

Monica Roque

From: Erika Roshanravan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 8:43 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Re: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Listening on live stream. Quick add to Dr. Susson's response to Trustee Asmundson's question re: if or why school cohorts are safer than other gatherings. She mentioned masking, distancing and ventilation etc., and I think it's very important to add to this particular question that we are talking about k-6 age kids, not adults or teens, and transmission is thought to be much lower in young children.

Thanks,
Erika

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 7, 2021, at 9:04 AM, Erika Roshanravan [REDACTED]
>
>
> Good morning,
>
> attached is my and my husband's letter for public comment to the Board of Education. We thank you for all your efforts and hope you take our thoughts into consideration.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Erika Roshanravan, MD FAAFP
> Baback Roshanravan, MD MS MSPH FASN
>

[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Angela Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:22 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and Davis Board of Education:

Please hear us. We are asking you to come up with **A PLAN** to get our children back to school. We are one of only SEVEN states in this nation that still have schools closed that offer zero opportunity for in person learning. This problem is not an either/or situation. Just because you believe full in person is not safe doesn't mean you stop working on other options. This is a request to make some forward movement. There has been ample time to plan and get organized, preparing for multiple scenarios. This has not been happening in Davis. You have not even successfully got special needs students back on to campus as you promised to do FIVE months ago. To date, most of those students have had zero in person instruction. How is this ok? What is your reasoning? What have staff been doing during this time? Tell us when will they finally be served??

It is time to take responsibility and take action. There **are** shades of grey here. You cannot avoid moving forward because the plan must be black or white. You keep misrepresenting the wants and needs of this community. For example, your summary of the survey grossly misrepresented the data. You made it sound like the majority wanted full distance learning when in fact, **the majority** wanted either a hybrid **or** in person. You gave three options; respondents had to pick only one. You cannot penalize people and skew the results by stating that because neither full in person alone nor hybrid alone totaled more than full distance, that these results indicate no need to make a plan to bring students back. Combine hybrid and full in person and you will see that most families want some type of on-campus, in-person learning, even if it is only once a week. Please listen!

Stop waffling, stop procrastinating. Do your duty to the students of this district and devise a plan to give children the opportunity they deserve.

Monica Roque

From: Fei MacLeod [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:04 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment | Return to campus plan

Categories: Purple category

Hello!

I'd love to advocate if we go back to in person teaching that teachers get vaccinated prior to needing to return.

Thanks,

Fei MacLeod

Monica Roque

From: Joshua Ciccotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 5:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Good evening,

Below are my comments:

- 1) In the previous meeting, it was suggested that kids could return back to school if the district was in *Red* and that if all other requirements were also met. However, no additional clarification was provided as to what those “other” requirements are. In an effort to help parents both better understand what “every” requirement is – and to be able to make return to public school decisions – please provide all requirements the district is requiring to make this happen. Additionally, please outline the tasks necessary to return kids to school if the district returns to *Red* before February 15. The last meeting left parents with the impression that there were other considerations beyond (or in addition to) what the district would require before moving to hybrid learning.
- 2) Please provide a plan/comment as to how the district will incorporate California Governors “Safe Schools For All” plan into the district’s return to school plan. Please include how the district intends to use the Governor’s money (as part of the Safe School For All) to prepare the school for kids to return.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Josh

Monica Roque

From: alison kennedy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:50 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and Board of Education,

I trust you have received sufficient information regarding the public health guidance that advocates reopening schools as soon as we are in the red tier. I look forward to learning more about your plans in this regard.

I am troubled by the apparently low level of knowledge regarding this evidence in our community. Fear that is not based on evidence makes serving our children more difficult. Local leaders in other school districts have played an active role in getting accurate information to the population. For example, this document from the Chicago Public schools that debunks several common myths regarding returning to school: <https://docs.google.com/.../1MavqJuyGK9nMX.../mobilebasic...>

I have not seen this type of evidence-based leadership to date in Davis. I'd like to request your support and your leadership, in the mission of supporting the education of our children, to share information on how to reopen schools safely and to work to get the community comfort level better aligned with the available evidence. I believe this is urgently needed.

Alison
Proud 2021 DHS mom

Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.

-Abraham Lincoln

Monica Roque

From: Dana Sodergren
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:43 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment re: reopening

Categories: Purple category

(For public comment. This is a summary of a letter shared with the board)

Ja

January 7, 2021

Dear Members of the Davis Joint Unified School Board,

As the first and second grade teaching teams at Pioneer Elementary, we are writing to you with our concerns regarding our possible return to in-person teaching.

First and foremost, we thank you for taking the time to consider all the needs of our students and teachers and not rushing to make a decision. This is a very difficult decision that will impact so many lives.

There are three main points we would like to address. The return to school in a hybrid model will be disruptive, not productive, and unsafe.

Disruptive: If we do a distance-learning academy for those choosing not to return face-to-face classes will need to be reshuffled. Routine is critical and comforting to our students, now more than ever. The routine students have become used to would be completely disrupted. We have established a relationship with our students, we know their needs and unique personalities. They have formed a bond with us and understand what is expected of them every day. This would disrupt all that we have gained.

In addition to this, we have seen many school districts all over the country try hybrid, have a Covid outbreak, then pivot back to distance learning. Would we then reshuffle again? If we choose a zoom-in-the-room model we will not be able to do our best for either group of students, as live teaching and zoom teaching are very different.

Not productive: In a hybrid model many of our most effective teaching practices would be difficult to impossible. Tiered small group instruction based on individual assessments might not be an option. We would not be able to group students by learning need, or share students as we can do now in zoom. Students will not have access to supplemental classroom materials, such as book bags, word games, writing centers, libraries and STEM games. If we do reshuffle the classes some students may repeat curriculum while others skip parts, as classes are at different places.

Unsafe: This return to school is unsafe on so many levels. Even if teachers are vaccinated, this horrible virus can still be carried from one person to another (including vulnerable family members of both children and teachers.) We have heard stories all over the country of teachers and their families

getting covid after returning to school, some dying. Is that really a risk the Board is willing to take by making the decision to go back- to risk the health and lives of teachers, their families, and students of Davis?

First and second graders are six to eight years old. They are working on impulse control, personal boundaries and controlling their sneezes, coughs and bodily fluids. We also have great concerns about their ability to keep a mask on all day.

