colleagues in the medical field have appealed to us not to put the medical infrastructure under so much strain that it breaks. We invite the Board and look forward to the Cabinet to joining the teachers unions to say the buck stops with us, we will not contribute to further spread of the virus. CDC has stated physically reopening schools poses the highest risk to COVID19 virus spread. We cannot allow students and educators to return to campuses until COVID19 is contained, until our county has gone 14 days with no new cases, and mitigations to prevent spread are in place. According to the CDC, due to lack of testing available to the population we know that the 1,025 new cases reported July 15 indicates just a subset of actual cases in Yolo County. According to the CDC, not every case is captured through testing. According to MIT, the actual number of cases in a region is 12 times higher, and the death rate 50 percent more. If there are 1,000 cases reported in our county in a day, there are really closer to 12,000 cases. If there are 30 deaths reported in Yolo County in one day like on July 15, there have been closer to 45 deaths. As a teacher, I cannot break the trust I have with Guardians and Parents by taking an action to communicate that it is safe for their child to be in a classroom at this time. DJUSD cannot either. As we all teach students, broken trust is a difficult thing to repair and it makes it harder to keep everyone safe. The American Association of Pediatrics, and the School Superintendents Association joined National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers in stating, COVID19 must be contained before children and educators return to campus. When objective data indicates it is safe to return, there are hundreds of mitigations we are mandated to ensure are in place to protect students, educators, their families, and our community. Our schools are far off from being prepared for that. There is no plan to ensure the level of safety daycares currently have of having students in cohorts of ten with hourly cleaning, There are hundreds of risks that must be mitigated before a physical reopening. We are all committed to working hard for that day, but it is not coming this fall.

Monica Roque

From: Brian Abbanat [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:09 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment regarding school re opening

Categories: Yellow category

Dear Board Members,

I am attaching below the words from a professional in the field of children's mental health. Her words say everything I would like the board to consider about this decision.

So that it is clear, I believe based on research, data and science that there is no way schools can re open there doors to students and staff this coming fall 2020.

Community spread is out of control, and cases continue to rise. Our community members deserve to live and to see the pandemic end and not have their lives put at greater risk.

Then we can all work together in a collaborative way to reshape our schools going forward post pandemic. The reality is we all know it isn't safe right now to re open schools. Schools and classrooms will look and feel different in a post covid time. But until then, we must put the science, data and safety for everyone above everything.

"A therapist's perspective has been absent regarding children's mental health in the debate to open schools or not. The writer is a LCMFT RPT CFPT in Maryland^[REDACTED].

As a child and family therapist, I strongly disagree with the arguments that "schools should reopen for children's emotional health". No version of this situation is good for children's mental well-being, so we are choosing between bad situations here. Calls to open up schools are shorted sighted and illogical. Here are some things bad for emotional health about reopening:

- Children experiencing so much more death of their loved ones, friend's loved ones, and community members.
- Having to obey rigid and developmentally inappropriate behavioral expectations to maintain social distancing for hours at a time.
- Restricting their engagement with their peers even though those peers are right in front of them.
- Having to constantly actively participate in cleaning rituals that keep their community trauma present with them
- Somehow having to have the executive functioning within all of this to meet educational standards and possibly experiencing overwhelm, shame, and self-doubt when they reasonably can't
- Being unable to receive age appropriate comfort from teachers and staff when dysregulated from all of this, thereby experiencing attachment injuries daily.
- Lack of any predictability as COVID takes staff members for weeks at a time with no warning while children wonder if that staff will die as well as the looming threat of going to back into quarantine any random day

Returning to school as things are now is NOT better for children's mental health.

It is a complete rationalization by people who are uncomfortable with children not engaging in productivity culture.

The majority of schooling NEEDS to stay virtual to protect our children and teachers and to make room for the safe return of the populations of students who actually do need to be in person."

Here is a realistic approach to schools when it is safe to begin reopening. Outdoors are good for everyone's mental health.

