

Monica Roque

From: Ann Block [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:19 PM
To: boe@djUSD.net.
Subject: Public Comment regarding reopening schools

Categories: Green category

Dear BOE,

I completely support your plan to thoughtfully and safely reopen schools when it is safe and appropriate for all. Our teachers are our city's crown jewels. Many move to Davis just because the schools here are great, and who do we have to thank for that? Our teachers, first and foremost! I am the parent of two alumna of DJUSD, kindergarten through high school, and I am many times grateful for the amazing and inspiring teachers they have been lucky to have through the years. My eldest was inspired by her junior high and high school teachers to go on to study physics and then pursue a PhD in astrophysics, which all began in Dr. Philips classroom at Emerson Jr. High. Both daughters have had incredible experiences volunteering abroad due to their fluency in Spanish thanks to teachers at Cesar Chavez Elementary – my youngest spent almost a year in Ecuador working on a potable water project. I cannot thank our wonderful teachers enough for teaching my daughters, inspiring and encouraging them to be the best they can be.

And now is the time that our teachers need us to support them and appreciate them. They cannot possibly do their best with teaching our city's children, if continually worried about their own and their students' potential exposure to COVID, while monitoring students' safety precautions and PPE, keeping them socially distanced, cleaning surfaces, etc. etc. They have already been doing a herculean job teaching virtually – no easy task at all. The curriculums they prepared to teach in person had to be completely modified to fit the virtual mode. I do zoom trainings for *adults*, which I love to do, but it has been extremely challenging to modify from in-person, and I don't do it all day every day like our DJUSD teachers!

In addition, if a teacher or student tests positive, the classroom and potentially the whole school will shut down. We already suffer from insufficient substitute teachers – who will fill in? What if a teacher is hospitalized? What if a student gets sick and is hospitalized? And if the unimaginable happens – a teacher, staff member or student dies from COVID after reopening? Is it really worth it? In addition, many children, particularly children that are people of color, LGBTQ+ and others that often are marginalized and bullied in schools, are actually doing better learning from home. That isn't universal, but it is worth considering. You have a small minority of highly vocal parents screaming that their children are harmed by a lack of in-person school. Certainly there is a slow-down and perhaps some set-backs, but they will catch up. After all, some privileged Davis parents take their children out of school for long trips abroad, sometimes for months at a time. And certainly there are some students that have special needs or are falling too far behind and do need some in-person help, and I understand that is being provided. Some students have inadequate home environments and internet. However, COVID also has a much more devastating impact on low-income and minority communities, which is much worse than the white population. And it doesn't seem that their voices are being lifted up, or considered by those most vocal in advocating for in person reopening.

Stay on the path you are on, listen to the teachers and staff! They (and you) care deeply about our children, and our goal should be to stay the course to lose no one to this pandemic.

Thank you.

Ann Block

Ann Block



Pronouns: she/her/hers



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Monica Roque

From: Rihaf Elfarra [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:41 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear members of the board,
Thank you for putting the safety and health of our teachers, staff and community first.
Teachers and staff need to feel safe and can not go back without being fully vaccinated.
Can you please explain more the dynamics of the hybrid for elementary and Jr. High schools? How will distance learning work in both cases?

Regards,
Rihaf Alfarra

Monica Roque

From: Jim Graham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:58 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for school reopening
Attachments: DJUSD Reopening Comment.pages

Categories: Green category

To: Members of the Davis School Board
Subject: Public comment for school reopening plan March 4, 2021

Please accept this comment for the public record for the school board meeting dated March 4, 2021.

I respectfully submit these comments as a Davis resident and grandparent who has taken care of his DJUSD student grandson 5 days per week for the past 11-1/2 months since the Davis schools shut down, to allow his parents to work remotely from their home.

I am strongly in favor of reopening the elementary schools on an expedited schedule, no later than April 1, 2021.

We will never have in-person education without risk, and we never have in the past. But in-person education is too critical to student growth, development and learning to delay any longer. I believe Davis Schools have developed a strong reopening plan, and schools can be reopened with this science-based approach that minimizes risk to students, families, teachers and staff, especially for the K-6 grades where student "mixing" can be controlled.

I request the school board to notify all faculty and staff our schools will reopen to full in-person student instruction on April 1. California is scheduled to receive 320,000 doses of the J&J vaccine next week. Anyone vaccinated by Friday March 12 will have developed immunity to COVID-19 by March 26. Put all faculty or staff who have not started their vaccination regimen yet on notice that you will contact Yolo County Health Department tomorrow to request all of them be vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine next week. Notify them that if they choose to pursue a different vaccine with a longer time to immunity that is a choice they are making for themselves, but is not an excuse to refuse to show up in the classroom on April 1.

The two weeks from March 29-April 11 to get the school campuses and classrooms ready for reopening is unacceptable. Are you telling us the administration has not readied the campuses for reopening for the past year? They have literally had a year to plan for reopening!

Three of the four professional development days are scheduled on April 1 or later. They all need to be completed prior to April 1 reopening. I'd suggest the PD days during spring break due to these extraordinary times we are, and have been, living in. Remember, every day between April 1 and reopening will reduce the special state funding available to the district. Use the 12%-15% you are proposing to give up with the reopening plan towards compensating the teachers to do PD on their holiday if that is necessary.

Jim Graham

Monica Roque

From: Maya Bailey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:58 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Maya Bailey. I am a senior at Davis Senior High School and I am an active member of the Davis High Jazz Choir and the Davis High Theatre Program. The arts have been an integral part of my high school experience and I plan on pursuing theatre in college. However, losing the opportunity to participate in my favorite activities has prevented me not only from being able to do the things I love, but has also obstructed my ability to prepare for my college education and future career. It has been hurtful and shocking to see other groups being prioritized for campus returns, specifically contact sports, where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is arguably higher than it would be in an orchestra, choir, or theatre setting. I ask that you work toward efforts to help arts students return to campus and participate in the activities they love.

Thank you,
Maya Bailey
DHS Class of 2021
she/her/hers

Monica Roque

From: Lucy Joseph [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:54 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Protecting the lives of our students, teachers, staff, and their families should be our number one priority. We should let the evidence of vaccination levels guide the reopening of our schools and avoid setting arbitrary deadlines and dates. I understand that parents are concerned about their children's future and current well being and academic progress but we need to understand that everyone is doing the best they can for the students and they continue to learn online. While online learning is not ideal for many and access is an issue for some families, it does us no good to send everyone back to school if we kill them in the process. Safety is the most important thing for everyone because they have to be alive to be successful. I want to also remind everyone that while online learning doesn't work for everyone, some of our students with different learning styles are thriving under these conditions. So please remember this when students return to classrooms and understand that classroom learning is as much a challenge for those students as online learning may be for your child. Show empathy and compassion for all our children.

Lucy Joseph

Monica Roque

From: Erik Henricson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:42 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board Members,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the district's measured approach and thoughtful planning toward opening school sites to more students.

DJUSD staff have been excellent role models for students on how to make the best of this difficult year. Every day my Emerson 8th grader's teachers show up on Zoom, ready to engage with students. Their job is nearly impossible, and yet somehow they managed to reinvent the curriculum and learn new methods and systems, while attending to complex student needs -- virtually. Each of my student's 7 teachers incorporates SEL components in their class in a unique way. Teachers have created virtual learning spaces where students share a few laughs, practice deep breathing, express care and concern for others, and listen to music - which is particularly appreciated in our home. Relevant assignments and flexible due dates have made schoolwork both interesting and manageable. Regular, clear communication from our Principal, structural supports like Wednesday advisory, and virtual student clubs have provided continuity in an unstable year.

Our teachers are the heart and soul of our school district and are some of the most important people in my child's life. Having lost a beloved teacher in 2019, our family is committed to prioritizing teacher safety. Davis teachers have readily taken advantage of vaccine offerings in the past couple of weeks, which clearly demonstrates their desire to return to in-person classrooms - safely. This is not only about science. Safety takes many forms, and if people feel unsafe, teaching and learning cannot occur.

While we take our cues from scientists and experts in public health on how to mitigate the virus, we also need to listen to school staff, who are experts in education praxis and student development. Each school campus, classroom, and subject has unique structural assets and challenges to consider. We are fortunate to have a wealth of educators and scientists in Davis! Both are important in determining how to return students and teachers safely to our classrooms.

I am encouraged to see in-person extra-curricular options beginning at our school sites. My child has benefited from regular outdoor contact with adults and peers through Covid-safe soccer. These options make a huge difference in helping kids manage screen fatigue and support both physical and mental health.

Kudos to Healthy Davis Together and the school district for setting up testing at each DJUSD campus! It would be great to see selfies of school leadership, staff, and students setting an example by getting tested on site. Incentives for youth sports and school athletics are already increasing testing among teams. Let's extend these incentives to more student populations.

You are in a difficult position, and no decision, plan or schedule will make everyone happy. I hope we can take a collective deep breath and recognize this situation is temporary, and the end is in sight. In the meantime, we must continue to flex our behaviors to protect those most vulnerable to impact from the virus. Your care and concern for everyone in our community is clear. Please stay the course.

Thank you for your time,

Erik Henricson, PhD, MPH

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Hilary Henricson [REDACTED]
Date: March 4, 2021 at 6:35:58 PM PST
To: Erik Henricson [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

Dear DJUSD Board Members,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the district's measured approach and thoughtful planning toward opening school sites to more students.

DJUSD staff have been excellent role models for students on how to make the best of this difficult year. Every day my Emerson 8th grader's teachers show up on Zoom, ready to engage with students. Their job is nearly impossible, and yet somehow they managed to reinvent the curriculum and learn new methods and systems, while attending to complex student needs -- virtually. Each of my student's 7 teachers incorporates SEL components in their class in a unique way. Teachers have created virtual learning spaces where students share a few laughs, practice deep breathing, express care and concern for others, and listen to music - which is particularly appreciated in our home. Relevant assignments and flexible due dates have made schoolwork both interesting and manageable. Regular, clear communication from our Principal, structural supports like Wednesday advisory, and virtual student clubs have provided continuity in an unstable year.

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Thank you for your time,

Monica Roque

From: Hilary Henricson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:35 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board Members,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the district's measured approach and thoughtful planning toward opening school sites to more students.

DJUSD staff have been excellent role models for students on how to make the best of this difficult year. Every day my Emerson 8th grader's teachers show up on Zoom, ready to engage with students. Their job is nearly impossible, and yet somehow they managed to reinvent the curriculum and learn new methods and systems, while attending to complex student needs -- virtually. Each of my student's 7 teachers incorporates SEL components in their class in a unique way. Teachers have created virtual learning spaces where students share a few laughs, practice deep breathing, express care and concern for others, and listen to music - which is particularly appreciated in our home. Relevant assignments and flexible due dates have made schoolwork both interesting and manageable. Regular, clear communication from our Principal, structural supports like Wednesday advisory, and virtual student clubs have provided continuity in an unstable year.

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You are in a difficult position, and no decision, plan or schedule will make everyone happy. I hope we can take a collective deep breath and recognize this situation is temporary, and the end is in sight. In the meantime, we must continue to flex our behaviors to protect those most vulnerable to impact from the virus. Your care and concern for everyone in our community is clear. Please stay the course.

Thank you for your time,

Hilary Henricson-Emerson Junior High parent

Monica Roque

From: Katharine Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:26 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment 3/4

Categories: Green category

First, I am concerned about inequities on the elementary school level. I have heard in the public comments at board meetings that several elementary schools are doing books in bags. Students getting a steady supply of fresh reading materials is amazing! Why isn't the district ensuring all schools, for all students, are actually doing this?

Second, why is the district allowing PTAs and parents to buy additional curriculum, such as vocabulary books? If the PTA at one school can raise \$20,000 to supplement their school and a PTA at another school can raise \$150,000 to supplement education at their school can you really say that the education the students are receiving is equitable? I'm not concerned with co-curricular or extracurricular activities, my problem is with inequalities in curriculum and education.

One additional note. Trustee Adams mentioned he would like students to have a hot meal. I am more concerned about students getting food that is better tasting and less processed. Is there a way to increase the quality of food while not putting our amazing nutritional services staff at risk?