We have been able to watch the small cohort at Pioneer take shape. Our principal is currently staffing this cohort due to staff illnesses. We have seen and he has shared that the six students are able to social distance, but a teacher who is trying to work to help the students is simply not able to keep a distance. Some students even ran up and hugged their teacher. How do you push a child away?

In conclusion, we really hope you carefully consider all of the implications of this decision and what it means to the people who tirelessly serve our community of students.

We want students back in our classrooms, but in a safe way.

Sincerely,

Janell Campbell
Dana Sodergren
Peggy DeUlloa
Laurel Fields
Grade Keller
Kristy Powell

Dana Sodergren
1st Grade Teacher
Pioneer Elementary

Monica Roque

From: Abbie Harper [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:40 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Purple category

I'm writing this letter in hopes that we hear a plan to return to school as soon as possible. While I'm concerned about education falling behind, my major concern is the mental health of the children at home. My second grader needs to be with his peers and with his teacher, in the classroom. I hope that the district will follow the guidance of public health entities and give families the option to get kids back to school as soon as possible.

Abbie Harper

Monica Roque

From: Judy Wong-Chen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:38 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Return to Campus 1.7.21 Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD School Board,

I look forward to hearing about the district's conditions for reopening. I hope you will address the following during the January meetings:

When 185 students have been or are being assessed for IEPs, what percentage is that of district students with IEPs that warrant phase 2 support? What is the district's timeline to get *everyone* in greatest need (who wants to be back on campus this year), back to in-person instruction? What is ongoing to assess the needs of those with special needs, English Language Learning needs, social-emotional needs and financial/infrastructure constraints? Some students are really struggling with distance learning, so how are you quickly identifying them and making efforts to get them adequate support? Based on Newsom's Safe Schools for All, is there also an effort to prioritize elementary school students, specifically getting TK-2 onto campuses?

What have campuses done to improve their infrastructure to be ready for students to return--10 months into this pandemic, have campuses already fully installed hand washing and sanitizing stations, procured adequate PPE and masks for teachers/staff/students who need them, put up signage about handwashing and social distancing, and improved ventilation? Will outdoor instruction be allowed/encouraged, to minimize contagion inside classrooms? Will there be seating restrictions in the cafeteria and eating spaces, to accomodate children not wearing masks? What, if any, frequency of COVID testing will be required of teachers, staff, students and families?

When students return to campus, will all be assigned a cohort, to minimize interaction with others?

When the county returns to the red tier, do you intend to return just those with the greatest need to campuses, or would you attempt to schedule everyone who wants to return in a hybrid schedule? To what extent do you know how many teachers would return to campus, and how much have faculty and staff been trained on what's expected, so they will be supported and can hit the ground running? Specifically spell out what the first few weeks will look like, to get students back on campus.

If schools move to the hybrid schedule model, how likely will teachers actively teach to those doing distance learning--will it be a passive zoom in the room, or will there be new classroom assignments, separating distance learners from those in person?

When teachers and staff are asked to return to campuses, what is the district doing to assure that their families' need for childcare are supported? What increased childcare will be available to families districtwide, who will have to juggle partial days/weeks of in-person instruction?

When 32 students and staff self reported that they had COVID last month, was this just among the 130 students and their staff on campuses, or does it include those who are learning at a distance? With these dismal numbers, I can only imagine how high infection numbers could soar when we bring students back to campuses in gross

numbers, to share indoor classrooms for several hours a day. Having read through your FAQs about scenarios of faculty, staff or students showing symptoms, I am alarmed that cohorts would remain open until someone has a probable diagnosis, while they can still be a carrier in spite of symptoms, or if they come into contact or live with someone with COVID symptoms and/or a diagnosis. And, it seems negligent to public health if a school knows that a student has symptoms or is in close contact with a known covid carrier, but you don't deem it necessary to communicate to the cohort and families.

I'm curious if at some point you identify that expanding to hybrid or beyond is not likely for this spring, what your determining factors will be, and when you will communicate this clearly to families, so instead of investing an unrealistic hope more students will return this spring, everyone can make the best of distance learning this year and move forward to a stronger start to the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for addressing these concerns and communicating clearly to the districts' families and educators.

Judy Wong-Chen, parent of a DJUSD kindergartner

Monica Roque

From: Lisa Lott [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:33 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: 1.7.22 public comment

Categories: Purple category

Please keep our community safe.

Given the high rate of community spread and ICU capacity it is clear that any plan to have children back for in person school (including a hybrid option) should not be implemented this academic year. I will not be sending my children back this year and I will support the teachers in any effort they take to ensure their own safety, including a strike if it comes to that.

Monica Roque

From: Christine Belew [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:24 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD BOE Trustees,

There is still so much we don't know about Covid - it's long-term effects, length of contagious time, asymptomatic carriers, vaccine availability timeline and new mutations to name a few. We DO know that there is now a new widespread strain that is equally transmissible in children.

It just does not make sense to consider or focus on an in-person model at a time when Covid numbers are higher than ever been before, transmissibility is increasing.

In an effort to reduce the burden on hospitals and health care workers, we would not consider sending our children to school until at least the following:

--Yolo County is in the orange tier with Covid numbers on the decline --All teachers/staff are FULLY vaccinated with both injections --Hospital beds/ICU availability surpasses 90%

Until then, we think time is best spent trying to improve the distance learning situation with greater focus on fixing the problems we know exist with it and improving student engagement. For example, students in the transition years of 6th, 9th and 12th grades need greater acknowledgement and support, especially from their schools and coaches - this has been severely lacking this year. Kudos to the teachers who have made an effort to alleviate some of the invisibility these kids are feeling! We suspect more attention also needs to be paid to other student groups such as high-risk and special needs.

We know this time is hard for everyone and we are all feeling the strain of long-term pandemic stress, so we thank you for your time and energy spent trying to better our children's education.

Thank you,
Chris & Doug Belew

Monica Roque

From: Robert V.O. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD School Board,

I would like to ask each School Board Member to think about why you are currently a DJUSD School Board Member. Why are you here today, serving your community?