Outdoor classrooms can improve kids and staffs mental health, facilitate healing and get everyone back to learning than a regular indoor classroom that would lack the healing effects of nature, fresh air and the outdoors. And increase the risks to transmit covid-19 sparking another uptick in cases. Nobody wants this to happen. Please consider what you would want if the educators and or children were your family members.

<http://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/outdoor-classrooms-could-improve-student-mental-health/education>

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Monica Roque

From: Alexa Bach-McElrone [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:08 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Yellow category

Good afternoon,

I'm writing today to comment on the upcoming emergency board meeting focused on COVID/fall 2020. This is a complex situation but the current plan seems clear to my family, schools simply cannot open at this time. As of writing, our cases are 9 times higher than what is acceptable for various businesses and activities to open. As such our Governor has taken action regressive action. Opening schools with this information would be negligence. We have friends and family in emergency rooms, classrooms, and on food stamps for the first time ever. I do not type this lightly. But, we cannot hold schools accountable for the multi-faceted failure of government and broader society to take care of all. We are learning more about this disease every day. Perhaps, we will have more tools and reliable knowledge available in two months—that would be a great problem to have. In that absence, many of the stories about safe/unsafe school scenarios are simply anecdotes or collections of anecdotes. They're not research. They weren't intentionally established, replicated, nor examined in a way the permits any conclusions to be drawn more than one example of COVID manifesting in one person and how that differs *vastly.*

The districts (such as Boulder, Colorado) pursuing smart, phased re-entry plans are prioritizing safety, science, and well-being. Schools begin virtually. When regional COVID statistics are within acceptable boundaries, schools are able to progress to the next phase which includes in-person instruction for students who need different plans to succeed (those with IEP, 504, and gifted plans), and then phase in additional students beginning with certain grades. All students remain connected to their physical school somehow (vs. sending them to DSIS with new teachers, no classmates, and no social-emotional ties).

Some districts are phasing in certain classes first (and early, sometimes) like in-person art, PE, or "presentations"—where students have the option to meet in-person, outside, once weekly (6 feet away) to stand up and present what they've been working on to their classmates. This would provide amazing connection that the kids truly missed last spring.

Thank you,
Alexa

(My two children are entering 3rd and 5th grade.)

—
Alexa Bach-McElrone
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Svenja Kadegge [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 3:36 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Hello,

In the next Board Meeting, I would like you to address the possibility of moving in -person instruction outside. - both “5-day at school” or a hybrid schedule would be safer for our teachers, staff and students if we can move at least some of the instruction outside.

My son will join Da Vinci middle school in August - it would be so beneficial to meet his new cohort and instructors outside - even when most of his instruction will be held on-line, this will give him a personal connection to his peers and teachers, which will make online instruction much more successful.

Thank you for all your hard work on keeping everyone safe.

Svenja Kadegge

Monica Roque

From: Marissa Magana [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 3:27 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Can you tell me how the option to go back to school full time has the same number amount of students as in a regular school day? I would feel comfortable sending my son if proper protective wear was mandated the class was no more than 12 students. Any more than that is risking our children. I would send my child to the hybrid option if nothing changes or full home school we have to much at risk with risking my child's health and safety especially if he brings anything home we have elderly and infant in our home.

Monica Roque

From: Jenna Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 3:01 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: John Bowes
Subject: FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Yellow category

Dear John Bowes, DJUSD, and Local Health Officials:

I am certain I am not the first, nor the last, parent you will hear from in the coming days, with major concerns about the reopening options presented.

The CDC has clearly released guidelines stating that children should be 6 feet apart to be safe. The WHO just indicated that droplets remain in the air for hours in enclosed spaces. Masks are not a 100% guarantee by any means. The only place I've heard that your reduced option of 2-3 feet apart is sound, is from the likes of Mike Pence, Donald Trump, and other unreliable sources of non scientific, politicized information.

The teachers are expressing dismay and even fear about teaching in the classrooms, and don't appear to have been consulted or to have been at all unified in the presentation of these choices to Davis parents. There are many unanswered questions about what will happen when teachers and children become ill, and I am concerned about our district experiencing the death and trauma of children and teachers.