Thank you for the hard work you do.

Monica Roque

From: Sophia Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:04 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello,

As an arts student, I ask you to acknowledge the loss arts students feel this year. For many of us, orchestra, band, theatre, and choir are our only creative outlets, and these activities feel just as rigorous and just as much of a commitment as team sports. Senior athletes have been mentioned many times in the conversation of allowing students to do their activities because it is their last chance to play- why should seniors in the arts not be given the same chance to have their activities that they value just as much? Since sports and especially contact sports are allowed to play now, there is no reason to keep arts students from their activities. Please push for the reopening of the arts so that we don't feel the loss of missing out on our activities anymore and can have the same opportunities as sports.

Sophia Davis

Monica Roque

From: Kari Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:55 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

I just can't write these letters anymore. This district is not doing what's best for their students and it shows. The reopening date was predetermined based on insider information from the legislature. The district knew money was coming based on a 4/15 reopening date. Because the date is moved up by two weeks, it will cause DJUSD to lose state reopening funding. Not that I can say this district deserves the funding since it plans to reopen for the youngest learners for just 2 hours, 2 days per week. The children going back for those two hours will not be learning. It is LITERALLY disallowed. The district's master plan was designed to please people who were never planning to send their child back to school. On July 13th, 40% of parents were hesitant to return to campus. On November 8, 38-40% (number changed when asked twice) of parents were hesitant to return to campus. Due to media coverage, that 62% number could now be even higher in that people want an in-person education for their student. But somehow I am vilified for saying that; I want an in-person education for my child.

My Kindergartener has been thriving since removing him from the district. He's learning to read and making friends. He comes home every day excited to tell me about his day. And he is SAFE. Countless experts, medical doctors, psychologists, epidemiologists, public health agents agree that going to school with county approved mitigation measures in place, as are legally required, IS SAFE.

I still have one student in the district. He will probably fail 6th grade. I haven't been convinced that screen learning as a primary modality instead of a learning adjunct is benefiting him. I have to decide if I am to pull him to prevent his failure and allow him to have the experiences of his brother, or leave him so he can matriculate with his peer group. You see he has always struggled. He doesn't look it. He's a hard worker. He's always happy. He has needs that probably can't be served in a private school. Private schools don't have to accept higher learning acuity kids. They don't have to follow 504s or IEPs. His inattentiveness could be mistaken for disrespect. His rushed and missing work could be mistaken as irresponsible or lack of subject knowledge. But maybe he could stay with the district? Maybe the hybrid plan can work out even if there is no learning component to it? Maybe he'll be able to be with his friends if their parents chose that model? For more than a year, I've been working through covid as an RN and I am optimistic that things will get better. We have to try for the kids, they deserve for us to try.

Kari Oldham BSN, RN, PHN



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Monica Roque

From: Natalia Deeb-Sossa [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:24 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

Thanking you for all the work you have done for the families living at Ciudad del Sol also known as the Davis Migrant Center, and your daily struggle for justice. I am aware that these are unprecedented times, and that we are all doing what we can. I am also thankful to the Yolo County Housing Authority that connected Wi-Fi to a computer lab, and to the school district that provided Wi-Fi to the families and Chrome books to the farmworker children residing in Ciudad del Sol. Unfortunately, this is not enough.

Because farmworkers are paid approximately \$13.50 an hour, all adults in the household are forced to work leaving the children at home unsupervised, or they are taking the children to the fields were, if possible, using their hotspots they connect to their classes.

According to the data my research team and I have collected from 45 local farmworkers using interviews, they reported that their children are learning less since the beginning of the pandemic because of the transition from the classroom to online and distance learning. In addition, they reported spotty internet access, lack of space at home to have a quiet space to take their classes, study and do their homework. The parents also reported that there are concerned about their and their children's mental well-being as they have limited or no resources available to deal with self-isolation or with the grief of those they have lost.

Thus, I strongly urge you that you to consider all of these issues and come up with a plan on how you will address them. I also ask that you reinstate the Bridge Program which is dedicated to improving the academic achievement of students by offering educational resources, tutoring and mentoring by UC Davis undergraduates that come from a similar background to the children they serve.

En comunidad, Natalia Deeb-Sossa [REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Alexandra Borack-Leong [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:21 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board Trustees and Staff,

“When you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: admit it, learn from it, and don’t repeat it.” – Paul Bear Bryant

At this point, it is useless to again cite all the science, data, and public health expert information that demonstrates in-person instruction is currently safe with proper precautions and that the harms to children and the educational system warrant immediate attention.

From your own public meeting statements, presence and opinions stated on social media, and repeated inability to lead for the past twelve months, it is clear that this body will not be able to change course and take on the difficult but expected mantle of leadership to solve our current problems with Phased reopening but also to provide transparent and clear certainties regarding school in the fall. There are so many flaws with the current trajectory that it is impossible to see a full in-person return in Fall 2021 under any circumstances. For example, we cannot fathom how the District has approved the unnecessary and counterproductive condition to have students sit in a red tent, separated and potentially ostracized based only on suspected symptoms, but has no requirements to utilize the Healthy Davis testing sites that are at every single school to screen everyone before they even set foot on campus. In addition, there has been no transparent scientific rationale explaining why fee-based preschools have a specific carve-out allowing for more in-person time than K-2 students who are only given 4 hours a week.

Therefore, because there is no logical pathway currently to get from the proposed model to 5 days a week, full in-person school with protective measures, we are requesting:

- DJUSD hire a third-party mediator to facilitate an agreement by June 1, 2021 between all DJUSD stakeholders including but not limited to: District staff, DTA, CSEA, DJUSD parents/guardians, and students (as appropriate).
- This agreement would codify the working and operating conditions for in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for your time,

Tristan & Alexandra

Parents of 2 DJUSD students, and one DHS Class of 1997

Monica Roque

From: Katy Vigil-McClanahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:02 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment - school outdoors

Categories: Green category

Hi, Boardmembers,

I am writing in support of moving class outdoors for any teacher who wants it. This will be safer for teachers and students alike.

I have observed the outdoor classrooms at the Waldorf school, and they're very simple - just EZ-up canopies, desks, chairs, and a teacher desk/board. The only expense to the district would be the canopies, which might be covered by state emergency funding.

Please consider supporting this option for public health! Thanks for your work on our students' behalf.

Yours truly,
Katy Vigil-McClanahan
BLE parent

--
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Brian Abbanat [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:53 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

This is a comment regarding the districts opening plan.

The DJUSD parent survey showed that majority believe we should wait, move more cautiously and follow the science to tell us when it is safer to re open. The district carefully planned with teacher and parent input to return using a hybrid model system. This is based on our county moving into the red tier and this is all based on the science we have at this moment. This is what should be followed. I stand with our teachers and believe we should only move forward according to the district plan, regardless of what some loud voices of a minority group has to say.

We cannot let a small group of vocal parents dictate what impacts us all. That is not following the science or common sense.

Thank you.
Jennifer Abbanat
Parent to 2 DJUSD students

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Monica Roque

From: Simon Crownshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:43 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - Return to School

Categories: Green category

DJUSD -

I would like to push for an increased phased return beyond the currently planned hybrid model starting in April so we are ready for a full return in the fall. As we continue to improve and move from one tier to another we should continue to increase hours for in person education. We can and we should open as quickly as possible to enable students to get the support and teaching they need.

For anyone who is not interested in returning they have an option to continue with the currently available distance learning program, and while not perhaps with the same teacher that is no reason to punish the larger percentage who want to return ASAP.

Please move as quickly as possible to open schools with immediate effect.

Simon Crownshaw

Monica Roque

From: Maya Rogalski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:43 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

To whom it may concern,

My name is Maya Rogalski and I am a Senior at the Davis Senior High School. I am heavily involved in the arts programs, participating in the Jazz Choir, Advanced Treble Choir, and DHS Drama Program. Due to the pandemic, however, all of these activities were shut down. As a high school musician, my senior year was basically ruined. As the situation has gotten better, I've watched sports teams return to campus from very early in the school year. It has been jarring to see certain extracurriculars get brought back while others, mainly the arts, have been floundering. There are hundreds of students like me who participate in the multiple music programs at DHS, and we deserve to be able to return to campus just like the sports teams. Music is just as valuable as high school sports. So please, DJUSD Board of Education, start putting more effort into bringing back our music programs. There are safe ways to do it, as demonstrated by the hundreds of schools across the nation who have kept their students safe while still keeping their arts programs alive. There are hundreds of students counting on you.

Thank you,

Maya Rogalski

Monica Roque

From: Laurie Stillman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:39 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board Members,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the district's measured approach and thoughtful planning toward opening school sites to more students.

DJUSD staff have been excellent role models for students on how to make the best of this difficult year. Every day my Emerson 8th grader's teachers show up on Zoom, ready to engage with students. Their job is nearly impossible, and yet somehow they managed to reinvent the curriculum and learn new methods and systems, while attending to complex student needs -- virtually. Each of my student's 7 teachers incorporates SEL components in their class in a unique way. Teachers have created virtual learning spaces where students share a few laughs, practice deep breathing, express care and concern for others, and listen to music - which is particularly appreciated in our home. Relevant assignments and flexible due dates have made schoolwork both interesting and manageable. Regular, clear communication from our Principal, structural supports like Wednesday advisory, and virtual student clubs have provided continuity in an unstable year.

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Kudos to Healthy Davis Together and the school district for setting up testing at each DJUSD campus! It would be great to see selfies of school leadership, staff, and students setting an example by getting tested on site. Incentives for youth sports and school athletics are already increasing testing among teams. Let's extend these incentives to more student populations.

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Thank you for your time,

-Laurie Stillman
Emerson parent

--
Laurie Stillman



Monica Roque

From: Megan Rabin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:11 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Superintendent
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and DJUSD Board of Education Trustees:

The signal that DJUSD is sending regarding the fall is not clear enough.

In the district's "phased return to campus plan," Phase 3 is the hybrid model. Phases 4 ("modified, in-person model") and 5 ("full, in-person learning") are not even defined. What does Phase 4 entail? What are the conditions required to move from Phase 4 to Phase 5? If we have hybrid instruction this spring, do we have the ability to skip Phase 4, and use what we've learned this spring to open in-person school fully, normally, in the fall?

Given that we already have everything we need to open schools—federal, state, and county public health guidance supporting in-person school; a free, robust local testing program; teacher access to vaccination; and the means to implement the necessary mitigation measures—merely telling parents that the district is "planning for" a return to school in the fall is not enough. Please provide specific dates for entry into Phases 4 and 5, and a specific plan of action for reopening in fall 2021.

Sincerely,

Megan Rabin

Monica Roque

From: Michael Schaps [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:55 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment for tonight's meeting

Categories: Green category

There once was a city along Putah Creek
With many a doctor, lawyer, professor and geek
A fine place it was 'till they closed down the schools
And didn't reopen them despite having the tools

The private schools opened, they figured it out
Where there's a will there's a way, have you no doubt
But the public schools didn't, the Board had no answers
So the parents who could arranged private school transfers

Now that city--called Davis--is no longer the same
And the parents of Davis know just who to blame
Those too fearful to accept any risk, no matter how small
Will Davis schools EVER fully reopen, even come Fall?

Could it be that when we reach that distant day
The same voices will clamor for further delay?
New strains have arrived ! We need new vaccines!
Will the Board stand up for students then? Not from what we have seen.

So it's goodbye for our family...we just no longer trust
That DJUSD will do what it must
To educate our daughter in a reasonable way
We waited and waited, but we just couldn't stay.

How does a liberal school district go broke?
Give liberal parents no basis for hope
Let kids languish at home after more than a year
Based on nothing but scientifically unfounded fear

Mike Schaps

Monica Roque

From: Neal Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

My name is Neal Sweeney and I am a research scientist in biology and a parent of two students at North Davis Elementary. I support the district's current reopening plan and oppose efforts to speed up the timeline. While case numbers are down, we need to continue a safe, prudent approach to protect teachers, district staff, students, and our community. I support the measures in the plan to allow teachers to get two doses of the vaccine before reopening, as well as social distancing, on-site testing, air purification, sanitation, and other measures. An analysis of caseload across the US by the New York Times found that only 4% of districts meet the CDC guidelines for full reopening and Yolo County does not meet this threshold. If districts fail to follow these guidelines, we risk another spike in cases. To date, our district has been a positive model working with all constituent groups and prioritizing a safe approach, even in the face of criticism. I encourage you to reject proposals to change the current plan.