I am a parent of two daughters. One is in fourth grade, and one is in fifth. School closure has been a struggle from hell for families. It's impossible to provide adequate education from home for my two kids while trying to teach students that I am paid to teach for income, and conduct research in the lab on top of that to progress my degree. Children have carried such a heavy burden to keep educators safe, and it is time we stop using them as a shield from fear, as kids are suffering and are paying the cost for school closure on behalf of all educators. We can't ask our children to keep suffering from the negative mental and physical health effects of school closure. Sadly, we saw on the news in a rural Colorado county recently that 7 young adults committed suicide in a short period of time. [1] They started using the adapted slogan, "Seven is too many" to help support their call to return to school. Even one was too many.

It is clear by now elementary schools should be open. There are examples all over the world. Science shows clearly, and has since the beginning of the pandemic, that our children are not suffering as severe symptoms from COVID-19 compared to adults, and they are not spreading the virus much at all at school. [2,3,4,5] Very little to zero reporting of viral transfer to teachers from students exists in scientific literature. Dr. Fauci says open schools should be the default option. [6] That means the DJUSD needs to explain why we are closed, and if you look to data – you will see the data supports reopening. There is no data-based explanation to keep elementary schools closed at this time.

In fact, Admiral Giroir, a pediatrician on the White House COVID Task Force and who serves as a four-star Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service, recently said in an interview on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace, "I think it's very important for listeners to understand, that getting children back to school right now is safe now. There is data upon data upon data that children can go back to school safely in person." He isn't saying maybe. He isn't saying it will be safe in the future sometime. He says it is safe right now. Admiral Giroir also went on to say, "Young healthy teachers should be at no more risk than young healthy individuals in any other profession." [7]

A recent report from the European Centre For Disease Prevention and Control stated, "Data from the 2 September (the start of the school year) to 16 October 2020 from England found no differences in COVID-19 positivity rates between primary and secondary school teachers and other professions. A similar trend was seen when including household members of teachers, where no evidence of difference in positivity rates was noted. [8,9]

I know from personal experience Distance Learning results in poor learning conditions. I know from personal experience that the DJUSD's mission is currently not being fulfilled:

"The mission of Davis Joint Unified School District, a leading center of educational innovation, is to ignite a love of learning and equip each student with the knowledge, skills, character, and well-being to thrive and contribute to an evolving and increasingly-connected world, through a system characterized by..."

Kids are NOT being put in position to develop a love of learning. They do not have the equipment they need at home. They are not developing the skills they need. Students are not thriving. Every school day of distance learning is another day of failure of the DJUSD mission statement.

Now is the time to show why you volunteered as DJUSD School Board Members, which I hope was to educate the children of the district at the highest level possible. A higher quality level of education is possible and safe right now. Please fulfill the mission of the DJUSD immediately.

Respectfully,

Robert Van Ostrand

REFERENCES:

1.) News Article: Youth suicides on the Eastern Plains spark political protest, “7 is too many” social media campaign. Colorado Sun (Newspaper), Dec. 17, 2020.

<https://coloradosun.com/2020/12/17/teen-suicide-on-eastern-plains/>

2.) Article: The Wide Spectrum of COVID-19 Clinical Presentation in Children. *J. Clin. Med.*, Sept. 12, 2020.

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0383/9/9/2950>

3.) Article: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by Children. Joanna Merckx, Jeremy A Labrecque, Jay S Kaufman. *Dtsch Arztebl Int.* 2020 Jul 21. 117(33-34):553-560.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32705983/>

“Schools that implemented transmission mitigation measures (including in European countries) seem not to have substantially contributed to increased circulation of the virus among local communities.”

4.) Article - Infection and transmission of COVID-19 among students and teachers in schools in Japan after the reopening in June 2020. Wada et al. *BMJ Paediatr Open.* 2020; 4(1): e000854., Published online 2020 Sep 29. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2020-000854.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7526027/>

This study shows a zero transmission rate from students to teachers.

5.) Secondary transmission of COVID-19 in preschool and school settings in northern Italy after their reopening in September 2020: a population-based study. Larosa et al. *Euro Surveill.* 2020 Dec 10; 25(49).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7730487/>

6.) AP News Article. Fauci: US may see ‘surge upon surge’ of virus in weeks ahead. Tamara Lush. Nov 20, 2020.

<https://apnews.com/article/travel-anthony-fauci-thanksgiving-coronavirus-pandemic-infectious-diseases-ae1e116aa6e236692d99b6c9ecc773eb>

Dr. Fauci says we can keep schools safe, even with a surge of virus coming.

7.) TV Interview: Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace featuring Admiral Giroir of the USPHS. Dec. 27 2020.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/asst-hhs-sec-giroir-coronavirus-vaccines-effective-against-new-strain>

8.) Technical report: COVID-19 in children and the role of school settings in transmission – first update. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. 23 Dec. 2020.

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/children-and-school-settings-covid-19-transmission>

9.) Article: Occupational risk of COVID-19 in the 1st vs 2nd wave of infection. Magnusson K, Nygard KM, Vold L, Telle KE. medRxiv. 3 November 2020 2020.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.29.20220426v1>

Monica Roque

From: Julia Aue [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Purple category

To whom it may concern:

I'm a parent of a 7th grader at Emerson. I would like to express my support for reopening schools immediately. We are doing our students a great disservice by continuing to have them learn from home while their peers in many other states and countries have returned to in person schooling. We have family in Germany and Switzerland as well as in other states in the US and all have safely been in school since the school year began even though the number of COVID cases were (or are) high. Scientific data, pediatricians, mental health experts are all backing the return to school. Why is Davis continuing to drag their feet on this?

There are multiple schools in our county that have safely and successfully returned to in person schooling (my two sons attend St James). Let's use these as a model for what is possible at DJUSD!

While some teachers are trying their best, my daughter is becoming weary of school and saddened by sitting in her room in front of a screen. This is no way to experience school and I'm worried that this will have a lasting impact on our children.

Thank you,
Julia Aue

Monica Roque

From: Melanie Gogol-Prokurat [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:57 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear Davis School Board,

As a the parents of 1st and 3rd graders at Birch Lane Elementary, we would like to comment on the plan to provide parents the option to choose between in-person and distance learning. Our biggest concern at this point is not whether our kids return to the classroom this schoolyear, but that they remain with their current teachers. The recent survey indicated that classrooms would be reshuffled and kids assigned to new teachers when schools re-open.

At the lower elementary level, the relationship with the teacher is so important for many reasons. There have already been so many changes for the kids to adjust to, and we believe remaining with their current teachers for the remainder of the school year would be the best thing for our kids' learning and their well-being.