There are many unanswered questions such as "What if a child gets COVID?" "What if a teacher does?" "Does everyone quarantine?" "Does the teacher get additional sick time?" "Does the school close?" Your survey didn't indicate any thought about these potential issues.

I will not consider any classroom option for my children until there is scientific evidence to suggest it is safe. With that, I would like to express my disappointment that if I choose online learning for my children, that they may or may not be accepted back into their home schools.

I am also surprised that we're not receiving any options about online learning with occasional outdoor gatherings in small numbers. For instance, a science teacher could lead a socially distanced walk onsite with masked students, and students would still get a social benefit while the bulk of the learning is online. Really, any topic could be taught in an outdoor setting on occasion, which would provide social interaction and opportunities for teachers and staff to see and evaluate student's academic and social needs.

I realize this is not an option for many parents, and that we have a privileged community in general. I feel we can be innovative in our solutions to this community problem. Teachers should be a large part of developing a safe, effective plan to resume instruction in the fall, and the larger community can assist in resolving these issues. While not an easy task, we are Davis, California! Our intellectual resources are robust. Why are you presenting choices that teachers are not behind? —or if they are, that's not the message being received by the public.

I urge you to please reconsider what I think will be a disaster for our community and NOT reopen schools in a traditional classroom setting. Please, please consult with your teachers, and utilize the best science we have available for our kids! Let's stand out as a district with innovation, community, and teamwork between our teachers, parents, and administrators to develop a plan we all feel good about.

Our parents and community are ready to help. We all want this coming year to be successful.

Thank you,

Jenna Bell, a Very Concerned Parent of Two Davis Students

--

Jenna Bell

Ph: [REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Isaac Stevens [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:56 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment for July 17 Meeting

Categories: Yellow category

Dear members of the Board:

I am writing about the District's plans for school in Fall 2020. I'm the parent of two children who go to Pioneer Elementary. It's my understanding the District has proposed three options: (1) 100% distance learning, through DSIS with no guarantee a student can return to their school when they come back; (2) a hybrid, where children are kept <6 feet from each other while at school; and (3) 100% in classroom teaching.

The 100% in person teaching is obviously a non-starter. The Board itself is meeting telephonically to decide what to do. If the Board isn't willing to risk its own members' health, it seems clear none of us should risk the health of our kids or their teachers by forcing them to spend days in classrooms.

The hybrid option, wherein kids go to school for part of the week and distance learn for the rest also seems unsafe. As explained, it would put kids less than six feet apart from each other. Given that children are not always consistent with their mask use, this seems like a recipe for disaster.

Finally, there is the 100% distance learning option. At first glance, I liked this one the best. Then I saw that there would be no guarantee our students will be able to return to their pre-covid school when in-person teaching resumes. While there have been indications the district would *try* to return students to their old schools, there is still no guarantee. This is a huge problem for those of us who have multiple kids in school, and need them to continue going to their current school.

Not guaranteeing kids can return to their home schools would destroy the community our kids have learned in over the years. Kids would no longer have their friends in their classrooms, or share a common sense of belonging to their schools. There would be no connection to those schools during distance learning, resulting in parents not wanting to participate in school affairs/PTA, as they would not be planning on returning to their home school after Covid restrictions lift.

I respectfully request the Board consider modifying the 100% distance learning option to guarantee students will return to their home school once in-person teaching starts again.

Isaac

Monica Roque

From: Tricia Tomiyoshi-Marsom [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment regarding school reopening

Categories: Yellow category

The current options offered in the DJUSD School Restart Survey are not acceptable. The School Board is not giving parents the option for full virtual distance learning at our home school site, which is what was offered back in March when our COVID-19 numbers weren't nearly as high as they are now (or as high as they will be by late August).