Monica Roque

From: Aaron Chin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 3:07 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Superintendent
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

What is stopping the district from going back to in class full time (with appropriate masks, filters, etc) ? The experts (Fauci, CDC, Dr Sisson) all say that schools can resume safely (again, with proper guidelines) and with minimal risk (minimal, since it will never be zero), so why is the science being ignored? I know that things cannot change overnight, but why can't we set a date of Mar 29 to go back to school once Spring Break is over?

Thank you.

Aaron Chin

--

"There are only 10 types of people in the world: Those who understand binary and those who don't."

Monica Roque

From: Corina Matiesanu [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:52 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear BOE,

Now that teachers are finalizing vaccinations, testing, ppe, ventilation and distancing have been addressed, please consider a full return to school for kindergarteners starting in April. They're only in class three hours a day and they are really suffering from distance learning. My kindergarten twins are not able to focus and learn on a screen and they're experiencing multiple anxiety and depression symptoms. Sadly, they cry every day that they hate school now. Please do not add in person learning to their distance learning hours which are already fraught with stress, tears, and behavior problems. Please scrap distance learning and have the kids attend classes outdoors at their local school. There is certainly enough outdoor space for the two kinder classes at Willett where they attend. I implore you to think of the little kids and help them out this spring. They've waited enough.

I'd also like my 5th grader to attend full days in person instead of this hybrid schedule that is 2 hours a day two days a week. This schedule is terrible for families and it seems designed in such a way that it is doomed from the start.

Thank you for your consideration,
Corina Matiesanu
Mother of 3 kids in DJUSD elementary schools

Monica Roque

From: Erin Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:48 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Board Members,

I was grateful to hear that DJUSD will (apparently, according to the high school newspaper, though I still have not seen an official announcement) reopen its classrooms this spring. However, the hybrid plan is woefully insufficient. Classroom doors need to reopen sooner, and for longer.

I have ten years of experience as a school nurse and in foster care. Though you may think our children are fine - based on your anecdotal evidence of your own children I have heard you cite - I can assure you, they are not. I wrote this a year ago to you when you first closed schools, and I will say it again: you need to be concerned about the parents you are not hearing from, and the children you are not seeing.

You already know the evidence shows that schools can be safely reopened, the evidence has been presented repeatedly by Dr. Sisson. By not reopening to the best of our ability, you are continuing to impart harm on our community, and I am begging you to change course. It is not too late to admit the mistakes you have made.

Erin Ross

Monica Roque

From: Lenna Ontai [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

I am a parent of 2 DJUSD students (2nd grade and 4th grade) at Patwin Elementary and I just wanted to voice my support for the hybrid plan that has been approved, and the conditions that have been agreed upon for re-opening. While I (and my children) would very much like there to be a full re-opening, I believe that a safe re-opening is the best way forward for our community as a whole. I hope that we can turn our attention to begin planning for, when we do re-open, how we will put into place programs and services that fully support and remedy the deficits, both academically and emotionally, that have been sustained by our students and school staff throughout this historic year. To me that is just as important as what we will do with the remainder of the current school year.

Thank you for your time,
Lenna Ontai

Monica Roque

From: Emma Nervo [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:11 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment please let students come back to school

Categories: Green category

I am an 8th grade student at da vinci high and I would love to go back to school I have many friends who are waiting for us all to see eachtoher and we can't without social interaction at school it's been very hard and I've been really unhappy and disconnected from my school experience being locked up in the house all day. Please open schools.

Thank you, Emma Nervo

Monica Roque

From: Jessica Jacobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:05 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and Board of Education,

I'd like to start with a thank you to the teachers, staff, administrators and parents who are making in-person extracurricular activities available starting next week. It is never easy to be the first to step into a new operating environment. We see those of you who are doing so and are thankful to and appreciative of these local leaders and heroes for our children.

Second, I'd like to urge you to recognize the educational crisis that has been declared by UNICEF and echoed by public health experts across the spectrum. In New York City right now, a haunting display of 168 empty desks, a backpack hanging from the back of each chair, represents the 168 million children worldwide who have had no access to in-person school for the past year. That number includes the public school children of Davis, California. UNICEF states, "Our message to world leaders is clear: no effort should be spared to reopen schools."

In an urgent matter, action is needed, not extreme conservatism. Now that staff and teachers have had access to vaccines, I hope you will demonstrate speed, adaptability and focus on the needs and wellbeing of children in rectifying this crisis.

Why do we still not have dates for phases 3, 4 and 5? Why do we still not know what phase 4 entails? Why do we still not know the criteria for moving from one phase to another? The district has had a year to put a plan and criteria in place. Now we have safety achievements that go above and beyond all public health recommendations. Why would we then offer less instruction and support than other districts with fewer safety mechanisms in place? Why would we prioritize our educators for vaccination only to have them continue to teach from home? Why does a no-fee preschool offer less in person time than the fee-based preschool and how is this justified on equity principles?

From social media, I understand you may be looking at a date of April 12th for reopening. I would urge you to both: 1) Align with your own recommendations to use natural breaks as transition periods, and 2) To not lose funding we can ill-afford to give up. This would indicate a date of March 29th for elementary and April 5th for junior and senior high.

One year into the crisis, we are far from doing something novel by serving our children in person. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of January 2021 only 23% of employed people still worked fully from home. It is a small and shrinking minority that have not yet adapted to in-person work. We can do this, because 77% of the employed population has already done it.

Our kids collect money for UNICEF every Halloween. Now UNICEF is talking to us. Are you sparing no effort to get kids back into school as UNICEF urges? Does the elementary plan of four hours instruction per week offer in-person instruction to the "greatest extent possible," as the state's legislation requires? Let's listen to those at the state, national and international level advocating for the wellbeing of our children and do everything possible to work quickly and collaboratively in the interests of their wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Jessica Jacobson

Parent of 3

Monica Roque

From: samantha saraniti [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:03 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment
Attachments: DJUSD school board 3_01_21.docx

Categories: Green category

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter aloud at tonights meeting.

Dear School Board,

Thank you for keeping us posted about the actions that DJUSD is taking to return students to campus. Please set a date to reopen as our closest neighbor, Woodland, has done weeks ago. They chose the Monday that they return from their spring break.

Also, when will we find out which cohort our children are assigned to? It is my understanding that schools and parents in surrounding districts already have this information; even in districts that haven't set start dates. Wasn't the whole point of the block schedule to be able to quickly transition back to in-person learning?

Finally, how will Davis schools operate if COVID19 is still circulating in academic year 2021-2022? Superintendent Bowes has said that DJUSD plans on returning to a fulltime, in-person environment next fall, but I'm confused as to what will be different in the fall. If the teachers that want to be vaccinated have already done so, couldn't schools reopen very soon? I'd like to know before I reregister my children in this district. If 6 feet social distancing is going to be required, will there be enough space for students to access a completely in-person education?

I am confident that the Board will act ethically to prevent further educational, social, and emotional losses. I am confident that the Board is aware of the widening equity and knowledge gaps that the closure of schools is manifesting. I am confident that the Board will set a date to safely reopen schools as soon as possible.

Believing that you will carry out the Board's mission statement and goals with fidelity,
Samantha Walker Saraniti

Monica Roque

From: Maksim Beck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:01 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

Hello Davis School Board

We are 9th grade students (and brothers) at Harper Junior High. We thought it would be good for you to hear from us, **your students**, about returning kids to school. We'd like you to know we want the "in person" option to start when quarter 4 begins. We understand that some kids want to stay home to continue on zoom. We think that's great that the virtual school option works for them and their families.

For us, we are **done** with ZOOM and staring at our computer for hours each day. We see friends that have been able to go to in person school at Woodland Christian, Jesuit, St Francis and St James for a long time. That is so frustrating to watch. Local private schools have the option for in-person and we don't? How come Davis schools can't make this happen for us? Why can't you figure this out for us?

We know how to test thanks to going to Healthy Davis, we wear masks to go out and know how to social distance. We can go to the grocery store, the doctor's office and Target, which have all remained open during COVID.

As of this week you can sit inside a restaurant with strangers, have your mask **off** and eat. For some reason that's **OK**- but we can't go back to our classroom, distanced with masks on with our friends who are tested regularly? Can you see how this just doesn't make sense anymore? We are ready and know how to follow the COVID rules. Our teachers have shared with us that they are getting vaccinated. It's time for you to open our schools to kids that want to go.

Our high school sports teams COVID test, practice with masks and socially distance. There is talk of clubs starting to happen using the same covid safety steps as sports on campus too. If you can figure out how sports and clubs can happen, in person school can happen. Shouldn't the priority be getting kids back to campus for an education too? You took this job on the board because you cared about kids and education. Please give us the chance **and option** to go back to school like all our friends at the private schools. Give those private schools a call, ask them how they did it safely and make it happen on the first day of Q4 for kids that want to go back in person.

Sincerely

Orion Beck and
Maksim Beck

Monica Roque

From: Soren Jacobson Reisman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Superintendent; DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Board of Education and Superintendent Bowes,

I am very excited with the possible upcoming of hybrid schools. It would be fun to finally see most of my classmates two days a week for so far I have only met with one teacher so far and it was great. I think trying the hybrid will be a good step to the gradual opening of schools and I'm sure it will go well at least with people around my grade. (7th) Because we are fully aware of what's happening, and know to follow the precautions needed. I hope this can happen as soon as possible and I appreciate whatever steps we need to get there.

Sincerely,

Soren

Monica Roque

From: Tessa Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

DJUSD BOE and Superindendetn Bowes:

I am a 9th grade student. I have heard we are finally going to go back to campus for school. I am very excited to be able to see my teachers in person again. It has been difficult to remain interested in my classes through a computer and even harder to seek help when I need it. My friends and I are hoping that you can make the final part of our school year worth all we have missed for the past 12 months. It has been such a long time.

I know we will be wearing masks and regularly testing at Healthy Davis (which I already do), maintaining distance and washing our hands a lot. I know we can do it and look forward to being supported by the community again. It has been a very lonely year.

Please get us back to campus as soon as possible. Please give us as much in-person time as you can. We have missed almost a 1000 hours of school already since March 2020. Every hour we can have in-person will make a difference.

Thank you for listening and supporting us.

Monica Roque

From: Melissa Johnson-Camacho [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment school reopening

Categories: Green category

Hi, my son goes to Birch Lane Elementary. He's in 4th grade. I am also an essential worker. I'm a nurse at UCD medical center. I understand this is a very difficult decision to return to full instruction or not.

I would urge the board to refrain on rushing to open. Until vaccines are more widely available and the community has access to them it could potentially cause another surge and lives could be lost.

Yes my son has not had the best experience with distance learning. I can relate a lot to the parents who feel that the schools need to reopen.

I'm asking the community to help us do this right- wait until it's safe so we can avoid another backslide. That could delay things even further in the long run.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Melissa JohnsonCamacho RN
CNA Chief Nurse Rep UCDCMC

Parent of Isaiah Camacho

She/ her/hers

Monica Roque

From: Rachel Warren [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:53 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Trustees,

Thank you for acting to protect our community by supporting a science-based, phased plan for re-opening, along with prioritizing vaccinations for teachers and staff.

I live with a major disability as a result of a childhood illness, and that particular disease is now largely preventable through vaccination. Since children can and do contract COVID-19, and we do not yet know what the long-term effects will be, I appreciate the cautious approach that has been taken by the Board throughout the pandemic. My personal experience informs my comfort level in returning my children to campus without an approved vaccine.