Our family would be willing to go with whatever option the teacher is doing (in-person or distance) if we could stay with our current teachers. There was no option in the survey to indicate this preference. When Yolo County returns to the red tier and parents are asked whether they want their kids to continue distance learning or return to the classroom, please provide a third option, "remain with current teacher".

Thank you for considering this request,
Melanie Gogol-Prokurat
Tobias Muench

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:56 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Members of the Board,

Welcome back. As we begin a new semester, more and more districts across the country are reopening - most notably, perhaps, Chicago, which just opened its doors to a phased return.

Yet, in Davis, here we are again, with no actual plan to reopen, only a vague hint that we might, maybe, possibly consider a plan. This was never good enough, but in light of the developments over the winter break, it's rapidly become an untenable position.

The CA Department of Public Health has now joined the chorus calling for schools to reopen. Governor Newsom has offered funding. The American Academy of Pediatrics has re-affirmed their position that schools can, and should, reopen. Multiple new studies were released showing little to no community spread inside open schools. Many, in fact, showed that students and staff were safer in areas with open schools, as mitigation protocols are enforced. This adds to the calls from the likes of the WHO, UNICEF, CDC, European CDC, Dr. Fauci and countless other epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, Public Health Officers and physicians around the globe advocating for a return to classrooms for children. We know it can be done. We have watched it happen. We have the evidence.

And yet - we seem to follow fear rather than fact. Debunked rumors rather than evidence. Conspiracy theories rather than proven examples. How long will we allow this to continue? We have seen the disastrous results of leaders failing to rally their charge to reality, and allowing them to create evermore dizzying fears based on rumor - DJUSD finds itself in an arguably similar situation. It's continued for far too long already.

It's one thing to sacrifice for the collective good. If there were evidence that was the case, the reluctance to reopen could be justified. It's quite another to sacrifice children to unsubstantiated, and now debunked, fears - an ignorance which history will remember as the greatest tragedy of this pandemic.

Do better.

Mike Creedon
DJUSD Parent

I am writing to implore you to have a comprehensive and effective plan for in person learning to be an option as soon as we are in the red tier. I would expect that this plan is communicated clearly and broadly to the community.

My son is in Kindergarten at Fairfield Elementary. Virtual zoom school has been such a struggle for him. Not to mention totally developmentally inappropriate for such a young learner.

I believe you have the perfect opportunity to use this school as a test case for how your safety measures can work throughout the district. Fairfield is a small school with only two classrooms to provide for. There is ample outside space to set up outdoor learning opportunities. There is a small class roster of 48 (or less) students. We can practice all policies and procedures and show the rest of DJUSD how it CAN work.

It is your responsibility to figure out how to keep our students, teachers, and all staff safe while also **getting them back into the classroom**. Please fulfill this responsibility.

Speaking as a “less privileged” Davis family where BOTH parents need to work, we don’t have the option to simply and easily keep our kids home. To survive here, we need two incomes. And we are drowning. Please help.

Thanks,
Alyssa Liska, mother for a Fairfield Elementary kindergartner

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Monica Roque

From: leticiahardin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: 1/7/21 public comment

Categories: Purple category

Please keep our community and schools safe. Due to the high rate of community spread and the dwindling ICU capacity, I hope that the board would not attempt to have in-person school (not even a hybrid option) for the remainder of this academic year. If in-person school happens this spring, I will not be sending my children. I feel it would be safer to wait until fall and I hope that the board will focus their energy on a plan for the best way to return to school in August, when hopefully the community spread will be lower due to vaccination. Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Monica Roque

From: Joanna Friesner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:23 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Jan 7 PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Purple category

Dear school board- the Covid spread in CA is massive, and worse- our ICU capacity is overwhelmed, as are local medical staff.

I know people want kids back in school but it is too risky, even for a hybrid option. The benefits just don't outweigh the risk- especially to staff and teachers.

We will not send our child back to in-person school this year. I hope that this fall we can re-join.
I will support teachers in any effort they take to ensure their own safety, including a strike if necessary.

Please focus resources and effort on:

- 1) how can we further identify and support families who may be struggling with basic needs such as food, housing, and safety?
- 2) how can we plan for return next August given the very distinct possibility that our children/community may not be fully vaccinated?
- 3) how can we implement new and creative online approaches to support our kids who need connections with their teachers and fellow students?
- 4) how can we support working parents, especially, who are struggling to keep their jobs and effectively help their kids with online learning, while staying healthy?

Yours,

Joanna

Davis resident, Chavez parent

Joanna Friesner, Ph.D.

Monica Roque

From: Jessica Jacobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:14 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and Board of Education,

I trust you have received sufficient information regarding the public health guidance that advocates reopening schools as soon as we are in the red tier. I look forward to learning more about your plans in this regard.

I am troubled by the apparently low level of knowledge regarding this evidence in our community. Fear that is not based on evidence makes serving our children more difficult. Local leaders in other school districts have played an active role in getting accurate information to the population. For example, this document from the Chicago Public schools that debunks several common myths regarding returning to school: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MavqJuyGK9nMXNhZRJ5fTtnQU7EDRZD5HwSbb7Fetxk/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR1RTTnvdHGIBQF89aTLLgg7aNrEuM5bC5kwDtZ8aGnVZ4fPCEmMSoz39l8>

I have not seen this type of evidence-based leadership to date in Davis. I'd like to request your support and your leadership, in the mission of supporting the education of our children, to share information on how to reopen schools safely and to work to get the community comfort level better aligned with the available evidence. I believe this is urgently needed.

Sincerely,

Jessica Jacobson
Parent of 3

Monica Roque

From: Kari Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:03 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD school board members,

I am writing today on behalf of my 5 year old son at North Davis Elementary school. Specifically, to ask that Kindergarteners be able to come back to in person school on February 1st as outlined by Governor Newsom in his "safe schools for all" plan. It was relayed to me that the district preschool will open soon in order to give those kids a jump start on the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten. As a mother of a kindergartner, my son will still need to attend school in person to also acquire those skills. It could be asked why are we sending the preschoolers back if only to divert them to online learning this Fall as what happened with my son. Please consider bringing Kindergartners back to school as soon as possible so they can meet their teachers and the other students in their class.