To suggest offering full time in-person school, with children spaced not 6 feet apart, indoors with only the promise of cleaning once a day - is willfully ignoring the science of this disease and how rampantly it spreads. If the state is shutting down all indoor businesses - if restaurants aren't allowed to serve customers indoors for a short dining experience - how can you believe that sending our children and our teachers to school for any length of time is suitable and safe?

If the School Board can't even meet safely in person for a School Board meeting, why would you suggest that sending our children and our teachers to in-person school would be safe?

It is NOT safe. Reopening schools in person in Davis will critically impact our community, with more disease and more deaths.

Sacramento County is joining other school districts across the state, offering families a full online distance learning program this fall. Children won't need transfer to an independent study school. They are operating this through their home schools, taught by their school teachers.

It IS possible and our students and families deserve to have this option for the safety of our Davis community. Please make the full, online distance learning option available at our home school sites.

The demand is there. The need is there. And lives are on the line.

Thank you,
Tricia Tomiyoshi-Marsom

Monica Roque

From: Leah C Hibel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:23 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Yellow category

The follow comment is based on the National Academy of Sciences report of reopening schools.

A free PDF download can be found here:

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25858/reopening-k-12-schools-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-prioritizing>

The reopening plan released ahead of the fall 2020 school year should include:

- a delay of the start of the school year to create and implement a safe and equitable plan
- the threshold of community cases which, if exceeded, would prompt closure
- the threshold of community cases which, if fell below, would prompt reopening
- criteria for classroom ventilation and sanitation
- evidence of stockpiles of PPE for teachers and staff
- criteria for teacher PPE (eg surgical mask not cloth masks) when in-person
- criteria for student PPE (eg masks removed only for snack, lunch, water) when in-person
- criteria for teacher-student distance (eg 6 feet unless emergency)
- criteria for student-student distance (eg 6 feet at all times)
- prioritization of in-person for k-6 and special education
- details on teacher training for online learning
- details on facilitating teacher collaboration to reduce online burden on teachers
- options to remain online even if community cases fall below threshold
- mechanisms to identify vulnerable students and families based on access, resources, ability, etc
- mechanisms to support vulnerable students and families

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.
Leah Hibel

Leah C. Hibel (*she/her/hers*)

Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Human Development Master Advisor

Center for Poverty Faculty Affiliate: <https://poverty.ucdavis.edu/>

[REDACTED]

Department of Human Ecology
University of California, Davis
One Shield Ave, 1349 Hart Hall



Monica Roque

From: Erin Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:24 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Yellow category

I strongly encourage you to factor the following into your decision.

1. Any in person option should be outdoors and if the decision is full distance learning we should use this time to plan for future learning for the winter and spring outside we're there is much lower risk of transmission so we can come back as soon as possible. Yes there will be issues with weather and space but far fewer issues than will be caused by schools being shut down when people get sick inside the classroom Or losing a whole year of school with remote learning that isn't effective.

Distance learning is a childcare solution only if you have the ability to work from home. I'm thankful I do but for those who don't we're not reducing their risk with distance learning, we're just moving it to childcare centers with added costs. We need to focus on what is in our control to speed schools opening again and that is physical space.

>

> 2. On distance learning. That may end up being the solution we have to have but we need to recognize that for younger children "distance learning" basically means we're putting their education on hold unless there is a stay at home parent who can teach them. I don't blame anyone at my sons school in fact I think his teacher and principal and IEP support staff put in a great effort in the spring and I am grateful. But a 7 year old can't learn without a teacher and two working parents can't teach. So if we go with distance learning I would like us to have a return plan that recognizes that these kids have had their education on pause until we can get back to a classroom.

If we do have distance learning it needs to be 10 times more robust than what we had in the spring. We need actual online instruction not just assignments for parents and social check ins. Again not the teachers fault. Teachers need more support and guidance to be able to do what is an entirely different task.

3. I strongly urge you not to push kids out of their home school. It means something to them and it's a small bit of normalcy that does not need to be taken away.