In addition, I am writing to ask the Board how we will encourage community members who are sending their children back to campus under the hybrid model to commit to reducing their overall exposure. For instance:

- How will the District encourage families to limit travel and indoor gatherings?
- Will we know what portion of the campus community is committing to regular testing through Healthy Davis Together?
- Will parents emphasize with their children the need to wear masks and physically distance, and actively support teacher and staff authority in enforcing these measures on campus?

Thank you again for your care and concern in putting the health of our community first.

Rachel Warren

22-year Davis resident, parent to two DJUSD students

Monica Roque

From: Ruby Germain [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:26 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment 3/4 Meeting

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board,

I am a Davis resident, parent of a 2nd grader at Korematsu Elementary, PTO member and school site council member.

I'm writing to voice my family's support of the board's current plan to reopen schools and to offer my thanks for this plan. My family specifically values the elements in the plan that include having teachers and staff be fully vaccinated with a period for full protection and waiting until we have been in the Red Tier for 2 weeks.

We support the plan's inclusion of masks for all, safe spacing and distancing, weekly point of care testing access and adequate air filtration in classrooms.

As a still unvaccinated person with a heart condition that puts me at risk for COVID-19 complications my family values a safe approach to returning to campus that will also protect the health and wellbeing of other vulnerable families and community members.

Please continue progress on the current reopening plan so that we can have a full return to in person in the fall.

With gratitude,

Ruby Germian Harnden & Matt Drogemuller
Davis, CA

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:09 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment: 7th and 5th grader never want to go back to DJUSD

Categories: Green category

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to share our family story about how our 5th and 7th grader feel about DJUSD after a year in distance learning. Our kids have gone to DJUSD since kindergarten and until 2020 have been eager, enthusiastic learners in their classes.

Our family supported distance learning in March 2020. It felt right given the unknowns around COVID-19 safety. However, school safety during COVID-19 is now clear that schools can be open safely now and could have been months ago.

During distance learning we watched our kids turn from eager learners to apathetic, depressed, disengaged Zoom zombies. Our 7th grader has never met any of their teachers in person. They went from tutoring peers in 6th grade math and getting As, to getting Cs in their favorite subject. Even worse when we asked about why they got the C they shared that basically the teacher is so inflexible and yells at students during office hours, sometimes abruptly closing a Zoom session in frustration, that the students don't feel safe asking when they don't understand something. Our 5th grader is learning a fraction of their curriculum, watches Netflix movies over zoom almost monthly for "fun Fridays", and has anxiety from isolation and loneliness. They say "school is bad. We spend an hour or more every day repeating stuff and waiting for glitches".

We agonized over how to help them find joy in school again and made the excruciating decision to enroll them in private school.

Our 5th grader now attends school from 830am-315pm, 5 days a week with 20 other masked kids. Our 7th grader gets hybrid in-person education 4 hours a day, 5 days a week. Both are thriving. No one at either school has been covid positive. Nor has covid spread in school using mitigation measures alone and without vaccinations.

How do we explain to them that DJUSD teachers aren't safe but private school teachers are?
Or why their private school teachers are ok with masks and safety measures but DJUSD teachers demand vaccinations?

How do we explain why their cousins in other states go to full in-person school all year but it isn't safe in Davis?

How do we explain why grocery store, delivery, restaurant, or healthcare workers are okay to leave home daily to work safely masked but their DJUSD teachers won't?

We can't explain that. They can see it themselves. They see the difference in attitude, mindset, and commitment. They both beg us not to return to DJUSD next year.

We had to send this message anonymously because parents who speak-up for kids are being bullied by DTA members online or have had their kids called-out publicly by teachers in Zoom meetings. Trustee Darrah has even publicly "liked" this harassing behavior in public Facebook groups.

Please drop the charade of "School isn't Safe". Do everything you can to open DJUSD schools and help our kids love learning again.

Anonymous Concerned Parents

Monica Roque

From: Lynn Bramwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:01 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hi,

I have lots of thoughts and comments regarding everything that has occurred over the past year but will limit my comment to one topic: The proposed hybrid plan. The proposed hybrid plan is more disruptive to our family and the lives of working parents than virtual learning so we will likely NOT choose that as an option. To ask parents to ferry their children to school during the middle of the day for only two hours is ridiculous. Our fear is that our “choice” to stay virtual will be interpreted as not wanting to go back to school. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We want to go back to school but with a model that makes more sense and is more viable for working parents. Not two hours during the middle of the day. We would even be willing to go back full time NOW. The proposed hybrid plan smacks of privilege even more than virtual learning does.

I would ask that the board consider constructing a survey whereby if we choose to stay virtual, it is not considered or perceived as an endorsement of distance learning or as fear of returning to school, but a choice between the lesser of two evils purely for logistical reasons. To date, the surveys that we have received have not allowed for our sentiments to be conveyed accurately and the results of been used to benefit specific pre-conceived narratives. Thank you for listening, Lynn Bramwell

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Monica Roque

From: Darcy Hannibal [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:00 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Hello,

I appreciate all your hard work and careful consideration for a safe return to school. My family wants our kids back in school, but we want it when it is safe to do so, based on a sound and well communicated plan, with the resources and support in place to make it successful.

I urge you to please stick to the plan already developed for a safe reopening. Although the lower rates in our county are encouraging, this could change, particularly with new variants circulating. I am concerned that the push to return could build so much momentum that warning signs may be ignored.

When I talk to teachers and parents in other school districts who've returned to school, some say it has gone well and some say it's been a mess. The key differences seem to be how much support teachers have to adjust and still maintain safety standards and how much parents and kids cooperate with safety expectations. When we return, our teachers and staff need to have resources available to them for this to be successful and we need to make sure kids and their families understand and cooperate with expectations.

For too long our society has expected our teachers and schools to provide the solutions to all of our problems with less and less funding and resources. Our schools can't handle the strain of providing a solution to the social isolation and lack of engagement kids and their families are suffering from in this pandemic without a major change in how much we actually support them.

Thank you for your service to our community,
Darcy Hannibal
CCE and Emerson parent

Monica Roque

From: Christina Hooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:51 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment for today

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board:

I know you have had an extraordinarily difficult year deciding how to navigate this pandemic. People are stressed, and tired, and you are under pressure. But I also know you have the best interests of the people of Davis at heart, and so I urge you to keep safety at the forefront for both your students and the DJUSD staff.

Please allow your staff to have time to obtain vaccines if they are willing, including the weeks needed for the vaccine to become most effective. This will keep our students safer and help to limit further deadly community spread.

This year has been a marathon-please do not walk off the course at mile 24. The last year of sacrifices mean nothing if people are put back into hazardous situations prematurely. We know that masking and distancing help, but are hard to enforce. Compliance in the general public has been haphazard, at best. You know that teachers and staff will have exposures to COVID on campus despite the best of intentions.

We are a few months away from a much safer community, but we're not there yet. Even within the last few days, we have seen interruptions in the vaccine distribution system, which does set us further back on the timeline. We can hold the line of safety-we have done it for a year. In this once-in-a-century pandemic, we have to accept that normal is very different this year.

I support the safer reopening plan even though it may be slower. My own child will not be returning until she can be vaccinated, but we want all of her teachers and school staff to be there when she does return. We do not want her first in-person experience for Junior High to be a teacher funeral.

Thank you for your hard work,
Christina Hooke
20 year Davis resident and parent of a DJUSD 7th grader

Monica Roque

From: Heather Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:01 AM
To: John Bowes; DJUSD Board of Education; DJUSD Communications
Cc: Tony Martin
Subject: Public Comment: Prioritize School Reopening

Categories: Green category

Dear Trustees and DJUSD leaders,

While I recognize the progress you are making I implore you to act with **greater urgency and haste to maximize in-person instruction options**. School safety science during COVID-19 is unequivocal. Schools can be open safely now, for full in-person instruction with mitigation measures. Vaccinations of staff or students are not requirements for safe school opening. This is endorsed by the CDC, WHO, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Any delay in opening schools for "safety reasons" is now a false delay.

Please prioritize tonight:

1) **Setting the date of 3/29/21 for return to in-person instruction.** This is ample time to meet the vaccination requirement you chose.

2) **Make a motion and vote to rescind the elementary Hybrid model currently adopted.** Only 4 hours per week of in-person instruction with asynchronous distance Wednesdays is not good enough to meet the education needs of children who have been out of the classroom a year. Also, the 1-3pm in-person time is not feasible for working families.

Consider if a hybrid model is currently necessary. Experts across the country and world are endorsing the safety for full in-person instruction without vaccinations. If DJUSD staff are vaccinated doesn't it seem like the right thing to do to offer full in-person instruction now?

If hybrid is necessary then adopt the 1st elementary hybrid option presented or the model being used by Woodland Joint Unified. These offer more in-person instruction and are more feasible for working families.

Immediately thereafter prioritize:

1) **Define and publicize the criteria for entering Phase 4 and Phase 5.**

DO NOT WAIT any longer. You must act with greater urgency given the seriousness of the education crisis we are now in.

2) **Commit to entering Phase 4 this school year for TK-3 at a minimum.** They need more in-person time due to the nature of their curriculum and also are the lowest risk age group for COVID severe disease or transmission.

3) **Commit to full in-person instruction for all grades by the first day of fall 2021 if not sooner. Communicate this to parents by April 1.**

Commit now and move towards it with a determined mindset to ensure students needs are once and for all prioritized. Again, if all staff have the option to be vaccinated what are you waiting for?

Parents can NOT wait to know the fall model any longer. Why? Because, families are moving away from Davis now due to uncertainty and lack of trust in DJUSD. You need to ACT NOW to commit to this and rebuild trust of the parent community.

I am confident that once you choose to act with greater urgency, publicly acknowledge the severity of this education crisis, and demonstrate your commitment to full in-person learning through your actions you can rebuild trust in DJUSD again.

Respectfully,

Heather Martin, PharmD

Parent of 2 DJUSD students

Monica Roque

From: Bekah Tsai [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:40 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for board meeting 3/4

Categories: Green category

Hello BOE members,

I want to begin by thanking you for working during this incredibly difficult time. I'm writing because I know there is a large contingent of parents who are displeased with the current proposal for school reopening. Specifically, they are planning to push for extended in person teaching. Although I myself do not think schools should reopen this spring, I am even more strongly opposed to this baseless support of even more exposure of our children, staff and teachers in this period. I encourage you to PLEASE stick to the proposed reopening hybrid schedule already in place. Expanded hours of in person instruction spanning dangerous times like lunch and recess for our grade schoolers will only increase viral spread during this tenuous time. Please do not bow to the pressure of people who ARE NOT scientifically trained and DO NOT have the expertise to pressure you. Please listen to the experts and keep our children as safe as possible during this transition period. Lives depend on it. We are not out of the woods yet. You are the protectors. Please protect our children, staff and teachers.

Thank you,
Bekah Tsai
MME mom and MS of microbiology and molecular genetics

Monica Roque

From: Angela Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:53 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Superintendent Bowes and the DJUSD BOE:

With school reopening next month, please consider the following parameters:

1. The start date of April 12th **does not** reflect the district's previously posted plans suggesting timing of changes take place after school breaks and holidays to avoid disruptions. March 29th, the return from spring break, is more in line with this directive and is more than 5 weeks after February 27th (the date when the majority of staff was assured access to vaccines). April 4th is the quarter change for junior high and high school, so this would also be an opportune time. Additionally, given recent state legislation, each day after April 1st without in person schooling will result in a 1% additional loss of funding for our school district.
2. The DJUSD and BOE **proposed hybrid model is disruptive** and offers very little in person instruction time. Please consider the AM/PM as a better alternative. Many people have offered to provide the BOE input on systems that are working for other school districts that have been in person for months. Please take advantage of their assistance. Additionally, now that staff are vaccinated, the hybrid model, created many months ago prior to vaccinations, is no longer relevant. Please pivot and be flexible. Children need as much in-person instruction time as is feasible.
3. Communication: it appears that **the community is not being fully updated** on the status of readiness and dates for in person instruction. Many are hearing announcements on Instagram, from friends, etc. versus hearing it from our leadership. Can there be a clear and concise announcement that summarizes these items? Also, please clarify for the public that **we HAVE met** the metrics listed in previous communications regarding staff vaccination, ventilation, asymptomatic testing, attainment of red tier, establishment of safety protocols, distancing and contact tracing. These are conditions that were set by the DJUSD BOE that are above and beyond what is recommended by public health experts, the CDC, the AAP, Dr. Fauci and numerous publications by researchers from around the globe.