Kari Oldham

Monica Roque

From: Roxanne Deutsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:01 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: For: BOE Public Comment 1/7/2021 re: reopening schools

Categories: Purple category

For Public Comment 2 minutes 40 seconds

January 7, 2021

Dear Esteemed DJUSD Board Trustees,

Unfortunately, the world is in the most severe public health crisis in nearly 100 years. As is normal and expected, the Corona virus is mutating. Because that is what viruses do. It is now spreading faster and is more severe. Currently around the world, it looks like children are becoming infected at higher rates. The data is constantly changing. Children are not immune from the Coronavirus and can spread it to others. Even one life lost, is one too many.

This morning, on NPR, Dr. Fauci pleaded with people to take this seriously so that we can contain the Coronavirus within the United States. He said that maybe by the end of summer, when we can vaccinate 70%-85% of the population, we might be able to get back to normal.

Schools are at the center of every community and leaders have an ethical and moral responsibility to keep EVERYONE safe. With this new mutated strain, a Hybrid school option would bring households of 15 or more together, in a closed space, with insufficient ventilation, for long periods of time, which is exactly the scenario that the Coronavirus would love. Children will infect each other and adults, and then the children will take it home to their families, thereby spreading the virus amongst our community. Remember DJUSD has students from not just Davis, but also Woodland, Winters, Dixon and West Sacramento.

I ask you to listen to the NPR podcast, "Nice White Parents" and ponder who is pleading with you to open schools in the middle of a pandemic. We do NOT have current data on this new virus. Personally I know two postdoc Harvard virologists that are authoring a paper on the new strain. As you know, it needs to go through a long review process to be thoroughly vetted before it is released to the public.

The claim of “learning loss”, is not accurate and insulting to teachers. Students ARE learning, maybe not like we used to, and yes it is different, but students ARE learning despite what a small group of parents are saying. Yes, there are individual cases where there are particular challenges, but that is why we set up the Small Cohorts. Even then, it is frightening that adults are daily exposing themselves to the virus, having not received a vaccine.

With the vaccine on the horizon, can we just slow down, and wait for protections and procedures that will save lives, and prevent people from developing debilitating long-haul chronic symptoms? I know 10+ people locally that have had Covid, and about 50% of them are long-haulers.

We all want to get back to normal and resume our lives, but only when it is safe to do so.

I plead with you to weigh what we know now and more importantly- what we do not know....yet- about the Coronavirus, before you make your decision to re-open. Opening schools now, without current scientific data is dangerous and reckless. Please wait until our community has widespread vaccines, more scientific data, and better Public Health measures in place so that we can protect lives.

Thank you,
Roxanne Deutsch
Teacher

Monica Roque

From: Rachel Kitazono [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:24 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD Board Members,

The science grows daily about the safety of children in schools and how it is doable and essential. I don't think you can fall back on ANY evidence to delay return to classrooms, especially for younger kids and children with special needs.

Parents and children are tired and struggling. We're tired of being their teacher, the paraeducator, the support and social outlet. Parents are not getting paid to ensure distance learning is being accessed and our employers certainly know we already have a job that we hope to keep.

What are you doing to educate staff about the facts of safety in schools rather than continue to make decisions based on emotions?

To keep school closed is to ignore science at this point. Life is not about having no risk. If some were afraid of driving, and there is in fact risk to take when driving, should we shut down all driving because it's not zero risk to drive?

Please take actionable steps to move forward in reopening. We are behind many school districts across the state and country. This can be done and our community expects it, as should all of you.

I'm tired of writing these emails, but I'll keep writing so that when my son asks me in the future what I did to help him during this time, I can tell him I did all I could, and I tried.

💖 Rachel

Monica Roque

From: alyssa liska [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:11 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD Board of Education,

I am writing to implore you to have a comprehensive and effective plan for in person learning to be an option as soon as we are in the red tier. I would expect that this plan is communicated clearly and broadly to the community.

My son is in Kindergarten at Fairfield Elementary. Virtual zoom school has been such a struggle for him. Not to mention totally developmentally inappropriate for such a young learner.

I believe you have the perfect opportunity to use this school as a test case for how your safety measures can work throughout the district. Fairfield is a small school with only two classrooms to provide for. There is ample outside space to set up outdoor learning opportunities. There is a small class roster of 48 (or less) students. We can practice all policies and procedures and show the rest of DJUSD how it CAN work.

It is your responsibility to figure out how to keep our students, teachers, and all staff safe while also **getting them back into the classroom**. Please fulfill this responsibility.

Speaking as a “less privileged” Davis family where BOTH parents need to work, we don’t have the option to simply and easily keep our kids home. To survive here, we need two incomes. And we are drowning. Please help.

Thanks,
Alyssa Liska, mother for a Fairfield Elementary kindergartner

Monica Roque

From: Kalyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:05 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: 1/7/21 comment

Categories: Purple category

Please keep our community safe.

Given the high rate of community spread and ICU capacity it is clear that any plan to have children back for in person school (including a hybrid option) is not likely for this academic year. I will not be sending my children back this year and I will support the teachers in any effort they take to ensure their own safety, including a strike if it comes to that.

I implore the Board to focus your energy:

1) how can we further identify and support families who may be struggling with basic needs such as food, housing, and safety?

2) how can we plan for return next August given the very distinct possibility that our children/community may not be fully vaccinated?

- Kalyn Coppedge
Parent to DJUSD first and fifth graders

Sent from my iPhone

Monica Roque

From: Callie Garritson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:27 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Please open the schools

Categories: Purple category

My kids are in first grade at Montgomery Elementary School. The staff has done an excellent job of adapting considering the circumstances. My children's teacher is exceptional.

They are currently getting about one hour of Zoom school a day. While that is about the max for how long a six year old can look a screen, it does not replicate in-person learning from either an educational or social perspective.

My spouse is able to supplement Zoom school, adding another hour of learning a day, plus ensuring they get exercise.

My worry is not for my own children. It is for the other young children who don't learn via Zoom school. Who have diagnosed learning disabilities or all those kids who are going undiagnosed because their learning differences are not being caught.

I also worry about how missing a year and a half of K and 1st in a language immersion program will play out. Will there 2nd grade curriculum be adjusted?

To put a finer point on it, I ask that the schools be opened to in-person learning for the youngest learners as per the guidance from Governor Newsom. A hybrid schedule would be acceptable in my opinion.