>

> Thanks

>

> Erin Boltz

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Monica Roque

From: Lenna Ontai [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:18 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment meeting 7/17/2020

Categories: Yellow category

Re. Agenda item VI.a. COVID-19 Response Update

I urge the board to consider utilizing a remote schooling option for the start of the school year for as long as necessary to help combat the rising numbers of community spread of COVID in our community. If this route is taken, I would also like to see a set of metrics (e.g. # of new cases within a 14 day period, some number of cases held at some level for 30 days, etc.) that the school board would use to determine reopening so that families can know when the option may be changed and have some ability to foresee it coming. While the risk to children may appear for the moment to be low, we live within a community where the risk to others cannot be dismissed. In addition, I urge the board to consider alternatives to distance learning that do not require parents to enroll in DSIS. According to the survey, the only option for keeping a connection to my neighborhood school is to choose to send my children to an environment considered high risk (3-4 ft max distancing) especially for the teachers and school staff. DSIS also looks much different for K-6 than for the secondary grades and requires much more of a parent-led approach rather than a teacher implementing a chosen curriculum. I have two primary grade children and a job and this would be quite cumbersome for me to implement. So my choice becomes one of safety vs. selecting and implementing curriculum for 2 children while also working full time. I believe that DJUSD could offer an option whereby a distance learning approach could be implemented by the neighborhood schools (i.e. teacher selected curriculum, assignments, and basic lessons) allowing neighborhood school communities to stay connected and tied together.

Respectfully submitted by Lenna Ontai (Patwin Elementary school parent)

Monica Roque

From: Robert V.O. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 12:32 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Dear DJUSD School Board,

Our kids need to be back in school. Research supports it: more and more work coming out has shown children are much less susceptible to infection than adults and are by no means major drivers of the spread. It is being shown over and over now that the children are suffering adverse mental and physical health effects from lockdown conditions and school closures. Research shows the lockdown and school closures are adversely affecting the neediest families the most.

We can cover faces, wash hands, distance as we can, and make a safe return to school for students and teachers. Doctors recommend sending kids back to school. Adult to adult or adult to child transmission at the home is by far the most common type of spread. At some point we have to start listening to data and put our fear aside in order to make decisions with clarity.

Our children only get one childhood, they have already been isolated for an extended period of time, and we shouldn't continue to stifle their growth. The education provided by teachers is much better at school than at home. The data out there so far completely refutes the claim by teacher's unions that we are sending them into certain death. No one wants a teacher to get sick. We can't wait until we get a vaccine, and even to assume we will I would say is overly idealistic thinking. We don't even know if the rushed vaccine they release will be too effective. We cannot wait for a vaccine. Not everyone is going to feel good at the same time about going back to school. However, reading the data we have, and examining the prior SARS virus, we know that children are not major drivers of the spread.

In addition to the data supporting the safety of return, people like me who are student-parents at the university who rely on student loans to help provide for my family are incurring new debt each quarter. I am going to have to pay interest on more money, and take out more loans due to an extended time in school due to having to teach kids at home, which takes away from my time in the lab. I've been a student-parent for 10 years now and the loans won't keep coming forever. I am lucky we can still get by, but many other families have it much worse than I, and we have to look out for them. Some parents could lose their job entirely or half their household income due to school closures.

It should be clear to educators we need our kids back in school, and I think that is the case. If we have to hire teachers who want to teach because some want to stay home, maybe we should consider that. If you consider the data available to us right now, the data does support a safe return to school using proper safety procedures.

Thank you for your time,

Concerned Parent
Parent of 2 at Willett Elementary

Robert Van Ostrand
PhD Candidate, Chemistry, UC Davis
Commander, VFW Post 6949 Davis

Monica Roque

From: Emily Ault [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 12:13 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; John Bowes
Cc: Kelly Wilkerson
Subject: Public Comment 7.17.20 meeting
Attachments: 7.16.20 Letter to DJUSD BOE.pdf

Categories: Yellow category

Hello DJUSD BOE Members,

Please see attached letter for public comment for the 7.17.20 meeting, regarding Fall 2020 instruction plans.