Monica Roque

From: Daniela Almeida [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:49 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

While I prefer a start date of April 1 so that the District can get the full financial benefit of the state of California funding, the most important issue for me is that we have a set date and commit to it. I see we have met or will meet all the conditions for hybrid reopening that already exceed the safety standards set by the CDC. However, I start to get concerned when I see comments that say maybe there are new requirements such as "ensuring people are complying with safety outside of the school" and "what will we do if kids dont have masks"? We cannot control all behaviors and voting on a start date should not be impacted by the individual ways compliance with in - person education will be handled at schools. The vote should not be impacted by what you individually are going to do with your own children but on the clear science that recognizes the safe path to have in-person education.

Daniela Almeida - parent of high school and 3rd grade children

Monica Roque

From: Alana Rothman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:43 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Members of the DJUSD Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for re-opening our schools. I supported the move to distance learning nearly a year ago when there was so very much we did not know about COVID. I also supported the continued distance learning in the Fall when cases were surging so dramatically. At this point in time, however, we understand how to mitigate infection risk and case numbers are declining. What I fear is that we have only begun to see the impact a year of distance learning has had on our children.

Elementary school children (and junior and senior high kids) do not effectively learn the same way college students do and yet for the past year, we have pushed them through Zoom lecture after Zoom lecture to then have them push themselves through assignments on their own. The learning happens in the classroom, with the teacher. The kids have done an amazing job, as have our teachers and administrators. We've all done our best to navigate the challenges COVID has brought. But the balance has shifted. We will never be at zero risk, but we are at the point where continued distance learning puts our kids at greater risk of decreased learning and mental health issues; in the balance, with better control in the community, access to vaccines, and the mitigation measures the district has already put in place, the risk of transmission is low.

My son is in 6th grade. To look at his report card, you'd think he was succeeding. But what I see is school turned into a "To Do" list instead of engaging endeavor. I see a kid struggling to succeed in a format that was not designed for a 12-year-old. Please set a date for our kids' return to school. I specifically support the date of March 29th as put forth by the Davis Parent Coalition.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication.

Alana Rothman
mom to NDE 6th grader

Monica Roque

From: Tricia Bosco [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:19 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment for March 4th meeting

Categories: Green category

I'm writing to you on behalf of my friends and neighbors who have shared their stories, worries and deep fear for the mental wellbeing of their kids.

My children were educated in the Davis school system K thru 12. I volunteered hundreds of hours for children in our community in PTA, site council, fundraising as well as served on the board of the Yolo Crisis Nursery, Davis Grad Night and founded the Davis National Charity League chapter. Sadly, I have never been so disappointed in a group of people's lack of concern for children's well-being than I have been of our district during this crisis.

Schools exist to educate kids, not to employ adults. Because, for adults, teaching is optional. For kids, learning is essential. Now, one year into distance learning, you know, from your own surveys, it's not working for a majority of Davis kids — especially those who need it most.

You've been told by our public health experts and healthcare workers in our community, that the best thing to do in the interest of kids is return to the classroom.

You've had time to plan for the what-ifs and negotiate with your teachers. You've had months to prepare for protection and possibilities.

You have been given the green light to open school full-time, beyond hybrid, with safety precautions and testing in place.

We can do hard things— when we want to. **It's time to put the needs of students first.** Will it be hard? Yes. Will it be worth it? Yes.

Roll up your sleeves, engage your moral compass, plan and execute a swift return to school as if the ones suffering are your own kids, your own families...because they are. As board members, the students' best interests are your responsibility. Do not fail them any longer.

Teachers, please get regular healthydavis testing and get vaccinated. Yes, you are essential workers --but you are more than that...you make differences in children's lives daily with your mere words and actions — or lack of them.

Teachers....Our kids need you. You are essential humans. You always have been.

Let's learn from this experience and plan to live with Covid or any other virus that has the power to crumble our educational foundation.

Tricia Bosco

Monica Roque

From: Skylar Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:17 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello Superintendent Bowes and the DJUSD BOE:

I am writing from the perspective of a student. I am a 12th grader in the DJUSD school district. This year has been very difficult for me and all my fellow classmates. We have missed out on so much, things we were looking forward to for the past 11 years. We have also struggled to stay engaged in our classes through an on line format that has become increasingly monotonous, even though our teachers are trying.

We are very excited at the prospect of going back to in person classes. Perhaps we can salvage a couple months of our senior year and engage with our teachers in person, participate in some hands-on class laboratories, say hi to friends in the hallways. We are also committed to doing what it takes to make this safe for all by wearing masks, distancing and regular testing (Healthy Davis makes this so easy). We hope that you will do all you can to allow us as much time as possible for in-person instruction and trust your community to participate in this process.

Please, give us some normalcy by allowing our in-person education to start as soon as possible and by providing as much in-person, on campus time each day as is achievable. We students have done our part; please do yours by supporting us.

A DJUSD Senior, Class of 2021

Monica Roque

From: Tramhuong Temps [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:20 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD School Board,

I'm writing this email not to prove that anybody is wrong or right but to ask for the distance learning/on-line learning option to continue to be open and available. I am asking for my 10-year-old son to continue his online schooling /distance learning when the school is re-opened.

I am not comfortable letting my son go back to school without having vaccinated against COVID. When he was in school, he had at least several sick days due to flu or cold. When he was sick, my husband and I were all sick. However, over the last 12 months, we have been staying shelter-in-place, we have been healthy, not a single common cold or flu has happened to us. And we all have a yearly flu vaccination.

I don't have any statistical evidence to show against the rate of pediatric COVID infection in children, but the COVID is a deadly bug if not saying its variant strain is on the rise and deadlier. I'd like to continue to keep my son at home until we all get vaccinated against COVID before letting him back to school safely.

Thank you so much for your attention and for taking this COVID matter seriously at heart.

Sincerely,
Angeli Temps

Monica Roque

From: Ben Wollrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:32 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Hello,

I am so very disappointed with the proposed schedule of two days a week only two hours in the afternoon.

I strongly believe the best hybrid model would be two full days a week. Not all kids have an adult home with them for the school day. This two hours a day is extremely inequitable and inaccessible to many kids who are in desperate need of further support.

At minimum the kids must at least be offered two days a week instruction in the morning in lieu of spending the entire morning on the computer.

The amount of time these kids are forced to spend on screens is so very unhealthy. If hybrid is all that's offered then the hybrid model must find a way to lessen the screen time that is being forced into these children.

Please reconsider what is best for our children. And let's follow the science and listen to the yolo county health director. Let's get our elementary school kids back in the classroom!

Thank you,

Ben Wollrich

Monica Roque

From: Erin M O'Donnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:29 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Fwd: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD,

I am a parent of two elementary school students, currently enrolled at Korematsu.

I am deeply concerned that DJUSD has not put appropriate emphasis on returning to in person learning as quickly as possible, with as many in-person hours as possible. Many other districts in our state have been opened safely for in person learning for months.

Our kids are suffering from isolation and even hopelessness because DJUSD has not done enough to support them and get them back into the classroom.

I have always been a strong supporter of public education, as an important aspect of a democratic society. However, if DJUSD does not open schools for in-person learning soon, for a significant number of hours per week, our family will be forced to consider private education for our children.

I am concerned that many families who are heavily involved in DJUSD supporting kids through fundraising and other activities, will be making the same decision to move to private education. If this happens, DJUSD will lose critical family and community support.

Please work towards opening schools for in-person learning as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Erin O'Donnell
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Hayes, Hogan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:09 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: RE: Public Comment - Assessment of BOE's planning

Categories: Green category

To the DJUSD Board of Education:

This has certainly been a difficult time to serve in a community leadership position. I do not envy the tasks that this crisis created for you. I understand how difficult it was to act because every option had serious downsides.

You were, however, expected to act. Unfortunately for our community, the Board of Education failed to meet this most basic expectation.

According to the CDC's operational strategy to support K-12 schools in opening for in-person instruction, one of the essential elements is "phased mitigation and learning modes based on levels of community transmission." Seven months into the academic year, we are still operating via one learning mode – fully online – and the best this body has been able to deliver is the potential for one additional learning mode before the end of the school year.

There is no plan for a full return to the classroom. Even if we were unable to implement it due to rates of community transmission, such a plan should have been developed.

Without a plan, the BOE failed to make teachers and staff feel it was safe to return to schools. With a plan, the BOE failed to make parents feel it was safe to send out kids back to school.

At the very least, we expect you to learn from these failures and take the required actions to plan for a safe and complete reopening in the fall. It will not be easy, but the work must start now.

Sincerely,

Hogan Hayes (CCE parent)

[Hogan Hayes](#), Ph.D
Associate Professor of Composition & Rhetoric
[GWAR Coordinator](#)
California State University, Sacramento
[English Department](#)

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:56 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello-

Please reconsider the hybrid schedule. When it was originally proposed, teachers weren't vaccinated and the county cases were higher.

Based on the currently proposed schedule, having morning Zoom and a couple hours of in person a week isn't conducive to many families schedules.

Please consider dropping the morning Zoom and just doing morning in person. Or better yet, open up full-time.

Thank you.

Monica Roque

From: Jen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:07 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

To open schools with only 7 weeks left for a hybrid schedule is asking too much of teachers and staff. We haven't even had a chance to vaccinate everyone and with the shortages there is a chance that many teachers will not have their second dose completed by April.

Let's focus on vaccinations and making the best program possible for fall.

We will not be sending our daughter back to school this year. This is a tremendous burden to our wonderful teachers and I'm shocked this is even on the table this year.

Jen Wendt

Sent from LaLa Land

It's a planet, not an empire

Monica Roque

From: S Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:34 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Board Members:

It is time to open our schools. Scientific data supports opening schools for in-person instruction with proper precautions. In addition, our schools cannot not afford to miss out on all of the incentives offered in California Senate Bill 86 and Assembly Bill 86. Please commit to starting in-person instruction by March 29, 2021. It is in the best interest of the children to resume in-person learning (and teaching).

Sincerely,

Sonya Miller

Monica Roque

From: Andrew McDaniel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:10 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

I am writing to encourage DJUSD to move up its return to in-person education for all students. Studies are showing very good protection just a couple weeks after one dose of the currently available vaccines. This, in combination with the low risk posed by in person education born out by many studies, recommendations from public health experts to open schools even in the absence of vaccination, and our return to the red tier shows that the current conditions are right for an immediate return to in person learning. Once returned, I advocate for a rapid increase in time spent on campus. The state and county prioritized vaccines for educators and staff so that teaching would resume in person. To delay reopening any further is unfair to those with underlying medical conditions or higher risk jobs who were deprioritized so that educators could be vaccinated. The district must respond to this good faith effort with a sense of urgency. Without this sense of urgency, I feel a return to full in person school in the fall is in jeopardy. The district has yet to be prepared to return when public health experts recommended: first in the fall and now with our recent return to the red tier. I ask the district to lay out the concrete steps that will occur to return our students to full in person learning this academic year so that we can have confidence it will continue into the fall. Public health recommendations combined with teacher and staff immunization should make full in person learning the default, and this can be achieved this academic year if the district is willing to make the necessary effort.