Also, an effort needs to be made to catch kids up over the summer so that we take a proactive to protecting learning in the third school year effected by this pandemic.

Thank you,
Callie Garritson

Monica Roque

From: Leslie Holeman-Umali [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:52 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for tonight's meeting

Categories: Purple category

Dear Trustees,

I'm a parent of two elementary students at Birch Lane, and I'm writing with great concern about the discussions for in-person school during this school year.

There are many points that could be made, but I'm going to focus on my concerns about logistics, based on my family's experience with COVID.

I brought COVID home to my family from my job as an essential worker. 4 days after I got sick, my husband got sick. Our kids were asymptomatic, but to properly quarantine, they had to stay isolated for 14 days after their LAST exposure. That meant, between my husband and me, and then the kids' quarantine, they had to be isolated for an entire month. If they had in-person school, that would have been 2 kids out of school for a month, or greatly disrupted by having to transition back to distance learning.

Is the district prepared to deal with multiple families in that situation? And what about families who may not choose to be honest about that quarantine period? How can we ensure asymptomatic kids aren't bringing COVID to school? The science is not clear to what extent kids transmit this virus, but we know that they do.

And a possibly greater concern is regarding subs when teachers get COVID or have to quarantine. Also, relating to my own experience: I'm not in any high risk group, and I've been dealing with COVID symptoms for 8 weeks now. My doctor says my situation is not unusual. If I were a teacher, I would still not be able to return to work in full capacity. I'd need a long-term sub. Any teacher who gets COVID or any COVID-like symptoms, would have to be out for a minimum of 10 days, but it's very possible that it could be several weeks or longer. And this is not limited to high-risk individuals. Do we have lots of extra subs lined up to cover for the inevitable teachers' illness and quarantine? I recall before the pandemic, teachers coming to school with the flu because they couldn't get a sub. This is a huge concern that I would like to see explicitly addressed.

For these reasons, and many more, I'm urging the district to focus on bringing kids back safely in Fall, 2021, with vaccinated teachers, and safety measures in place.

Efforts to discuss any sort of in-person school for this school year (aside from the small cohorts with specific needs) seem like a waste of time and resources, especially with the current trajectory of COVID numbers in our area.

Thank you for your time,
Leslie Holeman-Umali

Monica Roque

From: Heather Jones (hejones) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 10:05 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

Thank you school board, principals, teachers and staff for your continued hard work.

I beg of you, please consider offering our DJUSD families an option (in-person or distance learning) for the remainder of this school year. Our children are in desperate need for social, emotional connections. With the right resources & precautions I am confident we can do this in a safe manner.

Thank you

Monica Roque

From: Erika Roshanravan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 9:04 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment
Attachments: Letter to BoE_1-4-2020.docx

Categories: Purple category

Good morning,

attached is my and my husband's letter for public comment to the Board of Education. We thank you for all your efforts and hope you take our thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,

Erika Roshanravan, MD FAAFP
Baback Roshanravan, MD MS MSPH FASN

[REDACTED]

Davis, 1/4/2021

Dear DJUSD Board of Education,

We are both physicians and parents of two current and one future DJUSD early elementary students. These are our thoughts on various of the issues at hand.

As we witness daily through work and just looking around our communities, virtual school is an enormous economic and socio-emotional hardship for many families, and the social isolation is devastating for many children. We are not too worried about the kids' academic progress (or lack thereof) in general, but we do worry about the steadily worsening achievement gap between kids with a lot of support at home and kids with no support. The best teachers and the best set-up cannot prevent this in a virtual system.

We therefore would like children to return to in-person school as soon as feasible to stop further aggravation of the above issues. We also would like teachers to feel safe, and we believe both of these can happen once community spread of the virus starts falling. It is important to note though that no safety is 100%, there are sadly risks with every option, including staying at home, feeling overwhelmed with virtual learning, not being physically active, and having extremely stressed-out parents who are constantly on edge. It is the difficult task of public health to figure out how to balance these risks with many moving targets, and we trust that all who participate in these discussions re: return-to-school ultimately have the same goal: Maximizing physical and mental wellness of children, teachers and families during an unprecedented pandemic.

In regard to protections for teachers, students and their families:

We firmly believe in the science of masking and distancing to reduce spread, including in an in-person classroom setting. We and many other essential workers have been working with a surgical mask on, e.g., spending a lot of time in a room with a dozen or more adults since March, and that is usually quite safe when there is enough space to spread out and masks are strictly worn. However, we were extremely relieved when we started to have the option of 1-2x weekly testing through Healthy Davis Together, and even more relieved when we could get the first dose of the vaccine. We want teachers to feel that same relief and safety. Please assure that all teachers and staff receive all the information they need to answer their questions about the vaccine so vaccination can be a swift process as soon as we reach Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution. The DJUSD parent community has numerous physicians and scientists that we are sure would be happy to support teachers with information in any way they desire. In terms of COVID testing, while it may be a logistical challenge, 1-2x weekly testing for all students, teachers and staff really needs to be put in place before the schools fully open. Gov. Newsom has a less strict testing requirement in the new plan, but frankly, we are so privileged here in Davis to have Healthy Davis Together, there is no reason for us to apply a lower standard to our DJUSD students than to the UC Davis campus students & staff, and that is currently a requirement for 2x weekly testing. This can prevent the feared disruptions from shutting down entire schools because outbreaks will be preventable via early case detection. Dr. Fauci also mentioned that newer rapid tests are coming on the market that are highly reliable in contrast to the older rapid tests, and we would strongly encourage DJUSD to look into obtaining those.

Since it sounds like we have stockpiled masks already and upgraded all ventilation systems, we feel strongly that all DJUSD logistical COVID protection efforts should focus on vaccines and testing to try to have this ready by the time we reach 27/100,000 cases and as such the new threshold to open schools.

We really hope all teachers can have at least their first dose of the vaccine before the schools open. We should also include vulnerable family members of students in our advocacy efforts for expedited vaccines to allow these children to return to school without endangering their family.

In regard to schooling options:

Please do not ask us in April or later if we would like my children shuffled into a virtual or a hybrid classroom for the remaining one or two or three months. Changing teachers and peers is a huge disruption, particularly for children with special needs who need the in-person environment the most. If less than 3 months remain of the school year when we have to choose between hybrid and virtual, please add a choice option for “just do whatever my child’s teacher does”, as truly that will be our choice. Or consider shuffling the classes in such a way that they can stay together for the 2021-2022 school year.