Best,
Emily Ault
Davis High School Parent

Monica Roque

From: Kelly Wilke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 12:11 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: Emily Ault
Subject: public comment
Attachments: letter to the Board.pdf

Categories: Yellow category

Public comment attached

Monica Roque

From: Danielle Sharp [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 6:19 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment:Return to school/ Covid update

Categories: Yellow category

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danielle Sharp [REDACTED]
Date: July 14, 2020 at 9:24:59 PM PDT
To: fall2020@djusd.net
Cc: jdinunzio@djusd.net, tadams@djusd.net, afernandes@djusd.net, bpoppenga@djusd.net, jklineberg@djusd.net
Subject: Return to school

Dear Dr. Bowes and Board Trustees,

My name is Danielle Sharp, writing as a concerned parent of a rising Patwin 6th grader and rising Da Vinci 9th grader. Our children have attended DJUSD for their entire schooling experience, and as a family, we care deeply for the DJUSD community.

I implore the trustees and DJUSD administration to consider the repercussions of the 2020 return to school options presented to parents.

The safety of our staff and students should be the highest priority, and we must, as a community use science and data to inform our decision making.

The AAP has recently stepped back their insistence that children return to school, emphasizing the need for communities to develop plans based on local conditions. Locally, as you know, COVID spread has become significant, with spikes in infection rates.

With the surge of COVID cases within Yolo County and our region, the board of trustees and DJUSD administration must focus on developing a comprehensive and thorough distance learning program, tied to schools and classrooms of attendance. Students need access to teachers from their school site, and should receive direct instruction and small group instruction through google classroom and canvas.

Consideration, planning, and in class time should be given to developing classroom communities and friendships, and ensuring that

students and staff stay emotionally connected to their communities.

DJUSD should use the time remaining before school restarts to train staff to lead engaging lessons through distance learning.

Many other districts have developed plans that are based on science and current COVID conditions, which will guide the phased reopenings of schools. As many others have likely pointed out, Boulder Valley School District and Oakland Unified have developed excellent plans, based on science and phased in when data allows, that could be a model for implementation.

As a district located near a university, with departments in education and health, DJUSD has the distinct advantage of the resources to develop a similar plan, based in science, with gradual returns and significant consideration for the safety of staff and students.

The primary concern, when making a decision to return to school, needs to be the health and safety of students and all staff. As a person with a high risk health condition myself, the choices presented in the reopening survey give our family minimal options.

We could choose, if offered, to send our children to school in a hybrid model, however this model does not meet minimum safety standards to ensure that students and staff are protected from the virus, which is concerning. Attending schools in classrooms for hours exposes students and staff to viral loads that will make the containment of this virus impossible. The DJUSD plan proposes reducing the distancing in classrooms to 2-3 feet, which puts our students and staff at unacceptable risk. Recent research is suggesting that the virus is aerosolized, which presents additional risk to staff and students in classrooms.

With the lack of safety in the other options, many families will be forced to enroll at DSIS or find another home study program. This is an unacceptable option. My children (and many others from the virtual conversations I have had in the community) are suffering tremendously from being isolated from their school communities. Both Patwin and Da Vinci are small schools with strong communities, and my children miss their peers, teachers, and the school staff. Forced isolation of students, who are already struggling with their mental well being, is an unacceptable option. The mental well being of all students should be in the forefront of our minds as the DJUSD community makes decisions in the best interest of all students.

Beyond the safety of students and staff, additional logistical concerns come to mind should schools reopen: What is the actual feasibility of implementing in person instruction? How will DJUSD be ensuring that students and staff are tested regularly for COVID? How will contact tracing be used to identify possible spread, and what will the isolation/quarantine procedures be for those students and

staff exposed to COVID? How will we staff and maintain schools in this situation, considering the shortage of substitutes that existed prior to this pandemic?

DJUSD has a difficult decision ahead of the staff and board. I encourage your team to use the resources available to you, consider the physical and mental well being of all involved, and develop a distance learning program that will be effective and engaging.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Danielle Sharp