Respectfully,
Andrew McDaniel

Monica Roque

From: Tahnee Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

My name is Tahnee Sweeney, I am a parent of two students at NDE and a teacher. Please do not be tempted to reopen any earlier than planned. With the already established plan our students are better protected from 1.) changes to routine if the reopening is not done right 2.) the virus - if all our teachers have been fully vaccinated with two weeks after their second dose of vaccine passing for it to be effective 3.) lack of equitable completion and implementation of planned safety mitigations. Do not abandon your plan to begin and work towards expanding on site asymptomatic testing, with frequency based on rates of infection, or the retention of our quality teachers by first ensuring their full vaccination - just to obtain funds. It is unfortunate that the recent plan from the state is using monetary incentives to encourage school districts to abandon their plans for asymptomatic testing, and remove a layer of protection for students of having vaccinated fully teachers first. Carry out a plan that values the human lives of all, over convenience of surrendering in the struggle to contain the virus. We know that the CDC is warning people that we have simply plateaued at a very high level of daily fatalities, 2000 a day, and strong mitigation efforts are required to prevent a third wave of COVID. We are entering into new headwinds with the COVID19 variants, we must be cautious. Take steps to try and ensure our students can remain in school once it opens, and we are not bringing kids to school with just enough time for them to get sick, before being back with their families full time for the summer. Ensure you have taken every diligent step you know of to protect the lives of our students, their families, our educators, their families and all community members - especially those most affected by COVID. Do not be tempted by convenience to give up plans to help contain the virus. Our students deserve the added layer of protection of fully vaccinated teachers, and the retention of our quality teachers. 27% of teachers across the country are considering leaving the profession this year because of COVID19. We have the opportunity to lessen that impact on our students by showing we value educators and their hopes to be safe and keep their students and community safe.

Monica Roque

From: Kelcey and Matt Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:46 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for board meeting

Categories: Green category

Thank you so much for executing a plan to bring our kids back to hybrid in a safe way. I'm so happy the teachers and staff are all being prioritized for vaccinations. I know this won't be easy to adjust and the changes and transitions will be huge for everyone involved. Please know we are so grateful that our kids will have some interaction, in person instruction and the opportunity to bond and connect with teachers and classmates this year. I hope everyone in the community will continue to be vigilant against Covid to keep our children safe and limit community spread.

Sincerely,
Kelcey Meadows-Lucas

Monica Roque

From: Kim Heroy-Rogalski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:07 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

This is a public comment for the March 4, 2021, board meeting. I would appreciate it if you could please read it into the record.

Dear DJUSD school board,

I am a parent of a 12th grader and 10th grader at Davis Senior High School. Covid has spoiled my daughter's senior year and disrupted what should have been my son's first year on campus. I encourage the board to do everything in your power to salvage what's left of the school year for my kids and all the kids of Davis.

I am writing to make two requests:

1) Please restart arts and music activities on campus on immediately. The high school is restarting sports, and just as sports can be restarted safely, so can choir, band, orchestra and theater. By rehearsing outside, masking, and social distancing, these vital activities can resume. Arts and music are just as meaningful to the kids who do them as sports are for young athletes.

2) Please reopen the high school for in person learning now. It is still possible to salvage some of the school year and let the kids have a return to normalcy. With the testing we have at healthy Davis and the availability of vaccines for teachers, it can be done safely. Teens need social contact with other teens, and there is more to high school than can be conveyed on a screen.

Thanks for your consideration,
Kimberly Heroy

--

Kim A. Heroy-Rogalski, P.E.
Mom to Maya and Theo
Co-lead, Troop 2051
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Anoosh Jorjorian [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:24 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Board Trustees:

My name is Anoosh Jorjorian, and I am a parent. I also helped establish the page, Safe Classrooms, Safe Community - Davis, which as of this Wednesday, has 300 Likes on Facebook, including DJUSD parents, teachers, and staff members.

I wanted to first express my support for the conditions for returning to classrooms that the Board set. The environmental safety measures are ones universally agreed upon by health experts.

I am also deeply appreciative that the district is waiting for all teachers and staff to be vaccinated up to full efficacy before opening school sites. While the CDC has said that teacher vaccinations are "not necessary" to return to in-person instruction, epidemiologists, doctors, and public health experts are not in consensus about this recommendation, especially as California copes with the spread of two new variants and anticipates a surge in late March/early April.

More importantly, it's vital to respect our teachers' experience in classrooms and their concerns for their own health and safety. Over 225 active educators have died during this pandemic. I cannot conscience losing even one of our teachers or staff.

While all of us are familiar with the challenges of distance learning, Americans in general and Davisites in particular favor prioritizing safety as we make decisions about schools. A February Pew Survey found that 59 percent of all adults favored waiting to return to classrooms until all teachers had been fully vaccinated. Among parents of color, the split ranged between 70/30 to 80/20 in favor of full teacher vaccinations.

As we approach reopening school sites, I want to make two points. The first is that the CDC does not yet recommend returning to full, in-person learning in our county. Indeed, only 4 percent of US students live in a county where transmission rates are low enough for a full return to school sites, with appropriate precautions.

The second is that the transition to a hybrid learning model is going to be stressful on everyone. Families need to assess their risk tolerance. Teachers will need to find childcare for their children. Parents will need to adapt to a shifting schedule. This system will be new for everyone.

I hope that we can avoid taking out these stresses on our teachers and staff, who have already been working so hard in exhausting and challenging conditions. As all parents should know well by now, spending hours a day just with our own children, week after week, is mentally and physically draining. I hope our community will support our educators, not make them the targets of frustration and discontent.

Thank you again to the Board for prioritizing community safety during this pandemic.

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Anoosh Jorjorian
Founder, Inclusive Futures Consulting
Coordinator, Yolo Rainbow Families (Davis Phoenix Coalition)



www.raiseinclusivekids.com
www.davisphoenixco.org/
www.anooshjorjorian.com

English . Español . Français . Wolof
pronouns / pronombres / prenomes: She / Ella / Elle and They / Elle / On

Monica Roque

From: Anne Marie Bisson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:07 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comments

Categories: Green category

To Whom It May Concern,

As a frontline healthcare provider, working in Emergency Medicine over the past year during the pandemic, I know what it's like to go to work under stressful circumstances. It has been difficult and unpredictable at times, but we have endured and prevailed. Taking lessons from healthcare and other fields, and now with the vaccine widely available, I know we can create a safe environment for teachers, staff, and students to return to. We must. And we must do so now. As the mother of two kids in the DJUSD, I am seeing my children needlessly suffer the effects of isolation and excessive screen time. This is no longer necessary. There is now ample data to support safe re-opening of schools. We must be data-driven as we go forward, and not fear-driven; and the students must be our first priority, not teachers' unions. It's time to re-open.

Anne Marie Bisson, PA-C

Monica Roque

From: Maggie Feldt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:01 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

School Board Members,

Our family moved back to Davis last June after spending four years living abroad in Germany while serving in the military. When we got orders to return to this area we were thrilled to return to the Davis community and the school system here. We enrolled our three children in the DJUSD when we arrived, but pulled their enrollment the week before school started. Our children did not want to attend school in a distance learning format. Having completed their public school in Germany virtually, they wanted no part in sitting in front of a screen for hours on end, particularly when they did not know anyone in the Davis schools. Though we are privileged in our ability to provide homeschooling for our children, and their academics have not necessarily suffered this year, their mental health has.

Moving across the world during a pandemic was extremely difficult on all of us. We are incredibly blessed to have friends who made the transition easier, but our kids are still grieving. They are grieving the loss of friends whom they never got to say proper goodbyes to. And they are grieving the loss of friends they have never had the opportunity to make because the school board and teachers' union has not allowed the children to return to learning in person. One of our children in particular, a bright child who was earning straight A's in middle school last year, is suffering. No longer does he have opportunities to try out for the student council. No longer does he have the ability to engage with classmates who will spur him on his academic pursuits. The drive to excel has diminished in him this year. His mental health is suffering. It is taking a toll on all of us.

Enough is enough. It has been a year of loss. Kids need to be back in school. Not 6 weeks from now, not for a couple of hours a couple times a week. So much has been learned as this pandemic has gone on. The data and science are clear. With proper mitigations in place, classrooms need to be fully opened. My physician husband is an essential worker. He has gone to work every day, vaccine or no vaccine. Teachers are also essential. The board requirement of them receiving vaccines has been met. There are no more excuses. It is time for classrooms to open up. Not in 6 weeks, but tomorrow.

Respectfully,
Maggie Feldt
Parent of 3 school age children

Monica Roque

From: Amy Lemmo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:19 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: For public comment

Categories: Green category

I want you to hear from my kids since this is who I am advocating for:

4TH GRADER - I miss getting to see my friends and I miss getting help in person. The hardest part about distance learning is sometimes my teacher doesn't really explain math the way it makes sense to me in the video but when I log onto office hours and he explains it to me live it makes more sense. Especially because then I can ask questions. Once my teacher came to my lemonade stand and it was the best day. I was so excited to see him in person.

10th GRADER .. We should start hybrid. We can't stay online forever and getting started sooner is better. The hardest part about distance learning is staying engaged.

Please allow for our children to get time in the classrooms with their teachers this year. Please allow the kids who started the year in a new school like my 10th grader did to get onto campus, feel like they are a part of a community again instead of an island at home.

Sincerely,
Amy Lemmo

Monica Roque

From: Arielle Spurlock [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:31 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Doing the bare minimum hybrid model for our most in need children is unacceptable. This model is basically useless in comparison to the am/pm model which offers at least some opportunity for instruction. Our children are suffering from depression, anxiety and learning loss. Our children NEED in person instruction by March 29 if not sooner. Our children need more and deserve more than this. The CDC and Dr. Fauci among others have called for schools to reopen for in person learning NOT a few hours a week of PE. Please think of the children who need us to come through for them. 12 months is far too long
Thank you

Monica Roque

From: Joanna Friesner [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:04 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

I thank DJUSD (and the teacher's union) for keeping our teachers safe, and prioritizing vaccination before requiring teachers and staff to return.

I understand that many people want kids back in school (me included), however, unless and until it is safe to do so, it should not happen.

In addition, as a parent of a 5th grader that goes to a non-neighborhood school, I must drive an hour roundtrip each time he goes to campus.

Therefore, the adopted hybrid model of 2 hours of in-person time, twice a week, is untenable for me, a working mom. I also am unclear that 4 hours of in-person instruction has enough benefits to outweigh possible risks to health (students, families, teachers) or the increased effort by the teachers to once again adapt their curriculum. Our teachers have been heroic in their efforts to take care of our children, let alone their own families or themselves. I am grateful to DJUSD teachers and staff for their hard work.

Rather than engage with the several hours of in-person learning, I hope instead to send my child to outdoor activities and exercise that I hear are being developed.

At this point in the year, and the pandemic, I believe a focus on physical and social health will be the most impactful.

A request:

If it is possible to have children attend outdoor physical activities near where they live, and not only at their registered school, this would enable access to hundreds of children that do not attend their neighborhood schools.

Please consider if this is a possibility to implement. For example, we live in South Davis, and my child attends Cesar Chavez. Instead, if he could participate in outdoor exercise and activities at a South Davis school, such as MME or Pioneer, this would enable his access (as well as other South Davis children at non-neighborhood schools).

If this is impossible, we will do our best, same as everyone else, until we can get through this, together.

Thanks for your consideration,

Joanna Friesner, parent of 1 DJUSD elementary student.

Joanna Friesner, Ph.D.

Monica Roque

From: Audrey Pan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 1:35 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear board members,

I want to thank the board for conducting a safe reopening plan of DJUSD classrooms and considering the safety for our whole community at the same time .

I want to emphasize that reopening of in-person learning is not the end of the fight in this pandemic that ALL of us are going through trauma and loss, kids and adults alike. The condition of teachers being fully vaccinated is a gesture in expressing that we support our teachers' physical well being; because they will navigate the unforeseen difficulties when kids gather in person. Our teachers are our kids mentors, supporters and guides. We need to continue to be vigilant in making decisions to provide a safe working environment, so that these mentors, supporters and guides for our kids can provide the care to our children on top of teaching academic curriculum.

The questions for on campus learning now comes to:

- how difficult is it to have kids maintain distances while in a classroom? Would additional personnel needed to reinforce this rule?
- What about the classrooms with out-dated HVAC systems and windows cannot be opened?
- Can DJUSD have a discussion regarding mandatory testing vs voluntary testing? There's not a vaccine approved for kids under 16 as of now. Our kids and their vulnerable family members are still at risk (assuming the emerging variants have not mutated to bypass the current vaccines).

These are tough problems to tackle now, but our ultimate goal is to keep schools open in the coming fall season when this pandemic may have an ominous turn. (let's hope not!)