For the same reason, as long as we cannot all return to school, please push the return to campuses for special needs students and other students in need faster so these kids can benefit from a stable in-person environment for as long as possible before the summer, while still maintaining small enough classrooms that keep everyone safe until vaccines and testing are in place.

Once all teachers are fully vaccinated and community spread is further reduced, we would strongly advocate to swiftly move to a full in-person model at the elementary level without further delays. The hybrid system sounds like such a huge challenge overall, though we would still prefer some in-person school over none IF it is with their current teachers.

Please plan for robust staffing for screeners and substitute teachers. Based on my, Erika’s, experiences with screening individuals before they enter our clinics (temperature & symptom checks), we can tell you that these screens are not completely straight forward and accuracy will be higher when symptom questionnaires are reviewed and temperatures checked face-to-face at school, not at home. As parents, we would gladly participate in the screening efforts and believe that many from the DJUSD parent community would gladly support this effort if it meant a safe return to in-person school.

When a child needs to isolate for minor symptoms, a positive test or a COVID contact, please consider acquiring the technology for the child to log into the live classroom via a camera in the classroom and actively participate. A robust, disruption-minimizing plan will improve the likelihood that families comply with isolation and stay home with even minor symptoms, and the likelihood that families choose in-person options.

And last but not least, please pay all teachers and directly exposed staff decent hazard pay. We are in a pandemic, these are extraordinary times, and teachers and staff deserve to be compensated for the risks they take like some other essential workers are as well.

Sincerely,

Erika Roshanravan, MD
Baback Roshanravan, MD MS MSPH

Monica Roque

From: Loubna Tazi [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:55 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: Stefan Rothenburg
Subject: Public comment to the Board of Education - Hybrid Model

Categories: Purple category

Dear President DiNunzio and other members of the Board of Education,

We are the parents of a first grade student with special needs and a Kindergarten student. Both of them are feeling now comfortable in their classrooms and with distance learning. Although the distance learning is taking a big toll on us parents and we would therefore love to return to in person classes, we have serious concerns regarding the plans for implementing a hybrid model, especially for elementary and special needs students. The hybrid model will disturb the kids' routines and will have serious negative effects on the social and emotional well-beings not only of these children but also of their teachers. One of the most important factors for these students to be successful is stability and routine, which is especially relevant for special needs children. A hybrid model would mean that not only the daily routine would be screwed up but also would mean that the dynamics of the classrooms will be negatively affected, e.g. by changing teachers and classmates. The workload for the teachers will be also increased. While the hybrid model might work better for older students, it will be detrimental for younger ones. In addition, the hybrid model for parents with more than one young kid in different grades would be a logistical nightmare.

We are both working at UC Davis Medical Center and are members of various COVID-19 committees, and therefore understand the importance of keeping the students and teachers safe. The current pandemic is alarming, mainly due to members of the community not respecting the basic health guidelines. Opening the school prematurely would risk the health and lives of students and teachers.

We understand that the school district is getting much pressure to reopen, through constant complains from certain parents. Everybody wants to go back to their normal lives, however the well-beings of our kids and their teachers should have top priority.

We hope that the board and the school district will consider the welfare of our most vulnerable students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Loubna Rothenburg and Dr. Stefan Rothenburg

Loubna Rothenburg, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Associate Director, Host Microbe Systems Biology Core

University of California, Davis

School of Medicine

Medical Microbiology & Immunology
[REDACTED]

E-mail: ltazi@ucdavis.edu

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Monica Roque

From: Rachel McLemore [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 6:23 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Reopening of Schools in DJUSD

Categories: Purple category

January 6, 2021

Dear Board Members,

First of all, I would like to welcome the new members of the board. I would also like to thank all of the members of the board for their service to our school district. Your jobs have been made extremely difficult by the global pandemic. That said, I strongly urge you to consider the safety and welfare of students and staff first and foremost as you make the difficult decisions surrounding what our return to in person instruction will look like.

Staff members have not received communication stating that we will be vaccinated before we must return to school to teach in person. It is absolutely essential that staff members be vaccinated before the return to in person instruction. Our county is currently in the purple tier of COVID-19 infection, and it is dangerous to expect teachers to teach in person without being vaccinated. Further, the state of California has published data which includes the number of cases of COVID-19 among people aged 0-17. As of January 2021, there are over 290,000 cases of COVID-19 in people age 0-17 in California(<https://data.ca.gov/group/covid-19>). This number scares me. It is extremely stressful to see the number of cases that we are experiencing and to see that there is a push for us to open in February.

I am scared that when we go back to teaching in person, my family members will have a much higher chance of contracting the virus. I have twins who are 18 months old. My parents, aged 69 and 70, help my husband and I care for the twins. I fear for the safety of my children, my parents, my spouse and myself. I fear for the safety of my students and their families. I fear for the safety of my fellow CCE staff members. Last year, we had the terrible tragedy of losing our colleague Eva Dopico. We are at serious risk of losing more colleagues and even students to this virus if we go back before it is safe to do so.

Despite these fears, I am excited about the connections I have made with my students this year. My students are learning from me and from each other as well as from the other teachers on the Kindergarten team. Although we have had to learn online due to COVID-19, our students are resilient and staff members are working extremely hard to provide high quality learning experiences for our students.

Though staff have not been made aware of what type of hybrid learning model we will engage in when we return, I would like to advocate for a model in which we see an A group and a B group. A group would attend school half day Monday and Thursday. B group would attend school Tuesday and Friday. On Wednesdays, everyone would be online. This would accommodate families who do not wish to send their kids in person. Additionally, groups would not attend school on the same day as each other. This is extremely important to prevent the spread of the virus between the two groups. It would also allow custodial staff ample time to clean the school between the two groups. Additionally, it would allow teachers to continue to provide asynchronous lessons for online learners as well as in person instruction for those who opt to send their children to school in person.

I would like to thank the board for reading this letter and for considering teacher views when implementing the next phase of instruction.