I really appreciate the board engaging both staff and parents with the discussion of returning to campus; I'm so thankful for that. Please continue the CURRENT reopening plan, we are really close in achieving all conditions with the health and safety for the whole community.

Dr. Audrey Pan (a DJUSD parent)

Monica Roque

From: Kalyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

For Public Comment on March 4th:

I would like to express appreciation for DJUSD for prioritizing vaccination before having teachers and staff return to campus.

In addition, I want to express my gratitude for the massive amount of work our teachers are doing. We are asking teachers to adapt curriculum and implementation three times in the span of one year. This requires an enormous amount of course prep time, time addressing parent concerns, and an undue emotional burden. Truly, we will never compensate you appropriately for what this crisis has demanded of you. Thank you.

Finally, I hope that our community can repay these efforts by committing to keeping our schools safe. If we value in person learning as much as we say we do, we must dedicate ourselves to keeping other sources of transmission low. We still do not have ubiquitous vaccination and have high community spread. Please prioritize school over travel, socializing without COVID precautions, and other activities that increase exposure outside of school hours. I encourage the District and all school sites to promote this messaging with students and their families.

Thank you to all who are supporting our students and teachers by committing to COVID precautions at home.

-Kalyn Coppedge, parent to two DJUSD students

Monica Roque

From: Theodore Rogalski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:48 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Djustd board of education,

I am writing to you today as a student who is fed up of seeing schools all over the nation open up safely and successfully while we drag our heels and delay the reopening of our schools. For the past year or so, we have been getting a sub-par online education that does not teach us well and prepare us well for the future. We have also been stuck indoors for most of the day staring at a screen doing zoom meetings and homework, which destroys our mental health, vision, and overall happiness. I'm tired of losing out on the most important part of my developmental years. It is time to reopen our schools.

Sincerely,
Theo Rogalski, a very concerned student

Monica Roque

From: Katie Arosteguy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:57 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the DJUSD School Board,

Yesterday, Governor Newsom announced a 2.2 billion dollar incentive for schools districts that resume in-person instruction for elementary students by March 31. Even Jeff Frietas, the president of the California Teacher's Association, supports the plan, saying that the funding--coupled with the 10% vaccine allocation guaranteed to teachers and dropping Covid-19 numbers—is the path to returning kids to the classroom. Also yesterday, President Biden declared in-person learning “an essential service.” He also stated that all Americans will be able to get the vaccine by the end of May. Back in February, Yolo County's Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson said that elementary school students “can safely return to school now.” Our Healthy Davis Together saliva Covid testing program has won national recognition and is now on most all school sites and all over the city of Davis. Our 3 health metrics continue to meet the qualifications for red tier and below, with our positivity rate in the yellow for weeks. And we all know the advice from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics has been to re-open schools for a variety of reasons for some time now.

While I have understood and supported the district's re-opening plan parameters of red tier, vaccinations, testing availability, and safety protocols on site, *each passing day that the district doesn't release a start date or any concrete plan of what this hybrid return would actually look like--and why-- to parents*, I lose faith in our board members, whose job it is to “protect the public interest in schools and ensure that a high quality education is provided to each student.”

My question to all board members: How are you doing your job when what the district is currently doing flies in the face of all of these key county, state, and federal officials—as well as doctors and scientists? How is it that in March, 2021 (one full year since schools closed) I can go to a school meeting and the principal has no idea what the hybrid schedule experience will look like for students?

My question for Dr. Bowes and his admin team: What is your response to Newsom's offer of 2.2 billion dollars? Because judging by how much money parents are always asked to kick in through various local tax measures and school and city donations, it seems only fair the district would accept free money from the state to enact a plan that local, state and federal officials not only agree on but are urging districts to implement.

Katie Arosteguy (Ah-ross-teh-gee)
Parent of 3 kids in DJUSD

Monica Roque

From: Robert V.O. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:50 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD,

Parent of two girls in the district here. Due to the school board and superintendent's stalling of opening schools, the DJUSD has seen the exodus of hundreds of students. Is it true the DJUSD will have to layoff teachers in the future because you will lose a lot of funding? If you lose around \$20K per year for each student, and you've lost hundreds of students, how could you support the current amount of teachers at the same pay rate in the future? I heard districts losing a lot of funding typically have to layoff teachers.

Also, could you please tell your district teachers to stop harassing parents on social media? Teachers in the district have associated DJUSD parents supporting reopening schools with white supremacy for citing research. Additionally, district educators have attacked parents on social media by calling them privileged - my family just got off food stamps within the last two years, we still are provided free Medi-Cal, so I have no idea why a teacher would say this to me. I've been a student-parent for 10 years now trying to provide a better life for my family, and I have thankfully been supported with government funds to feed and take care of my family.

It is especially insulting to be called privileged by your district teachers for wanting schools to be open and for citing research. One does not feel too privileged on government assistance, and it's not kind to force low income folks to have to 'confess' their income status because a teacher wants to embarrass them for supporting opening schools. This does not seem like it's the Davis way, but it has been the norm over the last year in discussions with Davis educators.

One local educator professionally associated with a school board member is particularly insulting - why hasn't anyone from the district stopped this? Also, teachers have attacked parents by calling them names online, and have lied about what parents have said to the public. Is this acceptable to you? Do you support this behavior?

Can you please tell your teachers to stop attacking parents on social media for supporting reopening schools? Those of us who might be left to send kids to school here will feel very awkward trusting our kids with a teacher who accused a parent of being associated with white supremacy for supporting reopening schools.

I've never seen any DJUSD educator speak up to denounce this behavior online. I would appreciate it if they did. Some of what they say is very hurtful to parents.

Let's open our schools. 4 hours a week is not enough. I hope you can come up with a solution that provides a proper education to our kids, as that is your duty as school board members.

Thank you,

Robert Van Ostrand

--

Robert Van Ostrand
Ph.D. Candidate, David Laboratory, UC Davis
Designated Emphasis in Biotechnology Intern; Pheronym, Inc.
Commander, VFW Post 6949 Davis

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:35 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Trustees,

I thank you for taking the time to hear these comments. I have no doubt it's exhausting, as you've read them already, but it's an important element of public discourse under existing rules.

I'd like to urge you to restore trust in the district by supporting a specific date for a return to campus. Many parents have concerns for the fall; planning promises are no relief given the messages from districts in San Francisco and Los Angeles, among many others nationwide.

Action must be taken this spring - and sooner rather than later. We all appreciate that a slow, hybrid start is prudent; after all, the call to open our schools has never been about recklessly throwing the doors open, despite claims otherwise. Rather, the call to open schools has been about incremental steps, building confidence, following county, state and CDC guidance.

Unfortunately, we are already well behind in doing so. The Yolo County Public Health Officer has suggested we reopen K-6 since mid November, following state guidance. The CDC guidelines have suggested K-12 should be in hybrid for weeks now, positioning Davis as a potential leader for the state and nation. Regrettably, we have not been positioned to seize upon this.

I understand that many local physicians, nurses and mental healthcare providers, among others, have even endorsed a letter to the board urging a prompt return to campus. The preponderance of evidence points to a singular conclusion: we have already remained closed for too long.

Let's restore our community. Let's start with our children. It's regrettable we haven't done so before reopening restaurants and gyms. Let's at least do it before we reopen the bars in town - at this point, it's not the bars or businesses' fault that our schools remain shuttered. Rather, it's a policy choice, and one we should immediately rectify.

Our children, and our community, deserve no less.

Regards,

Mike Creedon

Monica Roque

From: Kent N. Calfee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Honorable members of the Board,

I am writing to urge you to revise and expand your plan for reopening our elementary schools. Based upon the available science from CDC and Dr. Sisson and the current rate of vaccinations for our teachers I see no reason not to fully reopen our elementary schools.

Our elementary students deserve the highest level of education that we can safely provide. They have suffered serious loss, both academically and socially, and every effort must be made to remedy the situation. Delaying full day in-class learning simply cannot be justified based upon the facts we know today. The plan to have limited “non-core” in-class option two days a week may have been a reasonable approach when that plan was initially conceived. Based upon what you know today it is no longer a reasonable or acceptable plan.

Please rely on the science, honor your students, and fully reopen our elementary schools immediately.

Thank you.

Kent Calfee

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Monica Roque

From: mark sisson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:26 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: calfee@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comment for Mar4 meeting

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD School Board:

I have two children who attend Pioneer Elementary and I am strongly in favor of returning to full time regular in-person school ASAP. The collateral damage to society of doing virtual school for an entire year at this point has been tremendous. Many other districts and private schools have returned to in-person learning without any significant Covid spreads, even before vaccines were widely available, so we are overdue to return to the classroom. To be clear, my target is full time, full curriculum instruction, not two afternoons a week of dodgeball on the playground. The Spring weather in Davis is ideal for open windows and even outside instruction if this what is needed to kickstart the process. It's simply not OK for so many other professions (grocery clerks come to mind first) to work indoors with the public throughout the pandemic and at the same time have teachers sitting on the sidelines while kids and families suffer the consequences.

Mark Sisson

Monica Roque

From: Amanda Stevens [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:03 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

Dear Trustees

We are the parents of two elementary students in DJUSD. We support a March 29, 2021 return as urged by others. This gets our kids back to learning and will help secure additional funding from the State. We are worried the Board is not only failing to get us where we need to be to return to campus this year, but failing to plan for anything but a full return to campus or full distance learning next Fall.

We are teetering on the edge of another failure to plan leading to yet another lost school year for our children.

The Superintendent's communications, and recent meetings with the administration, indicate the Board's current plan for Fall is "Full in Person." We are worried the Board is not sufficiently planning for a Fall that finds us in Phase 4, where things like masking and social distancing are still required. The Board's policies set forth 5 phases for returning to school, but the Board seems to be unprepared for a Phase 4 scenario where additional classrooms, use of outdoor space and other means to ensure distancing will still be necessary. Further, the current "Phase 3" hybrid Plan for elementary is woefully inadequate at meeting the needs of our children, and should be modified in case it is necessary come August.

The present lack of true planning is making things worse. Many of our friends, neighbors and acquaintances have expressed such lack of faith in the Fall plans that they are applying for private schools, exploring home school, and some going to such extremes as moving out of the area. We fear what an exodus caused by this lack of planning will do financially to the district as a whole, and to our children who have already suffered so much under distance learning. We urge you to take the time NOW to plan on how we can get our students back to school safely under all possible scenarios.

It seems like the Board is hoping for the best while ignoring the very real chance we will still need to follow mitigation measures which include social distancing guidelines in addition to masking and air purification in the Fall. No vaccine has yet been approved for children under 12, much less elementary school children. Moreover, many of the adults eligible for the vaccine are refusing it. Given these facts, it appears to be a statistical impossibility that we will reach the necessary herd immunity levels to allow for a full in-person return as we have long known it.

The current DJUSD policy for a hybrid return is more conservative and cautious than the current CDC guidelines for a return to in person instruction, so it comes as a surprise the Board appears ready to ignore the CDC guidelines entirely in the Fall. At even the lowest risk levels for community spread in the CDC's tiers, mitigation measures are necessary. And the primary method of mitigation under each tier is social distancing of 6 feet whenever feasible. By stating we will have a full in person return, "as normal", the district is implying there will be full classrooms. In every classroom our children have been in, social distancing of that level would be impossible with a full class of students.

We ask the Board and District to immediately begin to make specific plans for a Fall return with appropriate mitigation measures, tied to risk factors and based upon the CDC guidelines. We further ask that those specific plans be voted on and approved by the Board, and published to the community stakeholders no later than June so all parents in this District feel confident in the plan to return, no matter what new factors we may be facing. And if a hybrid return is necessary, we urge the Board to adopt a new elementary plan that gives children at least four days on campus with their new classes.

Sincerely

Amanda and Isaac Stevens

Monica Roque

From: merry hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

I support the opening of schools. Both of my grandchildren are really having a hard time with distance learning. One is in 8th grade and the other in 9th grade. My 4th grade grandchild is thriving in a private school. He accepts all of the safety precautions and is so glad to be at school. As long as the public schools follow the safety guidelines, I believe that all will go well. Teachers should be given easy access to shots so they can feel more comfortable returning to class. Thank you Merry Hart

Sent from my iPad

Monica Roque

From: Rachel Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:10 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD board of education,

I am writing to ask you to move ahead with opening our public schools. Our public health experts say it is safe and our children really need in-person instruction. Please do your duty to our community and set a date to open. Please also commit to full in-person school in Fall 2021. Many families, including mine, will move out of the district if there is not a guarantee of full in-person learning in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Rachel Klein

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Monica Roque

From: Diana Simoes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:05 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment from concerned parents for 3/4/21 meeting
Attachments: To the Board of Directors of the Davis Joint Unified School District.docx

Categories: Green category

Hello,
Please read and share the attached letter from concerned parents of a second grade student in the DJUSD in response to the upcoming March 4th board of Ed meeting.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Diana M. Simões, DVM, DACVD
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Dermatology

Animal Dermatology & Allergy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To the Board of Directors of the Davis Joint Unified School District:

Two years ago my husband and I uprooted our family from the Bay area and moved to Davis. Our sole reason for this move was so that our children could attend DJUSD schools. Having grown up in Davis and attended the public schools, from elementary all the way through high school, my husband touted the excellence of the DJUSD, and convinced me it was the right move. We felt confident in our decision. Now, one year into the COVID pandemic and 10 months into distance learning, I look at my 2nd grader learning apathetically from a laptop every weekday, and am seriously questioning our decision.

I am deeply disappointed in the Board's actions, or rather, inactions, over the course of this most challenging year. This didn't have to be this way. Instead, this could have been an opportunity for DJUSD to emerge and rise above other school districts by setting an example: bringing together parents with teachers, students, and community members, to find and create innovative yet safe ways to open schools up again and conduct in-person learning for our children. Here in Davis we are so fortunate to have a diverse community with incredibly creative, well-educated, and motivated individuals from all over the globe, a world-renown university, beautiful public parks and ample physical space, a temperate, warm climate nearly year-round, and an above-average wealth per person. Yet, we've watched while other schools around us, in Placer county and Yuba City have gone to hybrid learning and now, started back full-time in-person learning. We've heard the CDC and numerous public health experts attest that schools are NOT a factor in spreading SARS-COV2, and can safely re-open and teach students again. And yet, despite all this, DJUSD continues to stand still, immobilized, and our schools remain closed. Meetings after meetings are had, to superficially discuss the pro's and cons, weight all the options, and then discuss the possibility of doing something. I'm left with the obvious question, the great big elephant in the room: why are we STILL talking about doing something, while NOTHING continues to be done? What obstacle, be it fear, politics, or money, could possibly be more terrifying than failing our children by not even trying? And what kind of example are we setting for them as we stand still?

My second child has been attending a private pre-school in Davis for the last 6 months, and I am infinitely grateful to see him thrive, mask and all, in a safe learning environment with his teachers and peers. When it comes time to enrolling him in kindergarten this September, I will consider all my options, including private schools— although my family and I have always been products of, and strong proponents for, a public school education, DJUSD has failed the community of Davis and its children. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you HAVE to keep

moving forward.” It takes a village. But it also takes a school district that is willing to fight for its students, to stand for what it preaches, and do what’s right – which at the end of the day, bottom line, is to get our kids back in school again.

Respectfully,

Diana Simões and Jeffrey Price
Parents of Marlo Price, 2nd grader at Cesar Chavez Elementary

Monica Roque

From: Lior Blank [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:48 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear BOE members,

My family and I are deeply disappointed and frustrated by the poor conduct we have witnessed this year, particularly in the past month, since the CDC and the state determined that the conditions are suitable to return to in-person education. We strongly encourage you to not only open schools in hybrid model offering four weekly hours of in-person schooling, but to extend it to two to three full days. Don't delay this decision further, as it's time for leadership and courage. There are schools all over the U.S., Europe, Asia, and in many counties in CA that are open and the science and experience are solid based- schools can and should be open.

The time has come,
Lior

--

Department of Plant Sciences
University of California, Davis
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Trustees,

I just wanted to write to urge you to stay the course with the reopening plans for DJUSD and not let political pressure rush things any faster than the metrics that you've already put in place allow. We have had too many problems in the past year that can be traced to politicians not following the prudent plans that were put into place and choosing to rush things when pressured, I ask you to please not join those ranks with the school reopening decisions.

Speaking as someone with a background in Microbiology and in school logistics at the community college level, and who has been supporting limited in-person classes since August, I think the plan that is currently outlined on the restart DJUSD is a well thought out plan, and that revising it to rush a reopening would undermine the confidence of parents, staff, and students. My 4th-grade daughter has already said to me "I'd rather be expelled than go back to school before it is safe", and if she learns that the school has changed plans because people want to get back sooner instead of because we've met the criteria that are set for doing it safely, there's no way I'll be able to get her to come back to school. Right now, she trusts the leadership at her school to do the right thing and make good choices for everyone's safety, and I'd hate to see that trust broken.

Sincerely,
Brian Williams

Monica Roque

From: Georgia Boyd Wade [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 4:52 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Members of the School Board,

My name is Georgia Wade and I am a parent of two children at Cesar Chavez Elementary School.

I am writing to express my frustration and disappointment with DJUSD's failure to develop a solution to safely bring our children back to school over this entire last year.

With so many studies showing that with basic safety guidelines such as mask wearing and regular testing;

with our city itself having such a low positivity rate;

with so many schools already opened these last months without any major incidents occurring;

with so many students suffering from depression and anxiety after being isolated for so long;

and with more and more students falling further and further behind academically which widens the already widening equity gap,

I cannot see why you have failed to act to ensure the children of DJUSD are back to in-person instruction by this point in time.

We live in an environment where safely educating children outdoors is a viable option. Why was this option not being discussed and explored? I understand that this is an unprecedented and difficult situation. Creating solutions is hard work. The district has had over one year to form these solutions, and yet reopening our schools safely is being pushed off over and over again. This is unacceptable.

The amount of time these children are looking at a screen is completely developmentally inappropriate. It is what had to be done while we were sheltering in place, but it is not what has to be done now. Children need to be interacting with one another and their teachers, in person, in order to thrive. Please put our children's best interest first and get them back to school safely.

Sincerely,

Georgia Wade

Monica Roque

From: Shanaz Hazel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment 3/4
Attachments: Board of Education 3-4.docx

Categories: Green category

Hello,

Please find my letter for comment for the 3/4 meeting attached. I wasn't sure if you had changed to format to having us leave a voice recording or not? I heard it mentioned previously but could not find any information on that. If I need to do this differently, please let me know.

Thank you for your help and continued work-

Shanaz Hazel

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing again in support of a return to in person learning for the students of DJUSD. I am heartened to see educators receiving vaccines in Davis and Yolo County.

I previously wrote about my own childrens' struggle with online learning. This continues, but tonight I want to let you know about other experiences – those of my patients in my family medicine clinic.

I want you to know about a 14-year old child who came to discuss her mental health issues and inability to cope with having to help her two younger siblings complete their distance learning. She sacrifices her attention to her own courses and struggles to barely pass her classes. Her parents work in the fields – they do not have the option to stay home. She is serving as student, sister, teacher and parent. And now she feels she is letting her family down and has thoughts of self-harm to end the daily stress.

I want you to know about the teenage boy whose parents cannot get him out of bed because he hates online class so much, he would rather just sleep his way through the year. He misses his first class, logs onto his second without his camera on and somehow gets through the day. He spends so much time on screens, through video game networks and chats that he is now linked into drug dealers – he has started experimenting, which has led to regular drug use. He was finally caught by his parents who are now seeking help for his addiction.

I want you to know about the 16 year-old girl with an eating disorder – she has lost all control over her life – her academics, her friends, her social support structure. She is wasting away and now at the point that her parents have to admit her to an inpatient eating disorder unit.

And I want you to know about the 12 year-old very intelligent young man who bravely told me he asks his older sister to drive him to his aunt and uncles house each morning so he doesn't have to do online school at home where his father, who suffers from alcoholism, is home all day drinking. He has found a way to escape to a home where he tries to log in and learn only to return to despair later in the day. He found this solution on his own after enduring attempts at schooling in the presence of an intoxicated parent.

I write about these patients because THIS is real life. This is how schools being closed is exacerbating the stressors of our society. No, school is not a babysitting service, or a child storage facility (as I heard it referred to by someone who opposes school openings). School is part of the social support structure and fabric of our society and the upbringing of our next generations. Knock on wood, none of these patients above has carried out any act of self-harm. But, they are all at risk and on the brink.

This is the moment for the BOE and DJUSD to show their commitment to the children of Davis. There is no zero-risk situation – ever. COVID variants are circulating, but the current vaccines are proven to have very high efficacy against HOSPITALIZATION, ICU ADMISSION and DEATH even with the variants. Those are the outcomes that matter – we cannot wait for a zero risk against all infection – that will never arrive. We will be living with COVID from here on out – it is not going away, just like many other viruses we face year round.

The damage is not only to these children – the damage is being done to further the distrust that already exists with those who are already on the fringe and need public education the most. Public education is

a public good and now is the time to listen to this very clear mandate that a return to in person learning, even if partial, would help be a step forward in restoring the trust of the very people that need it the most.

Sincerely,

Shanaz Hazel

Monica Roque

From: Rachel Nervo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 2:25 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment 3/4 mtg

Categories: Green category

As a parent of 8th grader at Davinci, I ask you please open in person school immediately. My child and others are clearly suffering due to peer isolation and disconnection from school community.

Thank you Rachel Nervo

Monica Roque

From: Laurie San Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:52 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Davis School Board,

I'm heartened to see the progress towards re-opening schools nationwide and more recently, in Northern California. I hope that the Davis Unified School District will take notes from the many districts that have successfully reopened, or are now planning to re-open. Or, even closer to home, a close look at the St James School which has safely provided in-person learning for many months. There is plenty of support from parents on both sides of this discussion—many who support re-opening, and many who are opposed. I think all families can be accommodated by offering in-person learning for those who are willing to return to campus. In weighing the concerns of teacher and staff safety, please review the research and recommendations of Dr. Fauci, Dr. Aimee Sisson and the many scientific articles that provide evidence that classrooms are safe for elementary in-person learning.

To continue to keep schools closed will have serious consequences for our youth who are failing to receive some of the most important parts of their education—socialization, empathy, patience, listening, observation, participation. We will feel the impact of this unprecedented year for many years to come. But setting a re-opening date for our schools would offer hope and alleviate the unending sense of dread and doom that has dragged on for many months.

Please re-open the schools on or before March 29 and announce this re-opening so that families can plan and change the conversation to one that has a light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you,
Laurie San Martin
Davis parent

Monica Roque

From: Tiffany L. Du [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:28 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello DJUSD Board of Education -

I am writing to you as a mother of 2 children to please set a date of return. I realize that there were many factors outside of your control but now that we are in the "red tier" and 10% of vaccinations are being designated for teachers - we should be in a place where a concrete date can be set for re-opening. Let's not miss another window as our kids continue to suffer.

Thank you for taking the time to constantly pivot and plan for the reopening of schools. While hybrid is not many hours in-school I know it will make a huge impact on our children's mental health. Unfortunately, my kids went from enjoying school to now dreading it. I want to be clear that the teachers have worked tirelessly and it is no reflection on them, it's simply the format. I do not want to pull them out to go to a private school but I also cannot continue to see the devastating toll this is having on them.

My ask is for more transparent communication for either a reopen date or the decision not to reopen this school year instead of us waiting until May. By you communicating, parents and guardians alike can plan accordingly. Also, what will the school year 2021-2022 look like? Will it be hybrid, all in-person 5 days a week? Any guidance is helpful for all.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Du

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:06 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello-

Please provide your plan on reopening in the Fall ASAP. Is full-time a definite decision? Please make an official decision so families can plan homeschooling or enrolling in private school if the public schools are not full-time.

In addition, please include your contingency plan if Covid cases in the area go up while students are in person. Will you close down or go to hybrid/distance learning? The constant changing of plans is difficult on families, so by being transparent in your decision making, it will help us plan for the Fall accordingly.

Thank you.