Sincerely,

Rachel McLemore

--

Rachel McLemore (Jones)

Monica Roque

From: Cassie Spalding [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:26 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for for meeting 1/7/21

Categories: Purple category

Hello,

I would like to offer this comment for the discussion on return to in-person schooling. I am a mother of 3 children at Cesar Chavez Elementary. This time of distance learning has been incredibly hard on my children and on me, having to rearrange my work life to be home and support my children. However, I would not change a thing. I am a physician and have seen the devastating effects of COVID-19 affecting my patients and staff. I have personally lost a close colleague to COVID and know staff who have lost family members. The surge we have seen since the holidays is really unfathomable, with death rates climbing and hospitals running out of oxygen to offer even basic support to patients in respiratory distress. New strains of the virus are arising in England that are more virulent and likely to infect children at higher rates. Although my children are desperate to see their friends in person, and I am desperate to return to my regular work schedule, it would not be worth the life of a teacher, staff member or child. I can endure this as long as it is needed to insure our incredible teachers and staff are safe when we do return, and so that none of us as parents has to face the horror of the loss of a child. I am grateful that our school district has not rushed into returning to in-person schooling. As our state and country have seen, when rules on social distancing start to be lifted, communities don't continue to act in an appropriate manner. Starting with Halloween activities promoted on or near school campuses, to family get-togethers at Thanksgiving and Christmas, despite a state-wide shutdown, it is obvious to me that if schools are reopened, people will no longer be able to uphold the social distancing.

Think of children eating together - it is impossible for them to remain masked and all 6 feet apart from each other...

How often have you seen your child's mask fall down so the nose is no longer covered....and then sneeze or cough...

As parents, we know how hard it is for younger children to wear these masks correctly and to truly maintain a 6 ft distance...

For all the challenges of distance learning, I do not want the district to feel pressured to return until the county public health offices feel it is 100% safe for all.

Our school already knows the heartbreak of losing a teacher and I don't want our children or school staff to have to experience that again this year...

With a heavy heart, I thank you for your time and consideration,
Cassie Dias

Monica Roque

From: McElhern, Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:12 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Superintendent
Subject: Public Comment on Item VII.a. Steps to Return to Campus Update

Categories: Purple category

Superintendent Bowes and the Trustees of the Board of Education:

We are the parents of a 5th grader at Pioneer Elementary and a sophomore at Davis High School. We previously submitted Public Comment in July and October urging the District to reopen the schools. That didn't happen. There has now been a groundswell of support for reopening schools at both the local and state level. The overwhelming evidence supports the safe reopening of schools. The detrimental effects of the lockdown of schools will adversely impact the children in our community for months and possibly years. We can mitigate that damage by reopening schools at the earliest opportunity. AB 10 and the Governor's plan demonstrate that state leaders recognize that in-person schooling is fundamental to a child's emotional and educational development. The Davis School District can get out in front of this issue and set a plan for reopening schools at the earliest opportunity. The interest of the children should be first and foremost on the minds of the leaders of the District. Every decision should be made with the primary and overriding goal of bringing our children back to school so that they can learn and thrive. Please act with the urgency that comes from your solemn responsibility to look out for the educational well-being of the children in the District.

Thank you,
Scott and Diane McElhern

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Monica Roque

From: Liqing Wang [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 5:41 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Joe DiNunzio; Thomas Adams; Vigdis Asmundson; Lea Darrah; Betsy Hyder
Subject: Public Comment: Support for opening DJUSD campuses
Categories: Purple category

Dear DJUSD Board Members,

I understand there will be a meeting on January 7th to discuss the latest updates of the plan of return to campus. I strongly urge you to consider accelerating the schedule, as long as California and Yolo County allow schools to open.

1. The students at DJUSD have been isolated at home for almost a year. As we all have heard, the downward physical and psychological risks of staying at home for an extended period of time far outweigh the risk of getting exposed to COVID in the classroom. This is particularly the case for younger students, whose overall development can be severely impacted.
2. Although some parents don't feel comfortable sending their children back to campus, please do not let those parents' opinions and unique situations stop other families from sending their children to school. Also, please understand that the Teachers Union doesn't necessarily represent teachers' opinions in a fair fashion. There are many teachers who are eager to return to actual classrooms to meet with their students.
3. Please be mindful of the unbearable burden on the parents, especially those who both have full-time demanding jobs, if they have to care for their children every day. They also don't have the level of skills to supervise children as teachers do. For younger students, they require full-time supervision, does DJUSD understand the challenges that these parents have been dealing with over the last 10 months?
4. It appears that vaccines will soon become available for all school teachers in California. Will DJUSD require teachers to be vaccinated? If certain teachers don't feel comfortable with vaccination, how will it impact the timeline and progress of reopening school campuses?
5. Can DJUSD and Teachers Union be more transparent with parents about the progress and future plan on opening campuses? All email communications so far basically indicated that progress is being made without any specifics. Why are the preparation taking so long? Why are other private schools in the area able to open up their classrooms for in-person teaching?
6. Can DJUSD provide a specific timeline for opening school campuses?

Best Regards,

Liqing Wang
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Lais Costa [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 12:57 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Purple category

- I am commenting for the upcoming Board meeting on January 7, 2021. I am growing increasingly concerned that voices in favor of reopening schools, either using a hybrid model or a full in-person model are drowning out the voices of sense and reason. It will be critical for the health of our community to stay-the-course and remain in a fully virtual teaching environment until the situation can be reassessed for the next academic year. This minimizes health risks for everyone and minimizes disruption to teaching and student learning.

I believe it will be a colossal mistake to reopen in any fashion. The best course will be to continue in a fully virtual teaching environment for the remainder of the 20-21 academic year.

Thank you-

Matt Baur
[REDACTED]

Two children in the district: Markus Baur-Costa (grade 10) and Nicolas Baur-Costa (grade 3)

Monica Roque

From: Julie Bernstein Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 11:23 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Purple category

Please do not reopen schools until the virus is under control and the vaccine is widely available to students, teachers and school staff. As difficult as this has been our student is in a routine with his teachers and classmates. Risking their health (students and teachers) as well as the health of the rest of our family and community is not worth the sacrifice our kids are currently making. DJUSD does not have the facilities or resources to support a safe return to school right now and it would be a shame if a small group of loud activists puts the entire community at risk because they are looking at private schools that do have the facilities and resources to accomplish a safe return. UC Davis has not returned to business as usual and that should be an indicator to the rest of us that our students do not belong in classrooms right now.

Thank you,
Daniel and Julie Klein
7th grade parents
Holmes Junior High School